

**SECTION 2006      GENERAL REGULATIONS**

The following regulations shall apply to all districts:

- A. No sign shall be erected within any street right-of-way, except official traffic signs and similar regulatory notices or historical markers of a duly constituted governmental body.
- B. No sign having a distracting effect on motorists on adjacent highways shall be permitted, including flashing signs and those which move, oscillate, or rotate, and those which contain reflective elements which flutter or sparkle and convey the impression of movement.
- C. No sign shall be erected so as to obstruct free and clear vision of any intersection, driveway, parking lot entrance or exit, or traffic control device.
- D. No sign shall be erected which uses an artificial light or reflecting device which may be mistaken for a traffic signal or which contains red, green or amber illumination.
- E. No sign shall be erected or maintained so as to prevent free ingress and egress from any door, window, or fire escape.
- F. No sign shall be erected which emits smoke, visible vapors or particles, sound or odor.
- G. No sign shall be erected containing information which implies that a property may be used for any purpose not permitted under the provisions of this Ordinance.
- H. No Business Sign shall be located nearer to a residence or a residential district line than permitted for buildings on the lot. If located nearer than fifty (50) feet and facing into a residence or a residential district, it shall be designed so as not to shine or reflect light upon such residence or district.
- I. No sign shall be illuminated except by concealed indirect lighting. Any illumination of signs in any district shall be so shielded that the source of light not be visible from any point off the lot on which the sign being illuminated is erected or from any adjacent vehicular access or street, and so that only the sign is illuminated thereby.
- J. Projecting, freestanding, or wall signs shall have a minimum clearance of ten (10) feet from the finished grade of any sidewalk or fourteen and one-half (14 1/2) feet above any parking area or drive. Wall signs mounted flush to a building may be located less than ten (10) feet from the finished grade of any sidewalk or fourteen and one-half (14 1/2) feet above any parking area or drive.

- K. No roof signs shall be permitted, and no part of any sign shall extend above the vertical building face or wall, such as the eaves line or the top of a parapet.
- L. All signs shall be constructed of durable materials and kept in good condition and repair, safe from hazards, nuisances and collapse. When any sign becomes dilapidated, structurally unsafe or endangers the public safety, or the safety of a building or premises, the Township shall give written notice to the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises on which the sign is located that such sign be made safe or removed within thirty (30) days. Should the remedy not occur within this time-frame, the Township shall remove the sign at the expense of the owner.
- M. If a use ceases for a period of six (6) months, signs advertising the ceased business, or businesses, must be removed by the owner of the property or the owner of the sign. Such signs may be removed by the Township at the expense of the owner if not removed within thirty (30) days of written notice to the owner.
- N. All signs shall be made a harmonious part of the architectural design and character of the buildings located on the same lot and of the district in which the sign is located.
- O. All signs shall be securely mounted or fastened to the building upon which they are erected or, if freestanding, must be securely and safely installed in the ground.
- P. No sign, except removable political signs and temporary removable yard or garage sale signs, and trespassing signs, shall be placed on any tree, utility pole, or upon natural features.
- Q. Outdoor Advertising Billboards may be permitted in the PC/LI Planned Commercial/ Limited Industrial District only as a special exception when authorized by the Zoning Hearing Board, subject to the standards of Section 2807 of this Ordinance and the following additional requirements:
  - 1. No such sign shall exceed thirty two (32) square feet in area.
  - 2. Only one (1) such sign shall be erected on any one property.
  - 3. No two structures containing an outdoor advertising billboard shall be spaced less than three hundred (300) feet apart.
  - 4. Only one (1) such sign shall be erected for any one business establishment or advertiser.
  - 5. No such sign shall exceed six (6) feet in height measured from original ground level prior to construction to the top of such sign.
  - 6. The business, commodity, service, or entertainment for which such sign

directs attention shall be located within West Vincent Township.

7. Written permission from the property owner on whose property the sign is located is required and a copy of such written permission shall be filed with the Township.
  8. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and/or Township sign permit is required where necessary.
- R. Off-Site Directional Signs shall be permitted in all districts, provided that the signs comply with the following requirements:
1. Such signs shall indicate only the name of the facility, organization or site and the direction or approximate distance to the facility.
  2. Such signs shall not exceed three (3) square feet in area.
  3. Only one (1) such sign shall be erected prior to each intersection turning movement necessary to reach such facility.
  4. No more than four (4) such signs shall be erected in the Township for each facility, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Supervisors.
  5. Written permission from the property owner is required.
  6. Temporary off-site directional signs directing persons to temporary exhibits or events, the sale of farm products (including, but not limited to, produce and Christmas trees), and signs erected in conjunction with a political election shall be subject to the following requirements:
    - a. No such sign exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.
    - b. Signs shall be removed within two (2) weeks after the date of the event or election.
    - c. No such sign shall be posted earlier than two (2) weeks prior to the occurrence of the event to which it relates, with the exception of political signs and signs advertising the sale of farm products which shall be posted not earlier than one (1) month prior to the event or season.
    - d. No permit shall be issued for the erection of such signs until a deposit shall be made with the Zoning Officer in accordance with a fee schedule adopted by the Board of Supervisors to guarantee removal within the time prescribed. Failure to comply shall result in the forfeiture of the deposit.

S. Banner signs shall be permitted only when erected for fifteen (15) days or less.

T. **Prohibited Signs**

1. Flashing, rotating, or revolving signs, with the exception of barberpoles.
2. Any sign suspended between poles and illuminated by a series of lights.
3. Any banner sign or sign of any other type across a public road or street or on any private property, except for such signs which are approved by the Board of Supervisors to be of general benefit to the municipality or for public convenience, necessity, or welfare.
4. Any sign suspended between poles which is either a pennant which blows in the wind or a spinner which spins in the wind.
5. Signs which contain, include, or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights, except where permitted those giving public service information such as time, date, temperature, weather, or similar information.

U. **Design Guidelines**

Although design and architectural style of signs are not specifically restricted, signs should observe the design guidelines contained in Appendix B of this Ordinance in order to maintain consistency with the surroundings and to ensure compatibility with the traditional rural character of the Township.

V. **Sign Plan and Schedule**

As part of any subdivision or land development plan as defined by the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, a sign plan and schedule shall be submitted and approved by the Board of Supervisors prior to final plan approval. If a sign plan or schedule has been revised after final plan approval or a sign is proposed which was not included as part of a sign plan or schedule, a new or revised sign plan and schedule shall be submitted to the Township and approved by the Zoning Officer prior to issuance of a sign permit.

**SECTION 2007      SIGN CALCULATIONS**

A. **Double-Faced Signs**

In computing the area of a double-face sign, only one side shall be considered, provided that both faces are identical. In "V" type signs or structures, the interior angle of which exceeds forty-five (45) degrees, both sides shall be considered in

computing the sign area.

B. **Distances**

All distances provided for in this Article shall be measured from the nearest edge of the sign or sign structure.

C. **Window Signs**

Any sign which is painted or mounted onto a window, or which is hung directly inside the window, shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the window area in which it is displayed. Permanent signs hung inside windows shall be made of clear materials with lettering painted or affixed to them.

D. **Freestanding Signs**.

The height of freestanding signs shall be measured from the ground level to the topmost portion of the sign structure.

**SECTION 2008      SIGN PERMITS, INSPECTION AND FEES**

A. **Permits**

A sign permit shall be required for all signs except those declared exempt in subsection E below. Such signs shall be subject to annual inspection, unless otherwise provided. All illuminated signs shall be in accordance with the National Electrical Code. Applications for sign permits shall be filed in triplicate and on forms furnished by the Township, and shall be accompanied by detailed plans and specifications and such other information deemed necessary by the Board of Supervisors to determine the location, details of construction, and illumination of such sign. All applications for sign permits shall be accompanied by the property owner's written consent if the property owner is not the owner of the sign.

B. **Annual Inspection**

All signs for which a permit is required may be subject to annual inspection by the Board of Supervisors. The fees for annual inspection shall be as established by resolution by the Board of Supervisors, and a certificate of inspection issued upon payment of the same.

C. **Temporary Sign Permits**

A temporary sign permit may be reissued for not more than one (1) successive three (3) month period. Display of temporary signs for more than three (3) months will require conversion to permanent sign status or shall be removed by the owner or applicant. The site or building on which the sign was erected shall be restored

to its original condition upon removal of the sign.

D. **Permit Fees**

No permit to erect a sign shall be issued until the appropriate fee has been paid to the Township in such amount as the Board of Supervisors shall establish by resolution.

E. **Exempt Signs**

No permit shall be required before erecting any of the following signs, provided they conform to all other provisions established in this Article.

1. Official traffic signs;
2. Public utility or service identification signs;
3. Trespassing signs;
4. Artisan signs;
5. Real estate signs;
6. Historic or memorial markers;
7. Temporary yard or garage sale signs;
8. Home occupation, professional, or nameplate signs;
9. Directional signs;
10. Business signs advertising the sale of farm products, except off-site directional signs, which shall comply with the permit requirements established in Section 2006R.6.d;
11. Identification signs for farms or estates.

