

Distinguished Visitors Committee

Agenda

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7:00 PM
Ropewalk Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Plymouth Town Hall
26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92970759154?pwd=aFMwWIBuS1R3OVdUWjdXREYrQ1hMdz09>

Meeting ID: 929 7075 9154

Passcode: 750646

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By Kelly McElreath at 1:02 pm, Sep 11, 2023

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place which has been extended to March 31, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote and in person participation.

This meeting is being recorded.

- 1) Meeting called to order at ____ PM.
- 2) Old Business:
 - 1) ***Vote to approve the previous meeting minutes (7/27/23):***
 - i) ***Moved by:***
 - ii) ***Seconded by:***
 - iii) ***Votes for:***
 - iv) ***Abstentions:***
 - v) ***Votes against:***
 - vi) ***Result:***
 - 2) Review of meeting procedures and protocols
 - 3) Update on the delegation that visited Shichigahama this past August (summer 2023):
 - i) **Presentations by student ambassadors, teacher chaperones, and/or town officials who were part of the delegation.**
 - ii) Reflections from the chair:
 - (1) The student delegation was reported to have been "one of the best-prepared delegations in a long time". The four orientation meetings with students and families (where cultural information, cultural sensitivity, and behavioral expectations were covered in depth), as well as the virtual meet-up with host families, and other pre-trip social preparations were likely crucial to the students' success. It

was emphasized during the orientation meetings that the student ambassadors' primary focus should be on spending time getting to know their host families and other Japanese folks (rather than their peers from Plymouth), and this is what they did. I am very proud of this group of young adults for representing their town, their families, and themselves well!

(2) Travel to and from Japan occurred without incident, and the delegation was safe and healthy through the duration of their visit.

(3) The official gifts were received well and appreciated.

(4) The student ambassadors made presentations to the School Committee on Monday, September 11, 2023 and the Select Board on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

(5) Thank you to everyone on this committee for their work to ensure that students and the adult members of the delegation had a successful visit. Special thanks to those who reached out to their respective boards/committees for help with items such as unofficial gifts, further donations, etc.; or who helped procure the official town gifts. This was a group effort and everyone's contributions benefited the delegation and the continued strength of our sister-town relationship with the people of Shichigahama.

iii) Shichigahama sent us an official town gift. This was presented to the Select Board at their meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

4) Account update:

i) Incoming funds:

(1) Updates on incoming funds from representatives of the School Committee, Select Board, VSB.

(2) Ms. Hunt may have an update: Potentially the Rotary Club will be donating to the students (even though the trip is now over). These funds may be made out to the Town. It will be up to this committee to ensure that that money is distributed to the families of the student ambassadors – either as direct disbursement to the families from the Town, or as a single disbursement to the families' joint account (for them to distribute). We will determine this based on the advice of Lynne Barrett and the Finance Dept.

ii) Expenses:

iii) Overall status of account

3) New Business:

1) Planning the Shichigahama delegation's visit during the summer of 2024:

The following should be considered as this committee prepares:

- i) What dates and how long will their delegation visit during? Is there a particular date range/length we would like to encourage?
- ii) What is the size of the delegation (students, teacher chaperones, town officials/VIPs)?
- iii) Who will the elected officials/VIPs include, and have any of those individuals been here already (and if so, when)?
- iv) Where will town officials/VIPs be housed?
- v) Host families for student ambassadors and teacher chaperones should begin to be secured.

(1) We can encourage former Plymouth delegation members' families or former host families to volunteer for this, especially if they have a connection with any of the Japanese delegation members visiting.

- vi) How will we transport the delegation to/from the airport, as well as during itinerary items to be attended just by the elected officials/VIPs?
- vii) What has this committee done in the past that worked well, and what did not? (Known itinerary items that went well: dinner at Plymouth Bay Winery for VIPs; baseball games either at Fenway or Pawtucket Red Sox; visiting Plimoth-Patuxet Museum; beach outings)
- viii) How can we ensure that the town at large knows about the delegation's visit, and provide an open, welcoming environment during their stay?
- ix) As much as possible, donations or price reductions should be sought for transportation, itinerary items, events, and meals.

2) Final thoughts from the chair

3) Items not reasonably anticipated by the chair:

i)

4) **Next meeting date:** Tentatively Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 PM in the Ropewalk Conference Room on the 2nd Floor of Plymouth Town Hall.

5) **A VOTE was taken to adjourned at _____ PM:**

1) **Moved by:**

2) **Seconded by:**

3) **Result:**