

# Smithfield Township DRAFT Sign Ordinance Updated 09.16.2024

NOTE: **Blue highlights** are for noting Section references – no action required

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## Section 1. Applicability

Any sign erected, altered, or maintained after the effective date of this Ordinance shall conform to the following regulations.

## Section 2. Purpose & Intent

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 Ordinance is to regulate all signs within Smithfield Township 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. This ordinance is further intended to control nuisances attributable to unsightly signage, control the unlawful proliferation of signs to improve and protect community appearances, and preserve the rural character and aesthetics of the community by:

- A. Setting standards and providing uniform, scientifically-based controls that permit reasonable use of signs and preserve the rural character of Smithfield Township.
- B. Prohibiting the erection of signs in such numbers, sizes, designs, illumination, and locations as may create a nuisance or 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. Preserve the beauty and the unique character of the Township and thereby enhance tourism and business
- F. Establish reasonable time, place and manner for the exercise of free speech, without regulating content
- G. Protect property values and ensure compatibility with the character of neighboring uses.

## Section 3. Definitions

Words and terms used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given in this Ordinance. Unless expressly stated otherwise, any pertinent word or term not part of this listing but vital to the interpretation of this ordinance, shall be construed to have their legal definition, or in absence of a legal definition, their meaning as commonly accepted by practitioners including civil engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape architects, and planners.

**Abandoned Sign:** A sign which has not identified or advertised a current business, service, owner, product, or activity for a period of at least 180 days, in the case of off-premises signs, or at least 360 days in the case of on-premises signs.

**Commented [A11]:** Look into this, nonconforming/temporary signs that are in violation of this agreement (e.g., banner flags). Discuss with Ron on pulling up temporary signs. Proposal is to cut this section. Is it legally required?

**Commented [db2R1]:** I agree. What about all existing signs



**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:** A sign depicting action, motion, or light or color changes through electrical or mechanical means.

**Awning:** A cloth, plastic, or other nonstructural covering that projects from a wall for the purpose of shielding a doorway or window. An awning is either permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.



**Awning Sign:** Any sign painted on, or applied to, an awning.

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**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 cloth, bunting, plastic, paper, or similar non-rigid material attached to any structure, staff, pole, rope, wire, or framing which is anchored on two or more edges or at all four corners. Banners are temporary in nature and do not include flags.



**Banner Flag:** Banner flags are temporary signs often designed for commercial promotion, intended to attract attention to a business, event, product, or service. These flags are typically made of cloth, vinyl, or similar flexible materials. They are usually mounted on poles, stands, or brackets and are often designed to be portable and temporary. For traditional flags, see “Standard Flag”.



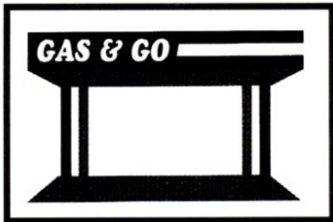


**Beacon Lighting:** Any source of electric light, whether portable or fixed, the primary purpose of which is to cast a concentrated beam of light generally skyward as a means of attracting attention to its location rather than to illuminate any particular sign, structure, or other object.

**Building Frontage:** The maximum linear width of a building measured in a single straight line parallel, or essentially parallel, with the abutting public street or parking lot.

**Canopy:** A structure other than an awning made of fabric, metal, or other material that is supported by columns or posts affixed to the ground and may also be connected to a building.

**Canopy Sign:** Any sign that is part of, or attached to a canopy.



**Changeable Copy Sign:** A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change either automatically through electrical or electronic means, or manually through placement of letters or symbols on a panel mounted in or on a track system. 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.**

**Channel Letter Sign:** A sign consisting of fabricated or formed three-dimensional letters, individually applied to a wall, which may accommodate a light source.

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**Clearance:** The distance above the walkway, or other surface if specified, to the bottom edge of a sign. This term can also refer to a horizontal distance between two objects.

**Digital Display:** The portion of a sign 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.



**Festoon Lighting:** A type of illumination comprised of either: (a) a group of incandescent light bulbs hung or strung overhead or on a building or other structure, or (b) light bulbs not shaded or hooded or otherwise screened to prevent direct rays of light from shining on adjacent properties or rights-of-way.

**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.

**Foot-candle:** A unit of incident light (on a surface) stated in lumens per square foot and measurable with an illuminance meter, a.k.a. footcandle or light meter. One (1) footcandle is equal to one (1) lumen per square foot

**Foot-lambert:** A unit of emitted light (from a surface) stated in lumens per square foot and measurable with an illuminance meter, a.k.a. footcandle or light meter. One (1) foot-lambert is equal to one (1) lumen per square foot.

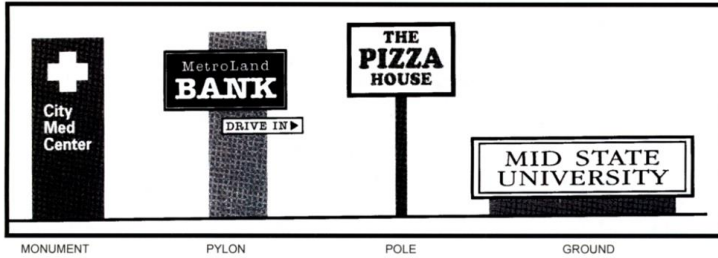
**Freestanding Sign:** A sign supported by structures or supports that are placed on, or anchored in, the ground; and that is independent and detached from any building or other structure. The following are subtypes of **freestanding signs**:

**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**)



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**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.





**Gas Station Canopy:** A freestanding, open-air structure constructed for the purpose of shielding service station islands from the elements.

**Gas Station Canopy Sign:** Any sign that is part of, or attached to, the vertical sides of the gas station canopy roof structure. For the purposes of this ordinance, gas station canopy signs shall be considered wall signs.



**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.

**Historic District:** A district or zone designated by a local, state, or federal government, within which buildings, structures, and/or appurtenances are deemed important because of their association with history, or because of their unique architectural style and scale.

**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**)



**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 the purposes of this ordinance.



**Halo Illumination:** A sign using a 3-dimensional message, logo, etc., which is lit 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.

**Incidental Sign:** A sign that displays general site information, instructions, directives, or restrictions that are primarily oriented to pedestrians and motor vehicle operators who have entered a property from a public street.



**Incidental Window Sign:** Signs displayed in the window displaying information such as the

business' hours of operation, credit institutions accepted, commercial and civic affiliations, and similar information. These signs shall be informational only and shall not contain a commercial message.

**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.



**Interactive Sign:** An electronic or animated sign that reacts to the behavior or electronic signals of motor vehicle drivers.

**Legibility:** The physical attributes of a sign that allow for an observer's differentiation of its letters, words, numbers, or graphics.

**Light Trespass:** Light emitted by a lighting installation, which extends beyond the boundaries of the property on which the installation is sited.

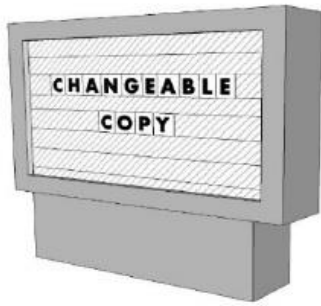
**Limited Duration Sign:** A non-permanent sign that is displayed on private property for more than 30 days, but not intended to be displayed for an indefinite period. **These may include signs relating to real estate sales, construction or other similar types.**

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**Luminance:** An objective measurement of the brightness of illumination, including illumination emitted by an electronic sign, measured in candles per square foot (cd/ft<sup>2</sup>).

**Manual Changeable Copy Sign:** A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols are changed manually through placement or drawing of letters or symbols on a sign face.



**Marquee:** A permanent structure, other than a roof or canopy, attached to, supported by, and projecting from a building and providing protection from the elements.

**Marquee Sign:** Any sign attached to a marquee for the purpose of identifying a use or product. If attached to a theater, performing arts center, cinema, or other similar use, it may also advertise films or productions.



**Mechanical Movement Sign:** A sign having parts that physically move rather than merely appear to move as might be found in a digital display. The physical movement may be activated electronically or by another means, but shall not include wind-activated movement such as used for banners or flags. Mechanical movement signs do not include digital signs that have

changeable, programmable displays.



