

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Welcome to our 2011 Annual Town Meeting:

Spring has finally arrived to the east banks of the Charles River; and with the new season comes the annual opportunity for the townspeople of Medfield to gather together, as we have for 360 years, to address the important local issues of the day.

It is my honor and pleasure as your Town Moderator to invite all of the citizens of Medfield to attend our Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday evening April 25, 2011 at 7:30PM at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium. As always, I encourage you to come and participate as a member of our legislative body as we enact local laws, address budgets and appropriations, and establish town policies.

The town meeting format – classically New England – is often attacked for its inefficiencies and imperfections. And I agree -- it is not perfect. But I endorse Thomas Jefferson's sentiment that the town meeting has proved itself a very wise invention for exercising the delicate art of self-government. We are open to all – neighbors coming together for a common purpose 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. Town meeting is a forum of self-governance and community participation -- and I would assert that in Medfield it has proven to be a highly effective, although occasionally cumbersome, vehicle for addressing an enormous amount of important town business in a reasonable timeframe with the opportunity of input from many.

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." Therefore, 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 and expedience; respectful, informative 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 some discussion. Certain warrant articles will be addressed at the beginning of the meeting or in a specific order because of their nature or interdependency. The order of the majority of the articles will be determined by

lottery. 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 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 25 at the high school. Please come, enjoy, and participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator