



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

26 Court Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
(508)747-1620

Policy Number	SB-110723
Title	Winter Holiday Decorations
Established	07 November 2023
Revision Approval Dates	

1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the placement of winter holiday decorations on public lands or on/in public buildings for the Town of Plymouth.

2. POLICY GUIDELINES

2.1 Policy.

It is the policy of the Town of Plymouth to reflect its total commitment to celebrate the winter holiday season without regard to any one or more specific religious traditions. The Board is responsible for approving all requests to place holiday decorations on public lands or on/in public buildings. Plymouth affirms that it is a fully inclusive community. The Select Board wishes to express its desire to celebrate all religious and secular aspects during the holiday season. In that spirit, the Town affirms its desire to hang and/or string lights and wreaths and other decorations on Town lands and buildings, without regard to any particular religion.

2.2 Standard Operating Procedures.

2.2.1 Historical Precedent

Hanging and/or stringing of lights will continue at the commercial centers as above described and in accordance with the Town's historical practice.

2.2.2 Approved Decoration Types/Styles

The Town Hall and other municipal buildings and property may be decorated with garlands, wreaths and other secular decorations. In addition, separate spaces will be reserved for individuals to place symbols representative of specific recognized

traditions, such as a lighted tree (Christmas), Menorah (Hanukkah), Kinara (Kwanzaa) and Crescent (Muslim). These specific symbols are hereby pre-approved by the Select Board and will not be the responsibility of the Town for its maintenance or its placement. If others are proposed, the Board will consider whether they are symbols from generally recognized traditions. All symbols permitted will be of roughly equal size. They will be put up together and removed together, on dates selected by the Select Board or by the Town Manager. They may be lit throughout the period or for such lesser time as the tradition dictates. (For example, the Menorah is expected to be lit during the 8 days of Hanukkah).

2.2.3 Town Hall/Municipal Building Requirements

The interior of Town Hall and other municipal buildings will be decorated in accordance with the above, that is, any department wishing to decorate will make a reasonable effort to include symbols of each religious tradition of roughly equal size and prominence of religious symbols are to be included.

2.2.4 Religious Ceremonies

Other than any actions referenced above, no religious ceremony will occur on any Town owned property.

2.2.5 Policy Scope

The Select Board recognizes it is not the Town Board in charge of all municipal buildings. Boards having jurisdiction of other town land and buildings will be informed of this policy, and encouraged to adopt it with the hope that this policy will be town-wide and uniformly held but is not required.

2.2.6 In-Scope Locations

Any organization(s) seeking to display holiday decorations in accordance with this policy shall be limited to established entities with physical addresses and offering regular annual services and activities in Plymouth.

2.2.7 Permit Requirements

Any Plymouth based organization(s) seeking to display holiday decorations in accordance with this policy shall be required to complete the applicable permit application process.

3. POLICY GUIDELINES

This policy is applicable to all public lands or on/in public buildings controlled by the Town of Plymouth.

4. QUESTIONS

Please direct questions to the Town Manager's Office at (508)-747-1620, extension 10100.

Signed By:


Chairman, Select Board

Nov 7, 2023

Date


Town Manager

Nov 7, 2023

Date