**Memorial Sign:** A memorial plaque or tablet, including grave markers or other remembrances of persons or events.



**Menu Sign:** A permanent sign for displaying the bill of fare available at a restaurant, or other use serving food, or beverages.

**Message Center Sign:** A type of illuminated, changeable copy sign that consists of electronically changing alphanumeric text often used for gas price display signs and athletic scoreboards.





**Message Sequencing:** The spreading of one message across more than one sign structure.

**Multi-Tenant Sign:** A freestanding sign used to advertise businesses that occupy a shopping center or complex with multiple tenants.

**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.

**Neon Sign:** A sign illuminated by a neon tube, or other visible light-emitting gas tube, that is bent to form letters, symbols, or other graphics.



**Nit:** A term used to describe a metric unit of luminance defined as candela per square meter (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). The unit is based on the candela, the modern metric unit of luminous intensity; and the square meter.

**Nonconforming Sign:** A sign that was legally erected and maintained at the effective date of this Ordinance, or amendment thereto, that does not currently comply with sign regulations of the district in which it is located.

**Off-Premises Sign:** An outdoor sign whose message directs attention to a specific business, product, service, event or activity, or other commercial or noncommercial 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**,

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billboard, or outdoor advertising)

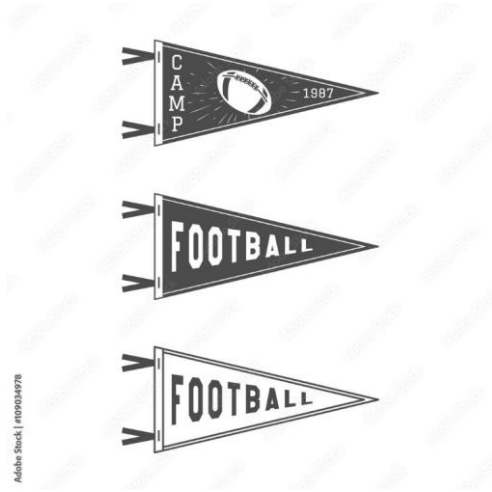


**Official Traffic Sign:** Official highway route number signs, street name signs, directional signs and other traffic signs erected and maintained on public highways and roads in the interest of public safety or for the regulation of traffic.



**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:** a triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, commonly attached in strings or strands, or supported on small poles intended to flap in the wind.



**Permanent architectural feature:** A permanent architectural feature of a building or structure



**Permanent Sign:** A sign attached or affixed to a building, window, or structure, or to the ground in a manner that enables the sign to resist environmental loads, such as wind, and that precludes ready removal or movement of the sign and whose intended use appears to be indefinite.

**Personal Expression Sign:** An on-premises sign that expresses an opinion, interest, position, or other 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.

**Private Drive Sign:** A sign indicating a street or drive which is not publicly owned and maintained and used only for access by the occupants of the development and their guests.

**Projecting Sign:** A building-mounted, double-sided sign with the two faces generally perpendicular to the building wall, not to include signs located on a canopy, awning, or marquee. (Also known as **blade sign**)



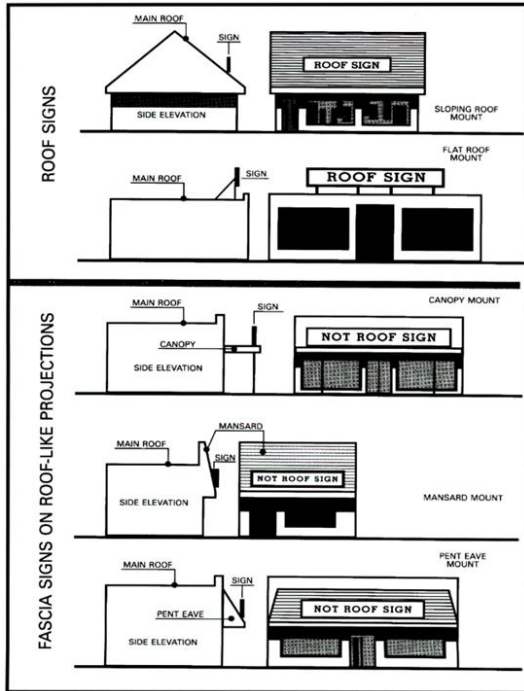
**Public Sign:** A sign erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification signs for public facilities.

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

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

**Roof Sign:** A building-mounted sign erected upon, against, or over the roof of a building.





**Scoreboard:** A sign contained within an athletic venue and intended solely to provide information to the attendees of an athletic event. A scoreboard and signs located on the interior of the facility’s fence are permitted for athletic fields subject to size, height, and illumination requirements.



**Security Sign:** An on-premises sign regulating the use of the premises, such as a “no trespassing,” “no hunting,” or “no soliciting” sign. (Also known as **warning sign**)



**Shielded:** The description of a luminaire from which no direct glare is visible at normal viewing angles, by virtue of its being properly aimed, oriented, and located and properly fitted with such devices as shields, barn doors, baffles, louvers, skirts, or visors.

**Sign:** Any device, structure, fixture, painting, emblem, or visual that uses words, graphics, colors, illumination, symbols, numbers, or letters for the purpose of communicating a message. Sign includes the sign faces as well as any sign supporting structure.

**Sign Area:** The total dimensions of a sign surface used to display information, messages, advertising, logos, or symbols. [See §6.4.](#) for standards for measuring sign area.

**Sign Face:** The part of the sign that is or can be used for the sign area. The sign area could be smaller than the sign face.

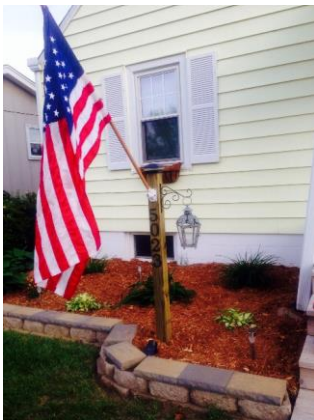
**Sign Height:** The vertical dimension of a sign as measured using the standards in [§6.4.](#)

**Sign Supporting Structure:** Poles, posts, walls, frames, brackets, or other supports holding a sign in place.

**Snipe Sign:** A sign tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences, public benches, streetlights, or other objects, or placed on any public property or in the public right-of-way or on any private property without the permission of the property owner. (Also known as **bandit sign**)



**Standard Flag:** A printed or painted cloth, plastic, canvas, or other like material with distinctive colors, patterns, or symbols attached to a pole. Often used for the display of identity, representation, or affiliation with a nation, state, municipality, or organization. These flags are generally displayed permanently or for extended periods and are typically mounted on non-portable flagpoles.





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**Storefront:** The exterior facade of a building housing a commercial use visible from a street, sidewalk, or other pedestrian way accessible to the public and containing the primary entrance to the commercial establishment.

**Streamers:** A display made of lightweight, flexible materials, consisting of long, narrow, wavy strips hung individually or in a series, with or without a logo or advertising message printed or painted on them and typically designed to move in the wind.



**Street Frontage:** The side or sides of a lot abutting on a public street or right-of-way.

**Street Pole Banner:** A banner attached to a single street light pole.



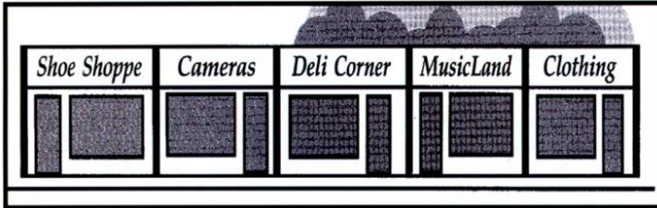
**Temporary Sign:** A type of non-permanent, sign that is located on private property that can be displayed for no more than 30 consecutive days at one time once or twice a year. **These types of signs may include notice of special events, festivals, yard sales.**



**Tri-Vision Boards:** An outdoor unit with a slatted face that allows three different copy messages to revolve at intermittent intervals.

**Vending Machine Sign:** A sign displayed on a vending machine indicating the name of the product being sold and/or the price of such product.

**Wall Sign:** A building-mounted sign which is either attached to, displayed on, or painted on an exterior wall in a manner parallel with the wall surface. A sign installed on a false or mansard roof is also considered a wall sign. (Also known as: **fascia sign, parallel wall sign, or band sign**)



**Window Sign:** Any sign that is applied, painted, or affixed to a window, or placed inside a window, within three (3) feet of the glass, facing the outside of the building, and easily seen from the outside. Customary displays of merchandise or objects and material without lettering behind a store window are not considered signs.



#### Section 4. Prohibited Signs

The following signs are unlawful and prohibited:

1. Abandoned signs.
2. Snipe signs. Signs shall only be attached to utility poles in conformance with state and utility regulations and the requirements of this Ordinance.
3. Vehicular signs, signs placed on shipping containers, signs placed on tractor trailers, signs placed on vans, or buses, or other such vehicles. 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.
4. Mechanical movement signs, including revolving signs.

5. Animated signs, flashing signs, or signs that scroll or flash text or graphics.
6. Inflatable devices or balloon signs, with the exception of balloons used in temporary, non-commercial situations.
7. Any signs that imitate, resemble, interfere with, or obstruct official traffic lights, signs, or signals.
8. 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.
9. Signs which emit smoke, visible vapors, particulate matter, sound, odor or contain open flames.
10. Reflective signs or signs containing mirrors.
11. Interactive signs.
12. Signs incorporating beacon or festoon lighting.
13. Any banner or sign of any type suspended across a public street, without the permission of the owner of the property and road.
14. Signs erected without the permission of the property owner, with the exception of those authorized or required by local, state, or federal government.
15. Any sign containing information which states or implies that a property may be used for any purpose not permitted under the provisions of the Smithfield Township Zoning Ordinance.
16. Signs that exhibit statements, words, or pictures of obscene or pornographic subjects.
17. Any sign that promotes illegal activity.

### **Section 5. 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 have approval of the property owner, and comply with the regulations in this section, if any.

1. Official traffic signs.
2. 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.
3. Personal expression signs of any sign type, including standard flags, political signs, memorials, and emblems of a religious, civil, philanthropic, historical or educational organization provided that the owner of the land has provided permission, they do not exceed four (4) sq. ft. in area per side, are not in the right way, are non-commercial in nature, and not illuminated.
4. Political signs – which are personal expression signs – may be placed in the right of way immediately prior to an upcoming election. Such signs shall not be posted more than 30 days in advance of the election to which they pertain and shall be removed within five

calendar days following the election for which they were posted and shall not exceed 16 square feet in any zoning district.

Commented [MA3]: For review by Ron.

5. Address signs - Up to two (2) signs stating address, number and/or name of occupants of the premises and does not include any commercial advertising or other identification.
  - a. R1, R2 and RC Districts: signs not to exceed three (3) sq. ft. in area.
  - b. RE, ED and M1 Districts: signs not to exceed five (5) sq. ft. in area.
6. Government, public and regulatory signs - Signs erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification or directional signs for public facilities.
7. Private drive signs - One (1) sign per driveway entrance, not to exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.
8. Security and warning signs - These limitations shall not apply to the posting of conventional “no trespassing” signs in accordance with state law.
  - a. R1, R2 and RC Districts: signs not to exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.
  - b. RE, ED and M1 Districts: maximum of one (1) large sign per property, not to exceed five (5) sq. ft. in area. All other posted security and warning signs may not exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.
9. Standard Flags:
  - a. Location: Standard flags and flagpoles shall not be located within any right-of-way.
  - b. Height: Standard flags shall have a maximum height of 30 ft.
  - c. Number: No more than two (2) standard flags per lot in residential districts, no more than three (3) standard flags per lot in all other districts.
  - d. Size: Maximum standard flag size is 30 sq. ft.
  - e. Standard flags up to three (3) sq. ft. in area containing noncommercial messages are considered personal expression signs and are regulated in accordance with §5.C.
10. Legal notices.
11. Vending machine signs.
12. Signs which are a permanent architectural feature of a building or structure, existing at the time of adoption of this ordinance.
13. Signs advertising the variety of crop growing in a field. Such signs shall be removed after the growing season.
14. Incidental signs, including incidental window signs. Incidental signs emitting light shall conform with all lighting requirements found in section 7.
15. Art and murals, provided such signs do not contain any commercial messaging.
16. Signs approved through PennDOT’s official sign programs, including but not limited to the TODS and Logos sign programs.
17. Temporary signs in accordance with §11 - Regulations by Sign Type (Temporary Signs).

18. Portable signs, in accordance with §12 - Regulations by Sign Type (Portable Signs).

## Section 6. General Regulations

1. With the exception of signs exempt from permits (as detailed in §5 - Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements), all signs require a permit, as detailed in §18 – Permits and Applications.
2. Sign location.
  - a. No sign shall be placed in such a position as to endanger pedestrians, bicyclists, or traffic on a street by obscuring the view or by interfering with official street signs or signals by virtue of position or color.
  - b. No sign may occupy a sight triangle.
  - c. Signs and their supporting structures shall maintain clearance and noninterference with all surface and underground utility and communications lines or equipment.
3. Sign Materials & Construction: With the exception of Temporary Signs, Portable signs and Limited Duration signs, all signs shall be constructed of durable materials, using non-corrosive fastenings; shall be structurally safe and erected or installed in strict accordance with the PA Uniform Construction Code; and shall be maintained in safe condition and good repair at all times so that all sign information is clearly legible.
4. Sign Area.
  - a. The area of a sign shall mean the area of all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs, logos, and symbols. The area of a sign shall not include any supporting framework, bracing or trim which is incidental to the display, provided that it does not contain any lettering, wording, or symbols.
  - b. Where the sign consists of individual letters, designs, or symbols attached to a building, awning, wall, or window, the area shall be that of the smallest rectangle which encompasses all of the letters, designs, and symbols.
  - c. Signs may be double-sided.
  - d. Only one (1) side shall be considered when determining the sign area, provided that the faces are equal in size, the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees, and the two faces are not more than 18 inches apart for on-premises signs, and five (5) ft For off-premises signs.
  - e. Where the faces are not equal in size, but the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees and the two faces are not more than 18 inches apart for on-premises signs, and five (5) ft For off-premises signs, the larger sign face shall be used as the basis for calculating sign area.
  - f. When the interior angle formed by the faces is greater than 45 degrees, or the faces are greater than 18 inches apart for on-premises signs, and five (5) ft. For off-premises signs, all sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area.4. Signs that consist of, or have attached to them, one or more three-dimensional or irregularly-shaped objects, shall have a sign area of the sum of two adjacent vertical sign faces of the smallest cube encompassing the sign or object.

- g. If elements of a sign are movable or flexible, such as a flag or banner, the measurement is taken when the elements are fully extended and parallel to the plane of view.
  - h. The permitted maximum area for all signs is determined by the sign type and the zoning district in which the sign is located (see §14-16).
5. Sign Height.
- a. Sign height shall be measured as the distance from the highest portion of the sign to the mean finished grade of the street closest to the sign. In the case of a sign located greater than 100 feet from a public street, height shall be measured to the mean grade at the base of the sign.
  - b. Clearance for freestanding and projecting signs shall be measured as the smallest vertical distance between finished grade and the lowest point of the sign, including any framework or other structural elements.
  - c. The permitted maximum height for all signs is determined by the sign type and the zoning district in which the sign is located (see §14-16).
6. Sign Spacing: The spacing between sign structures shall be measured as a straight-line distance between the closest edges of each sign.
7. Message center signs are subject to the following regulations, in addition to all other illumination requirements established in §7.
- a. Sign Type: Message center signs are permitted in the form of freestanding, monument, and wall signs, both on-premises and off-premises, in accordance with the regulations established in §8-9.
  - b. Height: A message center sign shall have the same height limits as other permitted signs of the same type and location.
  - c. Area:
    - i. When used as an on-premises sign, message center signs shall not exceed 50% of the sign area for any one sign, and shall not exceed more than 30% of the total area for all signs permitted on a property.
    - ii. When used as an off-premises sign, message center signs may be used for the full permitted sign area.
  - d. Maximum Number: Where permitted, one (1) message center sign is permitted per street frontage, up to a maximum of two (2) message center signs per property.
  - e. Conversion of a permitted non-message center sign to a message center sign requires the issuance of a permit pursuant to §18 Permits & Applications.
  - f. The addition of any message center sign to a nonconforming sign is prohibited.
  - g. Public Service Announcements: The owner of every message center sign shall coordinate with the local authorities to display, when appropriate, emergency information important to the traveling public including, but not limited to Amber

Alerts or alerts concerning terrorist attacks or natural disasters. Emergency information messages shall remain in the advertising rotation according to the protocols of the agency that issues the information.

