

## 11.8 Additional Sign Types

### A. Temporary Signs

1. Establishments/Businesses may obtain a temporary sign permit for either **one** (1) banner or bandit sign (“stick-in-the-ground” sign) not to exceed 32 square feet in size. A temporary permit shall be valid for 30 days. A maximum of four (4) temporary permits will be issued per calendar year to any given business. A temporary sign must be placed either on the building wall or may be located along the street, provided that it is not located within any public right of way, nor in any sight visibility triangle. Portable magnetic letter signs are prohibited and are not an allowed form of temporary signage.

### B. Changeable Copy Signs (All Non-residential Districts)

1. Changeable Copy Signs, whether electronic or magnetic, are limited to 32 square feet. This square footage shall be included in the maximum allowed size of the sign
2. Electronic message board signs cannot scroll text or be animated and the text copy may not change more than once every ten (10) seconds. However, this provision shall not prohibit signs with an alternating display of time or temperature.

## 11.9 Signs Not Requiring a Permit

The following types of signs are exempt from permit requirements and may be placed in any zoning district subject to the provisions of this Ordinance. These signs shall not be counted as part of the allowable sign area. There shall be no limit as to the number of such signs on any lot, except as herein prescribed. All such signs (except government signs) shall be located outside a street right-of-way unless otherwise granted permission for such location by the Town of Fletcher or NCDOT.

- A. **Private Information Signs:** Signs containing information to direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic or informing the public of private regulations shall be located on the premises for which directions or information are indicated. Such signs, shall not exceed three square feet per face, two faces per sign, and shall not exceed three feet in height if free-standing or six feet in height if attached to the principal or an accessory structure. These signs may be indirectly or directly illuminated.
- B. **Copy Changes and Maintenance:** No permit is required for copy changes made to a changeable copy sign, menu board or marquee sign. No permit is required for maintenance carried out in accordance with the provisions in Section 11.13 and where no structural changes are made.
- C. **Residential Identification Signs:** Signs which provide the name and/or address of an individual residence, either attached or detached, indirectly or non-illuminated, provided no sign shall exceed 2 square feet in size per sign face.

- D. Real Estate Signs in Residential Districts:** One real estate sign, not exceeding four square feet per sign face area shall be permitted per street frontage. Real estate signs for property over three acres shall comply with the standards for business, commercial or industrial real estate signs.
- E. Real Estate Signs in Business, Commercial or Manufacturing Districts:** Real Estate signs shall be permitted on the premises for sale, rent or lease. Such sign shall be non- illuminated, not exceed 32 sq. ft. in area per sign face and, if freestanding, shall not exceed eight feet in height.
- F. Off-Premise Directional Signs:** Such signs shall not exceed four square feet in area and 6 feet in height and shall not be illuminated. Such signs shall not be in the right-of-way and shall require the consent of the property owner on whose property the sign is placed.
- G. Property Identification Signs:** Signs bearing only property identification numbers and names, post office box numbers, names of occupants of the premises on which the signs are located, or other identification of premises not of a commercial nature, provided such signs are not illuminated and do not exceed 2 per lot nor 2 square feet in sign area.
- H. Temporary Sidewalk Signs:** Temporary sidewalk signs are allowable during business hours. Only one such sign is allowed per business. The sign size shall not exceed six (6) square feet. Signs shall be placed so as to maintain clear pedestrian access of the sidewalk. A minimum of 5 feet in width is required, otherwise, the sign cannot be placed on the sidewalk.. The sign shall not be located within any sight visibility triangle of any driveway or street intersection.

### 11.10 Signs Exempt from Regulations

The following signs are exempt from the regulations of this ordinance, except where such sign would be prohibited under Section 11.11.

- A.** Signs not visible beyond the boundaries of the property on which they are located.
- B.** Signs of a governmental body, including traffic warning or regulatory signs and devices. These signs shall also include other governmental signs including building identification, directional, information, and welcome signs.
- C.** Signs of Civic Organizations (ie. Rotary, Lions Club, etc.) provided that such signs do not exceed two (2) square feet and six feet in height. Such signs shall be placed at the entrance point where regular meetings occur. These signs may be placed in public right of way provided that an encroachment agreement is reached with the appropriate agency governing the right of way and that the signs are not located within any sight visibility triangle.
- D.** Trade names and graphics which are located on gas pumps, newspaper, soft drink and similar vending devices.
- E.** Flags, or insignia of any governmental, non-profit, or business organization.

- F. Seasonal/holiday signs and decorations associated with a national or religious holiday.
- G. Warning of danger signs posted by utility or construction companies.
- H. Signs on vehicles indicating the name of a business, unless the primary use of the vehicle is for the display of signs. Vehicles displaying signs must display a current and valid tag and must be parked in a designated parking space associated with the development. Such vehicles also may not be parked off-site for the purpose of displaying signage.
- I. Signs required by law, statute or ordinance.
- J. No trespassing, no loitering and similar private warning signs.
- K. Incidental signs.
- L. Commemorative signs.
- M. Special event signs and special event directional signs related to events sponsored by non-profit organizations, provided that the signs are not located within any sight visibility triangle nor in any public right of way, unless an encroachment agreement has been obtained with the appropriate agency.
- N. Political Signs.
- O. Construction site identification signs.

#### 11.11 Prohibited Signs

The following are prohibited within the jurisdiction of this ordinance:

- A. Any sign, which the Administrator determines, obstructs the view of bicyclists or motorists using any street, approach to any street intersection, or which interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures any traffic sign, device, or signal.
- B. Any non-governmental sign that resembles a public safety warning or traffic sign.
- C. Signs, whether temporary or permanent, within any public street or highway right-of-way, with the exception of governmental signage. Signs placed in any right of way are subject to immediate removal and disposal without notice.
- D. Flashing signs.
- E. Portable Signs
- F. Signs located on or attached to the roof of a structure that extend above the ridgeline or highest point of the building.
- G. Any sign or sign structure which does not conform to the building code.

- H. Abandoned signs not in conformance with the height, size or location requirements of this ordinance.
- I. Off-premise advertising signs.
- J. Off-premise, detached (free standing) signs except off premise directional signs as allowed in Section 11.9
- K. Strobe, rotating, pulsating, flashing, or blinking signs.
- L. Billboards or poster panels.
- M. **Signs Prohibited in the CBD District only:**
  - 1. Transluminous signs

### 11.12 Sign Illumination

- A. Freestanding, monument, and wall signs may be illuminated.
- B. All sign illumination shall be provided by a continuous light source that is installed to illuminate only those objects or features to which it is directed with minimum spillover onto the street, sidewalk, or adjacent properties. Flashing, pulsating, blinking, or alternating lights shall not be used, including electronic message board signs which scroll or are animated. However, this provision shall not prohibit signs with an alternating display of time or temperature.
- C. No sign within 100 linear feet of a pre-existing residential structure may be illuminated between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. A residence shall be deemed "pre-existing" for purposes of this Article if it has a valid building permit in effect for construction of said structure or if construction of said structure was complete on or prior to the effective date of this provision.
- D. High intensity light sources that produce excessive glare shall be prohibited.
- E. All lighting shall be in accordance with Article 10.

### 11.13 Sign Maintenance

- A. **Maintenance Provisions:** All signs, supports, braces, poles, wires and other appurtenances of signs or sign structures shall be kept in good repair, maintained in safe condition, and shall conform to the following standards:
  - 1. A sign shall be in a state of disrepair when more than twenty percent (20%) of its total surface area is covered with disfigured, cracked, ripped or peeling paint or poster paper, or any combination of these conditions. Any sign in a state of disrepair shall be considered in violation of this ordinance.