

The Special Town Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the South Hadley High School auditorium at 153 Newton Street, South Hadley MA. True and attested copies of the warrants were posted by Constable, David J. Labrie in five of the towns voting precincts. Copies of the warrants were sent out electronically to town meeting members on Thursday, November 10, 2022. All additional local by-law requirements were met prior to hosting this meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Town Moderator, John Hine. There were seventy-eight members present out of one hundred and twenty qualified members. The body recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Selectboard Chair, Jeffrey Cyr.

The following business was transacted:

Article 1 – Citizen Petition – Resolution in support of changing the MA state flag and seal

TM VOTE: MAJORITY VOTE: total sheet on file

The Town voted to support the resolution in support of changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts by adopting the amended resolution as follows (**underline and bold amended text**):

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were modeled from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the colonists at Plymouth Plantation in the year 2020, afforded every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an awareness of the possibility of a better relationship between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the loss of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways;

Whereas the area now known as the Town of South Hadley shares a rich Native history with tribal Nations such as the Norwottuck, and modern tribal Nations such as the Nipmuc, who have lived in this area for thousands of years before the first colonial settlers arrived in 1721;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of South Hadley hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2020 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new seal and motto for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. **The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Marc Pacheco and Rep. Antonio Cabral, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration, who serve as members of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, and to Sen. JoAnne Comerford and Rep. Daniel Carey,** with the request that they continue their strong advocacy and support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission. Or take any action related thereto.

Article 2 – Wetlands Bylaw

The Town voted to amend the Town Bylaws, Chapter 240: Wetlands Bylaw by revising section 240-11 as follows (**underline and bold new** and ~~cross-out~~ removed):

After public notice and public hearing, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this bylaw. **Said regulations may allow for the collection and setting of permit fees, mitigation payments, or fines all in accordance with the purpose and intent of this bylaw.** Failure by the Commission to promulgate such rules and regulations or a legal declaration of their invalidity by a court of law shall not act to suspend or invalidate the effect of this bylaw. Public notice shall be given at least three weeks prior to such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in South Hadley and by posting with the Town Clerk. At a minimum, these regulations shall define key terms in this bylaw not inconsistent with this bylaw.

Article 3 – Veterans Municipal Assistance Fund

TM VOTE: MAJORITY VOTE: total sheet on file

The Town voted to accept G.L. c. 60 sec. 3F, to allow for the donation and collection of funds for a municipal veterans' assistance fund.

Article 4 – Veterans’ Council

TM VOTE: MAJORITY VOTE: total sheet on file

7-7 Veterans' Council

A. Established.

There is hereby established a veterans' council consisting of seven (7) persons appointed by the Selectboard from all the veterans who are voters and residents of the town under the provisions of General Law, Chapter 115, Section 12, with each member serving a three-year term. The initial appointments shall serve staggered terms as follows, 2 shall serve 1 year, 2 shall serve 2 years and the remaining 3 shall serve 3 years. Following the first term all appointments shall be made for a term of 3 years.

B. Powers and duties.

The Veterans' Council shall meet at least four (4) times a year or upon the call of the chairperson. The veterans' council shall advise and make recommendations to the director of veteran's services, the Town Administrator and Selectboard on legislation pertaining to veteran affairs, and promote the welfare of veterans in the Town of South Hadley. Further, the veterans' council shall be responsible for conducting the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans' Day Ceremony and Flag Day Parade in the Town of South Hadley, and be responsible for such other related duties as may be voted by the Selectboard. The veterans' council may assume further duties and responsibilities as they may deem fit with the advice and approval of the Town Administrator and Selectboard.

C. OFFICERS

The officers of the Council shall be: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. All officers shall be elected annually by vote of the Council in public session during the first meeting of the fiscal year. Council Officers will constitute the Executive Board of the Council. The Executive Board shall be responsible for planning and organizing all Council meetings and addressing any and all matters identified by the Veterans Service Officer.

C-1 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

CHAIR

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council. The Chair shall be responsible for preparing each meeting's agenda, providing at least two-week advance notice to Council members of upcoming meetings except in emergency circumstances, and posting all meeting agendas in accordance with Open Meeting Law (G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20).

VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair shall be responsible for performing the duties of the Chair should the Chair not be available to prepare for and/or preside at a meeting.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at all meetings and presenting draft minutes for approval at the Council's next meeting. The Secretary shall arrange for posting of approved minutes on the town's web page for the Council. The Secretary shall be responsible for any and all other correspondence required by the Council. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining custody of all agendas and approved minutes of Council meetings in accordance with the Public Records Law (G.L. c. 66, Section 6.)

D. MEETINGS

The Council shall meet a minimum of four (4) times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair, when required, in accordance with the Open Meeting law.

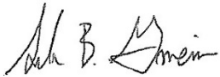
Article 5 – Removal From Civil Service

TM VOTE: MAJORITY VOTE: total sheet on file

The Town voted to revoke the acceptance of G.L. c. 31, §§ 48 and 49 to remove regular or permanent members of the police department from Civil Service and take any action relative thereto.

Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 6:55 P.M.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Sarah B. Gmeiner, Town Clerk