


**THIRD DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE
OF
2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

This Third Declaration of Recess and Continuance is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A, as amended by Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. I hereby provide notice to the Town of Northborough that I have determined that it continues to be in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, to further recess and continue the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, which I had previously recessed and continued to May 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and to June 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Algonquin Regional High School auditorium, 79 Bartlett Street, Northborough.

I issue this Third Declaration after careful consideration about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to the most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time, and in light of the facts that the Governor has ordered that non-essential businesses close to the public until at least May 18, 2020 and that all elementary and secondary schools close until June 29, 2020, and that various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the orders and recommendations of the Governor, among others, that gatherings of more than 10 persons are prohibited, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I have consulted with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Board of Selectmen, and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and I have determined, in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A, that the ongoing COVID-19 virus outbreak, including the continuing threat to the health and safety of persons and property, will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting currently recessed and continued to June 22, 2020, and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A further delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meeting and managing their health in a manner most appropriate for them.

A significant consideration in this decision includes 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, particularly, vulnerable members of our community.

Since, under G.L. c. 39, §10A, Town Meeting may only be continued for up to thirty (30) days at a time, and in order to provide as much advance notice as possible and to allow the Town the greatest period of time to continue to evaluate the situation, this Third Declaration will be deemed to be issued and to take effect on July 11, 2020, with a rain date of July 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., the current rescheduled date and time of the Annual Town Meeting. Further, I will continue to evaluate whether the Town Meeting may safely and reasonably be held on July 11, 2020, with a rain date of July 18, 2020, and will take such further action in that regard as I deem appropriate on or before that date.

 June 16, 2020 at 11:40 (a.m)/p.m.
Frederick A. George, Jr.
Town Moderator