

ARTICLE XIV SIGNS



Sec. 102A-1401. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to minimize any detrimental effects of signs on adjacent land uses, and to ensure that permitted signs do not become a public nuisance or hazard. All signs erected, altered, relocated, or maintained shall be in accordance with the provisions of this article. Where there is conflict between the provisions of this article and the provisions for signs elsewhere within the Town's Code of Ordinances, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

Sec. 102A-1402. Sign definitions.

For purposes of interpreting this article, the following words and terms are herein defined:

(a) *Attached sign*: A sign connected to or painted on a wall and including signs connected to or other-wise displayed on or through a façade window. The following are not attached signs: wall identification signs and commemorative plaques not more than two square feet in area, memorial cornerstones or tablets providing information on building erection or commemorating a person or event, or unit identification signs.

(b) *Billboard*: A sign which directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment not conducted, sold, produced, or offered upon the premises upon which such sign is located.

(c) *Bulletin board*: A sign used to announce meetings, programs, occupants, purposes, operating hours, and other such information on the premises of churches, schools, auditoriums, libraries, recreation areas, and other such non-residential uses permitted in residential districts and on the premises of uses when located within the O&I(P) district.

(d) *Business sign*: A sign that directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment sold, produced, or offered upon the premises where such sign is located or to which it is attached.

(e) *Flashing sign*: Any illuminated sign on which the artificial light is not maintained stationary or constant in intensity and color at all times when such sign is in use. For the purpose of this article, any moving, illuminated sign shall be considered a "flashing sign." Such signs shall not be deemed to include time and temperature signs or public message displays using electronic switching, provided the message remains displayed for a minimum of eight seconds.

(f) *Freestanding sign*: Any sign supported wholly or in part by some structure other than the building or buildings housing the business to which the sign pertains. For purposes of this article, this definition shall not include “billboard” which is defined above.

(g) *Governmental sign*: Any sign erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post a legal notice, identify public property, convey public information, and direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

(h) *Ground sign*: A freestanding sign suspended or supported by one or more uprights or braces anchored in the ground with no more than 30 inches clearance from the bottom of the sign to the ground below.

(i) *Identification sign*: A sign used to display only the name, address, crest or trademark of the business, individual, family, organization or enterprise occupying the premises; the profession of the occupant, the name of the building on which the sign is displayed, or the name of the owner(s) or developer(s). A directory sign is an identification sign with information on multiple occupants.

(j) *Informational sign*: Any on-premises sign containing no other commercial message, copy, announcement or decoration other than instruction or direction to the public. Such signs include, but are not limited to, the following: identifying restrooms, public telephones, automated teller machines, for lease, for sale, self-service, walkways, entrances and exits, freight entrances, traffic direction and prices.

(k) *Mechanical/Digital sign*: Any sign with changeable copy and the message changes in increments of at least eight seconds shall be allowed as a “sign” under the provisions of this article.

(l) *Obscene matter*: Any item which the average person, applying contemporary community standards would find, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by North Carolina law; and which, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

(m) *Pole Sign*: A free standing sign that is mounted on a pole or other support and does not meet the definition of “ground sign” above.

(n) *Portable sign*: Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or to a building or other structure and which, because of its relatively light-weight is meant to be transported from place to place. Such sign may or may not have changeable copy, may or may not be wired for lighting and may or may not have wheels. “Sandwich boards, banners, and flag signs” are considered as portable signs.

(o) *Public information sign*: A sign usually erected on public property or right-of-way and maintained by a public agency that provides the public with information and in no

way relates to a commercial activity including, but not limited to, speed limit signs, city limit signs, street name signs and directional signs.

(p) *Roof sign*: A sign displayed on and above the eaves of a building.

(q) *Sandwich Boards*: Temporary business ground signs constructed in a manner as to form a tent like shape used to display menus, daily specials, and similar messages for a business.

(r)

(r) *Sign*: Any words, lettering, parts of letters, figures, numerals, phrases, sentences, devices, designs, trade names, or trademarks by which anything is made known, such as the designation of any individual, business, commodity, product, service, or entertainment, which are visible from any public way and used to attract attention. The word sign does not include official notices posted by any public officer in performance of a public duty, or by any person in giving legal notice; nor does it include directional, warning, traffic, or informational structures required by or authorized by law, or by Federal, State or local authority.

