



**Town of Bridgewater**  
**Rules and Procedure Committee**

January 15, 2025

7:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87330010314>

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 873 3001 0314

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Disclosure:** Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a) December 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**D. LEGISLATION REFERRED**

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1
- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-012: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 60, Article I, Section 1 - Elections
- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-013: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 290, Article I, Section 1 Shade Trees

**E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**



# Town of Bridgewater

## Rules and Procedure Committee

December 12, 2024  
7:00 PM

### MEETING MINUTES

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor Chase called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm pm Wednesday, December 12, 2024. The meeting took place via Zoom.

**Council Members Present:**

Councilor Chase  
Councilor Murphy  
Councilor McKinnon

Also in attendance was Acting Town Manager Blythe Robinson.

**B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a) November 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the November 13, 2024 meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- b) December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the December 2, 2024 meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**D. LEGISLATION REFERRED**

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-008: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1B (2)  
Councilor Chase noted that this ordinance was being introduced by Councilor Perry and read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Chase further noted that this does not minimize the authority of the Town Manager, this is just ad hoc for the council.

*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to recommend Ordinance D-FY25-008. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- b) Ordinance D-FY25-009: Veterans Volunteer Services Program (Work-off)  
Councilor Chase noted that rules met on the ordinance at their prior meeting and had questions that needed clarification and after receiving the information requested, made amendments to the Ordinance  
*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to accept the proposed amendments on Ordinance D-FY25-008. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to recommend Ordinance D-FY25-008 with amendments. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1  
Councilor Chase noted that this ordinance is adding the POW/MIA flag to the Flag Ordinance and that on the 12/17 agenda an order is being introduced to add an additional flag pole so that the United States flag and POW/MIA Flag can fly on one pole and requests from residents fly on the other pole, noting that if the order is approved, perhaps this ordinance is not needed.

*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to continue Ordinance D-FY25-010 to the next Rules and Procedures meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

- d) General Ordinance D-FY25-011: General Ordinance - Amend Chapter 300, Article II, "Truck Exclusions"  
Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that this truck exclusion was requested by East Bridgewater and it went through a strict process and must be adopted by both towns.

Councilor Chase noted that this is a good ordinance as not all streets can be excluded from trucks.

*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to recommend Ordinance D-FY25-011, which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

**E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

*Councilor McKinnon made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.*

A roll-call vote was taken and the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Chase – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Mary Mcgrath  
 Mark Linde, Councilor  
 Date Introduced: 10/15/2024  
 First Reading: 10/15/2024  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

## Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Federal Public Law; 116-67, the National POW/MIA Flag Act, which states; The POW/MIA flag is required to be displayed at specified locations to all days on which the U.S. flag is displayed.

**WHEREAS**, tens of thousands of American veterans have been held captive or are believed missing in action, arising from wars over the course of many decades: and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Bridgewater is committed to showing respect and gratitude to those Americans who are classified as prisoners of war or missing in action by flying the POW/MIA flag at the Academy Building at all times.

**ORDERED**, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1 “Flag Raising” as follows:

4. Flag of the United States *and POW/MIA*: During any Period of Display, a flag approved for public display in the manner permitted hereby shall be flown beneath the flag of the United States *and POW/MIA, which both shall be continuously flown*, in a manner consistent with the United States Code (4 U.S.C. Section 7).

### Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments: 1. General Code - Flag Raising on Town Property

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

## Chapter 157. Parades and Public Gatherings

### Article I. Permit Required

#### Section 1. Parades

No person shall form or conduct any parade in any public street, public sidewalk or public way within the town, or form or conduct for the purpose of display or demonstration, any procession or assembly of people, except a military funeral or funeral parade or procession, within such public street, sidewalk or way, without first obtaining a written permit from the Chief of Police; and no person shall take part in any such parade, procession or assembly which is not authorized by such a permit.

#### Section 2. Public Address

No person shall give any public address, speech or harangue in any public street, public square or public park within the town, without a written permit from the Chief of Police.

