

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

Each March I have the honor of writing this letter to invite the residents of Medfield to attend our Annual Town Meeting on the last Monday of April. Last March, as I wrote this welcome, we were still engaged in a rugged battle with winter and very anxious for spring to come to the banks of the Charles River. This year it is 80 degrees and the daffodils and tulips are blossoming. It is New England.

And one of the proudest traditions of New England life is the open town meeting. In Medfield, friends and neighbors have been coming together in the town meeting format for over 360 consecutive years to address the operation of our town and consider the important local issues of the day. Therefore, it is my pleasure as your Town Moderator to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday evening April 30, 2012 at 7:30PM at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium. As always, I strongly encourage you to attend and participate in Medfield's 1651 'experiment' in the delicate art of self-governing.

Why attend?

- We are a community. Great communities, like all highly effective enterprises, prize the need to communicate, make first-hand connections, and rationally discuss matters of collective interest or importance.
- You are the legislature. The intelligence of the open town meeting form of government is that it makes all the voters the legislative body. You will be a 'legislator' as we enact local laws, address \$50MM in town budgets and appropriations, and establish town policies for the years ahead.
- It is about common purpose. Neighbors come together to do the hard work of building an extraordinary community to live, to work, and to raise families. The Annual Town Meeting, even with all of its imperfections, is a night when we gather, we speak to one another, and year over year, we demonstrate our commitment to superior education, safe streets and homes, a library of knowledge, the well-being of the young and the old, quality municipal services,

the advancement of local commerce, and the value of open space and recreation.

- The entertainment begins even before the meeting. Once again, we will be entertained by some of the Town's most talented and dedicated young musicians from the Medfield High School orchestra.

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 30th, 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, there is a constant need to balance 'due consideration' with 'due expedience' which will require a reasonable time limitation on certain discussions. If it is determined that we cannot conduct the Town's business in one evening, we will reconvene on Tuesday evening May 1.

I ask that you review this Report on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting – and please bring your copy with you as your guide as we address the warrant articles and the town's operating budget. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening April 30 at the high school. Please come, enjoy, and participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator