Mystic Flag Committee Bylaws as they presently stand

ARTICLE I: NAME: The name of the organization shall be the MYSTIC FLAG COMMITTEE (hereinafter referred to as MFC).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE: The purposes of this Association shall be to fly the flag daily on the Liberty Pole and maintain and repair said Mystic Liberty Pole and flags; to maintain and repair Liberty Pole Square; to maintain and repair the street flagpoles and flags; to increase public enjoyment by promoting knowledge of the history of the Mystic Liberty Pole and the Mystic Flag Committee; and to stimulate donations and bequests to the MFC or the maintenance of the Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square and the street flagpoles. The purpose shall also involve the flying of the flags insofar as possible on patriotic holidays and Mystic Village occasions of importance to the area and as directed by the Governor of the State of Connecticut or the President of the United States. It is expressly understood that items of partisan political involvement are not to be undertaken by this organization.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the MFC shall be open to all individuals and organizations and businesses subscribing to the purposes outlined above. Membership shall run for a term of one (1) year from the May 1st fiscal year and dues and fees shall be determined annually as recommended by the Executive Board and voted by the membership at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS: Meetings of the MFC shall be at the discretion of the Executive Board but shall include an annual meeting to be held after May 1st but prior to or on Flag Day, June 14th of each year, at which meeting the election of officers for the ensuing year will occur. Executive Board Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board, time and place to be determined at each Executive Board Meeting or by written/electronic communication. A majority of the members present at a membership meeting shall constitute a quorum. The President or Vice President and a majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD: The affairs and business of the MFC shall be directed by an Executive Board consisting of five (5) officers, the chairmen of standing committees and for the duration of its existence, the chairman of any other committee which the Executive Board shall deem advisable to establish.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS: The officers of the MFC shall serve for a term of one (1) year but in no event more than eight (8) consecutive years and shall be as follows: President; two Vice Presidents; Secretary; and Treasurer. These officers shall serve on the Executive Board and shall have a vote in meetings of said Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

President: He/she shall preside at all meetings of the MFC and of the Executive Board at which he/she may be present and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in these By-Laws or assigned to him/her by the MFC or by the Executive Board and shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees of the MFC in order that the purposes may be promoted.

Vice President: He/she shall act and shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of that officer to act and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the MFC or by the Executive Board.

Treasurer: He/she shall have custody of all of the funds of the MFC and shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures. He/she shall be responsible for obtaining and reporting on the status of the Endowment Fund. He/she shall make disbursements in accordance with the wishes of the Executive Board and in conjunction with the approved budget. The Treasurer's records shall be examined annually by an auditing committee appointed by the President.

Secretary: He/she shall receive all required notices sent to the MFC and shall mail notices of meetings and other item as the Executive Board may delegate. He/she shall record the minutes of all meeting of the MFC and of the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated.

In order to insure continuity, officers shall assist their replacement for a tern of thirty (30) days as requested by the replacement officer.

Should a vacancy occur in any office or in the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES: The Executive Board shall annually elect Committee Chairmen. Each such Chairman shall select his/her own committee as needed. The Committees shall be:

Flag Display Committee: This committee shall be responsible for overseeing the raising and lowering of the flag/flags on the Liberty Pole; putting out and taking down the street flags as

required; storage of property and of reporting to the Executive Board any problems relating thereto for their consideration and action.

Finance Committee: This committee shall assess the financial structure of the organization, taking into consideration the cost of flags, flag tells, maintenance of the Flag Pole and its possible eventual replacement. This committee shall be responsible for obtaining an estimated expense budget from each committee and/or officer and shall then submit to the Executive Board an annual budget.

Membership Committee: This committee shall be responsible for handling the renewals for memberships as they become due and recording an accurate list of members and the dues and category of membership of each. A copy of this list shall be submitted to the Officers for their information and use.

Historiam: This committee shall compile data presently available, keep data and newspaper clippings on the Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square and Street Flags and include in the records as much history of persons and events as possible in order that it may be preserved for future generations in the history of Mystic.

By-Laws: The Vice President shall stand as acting chairman of this committee and the committee shall consider the workability of the By-Laws and assess amendments as may be submitted by any member of the MFC.

