

Zoning Section 6.3 Signs

General Provisions:

6.3.1 Permanent and Temporary Signs. All permanent signs require a ~~building sign~~ permit issued by the Building Inspector. Temporary signs do not require a ~~building sign~~ permit but must comply with all other provisions of this Section 6.3, ~~excluding real estate for sale signs.~~

1. All permanent signs within the Historic District also require a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic District Commission.
2. All signage on town property requires prior approval of the Board of Selectmen.
3. All signage on school property requires prior approval of the school superintendent.

6.3.2 Residence Districts. In every residential district, signs will be permitted as follows:

1. No more than two (2) ~~temporary~~ signs per contiguous lots within the same ownership.

6.3.3 Business District.

1. No more than three (3) signs are permitted per business establishment.
 - a. A-frame or sandwich board signs, whether temporary or permanent, shall only be permitted by special permit.
 - b. Only one sign may project from the exterior wall surface of the business establishment. Any sign projecting over a pedestrian path shall have a clear space of not less than 12 feet below all parts of such signs. Projecting signs are not allowed over vehicular pathways except by Special Permit.
 - c. Signs that are inside the business establishment but legible from the exterior shall be counted as one of the three permitted signs.

6.3.4 Standards.

1. No sign shall be illuminated by other than white light unless specifically approved by zoning decision.
2. No sign shall be internally illuminated, flashing, intermittently illuminated, or animated.
3. No sign shall have rotating or moving lights, have any visibly moving parts, or have any noise making devices.
4. All illuminated signs in residential districts are to be turned off between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

5. No sign shall impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
6. Roof signs or signs projecting above a roof line are prohibited.
7. A sign in the residence districts shall not exceed a total area of three (3) square feet.
8. A sign in the business district shall not exceed a total area of six (6) square feet.
9. The maximum square footage of any sign is determined by the area of the sign measured from the topmost display element to underside of display element, and from exterior edge to exterior edge of display element. Support structures are not included in the area of the sign. Maximum square footage restrictions apply to a single side of any signage display. If a sign is proposed to be double-sided, both sides must be identical in appearance and content.
10. Any signage associated with any abandoned or defunct business or function must be removed.

6.3.5 Definitions:

1. A-frame or sandwich board sign: A portable sign that can stand upright without additional supports.
2. Permanent Signage: Signs other than temporary signs.
3. Sign: A name, identification, description, display, or illustration which is painted or represented directly or indirectly on a building or other outdoor surface which directs attention to or is designed or intended to direct attention to the signboard or to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or business and including the space enclosed within the extreme edges of the sign for each fact, not including the supporting structure or where attached directly to a building wall or surface, the outline enclosing all the characters of the word(s). Each display surface shall be considered to be a separate sign.
4. Temporary Signage: Signs in place for no more than two months in any calendar year. For two months prior to any national, state, or local election and for one week thereafter, there may be up to five (5) lawn signs per lot. **In addition, a temporary sign is one that is on a site that is for sale through a licensed real estate agent, by owner, or through advertising in a local newspaper of general circulation, but such temporary sign must be removed within fifteen (15) days of sale.**

6.3.6 Special Permit Granting Authority: The Special Permit Granting Authority for this Section 6.3 is the Planning Board.

1. Other and larger signs may be allowed by Special Permit in any district provided such signage is for a specified period not to exceed one year.