Office of the Selectboard

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PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF DINING AND RETAIL BUSINESS RECOVERY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, impacting people and businesses throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared a State of Emergency, and subsequently issued executive orders to reduce disease transmission through extensive restrictions impacting every aspect of society and life; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is now implementing a phased re-opening plan that is expected to allow dining and retail establishments, but with substantial restrictions on indoor capacity and other elements of operations; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Montague sees opportunity to assist the recovery of dining, retail, and potentially other business establishments that have contributed so much to the character and strong appeal of our village centers and other environs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Montague recognizes that the use of town property that lies adjacent to many business establishments may potentially enhance their prospects of survival;

NOW THEREFORE, the Montague Selectboard declares it will endeavor to facilitate, wherever practical and allowable by State law or order, and Town bylaw or order, business use of these adjacent public spaces, and instructs all Town departments to assist in this effort. Further, the Selectboard will give all due consideration to other innovative ideas that may help to restore the vibrancy of our community's village centers.

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Richard Kuklewicz, Selectboard Chair Date