ARTICLE IX: RULES OF PROCEDURE: The rules of procedure at meetings of the MFC and the Executive Board shall be according to Robert's Rules on parliamentary procedure as far as applicable when not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE X: NOMINATING COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of the President to appoint two (2) members and the Executive Board to appoint three (3) members from the membership to submit a slate of officers for election at .the annual meeting of the MFC. This slate, together with any officers nominated from the floor, shall constitute the officers to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS: Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at any regular meeting or special meeting of the MFC by a two thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided a notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all voting members at least two weeks prior to this meeting. Absentee members may vote at the meeting by proxy.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION: In the event of dissolution of the MFC, any funds in the treasury shall be donated to any bona fide nonprofit organization or governmental entity serving the area of the Mystic Fire District who shall agree to carry on the aims and purposes of this committee. In the event that no organization or governmental entity exists who agrees to such continuance, then the funds shall be donated to a nonprofit group in the area whose aims and purposes serve patriotic furtherance most closely related to the aims and purposes of the MFC that qualifies at the time as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Proposed changes to MFC bylaws for 2026

ARTICLE I: NAME: The name of the organization shall be the MYSTIC FLAG COMMITTEE (hereinafter referred to as the MFC).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE: The purposes of the MFC shall be to fly the American flag daily on the Mystic Liberty Pole and maintain and repair ~~said~~ the Mystic Liberty Pole and associated flags; to maintain and repair Liberty Pole Square; to maintain and repair the street flagpoles and flags; to increase public enjoyment by promoting knowledge of the history of the Mystic Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square, and the Mystic Flag Committee; and to stimulate donations and bequests to the MFC or the maintenance of the Mystic Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square, and the street flags and flagpoles. The purpose shall also involve ~~the~~ flying ~~of~~ the flags insofar as possible on patriotic holidays and ~~Mystic Village~~ occasions of importance to the greater Mystic area and as directed by the Governor of the State of Connecticut or the President of the United States (subject to MFC approval). It is expressly understood that items of partisan political involvement are not to be undertaken by this organization or displayed on the Mystic Liberty Pole, in Liberty Pole Square, or on the street flagpoles.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: General Membership in the MFC shall be open to all individuals, organizations, and businesses subscribing to the purposes outlined in Article II. General Membership shall run for a term of one year from the May 1st fiscal year, and dues and fees shall be determined annually, as recommended by the Executive Board and voted by the General Membership at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD: The affairs and business of the MFC shall be directed by an Executive Board consisting of elected officers, the chairmen of standing committees, and [CLAUSE OMITTED] the chairman of any other committee which the Executive Board shall deem advisable to establish.

In addition, the members of the Executive Board may elect, by a simple majority, persons from the General Membership to be Executive Board Members at Large in recognition of exemplary service to the MFC.

All members of the Executive Board have voting rights at all meetings of the MFC, including Members at Large and committee chairmen.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS: [OPENING CLAUSE OMITTED] The MFC shall hold an annual meeting after May 1st but prior to or on Flag Day, June 14th of each year, at which meeting the election of officers shall occur for the ensuing year.

All meetings of the MFC shall be open to all General Members. At the annual meeting, all members of the General Membership have the right to vote, in person or by proxy.

Executive Board meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board; the time and place shall be determined at each Executive Board meeting or by written or electronic communication. [REDUNDANT AND CONTRADICTORY SENTENCE OMITTED] The President or Vice President, plus a simple majority of the Executive Board members (as defined in Article IV), shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Board. General Members are permitted to attend Executive Board meetings, but voting at Executive Board meetings is restricted to Executive Board members.

The rules of procedure at meetings of the MFC and the Executive Board shall be according to Robert's Rules of Order on parliamentary procedure, as far as applicable when not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS: The officers of the MFC shall serve for a term of one year~~, but in no event more than eight consecutive years,~~ and shall be as follows: President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Flag Captain. These officers shall serve on the Executive Board, as defined and outlined in Article IV.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS: The responsibilities of each elected officer are as follows.

