

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the display of flags on property owned by the Town of Wellesley and under the control of the Select Board.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all flagpoles that are, and from time to time may be, in use on real property belonging to the Town of Wellesley and under the control of the Select Board. Such flagpoles include, without limitation, those located at the Town Hall, DPW Yard Garage, Fire Headquarters, Fire Station #1, Police Station, Tolles Parsons Center, Recycling and Disposal Facility, and the Warren Building. This policy does not apply to flagpoles on Town property under the control of other public bodies, including, but not limited to, the School Committee, Board of Library Trustees, Municipal Light Board, and the Natural Resources Commission.

POLICY

Expression of official sentiment, not a public forum: Town flagpoles are not intended as a forum for free expression by the public. Rather, the decisions of the Select Board concerning which flags to fly, and when, and from which flagpoles are intended as an expression of official Town sentiment.

United States and Commonwealth Flag Codes: Flags should be displayed in conformance with federal and state policies as stated in the federal “Our Flag” publication of the United States Congress, House Document No. 108-97; and M.G.L. c. 2, §§ 6 and 6A.

Flags allowed to be flown: The Select Board authorize the following flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles as an expression of the Town’s government speech:

- The official flag of the United States of America
- The official flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- The official flag of the Town of Wellesley
- The official flags of the various branches of military services of the United States of America
- The official MIA-POW flag
- The official Purple Heart flag

No other flags shall be allowed to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles as those flag poles and this policy are not intended to establish or serve to create a forum for private expression.

APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD ON

Original date: January 16, 2024

Thomas H. Ulfelder (Chair), Colette E. Aufranc (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Sullivan Woods (Secretary),
Lise M. Olney, Ann-Mara S. Lanza