### Article II. Flag Raising on Town Property

#### Section 1. Flag Raising

The Town of Bridgewater, acting through its Town Council, may allow the raising of a flag on the flagpole located at the Academy Building in observance of an event or occasion, subject to this ordinance (the "Ordinance") and the attached rules appended to this Ordinance (the "Rules"), each as may be amended by the Town Council from time-to-time.

1. Request Procedure. An organization or individual (in either case being resident in the Town of Bridgewater) may request that the Town raise a particular flag by written request presented to the Town Council Clerk. Such request must be received by the Town Council Clerk sufficiently in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council to conform with public notice requirements. The requested period of display (the "Period of Display") may commence no sooner than thirty (30) days following receipt of the request by the Town Council Clerk.

The Town Council will consider approval of the request in accordance with all rules and procedures applicable to matters before the Town Council. A decision to approve or deny the raising of a flag is made in the sole and complete discretion of the Town Council.

2. Appropriate Events. The events and occasions for which a request pursuant to this Ordinance may be considered are limited to events or occasions designated within a formal proclamation duly issued by a governmental authority, as follows:
  - a) A Proclamation issued by the President of the United States;
  - b) A Proclamation issued by the Congress of the United States;
  - c) A Proclamation issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or
  - d) A Proclamation issued by the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
3. Period of Display. The Period of Display of a flag to commemorate an event or occasion above-described shall be limited in the following manner:

- a) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one (1) day of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to one (1) day of public display to take place on the date set-forth within the proclamation;
- b) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one week of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to one (1) week of public display to commence and cease in accordance with the dates specified within the proclamation, or as closely thereto as practicable; and
- c) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one (1) month of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to no less than one (1) week and no longer than (1) month of public display, such period to commence in accord with the earliest date set-forth within the proclamation, or as closely thereto as practicable.

4. Flag of the United States and POW/MIA: During any Period of Display, a flag approved for public display in the manner permitted hereby shall be flown beneath the flag of the United States and ***POW/MIA, which both shall be continuously flown***, in a manner consistent with the United States Code (4 U.S.C. §7).

#### *Section 2. Rules Governing Flag Raising*

The Flag Raising Ordinance of the Town of Bridgewater (the “Ordinance”) shall be administered in accordance with the following rules (the “Rules”):

1. At no time will the Town of Bridgewater display a flag deemed to be inappropriate or offensive in nature, or a flag supporting discrimination, prejudice or reference to any religious movement. A determination of impropriety in this regard shall be rendered by the Town Council in its sole discretion.
2. A flag proposed for public display shall be considered for approval which features words, symbols, designs or colors customarily associated with the event or occasion to be commemorated and which does not otherwise, in the determination of Town Council, convey or suggest policies, positions or proposals beyond the intended scope of the proclamation with which it is purported to correspond.
3. A photograph of the actual flag proposed for display under this Ordinance shall be provided to the Town Council Clerk together with the written request for display and shall be deemed to constitute a necessary component of the request.
4. A flag proposed for display under this Ordinance shall be clean and serviceable, and corresponding in size with the flag of the United States beneath which it will be flown.
5. Flag raisings must occur on a normal business day during regular business hours as may be determined appropriate by Town administration. Requests outside of normal business days hours cannot be accommodated.

6. A flag delivered for public display must be presented to the Town Council Clerk during normal business days and regular business hours and, following the Period of Display, promptly retrieved from the Town Council Clerk. Neither the Town nor the Town Council Clerk shall bear responsible for flags not promptly retrieved.
7. If the President or other appropriate authority orders that the U.S. Flag be flown at half-staff, no other flag may be flown therewith during the pendency of such order.
8. The Town of Bridgewater shall bear no responsibility for the loss of or any damage to a flag presented for public display under this Policy.
9. The Town Council may amend or rescind this Policy or the Rules hereunder at any time and any authorization for display made pursuant to this policy may be amended or withdrawn upon appropriate action by the Town Council for any reason.

## **Chapter 160. Peace and Good Order**

### **Article I. Profane or Obscene Language**

#### *Section 1. Disorderly Conduct*

No person shall behave himself in a rude or disorderly manner, nor use any indecent, profane or insulting language, in any public way or place in the town.

