

WEBSITE POLICY TOWN OF BENSON VERMONT

Article 1 Authority Under the authority granted in 24 V.S.A. § 1971(a), the Selectboard of Benson hereby adopts the following policy concerning the official Town website.

Article 2 Purpose The purpose of the Town of Benson Official Web Site is to provide another source of information about the Town's governmental services. In establishing and maintaining its official Web Site, the Town does not intend in any manner to create a forum or other means by which public discourse, exchange of opinions or discussion on issues of any nature may occur. Rather, the sole and limited purpose of the Official Town Web Site and permitted external links is to provide information of a factual nature about the Town of Benson, including various town services and available town resources.

Article 3 Goal of the Official Web Site is to increase citizen knowledge and participation in Town government by making public information available through electronic access through an official, single point of entry at www.benson-vt.com.

Article 4 Confidentiality.

Confidential information shall not be posted on the Town's Official Web Site (1 VSA § 315-320). While the Town of Benson Web site may track overall site traffic, it doesn't collect individual user details unless a user voluntarily submits such information. It does not share that information with outside sources, and is committed to keeping such information confidential. If a user believes that the Town's Web Site is not protecting his or her privacy, the person should contact the Webmaster, who shall attempt to assess and, if necessary, correct the problems.

Article 5 Webmaster. The Selectboard shall appoint a Webmaster, who is responsible for maintaining the Town's Web site. All information prepared for posting on the Town Web site shall be routed through the Webmaster. The Webmaster is responsible for establishing maintenance procedures and style guidelines. The Benson Selectboard is the ultimate authority regarding policy governing the Town's Web site. The Webmaster aims to carry out Town Web policies day-to-day, but is subject to the authority of the Selectboard. These policies should include defining the look and feel of the Web site and what the Town will post on the site. Complaints about any aspect of Web policy should be brought first to the attention of the Webmaster. If a complainant is unsatisfied, he or she may appeal to the Selectboard. The Selectboard reserves the right to make changes to Web policy at any time.

Article 6 Web Site Contents. The Selectboard approves the inclusion of:

- Names And Contact Information (Local Phone and, If The Individual Desires, E-Mail Address) Of All Elected Town Officials
- Names And Contact Information For All Appointive Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Text Of All Town Ordinances

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- Text Of All Town Policies
- Text Of Town Plan
- Text Of Town Zoning Regulations
- Schedule Of Meeting Dates, Times And Places For All Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Office Hours And Location For Town Clerk's Office And Town Office
- Downloadable Forms To Print Off And Fill In For Applications and Permits
- All Town Public Notices
- Agendas For Select Board, Planning Commission, Development Review Board
- Minutes For Same
- Map Of The Town Of Benson
- Transfer Station, Hours Of Operation And Regulations And A Link To The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District
- Links To Benson Village School, Fair Haven High School, State Of Vermont, Vermont League Of Cities And Towns, Vermont Secretary Of State, Rutland County Regional Planning Commission
- Links To All Nonprofit Groups To Which Benson Voters Awarded Taxpayer Funds As A Result Of An Item On The Warning Of The Most Recent Town Meeting.
- Other public information that a town board, commission, committee, subcommittee or elected or appointed official (such as the Town Clerk, Zoning Administrator, chair of a committee, etc.) requests to have made available on the Town Web Site or linked to from the Town Web Site.

Information shall be provided to the Webmaster in electronic format. The Webmaster shall review the material for technical feasibility to put on the site and for appropriateness. If the Webmaster is in doubt about the material's appropriateness, the request may be presented to the full Selectboard for a decision. Any decision of the Webmaster may be appealed by a Benson citizen or public official to the full Selectboard.

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The Town of Benson reserves the right to remove a link to content deemed obscene or inappropriate. The Town of Benson will not provide links to Web sites for:

- Candidates For Local, State, Or Federal Offices

- Political Organizations Or Other Organizations Or Individuals Advocating A Position On A Local, State, Or Federal Issue

- Corporate Or Other For-Profit Organizations Unless They Fit Any Of The Criteria Stated In The Section Above

- Individual Or Personal Home Pages

- Chat Rooms.

Article 7 Disclaimer.

The materials and information contained on or obtained from this Web site are distributed "as is" without warranties of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation, warranties of title or implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Information contained on this Web site, including information obtained from external links thereon, is provided without any representation of any kind as to accuracy of content and should be verified by the user. The Town of Benson is not responsible for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages that may arise from the use of, or the inability to use, the Web site and/or the materials contained on the site, whether the materials contained on the Web site are provided by the Town of Benson, or by a third party. Data contained on the Web site are subject to change without notice.

Please direct submissions to webmaster@benson-vt.com

Signatures

Date

1. Agenda item at regular Selectboard meeting held on.
2. Read and approved at regular Selectboard meeting on and entered in the minutes of that meeting which were approved on