



## OSSIPEE, NH SIGN ORDINANCE

---

Pursuant to the authority vested in the voters of Ossipee by the provisions of Chapter 31:39, New Hampshire RSA, as amended in 1971, the Town of Ossipee by ballot on November 2, 1982, adopts the following Sign Ordinance.

### **PURPOSE AND INTENT**

It is the intent of this Ordinance to provide for the regulation and restriction of signs to:

- a: avoid signs which, individually or collectively are confusing, distracting, or impair visibility in areas along ways or other public traffic areas;
- b: protect residential and agricultural areas and scenic views from signs;
- c: protect public ways, parks and reservations and areas in view therefrom, from signs, and;
- d: otherwise limit the confusing and distracting aspects of signs.

### **I I. EXEMPTIONS**

The following signs are exempt from this Ordinance and, therefore, do not require a permit:

- a, all indoor signs;
- b. all signs indicating the existence of private property, forbidding trespass, hunting or other activities on the property;
- c, all signs on private property and intended to regulate or guide activities within the property even though such signs may be incidentally visible off the property;
- d. **TEMPORARY SIGNS** - Temporary signs are non-illuminated signs which are used for special sales promotions, political campaigns, community events, auctions and the like. Temporary signs must conform to the size standards of this Ordinance and they cannot be used for a period of longer than 30 days during a calendar year;
- e. Non-illuminated home business signs. Such signs shall not exceed two (2) per property and shall not have a combined surface area in excess of eight (8) square feet,  
  
They must be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the property line and road right-of-way;
- f. Non-illuminated real estate signs on property for sale, provided they do not exceed eight (8) square feet;

- g. Signs constructed prior to October, 1982 shall be exempted from the provisions of this Ordinance until March 30, 1988.

## **III GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- a. Applicability Upon passage of the Ordinance, no sign or advertising device, unless exempted through Article II, shall be erected on any premises or affixed to the outside of any structure, or be visible from the outside of any structure in The Town of Ossipee except as specified herein; including every sign or advertising device affixed to a vehicle and allowed to remain on the premises with the intent to serve as a sign.
- b. Permit Procedure - Those desiring to erect a non-exempted sign must obtain a permit. An application for a sign permit shall include site location, sign size, method of illumination, if any, and types and colors of materials to be used in construction. Permits shall be issued by the Board of Selectmen or their authorized agent.
- c. Fees - Each application for a sign permit shall be accompanied by payment of a minimum \$25.00 fee, but the fee may be increased to cover unusual costs.
- d. Maintenance - All surfaces and supporting structures of signs, whether erected prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or not, shall be maintained in a safe and sightly condition, to the satisfaction of the Board of Selectmen or their authorized agent, Failure to correct a violation within thirty (30) days after notice thereof, shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance, subject to prescribed remedies whereupon the designated Town Official may remove, or cause to have removed, said sign.
- e. Sign Measurement - The measurement of area of a sign shall be the surface area, and shall be considered to include all lettering or elements of a sign, accompanying designs and symbols together with background, whether open or closed, on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework or bracing which are incidental to the sign, and which are not designed to attract attention.

Where the sign consists of letters, symbols or devices affixed to the surface of a building, the area shall be measured by a single continuous perimeter drawn to enclose the extreme limits of the letters, symbols or devices. The area of one (1) side of a double faced sign shall be regarded as the total area of the sign.

- f. Location - No signs shall project beyond the ridge line of a building. No signs shall be placed or constructed within thirty (30) feet of the centerline of the traveled way of a public highway. No signs shall be placed in such a manner as to endanger street traffic by obscuring a clear view or by confusion with official street signs and signals.
- g. Non-Conforming Signs - Any advertising which has been removed or destroyed (except by an Act of God or vandalism) to an extent of more than fifty percent (50%) of the replacement value at the time of destruction, shall not be replaced, repaired or rebuilt except in conformity with this Ordinance, After March 30, 1988, all non-conforming signs in Ossipee must conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

- h. Sign Movement - No new sign shall move nor contain parts that move.
- I. Free-Standing Signs - No free-standing sign shall be placed nearer than fifteen (15) feet of any lot line.
- j. Height Limit - No free standing signs shall exceed thirty (30) feet in height.
- k. Scenic Views - No sign shall inhibit the clear view of water bodies, mountain ranges or commonly recognized vantage points to Ossipee's scenic environment.

#### **IV. SIGN ILLUMINATION**

- a. Flashing Signs - No sign shall be intermittently illuminated, nor be of a traveling light type, nor be animated or flashing.
- b. Shielding - Illumination fixtures shall be so arranged as to direct t h e light away from streets and away from adjoining structures.
- c. Timing - No signs shall be illuminated between midnight and six (6) a.m., except that signs may remain illuminated during the hours that the premises are open to the public and that lighting may be permitted if it has a secondary function to protect on-site buildings.

#### **V. PERMANENT SIGNS**

- a. Off-Site Signs - The Board of Selectmen may grant benefits for directional signs which are located off from the site which is being advertised. Signs shall:
  - 1. Indicate the name and direction to a business, institution or other activity;
  - 2. Indicate, if appropriate, the general type of business (*e.g.*, building supplies, general store, etc.);
  - 3. contain no other advertising matter;
  - 4. not exceed 128 square feet in size per sign or to total more than 256 square feet, if more than o n e sign is used per business;
  - 5. be limited to a maximum of three (3) per business; except in such instances where a business or institution is over two (2) miles from a State Highway, additional directional signs not exceeding four (4) square feet in size may be placed at intersections upon application to the Board of Selectmen, The two miles is to be measured along the traveled way;
  - 6. maintain a maximum distance between the initial information/directional sign to the business establishment, measured along the traveled ways of t h e approach from any direction, of ten (10) miles.

- b. On-site Signs - The Board of Selectmen may grant permits for signs which are located on the site of the business whether free-standing, , painted on a wall, or protruding from a building. Signs shall:
1. Not protrude beyond four (4) feet from a building;
  2. Not exceed 128 square feet in area per sign or to total more than 176 square feet if more than one sign is used per business;
  3. Be limited to a maximum of two (2) per business.

## VI. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

- a. It shall be the Board of Selectmen who enforce the provisions of this Ordinance;
- b. The Board of Selectmen or its agent shall issue any and all sign permits requested if the proposed sign conforms to the provisions of this Ordinance;
- c. After passage of this Ordinance, it shall be unlawful to erect or alter any sign without a permit unless specifically exempted in Section II of this Ordinance;
- d. In case of a violation of this Ordinance, the Selectmen may institute any appropriate action to prevent a n unlawful violation of the Ordinance. Any person, firm or corporation which violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more than Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

Each day during which a violation is committed or continued shall constitute a separate offense.

Town of Ossipee

**APPLICATION FOR SIGN PERMIT**

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Zoning District: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupant: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Map: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Description & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Approved  Rejected

ZBA Approval Required

Not Required

Signature of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Occupant: \_\_\_\_\_

Code Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

*Drawing of Proposed Sign Below*