(s) *Sign area*: The area of a sign mounted on a board or within a frame or box shall be the area of the board, frame or box. The area of a sign mounted directly on the wall of a building shall be the area within the outline of the actual shape of the sign. For individual letters or logos mounted on the wall of a building, the sum of the areas of each letter, measured from the exterior edges of the letter, will be the sign area. Sign area does not include support structures unless the coloration, lighting, etc. is designed to attract attention.

(t) *Sign height*: The vertical distance measured from the mean curb level to the level of the highest point of the sign, unless defined differently within this ordinance. In the case of a sign not adjoining a street or highway, the "height of a sign" is the vertical distance of the average elevation of the ground immediately adjoining the sign to the level of the highest point of the sign.

(u) *Special information sign*: A device used to give direction, without elaboration or advertising to a business or public use not located on the same premises as such use.

Sec. 102A-1403. Exempt signs.

The following signs are exempt from regulation under this ordinance, except that lighted signs require an electrical permit:

(a) Governmental signs;

(b) Lights and decorations with no commercial message temporarily displayed on traditionally-accepted civic, patriotic or religious holidays;

(c) Signs located on the interior of buildings, courts, lobbies, stadiums or other structures which are not intended to be seen from the exterior of such buildings or structures;

(d) Signs affixed to motor vehicles and trailers used in the normal transport of goods or persons where the sign is incidental and accessory to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer;

(e) Signs affixed to windows of vehicles displaying information on the terms of sale for such vehicles;(f) Signs not legible from a public or private street;

(g) Flags of the governmental jurisdictions of the United States of America or the State of North Carolina, local governmental jurisdictions, foreign nations having diplomatic relations with the United States, and any other flags adopted or sanctioned by the Town Board of Commissioners, subject to U.S. Congressional protocol; and

(h) Public information signs.

(i) Historical Signs. Signs that provide information on the historical timeline or past use of a particular building or structure. Such signs must be approved by the Town of Hope Mills Historic Preservation Commission and would not count against the allowable maximum square footage for wall signs.

Sec. 102A-1404. Signs permitted in any district.

The following types of signs are permitted in all zoning districts subject to any specific requirement or prohibition provided herein for any particular zoning district.

(a) *Temporary real estate sales sign.* For the purpose of advertising a specific lot, building, or premises for sale, lease, or rent, temporary real estate sale signs, are permitted not exceeding 16 square feet in area and provided only one such sign shall be displayed for each street abutting the lot, building or premise and set back at least five feet from any property line.

(b) *Temporary off-site real estate directional sign.* For the purpose of giving direction to property offered for sale, lease or rent that is located on a dead end street or cul-de-sac, a temporary directional real estate sign not exceeding two square feet in area is permitted after the real estate agent or property owner selling, leasing or renting his property obtains a permit for posting such sign. Only one double-faced directional real estate sign shall be permitted at the nearest intersection of the dead end street or cul-

de-sac with a through street and such sign shall be set back at least five feet from the street right-of-way. The permit shall specify the address of the real estate offered for sale, lease or rent and shall expire 30 days after the date the permit is issued. A permit may be renewed for an additional 30 days at the discretion of the Chief Building Inspector provided that the renewal request is received by the Chief Building Inspector prior to the expiration of the initial permit and that the permit shall be renewed only once. Failure to obtain a permit prior to posting a directional real estate sign or failure to remove such sign as specified on the permit may be grounds for the denial of a permit or future permits under this provision. Signs permitted under this provision shall be subject to all other applicable provisions of this ordinance.

(c) *Temporary signs advertising real estate subdivisions.* For the purpose of advertising real estate subdivisions for which a plat has been officially approved and recorded, one sign is permitted at each main entrance to the development named on the sign, such sign not to exceed 32 square feet in area.

(d) *Temporary signs pertaining to construction.* For the purpose of identifying the firm or company involved in construction taking place on the lot, temporary signs are permitted for the duration of such construction, limited to one sign for each firm, company, or use, not exceeding 20 square feet for each sign and set back at least five feet from any property line.

(e) *Traffic control signs.* Signs which only regulate traffic on private property are permitted.

(f) *Transportation facilities signs.* For the purpose of identifying public transportation facilities, signs are permitted provided that such signs shall not contain advertising or related messages.

(g) *Special information signs.* For the purpose of giving directions and information, on-site signs pertaining to special uses where not otherwise permitted, and off-premises signs may be approved by the Board of Adjustment subject to a special use permit specifying the size, location, lighting, materials to be used, design, and display in accordance with Section 102A-1706. Such signs shall be limited to those which are necessary to inform the public as to location and information concerning facilities, institutions, business districts, fraternal orders and service clubs, or such other activity as the Board of Adjustment may judge to be beneficial to the total community.

(h) *Temporary non-commercial signs.* Temporary non-commercial signs may be permitted in any district on private property subject to the following conditions:

(1) No temporary non-commercial sign shall exceed 32 square feet in area and no freestanding sign shall exceed eight feet in height.

(2) Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize the posting of temporary signs upon trees, utility poles, traffic-control or street name signposts, lights or devices, or in any place or manner prohibited by the provisions of Section 102A-1408 or other provision of this ordinance.

(3) Temporary non-commercial signs shall not be erected on Town owned or other public property except as authorized by sub-section (4) below.

(4) Temporary non-commercial signs erected on Election Day at officially designated polling places other than those polling places designated as "One Stop Voting" polling places are permitted no sooner than 5pm on the day before the election provided the signs are located in accordance with regulations of the Board of Elections and must be removed within 24 hours of the closes of the election. Signs at designated polling places are permitted to be erected no sooner than 5pm on the day before. For the "One Stop Voting" polling places, temporary non-commercial signs are permitted during the entire voting period and shall be removed within 24 hours of the close of the election for which the sign purports to advertise.

(5) All temporary non-commercial signs shall be located no closer than 3 feet from edge of pavement of any right-of-way.

(i) *Temporary sign; failure to comply.* If the Chief Building Inspector shall find that any temporary sign as authorized by this section, is in violation of this section, the Chief Building Inspector, or the inspector's designee, shall give written notice of such violation to the owner of the sign. If, upon receipt of same notice, the owner of such sign fails to remove or alter the sign so as to comply with the required standards within ten days of said notice, such sign may be removed by the Chief Building Inspector, or the inspector's designee, at the expense of the owner of the sign. The Chief Building Inspector may cause any sign or other advertising structure, including any sign located within the right-of-way, or which creates an immediate risk of peril to persons or property to be promptly removed, without notice.

(j) *Special gate signs.* A permanent sign is permitted as an integral part of a gate or entrance structure which identifies a subdivision, group development or other special development approved under the provisions of this ordinance or Chapter 86, estate, farm, or other residential entity, provided there are not more than two signs for each main entrance, with a total sign area for each such entrance not to exceed 32 square feet. Under this provision, if such a special gate sign is utilized no other main entrance identification sign is permitted.

(k) *Temporary banners.* Temporary banners and flag signs may be permitted in any district subject to the following conditions:

(1) Signs are directly tied to the advertising of the grand opening of a new business or development.

(2) Signs are permitted for a period not exceeding 90 days.

(l) *Sandwich board signs.* Sandwich board signs are permitted subject to the following conditions:

(1) Signs are only permitted in front of business to inform the general public of key information tied to the operation of the business.

(2) Signs are only permitted during business hours.

Sec. 102A-1405. General site and sign specifications.

(a) *Zoning permit required.* No sign requiring a permit shall hereafter be erected or attached to, suspended from or supported on a structure nor shall any existing sign be enlarged, replaced, or relocated until a zoning permit has been issued by the Chief Building Inspector.

(b) *Measurement of sign area.* The measurable area of the sign mounted on a board or within a frame box shall be the area of the board, frame or box. The measurable area of a sign mounted directly on the wall of a building shall be the area within the outline of the actual shape of the sign. For individual letters or logos mounted on the wall of a building, the sum of the areas of each letter, measured from the exterior edges of the letter is the measurable sign area. Signs that employ moving or extending parts shall be measured when moved or extended to form the largest possible silhouette. The total sign area for a double-faced or "V" type sign shall be measured on the largest face of the sign; however, advertising matter may be posted on both sides of such permitted signs, provided that any "V" type sign with a "V" angle of greater than 45 degrees shall be subject to measurement of sign area on both sides. Sign area does not include support structures unless the coloration, lighting, etc. is designed to attract attention.