President: preside at all meetings of the MFC and of the Executive Board at which he is present; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board; coordinate the work of other officers and committees, ensuring that the purpose of the MFC is fulfilled according to Article II

Vice President: perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board

Treasurer: hold custody of all funds of the MFC; keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; report on the status of the Endowment Fund; make disbursements in accordance with the wishes of the Executive board and in conjunction with the approved budget; oversee annual auditing of financial records, performed by an auditing committee appointed by the President

Secretary: receive all required notices sent to the MFC; mail notices of meetings and other items as the Executive board may delegate; record the minutes of all meetings of the MFC and of the Executive Board; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board

Flag Captain: Maintain the flag at full-mast, lowering to half-mast as outlined below; be aware of weather forecasts, remove flag from Liberty Pole in event of storm or high winds; maintain inventory of flags in a locked location; lower the flag to half-mast when directed by Governor or President (subject to MFC approval) and on the following occasions: Memorial Day (sunrise to noon), Patriots Day September 11 (sunrise to sunset); Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7 (sunrise to sunset); Flag Day June 14 as follows:

7:30 a.m.: Arrive at Liberty Pole and greet Boy Scout Troop 76 (or whoever will be raising flag)

8:00 a.m.: lower existing flag; Scouts unfurl ceremonial flag, Flag Captain attach to halyard; raise ceremonial flag as bugler plays *To the Colors*

June 15: replace ceremonial flag with appropriate normal flag

All Officers: In the event of a vacancy in any office of the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. In order to ensure continuity, officers shall assist their replacement for a term of 30 days, as requested by the replacing officer.

ARTICLE VIII: Historian—REMOVED; we have not had a historian on the MFC for at least 20 years

ARTICLE IX: Standing Committees—REMOVED; we have not had any of these committees on the MFC for at least 20 years

ARTICLE VIII: ~~NOMINATING COMMITTEE~~ NOMINATIONS: It shall be the duty of the ~~President to nominate two persons from the General Membership, and the~~ Executive Board to nominate six persons from the General Membership as a slate of potential officers for election at the annual meeting of the

MFC. This slate, together with any nominations from the floor for alternate persons to fill any existing office, shall constitute the officers to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

NB: we now have six officers, and we have never had a nominating committee

ARTICLE IX: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS: Changes and amendments to these Bylaws may be addressed at any regular meeting [CLAUSE OMITTED] of the MFC; any change or amendment to the Bylaws must be endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the General Members present [CLAUSE OMITTED] at the annual meeting, provided that a notice of the proposed change or amendment has been sent to the entire General Membership at least two weeks before the annual meeting. [FINAL SENTENCE REMOVED; COVERED IN ARTICLE IV]

NB: we rarely if ever have a 2/3 majority at the annual mtg; key words above are "Members present".

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION: In the event of dissolution of the MFC, any funds in the treasury shall be donated to any bona fide nonprofit organization or governmental entity serving the area of the Mystic Fire District who shall agree to carry on the aims and purposes of this committee. In the event that no organization or governmental entity exists who agrees to such continuance, then the funds shall be donated to a nonprofit group in the area of the Mystic Fire District whose aims and purposes serve patriotic furtherance most closely related to the aims and purposes of the MFC which qualifies at the time as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

MFC Bylaws as they will read if changes are approved

ARTICLE I: NAME: The name of the organization shall be the MYSTIC FLAG COMMITTEE (hereinafter referred to as the MFC).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE: The purposes of the MFC shall be to fly the American flag daily on the Mystic Liberty Pole and maintain and repair the Mystic Liberty Pole and associated flags; to maintain and repair Liberty Pole Square; to maintain and repair the street flagpoles and flags; to increase public enjoyment by promoting knowledge of the history of the Mystic Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square, and the Mystic Flag Committee; and to stimulate donations and bequests to the MFC or the maintenance of the Mystic Liberty Pole, Liberty Pole Square, and the street flags and flagpoles. The purpose shall also involve flying the flags insofar as possible on patriotic holidays and occasions of importance to the greater Mystic area and as directed by the Governor of the State of Connecticut or the President of the United States (subject to MFC approval). It is expressly understood that items of partisan political involvement are not to be undertaken by this organization or displayed on the Mystic Liberty Pole, in Liberty Pole Square, or on the street flagpoles.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: General Membership in the MFC shall be open to all individuals, organizations, and businesses subscribing to the purposes outlined in Article II. General Membership shall run for a term of one year from the May 1st fiscal year, and dues and fees shall be determined annually, as recommended by the Executive Board and voted by the General Membership at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD: The affairs and business of the MFC shall be directed by an Executive Board consisting of elected officers, the chairmen of standing committees, and the chairman of any other committee which the Executive Board shall deem advisable to establish.

