



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Oliver, Micley, Malakie, Humphrey, Lobovits, Baker, and Farrell

City Staff: Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion; Lisa Dady, Director of Historic Newton; Shubee Sikka, Urban Designer; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

All agendas and reports, both past and present can be found at the following link: [Programs & Services Committee | City of Newton, MA \(newtonma.gov\)](https://www.newtonma.gov/Programs-Services-Committee)

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [Programs & Services Committee - January 22, 2025 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

#447-24 Appointment of Sam Figler to the Licensing Board

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Sam Figler, 62 Sumner Street, Newton as a member of the Licensing Board for a term of office set to expire on June 3, 2030. (60 Days: 01/17/2025)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 7-0 (Councilor Oliver Not Voting)

Note: Mr. Figler noted that he is looking to get involved more in the City and currently serves on the Newton Commonwealth Foundation. He also is a previous member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and was drawn to the Licensing Board due to his experience as an attorney. Councilors voiced support for the appointment and voted 7-0 (Councilor Oliver not voting) on a motion to approve from Councilor Baker.

#6-25 Appointment of Claire Wadlington to the Newton Community Education Commission

HER HONOR THE MAYOR respectfully appointing Claire Wadlington of 137 Monadnock Road, Newton as a member of the Newton Community Education Commission for a term of office set to expire on February 18, 2027. (60 Days: 03/22/2025)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 8-0

Note: Ms. Wadlington described her prior involvement in taking community education classes in multiple communities. She also noted her financial experience and how it can be utilized given recent conversations about Newton Community Education. Councilors thanked

Ms. Wadlington for her interest in serving and one asked if she had any particular ideas regarding the finances of Newton Community Education. Ms. Wadlington stated that she would like to get a full understanding of previous efforts along with noting how Newton Community Education differs from the private sector. Committee members voted 8-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Lobovits.

#55-24 Requesting Update Regarding City Seal Redesign

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to provide the Programs & Services Committee with an update regarding the City Seal redesign.

Programs & Services Held 8-0 on 02/21/24

Programs & Services Held 7-0 on 07/10/24

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0-2 (Councilors Oliver and Malakie Abstained)

Note: Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion, presented the attached presentation, which provided an overview of the City Seal Working Group's work and the initial recommendations. Over the summer the working group presented three draft designs to the public and solicited feedback. The attached presentation noted what seal was the most voted on and updates that were made based on feedback from the public. Sebastian Ebarb, who was the project designer on the project, described why each element of the proposed final design was chosen.

Councilors stated that they like the proposed design but would like to see an example with the ribbon closed off and the image in the center having a defined border. Mr. Ebarb showed 4 rough drafts in back and white of each variation of the ribbon being closed off and the image having a defined border. Committee members voiced support for the option with the closed ribbon and the defined border around the image. A question was asked about removing the word Nonantum from the proposed city seal. Ms. Kerwin Derrick noted that the removal of the word Nonantum was part of the initial recommendations due to it not referring to the area of Nonantum and that this has been replaced with the phrase thirteen villages. This replacement was made to make sure the seal accurately honors all of the thirteen villages that make up Newton. Committee members also took a straw vote of 3-4-1 (Councilors Micley, Farrell, Baker, and Humphrey Opposed) (Councilor Krintzman Abstaining) on having an ampersand versus spelling out the word "and" in "liberty and union". A subsequent straw vote of 2-5-1 (Councilors Oliver, Micley, Lobovits, Baker, and Farrel Opposed) (Councilor Krintzman Abstaining) was also taken on having the hatch etchings near the folds in the ribbon. Attached is a memo from Ms. Kerwin Derrick describing the seal as amended during the discussion.

Mr. Ebarb presented a color version of the proposed seal. Councilors voiced support for the colors of the seal. A question was asked if the color of the brick for the picture of City Hall was appropriate. A Councilor on the City Seal Working Group noted that this color was chosen based on photos of city hall as when the exact color was used it appeared very dark.

