

ALSTEAD SIGN ORDINANCE

Adopted 3/14/95 Amended 3/11/03 & 3/8/05

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this Sign Ordinance is to regulate existing and proposed signs in the Town of Alstead.

APPLICATION PROCESS

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, replace, alter, or relocate, within the Town of Alstead, any sign, as defined in this Ordinance, without first obtaining a sign permit from the Zoning Officer and complying with the provisions of this ordinance and other applicable Statutes, Ordinances, and Laws. (i.e. – applicable codes concerning electrical wiring and equipment)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Size – no sign shall exceed sixteen (16) feet in height and fifty (50) square feet in area, per side, with no more than two (2) sides. For any sign requiring a permit, the lower edge of the sign shall be a minimum of six (6) feet above grade level.

Illumination – signs shall be illuminated with steady, shielded light sources without causing glare. Signs may be illuminated from 8AM to 9PM or one hour after closing, which ever is later.

Maintenance – all signs shall be maintained by the owner of the premises and not allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

Type – a sign must be compatible with its surroundings, orderly, readable, and safe; harmonious in color, form, and proportion, material and lighting, with the building and surrounding environment to which it relates; and non-distracting to motorists. In no case shall company franchise requirements or trademarks be accepted as a reason for violating the Ordinance.

EXISTING NON-CONFORMING SIGNS

- a) Every sign lawfully in existence at the time of adoption of these regulations may continue in existence and be maintained by the owner of the premises, but may not be changed in any of its dimensions or character or be moved, unless it is made to comply with these regulations. In the event there is a change of ownership of the premises, or a change of tenants, or a reconstruction of a sign, then all signs must be brought into compliance with these regulations.
- b) Any non-conforming sign, the use of which has been discontinued for a period in excess of ninety (90) days, shall not be reestablished, restored or repaired unless it is made to comply with these regulations.
- c) All signs of a non-historic nature shall reflect the current use of the property. After a period of ninety (90) days, all non-historic signs, that do not advertise the current use or residents of the premises, shall be removed by the owner at his/her expense.

PERMIT NOT REQUIRED

The following signs do not require a permit:

- a) Signs bearing only property numbers, postal numbers, and other non-commercial identification;
- b) Street signs in conformance with Town requirements;
- c) Directional signs, each no greater than seven (7) square feet in area and no higher than seven (7) feet off the ground, such as those indicating entrances, exits and parking;
- d) Any sign required by Federal, State, County or local law;
- e) Legal notices such as “No Trespassing” or “No Hunting” signs;
- f) Signs located on rolling stock of licensed common carriers or registered motor vehicles fit for highway use and not used to defeat the spirit of these Regulations;
- g) National, State, provincial or religious flags, except when used in such a manner as to draw attention to a commercial enterprise. No unrelated message may be used on any such flag;
- h) Flags with the word “Open”;
- i) Signs not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet each, listing agricultural products for sale in season, for such operations as farm stands and Christmas tree farms;
- j) Signs no greater than two (2) square feet each with any of the following messages: Open, closed, vacancy, no vacancy, credit card, telephone, rest room and other similar informational sign;
- k) House names and historical markers; or
- l) “For rent” or “for sale” signs placed by the property owner, or in the case of a real estate sign, by a licensed real estate broker.

PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following shall not be permitted in any District:

- a) Any off-premise advertising signs, or signs which advertise an activity, business, product, or service no longer conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located;
- b) Any sign which has visible moving parts, blinking, moving or changing illumination, inflatable signs or other similar devices;
- c) Any placement of signs which is deemed by the Zoning Officer to be unsafe, such as a sign which would interfere with pedestrian or traffic view or passage, or which would be similar to traffic or directional signs and thus confuse motorists;
- d) Signs placed on utility poles;
- e) Portable or moving signs, except when used as temporary signs;
- f) Roof signs.

**TOWN OF ALSTEAD
APPLICATION FOR A SIGN PERMIT**

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Address of Applicant: _____

Name of property owner of the premises, if different from the Applicant: _____

Address of property owner of the premises, if different from the Applicant: _____

Street Address of Proposed/Existing Sign (if other than above): _____

Tax Map/Lot Number: _____

Application is for: Erection of New Sign _____; Replacement of Existing Sign _____;

Alteration of Existing Sign _____; Relocation of Existing Sign _____.

Description of Proposed Sign (size, etc.) or alterations. Include all pertinent information and sketch if needed:

Type of Illumination (if any): _____

Specific Location of Proposed/Existing Sign. Include diagram if needed: _____

Signature, indicating permission of Property Owner of the Premises, if different from the Applicant:

Signature

Date: _____

Approved by

Date: _____