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Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:59 PM

To: Jan Worthington <jworthington@truro-ma.gov>; Kristen Reed <KReed@truro-ma.gov>; Susan Areson <SAreson@truro-ma.gov>; Stephanie Rein <srein@truro-ma.gov>; Robert Weinstein <rweinstein@truro-ma.gov>; Rae Ann Palmer <rpalmer@truro-ma.gov>

Subject: Please reverse decision to hold June 23 ATM - Please read into the record

Please read this into the record during the Public Comments agenda item at your next meeting, scheduled for April 28, 2020.

Dear Select Board –

We are urging you to reverse your decision to hold this year's Annual Town Meeting on June 23, 2020. It should not be held until it can be done in a safe and inclusive way which, at this point in time, is too soon to know. You should postpone making a decision on a date until the COVID-19 situation becomes clearer.

My understanding from speaking with others who are familiar with the COVID-19 emergency changes that Governor Baker signed into law on April 3, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which modified certain provisions of Massachusetts law pertaining to town meetings, budgets and spending authority, is that Town Meeting does not need to be held before June 30 this year. The Select Board discussion at the April 21 meeting that preceded the determination of the June 23 date seems to have been predicated on inaccurate information.

It is my understanding that these law changes also state that the budget does not have to be passed before June 30.

Voters shouldn't have to choose between personal safety and participating in Town Meeting. We, being in our 60s like much of the town citizenry, feel that it is too dangerous for us to go to a large gathering (indoors or outdoors) and have no intention of attending anything like that by June 23. We would rather not give up our right to express our views and vote and hope that you will either postpone it or come up with an alternate way for citizens to participate.

If you still intend to have a Town Meeting this soon, we strongly suggest that only articles pertaining to maintaining essential services and only existing budget items be presented until, once again, a more informed view of the future can be ascertained.

Thank you for your strong consideration.

Respectfully,
Eric Parker
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