In addition, the members of the Executive Board may elect, by a simple majority, persons from the General Membership to be Executive Board Members at Large in recognition of exemplary service to the MFC.

All members of the Executive Board have voting rights at all meetings of the MFC, including Members at Large and committee chairmen.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS: The MFC shall hold an annual meeting after May 1st but prior to or on Flag Day, June 14th of each year, at which meeting the election of officers shall occur for the ensuing year.

All meetings of the MFC shall be open to all General Members. At the annual meeting, all members of the General Membership have the right to vote, in person or by proxy.

Executive Board meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board; the time and place shall be determined at each Executive Board meeting or by written or electronic communication. The President or Vice President, plus a simple majority of the Executive Board members (as defined in Article IV), shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Board. General Members are permitted to attend Executive Board meetings, but voting at Executive Board meetings is restricted to Executive Board members.

The rules of procedure at meetings of the MFC and the Executive Board shall be according to Robert's Rules of Order on parliamentary procedure, as far as applicable when not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS: The officers of the MFC shall serve for a term of one year and shall be as follows: President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Flag Captain. These officers shall serve on the Executive Board, as defined and outlined in Article IV.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS: The responsibilities of each elected officer are as follows.

President: preside at all meetings of the MFC and of the Executive Board at which he is present; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board; coordinate the work of other officers and committees, ensuring that the purpose of the MFC is fulfilled according to Article II

Vice President: perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board

Treasurer: hold custody of all funds of the MFC; keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; report on the status of the Endowment Fund; make disbursements in accordance with the wishes of the Executive board and in conjunction with the approved budget; oversee annual auditing of financial records, performed by an auditing committee appointed by the President

Secretary: receive all required notices sent to the MFC; mail notices of meetings and other items as the Executive board may delegate; record the minutes of all meetings of the MFC and of the Executive Board; perform any other duties prescribed in these Bylaws or assigned by the MFC or by the Executive Board

Flag Captain: Maintain the flag at full-mast, lowering to half-mast as outlined below; be aware of weather forecasts, remove flag from Liberty Pole in event of storm or high winds; maintain inventory of flags in a locked location; lower the flag to half-mast when directed by Governor or President (subject to MFC approval) and on the following occasions: Memorial Day (sunrise to noon), Patriots Day September 11 (sunrise to sunset); Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7 (sunrise to sunset); Flag Day June 14 as follows:

7:30 a.m.: Arrive at Liberty Pole and greet Boy Scout Troop 76 (or whoever will be raising flag)

8:00 a.m.: lower existing flag; Scouts unfurl ceremonial flag, Flag Captain attach to halyard; raise ceremonial flag as bugler plays *To the Colors*

June 15: replace ceremonial flag with appropriate normal flag

All Officers: In the event of a vacancy in any office of the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. In order to ensure continuity, officers shall assist their replacement for a term of 30 days, as requested by the replacing officer.

ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATIONS: It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to nominate six persons from the General Membership as a slate of potential officers for election at the annual meeting of the MFC. This slate, together with any nominations from the floor for alternate persons to fill any existing office, shall constitute the officers to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS: Changes and amendments to these Bylaws may be addressed at any regular meeting of the MFC; any change or amendment to the Bylaws must be endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the General Members present at the annual meeting, provided that a notice of the proposed change or amendment has been sent to the entire General Membership at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION: In the event of dissolution of the MFC, any funds in the treasury shall be donated to any bona fide nonprofit organization or governmental entity serving the area of the Mystic Fire

District who shall agree to carry on the aims and purposes of this committee. In the event that no organization or governmental entity exists who agrees to such continuance, then the funds shall be donated to a nonprofit group in the area of the Mystic Fire District whose aims and purposes serve patriotic furtherance most closely related to the aims and purposes of the MFC which qualifies at the time as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.