

The Lexington Minute Men

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To: The Lexington Select Board and Town Meeting Members
From: James Lee, Captain Commanding, The Lexington Minute Men
Dated: March 20, 2023

Dear Select Board Members and Town Meeting Members,

You all received Josh Apgar's letter informing you of the recent vote by the Lexington Minute Men (LMM) regarding our membership requirements. I believe it is important to add some of the context that is pertinent to understanding the process that the LMM have gone through.

Under the past captain the LMM went through an extensive year-long process to update our company by-laws, part of which included removing all gender specific pronouns. These by-law changes were voted in by the company. This paved the way for the possible removal of gender from the membership requirement. During that time LMM leadership, recognizing the growing tide of sentiment within the membership, formed a committee to explore the question.

This January a motion was made to remove the gender requirements from our membership by-law, and as required, it was signed by 10 members in good standing. At the LMM March meeting there was a civil discussion among the members and the question was put to a vote. A majority of members present voted in support of the motion. However, the motion did not receive the $\frac{3}{4}$ super-majority vote required to change a by-law.

The LMM is an organization that has existed for close to 250 years, and presently consists of many modern-day members of the community who are forward-looking. Be assured that we will continue this discussion of inclusivity.

Sincerely,
James Lee
Captain Commanding
The Lexington Minute Men