

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors:

Winter was kind to us and now spring is here! Spring delightfully unfolds all around us in Medfield. It brings new beginnings and warms the spirit. And as April turns to May, the spirit that I embrace is our spirit of community.

Building community is important to all of us. It energizes and enriches our life together here on the banks of the Charles River. I encourage you to look around town this spring and value the commitment of so many people contributing to the spirit of community. One way in which we build community each spring is through governance. As Town Moderator, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting on **Monday evening, May 1, 2023, at 7:00pm**. We come together as a legislative body. We conduct the business of the town as citizen legislators. And we do it as friends and neighbors.

Please join us. We discuss, debate, deliberate, and decide. We focus on the important matters described in this 2023 Warrant Report. Please review the 31 Articles we will consider this spring. We address operating and capital budgets, and we will enact several local laws, regulations, and policies.

Please join us. The home of the town meeting is the **Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium**. Trying hard to respect schedules and time demands of a busy Medfield, we endeavor to complete our legislative responsibilities in one evening. And we usually do. By charter, we gather on the first Monday of May. We come together live and in-person. We speak directly with one another. Every Medfield voter is invited, and every attendee participates as a legislator with a voice and a vote.

Please join us. We continue a heritage of direct, open, democratic, participatory self-government. We hear from our Warrant Committee. They have dedicated an enormous amount of time on our behalf to carefully review the articles and budgets. Our executive branch of government faces the community. Our collective judgement on May 1st sets the budget and town objectives for fiscal year 2024. But even more broadly, our collective determinations set the course for Medfield's future.

Our Annual Town Meeting has many imperfections as a form of governance. But like exercise for the mind and body, the opportunity to engage directly with friends and neighbors as a community has profound benefits. We exercise the spirit of participatory democracy each spring. Abraham Lincoln might say we exercise "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

In advance, I also want to thank some of the folks who make Town Meeting come together so effectively: Brittney Franklin, Asst. to the Town Administrator, has built a campaign to educate and promote our open town meeting; Chris Allan has been a master of sound and technology for decades; the high school staff and custodial team transform the gymnasium; the Town Clerk and her team usher us in the door; high school musicians welcome us with music; the Warrant

Committee provides knowledge and insight; and the members of our executive branch of government do much of the heavy lifting. Thank you all. But, of course, the most important ingredient is you – the neighbor, the resident, the voter, and the community member. Please join us and enjoy being a part of the work, open communication, and community spirit — it makes for a great Medfield.

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 May 1, I will further describe the procedures and guidelines for our dialogue, deliberations, and decision making.

Finally, please carefully review this *Report on the Warrant* and bring it with you to the meeting. The *Report* provides an excellent overview of town finances and the full text of articles under consideration. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, May 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott
Town Moderator