

# **Flag/Banner/Sign Policy for Governmental Flagpoles, Town Buildings, and Property**

## **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 property.

## **2. POLICY GUIDELINES**

### **2.1 Policy**

It is the policy of the Town of Shelburne 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 Shelburne 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 Shelburne flag (if applicable) 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 Selectboard, or if time is of the essence, the Town Administrator may order flags to be lowered to half-staff including, but not limited to, flags of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in honor of the death of a Town employee killed in the line of duty, or in the observance of a specific event or circumstance, or if ordered by the President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth.

### **2.4 Eligible Banners and Signs**

Only banners and signs regarding Town business or Town sponsored events or may be erected on or attached to Town buildings or Town property. *Marquee boards owned and maintained by Memorial Hall Association for theater related events are exempt from this policy.*

## **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 Shelburne flagpoles.

## **2.6 Other Banners and Signs**

Town buildings and other Town property are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by erection on or attachment to of banners or signs. 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 Shelburne Policy by the Selectboard.**

*Robert A. Manners*  
Robert A. Manners, Chair

Date: January 8, 2024

*Andrew Baker*  
Andrew Baker, Member

*Richard LaPierre*  
Richard LaPierre, Member