

July 22, 2020

My name is Sara Marx. I have lived in Somerville since 2004. I live with my spouse and two young daughters, the older of whom is a first-grader at Argenziano. Our family has chosen to make Somerville our forever home, and I would be thrilled to increase my involvement in the community by serving on this committee.

I teach Ancient History at one of the middle schools in the Newton Public Schools. One of the big threads throughout my Ancient History class is how history is remembered by societies. In each ancient civilization, we explore the monuments, what they say about the society that built them, whose stories are included, and whose voices are left out. Our final project in my class is for students to thoughtfully create a monument with all of these questions in mind.

In addition, I believe in and am trained in antiracist teaching. I support Black Lives Matter, and am so proud to live in a city where these issues are front and center. While I am a white woman, I would do everything I possibly could from my situation to represent underrepresented groups in this memorialization process. I am constantly reading, learning, and engaging, and would come from a place of inquiry and learning in making any decisions on this committee, knowing that Somerville has diverse stakeholders.

As a teacher, I am also very used to working with others to solve complex problems and move forward with decisions. I completed a Teacher Leadership program, which was largely about how to effectively collaborate. Some of the conversations on this committee may be difficult, personal, or involve disagreement, and I am prepared to participate in that with common goals and norms.

Given my background and goals, I believe I would be an excellent addition to this committee. I welcome any questions or follow up you have for me.

Sara Marx