

Article XV. Signs.

§ 340-158. Definitions.

Words and phrases used in this article shall have the meanings set forth in this section. All other words and phrases shall be as defined in Article II or will be given their common, ordinary meaning unless the context requires otherwise.

Abandoned Sign - A sign which has not identified or advertised a current business, service, owner, product, or activity for at least 180 days.

Address Sign - A sign that designates the street number and/or street name for identification purposes, as designated by the United States Postal Service. (Also known as nameplate sign)

Animated Sign - Any sign that uses movement or change of lighting to depict action or create a special effect or scene.

Balloon Sign - A lighter-than-air, gas-filled balloon, tethered in a fixed location, which contains an advertisement message on its surface or attached to the balloon in any manner.

Banner - Any sign of lightweight fabric or similar material that is permanently mounted to a pole or a building by a permanent frame at one or more edges. National flags, state or municipal flags, or the official flag of any institution or business shall not be considered banners.

Beacon - Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same zone lot as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move.

Building Sign - Any sign attached to any part of a building, as contrasted to a freestanding sign.

Canopy Sign (also Awning Sign) - Any sign that is a part of or attached to an awning, canopy, or other fabric, plastic, or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area. A marquee is not a canopy.

Changeable Copy Sign - A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the face or the surface of the sign. **The two types of changeable-copy signs are manual changeable copy signs and electronic changeable copy signs, which include: message center signs, digital displays, and Tri-Vision Boards**

Commercial Message - Any sign wording, logo, or other representation that, directly or indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity.

Digital Display - The portion of a sign's message made up of internally illuminated components capable of changing the message periodically. Digital displays may include but are not limited to LCD, LED, or plasma displays.

Directional Sign - Signs designed to provide direction to pedestrian and vehicular traffic into and out of, or within a site.

Directory Sign - Wall sign that identifies individual businesses or occupants of the same building or building complex.

Event Sign – Temporary sign advertising and/or providing direction to a planned public or social occasion approved as provided in Chapter 350 of the Code of St. Michaels, Maryland.

Flag - Any fabric, banner, or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns, or symbols, used as a symbol of a government, political subdivision, or other entity.

Flashing Sign - A sign whose artificial illumination is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use and which exhibits changes in light, color, direction, or animation. This definition does not include electronic message centers signs or digital displays that meet the requirements set forth herein.

Freestanding Sign - A sign supported by structures or supports that are placed on, or anchored in, the ground; and that is independent and detached from any building or other structure. The following are subtypes of freestanding signs:

Ground Sign - A sign permanently affixed to the ground at its base, supported entirely by a base structure, and not mounted on a pole or attached to any part of a building. (Also known as monument sign)

Pole Sign - A freestanding sign that is permanently supported in a fixed location by a structure of one or more poles, posts, uprights, or braces from the ground and not supported by a building or a base structure.]

Government/Regulatory Sign - Any sign for the control of traffic or for identification purposes, street signs, warning signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger or construction, which are erected by or at the order of a public officer, employee or agent thereof, in the discharge of official duties.

Holiday Decorations - Signs or displays including lighting which are a non-permanent installation celebrating national, state, and local holidays, religious or cultural holidays, or other holiday seasons. (Also known as seasonal decorations)

Incidental Sign - A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary to the use of the

zone lot on which it is located, such as "no parking," "entrance," "loading only," "telephone," and other similar directives. No sign with a commercial message legible from a position off of the lot on which the sign is located shall be considered incidental.

Illumination - A source of any artificial or reflected light, either directly from a source of light incorporated in, or indirectly from an artificial source.

External Illumination - Artificial light, located away from the sign, which lights the sign, the source of which may or may not be visible to persons viewing the sign from any street, sidewalk, or adjacent property.

Internal Illumination - A light source that is concealed or contained within the sign and becomes visible in darkness through a translucent surface. Message center signs, digital displays, and signs incorporating neon lighting shall not be considered internal illumination for this ordinance.

Halo Illumination: A sign using a 3-dimensional message, logo, etc., lighted in such a way as to produce a halo effect. (Also known as back-lit illumination)

Illuminated Sign - A sign with electrical equipment installed for illumination, either internally illuminated through its sign face by a light source contained inside the sign or externally illuminated by a light source aimed at its surface.

Inflatable Sign - A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device.

Institutional Sign - A sign placed on a property owned by religious or charitable non-profit organizations, hospitals, schools, fire and rescue, clubs, or similar uses.

Joint tenant signs – A sign displaying the various tenants of a business complex or shopping center located at or near the entrance(s).

Limited Duration Sign - A non-permanent sign that is displayed on private property for more than thirty (30) days, but not intended to be displayed for an indefinite period.

Marquee - Any permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to protect from the weather.

Marquee Sign - Any sign attached to, in any manner, or made a part of a marquee.

Menu Sign - A permanent sign for displaying the bill of fare available at a restaurant or

other use serving food, or beverages.

Mural (or mural sign) - A large picture/image (including but not limited to painted art) which is painted, constructed, or affixed directly onto a vertical building wall, which may or may not contain text, logos, and/or symbols.

Nonconforming Sign - Any sign that does not conform to the requirements of this Chapter.

Off-Premises Sign - An outdoor sign whose message directs attention to a specific business, product, service, event or activity, or other commercial or non-commercial activity, or contains a non-commercial message about something that is not sold, produced, manufactured, furnished, or conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located. (Also known as a third-party sign, billboard, or outdoor advertising)

On-Premises Sign - A sign whose message and design relate to an individual business, profession, product, service, event, point of view, or other commercial or non-commercial activity sold, offered, or conducted on the same property where the sign is located.

Pennant - Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in series, designed to move in the wind.

Personal Expression Sign - An on-premises sign that expresses an opinion, interest, position, or another non-commercial message.

Portable Sign - A sign designed to be transported or moved and not permanently attached to the ground, a building, or other structure.

Sandwich Board Sign - A type of freestanding, portable, temporary sign consisting of two faces connected and hinged at the top and whose message is targeted to pedestrians (Also known as A-frame sign)

Vehicular Sign - A sign affixed to a vehicle in such a manner that the sign is used primarily as a stationary advertisement for the business on which the vehicle sits or is otherwise not incidental to the vehicle's primary purpose.]

Projecting Sign - Any sign affixed to a building or wall in such a manner that its leading edge extends more than six inches beyond the surface of such building or wall.

Public Sign - A sign erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification signs for public facilities.

Reflective Sign - A sign containing any material or device which has the effect of intensifying reflected light.

