



TOWN OF WESTWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Selectmen

Nancy C. Hyde, Chair
Michael F. Walsh, Clerk
John M. Hickey, Third Member

Christopher T. Coleman ICMA-CM, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Dir.
Patricia A. Healey, Interim Executive Assistant

June 5, 2020

Westwood Residents,

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, on March 30, 2020, the Select Board voted to postpone this year's Annual Town Meeting from May 4, 2020 to June 8, 2020.

With the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and health guidelines, there have been several measures started to potentially reduce the size for Town Meeting quorums in Massachusetts.

At their meeting on May 4, 2020, the Select Board authorized Town Counsel, Attorney Patrick Ahearn, to file a complaint on behalf the Town to seek an injunction from our Town Meeting quorum of 175 registered voters and to reduce this year's Warrant to only consist of the financial articles. On May 29, 2020 Town Counsel was successful in obtaining injunctive relief from Norfolk Superior Court. This injunction reduces the size for this year's Annual Town Meeting quorum from 175 registered voters to 25% or 44 registered voters. This reduction is only a reduction for the minimum number of registered voters and by no way does this injunction limit of the number of people who can attend.

As part of the court judgment, only the financial articles can be considered at this year's Annual Town Meeting and they are articles one (1) through thirteen (13). These Articles can be found on pages 10 through 19 in the Finance and Warrant Commission Annual Report that was mailed to each household.

At the Select Board's meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020, I along with our Town Moderator and Town Clerk recommended to the Select Board to hold this year's Annual Town Meeting outside on Flahive Field and to postpone the date to Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (with a rain date of Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.) The Select Board accepted and voted to support this recommendation.

The set-up of the meeting will adhere to social distancing and health guidelines. Our Town Moderator and Town Clerk will provide a message to the town with more information regarding the safe operation for this year's Annual Town Meeting.

Again, this year's Annual Town Meeting will be held outside on Flahive Field on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and will consist of only the financial articles numbers one (1) through thirteen (13).

Thank you.

Christopher Coleman
Town Administrator
Town of Westwood

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