



# TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

## PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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### NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**MARCH 15, 2020:** The Town of South Kingstown is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, is following State and Federal guidance to help promote the health and safety of our community, and is implementing additional precautionary measures to reduce opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in South Kingstown.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Declaration of Emergency by the Town Council, the Town has cancelled several public meetings that were scheduled the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 including the Recreation Commission Meeting, the Sustainability Committee meeting, and the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting. At this time, the Town Council meeting scheduled for Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> held for the purpose of FY 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Adoption, and the Zoning Board of Review meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> are both still scheduled. The Town will continue to review its schedule of public meetings over the coming days and weeks, and should the decision be made to cancel additional meetings, this will be announced. Meetings that have been cancelled will be rescheduled as appropriate, or agenda items moved to the next meeting.

Although we understand members of the public have a First Amendment Right to attend public meetings, we are strongly discouraging anyone who is sick (presenting with any symptoms, not just those of COVID-19), anyone who is under self-quarantine, and anyone who falls into the high risk category (people aged sixty and over, and people of all ages with underlying health conditions) from attending the Town Council and other public meetings still scheduled. The Town is encouraging anyone who does not attend the meetings, but wishes to provide public comment on any of the Agenda items, to send an email with brief comments to [TownCouncil@southkingstownri.com](mailto:TownCouncil@southkingstownri.com). Your email will become part of the record, and may be read by the Council President or committee Chair during the Public Comment portion of the Agenda. This policy will only be available during this time of pandemic. The Town reminds members of the public that Town Council meetings, and many other public meetings, are live streamed on the internet, and are available at <https://clerkshq.com/SouthKingstown-ri>. Town Council meetings are also available on local public access television, on Cox Channel 17 and Verizon FIOS Channel 28. Members of the public who do attend Town Council meetings or other meetings still scheduled, are requested to practice social distancing while attending, especially when choosing a seat.

During this pandemic, all residents are strongly encouraged to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing, proper handwashing, and proper cough and sneeze etiquette. The Town echoes the guidance issued by the Governor that residents should avoid crowded places and to please stay home except for running essential errands such as going to the grocery store. All residents are strongly encouraged to remain home if you are sick or under self-quarantine. All residents are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on the Federal, State, and local response to and guidance on the evolving COVID-19 situation. Please visit the Town's COVID-19 webpage for up to date information and links to Federal, State, and local resources [www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19](http://www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19).

Because of the evolving nature of this ongoing community health situation, the Town may implement additional mitigation measures with short notice, and the information provided here is subject to change. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit [www.southkingstownri.com](http://www.southkingstownri.com). Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/southkingstownri](http://www.facebook.com/southkingstownri). Questions can be referred to the Town Manager's Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.