



POLICY No.: L-12  
DATE ADOPTED: 2-6-08

## TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY

### Holiday Decoration

**Purpose:** The Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator agree to establish a policy to govern the placement of holiday decorations on public lands and buildings.

**Policy:** The Board is responsible for approving all requests to place holiday decorations on public lands or on/in public buildings. The Town asserts its total commitment to celebrate the winter holiday season without regard to any one or more specific religious traditions. West Boylston affirms that it is a fully inclusive community. The Board of Selectmen 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 string lights and wreaths and other decorations on Town lands and buildings, without regard to any particular religion.

#### Accordingly, the Town's policy is as follows:

1. Stringing of lights will continue at the commercial centers as above described and in accordance with the Town's historical practice.
2. 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), and Crescent (Muslim). These specific symbols are hereby pre-approved by the Board of Selectmen 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 Board of Selectmen or by the Town Administrator. They may be lighted throughout the period or for such lesser time as the tradition dictates. (For example, the Menorah is expected to be lighted during the 8 days of Hanukkah).
3. 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 if religious symbols are to be included.

4. No religious ceremony will occur on any town owned property.

5. Town funds are not to be expended for religious holiday decorations without permission of the Board of Selectmen and can only be granted with emphasis on religious diversity.

6. The Board of Selectmen 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.