



TOWN OF BLUE HILL
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' POLICY
ON THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS ON THE TOWN HALL PROPERTY

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Select Board wishes to clarify the intent and applicability of a 1999 memorandum entitled "Policy for Displaying Information on Town Sign" which indicates that "temporary signs will not be allowed on Town Hall grounds," but which is labeled "DRAFT" and lacks clear evidence of adoption;

WHEREAS, the Select Board seeks to maintain the aesthetic appearance of its Town Hall property, avoid visual clutter, and maintain the visibility and impact of signs erected for municipal communication purposes;

WHEREAS, the Select Board does not intend for any Town Hall Property to be a public forum for free expression except during events specifically organized and at locations specifically designated for that purpose in accordance with this policy and applicable laws, rules, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board believes that a general prohibition on the placement of temporary or permanent signs on Town Hall Property, with certain exceptions, is the most appropriate means to achieve the above goals.

POLICY

NOW, THEREFORE, the Blue Hill Select Board, having provided an opportunity for public comment, hereby establishes the following policy:

- 1) **General Prohibition.** Unless specifically exempted by this policy, no sign may be placed on the Blue Hill Town Hall property (the "Town Hall Property") by any person or entity other than the Town of Blue Hill.
- 2) **Exemptions.** Notwithstanding the general prohibition:
 - a. **Town Signs.** Signs may be placed under the authority of the Select Board, or its designees, for any government speech purpose. Without limiting the foregoing statement, the Town has a right to display in or on its properties, including the Town Hall Property, informational notices and announcements concerning the Town's operations, services, events, or promotions.
 - b. **Signs Required by Law.** Nothing in this policy shall be construed to restrict the placement of signs in locations specifically required by federal, state, or local law.
 - c. **Signs Associated with Town Hall Events.** Signs associated with an authorized non-municipal event to be held in the Town Hall may be placed on the Town Hall

Property in specific locations authorized by the Town, subject to the prior endorsement of the Town in accordance with Section 3. Any signs so placed shall be removed within 24 hours after the event.

- d. **Bulletin Boards.** Signs, no larger than 8 ½" x 11", may be placed in locations inside the Town Hall designated by the Town for the purpose of announcing upcoming events, meetings, or activities, provided there is sufficient room for such signs without unduly obstructing other signs already in place and provided that any such signs are endorsed by the Town in accordance with Section 3. Any signs so placed shall be removed within 24 hours after the event, meeting, or activity.
- e. **Designated Public Forums.** Signs may be displayed by persons participating in a lawful public assembly, for the duration of such assembly, at the following locations on Town Hall Property:
 - i. [insert locations here – e.g., Front Lawn of the Town Hall Property; meeting room in a public building, a public meeting of a municipal board or committee, etc.]
 - ii.
 - iii.

Such signs may not be temporarily or permanently affixed to any Town Hall Property; must be removed and properly disposed of immediately after the conclusion of the assembly; and must comply with any other time, place, and manner restrictions established by policy or order of the Select Board.

3) Town Endorsement. For purposes of this policy:

- a. A vote by a majority of the Select Board present and voting to approve or support a sign constitutes the Town's endorsement.
- b. Alternatively, for purposes of the exemptions in Section 2.c or 2.d, the Town Clerk may approve the placement of a sign, which approval shall constitute the Town's endorsement. The Town Clerk shall reject any sign that promotes, depicts, or contains images, copy, or concepts associated with or containing:
 - i. Adult entertainment or sexually oriented conduct, goods, or services;
 - ii. Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, or related products;
 - iii. Demeaning, defamatory, or disparaging content aimed at any individual or entity;
 - iv. False, misleading or deceptive messaging;

- v. Firearms or other weapons, implements, or devices used in an act of violence or harm to a person or animal;
- vi. Violence, including without limitation the depiction of human or animal body parts or fetuses in states of mutilation, dismemberment, decomposition, or disfigurement;
- vii. Vulgarly or obscenity; or
- viii. Unlawful or illegal conduct, goods, or services

If a sign has been rejected by the Town Clerk, a person may petition the Select Board to endorse the sign pursuant to Section 3.a. The Select Board's decision is final.

4) Definitions.

- a. **Sign.** Every device, frame, letter, figure, character, mark, plane, point, design, picture, stroke, stripe, trademark or reading matter, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention or convey information.

Adopted: _____, 2025.

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