Town of Dunstable
Policy on the Display of Flags on Town Flagpoles

This policy applies to all municipally owned flagpoles in the Town of Dunstable including but not limited to Town Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, Dunstable Public Library, Larter Field, and Highway Garage.

Approved Flags on Town Flagpoles

The following flags are permitted to fly on municipally owned flagpoles: flag of the United States of America, flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, POW/MIA Flag, national flag of any official dignitary of a foreign country attending an event in Dunstable, flag of any branch of the United States Armed Services, and the Dunstable Town flag.

All approved flags may be raised below the American Flag on Town owned flagpoles provided that (a) each such flag is no larger in any dimension than the American Flag flown above it, and (b) only when, if and for such period of time as the Town of Dunstable, acting through its Select Board, expressly, on each occasion, and in its sole discretion, authorizes the raising of such flag listed above.

Flying the Flag at Half-Staff

1. When an elected Town official who dies during a term of office has a service or is buried in Dunstable;
2. When any former Select Board member has a service or is buried in Dunstable;
3. When any veteran or member of the armed forces has a service, or is buried, in Dunstable;
4. When any memorial exercises are held in Dunstable for any member of the armed services buried on foreign soil;
5. When any citizen with a record of significant service or contribution to the Town has a service, or is buried, in Dunstable; and
6. On those holidays and occasions so designated by the State or Federal government.

The choice to fly a flag on municipally owned flagpoles is government speech to which the strictures of the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment do not apply.

The Town does not, nor has it ever, intended to designate the flagpole as a public forum by permitting a third party to raise a particular flag on the same. Accordingly, nothing in this policy, the Town's choice of which flag to raise, or the manner in which it makes such choice should be interpreted as designating the flagpole as a public forum.