The City Seal Working Group voted 6-0-1 (Councilor Malakie Abstained) to recommend the seal as amended during the discussion.

Committee members voted 6-0-2 (Councilors Oliver and Malakie Abstained) on a motion to approve from Councilor Krintzman.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Krintzman, Chair**

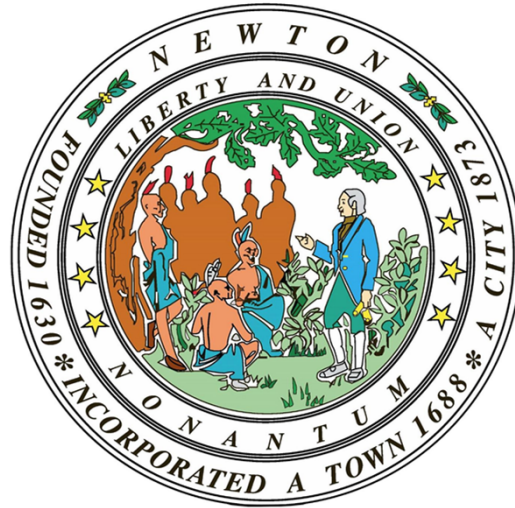
City Seal Redesign

Programs and Services
January 22, 2025

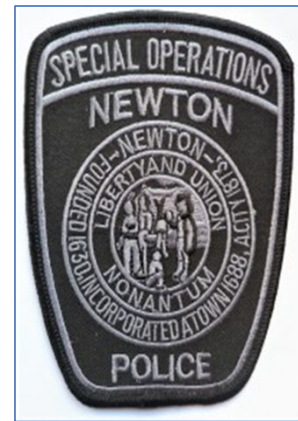
City Seal Team

- Lisa Dady
Director Historic Newton
- Bill Humphrey
City Council Ward 5
- Hattie Kerwin Derrick
Director of Community Engagement & Inclusion
- Julia Malakie
City Council Ward 3 (joined Fall 2024)
- Jim Murphy
Resident
- Ryan Naragon
Resident
- Shubee Sikka
Urban Designer in the Newton Planning Dept.
- Sebastian Ebarb
Project Designer

Most Common Version of the Current City Seal



Changes in the City Seal Over Time



There is consensus around the need for a clean, replicable update and standardization is needed.

Timeline

Aug. 5, 2020

Mayor Fuller created an Ad Hoc City Seal Working Group

Nov. 5, 2020

Community Input regarding the process requested

February 2022

- Mayor Fuller updated the community regarding the final report made by the Ad Hoc City Seal Working Group
- Mayor Fuller requested approval from the Honorable City Council to approve proceeding with the process of updating the City Seal

April 2023

- Programs & Services approves, 8 – 0, moving forward with updating the City Seal
- Whole City Council approves, 21 -3, moving forward with updating the City Seal

October 19, 2023, the RFP was released.

Timeline

December 22, 2023

The Chief Procurement Officer awarded the contract to Sebastian Ellington Ebarb Design (SEED).

Jan. 5, 2024 – Announcement to the community regarding selection of the Graphic Designer

February 21, 2024 – attended Programs & Services to give an update on the City Seal progress

March 28, 2024 – Community Meeting at Druker Auditorium soliciting community

Friday, June 14 – Tuesday, August 21 - Survey for feedback regarding draft designs open

June 18, 2024 – City Seal Working Group presented three draft designs and requested feedback

July 10, 2024 – attended Program & Services to give an update on the City Seal progress

Recommendations from Initial Ad Hoc Committee

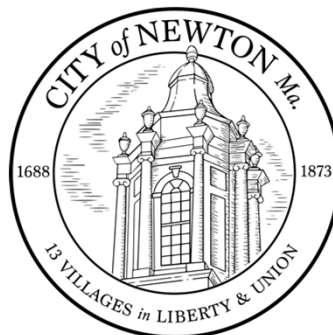
- Retain circular shape and some content of the outer rings, for its official and traditional feel and link to previous iterations
- Replace the scene of John Eliot evangelizing Waban and Indigenous people
- Remove the word “Nonantum.” Consider using another Algonquian word, such as “Quinobequin” (the Massachusetts word for the Charles River) or Cohannet, as this area was called before 1646.
- Consolidate the City’s founding dates; don’t need all three
- Retain *or* omit the words “Liberty and Union”
- Simplify for accurate reproduction in many formats

