

DRAFT LOCAL LAW NO. ____ OF 2018

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BEACON**

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO
ADD SECTION 223-15 OF THE CODE OF THE
CITY OF BEACON**

A LOCAL LAW
to amend Section
223-15 of Code of
the City of
Beacon,
concerning sign
regulations.

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Beacon as follows:

Section 1. Section 223-15 of the Code of the City of Beacon entitled “Signs” is hereby created as follows:

§ 223-15 Signs.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare by regulating signs of all types within the City of Beacon. This section is intended to protect property values, create a more attractive economic and business climate, ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety, enhance and protect the physical appearance of the community and preserve the scenic and natural beauty of the City.
- B. Conformity required. No sign or billboard shall be erected, constructed, displayed, maintained, moved, reconstructed, extended, enlarged or altered, except in conformity with and expressly authorized by the provisions of this chapter.
- C. Permit required.
- (1) Unless specifically exempted from obtaining a permit under the provisions of this section, no person shall erect, construct, replace, relocate or structurally alter any sign within city without first obtaining a sign permit from the Building Inspector and paid required fee to the City Clerk. The repainting, repairing, changing of parts or sign facing, and maintenance of signs shall not require the issuance of a sign permit provided such maintenance, change or alteration does not in any way alter the physical size, design, or nature of the sign.
- (2) The Building Inspector or his duly authorized designee shall issue a permit within a reasonable period of time following receipt of a complete permit application:
- (3) Submission of a permit application shall be on a form issued by the Building

Department and the application fee shall be set forth in the City of Beacon Fee Schedule.

- (4) If a sign is not erected within six months following the issuance of a sign permit for said sign, the sign permit will automatically become void.

A.D. _____

~~B. Relationship to a permitted use. All signs must pertain to a use conducted on the same property on which they are located.~~

~~C. Signs in residence districts. In residence districts, the following signs are hereby authorized:~~

- ~~(1) One identification sign stating the name and address of the resident or property or the number of the lot, not exceeding one square foot in area.~~
- ~~(2) One identification sign announcing any profession or occupation permitted as an accessory use on the lot, not exceeding one square foot of area.~~
- ~~(3) For other permitted uses, one sign at each street frontage where the use has an access drive, provided that the total area of such sign does not exceed 50 square feet.~~
- ~~(4) Temporary signs in accordance with Subsection F below.~~
- ~~(5)(1) Interior signs displayed through windows shall not require a permit under this section, and said signs shall not count toward maximum number of signs affixed to a building per establishment. However, interior window signs affixed to or placed so as to be visible through a window shall be limited to the windows of the structure within which the permitted use is situated, facing the principal street giving access to such structure. The total amount of signage shall not exceed 30% of the total glass area. All signs shall be maintained in a legible, neat and orderly fashion.~~

E. Signs exempt from permit requirements

The following signs are exempt from the permit requirements of this section. Unless otherwise limited below such exempt sign shall not exceed four feet in height and shall not exceed six square feet in sign area per sign. Each exempt sign must comply with all other provisions of this section.

- (1) Any official sign, public notice, or warning sign supported by federal, state or local law, including but not limited to signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any government functions. There are no size requirements for governmental signs.
- (2) Direction signs that provide direction to pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists shall not require a sign permit.

- (3) One identification sign stating the name and address of the resident or property or the number of the lot, not exceeding one square foot in area.
- (4) **Interior signs**. The total amount of signage shall not exceed 30% of the total glass area.
- (5) Traffic control devices and other public safety signs on public streets and highways conforming to the Uniform Manual for Traffic Control Devices;
- (6) Flags. Flags of any nation, or state and seasonal or thematic flags shall not require a sign permit. This does not include flagpoles.
- (7) Historical markers, monuments or signs as recognized by local, state or federal authorities
- (8) One nameplate not exceeding two (2) square feet for customary home occupations, mounted on or within two (2) feet of the door.
- (9) **Lawn signs**. A single lawn sign shall be allowed on any lot without a permit provided that the sign does not exceed three (3) feet in height and six (6) square feet in area. The lawn sign may not be displayed for more than 30 days. The sign shall be placed at least five feet from all property lines and shall not impede the traffic or visibility of pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists.
- (10) **Sandwich board signs**. All sandwich board signs shall be brought in each day at the close of business. Placement of any such sign shall not impede the flow of intersections.

D.F. Sign regulations in residence all districts.

- (1) Animation. No sign shall be mechanically, digitigally or ~~animated~~ electronically animated, such as moving, rotating or revolving.
- (2) Setback. All signs shall be located within the setback lines of the lot or on the building.
- (3) Repair. All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition. The City reserves the right to remove any sign considered a danger to public health, safety, or welfare without notice to be held for a period of ten (10) days. If the sign is not claimed within that time, it shall be discarded.
- (4) Illumination. Permitted signs may be internally or externally illuminated, ~~except by means of a neon type electric material~~, provided that such illumination shall not be twinkling, flashing, intermittent, or of changing degrees of intensity or projected outward from the property onto adjacent properties or public rights-of-way ~~and provided that the source of such illumination shall not be visible beyond the boundaries of the lot on which it is located~~. Notwithstanding the above, neon, LCD and LED signs shall not be permitted in any residential districts, but may be permitted in nonresidential districts.

(5) Placement. No sign shall be located so as to obscure any signs displayed by a public authority, nor shall any sign be placed in such a way as to obstruct proper sight distance or otherwise interfere with pedestrian or traffic flow.

(7) No sign shall be placed in a location that would cause a violation of the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as may be amended from time to time.

G. Prohibited Signs

(1) Signs that contain words or pictures of an obscene or pornographic nature.

(2) Signs that emit audible sounds, odor or visible matter.

(3) Signs placed on a curb, sidewalk, hydrant, utility pole, trees or other objects located on or over any public street unless otherwise permitted. The City reserves the right to remove any sign placed on public property without notice. The following signs are permitted in the public right of way:

i. Public signs erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post legal notices, identify public property, convey public information, and direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

ii. Temporary emergency warning signs erected by a governmental body, public utility company or contractor doing authorized or permitted work within the public right-of-way, provided that such signs shall be located outside of the public vehicular and pedestrian travel ways and shall be placed so as not to create any nuisance or threat to public safety.

(4) Signs that are mounted on wheels or mounted on any structure on wheels.

(5) Signs with mirrors or any other reflective material.

(6) Roof signs

H. Signs in residential districts.

(1) The aggregate sign area of all signs on any lot shall not exceed 16 square feet.

~~E-I.~~ Signs in nonresidence districts. In nonresidence districts, the following signs are hereby authorized:

(1) Not more than one sign affixed to the outer wall of the structure within which the permitted use is situated, which outer wall faces the principal street giving access to such structure, provided that:

(a) The aggregate area of each such sign shall not exceed one square foot for

each linear foot of building facing the street.

- (b) No such sign shall exceed two feet in height, except that a vertical projecting wall sign shall not exceed eight feet in height. A vertical projecting wall sign is defined as any sign which is attached to the building wall or structure which is perpendicular to the face of such wall or structure.
 - (c) No sign shall project above the eaves of the building on which it is affixed or, if no eaves exist thereon, the roof, nor shall any sign extend more than six inches into any required yard.
 - (d) No sign shall face an abutting residential zoning district if located within 50 feet of such district.
 - (e) Vertical projecting wall signs shall not have more than two faces.
 - (f) The exterior edge of a vertical projecting wall sign shall not extend more than five feet from the outer wall of the structure or 1/3 the width of the sidewalk, whichever is less.
 - (g) No part of a vertical projecting wall sign shall extend into vehicular traffic areas, and any part over pedestrian areas shall have a minimum clearance of seven feet, six inches.
- (2) Not more than one freestanding sign facing each street on which the lot abuts, provided that:
- (a) The building is set back not less than 50 feet from the street line, in which case the sign shall not exceed 20 square feet in area.
 - (b) The building is set back not less than 100 feet from the street line, in which case the sign shall not exceed 35 square feet in area.
 - (c) No dimension shall exceed 12 feet.
- (3) ~~One identification sign, not exceeding 10 square feet in area, to the outer wall of the structure facing upon a street or parking lot not faced by a sign as permitted in Subsection E(1) above.~~
- (4) ~~In addition to other permitted signs, necessary small directional signs are permitted on access roads and parking areas, provided that the area of each sign shall not exceed two square feet.~~
- (5) ~~Interior signs displayed through windows shall not require a permit under this section, and said signs shall not count toward maximum number of signs affixed to a building per establishment. However, interior window signs affixed to or placed so as to be visible through a window shall be limited to the windows of the structure within which the permitted use is situated, facing the principal street giving access to such structure. The total amount of signage shall not~~

~~exceed 30% of the total glass area. All signs shall be maintained in a legible, neat and orderly fashion.~~

~~(6) Temporary signs in accordance with Subsection F below.~~

F.J. Temporary signs.

(1) All signs of a temporary nature must receive permits before being displayed, except those specified in 123-15E. No more than one temporary sign may be permitted per lot or used at any given time.

(2) Requirements. Any proposed temporary sign shall conform to the following:

- i. Such sign shall not exceed four (4) feet in height and 32 square feet in area in any non-residential district.
- ii. Such sign shall not exceed four feet in height and 16 square feet in area in any residential district.
- iii. Such sign shall not be displayed for more than 60 consecutive days.
- iv. Such sign shall not be illuminated.
- v. Such sign shall maintain at least a five (5) foot setback from all property lines.
- vi. Such sign shall not impede traffic or visibility of pedestrians, bicyclists or motors.

(3) Banners or Pennants. Banners or pennants shall be permitted as temporary signs. No banner shall be displayed over any sidewalk, City street or highway except upon approve by the City Council.

~~(1) A temporary sign is a nonilluminated sign that is used in connection with a circumstance, situation or event that is designed, intended or expected to take place or to be completed within a reasonably short or definite period after the erection of such sign, such as signs displayed during campaigns, drives or events of civic, political, philanthropic, educational or religious institutions. If such sign display area is permanent but the message displayed is subject to periodic changes, that sign shall not be regarded as "temporary." Unless otherwise provided in this section, signs shall not be considered temporary if they are effectively displayed on an ongoing basis, interrupted by short intervals when they are not displayed. Temporary signs shall not require a permit under this section, unless located in the public right-of-way or on public property.~~

~~(2) Temporary signs must be removed by the individual or organization which posted, or caused to be posted, such temporary signs within seven calendar days after the event for which they are displayed, unless otherwise provided in this~~

~~section.~~

- ~~(3) No temporary sign shall be located so as to obscure any signs displayed by a public authority, nor shall any sign be placed in such a way as to obstruct proper sight distance or otherwise interfere with pedestrian or traffic flow.~~
- ~~(4) The following temporary signs shall be permitted in all districts, unless otherwise provided in this section:~~
 - ~~(a) Not more than one temporary sign for each street frontage of the lot, identifying the architect, engineer and/or contractor, and not exceeding 40 square feet in area in nonresidence districts and six square feet in residence districts, shall be permitted during the course of construction only.~~
 - ~~(b) One "for sale" or one "to let" sign not exceeding six square feet in area for a single lot, or 50 square feet in area for a real estate subdivision, and set back at least 15 feet along the frontage of the street upon which the property is located. A "sold" sign shall not be displayed for more than 30 calendar days.~~
 - ~~(c) Signs indicating that a special event such as a grand opening, fair, carnival, circus, festival or similar event is taking place on the lot where the sign is located, not exceeding 40 square feet in area in nonresidence districts and six square feet in residence districts, and limited to one sign for each street frontage of the lot. The sign shall not be posted sooner than two weeks prior to the special event and shall be removed by the individual or organization which posted, or caused to be posted, such sign within three calendar days following the special event.~~
 - ~~(d) Sidewalk signs with no more than two faces, including but not limited to sandwich boards, in nonresidence districts, or in any other district provided the sign is located on Route 52 (Fishkill Avenue and Teller Avenue) or Route 9D (North Avenue and Wolcott Avenue), not exceeding one sign per business and not exceeding two feet in width and three feet in height. Sidewalk signs may be displayed on an ongoing basis, but shall not be displayed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., shall not include banners, and shall not be tethered. Sidewalk signs shall be located in the front of the business for which the sign is displayed, unless the business is located on a corner lot in which case the sign may be located to the side of the business, or unless the business maintains a rear entrance in which case the sign may be located to the rear of the business.~~
 - ~~(e) Signs for tag, garage or yard sales, not exceeding six square feet.~~
 - ~~(f) Signs conveying a nonpolitical, noncommercial message, not exceeding 40 square feet in area in nonresidence districts and six square feet in residence districts and limited to one sign for each street frontage of the lot.~~
 - ~~(g)(a) Political posters, banners, promotional devices and similar political signs.~~

