

# TOWN OF YORK SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION FEE: \$25.00

OFFICE USE ONLY

Issue Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

MAP \_\_\_\_\_ LOT \_\_\_\_\_

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN STATUS (check one)

Temporary

Permanent

HEIGHT OF SIGN FROM GROUND LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MATERIAL \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE OF ILLUMINATION (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

SETBACK FROM PROPERTY LINES (12' REQUIRED)

FRONT \_\_\_\_\_

SIDES \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY OWNER'S  
NAME/ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT'S  
NAME/ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PLOT PLAN (show location of sign)

---

Please show sketch of sign with ALL dimensions included

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

SIGN STANDARDS

16.1 Purpose

Because a proliferation of advertising signs could create a hazard to the motoring public, and diminish the natural scenic beauty of York, it is the purpose of this section to 1) reduce such hazards by regulating new advertising signs, 2) provide directional information to travelers, and 3) provide reasonable opportunities for the advertisement of goods, services and other attractions in York.

16.2 Regulations

16.2.1 General

No new, additional or enlarged business advertising sign shall be erected or placed within the Town of York except as provided below. No person, firm, corporation or organization shall erect, enlarge, or replace any sign described above without first obtaining a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer. All permit applications shall include a drawing showing all dimensions, types of materials, and illumination proposals.

16.2.2 Basic Standards

16.2.2.1 New signs shall not cause any traffic hazard, or any nuisance, as defined by state statute.

16.2.2.2 Sign color or format shall not resemble traffic signals or safety signs.

16.2.2.3 New signs adjacent to any public way shall not: a) obstruct clear and free vision of vehicle operators; b) interfere with, obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized sign, by reason of its position, shape, color, illumination or wording; c) otherwise constitute a hazard to pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

16.2.2.4 Signs shall not be attached or affixed to any tree or to any public utility pole.

16.2.2.5 Signs shall not project above the eave lines or parapet walls of buildings to which they are attached.

16.2.3 Directional Signs (Off-Premises)

Directional Signs placed at locations approved by the Selectmen in accordance with the "Regulations for the Installation of Official Business Directional Signs" published by the Maine Department of Transportation. These regulations shall govern all aspects of off-premises directional signs, including number, size, height, location, color, lettering and material.

16.2.4 Business Advertising Signs (On-Premises)

In the Route One-3, Route One-4 and Route One-6 Zones, business advertising signs shall not exceed 48 sq. ft. of area in total, per business premise, with the longest dimension not over 12 feet. In the Route One-1, Route One-2 and Route One-5 Zones, such signs shall not exceed 32 sq. ft. in total, per business premise, with the longest dimension not over 8 feet. Such signs are limited to one visible in each direction, and shall be displayed only on the premises being advertised. However, such signs may be larger in area when they advertise a group of businesses located in a single building, mall, plaza or office park. In such cases, the maximum permitted sign area shall be 16 sq. ft. for the sign bearing the name of the building, mall, plaza or office park, and 2 sq. ft. for each business or office located there. Business advertising signs shall not be placed closer than twelve feet from any lot line. Maximum height shall be fifteen feet above the adjacent ground grade. **AMENDED 11/05/96**

In all other zones new and existing businesses (principal uses only) may have business advertising signs that shall not exceed 20 square feet of area in total per business premise, with the longest dimension not over 6 feet. Such signs are limited to one double faced sign and shall be displayed on the premises being advertised. However, signs may be larger in area when they advertise a group of businesses located in a single building, mall, plaza or office park. In such case, the maximum permitted sign area shall be 12 square feet for the sign bearing the name of the building, mall, plaza or office park and 2 square feet for each business or office located there. Business advertising signs shall be located no closer than 12 feet from any lot line, unless after an on-site inspection, the Code Enforcement Officer waives or partially waives this setback on a finding that no sign could be properly set back and provide reasonable advertising exposure in both directions. - **AMENDED 06/09/92**

**16.2.5 Parallel Signs and Wall Signs (On-Premise)**

Parallel signs and wall signs shall not exceed a total of 25 sq. ft. or 10 percent of the wall area to which they are attached, whichever is less, per business premise. Where two or more parallel or wall signs are attached to one wall, their total area shall not exceed the above maximum. No part of a parallel or wall sign, shall extend more than twelve inches from the building wall, or be located more than 15 feet above the ground.

