

Town of Bernardston



Office of the Selectboard

Brian J. Keir Stanley D. Garland, Chairman Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Bernardston Policy for the Exhibition of Flags on Town Buildings and Property Adopted December 13, 2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the display of flags, banners and signs on Town flagpoles, Town buildings and Town properties.

2. Policy Guidelines

2.1 Policy: It is the policy of the Town of Bernardston that all flags, banners or signs will be displayed in conformance with Federal and State laws and this policy. This includes, but is not limited to, the Federal “Our Flag” publication and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 2, Section 6 and Section 6A.

2.2 Eligible Flags and Order of Precedence: Only the United States, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Town of Bernardston and official flags of the U. S. Military and POW/MIA flags may be flown on any Town owned flagpole. Outdoor flags will be flown on Town flagpoles in the following order of precedence: first, the United States flag; second, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag; third, the Town of Bernardston flag and fourth, official flags of the U.S. Military and POW/MIA.

2.3 Federal, State, and Local Proclamation of Special Occasion: Flags flown on Town flagpoles shall be displayed in accordance with the standards referenced above in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. The United States flag may be flown at half-staff to honor a newly deceased federal or state government official by order of the President of the United States or the Governor of Massachusetts.

2.4 Eligible Banners and Signs: Only banners and signs regarding Town business or Town sponsored events may be erected on or attached to Town buildings or Town property.

2.5 Other Flags: The Town's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The only flags permitted on Town owned flagpoles are those set forth in Section 2.2 and all other flags are prohibited from being flown on any and all Town of Bernardston flagpoles.


2.6 Other Banners and Signs: Town buildings and other Town property are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression. The only banners or signs permitted on Town buildings or Town property are those set forth in Section 2.4 and all other banners and signs are prohibited from erection on or attachment to any Town building or Town property.

3. APPLICABILITY: This policy is applicable to all Town owned flagpoles, buildings, and property. Adopted as a Town of Bernardston Policy by the Selectboard.


Stanley D. Garland

, Chairman


Kenneth R. Bordewieck


Brian J. Keir

PO Box 504; Bernardston, Massachusetts 01337
Phone: (413) 648-5401 Fax: (413) 648-9318
Email: bos@townofbernardston.org