

**From:** [Geoffrey Kerr](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Tomy](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe Badenoff](#); [Joe Badenhoff](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Town Seal  
**Date:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 4:13:19 PM

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Can you provide a status on my request?

On Tue, Aug 9, 2016 at 3:03 PM, Geoffrey Kerr <[kerr.geoffrey@gmail.com](mailto:kerr.geoffrey@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I think the right way to phrase this is that I am asking for acknowledgement that the use of the Town Seal in support of activities for the non-partisan benefit of the town is acceptable. Specifically we would like to include the Town Seal subordinate to the Rotary Seal on letterhead and other documents.

While we can list community activities that the seal might appear on when we publicize an event (golf), we change presidents every year and officers have term limits. There's no way to predict or guarantee that today's activity will continue next year. Only that these activities are always for the benefit of the community.

As near as I can tell, the Town By-Laws do not have any restriction on the use of the Town Seal. However, The General Court of Massachusetts states:

Section 35. Whoever, without being duly authorized thereto, prints, stamps, engraves or affixes, or causes to be printed, stamped, engraved or affixed to any paper or other article a representation of the seal of a town in the commonwealth, with intent to give to such paper or article an official character which it does not possess, or, without being duly authorized thereto, and with intent to assume an official character which he does not possess, casts, stamps, engraves, makes or has in his possession a badge or thing in the likeness of an official badge of a police officer, member of a fire department, or other officer appointed by a town in the commonwealth, or by any department of such town, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars.

It is not the intent, goal or purpose of the Acton-Boxborough Rotary Club to represent the town we exist in. On the contrary, we use the seal to show our support and service to the town that we exist in.

I never anticipated needing to request this in such detail. Had hoped that an informal verbal phone call would have sufficed. None-the-less, I now find myself here. It is my position that the General Court only intended to protect the Town Seal from being used to falsely show that the town supports the organization or the organization represents the town. By our charter, we are barred from both.

I hope this is adequate information of our intent and that you can

confirm we are in compliance. If you need any additional information, you can either email or call.

Thank you for your time,  
Geoffrey Kerr, Rotarian  
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