

Frank W. Foss
Moderator, Natick, Massachusetts
13 East Central Street, Natick, MA. 01760
Moderator Phone # 508-231-6288

June 15, 2020

To: Jonathan Freedman, Chair Natick Select Board and members

Dear Select Board Members:

In my role as Natick Town Moderator, I have determined, after consultation with health and public safety officials and others, that due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, Town Meeting Members may be unable to attend the Town of Natick's 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting, as scheduled for July 07, 2020 at 7:30 P.M., in the Wilson Middle School. Accordingly, I request the Select Board vote and approve that the Town of Natick conduct a Virtual (video conferencing or telephone) Town Meeting in conformance with the requirements set forth in Sections 8 (a)-(i) of legislation known as Senate Bill No. 2680 recently passed by the Massachusetts General Court, and signed into law by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on June 5, 2020, thereafter codified at Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020.

I have selected the video conferencing system known as Zoom Webinar purchased by the Town of Natick from Zoom Video Communications, Inc.

I have consulted with David Gusmini and Susan Ramsay. Both are Town departmental staff who deal with federal Americans with Disabilities Act, Counsel on Aging matters, etc. They both provided me advice and their thoughts including, but not limited to, the requirement to ask Town Meeting Members, residents and interested parties if they require an accommodation to access and/or participate in Town Meeting. To date, I have received no such requests.

After experience and substantial testing, I certify that Zoom Webinar supplemented by telephone connectivity satisfactorily enables Town Meeting to be conducted in substantially the same manner as if the meeting occurred in person at a physical location and in accordance with the operational and functional requirements set forth in Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, sections 8(a) through 8(i).

It is my intention to adjourn the Town Meeting until Saturday July 11, 2020, at 10 AM in the Zoom online environment. At which time Town Meeting business will be completed by way of video conferencing or telephonic means. However, should Town Meeting vote not to proceed by video conferencing or telephonic means I will seek adjournment of Town Meeting to Saturday July 18, at 10AM at the Natick High School gymnasium continue Town Meeting in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 10A.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Foss
Town Moderator

cc: Melissa Malone – Town Administrator
Dr. Anna Nolin – Natick Public Schools
Diane Packer – Town Clerk
James White – Board of Health Director
Karis North – Town Counsel