

**TOWN OF NATICK
SELECT BOARD POLICY
NAMING OF PUBLIC PLACES**

PURPOSE

The Select Board (the “Board”) believes that the naming or renaming of public places is a matter of substantial or significant interest, may have long-lasting effect, and deserves careful consideration. The Board, therefore, creates this policy (“Policy”) to establish a systematic, consistent and transparent approach for naming or renaming public places.

APPLICABILITY

The Board shall be responsible for the naming or renaming of public places. For the purpose of this Policy, the term “public places” shall mean and include all or any portion of any Town-owned buildings, parks, squares, parcels of land, assets or facilities under the care, control and custody of the Board. Requests pertaining to places, assets or facilities under the care, control and custody of any other Town Board, Committee or Commission shall be referred to that Board, Committee or Commission.

PROCESS

A request to name or rename a public place must be submitted to the Board in writing, and must be signed by a minimum of twenty-five (25) individuals, certified by the Town Clerk as registered voters in the Town of Natick. The written request must clearly explain the compelling rationale for the request, the public interest to be served thereby, and should reflect a broad level of community backing.

The Board shall solicit the opinion of the Natick Historical Commission and the Community and Economic Development Office and, where applicable, the Natick Historic District Commission and the Town’s Veterans’ Agent, regarding the historical, economic, civic, or other impact, if any, of the proposed naming or renaming. With the necessary opinions in hand, the Board shall schedule a public hearing. Following the close of the public hearing, the Board shall vote on the request (which vote may be taken during the same meeting in which the public hearing is held, or at a subsequent meeting of the Board).

The Board reserves to any of its members, to any other elected Town Board, Committee or Commission, and to the Town Administrator, the right to request to name or rename a public place. Such a request shall be made to the Board in writing, and shall proceed according to the process set forth above, except that the minimum registered voter requirement set forth in the first paragraph of this section shall not apply.

GUIDELINES

The Board understands the naming or renaming of public places may span future generations whose perceptions and values might change. Therefore, the Board believes that such action should be taken sparingly, and intends to be cautious in the exercise of this Policy.

Property may be named after an individual when the individual has an historical association therewith, or the area in which it is located, when the individual played a leadership role in the Town, or when the individual distinguished himself or herself in service to others (including, by way of example only, through distinguished service in the military, or in public service). Quality, rather than length, of service shall be paramount.

Property may be named after an individual or organization that has made a significant financial and civic contribution to the Town, or that has made a direct financial grant to the Town for purpose of acquiring, preserving, or developing such property for the betterment of the Town.

Names should be chosen in a manner that avoids duplication, confusion or inappropriateness. In the event of an individual's passing, one year must pass before consideration may be given to naming or renaming a public place for said individual.

As the Board may deem relevant in deciding on any naming or renaming proposal, the Board may consider the value of the public place, whether the naming proposal is (or should be) for a time certain, whether a naming agreement or other documentation is appropriate or necessary, any existing agreement or documentation regarding the current name, and any costs or expenses associated with the request. Nothing herein shall be construed so as to limit the Board's authority to use its discretion based on the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular request.

This Policy may be amended or rescinded by majority vote of the Board.

NATICK SELECT BOARD

Paul R. Joseph, Chair

Michael J. Hickey, Jr, Vice Chair

Bruce T. Evans, Clerk

Kathryn M. Coughlin

Richard H. Sidney

Adopted: March __, 2023