(c) *Freestanding sign location – all districts (excluding billboards).* Freestanding signs shall be set back from the existing road right-of-way (normally the front property line) or proposed future road right-of-way, whichever is the greater distance, according to the tables below. Freestanding signs shall be set back from all other property lines a minimum distance of five feet. In no instance shall a sign between the heights of three and 20 feet be permitted within 20 feet of the right-of-way line at the intersection of two streets. Freestanding signs may be placed on the same or separate support structures.

(1) *Ground signs.* Maximum height is 20 feet unless otherwise allowed in *Section 102A-1407 (billboards)*, For the purposes of this ordinance, ground signs will be regulated by setback and height for stand alone commercial properties and properties with multiple commercial tenants separately. The following table establishes the minimum setback

requirements for ground signs provided that all other requirements of this article are complied with:

Ground/monument signs permitted on stand alone properties with one tenant/occupant: Maximum Height is 10 feet.

Sign Height	Minimum Setback from R/W Line
0-5 feet	5 feet
Greater than 5 feet and up to 10 feet	10 feet

Ground/monument signs permitted on properties with multiple tenants/occupants: Maximum height is 20 feet.

Sign Height	Minimum Setback from R/W Line
0-5 feet	5 feet
Greater than 5 feet and up to 10 feet	10 feet
Greater than 10 feet and up to 15 feet	15 feet
Greater than 15 feet and up to 20 feet	20 feet

(2) *Pole Signs.* Pole signs, in addition to all other requirements of this article, shall be setback a minimum of five feet from the existing or proposed right of way line provided that no portion of the sign projects any closer than two feet, measured in horizontal distance from the proposed or existing right-of-way line. Also, pole signs shall maintain a minimum clearance of nine feet over any pedestrian areas and 14 feet over any vehicular paths. Pole signs shall not exceed a maximum height of 30 feet unless specifically otherwise allowed within this article. The following table establishes the maximum height and minimum setback requirements for pole signs provided that all other requirements of this article are complied with:

Sign Height	Minimum Setback from R/W Line
0-15 feet	5 feet
Greater than 15 feet and up to 30 feet	10 feet

(d) *Maintenance and appearance.* All signs together with braces, guys, and supports shall at all times be maintained in a safe condition and kept in good repair, free from excessive rust, corrosion, peeling paint, or other surface deterioration. To ensure that all signs are maintained in an attractive and safe manner, the following requirements are proposed for all signs visible from any public or private street or right-of-way:

- (1) A sign shall not stand with bent or broken sign facing, with broken supports or more than 20 degrees vertical for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days. Once

notified through the issuance of a code violation, said sign must be corrected within 6 months.

- (2) A sign shall not be obstructed by weeds or vegetation for more than 30 consecutive days (unless such vegetation is incorporated as a landscape element.
- (3) Disfigured, ripped, peeling, or cracked signs shall not be permitted for more than 30 consecutive days. Once notified through the issuance of a code violation, said sign must be corrected within 6 months.
- (4) All signs shall be constructed by a professional sign company.

(e) *Signs facing residential districts.* Illuminated signs shall be so placed as not to be a nuisance to residents of neighboring residential property.

(f) *On-site interference.* The location and structural design of freestanding signs shall be such as to not interfere with the safe and efficient use of off-street parking and loading areas including aisle ways and access driveways.

(g) *Unsafe and unlawful signs.* If the Chief Building Inspector shall find that any sign is unsafe or is a menace to the public or has been constructed, erected or is being maintained in violation of this ordinance, the inspector shall give written notice of such violation to the owner of the sign or the owner of the property where the sign is located. If the owner of the sign, or the property owner, fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the required standards within 30 days after such notice, such sign may be removed or altered to comply by the inspector at the expense of the owner of the sign or the property owner. The Chief Building Inspector may cause any sign or other advertising structure which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be promptly removed by the sign owner or the property owner. Once a sign has been removed by Town Staff as a result of the notification of violation of this ordinance, any additional illegal sign erected by the same business entity or person(s) shall be considered a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$500 as authorized by G.S. 14-4. Each day's continuing violation shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

(h) *Cessation of purpose and removal.* Any sign now or hereafter existing which no longer advertises any bona fide business conducted, or a product sold, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building or land or structure upon which such sign may be found. Such sign shall be removed within 30 days after written notification from the Chief Building Inspector except that temporary activities sign posting shall be removed by the permittee within seven days following the date of termination of such events. Upon failure to comply with any notice within the time specified the zoning inspector is authorized to cause removal

of such sign, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the sign or the property owner of the land on which the sign is located.

