

A close-up photograph of an American flag, showing the red and white stripes in the foreground and the blue field with white stars in the background. The flag is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, patriotic atmosphere.

AMERICAN FLAGS IN NORTH YARMOUTH

Requested by
Darla Hamlin (NYEC)
&
Tom Low (Resident)
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Why I'm Here



- Purpose of This Presentation
 - To seek approval from the NY Board of Selectmen (BOS) to display flags on utility poles
 - To provide BOS with information obtained from other communities in Maine.
 - To provide some examples of how this is handled by other communities
 - To show that Veterans and other local organizations and individuals support this project.
- Action Taken
 - Interviewed six communities and two individuals
 - Attended meeting with leaders of local Boy Scout Troop
 - Contacted Veterans organizations
- What I would like to accomplish tonight
 - Learn the results of the attorney's review of the documents.
 - At the very least, receive provisional approval from the BOS to proceed
 - To learn, what needs to be done in order to proceed.

Notes of Interest



- There are approximately 44 communities in Central Maine alone who display the American flag along their primary streets in their community.
- Most have done so over two years
- All plan to repeat this year.
- Public response is overwhelmingly positive
- Nonprofits, individuals and town staff work together
- Notes taken during the interviews is provided

Communities Interviewed



- Raymond
- Westbrook
- Bowerbank
- Milo
- Dexter
- Corinna

Key Points from Town Interviews Conducted by Darla Hamlin



- Public Works (key player in 50% of the communities interviewed)
- The BOS personally raise over 125 flags in Bowerbank, Maine.
- Milo started with approximately 100 flags and their program has grown to over 300.
- In most cases, the idea was initiated by a private individual or local Veteran's organization.
- Local Veteran's organizations are involved in one way or another.
- Permanent and part-time residents all enthusiastically support the project.
- Many positive remarks from out of town visitors to their community.
- Not all flags are displayed on poles with lights.
- According to Randy Klug, Commander American Legion Post, it is not necessary to light all of the flags. He cited the placement of flags at cemeteries as an example of displaying flags 24/7 without lighting them. He said the protocol applies to public building.

Here is what local Veterans and their Friends Had to Say



- “I strongly support the move to display American flags on utility poles in North Yarmouth. I am a veteran as well as a resident of the town. Good luck with this endeavor.” *Jerry Bernard*
- “As a resident and voter of NY I support this project 100% with pride and enthusiasm as a way to thank our past, present and future troops for their courage and faithfulness to ensure the freedoms we live each day in this country. Count me as a yes vote for a show of patriotism in NY. Thank you and Darla for this wonderful project” *Elaine A Carolan*
- “As the commander of AMVETS Post #2, as a veteran and as a resident of NY, I support this project.” *Randy Simonse*
- “As commander of the American Legion, Post #91, the idea of having RT 9 and 115 lined with flags of the United States of America is a great idea. Post 91 would support the flying of the flags. It would show that the town of North Yarmouth is patriotic.” *David E. True, CPO US Navy Retired, Commander American Legion Post #91*
- “Good idea! What can I do to help?” *Bob MacPherson, Finance Officer American Legion Post #91*
- Ed is "for it" ...and "willing to help" will contribute, if it is a "reasonable amount"etc.,etc.. *Noreen, wife of WWII Veteran Ed Trenner*
- “I support your project and am willing to help.” *John Ames, NY Resident and WWII Veteran*

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Here is what local Veterans and their Friends Have to Say (more)



- “I will be available to help with this project.” *Carey Trimble, MCPO US Navy Retired, 1st Vice Commander American Legion Post #91*
- “...we won’t be able to attend tonight but do want to support your efforts. It is always important to display our patriotism especially during a time of war. It was wonderful to see our flag so proudly displayed after 9/11 but how quickly that public display of patriotism waned. As a community we can rally to support such a noble cause. Let us know the outcome. Thanks for your efforts!” *Chris Toriello & Mark Gauger*
- “Ron - I received a copy of your email and have great experience with this through town management. The town is right in getting permission since I have had some bad experience with flags and banners blowing down and causing accidents. How about having public works make the brackets for the poles (our gang does it here in Denmark where I work) and ask residents to donate flags? Years ago I was manager of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, a large town (about Lewiston’s size) with a declining number of flags displayed. The Chamber of Commerce took up a collection, and I wrote the local paper mentioning I would donate the first flag (only \$25 in those days). Despite some skeptics we had over 100 donated within 2-3 months. We also adopted a policy of flying them from Memorial Day through July 4th and then putting them up for special days such as Veterans Day. If a vote from Cumberland helps tell them that NY will look better with flags” *Bert Kendall, Resident of Cumberland, Town Manager in Denmark and a member of Legion Post #91*
- “I am a veteran of the Iraq War and have lost a friend in combat. It would be comforting for me to see a flag hung in honor and memory of my friend. *Brain Bailey, Veteran Iraq War and Member of Amvets Post 2*

Nonprofit Participation



- The local Boy Scout troop leaders are enthusiastic and are ready and willing to help.
- They have cleared this with the leaders of the Pine Tree Council.

Next Steps

- Town sign contract
- Form a committee of interested parties to move forward



Where do
we go
from
here?