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**Declaration and Continuance**  
**Town of Fairhaven Annual and Special Town Meeting**  
**to**  
**Saturday, July 25, 2020**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, §10A, I, Mark Sylvia, Moderator for the Town of Fairhaven, do hereby declare this day of June 11, 2020 that the Town of Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting presently scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2020 be recessed and continued. In consultation with the Board of Selectmen, Public Safety Officials, and the Board of Health, I have determined that a public safety emergency may prevent voters from attending the meeting on Saturday June 27, 2020.

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 no more than 10 people. The Governor's orders explicitly exempt municipal legislative bodies (in other words, town meetings). However, turnout for town meetings regularly exceeds 10 individuals, and the exemption does not diminish the health risk to anyone attending such a meeting.

M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A requires that I "announce the declaration of recess and continuance as far in advance of the town meeting being continued as possible."

It also requires that a town meeting recessed pursuant to this statute "shall be convened by the moderator not later than 30 days following the date and time of a town meeting previously called pursuant to a warrant. **I therefore declare that the continued date of the Annual Town Meeting shall be Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 9:00 am at the Hastings Middle School.**

M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A further provides that I may direct further continuances of the Town Meeting for up to 30 days at a time during the Governor's declaration of emergency. It is my intention to continue to review the situation as it progresses, and to make such determinations as to whether one or more further continuances are appropriate.

  
Mark Sylvia  
Town Moderator