(i) *Signs permitted in conjunction with legal nonconforming uses.* Any legal nonconforming use in any district may maintain such business signs as would be allowed for such use in the most restrictive district in which the use would be permitted, or such signs as are existing at the time the use becomes nonconforming, whichever is the most restrictive with regard to sign size.

Sec. 102A-1406. Signs permitted by district.

In addition to the aforementioned signs the following are also permitted:

(a) *Residential and conservancy districts.*

(1) *Dwelling identification sign.* One identification sign not exceeding two square feet in area is permitted for each residential dwelling unit. For one- and two-family dwelling units identification signs shall be at least five feet from any street or property line. For multi-family dwelling units, identification signs shall be mounted flat to the main wall of the building. Identification signs may be illuminated but non-flashing and motionless.

(2) *Large scale residential development signs.* A permanent sign is permitted as an integral part of an entrance structure which identifies a subdivision, group development or other special development, estate, farm or other residential entity, provided there are not more than two signs for each main entrance, with a total sign area for each such entrance not to exceed 32 square feet in area. Such signs may be lighted, but non-flashing and motionless and located according to the criteria in Section 102A-1405, but not less than five feet from any street right-of-way line.

(3) *Agricultural product signs.* In the zoning districts that allow agriculture or rural farm use, signs advertising agricultural products produced on the premises are permitted, provided there are no more than two such signs, each of which shall not exceed 12 square feet in area. In any instance where the products sold are seasonal or temporary, such signs shall be removed within 30 days of cessation of the activity advertised. This section shall not apply to any property exempt under the bona fide farm provisions of Section 102A-109.

(4) *Institutional, commercial and industrial signs located in residential and conservancy districts.* Any institutional, commercial or industrial use, which is a permitted, special or conditional use in a residential or conservancy district, may erect and maintain signs as follows:

a. For the construction of ground signs in this district, stand alone properties with one tenant/occupant are allowed one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 35 square feet

in area shall be permitted. For ground signs on sites with more than one tenant, one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area shall be permitted. If more than one principal use is conducted on the same site, or in the same building, each additional principal use shall be permitted one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 35 square feet in area. For the construction of pole signs in this district, one free standing pole sign is permitted not to exceed 100 square feet in area. If more than one principal use is conducted on the same site, or in the same building, each additional principal use shall be permitted one free standing pole sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize both a ground sign and a pole sign on the same property, unless otherwise permitted for multiple signs.

b. Freestanding signs shall be located in accordance with the criteria found in Section 102A-1405.

c. Attached signs for all principal uses on the site shall not exceed 50 square feet in area. If there is more than one principal use, the property owner will determine the allocation of attached sign area.

(b) *Professional, commercial and industrial districts.*

(1) Signs for uses permitted in the O&I(P) district shall be regulated as follows:

a. For the construction of ground signs in this district, stand alone properties with one tenant/occupant, one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 25 square feet in area shall be permitted. For sites with more than one tenant, one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 35 square feet in area will be allowed per building. For the construction of pole signs in this district, one free standing pole sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area will be allowed per building. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize both a ground sign and a pole sign on the same property, unless otherwise permitted for multiple signs. Freestanding signs shall be located in accordance with the criteria found in Section 102A-1405.

b. One attached sign not to exceed 20 square feet in area will be allowed per building. Attached signs may be placed on any side of the building.

(2) *C1(P) planned local business district.* Signs in the C1(P) district shall be regulated as follows:

a. For the construction of ground signs in this district, stand alone properties with one tenant/occupant, one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area shall be permitted. One freestanding ground sign not exceeding 75 square feet in area is allowed for sites with more than one occupant but a maximum of five occupants. Sites with more than five occupants may have an additional 10 square feet maximum area for each occupant over five, with a total maximum freestanding ground sign area not to exceed 150 square feet. For the construction of pole signs in this district, one

freestanding pole sign not exceeding 100 square feet in area is allowed for sites with a maximum of five occupants. Sites with more than five occupants may have an additional 10 square feet maximum pole sign area for each occupant over five, with a total maximum freestanding pole sign area not to exceed 200 square feet. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize both a ground sign and a pole sign on the same property, unless otherwise permitted for multiple signs. Freestanding signs shall be located in accordance with the criteria found in Section 102A-1405.

b. One attached sign per occupant is allowed. Attached signs shall not exceed one square foot in area for each front foot of structure the occupant occupies. Attached signs may be placed on any side of the building.

