

Town of Natick
Town Seal Review Committee
Approved meeting minutes for March 16, 2023, 8:15 PM
via Zoom

Members present: Mia Kheyfetz, Chair; Simone Poliandri; Todd Sonneborn; Niki Lefebvre; Sandy LeFleur; Josh Ostroff, Clerk. Also present: Frank Foss

Mia called the meeting to order at 8:19, noting that a quorum was present and further noting the requirements for virtual meetings as provided under MGL as amended by the emergency regulations in effect, followed by a roll call.

Announcement

It's Virginia's birthday tomorrow, and the committee wished her well, and heard of the celebration plans. Josh moved that when we adjourn, we do so in honor of Virginia's 89th birthday. Seconded by Mia and unanimously voted by roll call.

Minutes

For the next meeting.

Administrative matters

Mia discussed motions for Town Meeting, and shared the suggested motions shared with the committee. There was discussion about Motion C and the conditions under which it would be invoked, whether because of the order under which articles were taken or under other scenarios, but including it was insurance against various contingencies. There was further discussion about the language of Motion B, and consensus that it could be voted subject to technical corrections. On a motion by Niki, seconded by Simone the motions were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Article 32: New Town Seal (Town Seal Review Committee)

To see what action the Town will take to hear and discuss the report of the Town Seal Review Committee, to approve a new Town Seal, to procure new embossers, to discharge the committee, or otherwise act thereon.

Motion A

Move to hear and discuss the report of the Town Seal Review Committee.

Motion B

Move to approve the Town Seal design as presented in a document dated ___ and titled ___, as provided under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 47, to take effect July 1, 2023.

Motion C

Move to appropriate \$___ from [funding source] to be expended under the direction of the Town Clerk for purposes of procuring new embossers.

Motion D

Move to discharge the Town Seal Review Committee.

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Mia discussed the presentation that was in development for the Finance Committee on April 4, and subsequently Town Meeting, which we will refine and share next week.

Committee Report

Mia had shared a very preliminary draft with many placeholders; Sebastian had provided a new designer statement, also shared.

Niki mentioned a few individuals to thank, including our various guests over the course of the committee's work. Dr. Nolin was mentioned; the procurement officer, Town Clerk, and several other Town Staff. The historical society. Previous members of the committee, and various other contributors.

There was discussion about including the implementation work, and general consensus to include material provided by Town staff while noting that it was not the committee's work product.

There was further discussion about material to include, and how to best memorialize all the work that the committee has done, including the engagement with Indigenous community members.

Mia referenced a document that Niki was working on for the report that speaks to some suggested next steps. Niki noted that this covers the topic of erasure, and the goal was that if we were asking the seal to represent history, that is not fair to expect of the town seal, and the current seal does not do that well. Perhaps a seal can just as well represent the future. So the recommendation would include creating opportunities to listen to Nipmuc, Massachusett and other descendants of Indigenous people, and creating opportunities for engagement and conversations.

We had further discussion about the report. Sandy left the meeting at 9:05.

Todd moved to adjourn in honor of Virginia, seconded by Simone and unanimously voted by roll call at 9:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Ostroff, Clerk