The Ossipee sign ordinance is an amendment to the Ossipee Zoning Ordinance under RSA 674:16

I. 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 other areas in view of the proposed sign.

II. 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 which are non-illuminated signs 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 must be removed within 7 days after the event or election.

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.

f. Non-illuminated real estate signs on property for sale, provided they do not exceed eight (8) square feet;

III GENERAL REGULATIONS
a. **Permit Procedure** - Those desiring to erect a non-exempt 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.

b. **Fees** - Each application for a sign permit shall be accompanied by payment of a minimum $50.00 fee, but the fee may be increased to cover unusual costs.

c. **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 its 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.

d. **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.

e. **Location** - No sign shall project beyond the ridge line of a building. No sign shall be placed or constructed within thirty (30) feet of the centerline of the traveled way of a public highway. No sign shall be placed in such a manner as to endanger street traffic by obscuring a clear view or cause confusion with official street signs and signals.

f. **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.

g. **Sign Movement** - No new sign shall move or contain parts that move.

h. **Free-Standing Signs** - No free-standing sign shall be placed nearer than fifteen (15) feet of any lot line.

i. **Height Limit** - No free-standing signs shall exceed thirty (30) feet in height.
j. **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, or be of a traveling light type, or be animated or flashing.

b. **Shielding** - Illumination fixtures shall be so arranged as to direct the light away from streets and away from nearby 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 permit directional signs which are located off of the site which is being advertised. These signs shall:

1. Not exceed 128 square feet in size per sign or to total more than 256 square feet, if more than one sign is used per business.

2. 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-mile distance is to be measured along the traveled way.

b. **On-site Signs** - The Board of Selectmen may permit signs which are located on the site of the business whether free-standing, painted on a wall, or protruding from a building. These 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. The Board of Selectmen or its designee shall enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

b. The Board of Selectmen or its designee 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. The Board of Selectmen shall cause to prepare and approve the form to be used for an application for a sign permit.

e. In case of a violation of this Ordinance, the Selectmen may institute any appropriate action to prevent an 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 Fifty Dollars ($50.00) per day for each day that a violation is committed or continued.