

EXHIBIT A

The first paragraph below is from the Holliston Flag Policy, voted in on January 22nd, 2024. The second paragraph proposes one alternate to the language that would be in alignment with our values.

Original

All Town-owned flag poles and buildings are restricted to the United States, POW/MIA, State and Town flags, with the exception of the flag pole located at Blair Square (Corner of Central Street and Railroad Street, specifically) for which an application form may be obtained. Any flag to be flown with the approval of the Board will be under the policy above.

Proposed Alternate

Any Town-owned flag poles and buildings may display, in accordance with federal and state policies, the flags of the United States of America, POW/MIA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Holliston or individual Town of Holliston Departments. In addition, the Select Board may opt to display, on any Town-owned flag poles and buildings, commemorative or ceremonial flags as a form of government speech.

The above proposal is one example of how we may consider amending the policy, however the undersigned are open to a discussion with the Select Board regarding alternate options. Any amendments to the policy, we would expect is reviewed by the town's counsel prior to final public commentary and Select Board vote.

Specific elements we feel encompass a successful flag policy, several of which the current Flag Policy contain, includes:

1. Town flagpoles are for the purpose of government speech and are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression.
2. Ceremonial or commemorative flags may be displayed by the town as an expression of government sentiment.
 - a. Sample text, borrowed from the town of Hamilton: "Select Board may authorize the display of a commemorative or celebratory flag to fly on Town-owned flagpoles. A "commemorative flag" as defined in this Policy shall mean a flag that is displayed in conjunction with official actions, ceremonial items, or proclamations of the Select Board, and may be related a specific historical event, recognized holiday, cause, or group that the Select Board chooses to honor or commemorate consistent with the Town's mission and priorities."
3. Provide an opportunity for the Library's Board of Trustees to independently decide which commemorative or celebratory flag(s) to display.
4. Make clear that any mechanism for the consideration of ideas from the community regarding commemorative or ceremonial flag selection does not imply the creation of a public forum.
 - a. The current Holliston Flag Policy contains an application process, of which we are concerned closely resembles the process that got Boston into legal trouble.
 - b. Many of the successful town flag policies we have reviewed in Massachusetts do not have an application process.