

Selectman's Policy

Use of Town Buildings

Authority:

This policy is adopted in accordance with the authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under NH Revised Statutes: Chapter 41, Section 11-a

Purpose:

It is the intent and purpose of this Policy to regulate use of Town buildings, structures and property in accordance with law.

Section 1: The Board of Selectmen, in accordance with the powers vested in itself by RSA 41:11-a, declares it to be the public policy of the Town of Bridgewater that the use of Town buildings under the Board's control is restricted to the conduct of governmental business of activities related thereto. Town Buildings are hereby declared not to be public forums.

Section 2: To insure the orderly use and scheduling of Town buildings for governmental business and related activities, such scheduling must occur well in advance of the anticipated use of such facilities, the meeting rooms and other places within such buildings that are necessary for the scheduled public use and need.

Town Boards, Committees, Agencies and Departments should schedule their requested use of the Town buildings regulated under this policy in accordance with the following;

Town Hall:

Town Meeting Room – Scheduled by the Selectman's Secretary after approval by the Selectboard

Public Safety:

Public Safety Training Room: Scheduled in conjunction with the Fire Chief, EMS Director and Police Chief. Only approved public safety organizations. The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to cancel such meetings.

Town Clerk/Library

Limited use building: Such as: Town Clerk Office, Library, Boy Scouts, Bee Keepers Meetings and Historical Society.

Town House:

Limited use building: Scheduled in conjunction with the advice of the Bridgewater Hill Association and the Old Home Day Association and by the Selectman.

Highway and Refuse District buildings are not for outside use.

General:

The Town of Bridgewater recognizes that the community has a large investment, via tax dollars, in the town buildings and grounds. The Town of Bridgewater also recognizes the use of the Town buildings and grounds as a privilege, not as a right.

Guidelines and Limitations:

- Other than regularly scheduled meetings of official Town Boards and committees, no meetings in the Town Hall shall be scheduled outside of normal working hours without the approval of the Board of Selectmen
- No meeting or activity shall involve the advocacy of a partisan political position or for a candidate for any elected office except that an annual night for electing Town Officers is permitted.
- No meeting or activities will be scheduled that will conflict with the orderly conduct of town business.

Severability:

To the extent this policy is in conflict with State law, State law will prevail.

Maurice A. Jenness Jr.

Terence M. Murphy

Selectman of Bridgewater 6/16/2005

Henry R. Woolner

Reviewed 5/21/12