

BROOKLINE TOWN MODERATOR
DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE OF
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This Declaration of Recess and Continuance of the Brookline 2020 Annual Town Meeting is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L., c. 39, s.10A. Based on the continuing public health and safety emergency currently affecting the Commonwealth and this community, I hereby provide notice to the Town of Brookline that I have determined it to be in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), to recess and continue the 2020 Annual Town Meeting from its originally scheduled date, May 19, 2020, until June 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Brookline High School Auditorium.

I issue this Declaration after careful deliberations about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time. Based on orders and recommendations issued by the Governor, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with the Brookline Director of Health and Human Services and the Select Board and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Significant considerations in this decision are the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able to do so safely.

Being respectful of the health, safety and well-being of all of the citizens of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accordance with said section 10A that the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 to public health and safety will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting and will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Annual Town Meeting and managing their health and safety in a manner most appropriate for them.

To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the maximum period of time to evaluate the situation, this Declaration of Recess and Continuance will be deemed to be issued and take effect on May 19, 2020, the presently scheduled date of the Annual Town Meeting. I anticipate issuing a second Declaration of Recess and Continuance further postponing the date of the Annual Town Meeting from June 17 to at least June 23, 2020.

Please contact me with any questions at (617) 738-6609 or by email at sgadsby@foleyhoag.com.

April 14, 2020

Edward N. Gadsby, Jr., Town Moderator