(3) *C2(P) planned retail and service district and C(P) planned commercial district.* Except for billboards (off-premises) signs which are regulated by Section 102A-1407, signs in the C2(P) and C(P) districts shall be regulated as follows:

a. For the construction of ground signs in this district, on stand alone properties with one tenant/occupant, one freestanding ground sign not to exceed 50 square feet in area shall be permitted. Sites with no more than two occupants may have one freestanding ground sign. This sign shall have a maximum size of 75 square feet in area. Sites with more than two occupants but less than ten occupants may have two freestanding ground signs. Each sign shall have a maximum size of 75 square feet in area. Sites with more than ten occupants may have two freestanding ground signs, each with a maximum size of 75 square feet in area; or one freestanding ground sign with a maximum size of 150 square feet in area. Sites with more than ten occupants may have an additional ten square feet of freestanding ground sign area for each occupant over ten, with a total maximum freestanding ground sign area not to exceed 250 square feet. On corner lots, one additional freestanding ground sign is allowed on the side street frontage, not to exceed 75 square feet in area. For the construction of pole signs in this district, sites with no more than two occupants may have one freestanding pole sign. This sign shall have a maximum size of 100 square feet in area. Sites with more than two occupants but less than ten occupants may have two freestanding pole signs. Each pole sign shall have a maximum size of 100 square feet in area. Sites with more than ten occupants may have two freestanding pole signs, each with a maximum size of 100 square feet in area; or one free standing pole sign with a maximum size of 200 square feet in area. Sites with more than ten occupants may have an additional ten square feet of freestanding pole sign area for each occupant over ten, with a maximum freestanding pole sign aea not to exceed 400 square feet. On corner lots, one additional freestanding pole sign is allowed on the side stret frontage not to exceed 100 square feet in area. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize both a ground sign and a pole sign on the same property, unless otherwise permitted for multiple signs. Freestanding signs shall be located in accordance with the criteria found in Section 102A-1405.

b. One attached sign is allowed per occupant, not to exceed two square feet in area for each front foot of structure that the occupant occupies. In the event a strip shopping center is designed in such a manner that the end unit or end units front the right-of-way and the store front faces an internal parking lot, the end unit or end units may place one additional attached sign on the side facing the right-of-way, provided that the overall combined square footage of the attached signs do not exceed two square feet in area for each front foot of the structure that the occupant occupies. On sites where a canopy exceeds the building size, the canopy size may be used to determine the permitted attached sign area. Attached signs may be placed on any side of the building.

(4) M1(P) planned light industrial district. Signs in the M1(P) district shall follow the same dimensional and setback criteria as for signs being located in the C(P) planned commercial district.

(5) M(P) planned industrial district. Except for billboards (off-premises signs) which are regulated by Section 102A-1407, signs in the M(P) district shall be regulated as follows:

a. For the construction of ground signs in this district, one freestanding ground sign is allowed at each main entrance to the site. The total entrance ground signage shall not exceed a maximum sign area of 250 square feet with each individual entrance ground sign not exceeding a maximum sign area of 150 square feet. On corner lots, one additional freestanding ground sign is allowed on the side street frontage, not to exceed 50 square feet in area. For the construction of pole signs in this district, one freestanding pole sign is allowed at each entrance to the site. The total entrance pole signage shall not exceed a maximum sign area of 500 square feet with each individual entrance sign not exceeding a maximum pole sign area of 300 square feet. On corner lots, one additional freestanding pole sign is allowed on the side street frontage, not to exceed 100 square feet in area. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to authorize both a ground sign and a pole sign on the same property, unless otherwise permitted for multiple signs. Freestanding signs shall be located in accordance with the criteria found in Section 120A-1405.

b. One attached sign is allowed per occupant, not to exceed two square feet in area for each front foot of structure that the occupant occupies. On sites where a canopy exceeds the building size, the canopy size may be used to determine the permitted attached sign area. Attached signs may be placed on any side of the building.

Sec. 102A-1407. Billboards (off-premises signs).

