Youth Membership Policy
Town of Fairfax, VT

1. PURPOSE. The Fairfax Selectboard seeks to promote youth participation in local government. To encourage youth involvement in Fairfax, the Selectboard establishes youth seats on the Town's boards and commissions.

2. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP. A Fairfax resident that is a sophomore, junior, or senior high school student may apply for a one-year term on a Fairfax board or commission by attending two meetings of that specific body, filling out the application, and coming before the Selectboard for appointment. After completing successful term, a youth member may request reappointment through a letter to the Selectboard. Any youth member failing to attend three consecutive meetings of their board or commission may be removed from the appointment by the Selectboard. Each of the following boards or commission may have one youth member appointed to it: Selectboard, Development Review Board, Planning Commission and Cemetery Commission.

3. RULES. Youth members appointed to boards and commission shall be subject to all qualifications and requirements of other members including attendance, general rules of the boards and commissions, and all other policies and regulations of the Town of Fairfax. Youth members may not vote on matters before the boards or commissions or participate in executive sessions. A youth member that has graduated or turned 18 years of age during their term may complete the term but shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

4. PARTICIPATION. Youth members are expected to participate in all matters before their board or commission excepting the act of voting or executive sessions. Youth members may advise their board or commission as to their opinion on a vote, may question applicants and attendees, and participate in deliberative sessions. Each board or commission is encouraged to designate a regular member as a mentor to its youth member.

9. ADOPTION. The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Fairfax, Vermont, this 18th day of October, 2021 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.

Selectboard members:

Steven Cormier

Randy DeVine

Duane Leach

Alan Maynard

Stephen Bessette