

**OFFICES OF THE
SELECT BOARD
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

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Monday March 16, 2020

Status of Public Meetings:

The Governor made an Emergency Declaration last week that provided temporary changes to the State's Open Meeting Law (https://41g41s33v added2vc05w415s1e-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OpenMtgLaw_ExecOrder_Mar32020.pdf) these changes were made to protect the public as well as elected and appointed officials from potential exposure to the coronavirus (Covid-19) and to slow the spread of the virus. In accordance with the executive order the Town is preparing to have its public meetings become virtual meetings. This takes time as we have to choose a platform and then develop regulations and guidance for the various boards and committees that will avail themselves of this new meeting format. We hope to have something in place, and boards and committees notified, by the end of this week. Until then, the Town of Harvard will limit public physical access to all public meetings that do not require participation of parties in interest. Meetings that require participation by parties of interest include:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Matter(s)</u>
Select Board	Liquor License Applications (Hearings)
Board of Appeals	Administrative Appeal, Comprehensive Permit, Special Permit and Variance Applications
Conservation Commission	Notices of Intent for Orders of Conditions and Requests for Determinations of Applicability
Planning Board	Special Permit Applications and Applications for Definitive Subdivision Plan Approvals or Modifications

These types of meetings will be postponed until the new virtual meeting platform is up and running. We ask all in this category to work with us and assist us in rescheduling these meetings and if necessary extending deadlines.

All other meetings will not allow public access (except for a member of the press, who will follow social distancing guidelines <https://time.com/5800442/social-distancing-coronavirus/> at all times) and will follow the requirements of the Governor's emergency order. If a board or committee cannot comply with the emergency order then that meeting must be cancelled. Guidance will be given to boards and committees as to how to comply with the executive order.

For those committees that do not have to meet we ask that you don't for at least two weeks at which time we will assess our safety measures and either continue or modify them.