Residential Sign - Any sign located in a district zoned for residential uses that contains no commercial message except advertising for goods or services legally offered on the premises where the sign is located if offering such service at such location conforms with all requirements of the zoning ordinance.

Revolving Sign - A sign which revolves in a circular motion rather than remaining stationary on its supporting structure.

Roof Sign - Any sign erected and constructed wholly on and over the roof of a building, supported by the roof structure, and extending vertically above the highest portion of the roof.

Sign - Any device, fixture, placard, or structure that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to advertise, announce the purpose of, or identify the purpose of a person or entity, or to communicate information of any kind to the public.

Sign Area - The square footage of the advertising area of a sign calculated by measuring the area of the background, or if there is no background, then the area calculated by measuring the width of the sign from the beginning of the first character to the end of the last character, and by measuring the height of the sign from the bottom of the lowest character to the top of the highest character. The area of said signs to be determined by then multiplying the width times the height of the signs as so determined.

Sign Structure Area - The total square footage of the sign structure determined by measuring the width and height of the structure that encompasses the advertising area of the sign.

Suspended Sign - A sign that is suspended from the underside of a horizontal plane surface and is supported by such surface.

Temporary Sign - A banner, pennant, poster or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard, wallboard, plywood or other like materials that are located on private property and intended to be displayed for no more than is permitted by regulation.

Wall Sign - Any sign attached parallel to, but within six inches of, a wall, painted on the wall surface of, or erected and confined within the limits of an outside wall of any building or structure, which is supported by such wall or building, and which displays only one sign surface.

Wayfaring - A type of sign that allows users to find their way, using the information

provided along the travel path.

Window Sign - Any sign, pictures, symbol, or a combination thereof, designed to communicate information about an activity, business, commodity, event, sale, or service, that is placed inside a window or upon the window panes or glass and is visible from the exterior of the window.

§ 340-159. Purpose and Intent.

~~A. The following sign regulations are established to assure compatibility of on-site structures with surrounding land use, both existing and proposed; to conserve and enhance property values in all districts; to promote traffic and pedestrian safety by minimizing distractions to drivers in the Town of St. Michaels; to protect the natural scenic beauty of the Town of St. Michaels; to preserve the aesthetic integrity of the Town of St. Michaels and to preserve the integrity of the many historically and architecturally significant structures in the Town of St. Michaels. Conformance to regulations required. No sign, unless herein excepted shall be erected, placed, attached, altered, posted, relocated, reconstructed, or modified after adoption of this chapter or amendment thereto without a permit. All approved signs must conform to the following regulations:~~

Signs perform an important function in identifying and promoting properties, businesses, services, residences, events, and other matters of interest to the public. The intent of this Article is to regulate all signs within St. Michaels to ensure that they are appropriate for their respective uses, in keeping with the appearance of the affected property and surrounding environment, and protective of the public health, safety, and general welfare by:

- A. Setting standards and providing uniform controls that permit reasonable use of signs and preserve the character of St. Michaels.**
- B. Prohibiting the erection of signs in such numbers, sizes, designs, illumination, and locations as may create a hazard to pedestrians and motorists.**
- C. Avoiding excessive conflicts from large or multiple signs, so that permitted signs provide adequate identification and direction while minimizing clutter, unsightliness, and confusion.**
- D. Establishing a process for the review and approval of sign permit applications.**
- E. Ensuring sign design that builds on the traditional town image and visual environment the St. Michaels seeks to promote in the town center, and appropriate signage for highway-oriented uses along MD 33.]**

§ 340-160. Permit required.

[A. Except for exempt signs, no sign shall be erected or placed before a sign permit is issued by the Zoning Inspector.

B. Not needing a permit does not exempt owners of temporary signs from ensuring the sign is maintained and safe.]

§ 340-161. Permitted Signs.

~~B. The following signs may be erected in the Town of St. Michaels after issuance of a sign permit by the Town.~~

Only those signs as set out herein are permitted, provided that such signs conform to the following provisions, are located on the same lot as said use unless an exception from this requirement is specifically noted, and only after issuance of a sign permit by the Town.

A. Building signs.

(1) Wall signs.

- (a) All permanent flat signs are to be mounted flat against a wall except in those situations where the structure of the building precludes a wall-mounted permanent sign of allowable dimensions. In those cases, a pent-roof- or mansard-roof-mounted sign is allowable. No attached sign shall extend above the height of the building to which it is attached.
- (b) Wall signs shall not be mounted higher than the eave line or top of the parapet wall of the building, and no portions of the sign shall extend beyond the ends of the wall to which it is attached.
- (c) For each business on a separate property, wall-mounted signage for each street frontage is permitted with a maximum advertising area of one square foot of signage per one linear foot of street frontage of the building. However, all buildings, regardless of their street frontage, will be permitted twenty (20) square feet of advertising area.
- (d) Buildings which have multiple businesses accessed by separate entrances: each business shall be permitted one building sign for each street frontage with a maximum area of one square foot of advertising area per one linear foot of street frontage of the building dedicated to that business.
- (e) When two or more businesses occupy one building with common entrances (i.e., without separate entrances), they shall be considered one business for sign

computation purposes. For wall or building signs, buildings of this nature are limited to one building sign per street frontage plus one directory sign per common entrance.

- (f) Mounted menu boards. Each business whose primary use is the offering of food and beverage to the general public shall be permitted to display their menu by the posting of the same on the wall or window of their business. Such board shall not exceed four (4) square feet in total area.

[Added 4-24-2014 by Ord. No. 452]

- (2) Awning or canopy sign. Any portion of an awning containing advertising copy shall be treated as a wall or building sign and shall be included in the overall advertising area calculations for such signs.
 - (a) Signs may be attached flat against awnings made of rigid materials, and shall not project above the awning. Awnings of non-rigid materials (e.g., canvas) shall have signs only applied or painted on them.
 - (b) There shall be a minimum clearance of at least eight (8) feet between the bottom of the awning and the ground at grade.
- (3) Directory wall signs. Directory signs shall be attached to the building to identify individual businesses or occupants of the same building or building complex, in accordance with the following:
 - (a) The display board shall be of integrated and uniform design.
 - (b) No more than one (1) sign panel not to exceed two (2) square feet in area is permitted per directory for each tenant business.
 - (c) Directory signs shall be placed nearest the pedestrian entrances.
 - (d) The total sign structure area of any directory sign shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet.
 - (e) Directory signs must incorporate its legally assigned street number.
 - (f) Directory signs shall not contain advertising copy.
- (4) Projecting and suspended signs. Projecting and suspended signs shall be treated as building signs and shall be included in the total advertising area calculations for building signs.
 - (a) The two sides of a projecting or suspended sign must be parallel back to back, and shall not exceed twelve (12) inches in thickness, and ten (10) square feet in area.

