



Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Ordinance No. 2013-0011

AN ORDINANCE, NO. 2013-0011

Amending § 907.04 of the Amherst County Code to permit the erection of a free-standing sign for every main building which has frontage on a public road contiguous to that property.

Approved as to form and legality by the County Attorney

FIRST READING: Planning Commission, September 5, 2013
PUBLIC HEARING: Planning Commission, September 19, 2013
FIRST READING: Board of Supervisors, October 1, 2013
PUBLIC HEARING: Board of Supervisors, October 15, 2013

THE COUNTY OF AMHERST HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Section 907.04 of the Code of the County of Amherst, be and hereby is amended, as follows:

907.04. Standards. All signs erected in the County of Amherst shall comply with the following standards, except as otherwise provided in the sign ordinance.

1. Illumination:

- a. The light from any illuminated sign shall not cause direct glare into or upon any building or property other than the building or property with which the sign is associated.
- b. No colored lights shall be used at any location or in any manner such that they could be mistaken for traffic-control devices.
- c. Neither the direct, nor reflected, light from primary light sources shall be such as to create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public thoroughfares.
- d. **Special Exception Permit Required** - An approved special exception permit is required for any sign to be located in an agricultural district that displays flashing or intermittent lights, or other lights of changing degrees of intensity, brightness or color.

2. Setbacks and other:

a. *Generally.* No signs or support structures shall impair or jeopardize adequate sight distance of traffic movement.

b. *Front yard.* No portion of any sign other than a freestanding pole type sign shall be located within eight (8) feet of the right-of-way of any public road. Freestanding pole type signs may be located within five (5) feet of the right-of-way of any public road if: (i) the structure's sign face is at least seven (7) feet high from grade, and (ii) the pole and any pole skirt do not exceed eighteen (18) inches in width or diameter. This standard applies to both frontages on corner lots.

c. *Side yard.* No portion of a sign shall be located within five (5) feet of a side property line.

d. *Rear yard.* No portion of a sign shall be located within five (5) feet of a side property line.

3. *Number of signs.* Excepting those signs exempted pursuant to Section 907.03, there may be erected upon a given property no more than one (1) on-site freestanding sign for (i) every public road contiguous to that property, or (ii) every main building which has frontage on a public road contiguous to that property.

4. *Area.*

a. The maximum area of on-site nonattached signs is determined by multiplying the width of the property along the frontage in feet by 0.5, except that such sign area shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet. Attached signs may cover a maximum of twenty (20) percent of the view of the structure to which it is attached.

b. Off-site directional signs identifying a religious assembly or religious institution, which are not exempted from regulation pursuant to subsection 8 of Section 907.03, shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in total area.

c. Off-site directional signs identifying a civic organization shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in total area.

d. Off-site directional signs identifying any organization other than a religious assembly or religious institution, or civic organization, shall not exceed two (2) square feet in total area.

5. *Height.*

a. On-site attached signs shall not extend above the eaves of the roof and shall not project above the height of the roof peak of the principal on-site building.

b. The maximum allowable height of freestanding signs shall be determined by the distance of the sign from the nearest right-of-way, as follows:

i. If the sign is located at least eight (8) but not more than twelve (12) feet from the right-of-way, the maximum height shall not exceed twelve (12) feet;

ii. If the sign is located more than twelve (12) feet but less than sixteen (16) feet from the right-of-way, the maximum height shall not exceed sixteen (16) feet; and

iii. If the sign is located more than fifteen (15) feet from the right-of-way, the maximum height shall not exceed twenty (20) feet.

c. Height shall be measured as follows:

i. If the sign's location is at or above the grade of the primary road from which the sign is intended to be read, height shall be measured from the ground on which the sign base sits.

ii. If the sign's location is below the grade of the primary road from which the sign is intended to be read, height shall be measured from the elevation of that primary road.

d. Off-site directional signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

6. *Location.*

a. No portion of any sign shall be located in a public utility easement.

b. An off-site directional sign identifying any organization other than a religious assembly or religious institution, or civic organization shall not be located at any place other than the intersection of two (2) or more public streets.

c. All off-site directional signs not located at an intersection shall be spaced at least three hundred (300) feet from one another.

§2. That this ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

Adopted this 15th day of October, 2013.

Robert M. Curd, Chairman
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clarence C. Monday, Clerk
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Ayes _____

Nays _____

Abstentions _____