~~G. Sign regulations in nonresidence districts.~~

- ~~(1) — Illumination. Permitted signs may be internally or externally illuminated, provided that such illumination shall not be twinkling, flashing, intermittent, of changing degrees of intensity or projected outward from the property onto adjacent properties or public rights of way and provided that the source of such illumination shall not be visible beyond the boundaries of the lot on which it is located. Notwithstanding the above, neon, LCD and LED signs may be permitted.~~
- ~~(2) — Placement. No sign shall be located so as to obscure any signs displayed by public authority, nor shall any sign be placed in such a way as to obstruct proper sight distance or otherwise interfere with pedestrian or traffic flow.~~
- ~~(3) — Setback. Unless otherwise specified, all signs shall be located within the setback lines of the lot or on the building.~~
- ~~(4) — Repair. All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.~~
- ~~(5)(1) Animation. No sign shall be mechanically animated, such as moving, rotating or revolving.~~

~~H. Temporary signs in the public right of way and on public property.~~

- ~~(1) — Permit required. In all districts, no temporary signs shall be erected in the public right of way or on public property without a permit, unless specifically exempted below.~~
- ~~(2) — Exceptions. The following signs shall not be subject to the issuance of a permit:~~
 - ~~(a) — Public signs erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post legal notices, identify public property, convey public information, and direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic.~~
 - ~~(b) — Temporary emergency warning signs erected by a governmental body, public utility company or contractor doing authorized or permitted work within the public right of way, provided that such signs shall be located outside of the public vehicular and pedestrian travel ways and shall be placed so as not to create any nuisance or threat to public safety.~~
 - ~~(c) — Bus stops erected by a public transit company.~~
 - ~~(d) — Informational signs of a public utility regarding its poles, lines, pipes or facilities.~~
- ~~(3) — Permit standards. The Building Inspector or his duly authorized designee shall issue a permit within a reasonable period of time following receipt of a complete permit application for the placement of a temporary sign in the right of way or on public property, provided the following conditions are satisfied:~~

- ~~(a) Submission of a permit application on a form issued by the Building Department and payment of the application fee as set forth in the City of Beacon Fee Schedule.~~
- ~~(b) No sign shall be placed in a location that would cause a violation of the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as may be amended from time to time.~~
- ~~(c) All signs must comply with the provisions of Subsection F, above.~~
- ~~(d) No sign shall be located so as to obscure any signs displayed by a public authority, nor shall any sign be placed in such a way as to obstruct proper sight distance or otherwise interfere with pedestrian or traffic flow or means of egress.~~
- (e)(a) The necessity of surety bonds and/or insurance shall be determined by the Building Inspector or his duly authorized designee. If it is determined that such surety bond and/or insurance is necessary, the amount of such surety bond and/or insurance shall be determined by the Building Inspector or his duly authorized designee, in his/her sole discretion, as may be necessary to defray any expense of liability from the City. Surety bonds and/or insurance policies shall be approved as to form by the City Attorney.
- ~~(f) Permits for sidewalk signs shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance and shall not be transferrable.~~

L.K. Violations.

- (1) Noncompliance with any of the foregoing provisions shall constitute an offense, punishable as provided for in § 1-3, General penalty. When a person has received written notice from the Building Inspector or has been served with a summons and complaint in an action to enjoin continuance of any violation, each day in excess of 10 days thereafter that he shall continue to be guilty of such violation shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense.
- (2) Any temporary sign installed or placed, except in conformance with the requirements of this section, shall be subject to removal. In addition to other remedies hereunder, the City shall have the right to recover from the owner or person placing such sign the full costs of removal and disposal of such signs in accordance with the administrative fee set forth in the City of Beacon Schedule of Fees. The fee shall be paid by the individual or entity retrieving the signs from the City. The City shall dispose of the sign(s) after five calendar days from the removal of the sign(s) by the City.
- (3) The display of any sign at a location containing the name or address of a person or entity and a commercial message relating to such person or address shall be presumptive evidence that such person installed, created, erected and maintained the sign at the location where it was displayed. This presumption shall be subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.