

## SIGN REGULATIONS

Subd. 1. Purposes of and compliance with section.

Section 6, subdivision entitled "signs" and the word signs is to be deleted from Section 7.1 of the Village of Stockholm Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance is hereby rescinded, and is hereafter to read as follows:

A. General Purposes. The Village Board hereby declares that as a matter of public policy that the preservation, protection and perpetuation of the rivertown appearance of the Village of Stockholm is a public necessity, and is required in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people. And, that said protection and preservation is partially accomplished through an ordinance regulating signage so as to both retain the special historical and architectural character of the Village, and to encourage orderly, effective and safe signage.

B. Specific Purposes. The specific purposes of this regulation are to establish a comprehensive series of regulations and procedures governing the type, number, size, structure, location height, lighting, use of display devices, signs or symbols serving as a visual communication to persons situated within or upon public rights of way or properties.

C. No sign shall be erected, placed or replaced in any zoning district except as hereinafter provided.

Subd. 2. Definitions. The following terms, as used in this section, shall have the meanings stated:

1 . "Abandoned Sign" A sign that is left behind after a business or corporation departs from a building.

2. "Additional Sign Permit Fee" A fee paid by an applicant to add or change signs subsequent to the initial fee and permit..

3. "Advertising Sign" A sign that portrays through the use of words, letters or symbols, the type or name of any business conducted on the premises or the name of the individual, firm, association, corporation or profession conducting business or selling of a product or service obtainable on the premises.

4. "Agriculture Sign" Detached or attached signs which identify agricultural practices or businesses occurring on the premises.

5. "Animated Sign" A sign that features moving parts, either illuminated or not illuminated, including time/temperature signs.

6. "Awning Sign" A sign that is painted on or attached to an awning.

7. "Backlit Sign" A sign with an internal light source, such as but not limited to, backlit plastic.

8. "Billboard or Outdoor Display" A sign that directs attention to a business or profession or to a product, commodity, service or entertainment not sold or offered upon the premises, where such sign is located or to which it is attached.

9. "Building, Identification Sign" A sign which identifies the name of a building rather than a business within that building.

10. "Business Sign Origination Fee" The initial fee charged by the Village to administer this section, paid when taking out a first time sign permit. This initial fee covers all signs applied for in the first permit of the business.

11. "Business Sign" An advertising or business identification sign that directs attention to a business, profession, or corporation or to the commodity, service or entertainment sold or offered upon the premises, where such sign is located or to which it is attached.

12. "Combination Sign" A sign incorporating any combination or the features of flashing, animated, projecting or roof signs.

13. "Displays" Animal displays, search lights, sculpture fountains, or other displays or features which do not clearly fall within the definition of a sign, but which direct attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization or business.

14. "Double Faced Sign" A sign with two faces only, with each face oriented 180 degrees from the other.

15. "Flashing Sign" An illuminated sign which has a light source not

constant in intensity or color at all times while such sign is in use, such as flashing, blinking, revolving, or rotating light. Includes time/temperature signs.

16. "Freestanding Sign" A sign which stands on the ground and is not attached to a building.

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17. "General Information Public Service Sign" A sign that identifies public facilities or services, and gives information to travelers not directly necessary for guidance.

18. "Ground Sign" A sign which is supported by two or more uprights, poles, or braces in or upon the ground.

19. "Identification Sign" A sign which identifies the name of a business or corporation.

20. "Illuminated Sign" A sign which is lighted with an artificial light source located in the business or agricultural districts.

21. "Mobile Sign" Signs on wheels or trailers that are capable of being moved from place to place.

22. "Multi Faced Sign" A spherical or other sign with more than two faces.

23. "Non Conforming Sign" A sign which does not meet the requirements of this section or which failed to receive a sign permit under previous sign ordinances.

24. "Painted Wall Sign" A sign painted directly on AN exterior wall of a building or structure.

25. "Park Sign" A sign or symbol identifying public park lands or directions to said lands and activities available within said lands.

26. "Pole Sign or Pylon Sign" A sign erected on one shaft which is solidly affixed to the ground and no more than 10 feet in height from the existing grade.

27. "Political Sign" A sign urging voters to vote for or support specific issues or candidates.

28. "Project Sign" A sign which identifies a residential subdivision, a major real estate development, industrial, commercial or public project.

29. "Projecting Sign" A sign other than a wall sign, which projects from and is supported by a wall of a building or structure and projects more than 5 feet from said wall or structure. Includes time/temperature signs.

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30. "Public Safety and Convenience Sign" A sign which serves the public safety or convenience, such as: entrance and exit signs, office signs, parking signs and the like.

31. "Real Estate Sign" A sign offering property for sale, lease or rent.

32. "Removable Letter Sign" A sign on which different messages can be displayed, by use of removable letters.

33. "Roof Sign" A sign erected upon or above a roof or parapet of a building.

34. "Shopping Center Sign" A business sign which identifies a group of shops or offices that number three or more.

35. "Sign Board" A sign face which uses interchangeable letters to display current products or sales.

36. "Sign Face" The surface of the sign including letters and background upon, against or through which the message is displayed or illustrated.

37. "Sign Area" The entire area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the sign message and background. However, such perimeter shall not include any structural elements lying outside of such sign and not forming an integral part or border of the sign.

38. "Sign Structure" The supports, uprights, braces and framework of the sign.

39. "Temporary or Seasonal Sign" A sign placed on a parcel of land without a permit for a period not to exceed 10 business days out of any twelve month period.

40. "Useful Life of Sign" A period of time when the sign is kept in good repair; with no fading or unreadable messages; advertising products or services of the current business occupant, maintained in good structural and electrical order.

41. "Wall Sign" A sign attached to, painted upon or erected against the wall of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the wall.

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42. All terms pertaining to lots, frontage, subdivision yards, and streets shall be defined by definitions in the zoning provisions of this Chapter or by the Subdivision Chapter.

Subd. 3. Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited:

A. Projecting signs on public right of way or sidewalks except as permitted in

this section.

B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N.

Flashing signs. Animated Signs. Combination signs. Removable letter signs. Mobile signs.

Display signs. Billboards.

Roof signs.

Project Signs. Shopping Center signs. Construction signs. Sign Boards.

Any sign having features incorporating parts of any signs prohibited in this section.

o. Backlit signs

P. Sign Types Not Provided For Within Zoning Districts. Whenever in any

zoning district a sign type is neither specifically permitted or denied, the sign type shall require Village Board approval. In such case the Board or a property owner may request a review by the Zoning Commission to determine if the sign type is acceptable and if so, what the conditions and standards would be. The Village Board upon receipt of the Zoning Commission report may, if appropriate and compatible with the visual character of the zoning district, approve said sign with the requirements established by the Zoning Commission.

Subd. 4. Ground Signs. Ground signs shall not exceed a height of 10 feet above ground. Pole signs shall not exceed a height of 10 feet above ground level.

Subd. 5. Structural Regulations and Maintenance.

A. Unsafe and Unlawful Signs. If the Zoning Administrator shall find that any sign regulated herein is unsafe or loose, or has been constructed or erected in violation of the safety or structural provisions of this section, he shall give written notice to the permittee thereof. If the permittee fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply

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with the standards herein set forth within thirty days after such notice, such sign may be removed or altered to comply by the building inspector at the expense of the permittee or owner of the property upon which it is located. No permit shall be issued to any applicant for a sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property. Such signs shall be subject to removal without notice.

B. Attachment to Buildings. All signs attached to a building shall be thoroughly and rigidly secured in a manner approved by the Zoning Administrator, and shall be repaired and maintained as necessary to keep them secure, safe and free from danger.

C. Safety Obstructions. No sign shall obstruct access to fire escapes or required windows, doors or exits.

D. All signs must be maintained in a neat and clean condition, having no chipping or peeling paint, faded letters, or deteriorating backboards.

Subd. 6. Sign Area Computation. The following computations shall be used to determine the area of any sign as defined herein:

A. Where the sign is a separate panel, structure or other material forming

a single display face, the area of the display face shall constitute the area of the sign.

B. Where the sign consists of any combination of individual letters, panels, numbers, figures or illustrations or of a line or lines, to form a sign, the area of the sign shall be computed using the outside dimensions of the various words, figures, numbers or illustrations composing the entire sign.

C. The supports, uprights or structures on which any sign is supported shall not be a part of the sign area unless such supports, uprights or structures are an integral part of the display or sign.

Subd. 7. Signs Allowed Without Permit. The following signs shall be allowed without permit:

A. In the Residential and Agricultural Districts:

1. Small professional or occupational signs on buildings in said districts (if the profession or occupation is a permitted use ), provided that such signs shall be non-illuminated, not more than one in number for each residence, do not exceed four square feet in area, and that they indicate no more than the name of the occupant, his street address and permitted occupation and are fixed flat to the surface of the building and are no higher than the first story of the building or are attached to a post or pole more than 5 feet high.

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2. Church signs on church property, provided that the sign does not exceed 25 square feet in area, is no higher than 10 feet above the ground, and is set back a minimum of 10 feet from all property lines.

3. Temporary for sale or rent signs, provided that they are limited in number to one per lot, do not exceed nine square feet in area, and are not closer than eight feet to any adjoining lot and are not higher than six feet above the ground. Real estate signs shall be permitted to remain a period not to exceed 21 days after the sale of the property.

4. Political candidate signs are permitted on private property prior to an election and up to seven days following an election.

5. General information signs not in excess of six square feet, unless such signs are double-faced then a total of twelve square feet. Such signs shall be designed and installed in conformance with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

B. In the Business District:

1. Temporary signs painted or attached to either surface of windows or visible therefrom will be allowed, but shall obscure no more than 80 percent of the total square footage of such windows. Temporary signs shall be allowed for a period not to exceed 10 business days in any 12 month period.
2. General information signs are permitted and shall not exceed six square feet, unless such signs are double-faced then a total of twelve square feet.
3. Political candidate signs are permitted on private property prior to an election and up to seven days following an elections.
4. Signs for Public Safety and Convenience. When deemed necessary, signs not to exceed 6 square feet per face to serve the public safety such as: entrance, exit, parking signs and the like.

C In the business district, vending and dispensing machines shall be exempt from sign permits.

D Temporary banners or pennants used to announce or advertise a community - wide event approved by the Village Board shall be permitted without permit.

Subd. 8. Signs In The Business District. The following signs and conditions shall be permitted and controlled within the business district:

A. Three square feet (3) of advertising signage will be allowed for every lineal foot of building frontage but total signage shall not exceed 120 square feet. In no event shall any premises regardless of building or lot frontage be entitled to less than 60 square feet of signage. Signs may cover a maximum of 50% of the plate glass windows. Signs which do not require permits shall also be included in the total

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allowable signage area of the building or business. Where a building is located on a corner lot, the lineal foot measurement shall be taken from the longest side of the building. Where the main entrance of a building is not located upon a public sidewalk, the lineal foot measurement shall be taken from the side which contains the main entrance of the building. No one sign within the business district shall be larger than 40 square feet per face.

B. All attached outdoor signs shall be projecting no further than 5 feet from the building or structure to which they are attached and shall not extend above the top of the wall to which it is attached must be constructed of metal, wood or comparable weatherproof material.

C. Double-faced or single-faced freestanding advertising or identifying signs shall be allowed subject to the following:

1. Each building or property shall be allowed no more than one

freestanding advertising sign. Where a building is occupied by more than one business, only one freestanding sign shall be permitted for that building.

2. Said signs shall be set back at least one foot from the sidewalk where ever possible. Where the only option in the opinion of the Zoning Administrator is placement of said sign on a public sidewalk, said sign shall not occupy more than 25% of the width of the sidewalk. No free standing sign shall be higher than 4 feet and must be placed only upon that portion of sidewalk occupied by the building in which the sign's owner conducts business. Revisions of comparable size and setbacks to wording, messages, or symbols on such signs will be allowed after application, approval, and fee payment for a new sign permit.

3. All freestanding signs which have permits under a previous ordinance shall be permitted under this section. Revisions of comparable size and setbacks to wording, messages, or symbols on such signs will be allowed after application, approval, and fee payment for a new sign permit.

4. All signage allowed pursuant to this Subdivision shall be deducted from the total allowable.

5. All freestanding signs existing on the effective date of this ordinance shall be considered pre-existing, conforming signs. However, within 90 days of the effective date of this ordinance all free standing signs shall comply with Section C.(2) of this subdivision or be subject to removal or rehabilitation.

D. Side or rear building signs shall be allowed on the side or rear of a building.

All signage allowed pursuant to this Subdivision shall be deducted from the total allowable.

