



Diversity Task Force
Town Hall
173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
selectboard@grotonma.gov

Raquel Majeski, Chair
Michelle Collette, Vice Chair
Gordon Candow
Amy Degen
Susan Hughes
Bhaskar Gupta Karpurapu
Deirdre Slavin Mitchell
James Moore
Fran Stanley

Regular Session Minutes

Date/Time: February 10, 2022 at 7 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting
Members
in attendance: Raquel Majeski, Susan Hughes, James Moore, Amy Degen, Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell,
Michelle Collette, and Fran Stanley
Others
in attendance: Rebecca Tabasky, Becky Pine (Select Board member)
Referenced
Documents: PowerPoint presentation for Town Seal recommendation

Raquel Majeski called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members were asked to keep the cameras on, which is usual practice, and the members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item: Approve Minutes

Deirdre Slavin Mitchell moved to approve the January 27, 2022 draft minutes. James Moore seconded and the motion carried (5:0:0) by roll call vote of Hughes – aye, Moore – aye, Slavin Mitchell – aye, Stanley – aye, Collette – aye, Degen – abstain, Majeski – abstain, with Candow and Gupta Karpurapu both absent.

Agenda Item: Discussion and Review – Listening Sessions on Town Seal

The group briefly discussed the *Groton Matters* format. No recording date set as of yet.

James Moore started his comments and review of the draft presentation with a land acknowledgement. The group discussed the draft presentation titled “ Why the Diversity Task Force Recommended a Change to the Town Seal”.

Susan Hughes suggests that the presentation be written in the present tense. Fran Stanley suggested using the word thinks instead of the word feels. Group discussed using the word modify or modification rather than the word change. Group agreed that one aspect of the presentation is to convey the facts behind the Committee’s recommendation in order to facilitate the discussion.

Group discussed the tone and aims of the presentation with Amy Degen and Michelle Collette offering comments. James Moore said that he did not want to preach to residents and wants residents to be open to hearing what the Committee’s recommendation was. Raquel Majeski said this is a facilitated discussion to create a space for listening and for dialogue. Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell said that this committee is an independent thinking body and is sharing its thought process. Susan Hughes said that the Committee is sharing information in hopes that you will see why the recommendation is in alignment with our charge.

The group discussed whether to expand the Committee member list to include former members of the Diversity Task Force. It was decided that no changes are needed for this slide and that the presenter can mention past members orally during the presentation.

Group suggested adding a new slide (slide 4.5) before the recommendation that provides information about the process. Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell suggests noting that the Committee decided to keep the plow, keep the word faith, keep the book. Rebecca Tabasky said that it is important to note that that the Holy Bible words are not offensive per say but that it is not inclusive.

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Group discussed Slide 8 regarding implementation of the modification to the Town Seal should the warrant article pass at Town Meeting. James Moore noted that the Committee recommendation to the Select Board did include advice about implementation. The committee as a whole did not have a consensus view to offer the Town Image working group on this matter.

Group discussed Slide 5. Susan Hughes suggests use of the present tense. The group agreed that the repetition and near alliteration are helpful for ease of understanding for audience members (for example, keeping the word faith, keeping the book and removing the words Holy Bible).

Group discussed Slide 6. State required municipalities to create and use a town seal in the late 19th century. Fran Stanley suggested that additional history is known and could be added. Other members commented that the additional historical information even though there is a lot more that could be added does not necessarily suit the purposes of this presentation.

Agenda Item: Community Engagement

Raquel Majeski and Amy Degen are on the community outreach working group. James Moore will call a Town Image working group meeting to continue working on the presentation.

Becky Pine said that the first listening session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 2 pm in person at The Center (163 West Main Street). In the discussion, it was recommended that there be a request for cable access to film the event and for the Town's IT department to support the event as well. Michelle Collette and Becky Pine will host a forum and a blurb about this forum has been placed in the Council on Aging newsletter.

Becky Pine said that the second listening session will also be scheduled at The Center due to the capaciousness of the space which allows for social distancing.

Deirdre Slavin-Mitchell and Raquel Majeski leave the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Next meeting: Uncertain -- was scheduled for February 24, 2022 but this date conflicts with Bystander Training. If scheduled for February 23, 2022, two members have conflicts. Amy Degen suggested February 17, 2022 as a possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Notes by Fran Stanley