

TOWN OF ANSON

SIGN ORDINANCE

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the placement of business and institutional signs within the Town of Anson in order to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and travelers within the Town.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to and consistent with the Municipal Home Rule Powers as provided for in Article VII, Part 2, Section 1 of the constitution of the State of Maine and Title 30-a M.R.S.A., § 3001. Provisions within this ordinance are authorized under the Maine Traveler Information Services Act. 23 M.R.S.A. § 1914.

SECTION 3. VALIDITY AND SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of law to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. CONFLICT WITH OTHER ORDINANCES

Whenever a provision of this ordinance conflicts with, or is inconsistent with another provision of this ordinance or any other ordinance, regulation or statute, the more restrictive provision shall control.

ARTICLE II. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 5. APPLICABILITY

1. This ordinance shall apply to signs erected or placed within the Town of Anson for commercial or institutional purposes. This includes replacement of signs where the replacement includes relocation, addition or expansion of sign area. Repair or repainting of existing signs to the extent that the signs remain in the same location and size as they existed, is not subject to requirement of this ordinance.
2. This ordinance shall apply to all changeable message signs, regardless of whether they are in existence on the effective date of this ordinance.
3. Displays and signs placed in, on, or behind windows.
4. Flags, banners, sidewalk sandwich boards, or other displays commonly removed at the end of a business day.

SECTION 6. PERMIT REQUIRED

A permit from the Town of Anson is required for all signs subject to the provisions of this ordinance at no charge.

The permit shall be issued by the Code Enforcement Officer, subject to the procedures in Section 3 of this Article, except that signs associated with development subject to the Anson Site Plan Review Ordinance are considered permitted to the extent that they comply with the approval of the development under that ordinance.

SECTION 7. PERMITTING PROCEDURE

1. An applicant for a permit shall submit an application to the office of the Code Enforcement Officer. The application shall contain an image of the sign or signs to be placed, a rough site layout showing the placement of the sign(s), and a brief narrative description of the proposed sign(s).

2. The Code Enforcement Officer shall approve or reject the application for a sign permit and issue the permit, if approved within ten (10) working days of its submittal. Any conditions applying to the approval of the permit shall be stated in writing. If an application is rejected, the reasons for rejection shall be stated in writing.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer shall approve an application and issue a permit for any signs which comply with the standards set forth in Article 3 of this Ordinance.
4. Signs shall be erected in substantially the manner described in the application.

SECTION 4. APPEAL AND VARIENCE

1. The applicant for a sign permit or any part aggrieved by the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer may appeal the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer to the Town of Anson Board of Appeals. Appeals shall be heard as administrative appeals.
2. An applicant for a sign permit may request a variance from the dimensional standards in Article III of this ordinance. Variance requests shall be heard by the Town of Anson Board of Appeals under the conditions provided for in 30-A M.R.S.A. 54353(4).

ARTICLE III. STANDARD FOR SIGN PLACEMENT

SECTION 1. GENERAL STANDARD

All signs shall conform to the standards of the Maine Traveler Information Services Act, 23 M.R.S.A. §1901 et seq. or successor statute, except as provided below. Unless licensed as an Official Business Directional Sign in accordance with 23 M.R.S.A. §1918, or successor statute, signs must be located on the property of the business or institution offering the goods or service being advertised, except that signs are permitted to advertise community events provided that the owner of the sign receives no compensation for the advertising.

SECTION 2. LOCATION AND PLACEMENT OF FREE-STANDING SIGNS

1. In order to maintain vehicle and pedestrian safety, signs shall not be placed at a height or location which obstructs views from the road or sidewalks or driveway entrances.
2. Signs shall not be placed within five (5) feet of a property line, and shall not be erected more than twenty (20) feet in height as measured from the elevation of the road centerline.
3. Signs shall be sufficiently affixed to the ground or building to withstand strong winds.

SECTION 3. CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

1. The message displayed on a sign shall not change more often than once every ten (10) seconds. Signs which display exclusively time and temperature may change once every four (4) seconds.
2. No lightening element within a changeable message sign may flash, blink, or change color with a duration of less than one-half (1/2) second. This means that messages are not permitted to scroll, travel, or be otherwise animated. Video or graphic animation is prohibited. Messages are permitted to dissolve or blend provided they do so without flashing.
3. Illumination between the hours of sunset and sunrise shall not exceed five hundred (500) nits. Signs capable of producing more than 500 nits shall be equipped with a daylight sensor or timer to that illumination will be reduced during regulated hours.

ARTICLE IV: DEFINATIONS OF TERM USED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Words and terms used in this ordinance shall have their ordinary dictionary meaning, except as provided below.

CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGN: A sign containing a text or graphic display which changes on a regular or periodic basis, whether electronically, digitally, mechanically or by other means.

COMMUNITY EVENT: An organized gathering of limited duration sponsored by a governmental or non-profit organization.

FREE STANDING SIGN: A sign which is physically separated and not attached to a building.

NIT: A unit of luminance commonly used in sign illumination, which is equal to one candela (one candle) per square meter.

SIGN: Any structure, fixture, graphics, illustration, statue, or other device visible from off the premises designed or intended to advertise, identify, attract attention to, or convey information regarding any goods, product, service, business, location, institution, or activity.

CERTIFICATION:

We the Selectmen of the Town of Anson hereby Certify to the Clerk that the foregoing document entitled "**SIGN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANSON**" is to be the subject of a town meeting vote to take place on May 8, 2018, during town meeting as conducted at the Town Office at 5 Kennebec Street, Anson, Me 04911

Date of Certification: _____

Selectman Arnold Luce

Selectman Brenda Garland

Selectman John Bryant

Selectman Angela Manzer

Selectman James Smith

ATTEST:

Attested to be a true copy of an ordinance entitled "**SIGN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANSON**" as certified to me by the municipal officers of Anson.

Date of Attestation: _____, 2018

Signature: _____
Tammy Murray, Town Clerk

EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective on _____.