

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

It is the last day of March and I am writing this letter of welcome. Only a lifetime of New England winters fading into warmer weather gives me the confidence to predict that our 2015 spring will finally have arrived by the time we gather for Town Meeting on the last Monday of April!

The tradition in Medfield is to conduct much of our Town's legislative and electoral business in March and April. It makes sense. We can only imagine that for many of the 360 years Medfield has been holding town meetings, our predecessors would have been highly enthusiastic to come forth from within their homes, away from their fireplaces, and re-engage with friends and neighbors.

So, with the end of a long winter on the east banks of the Charles River, it is my honor and pleasure as your Town Moderator to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held on **Monday evening April 27, 2015 at 7:30pm at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium.**

This year we have already met in March as the town's legislative branch in a Special Town Meeting to address appropriations to build a new public safety facility and solar photovoltaic array at the wastewater treatment facility. Those appropriations were approved and yesterday voters affirmed the decision to move ahead with a new home for our police and fire departments. Yesterday, the town also decided a spirited and contested race for School Committee between two committed and highly-qualified candidates. I commend both Maryann Sullivan and Jerry Potts for energizing the dialogue and focusing attention on how we continue to provide a great school system for our students and families.

I believe we have a special place to call our home. Education is only one part of our *Common Purpose*. We also prize 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 for us to achieve this powerful *Common Purpose*. April's 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 and be a part of the hard work, communication, and commitment.

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 27th, 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 28.

I ask that you review this Report on the 2015 Warrant. I suggest you 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 27.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator