TOWN OF MILLIS

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Veterans Memorial Building
900 Main Street • Millis, MA 02054
Phone: 508-376-7041
Townadministratorsoffice@millisma.gov

Michael Guzinski
Town Administrator
mguzinski@millisma.gov

Karen Bouret DeMarzo
Assistant Town Administrator
karen.bouret.demarzo@millisma.gov

HOLIDAY DECORATION POLICY

Purpose: The Select Board agrees to establish a policy to govern the placement of holiday decorations on public lands and buildings.

Policy: The Board is responsible for all decisions to place holiday decorations on public lands or on public buildings. The decision to place (or not place) holiday decorations is government speech. The Town will not entertain or grant requests from individuals or organizations to place holiday decorations on Town property. The Town asserts its total commitment to celebrate the winter holiday season without regard to any one or more specific religions traditions. The Town of Millis affirms that it is a fully inclusive community and expresses the desire to create a safe and inclusive environment to celebrate all religious and secular aspects during the holiday season. The Town affirms its desire to string lights, hang wreaths, and place other decorations on Town lands and buildings without regard to any particular religion.

1. Stringing of lights will continue at various town buildings in accordance with the Town's historical practice.
2. Town Hall, (the Veterans Memorial Building), and other municipal buildings and property may be decorated with garlands, wreaths, lights, and other secular decorations. In addition, separate spaces will be reserved for symbols representative of specific recognized traditions such as a lighted tree (Christmas), Menorah (Hanukkah), and crescent (Muslim), all of which have secular significance as well. These specific symbols are hereby pre-approved by the Select Board. All symbols will be of roughly equal size and placed so that no one symbol is more prominently displayed. Decorations may be lighted from December 1 through January 7 or for a lesser time as tradition dictates.
3. The interior of municipal buildings may be decorated in accordance with the above and all departments should make a reasonable effort to include symbols of various holiday traditions if such symbols are to be included.
4. No religious ceremony may occur on any town-owned property.

5. Town funds are not to be expended for religious holiday decorations without the permission of the Select Board and will only be granted with emphasis on diversity and secular holiday traditions.
6. Boards having jurisdiction over other town land or buildings will be informed of this policy, and encouraged to adopt it with the hope this policy will be town-wide and uniformly held but it is not required.

Adopted

Date 12/02/2024