- (b) A projecting or suspended sign shall be hung at right angles to the building and shall not extend more than three (3) feet from a building wall.
- (c) Projecting and suspended signs shall have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above grade and shall not project into a vehicular public way.

~~(5) Barbershop pole.~~

- ~~(a) A rotating barbershop pole is permitted in any zone where a barbershop is permitted either by right or by special exception.~~
- ~~(b) The barbershop pole shall not exceed thirty nine (39) inches in height, with a projection from the wall of the business no greater than eighteen (18) inches.~~
- ~~(c) A barbershop pole as defined in this subsection.
 - ~~(i) May be internally illuminated, provided that the illumination may not be flashing or intermittent;~~
 - ~~(ii) May not shine directly into any dwelling; or~~
 - ~~(iii) When visible from navigable waters, may not resemble an aid to navigation.~~
 - ~~(iv) A barbershop pole shall not be counted as part of the signage otherwise allowed for the business it is advertising.~~~~

B. ~~Freestanding sign: a sign having a fixed location and constructed on the premises of the business being advertised.~~

- (1) Freestanding signs shall be limited to one per lot, and shall extend above the natural ground level no more than six (6) feet; shall not exceed a total sign structure size of six (6) square feet in area and, with the exception of the circumstances described in off-site signs as set out in this article, shall be set back at least four (4) feet from each property line. Such sign shall contain the name of the owner, trade name or activity conducted on the premises whereon such sign is located.
- (2) No sign, sign structure or part thereof shall be located so as to obstruct or conflict with traffic sight lines, or traffic control signs or signals. Except for ~~barber poles and~~ educational complex signage, no sign shall be internally illuminated.
- (3) Such sign shall incorporate its legally assigned street number.
- (4) A planting area consisting of shrubs, flowers and/or ornamental grasses equivalent to the area of each side of a freestanding sign shall be provided when such planting is feasible. The planting area shall be maintained by the permit holder. This area shall be kept in a neat and clean condition, free of weeds and rubbish.

- (5) In addition to the above, each gasoline/service station or other business selling automotive or marine fuel is permitted one price sign not to exceed eight (8) square feet in area and eight (8) feet in height. Said price sign shall be incorporated into the product identification sign.
- (6) No more than one freestanding sign identifying a subdivision or multifamily project. Such sign shall not exceed a maximum of twenty-four (24) square feet in total sign area with a maximum height of six (6) feet. The location of such sign shall be indicated on required site plans or subdivision plats and approved by the Planning Commission.

[Amended 1-23-2013 by Ord. No. 434]

C. Directory signs. Directory signs may be provided to identify individual businesses or occupants of the same building or building complex, in accordance with the following:

- (1) The display board shall be of integrated and uniform design.
- (2) No more than one sign panel not to exceed two (2) square feet in area is permitted per directory for each tenant business.
- (3) Directory signs shall be placed nearest the pedestrian entrances adjacent to the building complex.
- (4) The sign structure area of all directory signs shall not exceed fifty-five (55) square feet.
- (5) Directory signs shall not contain advertising copy.

D. Institutional signs. No more than one freestanding sign or bulletin board identifying a place of worship, library, civic, social or fraternal club or society, which sign shall not exceed twenty (24) square feet in sign structure area, with a maximum advertising area of eighteen (18) square feet and with a maximum height of six (6) feet and shall be located upon the premises of such institution. These signs may also contain other information customarily incidental to said places or organizations.

E. Educational complex signage (illuminated).

- (1) In addition to the signage permitted in § 340-40*, an educational complex which includes a single or multiple educational facilities [school(s)] as defined in § 340-108* herein, shall be permitted one on-site internally illuminated sign. Such sign shall not exceed twenty (24) square feet in sign structure size with a maximum of fifteen (15) square feet of advertising area. The sign shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and shall not include reflective and/or scrolling advertising devices.
- (2) The sign materials shall be compatible with those reflected in the construction of the primary structures and shall identify the name of the educational facility and street

address. The sign may be utilized as a mechanism for providing public announcements concerning activities conducted at the school and those which are community sponsored. A landscaped area equal to the area of the sign shall be provided and maintained by the permit holder.

F. Wayfaring signs, **[non-government]**.

- (1) This type of signage intends to feature the key attractions of the Town and to facilitate the delivery of the "St. Michaels Experience."
- (2) The text and format of the signs shall be a collaborative effort between the Tourism Board and Business Association with final approval being granted by The Commissioners of St. Michaels. Location and number of signs shall also be presented to the Commissioners for their approval.
- (3) The sign structure area of the sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet, nor shall it exceed six (6) feet in height.
- (4) Signs may be located on public ways. However, no sign shall impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic flows.

[(5) No sign, sign structure, or part thereof shall be located so as to obstruct or conflict with traffic sight lines or traffic control signs or signals.]

G. Home occupation signs. ~~Such signs are permitted in any zone. Such sign may be permanent, shall not be illuminated, and shall not exceed three (3) square feet in area.~~ **[Signage shall be limited to one unlighted or indirectly lighted sign per address not exceeding three (3) square feet in area either mounted flush with and on the front facade of the dwelling unit or hung on an independent post.]**

H. Professional offices. Such signs are permitted in any zone where such use is permitted either by right or by special exception. Such sign may be either wall-mounted or freestanding, may not be internally illuminated and shall not exceed three (3) square feet in area for each enterprise occupying the office.

I. Farm or estate signs. Such sign shall display the name of the farm or estate, and identify the owner and nature of the farm. Such sign shall be limited to one per farm or estate, shall not exceed six (6) square feet in sign structure area, and shall not be illuminated.

