MODERATOR’S DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE

On this 6th day of April, 2020, acting pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, § 10A, I declare the Dover Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 4, 2020 recessed and continued. I have determined that a public safety emergency prevents voters from attending the Town Meeting scheduled for May 4, 2020, after consultation with the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Health, the Police Chief, who is also the Director of the Town Emergency Management Agency, and other Town officials.

The nature of the emergency is the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). In making this Declaration, I note that on March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth and prohibited gatherings of more than 250 people throughout Massachusetts. On March 15, 2020, the Governor reduced the number constituting a prohibited gathering to more than 25 people. Subsequently, on March 23, pursuant to an Emergency Order that was updated March 31, he lowered that number to no more than 10 people until May 4. In addition to consulting with Town officials, I have reviewed ongoing guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Given the rapid spread of the disease, the limited testing conducted to date, the present lack of containment, and the risk to vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, I conclude that delaying the Annual Town Meeting is in the best interest of the Town and its citizens.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, § 10A mandates that the Moderator "shall announce the declaration of recess and continuance as far in advance of the town meeting being continued as possible." It also requires that the continuance of a Town Meeting not exceed 30 days.

I, therefore, declare that the continued date of the Annual Town Meeting shall be June 1, 2020, to convene at 7 PM at the Alan Mudge Auditorium at the Dover-Sherborn Regional School.

I will continue to consult with the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Health, the Police Chief, and other Town officials to determine whether, in their opinion based on the knowledge available at that time, it is safe to hold the Annual Town Meeting on June 1, 2020.

MODERATOR FOR THE TOWN OF DOVER:

James R. Repetti

Date: April 6, 2020