

**TOWN OF HAWLEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
POLICY FOR THE TAPPING OF TREES ON TOWN OWNED LAND**

Adopted: September 18, 2018

Per Order of the Board of Selectmen

1. For purposes of this policy, the term “Tapping” shall mean the drilling and insertion of a tubular or other device or devices into a tree, for the purpose of collecting sap therefrom, as well as any and all activities related or incidental thereto, including the actual collection of the sap, the attachment to the tree of collection buckets, the connection of multiple trees to holding tanks via conduit lines, etc. One common example (which this policy includes but is not limited to), is the collection of sap from maple trees for use in the production of maple syrup and maple sugar.
2. No trees on Town owned land, with the exception of Town owned roadside frontage to private property (see Section 6), shall be tapped without the express written authorization of the Board of Selectmen, or their designee.
3. Said authorization shall describe the area and/or the trees where tapping is authorized and the time and manner in which the tapping may occur. No authorization may last for a term of more than one year without being renewed.
4. The Board of Selectmen or their designee shall have complete discretion as to whether or not to grant authorization to tap trees. Each matter will be decided on a case by case basis, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including but not limited to, the health of the tree(s) in question, the capacity of the tree(s) for tapping, past practices in the area with respect to the tree(s) in question, the reputation and known past practices of the applicant as to tree tapping and sugaring, whether or not the applicant is local, and fairness to other persons or enterprises engaged in the same business and area.
5. At the discretion of the Board of Selectmen, the Town may decide to set a per-tree seasonal fee for tapping trees on Town land. The fee will be the same for any applicant.
6. Nothing in this policy applies to the tapping of trees on Town owned land best characterized as roadside frontage abutting private property not owned by the Town, and where the entity tapping the trees either is, or has permission from, the private landowner.

---

Hussain A. Hamdan, Chair

---

Robert Root

---

Sarah Rich