E. Signs for Pedestrian Traffic. Where the principal sign for a business is located so that it cannot be seen by pedestrian traffic, a sign in addition

to that

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otherwise allowed in this Subdivision shall be permitted. Such signs shall be no more than 5 square feet per side. Such signs shall not be placed in public rights-of-way\ except as attachments to protruding, permitted architectural features of the building or pre-existing supports. Said sign may also be lettered on the window for pedestrian purposes. The square footage of pedestrian signs shall be deducted from the total allowable signage of that business ..

F. One name plate, not exceeding four square feet in area, containing the name, address, hours of operation and license number of an occupant shall be allowed at every exterior entrance.

Subd. 9. Signs In The Agricultural District. The following signs shall be allowed and permitted in the agricultural district:

A. All signs permitted in the residential district.

B. Freestanding or attached signs not to exceed 32 square feet or 64 square feet for double-faced signs. Said signs shall be identification signs for the agricultural practices or agricultural businesses occurring on the premises. Said signs shall be located on the property wherein the agricultural activity occurs. No more than one such sign may be located on anyone contiguous farm operation.

Subd. 10. Sign Permits.

A. It is unlawful for any person to erect or maintain any sign without first securing a permit for such erection and for such maintenance, except as herein provided.

B. Application for a sign permit shall be requested from the Zoning

Administrator. A business sign origination fee shall be included in the application. The original business sign origination fee shall be the only fee charged for all signs in the businesses' first application. Fees shall be considered valid for the useful life of the sign. All signs existing on the effective date of this section shall be exempt from the origination fee but not from the additional sign fees when replaced or modified. The application for permission to erect or maintain any such sign shall be in writing signed by the owner or occupant of the building or structure to which such sign is to be attached, which application shall specify the location, size and materials of the sign or signs, the manner of attaching

the same and such other facts as the Village Board may require for full information of the nature and safety thereof. Applications shall be accompanied by a sketch of the sign indicating dimensions. The applicant shall also

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indicate the type of illumination, if any, to be used. Upon application, the Zoning Administrator shall have a period of ten days to either reject or approve the sign application subject to the provisions and requirements of this section. If a sign is denied, written reasons for said denial shall be supplied to the applicant.

C. Upon notice of any application being rejected by the Zoning Administrator, the applicant shall have access to the appeal and/or variance procedure pursuant to and as defined in the zoning provisions of this chapter.

D. All permits for erection and maintenance of signs regulated by this section shall be issued for the useful life of the sign. Replacement signs or changes in the messages or symbols/designs shall require a new sign permit.

E. Existing signs shall be considered pre-existing, conforming signs.

Freestanding signs shall within 90 days of the effective date of this ordinance comply with Section C.(2) of Subdivision 8 or said sign will become non-conforming.

F. Any sign for which a permit is issued shall be erected and in place within six months from a date of such permission or the permit will become automatically void and a new permit shall be applied for pursuant to the provisions of this section.

G. Any person who either erects or has erected on his property any sign governed by this section prior to a permit being issued shall pay an additional application fee, as adopted by resolution of the Board, which shall not constitute a penalty, but shall be deemed an administrative fee.

H. All fees for sign permits, including, but not by way of limitation, origination fees, application fees and fees for permits by the same business, shall be adopted by the Village Board by resolution, and may be amended from time to time in the same manner.

Subd. 11. Violation A Misdemeanor

Any person who violates a section, subdivision, paragraph or provision of this ordinance when he or she performs an act thereby prohibited or declared unlawful, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor.

Subd. 12. Enforcement

Any sign or structure which is erected, altered or converted so as to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance subsequent to the time of passage of this Section is 10

hereby declared to be a public nuisance per se, and may be abated by any court of competent jurisdiction. The owner of any building, structure or premises or part thereof, where any condition in violation of this Section shall exist or be created, and who has assisted knowingly in the commission of such violation shall be guilty of a separate offense and shall be liable to a fine. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during or when a violation occurs or continues. The rights and remedies provided herein are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies provided by law.

Passed this 7th day of April 1997 .4'

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Thomas Ahlstrom .. , p.resident

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Paul Hinderlie, Trustee "-

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Robert Davidian, Clerk

proposed: 3 March 1997 passed: 7 April 1997 posted: 12 April 1997

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