### **Article II. Public Nudity**

#### *Section 1. Nude Bathing*

No person shall bathe in any water of this town, in a state of nudity, in places exposed to public view, or in immediate sight of the occupants of any dwelling.

### **Article III. Public Nuisance**

#### *Section 1. Dangerous Conduct*

No person shall throw balls, snowballs, or other missiles nor unnecessarily make any alarming or tumultuous noise, not make or light bonfires, or other fires, not ride upon the hind part of any vehicles without leave, not play at football or other games in any street, public way or square of this town.

### **Article IV. Impeding a Public Way**

#### *Section 1. Obstruction of a Public Way*

No person shall loiter or continue to stand on any sidewalk or public place in the town as to obstruct the passage of or to impede or in any matter annoy other persons; nor shall any person in a street or way stand or loiter after being directed by a police officer to move on. No person being a member of an assembly of three or more persons shall disturb the peace by using obscene or profane speech in any public place, or obstruct and interfere with the free passage of foot traffic.



# Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor  
 Date Introduced: 12/17/2024  
 First Reading: 12/17/2024  
 Second Reading:  
 Amendments Adopted:  
 Third Reading:  
 Date Adopted:  
 Date Effective:

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**Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-012: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 60, Article I, Section 1 - Elections**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Town ordinances, it is therefore:

**ORDERED**, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Administrative Code, Chapter 60, Article I, Section 1 as follows:

**Chapter 60 Elections**  
**Article I. Hours**  
**Section 1. Annual Town Election**

At Annual Town Elections polls shall be open at ten o'clock in the morning and shall remain open until 8 o'clock in the evening. At special Town Elections or uncontested races, the polls may be open no earlier than 10 o'clock the morning and remain open no later than 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

**Explanation:**

*Raynham Polls are open at 10am until 8pm unless uncontested races, then 10-3. The cost savings can be used to encourage Vote-By-Mail applications for the postage to increase voter participation. The Last Saturday in April is often the end of Spring break. This will not affect state/federal elections as those hours will remain 7am-8pm per state mandate.*

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments: None



## Bridgewater Town Council

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Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor  
Date Introduced: 12/17/2024  
First Reading: 12/17/2024  
Second Reading:  
Amendments Adopted:  
Third Reading:  
Date Adopted:  
Date Effective:

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**Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-013: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 290, Article I, Section 1 Shade Trees**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Town ordinances, it is therefore:

**ORDERED**, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Administrative Code, Chapter 290, Article I, Section 1 as follows:

**Chapter 290. Shade Trees**

**Article I. Shade Trees**

**Section 1. Purpose and Definitions**

This Ordinance is based on MGL, Chapter 87, Shade Trees, and MGL, Chapter 242, Waste and Trespass. It is meant to provide further clarification, implementation and enforcement of procedures applicable to the Town of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater is committed to maintaining and protecting its natural resources in order to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. It is a well established fact, that Trees, Shrubs, and Plants moderate the negative effects of pollution, temperature and water runoff. The trees and other vegetation growing along its roads contribute to the health of its citizens and beauty of the environment. Wildlife habitats are sustained and the rural character of the community differentiates it from more urban surroundings. In concert with the Master Plan, and Town ordinances, the economic value of the landscape along its roads, appeals to one's aesthetic sensitivity and connotes a sense of stability in commercial and residential areas.

The following definition shall apply:

**Hazardous Tree:** A tree with structural defects likely to cause failure to all or part of the tree, which could strike a target such as a person, vehicle, utility lines, structures, or block public ways.

**Public Tree:** Any tree on public land, including public shade trees.

**Public Shade Tree:** A tree growing within or on the boundary of the public right-of-way and subject to the

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Provisions of MGL, Chapter 87. In Bridgewater a tree may also be considered to be in the public way if either its root system or its branches extend into the public way as determined by the Tree Warden, Highway Department or Planning Board. A tree on a private way that has been laid out such that it will remain open to the public.

Tree Warden: The **elected (change to Appointed)** town official responsible for implementing and enforcing state and town laws and policies regarding trees subject to appeal to the Hearings Officer as herein provided.

**Committee Referrals and Dispositions:**

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments:                None