~~J. Community organization master sign. Notwithstanding the prohibition of off site signs as set forth in this article, one community organization master sign is permitted at, or near, each of the north and south entrances to the Town along Talbot Street.~~

~~(1) A community organization master sign:~~

- ~~(a) Shall identify nonprofit, service organizations active in and located in or nearby the Town of St. Michaels. Examples of eligible organizations include churches offering regular services and nationally recognized service clubs (e.g., Rotary, Lions, Optimists, Women's and Junior Women's clubs).~~
 - ~~(b) Shall be freestanding and permanent, and compatible in design, size, height, material and lighting with the existing "Welcome to St. Michaels" sign.~~
 - ~~(c) May display the St. Michaels logo.~~
 - ~~(d) May include up to eight (8) individual signs, each of the same shape and size not to exceed two (2) square feet. Each individual sign shall identify one nonprofit community service organization, and may include organizational logos along with other information visitors would find useful, such as service and meeting times and places, provided it does not become too cluttered for the average motorist, passing at the posted speed limit, to read easily.~~
 - ~~(e) With the written consent of the property owner, may be placed on private property.~~
 - ~~(f) With the written consent of the adjacent property owner may be placed within the state highway right of way.~~
 - ~~(2) One of the identified organizations shall commit to the Town to be responsible for erecting and maintaining the sign in good condition.~~
- ~~K. Community sponsored event sign. Notwithstanding the prohibition of off-site signs as set forth in this article, one community sponsored event sign is permitted at, or near, each of the north and south entrances to the Town along Talbot Street.~~
- ~~(1) A community sponsored event sign:
 - ~~(a) Shall be freestanding and permanent, and compatible in design, size, height, material and lighting with the existing "Welcome to St. Michaels" sign.~~
 - ~~(2) Shall display the St. Michaels logo.~~
 - ~~(3) May include up to three interchangeable signs, each of the same shape and size. Each individual sign shall identify the name of the event, the location, times and dates and any other information visitors would find useful, provided it does not become too cluttered for the average motorist, passing at the posted speed limit, to read easily.~~
 - ~~(4) Prior to the placement of the individual event signs, review and approval shall be obtained from the Commissioners or their designated assignee.~~
 - ~~(5) With the written consent of the property owner, may be placed on private property.~~~~

~~(6) With the written consent of the adjacent property owner may be placed within the state highway right of way.~~

~~(2) Identification of the person(s) and or organizations or groups responsible for the erection and maintenance of the sign shall be approved by the Commissioners prior to the issuance of the required zoning certificate.~~

K. Residential development, subdivision, or apartment complex (name only) signage. Such signage shall be limited to twenty-four (24) square feet of sign structure area and a maximum height of four (4) feet above the ground and shall be setback a minimum of four (4) feet from all property lines.

L. Office/business park signage.

(1) A freestanding sign identifying the several occupants of a business/office park. The sign structure area shall not exceed fifty-five (55) square feet (per side) in area, the top of which is not more than six (6) feet above ground level, and which contains only the physical address of the property, the name of the office/business park and the names of the several businesses conducted on the premises whereon such sign is located. The area (per side) of the sign face devoted to identifying the physical address and name of the office/business park shall not exceed ten (10) square feet, not including the sign background. The area (per side) of the sign devoted to identifying the names of the several occupants of the office/business park shall not exceed eighteen (18) square feet, including the sign background. The area of the freestanding sign devoted to identifying the occupants of the office/business park shall identify such occupants by the use of common sign shape, background color, lettering color, and lettering font. No sign, sign structure or part thereof shall be located so as to obstruct or conflict with traffic sight lines or traffic control signs or signals. No sign shall be internally illuminated, flashing, intermittent, rotating or another animated type, nor may tend to blind or distract motorists, nor may shine directly into any dwelling, nor when visible from navigable waters may resemble an aid to navigation. The location of the sign shall be within the office/business park and indicated on a site plan as required for approval. Each occupant within an office/business park shall be allowed one sign attached to the front of said occupant's unit not to exceed four (4) square feet in area, which shall be of common dimension, shape, background color and lettering color for each occupant.

(2) A landscaping plan shall be submitted for the freestanding sign for approval by the Planning Commission.

~~N. Attraction/designation directional signs in the Maritime Museum (MM) Zone.~~

~~(1) Freestanding signs not to exceed three (3) within seventy five (75) feet of a public way, which signs identify the various offerings of the museum.~~

- ~~(2) Each sign can have no more than two planes of any shape and no more than fifty (50) square feet on one side of any plane. The top of the sign shall not be more than eight (8) feet above ground level.~~
- ~~(3) Sign material shall be consistent with the structures within proximity to the sign.~~
- ~~(4) The location of the sign(s) shall be within the attraction area, on privately owned property, and indicated on a site plan as required for approval.~~
- ~~(5) A landscape plan for each sign within seventy five (75) feet of a public way is to be submitted as part of the building permit application.~~

M. Joint Tenant Sign. The Planning Commission may approve a master sign plan for one or more joint tenant signs for the properties/tenants located in the HR district subject to the following:

- (1) All property owners in the HR district are signatures on the application;**
- (2) All signs are located within the HR district;**
- (3) Signs shall be of integrated and uniform design and the area devoted to identifying the occupants of the district shall identify such occupants by the use of common sign shape, background color, lettering color, and lettering font;**
- (4) No more than one (1) sign panel not to exceed two (2) square feet in area is permitted for each tenant business;**
- (5) The Planning Commission must approve signs placement;**
- (6) Signs contain no advertising copy;**
- (7) No sign, sign structure or part thereof shall be located so as to obstruct or conflict with traffic sight lines or traffic control signs or signals; and**
- (8) Signs may only be indirectly illuminated in a manner approved by the Planning Commission.]**

~~§ 340-162. Temporary signage.~~

~~A. Commercial public event signs.~~

- ~~(1) Commercial directional or informational signs advertising events shall:
 - ~~(a) Not exceed ten (10) square feet in area per side, with a maximum of two sides;~~
 - ~~(b) Not be displayed more than seven (7) days prior to the event;~~~~

- ~~(c) Be removed not more than five (5) days after the event;~~
- ~~(d) Be limited to one (1) on premises sign per event; and~~
- ~~(e) Be limited to six (6) public event signs per calendar year.~~

~~(2) The maximum length of time for each permitted event shall not exceed twenty (20) days.~~

~~(3) Permit issuance.~~

- ~~(a) Prior to erecting a commercial public event sign, a permit shall be obtained for each sign.~~
- ~~(b) The application fee shall be that set out in the Administrative Fee Schedule approved by the Commissioners and amended from time to time.~~
- ~~(c) The Zoning Inspector shall issue the permit within three (3) days of receiving the application.~~
- ~~(d) Each day that a sign is erected in violation of this subsection is a violation of this chapter pursuant to Article XIV (Violations and Penalties).~~

~~B. Noncommercial public information event signs.~~

~~(1) Directional or informational signs advertising events sponsored by bona fide civic, nonprofit, charitable, or fraternal organizations shall:~~

- ~~(a) Not exceed ten (10) square feet in area;~~
- ~~(b) Be considered temporary;~~
- ~~(c) Not be displayed more than seven (7) days prior to the event, and~~
- ~~(d) Be removed not more than five (5) days after the event.~~

~~(2) The number of signs shall be limited to three (3) per event.~~

~~(3) Only in the case where an applicant does not have fixed premises from which to operate, a public information event sign may be erected as an off premises sign on private property with the written permission of the property owner.~~

~~(4) Permit issuance.~~

- ~~(a) Prior to erecting a noncommercial public event sign, a permit shall be obtained for each sign.~~

~~(b) The application fee shall be that set out in the Administrative Fee Schedule approved by the Commissioners and amended from time to time.~~

~~(c) The Zoning Inspector shall issue the permit within three (3) days of receiving the application.~~

~~(d) Each day that a sign is erected in violation of this subsection is a violation of this chapter pursuant to Article XIV (Violations and Penalties).~~

~~(5) Length of event. The maximum length of time for display by any party or any group of parties of noncommercial public event signs is 120 days in any one year period.~~

~~C. On site portable sidewalk signs. The purpose of such temporary signage is to offer businesses an opportunity to provide notice of sales or specials to those persons traveling on the public sidewalks. [Amended 4-24-2014 by Ord. No. 452]~~

~~(1) Portable sidewalk sign: a freestanding or temporarily affixed wall-mounted sign which offers a visual indicator of merchandise offered for sale within a commercial business. Such signage may only be displayed during business hours. Proof of permit issuance must be affixed to the sign. [Amended 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]~~

~~(2) Appearance.~~

~~(a) The above identified signs must be constructed of materials that present a finished appearance (rough-cut plywood prohibited).~~

~~(b) Sign frames shall be painted or stained wood, composite materials, anodized aluminum or other metal.~~

~~(c) Windblown devices, including balloons, may not be attached or otherwise made part of the sign.~~

~~(d) Signs may not be illuminated or have any moving parts.~~

~~(e) Signs shall have a writing surface that allows a business to write a message in wet or dry erasable markers or chalk.~~

~~(f) Such sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet per side. [Added 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]~~

~~(g) Such signs are limited to one portable sidewalk sign per business or leasable tenant space, whichever is less. [Added 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]~~

~~(h) The one permitted portable sidewalk sign shall be placed on the privately owned portion of a property and shall not obstruct a public way (sidewalk or roadway) for any reason. [Added 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]~~

~~D. Festival or community sponsored functions.~~

~~(1) The Commissioners of St. Michaels recognize that there are functions conducted in the municipality that contribute to the small-time charm and character of the Town that may require signage not specifically set forth in this chapter. Applicants for such functions shall submit a request to the Commissioners [**Planning Commission**] for their consideration and approval which contains the following information:~~

- ~~(1) The type of function.~~
- ~~(2) The duration of the function.~~
- ~~(3) Those businesses and organizations sponsoring the function.~~
- ~~(4) The number, type and location of proposed signage.~~

~~(2) A temporary sign permit may be authorized only upon the favorable findings of the Commissioners [**Planning Commission**].~~

****NOTE: Should the Commissioners be the approving authority for any sign?**

~~E. Charitable fundraising activities or special events for which signage is proposed to be located on utility poles. [Added 4-23-2014 by Ord. No. 444[11]]~~

~~(1) The Commissioners of St. Michaels recognize that there are charitable fundraising activities or special events conducted in the municipality that support community needs and benefit from signage, not specifically addressed in this chapter. Such events and community-sponsored functions may, but do not necessarily, include fundraising or other charitable events.~~

~~(2) The Commissioners, in order to continue their support of these unique fundraising activities or special events, are requiring the applicants to provide the following for their review:~~

- ~~(a) Completed application providing:~~
 - ~~(i) The applicant's address and contact information. The fundraising organization must be a nonprofit or be sponsored by a nonprofit or the Town.~~
 - ~~(ii) If applicable, the name, address, and contact information of the sponsor.~~
 - ~~(iii) The name, address, and contact information of individual(s) responsible for posting of the signs.~~
 - ~~(iv) The type of activity and purpose.~~

- ~~(v) The number, type and location of proposed signage. Individual signs cannot exceed four (4) square feet (576 square inches). No portion of the sign shall be less than eight (8) feet off the ground.~~
 - ~~(vi) Acknowledgment that signs will not contain advertising. The name of a business can be used, but no advertising for a business is permitted.~~
 - ~~(viii) Acknowledgment that signs will not contain negative or inflammatory messages.~~
 - ~~(b) Documentation that the fundraising organization is a nonprofit or is sponsored by a nonprofit or the Town. Fundraising, which may include fundraising for a specific cause, must benefit the local community.~~
 - ~~(c) The applicant shall acknowledge that he or she and the group or organization that he or she represents shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Maryland Solicitations Act. [2] [2] — Editor's Note: See Title 6 of the Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.~~
 - ~~(d) Dates on which the signs will be installed and the date of removal. Such signage will only be permitted on utility poles along Talbot Street during the months of September through April, with the following limitations:
 - ~~(i) Promotion of a specific event for twenty one (21) days prior to the event with removal forty eight (48) hours after the event.~~
 - ~~(ii) Fundraising activities unrelated to a specific event for no more than thirty (30) days or at the discretion of the Commissioners.~~
 - ~~(iii) Permits may be applied for beginning on December 1 for the next calendar year~~~~
 - ~~(3) Permit approval will be at the sole discretion of the Commissioners.~~
- ~~F. Vertical banners. The Commissioners of St. Michaels shall consider, and approve, if found appropriate, the placement of vertical banners for the purpose of displaying artwork and festival information. Said banners shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area, shall not extend more than three (3) feet from the structure on which they are mounted and have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above grade of the public way.~~
- ~~G. Commercial banners:~~
- ~~(1) No more than one banner announcing the grand opening of a new business within the Town. Any such sign must be erected on the day of the official opening of the business and shall be removed within seven days of said opening. Only the words "Grand Opening" shall be permitted to appear on such a banner.~~

~~(2) No more than one banner announcing the closing of a business within the Town. Such sign may be erected up to thirty (30) days prior to the closing of the business and shall be removed within forty eight (48) hours of the closing of this business. Only the words "Going Out Of Business" shall be permitted to appear on such a banner. A going out of business banner may only be erected one time per business.~~

§ 340-162. Temporary Signs.

[Temporary signs are permitted in all districts provided such signs are located on private property unless otherwise allowed in this subsection, displayed for no more than thirty (30) consecutive days at one time, and comply with the following regulations.]

A. Political Signs

- (1) May not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area.**
- (2) May be erected, posted or displayed two (2) months before the election for which the candidate has filed.**
- (3) Shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election.**
- (4) Shall not be illuminated.**

B. Special Sales Signs

- (1) Be limited to one (1) on-premises sign per event.**
- (2) Shall be limited to five (5) events or sales in one calendar year on the same lot.**
- (3) May be erected, posted, or displayed seven (7) days before the event or sale.**
- (4) Shall be removed within five (5) days after the conclusion of the event or sale.**
- (5) Shall not exceed ten (10) square feet.**
- (6) Be limited to six (6) public event signs per the calendar year.**
- (7) The maximum length of time for each permitted event shall not exceed twenty (20) days.**

C. Public Events

Temporary signs for events approved by the Town Commissioners as provided in Chapter 250 of the Code of St. Michaels shall comply with the following:

- (1) Shall accompany any permit applications as provided in Chapter 250 of the Code of St. Michaels.**
- (2) No more than three (3) temporary signs are permitted.**
- (3) Individual signs cannot exceed four (4) square feet.**
- (5) No portion of the sign shall be less than eight (8) feet off the ground.**
- (6) Signs may be placed twenty-one (21) days before the event.**
- (7) All signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the event.**
- (8) Signs will not contain advertising. The name of a business can be used, but no advertising for a business is permitted.**

D. Commercial banners:

- (1) No more than one (1) banner announcing the grand opening of a new business within the Town. Any such sign must be erected on the day of the official opening of the business and shall be removed within seven (7) days of said opening. Only the words "Grand Opening" shall be permitted to appear on such a banner.**
- (2) No more than one (1) banner announcing the closing of a business within the Town. Such sign may be erected up to thirty (30) days before the closing of the business and shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours of the closing of this business. Only the words "Going Out of Business" shall be permitted to appear on such a banner. A going-out-of-business banner may only be erected one (1) time per business.**

- E. Vertical banners. The Commissioners of St. Michaels shall consider, and approve if found appropriate, the placement of vertical banners to display artwork and festival information. Said banners shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area, shall not extend more than three (3) feet from the structure on which they are mounted and have a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above the grade of the public way.]**

§ 340-163. Limited Duration Signs

[A. Limited duration signs, as defined in this Section, located on private property, are subject to the regulations set forth below. Limited Duration signs that comply with the requirements in this subsection shall not be included in the determination of the type, number, or area of signs allowed on a property. Unless otherwise stated below, the requirements listed below shall apply to both commercial and non-commercial signs.

B. Size and Number.

(1) Non-Residential Zones

- (a) Large Limited Durations Signs: One (1) large freestanding, window or wall limited duration sign is permitted per property in all non-residential zones. Each large limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of sixteen (16) square feet. Freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.**
- b. Small Limited Duration Signs: In addition to the large freestanding, window or wall limited duration sign(s) outlined above, one (1) small limited duration sign is permitted per property in all nonresidential zones. Each small limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) square feet. Freestanding signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.**

2. Residential Zones

- (a) Limited Duration Sign: One (1) small freestanding, window, or wall limited duration sign is permitted per property. Each small limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) square feet. Freestanding signs shall have a maximum height of four (6) feet and shall be setback a minimum of four (4) feet from all property lines.**

C. Permit Requirements.

- (1) A permit for a limited duration sign is issued for one (1) year and may be renewed annually.**
- (2) One (1) sign is allowed per permit.**

D. Installation and Maintenance.

- (1) All limited duration signs must be installed such that in the opinion of the Zoning Inspector, they do not create a safety hazard.**
- (2) All limited duration signs must be made of durable materials and shall be well-maintained.**
- (3) Limited duration signs that are frayed, torn, broken, or that are no longer legible will be deemed unmaintained and required to be removed.**

E. Illumination of any limited duration sign is prohibited.]

§ 340-164. Portable Signs

[Freestanding or temporarily affixed wall-mounted portable signs are permitted subject to the following:

A. The sign location complies with the provisions of Chapter 285 of the St. Michaels Code.

B. General Provisions.

- (1) Illumination of any portable sign is prohibited.**
- (2) Signs shall not be displayed on any premises before 6:00 AM and shall be removed each day at or before 10:00 PM. However, all portable signs must be taken in during hours of non-operation of the business being advertised.**
- (3) As appropriate, portable signs shall be weighted, temporarily secured, or strategically placed to avoid being carried away by high winds.**
- (4) Proof of permit issuance must be affixed to the sign. [Amended 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]**
- (5) Portable signs shall be placed on the privately owned portion of a property and shall not obstruct a public way (sidewalk or roadway) for any reason. [Added 12-9-2015 by Ord. No. 467]**

C. Sandwich Board or A-frame Signs. Sandwich board signs that comply with the requirements in this sub-section shall not be included in the determination of the type, number, or area of signs allowed on a property.

- (1) Number: One (1) sandwich board sign is permitted per business or leasable tenant space, whichever is less.**
- (2) Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) square feet per sign face.**
- (3) Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of three and one-half (3.5) feet.**
- (4) Sign Placement.**
 - (a) If a sign is located on a public or private sidewalk, a minimum of thirty-six (36) inches of unobstructed sidewalk clearance must be maintained between the sign and any building or other obstruction.**
 - (b) The sign must be located on the premises, and within twelve (12) feet of the primary public entrance of the establishment, it advertises. For this subsection, a public entrance includes a vehicular entrance into a parking garage or parking lot.**

D. Manual Changeable Copy.

- (1) Manual changeable copy signs are permitted when integrated into a sandwich board sign.**

- (2) **Commercial messages must advertise only goods and services available on the premises.]**

E. Appearance Standards.

- (1) **Signs must be constructed of materials that present a finished appearance (rough-cut plywood prohibited).**
- (2) **Sign frames shall be painted or stained wood, composite materials, anodized aluminum or other metal.**
- (3) **Windblown devices, including balloons, may not be attached or otherwise made part of the sign.**
- (4) **Signs may not be illuminated or have any moving parts.**
- (5) **Signs shall have a writing surface that allows a business to write a message in wet or dry erasable markers or chalk.]**

§ 340-165. Off-premises signs.