**16.2.6 Identification Signs (On-Premise)**

One identification sign per institution, school, church, service club, fraternal organization, public institution, or for a building under construction by a contractor is permitted on the premises of the same. Such sign shall not exceed six square feet in area, with the maximum dimension of three feet. They may not exceed ten feet in height above the highway surface elevation and may not be located closer than twelve feet from any lot line.

**16.2.7 Measurement of Sign Area**

16.2.7.1 Measurement of free-standing signs include the area of all boards, panels or sheets of material but does not include supporting posts or any structural elements outside the limits of such perimeter which do not form an integral part of the display. In determining the area of wall signs, the entire area with a continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the actual letters and characters shall be measured.

16.2.7.2 Sign area shall be determined as the product of the maximum width and maximum height of the sign unit, excluding the supporting structure. However, if the supporting structure is built in the shape of a corporate symbol, its area shall also be counted.

16.2.7.3 Maximum Dimension shall mean the longer of either height or width.

**16.2.8 Illuminated Signs**

16.2.8.1 Signs shall be illuminated only by steady, stationary, shielded light sources directed solely on the sign without causing glare. Signs shall not be illuminated from within unless they utilize light-colored letters and symbols on a dark-colored background, in order to avoid undue glare radiating from the sign.

16.2.8.2 Gas-filled light tubes shall be allowed for indirect illumination, when placed in such a manner that light tubes are not exposed to view.

16.2.8.3 Illuminated signs shall be constructed and erected in such a manner as to deflect light away from residential properties and public roads.

**16.2.9 Temporary Signs**

16.2.9.1 Temporary signs giving notice such as political posters, advertisements of charitable functions, notices of meetings and signs of a similar nature are allowed for a period of thirty days without a permit, provided no such sign shall exceed 48 square feet in total area.

16.2.9.2 Temporary real estate signs advertising the sale, lease or rental of the premises upon which the sign is located are allowed without a permit and shall be removed by the owner or agent within thirty days of sale, lease or rent.

16.2.9.3 Temporary development or construction site signs are allowed without a permit provided such signs do not exceed sixteen square feet in area and are limited to a general identification of the project, and shall be removed within thirty days after completion of the project.

**16.2.10 Exceptions**

For the purposes of this Section, the term "sign" shall not include:

16.2.10.1 Signs erected for public safety and welfare or pursuant to any governmental function.

16.2.10.2 Directional signs solely indicating entrance and exit placed at driveway locations, containing no advertising material, and where the display area does not exceed three square feet or extend higher than seven feet above ground level.

16.2.10.3 Signs relating to trespassing and hunting, not exceeding two square feet in area.

**16.2.11 Non-Conforming Signs**

16.2.11.1 Continuance: A non-conforming sign, lawfully existing as of March 6, 1982, may continue although such sign does not conform to the provisions of this Section.

16.2.11.2 Maintenance: Any lawfully existing sign may be maintained, repaired or repainted, but shall not be enlarged, except in conformance with the provisions of this Section.

16.2.11.3 Replacement: Any new sign of different size and shape replacing a non-conforming sign shall conform to the provisions of this Section, and the non-conforming sign shall not thereafter be displayed.

**16.2.12 Prohibited Signs and Displays**

16.2.12.1 Billboards, banners, streamers, pennants, ribbons, spinners or other similar devices shall not be displayed, except as "temporary signs" as provided for in this Section.

16.2.12.2 Flashing, moving or animated signs, roof signs, movable electric signs and neon or gas-filled tubular signs (where tubes are visible by pedestrians or motorists) are not permitted. Signs indicating time and/or temperature are permitted provided they meet the other provisions of this Section.

16.2.12.3 A string of lights shall not be used for the purpose of advertising or attracting attention.

16.2.12.4 No signs shall be erected in Districts BUS-1 and RES-4 within a distance of 300 feet of Route 1A without written permission of the Board of Selectmen.

16.2.13 Any permitted principal use within the RES-1, RES-2, and RES-3 districts shall allow no more than one sign located on the premises, or single lot. Signs shall be solid wood or metal. The total area of such signs (including all above-ground structural elements) shall not exceed four (4) square feet and shall have no artificial illumination.