8. Digital display signs are subject to the following regulations in addition to all other requirements established in §7 – Sign Illumination Standards.
  - a. Sign Type: Digital displays are permitted in the form of freestanding, monument, and wall signs, both on-premises and off-premises, in accordance with the regulations established in §8-9.
  - b. Height: A digital display shall have the same height limits as for other permitted signs of the same type and location.
  - c. Area:
    - i. When used as an on-premises sign, digital displays shall not exceed more than 30% of the total sign area permitted on the site.
    - ii. When used as an off-premises sign, digital displays may be used for the full permitted sign area.
  - d. Maximum Number per Property: Where permitted, one (1) digital display sign is permitted per property.
  - e. Conversion of a permitted non-digital sign to a digital sign requires the issuance of a permit pursuant to §18 - Permits & Applications.
  - f. The addition of any digital display to a nonconforming sign is prohibited.
  - g. Public Service Announcements: The owner of every digital sign shall coordinate with the local authorities to display, when appropriate, emergency information important to the traveling public including, but not limited to Amber Alerts or alerts concerning terrorist attacks or natural disasters. Emergency information messages shall remain in the advertising rotation according to the protocols of the agency that issues the information.

## Section 7. Sign Illumination Standards

1. Signs may be illuminated, unless otherwise specified herein, consistent with the following standards:
  - a. Location: The summary table below (§7.7) provides detailed information about what types of illumination are permitted in each zoning district.
  - b. Light sources to illuminate signs shall neither be visible from any street right-of-way, nor cause glare hazardous or distracting to pedestrians, vehicle drivers, or adjacent properties.
  - c. No more than 0.2 foot-candle of light shall be detectable at the boundary of any abutting property.
  - d. Hours of Operation: On-premises signs on non-residential properties may be illuminated from 5 am until 11 pm, or ½ hour past the close of business of the facility being identified or advertised, whichever is later.



- e. Brightness: Message center signs and digital displays are subject to the following brightness limits:
    - i. During daylight hours between sunrise and sunset, luminance shall be no greater than five thousand (5,000) nits.
    - ii. At all other times, luminance shall be no greater than two hundred fifty (250) nits.
    - iii. Each sign must have a light sensing device that will automatically adjust the brightness of the display as the natural ambient light conditions change to comply with the limits set here within.
  - f. Message Duration: The length of time each message may be displayed on a message center sign, digital display, or Tri-Vision Board sign is based upon the visibility and speed limit unique to individual signs and adjacent road conditions. The following method should be used to calculate message duration for message center signs, digital displays, or Tri-Vision Board signs.
    - i. Determine the greatest distance from which the sign becomes visible on the road the sign is primarily intended to serve. If a sign is intended to be seen by more than one roadway, the road with the lower posted speed limit shall be used for determining message duration.
    - ii. Multiply the road's posted speed limit (MPH) by 5,280, and then divide by 3,600 to obtain the speed limit in feet/second.
    - iii. Divide the visibility distance by the speed limit (feet/second).
    - iv. Add an additional ten (10) percent of this number to the total.
    - v. The resulting amount of time is the minimum permitted message duration, except where this value is less than eight (8) seconds in which the minimum message duration shall be no less than eight (8) seconds.
2. Types of Illumination: Where permitted, illumination may be:
- a. External: Externally illuminated signs, where permitted, are subject to the following regulations:
    - i. The source of the light must be concealed by translucent covers.
    - ii. External illumination shall be by a steady, stationary light source, shielded and directed solely at the sign. The light source must be static in color.
    - iii. All sign lighting shall be designed, aimed and fitted to limit the light pattern to the sign and not beyond and so as not to project their output into the windows of neighboring residences, adjacent uses, past the face of the sign, skyward or onto public roadways creating a visibility hazard to drivers. Signboards placed adjacent to residential areas must not spill light to those areas (0.2 footcandles at adjacent property lines) and must be dimmable.
    - iv. The use of red, green or amber flashing lights on any sign within 200 feet of a street intersection shall be prohibited.
    - v. Smithfield Township reserves the right to require post-installation re-aiming,

- shielding, reduction of light intensity, or any other remediation to mitigate off-site consequences.
- vi. The maximum initial illuminance on the face of an externally illuminated sign shall not exceed 10 vertical footcandles anywhere on the face of the billboard.
- vii. The external illumination of a sign within 400 feet of a residential zoning district lot shall not be permitted.
- viii. Rotating, pulsing or oscillating lighting sources, lasers, beacons or strobe lighting shall not be permitted.
- b. Internal: Internally illuminated signs, where permitted, are subject to the following regulations:
  - i. Internal illumination, including neon lighting, must be static in intensity and color.
  - ii. Message center signs are permitted in accordance with the regulations contained in §6 and §7.
  - iii. Digital displays are permitted in accordance with the regulations contained in §6 and §7.
  - iv. All internally illuminated digital/LED signs visible from roadways may not display animated images, shall contain static messages only, and shall not have movement nor flashing on any part of the sign or structure, nor shall the sign have varying light intensity during the display of any single message.
  - v. There shall be no appearance of a visual dissolve or fading, in which any part of one electronic message/display appears simultaneously with any part of a second message.
  - vi. Digital or LED or other internally illuminated signs and billboards should be designed so that should the digital billboard/sign malfunction, the message will automatically freeze.
  - vii. There shall be no appearance of flashing or sudden bursts of light, and no appearance of animation of the message/display. No fade, twinkle, scroll, dissolve or moving pictures or animation shall be permitted.
  - viii. Any illumination intensity or contrast of light level shall remain constant throughout the sign face.
  - ix. The intensity of the internal light source for an internally illuminated sign and billboards shall be such that it shall not create off-site glare, light trespass or a visibility hazard to drivers. Control of intensity can be through reduction in wattage or shielding of the light bulbs. There shall be no more than 0.2 footcandle spillover onto adjacent properties.
- 3. Message center signs are subject to the following illumination requirements in addition to those standards established in §6.6.

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- a. Message Display:
  - i. No message center sign may contain text which flashes, pulsates, moves, or scrolls. Each complete message must fit on one screen.
  - ii. The content of a message center sign must transition by changing instantly (*e.g.*, no fade-out or fade-in).
  - iii. *Default Design*: The sign shall contain a default design which shall freeze the sign message in one position if a malfunction should occur.
4. Digital display signs are subject to the following regulations in addition to all other requirements established in §6.7
  - a. Message Display:
    - i. Any Digital Display containing animation, streaming video, or text or images which flash, pulsate, move, or scroll is prohibited. Each complete message must fit on one screen.
    - ii. One message/display may be brighter than another, but each individual message/display must be static in intensity.
    - iii. The content of a digital display must transition by changing instantly, with no transition graphics (*e.g.*, no fade-out or fade-in).
    - iv. *Default Design*: The sign shall contain a default design which shall freeze the sign message in one position if a malfunction should occur.
5. Electrical Standards.
  - a. Permits for illuminated signs will not be issued without an approved township electrical inspection, the permit for which shall be filed at the same time as the sign permit application.
  - b. All work shall be completed in full compliance with Smithfield Township building requirements as set forth in the PA Uniform Construction Code.
  - c. The electrical supply to all exterior signs, whether to the sign itself or to lighting fixtures positioned to illuminate the sign, shall be provided by means of concealed electrical cables. Electrical supply to freestanding signs shall be provided by means of underground cables.
  - d. The owner of any illuminated sign shall arrange for a certification showing compliance with the brightness standards set forth herein by an independent contractor and provide the certification documentation to Smithfield Township as a condition precedent to the issuance of a sign permit.
6. Glare Control: Glare control shall be achieved primarily through the use of such means as cutoff fixtures, shields, and baffles, and appropriate application of fixture mounting height, wattage, aiming angle, and fixture placement. Vegetation screens shall not be employed to serve as the primary means for controlling glare.
7. Illumination Standards by District (table):

District	Illumination Type				Brightness Limitation for Digital Displays and Message Center Signs	Hours of Illumination	Motion Limitation	Size Limitation	
	Internal	Message Center Sign	External	Digital Display			Digital Displays and Message Center Signs	Digital Display Signs as a Max % of Total Sign Area on Site	Message Center Signs as a Max % of Sign Area
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-C)	N	N	Y	N	N/A	N/A	Determined by visibility. See §7.1.f	N/A	50%
Resort (RE)	N	N	Y	N	N/A	5 am to 11 pm or 1/2 hour past close of business	N/A	N/A	N/A
General Commercial & Industrial (ED, M1)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Daytime: 5,000 Nits Nighttime: 250 Nits	5 am to 11 pm or 1/2 hour past close of business	Determined by visibility. See §7.1.f	30%	50%
Off-Premises*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Daytime: 5,000 Nits Nighttime: 250 Nits	N/A	Determined by visibility. See §7.1.f	100%	100%
Temporary Signs*	N	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portable Signs*	N	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Off-premises, temporary, and portable signs are subject to the illumination regulations governing off-premises, temporary and portable signs, rather than the illumination standards governing the specific district where the sign is located

## Section 8. Regulations by Sign Type: On-Premises Signs

1. Wall Signs.
  - a. No portion of a wall sign shall be mounted less than eight (8) feet above the finished grade or extend out more than twelve (12) inches from the building wall on which it is affixed. If the wall sign projects less than three (3) inches from the building wall on which it is affixed, the eight-foot height requirement need not be met.
2. Canopy, Awning or Roof Signs.
  - a. A canopy or awning without lettering or other advertising shall not be regulated as a sign.
  - b. Canopy, awning and roof signs must be centered within or over architectural elements such as windows or doors.
  - c. No awning, canopy or roof sign shall be wider than the building wall or tenant space it identifies.
  - d. Sign Placement.
    - i. Letters or numerals shall be located only on the front and side vertical faces of the awning, canopy or roof.
    - ii. Logos or emblems are permitted on the top or angled portion of the awning or canopy up to a maximum of three (3) square feet. No more than one (1) emblem or logo is permitted on any one awning or canopy.
  - e. Sign Height.
    - i. The lowest edge of the canopy, awning or roof sign shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.
    - ii. The highest edge of a roof signs shall be limited to two feet above the top roof line.
  - f. Any ground-floor awning projecting into a street right-of-way must be retractable.
  - g. Awnings above the ground floor may be fixed, provided they do not project more than four (4) feet from the building's face.
  - h. Multi-tenant Buildings. If the awning, canopy or roof sign is mounted on a multi-tenant building, all awning, canopy or roof signs shall be similar in terms of height, projection, and style across all tenants in the building.
3. Projecting Signs.
  - a. No portion of a projecting signs shall project more than four (4) feet from the face of the building.
  - b. The outermost portion of a projecting sign shall project no closer than five (5) feet from a curbline or shoulder of a public street.
  - c. Sign Height. The lowest edge of a projecting sign shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.

4. Window Signs

- a. Incidental window signs displaying pertinent business information such as the business' hours of operation and credit cards accepted, shall be excluded from area calculations for window signs.
- b. Window signs emitting light shall conform with all lighting requirements found in §7 – Sign Illumination Standards.

5. Marquee Signs.

- a. Such signs shall be located only above the principal public entrance of a building facing a public street or parking lot.
- b. No marquee shall be wider than the entrance it serves, plus two (2) feet on each side there-of.
- c. No Marquee shall extend closer to the curb than three (3) feet.
- d. Sign Height
  - i. No portion of a marquee sign shall extend vertically above the eaveline.
  - ii. The lowest edge of the marquee sign shall be at least ten (10) feet above the finished grade.

6. Freestanding Signs

- a. The lowest edge of any freestanding pole sign shall be either less than four (4) feet or greater than seven (7) feet above the ground.
- b. Freestanding ground signs shall be supported and permanently placed by embedding, anchoring, or connecting the sign in such a manner as to incorporate it into the landscape or architectural design scheme.
- c. Sign Placement.
  - i. All freestanding signs shall be set back five (5) feet from the right-of-way, except for official traffic signs and government/regulatory signs.
  - ii. No freestanding sign may occupy an area designated for parking, loading, walkways, driveways, fire land, easement, cartway of the right-of-way or other areas required to remain obstructed.

## Section 9. Regulations by Sign Type: Off-Premises Signs

1. Off-premises signs are permitted in the following locations:

- a. ED Economic Development District.
- b. M-1 Industrial District.
- c. Additional district-specific requirements are detailed in §16 – Signs in ED and M-1 Districts.

2. Directional signs, that may include directional arrows, distance and title of destination, but can include no imagery or logos (except those signs approved through PennDOT Tourist

Commented [db4]: Consider adding to R districts

Oriented Directional Signing (TODS) and Logo programs).

- a. Area: No single directional sign shall exceed four (4) sq. ft. in area.
  - b. Height: Directional signs shall have a maximum height of five (5) ft.
  - c. Illumination: Directional signs shall be non-illuminated.
3. Sign Size: An off-premises advertising sign is subject to the following size restrictions, regardless of the district in which it is located, according to the posted speed limit of the road which the off-premises sign faces.

	Posted Speed Limit (MPH)			
	≤35	36 -45	46-55	56-65
Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	60	100	150	200

4. Height and Location of Sign.
- a. The lowest edge of an off-premises sign shall be at least seven (7) ft. above the finished grade.
  - b. Off-premises signs shall have a maximum height of 30 ft.
5. Spacing: Off-premises signs shall be:
- a. Set back from the right of way a distance equal to the height of the off-premises sign or 15 feet, whichever is greater.
  - b. Located no closer than 50 feet from any property line.
  - c. Located no closer than 100 feet from any building, structure, or on-premises sign located on the same property.
  - d. Located no closer than 1,500 ft. from another off-premises sign on either side of the road measured linearly.
  - e. Located no closer than 500 ft. from any intersection, or interchange (on/off-ramp).
  - f. Located no closer than 1,000 ft. from any property line abutting a public park, playground, religious institution, cemetery, school, or residential district.
  - g. Not attached to the external wall or otherwise affixed to any part of any building and shall not extend over any public property or right-of-way.
  - h. Not located on sewer rights-of-way, or water, electric, or petroleum pipelines.
  - i. Not located on a bridge.
6. Number of Signs per Lot: There shall be no more than one off-premises sign per lot. Vertically or horizontally stacked signs shall not be permitted.
7. Double-Sided Off-Premises Signs: Signs may be single or double-sided, in accordance with §6.4 - Sign Area.
8. Message Sequencing: Message sequencing is prohibited.

9. Construction and Maintenance of off-premise signs over 60 square feet in area:
  - a. All plans for off-premises signs shall be certified by a licensed engineer registered in Pennsylvania.
  - b. All off-premises advertising signs shall be constructed in accordance with industry-wide standards established by the Outdoor Advertising Association of America and the Institute of Outdoor Advertising, or their successor organizations. All off-premises advertising signs shall be structurally sound and maintained in good condition and in compliance with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.
  - c. If an existing off-premises sign has structural issues identified by the Township, the owner of the off-premises sign shall fix the structural issues and have a structural inspection made of the off-premises sign by a licensed engineer registered in Pennsylvania and shall provide to Smithfield Township a certificate certifying that the off-premises sign is structurally sound.
10. Identification of Sign Owner: All off-premises signs shall be identified on the structure with the name, address, and phone number of the owner of such sign.
11. Landscaping.
  - a. Landscaping shall be provided at the base of all off-premises signs. Trees and shrubbery, including evergreen and flowering trees, of sufficient size and quantity shall be used to achieve the purpose of this Section.
  - b. Trees greater than four (4) inches in diameter removed for construction of the sign shall be replaced on-site at a ratio of one (1) replacement tree for each removed tree using native species no less than three (3) inches in diameter.
12. Additional Regulations. All off-premises signs shall comply with any and all applicable zoning regulations of Smithfield Township, and any and all municipal, state and/or federal regulations. In the event any other applicable regulation is in conflict with the provisions of this Section, the more strict regulation shall apply.
13. Application/Plan Requirements. Plans submitted for off-premises advertising signs shall show the following:
  - a. The location of the proposed sign on the lot with the required sign setbacks from the property line and ultimate right-of-way.
  - b. The location and species of existing trees.
  - c. The distance to the nearest existing off-premises advertising sign.
  - d. The distance to the nearest right-of-way, property line, building, structure, on-premises sign, off-premises sign, intersection, interchange, safety rest area, bridge, residential district, or institutional use, sewer rights-of-way, and water, electric or petroleum pipelines.
  - e. Site plan containing all of the applicable requirements set forth in the Smithfield Township zoning code, as amended.
  - f. Certification under the seal by a licensed engineer that the off-premises sign, as proposed, is designed in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, codes,



and professional standards.

14. Illumination and Changeable Copy of Off-Premises Signs.
  - a. Off-premises signs may incorporate manual changeable copy signs.
  - b. Off-premises signs may be illuminated, provided that:
    - i. All light sources are designed, shielded, arranged, and installed to confine or direct all illumination to the surface of the off-premises sign and away from adjoining properties.
    - ii. Light sources are not visible from any street or adjoining properties.
  - c. The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in **§7 - Sign Illumination Standards**.
    - i. Message center sign
    - ii. Digital display
    - iii. External illumination
    - iv. Internal illumination
  - d. Off-premises signs may incorporate Tri-Vision Boards.
    - i. The length of time each message of the Tri-Vision Board may be displayed before changing is based upon the visibility and posted speed limit unique to individual signs and adjacent road conditions. The message duration for Tri-Vision Boards shall be calculated using the method described in **§7.1.F - Message Duration**.
15. Safety. In applying for zoning relief, the applicant bears the burden of proof to establish that the proposed off-premises sign will not create a public health or safety hazard in the matter and location that it is proposed and in the manner by which it is to be operated.
16. The rear face of a single-face, off-premises advertising sign shall be painted and maintained with a single neutral color.

## **Section 10. Regulations by Sign Type: Limited Duration Signs**

1. General Provisions
  - a. Limited duration signs, as defined in this Section, located on private property are subject to the regulations set forth below.
  - b. Limited Duration 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.
  - c. Unless otherwise stated below, the requirements listed below shall apply to both commercial and non-commercial signs.
  - d. Limited Duration Signs require a permit, as per **§18** – Permits & Applications of this Chapter.
2. Size and Number.

a. RE, ED and M1 Districts:

- i. Large Limited Durations Signs: One (1) large limited duration sign is permitted per property in all non-residential zones. If a property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one (1) additional large, limited duration sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two (2) large limited duration signs.

- 1. Type:

- a. Freestanding sign
- b. Window sign
- c. Wall sign

- 2. Area: Each large limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of 16 sq. ft.

- 3. Height: Large limited duration signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.

- ii. Small Limited Duration Signs: In addition to the large limited duration sign(s) outlined above, one (1) small limited duration sign is permitted per property in all non-residential zones. If a property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one (1) additional small sign may be permitted.

- 1. Type:

- a. Freestanding sign
- b. Window sign
- c. Wall sign

- 2. Area: Each small limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) sq. ft.

- 3. Height: Small limited duration signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.

b. R1, R2 and RC Districts:

- i. Large Limited Duration Sign: One (1) large limited duration sign is permitted per property so long as the property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area.

- 1. Type:

- a. Freestanding sign
- b. Window sign
- c. Wall sign

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- 2. Area: Each large limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of 16 sq. ft.
- 3. Height: Large limited duration signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.
- ii. Small Limited Duration Sign: One (1) small limited duration sign is permitted per property.
  - 1. Type:
    - a. Freestanding sign
    - b. Window sign
    - c. Wall sign
  - 2. Area: Each small limited duration sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) sq. ft.
  - 3. Height: Small limited duration signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- 3. Installation and Maintenance.
  - a. All limited duration signs must be installed such that following a review of relevant data and/or in alignment with regulations of Smithfield Township building official, they do not create a safety hazard.
  - b. All limited duration signs must be made of durable materials and shall be well-maintained.
  - c. Limited duration signs that are frayed, torn, broken, or that are no longer legible will be deemed unmaintained and required to be removed, or may be removed by the township at their discretion and at the expense of the property owner.
- 4. Illumination: Illumination of any limited duration sign is prohibited.
- 5. Summary Table for Limited Duration Signs.

Limited Duration Signs		
	Non-Residential Districts	Residential Districts
Large Limited Duration Signs (max area 16 sq. ft.)	<u>Number:</u> 1 per property; 2 if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of street frontage or has > 10,000 square feet of floor area. <u>Height:</u> Maximum 8 ft.	<u>Number:</u> 1 per property if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of street frontage or has > 10,000 square feet of floor area. <u>Height:</u> Maximum 8 ft.
Small Limited Duration Signs (max area 6 sq. ft.)	<u>Number:</u> 1 per property; 2 if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of frontage or has > 10,000 square feet of floor area. <u>Height:</u> Maximum 6 ft.	<u>Number:</u> 1 per property <u>Height:</u> Maximum 6 ft.

## Section 11. Regulations by Sign Type: Temporary Signs

1. General Provisions:
  - a. Temporary signs, as defined in this Section, located on private property, are exempt from standard permit requirements.
  - b. Temporary 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.
  - c. Temporary signs, as defined in this Section and meeting the requirements of this Section, do not require a Permit.
2. These signs are intended to notify and/or promote to the public of temporary, short-term events or newly established business, and are not intended as more permanent advertising and or promotion of commercial activity that would otherwise fall under the Off-Premises or On-Premises allowable signage. Temporary Signs are also temporary in construction.
3. Temporary signs include holiday and seasonal decorations, banner flags, pennant strings and streamers.
4. Unless otherwise stated below, the requirements listed below shall apply to both commercial and non-commercial signs.
5. Size and Number.
  - a. RE, ED and M1 Districts:
    - i. Large Temporary Signs: One (1) large temporary sign is permitted per property in all non-residential districts. If a property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, one (1) additional large temporary sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between the two (2) large temporary signs.
      1. Type:
        - a. Freestanding sign
        - b. Window sign
        - c. Wall sign
        - d. Banner
      2. Area:
        - a. Each large temporary freestanding, window, or wall sign shall have a maximum area of 16 sq. ft.
        - b. Each large temporary banner shall have a maximum area of 32 sq. ft.
      3. Height:

- a. Large temporary signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.
    - b. Banners shall hang at a height no greater than 24 feet.
  - ii. Small Temporary Signs: In addition to the large temporary sign(s) outlined above, one (1) small temporary sign is permitted per property in all non-residential districts. If a property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has > 10,000 square feet of floor area, one (1) additional small sign may be permitted so long as there is a minimum spacing of 200 feet between both sets of small temporary signs.
    1. Type:
      - a. Freestanding sign
      - b. Window sign
      - c. Wall sign
    2. Area: Each small temporary sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) sq. ft.
    3. Height: Small temporary signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.
  - iii. Holiday decorations, banner flags, pennant strings and streamers:
    1. Location. Holiday decorations, banner flags, pennant strings and streamers shall not be located within any right-of-way.
    2. Height. Banner Flags shall have a maximum height of 12 feet.
    3. Number. No more than two (2) banner flags per lot.
    4. Size. Maximum flag size of banner flags is 36sq. ft.
- b. R1, R2 and RC Districts:
  - i. Large Temporary Signs: One (1) large temporary sign is permitted per residential property so long as the property is greater than five (5) acres in size and has at least 400 feet of street frontage or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area.
    1. Type:
      - a. Freestanding sign
      - b. Window sign
      - c. Wall sign
      - d. Banner Sign
    2. Area:
      - a. Each large temporary freestanding, window, or wall sign shall have a maximum area of 16 square feet.

- b. Each large temporary banner shall have a maximum area of 32 square feet.
    - 3. Height:
      - a. Large temporary signs that are freestanding shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.
      - b. Banners shall hang at a height no greater than 24 feet.
  - ii. Small Temporary Signs: One (1) small temporary sign is permitted per residential property.
    - 1. Type:
      - a. Freestanding sign
      - b. Window sign
      - c. Wall sign
    - 2. Area: Each small temporary sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) sq. ft.
    - 3. Height: Small temporary signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.
  - iii. Holiday decorations, banner flags, pennant strings and streamers:
    - 1. Location. Holiday decorations, banner flags, pennant strings and streamers shall not be located within any right-of-way.
    - 2. Height. Banner Flags shall have a maximum height of 12 feet.
    - 3. Number. No more than two (2) banner flags per lot.
    - 4. Size. Maximum banner flag size is 36 sq. ft.
- 6. Duration and Removal:
  - a. Holiday decorations may be displayed up to a maximum 60 consecutive days no more than two (2) times per year.
  - b. All other temporary signs may be displayed up to a maximum of 30 consecutive days, no more than two (2) times per year.
  - c. Smithfield Township or the property owner may confiscate signs installed in violation of this chapter. Neither Smithfield Township nor the property owner is responsible for notifying sign owners of confiscation of an illegal sign.
  - d. Confiscated signs will be stored at the township, and they will be disposed of after 30 of days if they are not retrieved by the owner.
- 7. Permission: The party posting the temporary sign is solely responsible for obtaining the permission of the property owner before posting their temporary sign.
- 8. Municipal Notification: Temporary signs are exempt from the standard permit requirements but the date of erection of a temporary sign must be written in legible ink on the lower right-hand corner of the sign.

9. Installation and Maintenance.
  - a. All temporary signs must be installed so that, at the sole discretion of the Smithfield Township building official, they do not create a safety hazard.
  - b. All temporary signs must be made of durable materials and shall be well-maintained.
  - c. Temporary signs that are frayed, torn, broken, or that are no longer legible will be deemed unmaintained and required to be removed and may be confiscated by the Township.
10. Illumination: Illumination of any temporary sign is prohibited.
11. Summary Table for Temporary Signs.

Temporary Signs		
	Non-Residential Districts	Residential Districts
Large Temporary Signs (max area: 32 sq. ft. for banner, 16 square feet for all other signs)	<p><u>Number:</u> 1 per property; 2 if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of street frontage, or has &gt; 10,000 square feet of floor area.</p> <p><u>Height:</u>  <i>Ground:</i> Maximum 8 ft.  <i>Banner:</i> Maximum 24 ft.</p>	<p><u>Number:</u> 1 per property if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of street frontage or has &gt; 10,000 square feet of floor area.</p> <p><u>Height:</u>  <i>Ground:</i> Maximum 8 ft.  <i>Banner:</i> Maximum 24 ft.</p>
Small Temporary Signs (max area: 6 sq. ft.)	<p><u>Number:</u> 1 per property; 2 if property is 5+ acres with 400+ ft. of street frontage, or has &gt; 10,000 square feet of floor area.</p> <p><u>Height:</u> Maximum 6 ft.</p>	<p><u>Number:</u> 1 per property</p> <p><u>Height:</u> Maximum 6 ft.</p>

## Section 12. Regulations by Sign Type: Portable Signs

1. General Provisions.
  - a. Illumination: Illumination of any portable sign is prohibited.
  - b. Hours of Display.
    - i. 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.
    - ii. All portable signs must be taken in during inclement weather.
    - iii. Portable signs shall be weighted, temporarily secured, or strategically placed so as to avoid being carried away by high winds.
2. 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.

- a. Number. One (1) sandwich board sign is permitted per establishment. For the purposes of this subsection, a parking garage or parking lot shall be considered an establishment.
  - b. Area. Each sign shall have a maximum area of seven (7) sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height. Signs shall have a maximum height of three and one-half (3.5) feet.
  - d. Sign Placement.
    - i. If a sign is located on a public or private sidewalk, a minimum of 36 inches of unobstructed sidewalk clearance must be maintained between the sign and any building or other obstruction.
    - ii. The sign must be located on the premises, and within 12 feet of the primary public entrance, of the establishment it advertises. For the purposes of this subsection, a public entrance includes a vehicular entrance into a parking garage or parking lot.
  - e. Manual Changeable Copy.
    - i. Manual changeable copy signs are permitted when integrated into a sandwich board sign.
    - ii. Commercial messages must advertise only goods and services available on the premises.
3. Vehicular Signs are strictly prohibited as portable signs and subject to the standards of §4 - Prohibited Signs, Part 3.

### Section 13. Regulations by Sign Type: Street Pole Banners

1. General Provisions. Street pole banner 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.
  - a. Illumination: Illumination of any street pole banner is prohibited.
  - b. Area: Each street pole banner shall have a maximum area of 12.5 square feet and a maximum width of three (3) feet. Up to two (2) street pole banners are permitted per street pole.
  - c. Height.
    - i. When the street pole banner's edge is less than 18 inches from the curb, the lowest edge of the Street Pole Banner shall be at least 14 feet above the finished grade.
    - ii. When the street pole banner's edge is greater than 18 inches from the curb, the lowest edge of the street pole banner shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.
  - d. Location.
    - i. No street pole banner shall extend beyond the curbline.



- ii. Street pole banners shall maintain a minimum of three (3) foot vertical clearance below any luminaries located on the pole measured from where the ballasts connect to the poles.
- iii. Street pole banners shall not interfere with the visibility of traffic signals or signs.
- iv. No street pole banner shall be located on a pole that has traffic or pedestrian control signals.
- e. Installation and Maintenance.
  - i. All street pole banners must be made of lightweight and durable fabrics with wind slits.
  - ii. Street pole banners that are frayed, torn, or faded so that they are no longer legible will be deemed unmaintained and will be required to be removed or may be removed by Smithfield Township.
- f. Street Pole Banners require a permit, in accordance with Section 18, Permits and Applications.

#### **Section 14. Signs in R1, R2 and RC Districts**

In addition to the exempt signs described in §5 - Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements, the following numbers and types of signs may be erected in the R1, R2, and RC districts, subject to the conditions specified here and in §6-11.

1. Any limited duration sign as defined and regulated in §10 - Regulations by Sign Type: Limited Duration Signs.
2. Any temporary sign as defined and regulated in §11 - Regulations by Sign Type: Temporary Signs.
3. Home Occupations.
  - a. One (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
    - i. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of six (6) sq. ft. per sign face.
    - ii. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.
    - iii. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
  - b. One (1) wall or projecting sign shall be permitted, up to two (2) sq. ft. in area.
    - i. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.
    - ii. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
4. Freestanding signs for residential developments or apartment buildings containing more than ten units shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per street frontage.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 15 sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.

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- d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.

5. Parks

- a. Freestanding signs shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - i. Number: One (1) sign per street access to a park facility.
  - ii. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 24 sq. ft. per sign face.
  - iii. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet.
  - iv. Illumination: No illumination.
- b. Signs located on the interior of the site used to identify various use areas, facility boundaries, on-site traffic direction, trail use information, the hours and rules for the use of the grounds, etc. are exempt from permit requirements subject to the following:
  - i. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of ten (10) sq. ft.
  - ii. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.
  - iii. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
- c. Signs for recreation and sporting facilities shall be allowed provided that the following criteria is met:
  - i. Signs on the interior walls or fence of an open stadium or field shall be no greater than 24 sq. ft. in size and shall be designed to be viewed from the inside of the stadium or field only, and non-illuminated.
  - ii. One (1) freestanding scoreboard, not to exceed 200 sq. ft. in area and 20 ft. in height, is permitted per playing field.
    - 1. Commercial messages shall not exceed 30% of the front face of the scoreboard.
    - 2. The face of all scoreboards, including any attached commercial signs and panels, shall be permanently oriented toward the recreation and spectator area.
    - 3. Illumination: Scoreboards may be illuminated during scheduled sporting events only, and completely extinguished within 1 hour from the completion of the event.