New Elements to consider:

- Environment/Nature (the Charles River; ponds & lakes; trees; the colors green and blue)
- Community (13 Villages; people on equal ground; “union” in the motto; well-known community buildings)
- Themes of education, progressivism, global connection, and inclusivity.



Draft Designs Presented to the Public



Most Voted



Updates Based on Public Feedback

Previous City Seals



Posted and voted 1

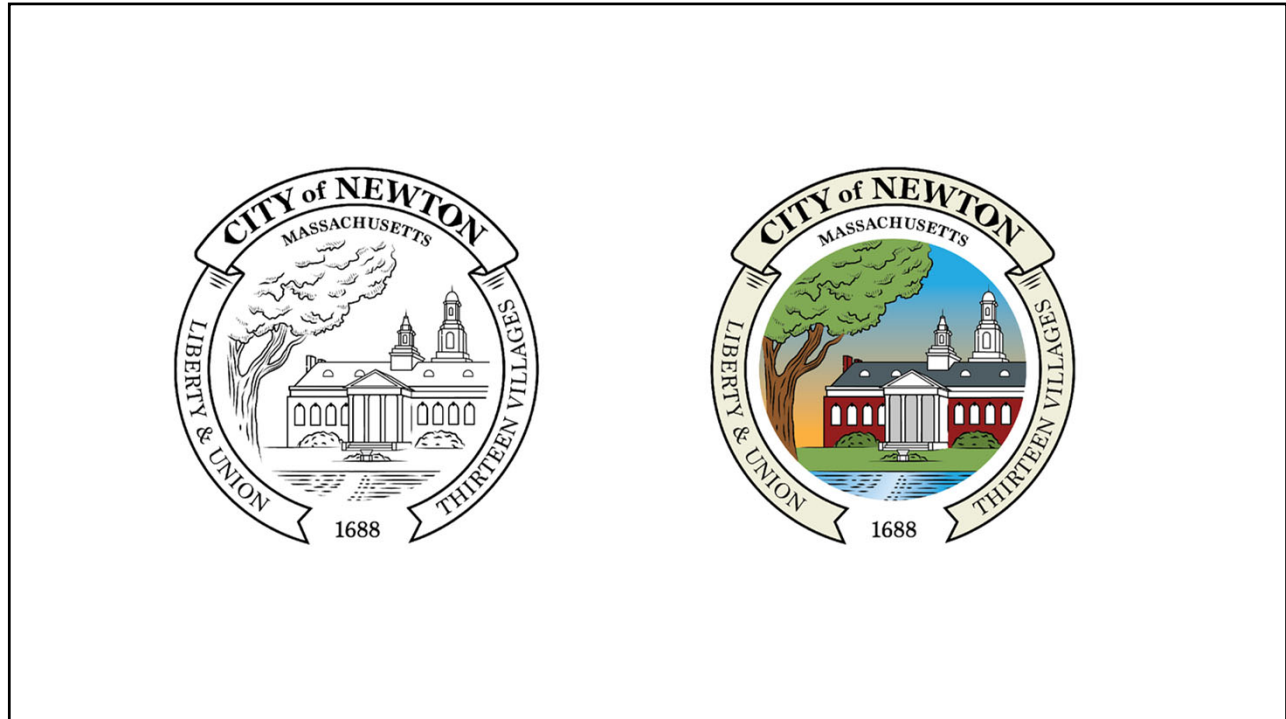


Final Design From the Committee



Final Design with Color





Next Steps

The emblem will be replaced gradually, as materials need to be reordered; in the normal course of the existing budget. This is not a large one-time expenditure; it will not happen all at once.

