

## MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

As a sure sign of spring, it is my honor and pleasure to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held on **Monday evening April 24, 2017 at 7:30pm at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium**. Please join us and participate as a member of Medfield's legislative branch. Our collective determinations on the 24<sup>th</sup> will become the laws, regulations, and budgets of the Town of Medfield.

This April we have a particularly robust and weighty agenda of Warrant Articles, so I am declaring an advisory of a reasonable chance we may not be able to conduct and complete all of the Town's business in one evening. If that determination is made necessary because of time constraints, then the Annual Town Meeting will adjourn on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and reconvene on Tuesday evening, April 25, at 7:30pm. Every meeting requires the Moderator to balance 'due consideration' with 'due expedience' – but this year the efficiency and pace of the meeting will need to be closely monitored to make sure that we are allowing for appropriate town dialogue, debate, and discussion on a range of important issues. However, consistent with past process, reasonable time limitations will be placed on certain discussions.

In order to address the articles in an expedient and well-ordered fashion, we have grouped the articles in eight (8) cohorts for consideration and action together: Standard Town Business (called first); Town Budgets; Zoning & Planning; the former Medfield State Hospital; Commercial Marijuana; Advanced Life Saving; Affordable Housing; and Independent Articles. We will use our traditional lottery system to determine the timing and order of the treatment of the eight (8) groupings of articles.

Here in Medfield, we have a special place to call our home. We value education, community, open space, safe streets and homes, the well-being of the young and the old, quality municipal services, and the advancement of local commerce. But it takes hard work, open and active communication, and a deep commitment to the Town's best interests for us to achieve these common objectives. Our Annual Town Meeting, even with all of its imperfections, is the night we gather to speak with one another, deliberate as a law-making body, and demonstrate our pledge to balance and advance the forces which will continue to make Medfield a 'special place.' Please join us at Town Meeting and be a part of the hard work, open communication, and commitment to the future.

It is an important time for Medfield. Change comes in waves. We are in a period of positive transformation and growth evidenced by: current and future change in key personnel and contributors, the growth and development of Town facilities, the opportunity and challenges afforded by ownership of the former state hospital property, generational evolution, and changing expectations of the residents of the town are all factors in these transformative times. It is an important point in history for a Town with a rich heritage reaching back for over three centuries; and it is important time for all members of our community to engage in open dialogue, meaningful discussion, clear thinking, and good planning.

As for procedures, the law of the Commonwealth provides: "The moderator shall preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes." At the beginning of our meeting on the 24th, I will describe the guidelines for our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance will come from the traditional blend of fairness, prudence, expedience, respectful communication, and consideration of the best interests of the community.

I ask that you review your Report on the 2017 Warrant. Please bring your copy with you to the Town Meeting as a "scorecard" as we address the warrant articles and the town's operating and capital budgets. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, April 24. And please hold Tuesday evening April 25 on your calendar in the event we need a part of a second evening to address the full range of issues before the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott  
Town Moderator