

# TOWN OF SANDWICH

Office of the Town Clerk  
145 Main Street  
Sandwich, Massachusetts 02563



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Contact: 508-888-0340

## Town Clerk Officially Introduces Redesigned Town Seal

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**Sandwich** – This week, Town Clerk Taylor D. White, will reveal the newly refurbished town seal to the Board of Selectmen. The seal, which was originally created in 1900 by order of the Massachusetts Legislature, had lost much of its detail over the last 118 years. The revamped image restores many of the creative details and returns our unique seal to its original prominence. The Town Clerk, who is the designated keeper of the seal, is pleased to announce the adoption of this beautiful new design for official town use moving forward.

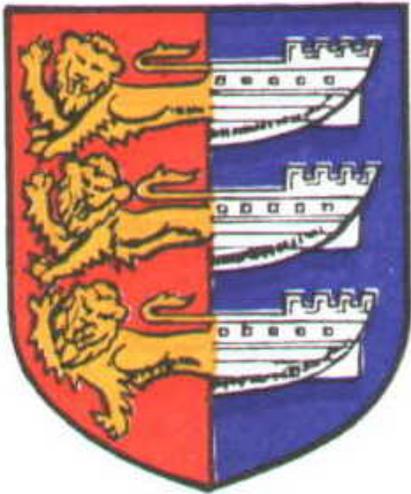
The revamped seal is the creation of local woodcarver, Doug Amidon of Hillport Gallery. Mr. Amidon was contracted by the town to create a woodcarving of the seal as part of the newly constructed Marina building. The carving now rests above the front entrance. Amidon researched the history of the seal and was able to restore many of the details visible in the original rendition. The design provides sharp new focus to the three ships and the American eagle heads that adorn them.

In 1899, all Massachusetts towns were required to create an official town seal. At the March 15, 1900 Town Meeting it was voted that “*the Town Clerk procure a town seal.*” The Town Clerk at the time, John Holway, selected Sandwich resident Melanie Elisabeth Norton to create the design. She took her inspiration from the seal of Sandwich, England which depicts 3 ships that are half-ship and half-lion. In the American spirit she replaced the British lions with American eagles. Norton proposed the motto for Sandwich “Post Tot Naufragia Portus” as it was also the motto of the Earl of Sandwich, England. There are several different translations for this Latin motto including; “*Haven after many a shipwreck*”, “*After so many shipwrecks, there is a harbor*” and “*After so many shipwrecks, we reach a port.*” Nevertheless, the motto establishes a common bond with our sister harbor town across the Atlantic.

In a comment, Taylor White said, “The revitalization of our town seal was long overdue. Part of the Town’s rich history is encapsulated in its visual symbols and this newly restored image perfectly embodies that.”

For more information you may contact the Clerk’s Office at (508) 888-0340.

*(Images on next page)*



**Seal of Sandwich, England**



**Original Town Seal by Norton**  
*(Published August 7, 1900)*



**Current Town Seal**



**New Town Seal**

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