

To: All Residents and Staff  
From: Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen  
Date: March 17, 2020 at 11:00 am

Re: **Board of Selectmen: Actions to Declare a Local State of Emergency, Postpone Town Election, and Postpone Town Meeting**

The Board of Selectmen voted on three topics related to the COVID-19 public health emergency at last night's meeting:

**Declare a State of Emergency in the Town of Wayland**

The Board voted unanimously to declare a Local State of Emergency under Section 58-3 of the Town Code. This allows the Town to take certain actions to expedite the use of resources and allows broader actions to be taken beyond those provided by the state or federal government. Under Town Code, the State of Emergency is in effect for 5 days and can be renewed by a vote of the Board.

**Postpone the Town Election currently scheduled for March 31, 2020**

The Board voted to authorize the Town Administrator:

- To pursue a court order or legislative act to allow Wayland to move the Town Election to a future date no later than Oct. 13, 2020 and to allow Wayland to decouple the dates of the Town Election and Town Meeting as laid out in Town Code. The Board stated its intent to keep with the Code requirement that the election occur in the week prior to Annual Town Meeting, if possible.
- To authorize the Town Administrator and Town Clerk to work on logistical details of these changes.

**Postpone Annual Town Meeting currently scheduled to begin on April 5, 2020**

The Board voted to support the Moderator's signing of a Notice of Intent and Declaration for a Recess and Continuance of Annual Town Meeting for up to 30 days, as that is all that is currently allowed under state law.

The Board of Selectmen realizes that this process may change as the state works on ways to address rescheduling of elections and town meetings.

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We continue to urge all residents to evaluate their own health and determine if they are feeling mildly ill with a head cold, headache, cough and/or experiencing any CDC identified symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you are feeling any symptoms, we advise you to contact the Wayland Health Department at the Coronavirus Hotline [508-358-6805](tel:508-358-6805) and your primary care physician for guidance. If you or anyone in your family has any symptoms of being ill, we advise you to stay quarantined at home until you are feeling better and follow up with your primary care physician as needed.

The Town will also provide general help for residents who may need assistance obtaining basic and important life necessities, such as food or medications, by calling [508-358-7701](tel:508-358-7701).