When the property has no direct access to a Town street and is located adjacent to Maryland Route 33 it shall be permitted an off-premises sign, conditioned upon the following:

- A. The purpose of the sign is to provide notice to the public of the entrance to the lot;
- B. The lot is at least seventy-five (75) feet in width;
- C. There is an existing vehicular entrance to the lot across the state highway right-of-way, and the sign is to provide notice of that entrance to motor vehicle operators;
- D. The lot boundary that abuts the state highway right-of-way is more than twenty (20) feet from the nearest edge of the existing paved state highway shoulder located in that state highway right-of-way;
- E. Written permission has been granted by the State Highway Administration for the placement of the sign in the state highway right-of-way; and
- F. Public safety and the free flow of traffic on the state highway would be benefited by the sign.
- G. Compliance with all other provisions and restrictions relating to freestanding signs shall apply.

§ 340-164. Prohibited signs.

- ~~A. No sign shall be permitted to be placed on any public way, including sidewalks.~~

- ~~B. Pennants, banners, streamers, and all fluttering, spinning, or similar type signs that are advertising devices are prohibited, except those uses approved by The Commissioners of St. Michaels.~~
- ~~C. Signs advertising an activity, business, product or service no longer conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located is prohibited.~~
- ~~D. Marquee signs.~~
- ~~E. Blackboard and portable signs, unless otherwise noted.~~
- ~~F. All signs not specifically allowed under the provisions of this chapter are prohibited.~~

§ 340-166. Prohibited Signs

[The following signs are unlawful and prohibited:

- A. Abandoned signs.**
- B. Snipe signs. Signs shall only be attached to utility poles in conformance with state and utility regulations and the requirements of this Chapter.**
- C. Vehicular signs. This regulation does not include the use of business logos, identification or advertising on vehicles primarily and actively used for business purposes and/or personal transportation.**
- D. Mechanical movement signs, including revolving signs.**
- E. Pennant strings and streamers.**
- F. Animated signs, flashing signs, or signs that scroll or flash text or graphics.**
- G. Inflatable devices or balloon signs, except balloons used in temporary, non-commercial situations.**
- H. Any signs that imitate, resemble, interfere with or obstruct official traffic lights, signs, or signals.**
- I. Signs which prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, fire escape, or that prevent free access from one part of a roof to any other part. No sign other than a safety sign shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.**
- J. Signs which emit smoke, visible vapors, particulate matter, sound, odor or contain open flames.**
- K. Reflective signs or signs containing mirrors.**

- L. Interactive signs.**
- M. Signs incorporating beacon or festoon lighting.**
- N. Any banner or sign of any type suspended across a public street, without the permission of the owner of the property and road.**
- O. Roof signs.**
- P. Signs erected without the permission of the property owner, except those authorized or required by local, state, or federal government.**
- Q. Any sign containing information which states or implies that a property may be used for any purpose not permitted under the provisions of the St. Michaels Zoning Ordinance.**
- R. Signs that exhibit statements, words, or pictures of obscene or pornographic subjects as determined by St. Michaels.**
- S. Any sign that promotes illegal activity.]**

§ 340-167. Historic District Commission review.

Before the issuance of a permit for the erection of a sign in the Historic District, a historic review certificate must be obtained. The salient factor to be considered in granting a historic review certificate for a sign in the Historic District is that the sign is compatible with the character of the building and its contents.

§ 340-168. Unsafe signs.

If the Zoning Inspector determines any sign to be unsafe, insecure, or a menace to the public, he/she shall provide written notice to the sign owner describing the unsafe conditions determined and required remedial actions. The sign owner shall have three (3) days from receipt of the notice to complete required remedial actions. If the unsafe condition of the sign is not corrected within the stated three-day period, the Zoning Inspector is at this moment authorized to remove the unsafe sign at the expense of the owner.

§ 340-167. Exemptions.

~~The following signs are exempt from the provisions of these regulations and may be erected or constructed without a permit, but in accord with the structural and safety requirements of applicable codes.~~

- ~~A. [Government/Regulatory Signs including] official traffic signs or sign structures and provisional warning signs or sign structures, legal notices, identification, information or directional signs, when erected or required to be erected by a governmental agency, and temporary signs indicating danger.~~
- ~~B. Non illuminated signs not to exceed one (1) square foot per sign warning trespassers or announcing property as posted.~~
- ~~C. Private signs directing vehicular and pedestrian traffic movement onto a premises or within a premises only, not to include advertising, not exceeding two (2) square feet in area for each sign.~~
- ~~D. Rental signs. One sign on the premises announcing apartment or house for rent and not exceeding two (2) square feet in area.~~
- ~~E. Temporary, non illuminated paper signs in show windows. Said signs shall not collectively or individually cover more than 50% of the transparent portion of the window or door to which they are attached.~~
- ~~F. Temporary non illuminated signs, not more than six (6) square feet in area, advertising real estate for sale or lease or announcing contemplated improvements of real estate, and located on the premises, one such sign for each street frontage.~~
- ~~G. Temporary non illuminated signs, not more than ten (10) square feet in area, erected in connection with new construction work and displayed on the premises during such time as the actual construction work is in progress, one such sign for each street frontage.~~
- ~~H. Signs on vehicles of any kind, provided the sign is painted or attached directly to the body of the original vehicle and does not project or extend beyond the original manufactured body proper of the vehicle.~~
- ~~I. A temporary sign displaying a political, religious or other noncommercial message.~~
- ~~J. Open flags. Each permitted commercial operation may display one flag bearing, but not limited to, the word "open" or "welcome"; such flag shall not exceed three (3) feet by five (5) feet in dimension and must be flown so that the lowest portion clears the public way by at least eight (8) feet.~~
- ~~K. Signage devices which include but are not limited to QR codes, which provide a simple connection between real life environments, demonstrating the historic significance of the site and the ability to enhance a visitor's experience via rich media on a mobile device. Such signage may be placed within public ways conditioned on receiving approval of such placement or content from the Commissioners of St. Michaels and that the size of such signage shall not exceed eight (8) inches by eight(8) inches. The color of the brick is to be~~

~~consistent with existing brick and with lettering to be a contrasting color. [Added 4-10-2013 by Ord. No. 440]~~

§ 340-169. Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements.

[The following signs shall be allowed without a sign permit and shall not be included in the determination of the type, number, or area of permanent signs allowed within a zoning district, provided such signs comply with the regulations in this section if any.]

