
High School Logo/Mascot Change

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Hello,

My name is Kate Barvick, AHS class of '14, now a PhD student in archaeology. I was recently reading the WickedLocal article that the high school logo, what we usually called the Menotomy Indian or the Arlington Indian, is under review for change. This makes sense - it's a kind of awkward emblem for the high school, and connects to the sports' team name, "The Spy Ponders," in no meaningful way. However, I also saw that there was some disappointment with the idea of just the plain "A".

I am writing to say this is an excellent opportunity to consider incorporating Arlington history that reflects both the team name and the direct influences on Arlington as a modern town. The "Spy Ponders" were a name given to the hockey team that practiced on Spy Pond, but Spy Pond has a lot of connections to life in Arlington - and the original people referred to as "Spy Ponders" were the ice-cutters on the pond in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Arlington ice-cutting business was a central industry in Arlington for decades, and re-incorporating that history into the forefront of town presence can evoke aspects of local industry to reflect the school's values - industry, technology, local history, global connections, and a sobering reminder of climate change and the importance of protecting our natural resources - but also sports teams, and what it means to be a Spy Ponder: toughness, teamwork, and tradition. A new logo or emblem inspired by ice or a horse could be considered, to replace the current Native American image. "Spy Ponder" is a name unique to Arlington, and the logo and emblem should reflect this local uniqueness.

I have done significant research into the history of Spy Pond and the many stories connected to it - you can learn more about the Revolutionary War history, the ice history, and the geological history in the documentary I made for ACMI: <https://acmi.tv/videos/spy-pond-documentary/>

So, putting in my suggestions for a new logo: I think a horse logo (to represent the ice cutting industry on Spy Pond), a Minuteman logo (celebrating Arlington's history and participation in the first day of the Revolution, in which spy Pond played a part), or a mastodon logo (to represent the mastodon tusk found in Spy Pond - something equally big, tough, unique, and local!) would connect to Arlington history and the Spy Pond name, without using a Native American image as the logo.

Thank you for your consideration,

- Kate Barvick