



Agenda Item VII. E.

Meeting Date: June 6, 2017

Department: County Administrator

Issue: **County Seal for Public Meeting Room**

Board Action: The Board is being asked to approve a Seal design for the public meeting room.

Attachment: Short History
Symbolism
Original Version
Current Version
Proposed Version

Summary: It is time to select the design to be used for decorating the wall behind the dias of the public meeting room. Once the design is selected, bids will be solicited from sign makers.

Recommendation: That the Board direct staff to solicit bids for the creation and installation of a county seal in the public meeting room using the _____ version.

http://www.newsadvance.com/new_era_progress/news/local/a-short-history-of-the-amherst-county-seal/article_ea9dddfd-3fcb-568b-8d9b-fef01cbc30c1.html

A short history of the Amherst County seal

Joe Stinnett Apr 28, 2011

The Amherst County seal was designed 50 years ago for the 200th anniversary of the founding of the county. Although colonial counties like Amherst customarily had seals, no record was found of one for Amherst County, according to the 1961 Bicentennial Edition of the New Era-Progress.

The seal was designed by Madison Heights architect Charles L. Vail Jr., based on suggestions from county residents as well as a committee including local attorney and judge Harold Singleton, historian the Rev. Bailey F. Davis (minister of Amherst Baptist Church), and author and publisher Alfred Percy of Elon. Percy wrote "The Amherst County Story," the first comprehensive history of the county, which was also commissioned for the bicentennial.

The bicentennial edition of the New Era-Progress described the seal as follows.

"The upper left quarter and the lower right are taken from the arms of Lord Jeffrey Amherst; the upper right quarter is from the arms of the Earl of Albemarle, Amherst's mother county; the lower left quarter is from the Virginia colonial Coat of Arms, as is the motto. The mountains, as seen from the circle at Amherst Courthouse, are at the bottom, surrounded by native animals — rabbit, squirrel, deer and bear. At the top are the Sweet Brier Rose, the tobacco plants and wheat leaves, the dogwood and the oak. In the center are the shields of the United States of America and the Confederate States of America."

The motto, "Dieu Et Mon Droit," is French and means "God And My Right." It is also the motto of the British monarch and reflects Virginia's beginnings as a British colony.

The Confederate insignia in the center of the shield was removed in 2004.

CHARLIE L. VAIL, JR., A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
R. F. D. No. 3, BOX 600
MADISON HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA

AMHERST COUNTY SEAL

THE CREST OF THIS COAT OF ARMS IS FORMED BY CROSSED SHEAVES OF WHEAT RESTING ON THE BLOOM OF A DOGWOOD AND TOPPED BY A TOBACCO PLANT. ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CREST IS THE SWEET BRIAR ROSE WITH OAK ACORN SITTING ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

THE SHIELD'S UPPER LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT QUARTERS WERE TAKEN FROM LORD JEFFREY AMHERST'S COAT OF ARMS, AS HE WAS THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA; THE UPPER RIGHT QUARTER IS FROM THE FIRST EARL OF ALBEMARLE'S ARMS BECAUSE AMHERST COUNTY WAS CUT FROM THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE IN 1761; THE LOWER LEFT QUARTER IS FROM THE VIRGINIA COLONIAL COAT OF ARMS AS IS ALSO THE MOTTO.

THE CENTER SHIELD IS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COLORS TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WITH THE SHIELD OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA IN THE CENTER.

THE SUPPORTERS ARE THE BLACK BEAR ON THE RIGHT, THE WHITE TAILED DEER ON THE LEFT WITH THE RABBIT AND SQUIRREL SUPPORTING FROM THE BOTTOM. THE BASE IS FORMED BY THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RANGE OFTEN KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF AMHERST AS THE "SLEEPING GIANT", AND IS CRADLED BY THE RIBBONED MOTTO MEANING "GOD AND MY RIGHT".

DESIGNED BY CHARLIE L. VAIL, JR.