- A. Official traffic signs.**
- B. Government/regulatory signs, including wayfaring signs.**
- C. Signs inside a building, or other enclosed facility, which are not meant to be viewed from the outside, and are located greater than three (3) feet from the window.**
- D. Holiday and seasonal decorations.**
- E. Personal expression signs of any sign type, including flags, provided that they do not exceed three (3) square feet in area per side, are non-commercial, and not illuminated.**
- F. Address signs - Up to two (2) signs stating address, number, and name of occupants of the premises and do not include any commercial advertising or other identification.**
 - 1. Residential districts. Signs not to exceed three (3) square feet in area.**
 - 2. Non-residential districts. Signs not to exceed five (5) square feet in area.**
- G. Public signs - Signs erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification or directional signs for public facilities.**
- H. Signs or emblems of a religious, civic, philanthropic, historical or educational organization that do not to exceed four (4) square feet in area.**
- I. Private drive signs - Private signs directing vehicular and pedestrian traffic movement onto a premise or within a premise only, not to include advertising, not exceeding two (2) square feet in area for each sign.**
- J. Security and warning signs - Non-illuminated signs not to exceed one (1) square foot per sign warning.**
- K. Flags:**
 - (1) Location. Flags and flagpoles shall not be located within any right-of-way. Height. Flags shall have a maximum height of thirty (30) feet.**

(2) Number. No more than two (2) flags per lot in residential districts, no more than three (3) flags per lot in all other districts.

(3) Size. Maximum flag size is twenty-four (24) square feet in residential districts, thirty-five (35) square feet in all other districts.

(4) Flags containing commercial messages are as permitted freestanding or projecting signs, and, if so used, the area of the flag shall be included in, and limited by the computation of allowable area for signs on the property.

(5) Flags up to three (3) square feet containing noncommercial messages are considered personal expression signs and are regulated in accordance with subsection E.

L. Legal notices.

M. Vending machine signs.

N. Memorial signs, public monument or historical identification sign erected by the Town of St. Michaels, including plaque signs up to three (3) square feet.

O. Signs which are a permanent architectural feature of a building or structure, existing at the time of adoption of this ordinance.

P. Incidental signs, including incidental window signs.

Q. Directional signs, provided they do not contain any commercial messaging.

1. Area. No single directional sign shall exceed four (4) square feet.

2. Height. Directional signs shall have a maximum height of five (5) feet.

3. Illumination. Directional signs shall be non-illuminated.

L. Art and murals, provided such signs do not contain any commercial messaging.

M. Temporary signs in accordance with §340-162 Temporary Signs.

O. Each permitted commercial operation may display one flag bearing, but not limited to, the word “open” or “welcome”; such flag shall not exceed three (3) feet by five (5) feet in dimension and must be flown so that the lowest portion clears the public way by at least eight (8) feet.

P. Signage devices which include but are not limited to QR codes, which provide a simple connection between real-life environments, demonstrating the historic significance of the site and the ability to enhance a visitor's experience via rich media on a mobile device. Such signage may be placed within public ways conditioned on receiving

approval of such placement or content from the Commissioners of St. Michaels and that the size of such signage shall not exceed eight (8) inches by eight (8) inches.

Q. Freestanding signs located on the interior of an institutional site used to identify public facilities, on-site traffic direction, hours of operation, and other information.

R. Real Estate Signs.

(1) One (1) real estate sign may be erected or displayed on the property advertised plus two (2) temporary, off-premises "open/house" real estate signs no more than two (2) square feet in area, offering real estate for sale. Signs may only be in place on the day of the open house.

(2) Real Estate signs shall not be illuminated.

(3) On-premise signs shall be removed within five (5) days after the deed has been recorded for the sale, or lease signed for the rental of property.

(4) On-premise signs shall not exceed the following maximum size areas:

(a) Residential Uses six (6) square feet in area.

(b) Commercial Uses twenty-four (24) square feet in area.

§ 340-170. Abandoned signs.

- A. To prevent blight in established communities, diminution of property values and hazards of personal injury or damage to adjacent properties, the provisions of this subsection shall be construed, to the greatest extent possible, to require the removal of abandoned signs at the earliest possible moment.
- B. A public event sign is considered abandoned on the seventh consecutive day following the conclusion of the event or activity to which it pertains.
- C. An abandoned sign shall be removed by the owner of the premises or the owner of the sign if different from the owner of the premises.
- D. If an abandoned sign is not removed, it shall be considered litter. Any person who shall commit the prohibited act of littering as set forth in Chapter 243. Property Maintenance and Littering, of the Town Code, shall be guilty of a municipal infraction, and subject to the procedures set forth in Chapter 33 Municipal Infractions

§ 340-171. Nonconforming Signs.

- A. Signs legally in existence at the time of the adoption of this Ordinance, which do not conform to the requirements of this Ordinance, shall be considered nonconforming signs.

- B. All permanent signs and sign structures shall be brought into conformance with the sign regulations when and if the following occurs:
- (1) The sign is removed, relocated, or significantly altered. Significant alterations include changes in the size or dimension of the sign. Changes to the sign copy or the replacement of a sign face on a nonconforming sign shall not be considered a significant alteration.
 - (2) If more than 50% of the sign area is damaged, it shall be repaired to conform to this Ordinance.
 - (3) An alteration in the structure of a sign support.
 - (4) A change in the material of the sign face.
 - (5) The property on which the nonconforming sign is located submits a subdivision or land development application requiring municipal review and approval.
 - (6) The property on which the nonconforming sign is located undergoes a change of land use requiring the issuance of either a use and occupancy permit or a change of use and occupancy permit.
- C. Prior to the events listed in §340-171.B., nonconforming signs may be repainted or repaired up to 50% of the replacement cost of the sign, the sign copy may be changed, and sign faces may be replaced provided that these actions do not increase the dimensions of the existing sign, and do not in any way increase the extent of the sign's non-conformity.

[§ 340-172. Signs on the Premises of Legally Nonconforming Uses.

- A. Signs on the premises of legally nonconforming uses (such as an office in a residential area) may remain until the existing use of the premises is discontinued.**
- B. If a sign wears out or is damaged (including rust, faded colors, discoloration, holes, or missing parts or informational items), or is changed for any other reason, the number, size, and area of all signs relating to the premises shall not be increased beyond the characteristics of the sign or signs that existed on that property at the time this Article was adopted.**

§ 340-173. Violations.

- A. The placement of a sign that requires a sign permit without a sign permit shall be unlawful. Violations of this Chapter shall be treated as strict liability offences regardless of intent.**
- B. Violators shall be subject to the penalty provisions of Article XVIII.]**

§ 340-174. Reserved.