



# Native American Mural Service Project

By Daniela M.

# OVERVIEW

The very disturbing painting in the U.S postal office in Natick Massachusetts is not the best way to portray our racist past. In the painting, we see naked Native Americans chained up and being pulled like animals by the white settlers. After talking with many important people in Natick, I have built up support to either replace the mural with a memorial that is colorful and lively while still acknowledging the Native Americans struggle, or put an informational plaque underneath the painting that tells people what the mural is displaying.

## ISSUES WITH THE MURAL

- It simplifies a complex period of history;
  - It doesn't reflect the difficult decisions made by indigenous people, who often faced a life-or-death choice when confronted with religious conversion;
- It endorses what Lefebvre called the "white savior trope." -(Milford Daily News)
- No context is stated ("It shouldn't be in a public post office unless it's well contextualized there,")

# THE PLAN

I spoke with Robert Rooney, the interim town administrator, and he gave me a list of like minded people to speak with as well as articles to read that go further into detail about the mural.

Next, i was connected with former Select Board member, John Moran. We both agreed to meet and discuss how we were going to approach replacing the mural. After putting our heads together, we both decided that the mural should be replaced, but there should be remembrance of the old mural as a learning experience.

After meeting with Wade Blackman and Peter Golden, they read me many articles and sent me pieces of information that made me rethink the idea of replacing the mural. Now, I have started to consider producing a plaque underneath the mural, but in a separate part of Natick, paint a colorful, lively, memorial of the Native Americans. This way, we have two murals that represent Native struggle: One outdated, yet necessary mural, and one new, colorful memorial.

We would like to use Natick's artists at Walnut Hill School for the Arts AND Natick High School to redo the mural to display young talent and show off our talented artists we have in our town. The mural will be a beautifully done piece of art that memorializes the Native Americans in Natick.

I sent my letter to the editor of the Metrowest Daily News...Here it is!

MILFORD DAILY NEWS - LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# MILFORD DAILY NEWS



## What Next?

...I would like to have the town vote on the idea of either a plaque, replacing the mural, or keeping the mural and painting one in a different part of Natick.

We would also like to speak with a few Natick Native Americans to see their opinion on the subject. We want Natick to be unified on this topic.

After the vote takes place and we receive the results, we will implement the final idea!



Work cited:

The Unvarnished Truth

Increased Scrutiny For Natick Images