In addition to other applicable standards contained within this article, the following provisions shall apply to all billboards:

a. *General provisions.*

1. Billboards shall be allowed only within 1,500 feet from the right-of-way of freeways.
2. Billboards shall not face or be oriented toward any adjoining or abutting residentially-zoned or residentially-used property and shall not be located within 200 feet of a residential zoning district boundary line;
3. Billboards shall not exceed a sign height of 35 feet;
4. All billboards are considered as a principal use of property and not accessory and shall be allowed in the C(P) planned commercial district, upon approval of a special use permit (Section 102A-1706), and M(P) as a permitted use, provided that the dimensional criteria outlined below is complied with.
5. All Federal, State, and other local regulations shall be complied with.

b. *Dimensional criteria by district.*

1. *C(P) planned commercial districts.* Billboards constructed and located in this zoning district shall have a maximum sign area of 500 square feet and shall be located at least 50 feet from a street right-of-way line; five feet from any property line not a right-of-way line; 50 feet from any other freestanding sign, building or structure on the same lot; and be a minimum of 500 feet from another billboard.

2. *M(P) planned industrial district.* Billboards constructed and located in this zoning district shall have a maximum sign area of 700 square feet and shall be located at least 50 feet from a street right-of-way line; five feet from a property line, not a of-way line; 50 feet from any other freestanding sign, building or structure on the same lot; and be a minimum of 500 feet from another billboard.

Sec. 102A-1408. Signs prohibited.

Erection or maintenance of signs having any of the following characteristics is prohibited:

a. *Signs not to constitute traffic hazards.* No sign or advertising structure shall be erected or maintained at the intersection of any street or road so as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, illumination, shape or color, it may impair, obstruct the view or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or that makes use of the words "stop," "look," "drive-in," "danger" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic. In any case, signs shall be prohibited within 20 feet of a street intersection measured to the intersection of the two nearest street lines.

b. *Signs erected on public streets.*

1. No sign shall be erected or maintained within any public street right-of-way nor be allowed to extend into any public street.

2. This section shall not apply to public signs necessary in the performance of a governmental function or required to be posted by law.

3. This section shall not apply to large scale residential signs approved by the Board of Commissioners pursuant to this subsection.

(a) The Board of Commissioners may, but is not required to, approve the location of up to two such signs per subdivision entrance, provided that the Board makes the following findings of fact:

(1) The primary or final plat for the subdivision in which the sign(s) will be located was approved prior to the effective date of this ordinance;

(2) The sign(s) will be located upon a public right-of-way median(s) that is owned, maintained or otherwise controlled by the Town;

(3) The sign(s) will comply with the requirements of Sec. 102A-1406(a)(2);

(4) The propose sign location(s) is [are] outside the line of sight for vehicles on the road; and

(5) The proposed sign location(s) will not otherwise impair the safety of the general travelling public.

(b) Signs approved pursuant to this subsection shall comply, to the extent reasonably possible, with all setback requirements for public rights-of-way and other applicable setbacks.

(c) Unless other arrangements are made by the Board of Commissioners, any sign approved pursuant to this subdivision shall be maintained in good condition by the person, persons, or entity requesting the sign, or their successors or assigns. The town may at any time, with or without notice, remove signs approved pursuant to this subdivision that are not adequately maintained or are allowed to deteriorate.

c. *Object or device attached to items for sale.* Any object or device made of any material that is displayed, affixed, attached, in any manner on items that are intended for sale, including, but not limited to, banners, official or unofficial flags, pennants, balloons, and streamers.

d. *Obstruction of ingress or egress of building.* No sign shall be erected or maintained that obstructs ingress and/or egress to or from any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress to or from any room or building as required by law.

e. *Obscene matter prohibited.* No sign shall be erected or maintained which bears or contains statements, words or pictures of an obscene character.

f. *Signs on private property; consent required.* No sign may be erected by any person on the private property of another person without first obtaining the verbal or written consent of such owner.

g. *Portable signs.* Portable signs as defined in Section 102A-1402. Prohibited unless otherwise allowed in Section 102A-1404.

h. *Flashing signs.* Flashing signs as defined in Section 102A-1402.

i. Any sign attached to or painted on utility poles, telephone poles, trees, parking meters, bridges, and overpasses are prohibited.

j.

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