Saturday, March 14, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

We are currently in uncharted territory, not only for the Town of Kingston but for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Efforts to respond and contain COVID-19 are rapidly changing, but I assure you our priority is to serve and support Kingston residents, employees, and businesses through the continuity of basic services and operations.

We acknowledge that COVID-19 will significantly impact the lives of all those in our community, but we ask that you take a thoughtful and measured approach to keeping yourselves, your families, and your neighbors safe by following the news and recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, both linked below and on the Kingston Board of Health website. Both agencies are working to provide as much information, in as timely a manner as possible, to cities and towns across the nation and the Commonwealth.

[Links to CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health websites]

Earlier today I convened a meeting with Thomas Calter (Town Administrator), Elaine Fiore (Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen), Mark Douglass (Fire Chief), Maurice Splaine (Chief of Police), Paula Rossi-Clapp (Director of Elder Affairs), Arthur Boyle (Health Agent), Paul Gallagher (Town Clerk) and Janna Morrissey (Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk's Office). This was the first of what will become twice-daily meetings to discuss the rapidly changing impact COVID-19 will have on the Town of Kingston and its residents. As a result of that meeting, and thanks to the hard work of Ms. Morrissey and Kathy Ivers (Administrative Assistant, Board of Health), we've made a series of updates to the Town website that we hope will keep residents better informed as the days and weeks progress. Our goal is to update the website on a daily basis as new information becomes available, and as the needs of the Town evolve.

The Town currently has a plan in place for supporting our vulnerable seniors who have self-identified as having special needs or requirements during states of emergency. If you or someone you know requires additional support in the coming weeks, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate contact person below:

Elderly Services & Residents with Disabilities: Paula Rossi-Clapp, Director of Elder Affairs / 781-585-0511
EMS: Mark Douglass, Fire Chief and Adam Hatch, Deputy Fire Chief / 781-585-0532
General Information: Thomas Calter / 508-717-1483
Board of Health: Arthur Boyle / 781-585-0503
For All Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1
We will be checking voicemails regularly, and will work diligently to direct residents to the appropriate resources as quickly as possible. As of now, Town House and daily operations within the Town of Kingston are still open.

Social distancing seems to be a prescribed best practice for mitigating the spread of this disease. As our schools and public programming begin to close, I implore you all to follow suit as best you can.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen