

## 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 25, 2016 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 25<sup>th</sup> will become the laws, regulations, and budgets of the Town of Medfield. Although few go to Congress in Washington or the legislature on Beacon Hill, we all have the opportunity to 'legislate' and enact laws, regulations, and policies which will have significant impact on our town and families for many years to come.

Here in Medfield, I believe 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 does not come in a straight-line. We are in a period of transformation – the current and future change in key personnel and contributors, the growth and development of town facilities, the opportunity that ownership provides us at 'Medfield on the Charles' (former state hospital site), and generational evolution and expectations 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, 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 25th, 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. As usual, we have a very full agenda of Warrant Articles, so there will be constant need for the Moderator to balance 'due consideration' with 'due expedience.' Therefore, reasonable time limitations will be placed on certain discussions. If it is determined that we cannot conduct the town's business in one evening, we will reconvene on Tuesday evening, April 26.

I ask that you review your Report on the 2016 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 25.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott  
Town Moderator