



**TOWN OF TISBURY**  
*office of*  
**THE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane  
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

March 17, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the Governor declared a state of emergency on March 10, 2020 to respond to the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and recommended that large gatherings be avoided; and whereas, professional sports leagues, the NCAA, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and other sponsors and hosts of public events have cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations and scheduled events; and whereas, the Governor has also suggested that persons who would be considered highly susceptible to transmission of the disease, including older adults and persons with underlying health conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, be particularly vigilant about protecting their health; and whereas, on March 15, 2020 the Governor issued an order prohibiting gatherings of more than 25 people until April 6, 2020; and whereas, on March 16, 2020 the federal government recommended that persons avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Health, in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Tisbury, acting pursuant to section 104 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, hereby adopt the following order in response to the COVID-19 virus, in order to implement the recommendations of our public health officials and the Governor's Executive Order.

March 18, 2020 through May 1, 2020, the following municipal services will be provided.

- The Tisbury Town Offices will remain open on an appointment only basis. Business and transaction online, email, telephone and regular mail is strongly encouraged.
- All regulatory Board & Commission meetings will be held via video meeting and conferencing applications with remote participation in the Katharine Cornell Theater at Town Hall, 51 Spring Street.
- The Tisbury Public Safety Departments: Fire, Ambulance and Police will remain open, but you should only come to the building(s) in an emergency.

Effective immediately through May 1, 2020.

- Tisbury Library building is closed to the public and developing alternative service delivery.
- Tisbury Senior Center building is closed to the public and developing alternative service delivery.
- Advisory boards and committee meetings are suspended.
- Meetings shall be in designated locations that provide for adequate social distancing.
- Public parks and recreational facilities shall remain closed.

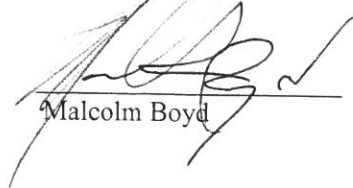
By declaration of the Moderator under Massachusetts law Tisbury Town Meeting is postponed at this time and new date will be set in advance of April 30, 2020.

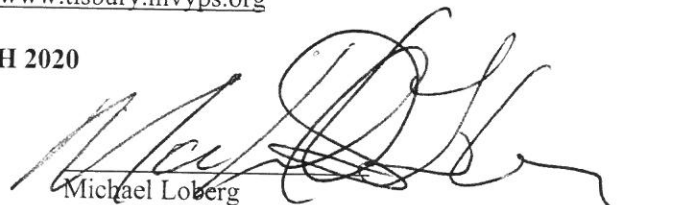
Please refer to the town website for contact information and for important updates at [www.tisburyma.gov](http://www.tisburyma.gov).

The Tisbury School website also has important notices and updates at [www.tisbury.mvyvps.org](http://www.tisbury.mvyvps.org)

Ordered by the Tisbury Board of Health **THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2020**

  
Jeffrey Pratt

  
Malcolm Boyd

  
Michael Loberg



**TOWN OF TISBURY**  
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN  
P.O. BOX 1239 – 51 SPRING STREET  
VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS 02568  
TEL: (508) 696-4200  
FAX: (508) 693-5876  
[www.tisburyma.gov](http://www.tisburyma.gov)

March 17, 2020

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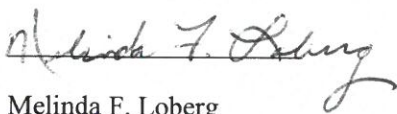
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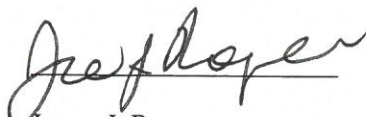
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Per Order of the Tisbury Board of Selectmen **THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2020**

  
Melinda F. Loberg

  
James J. Rogers

  
Jeff Kristal

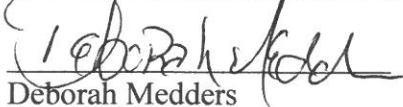
**DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE  
OF  
2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING and MARCH 31, 2020 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**


This Declaration is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A. I hereby provide notice to the Town of Tisbury that I have determined that it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, to recess and continue the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, which was called for March 31, 2020, and the March 31, 2020 Special Town Meeting until 7:00pm on April 30, 2020 at the Tisbury School Gymnasium-Auditorium, 40 West William Street.

I have issued this Declaration after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, the present lack of containment, and the risk to most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time, and in light of the facts that on March 15, the Governor of the Commonwealth issued an order prohibiting gatherings of more than 25 people until April 6, 2020 and that on March 13 the Board of Selectmen voted to suspend all public meetings and/or gatherings in municipal public spaces until May 1, 2020. While the Governor's order does not apply to municipal legislative bodies, I have taken note of the fact that various professional sports leagues, the NCAA, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and other sponsors and hosts of public events have cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations and scheduled events. Similarly, various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the order of the Governor and recommendations of the Department of Public Health, among others, that large gatherings be avoided, the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth on March 10, and the March 16 recommendation of the federal government that persons avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people, and after consulting with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Board of Selectmen, and reviewing guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I have determined, in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A, that the rapidly evolving situation involving COVID-19 will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting scheduled for March 31, 2020, and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meetings.

A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able to do so, particularly, vulnerable members of our community. Also, being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, declaring a delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in Town Meeting and managing their health in a manner most appropriate for them.

*To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the greatest period of time to evaluate the situation, this formal Declaration will be deemed to be issued and to take effect on March 31, 2020, the scheduled date of the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting. And, where the present COVID-19 situation is subject to rapid change, I will continue to evaluate whether the Town Meetings may safely and reasonably be held on April 30, 2020, and will take such further action in that regard as I deem appropriate on or before that date.*

  
Deborah Medders  
Town Moderator

, 2020 at 7:20 pm