

Distinguished Visitors Committee

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

Ropewalk Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Plymouth Town Hall
26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

1) Roll Call: Attendance

- 1) Andy Loretz (at-large), chair
- 2) Steven Lydon (Visitors Services Board designee), vice chair
- 3) Scott Coogan (at-large), clerk
- 4) Kim Savery (School Committee designee)
- 5) Paula Harris (Chamber of Commerce designee)
- 6) Len Levin (at-large)
- 7) Chris Talamo (at-large)
- 8) Absent (with advance notice):
 - i) Evelyn Strawn (See Plymouth designee)
 - ii) Matt Tavares (Town Meeting Member designee)
 - iii) Margie Burgess (at-large)
- 9) Absent without advance notice:
 - i) Harry Helm (Select Board designee)
 - ii) Sandra Almaguer (at-large)

2) Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

3) Old Business:

- 1) ***Vote to approve the previous meeting minutes (4/13/23):***
 - i) Moved by: Mr. Lydon***
 - ii) Seconded by: Mr. Talamo***
 - iii) Result: passes unanimously***
- 2) Review of meeting procedures and protocols:
 - i) *A reminder was provided that all comments to go through the chair.*
- 3) Reminder to submit any and all required forms/documents to the Town Clerk (conflict of interest and open meeting law sign-offs)
- 4) Account update:
 - i) Deposit money from student ambassadors visiting Shichigahama this summer are being made. Their payment schedule is as follows:
 - (1) Third installment of \$660 by May 15, 2023
 - (2) Fourth installment of \$660 by June 15, 2023
 - (3) Fifth installment of \$675 by July 15, 2023
 - ii) Cost of the Town Flag (\$282)
 - iii) Cost for the flights for this summer's delegation (\$47,280) will be coming out of the account by or around 5/31/23.
 - iv) Cost of the charter bus transportation (quoted at \$5,000) will be coming out of the account once acquired – this expense was approved at our last meeting (4/13/23).

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- v) Cost of the travel insurance will be an additional expense (will be addressed during a later item on the agenda).
- 5) Update on the student ambassador delegation and teacher chaperones going to Shichigahama (summer 2023):
 - i) The second Orientation meeting occurred on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the School Department Central Office in the Mayflower Room. Families were informed of further travel details, and a presentation was given by Mr. Loretz regarding Japanese history, Shichigahama and the sister-town relationship history, as well as an introduction to basic phrases in Japanese.
- 6) Update on the elected/town official delegation going to Shichigahama (summer 2023).
 - i) Derek Brindisi is confirmed to go this summer.
- 7) Update on the Town Flag information for Shichigahama's International Days:
 - i) All American Signs....Plus from Plymouth was not able to get the flag manufactured in time to send to Shichigahama for their International Days celebration. We will send this with the delegation visiting this summer instead.
 - ii) The committee will be notified at a future meeting of the total cost (including shipping). The committee already voted unanimously to approve these expenses at a previous meeting (3/9/23).
- 8) Update on the travel arrangements from the travel agent (from Ms. Savery).
 - i) If needed, Mr. Loretz will contact Senator Warren's and Senator Markey's office for expediting passports.
- 9) Update regarding updating this committee's Charter from Mr. Levin
 - i) Tabled.
- 4) New Business:**
 - 1) Expenses:
 - i) *Vote to pay IACE Travel by or before June 8, 2023 for the travel insurance for flights (\$5,000):***
 - (1) *Moved by: Mr. Lydon***
 - (2) *Seconded by: Mr. Levin***
 - (3) *Result: passes unanimously***
 - ii) *Vote to pay Plimoth-Patuxet for the Mayflower Bell to send as a gift with this summer's delegation (\$250):***

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(1) Moved by: Mr. Lydon

(2) Seconded by: Ms. Savery

(3) Result: passes unanimously

- 2) Facilitating and supporting family/student-arranged fundraising efforts
 - i) Update regarding the Rotary Club:
 - (1) Students and families have already begun fundraising. They had a very successful popcorn fundraiser they completed through an app and sharing the info online to friends and family, and through their social media.
 - ii) Mr. Loretz connected with PAC-TV regarding running a PSA to help get donations:
 - (1) Waiting to hear back further details.
 - iii) Getting out info to local businesses and organizations:
 - (1) The following ideas were brainstormed for getting the word out regarding making further donations to the student delegation:
 - (a) PAC TV can do free PSAs – outreach was made but no reply as of today Exec Dir is Julie at PacTV
 - (b) School Channel
 - (c) GoFundMe (with a limit of how much)
 - (d) Comedy Fundraiser through company
 - (e) Have a small group speak to the Select Board sometime in early June - not to seek further funding from the Select Board itself, but rather to publicize fundraising efforts.
 - (f) The Chamber of Commerce could push out the word via newsletter to local businesses. A blurb needs to be written up so it would be included in the by monthly newsletter to solicit donations from businesses. Andy will send out text to be published to Kim.
- 3) Update on the official gift(s) to Shichigahama to send with the delegation traveling this summer from Mr. Levin and the members of the Gift Sub-committee.
 - i) Mayflower Bell: approved and obtained by the committee once purchase goes through
 - ii) Town Flag: approved by this committee; acquiring sometime within the next couple of weeks

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- iii) Poetry Books (Ms. Savery): A memory book or website or page where folks that have gone can submit memories or pictures of the trip that they took
- 4) Discussion regarding defining payment mechanisms and the role of this committee in helping future student delegations raise funds:
 - i) Tabled.
- 5) Items not reasonably anticipated by the chair
 - i) The following ideas were presented/brainstormed:
 - (1) Students and their families can be invited into future DVC meetings, including Select Board meetings to present about their on-going efforts.
 - (2) Ensuring that a PSA on PAC-TV & EdTV post-trip would be a good idea to spread the word to community.
 - (3) Student ambassadors could help write (or contribute to) an article that could go in the Old Colony Memorial.
- 5) Next meeting date:** Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 PM at Town Hall in the Ropewalk Conference Room
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM**
 - 1) Moved by: Mr. Lydon**
 - 2) Seconded by: Ms. Harris**
 - 3) Result: passed unanimously**