

Vote that, in light of the rapidly evolving instances of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and the burdens it will place on local government, that the Select Board vote to adopt the following declaration of emergency:

Declaration of Emergency – COVID-19

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; minimize all unnecessary activities outside of the home during the state of emergency including all businesses and other organizations that do not provide COVID-19 Essential Services shall close their physical workplaces and facilities (“brick and mortar premises”) to workers’, customers and the public from 12:00 Noon on March 24, 2020 until 12:00 Noon on April 7, 2020 , including prohibitions on public gatherings of ten or more people and

WHEREAS, the Select Board and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the Town of Westwood; and

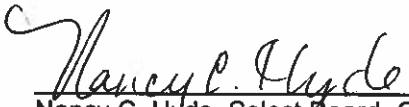
WHEREAS, the Westwood Select Board and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Westwood; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Westwood; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board and Board of Health recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of Westwood.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Select Board and the Board of Health of the Town of Westwood Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of today, March 23, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Westwood. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.



Nancy C. Hyde, Select Board- Chair

3-23-2020
Date



Michael F. Walsh, Select Board-Clerk

3-23-2020
Date

John M. Hickey, Select Board-Third Member

Date

2020 MAR 23 5:40
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF WESTWOOD