6. Summary Table for Signs in Residential Districts.

		Residential Districts	
		Wall and Projecting	Freestanding
Maximum Number	Home Occupations: 1 per lot		Home Occupations: 1 per lot Residential Developments: 1 per lot  Parks: 1 per street access plus 1 freestanding scoreboard per playing

		field
Maximum Area	Home Occupations: 2 sq. ft. Parks : 20 sq. Ft.	Home Occupations: 6 sq. ft. Residential Developments: 15 sq. ft.  Parks : 24 sq. ft. (entrance), 200 sq. Ft. (scoreboard), 10 sq. ft. (signs interior to the site)
Maximum Height	The eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.  Parks: 20ft	Home Occupations: 6 ft. Residential Developments: 8 ft.  Parks: 10 ft. (entrance), 20 ft. (scoreboard), 8 ft. (signs interior to the site)

### Section 15. Signs in RE Resort District

In addition to the exempt signs described in §5 - Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements, the following numbers and types of signs may be erected in the RE District, subject to the conditions specified here and in §6-11.

1. Any sign permitted in R1, R2 and RC districts, for appropriate uses, as defined and regulated in §14 - Signs in R1, R2, and RC Districts.
2. Any portable sign as defined and regulated in §12 - Regulations by Sign Type: Portable Signs).
3. Any street pole banner as defined and regulated in §13 - Regulations by Sign Type: Street Pole Banners).
4. The total area of all wall, awning/canopy, and projecting signs shall be limited to one and a half (1.5) square feet per one (1) linear foot of building frontage that faces a public street or parking lot, subject to maximum size limitations based on sign type.
5. Wall signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per tenant per street frontage, up to two (2) signs per tenant. Where a property has entrances facing both a street and a parking lot, a second sign is permitted to face the parking lot.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 12 sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.
    - i. External illumination, lit from above
    - ii. Halo illumination or back-lit letters

6. Awning or canopy signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.
  - b. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
7. Projecting signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per ground floor establishment, plus one (1) sign per building entrance serving one or more commercial tenants without a ground floor entrance.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 10 sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eave-line or the bottom of the second story windowsill, whichever is lower.
  - d. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
8. Window signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Area: A maximum of 15% of the total window area of any single storefront may be used for permanent signs that are etched, painted, or otherwise permanently affixed to the window.
  - b. Illumination: These signs shall be non-illuminated.
9. Freestanding signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per street frontage, up to two (2) signs per property held in single and separate ownership.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 15 sq. ft., plus an additional 5 sq. ft. per tenant, up to a maximum of 30 sq. ft.
  - c. Height: Freestanding signs shall have a maximum height of 10 ft.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations **in §7 - Sign** Illumination Standards.
10. Summary Table for Signs in RE Resort Districts

RE District			
Wall and Awning/Canopy	Projecting	Window	Freestanding

Maximum Number	Wall: 1 per tenant per street frontage (up to 2 per tenant)  Awning/Canopy: N/A (See §8.b)	1 per ground floor establishment, plus 1 per building entrance serving tenants without a ground floor entrance	N/A	1 per street frontage, up to 2 per lot
Maximum Area (Total)	1.5 sq. ft. per linear ft. of building frontage facing a public street or parking lot, subject to maximum size limitations based on sign type		N/A	N/A
Maximum Area (Individual)	Wall: 12 sq. ft.  Awning/Canopy: N/A (See §8.b)	10 sq. ft.	15% total window area (permanent signs); 25% total window area (all signs)	15 sq. ft. plus 5 sq. ft. per additional tenant up to 30 sq. ft.
Maximum Height	The eaveline		N/A	10 ft.

### Section 16. Signs in ED and M1 Districts

Except as noted below, the following numbers and types of signs may be erected in the ED and M1 Zoning Districts subject to the conditions specified here and [in §6-11.](#)

1. Any sign permitted in R1, R2, RC and RE districts, for the appropriate uses, as defined and regulated in [§14-15 - Signs](#) in R1, R2, RC & RE Districts.
2. Any portable sign as defined and regulated in [§12 - Regulations](#) by Sign Type: Portable Signs.
3. Any street pole banner as defined and regulated [in §13 - Regulations](#) by Sign Type: Street Pole Banners.
4. The total area of all wall, awning/canopy, and projecting signs for non-residential uses shall be limited to one and a half (1.5) square feet per one (1) linear foot of building frontage that faces a public street or parking lot, subject to maximum size limitations based on sign type.
5. Wall signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per tenant per street frontage, up to a maximum of two (2) signs per tenant. Where a store has entrances facing both a street and a parking lot, a second sign is permitted to face the parking lot.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 32 sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in [§7 - Sign](#) Illumination Standards.
    - i. Internal illumination

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- ii. External illumination, lit from above
  - iii. Halo illumination or back-lit letters
  - iv. Neon lighting
6. Awning or canopy signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
- a. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eave line.
  - b. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.
    - i. External illumination, lit from above
7. Projecting signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
- a. Number: One (1) sign per ground floor establishment, plus one (1) sign per building entrance serving one or more commercial tenants without a ground floor entrance.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of twenty (20) sq. ft. per sign face.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.
    - i. External illumination, lit from above
    - ii. Neon lighting
8. Window signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
- a. Area: A maximum of 25% of the total window area of any single storefront may be used for permanent signs that are etched, painted, or permanently affixed to the window. A maximum of 35% of the total window area of any single storefront may be covered by a combination of permanent and temporary window signs.
  - b. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.
    - i. Neon lighting
9. Marquee signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
- a. Number: One (1) marquee sign per building.
  - b. Area: The total area of signs on a single marquee structure shall not exceed 200 sq. ft. in area.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.

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- i. Internal illumination
  - ii. Message center sign
  - iii. Digital display
10. In addition to building signs, freestanding signs for non-residential uses shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per street frontage, up to two (2) signs per property held in single and separate ownership.
    - i. For permitted gas stations, one (1) additional freestanding sign per street frontage shall be permitted for the advertising of gas prices and identification of the gas station only, up to two (2) additional signs per property.
    - ii. For permitted drive-through establishments, one (1) additional freestanding sign shall be permitted for the advertising items for sale to users of the drive-through lane only.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 50 sq. ft. plus an additional 10 sq. ft. per tenant up to a maximum of 100 sq. ft.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of 20 ft.
  - d. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 - Sign Illumination Standards.
    - i. Internal illumination
    - ii. Message center sign
    - iii. Digital display
11. Upper-level building identification signs shall be permitted subject to the following regulations.
  - a. Number: One (1) sign per building.
  - b. Area: Each sign shall have a maximum area of 200 sq. ft.
  - c. Height: Signs shall have a maximum height of ten (10) feet and shall not extend vertically beyond the eaveline.
  - d. Location: Signs shall be limited to buildings at least three (3) stories in height and shall be located only on the top floor of such buildings.
  - e. Illumination: The following illumination types shall be permitted subject to the regulations in §7 Sign Illumination Standards.
12. Off-premises signs shall be permitted, subject to the regulations detailed in this section 16 as well as those detailed in §9 - Regulations by Sign Type: Off-Premises Signs.
13. Summary Table for Signs in Economic Development (ED) and Industrial (M1) Industrial Districts.

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Economic Development (ED) and Industrial District (M1)						
	Wall and Awning/Canopy	Projecting	Window	Marquee	Freestanding	<i>Optional:</i> Upper-Level Building Identification
Maximum Number	Wall: 1 per tenant per street frontage (up to 2 per tenant)  Awning/Canopy: N/A (see 8b)	1 per ground floor establishment, plus 1 per building entrance serving tenants without a ground floor entrance	N/A	1 per building	1 per street frontage, up to 2 per lot (additional signs allowed for gas stations and drive-thru establishments)	1 per building (≥ 3 stories high)
Maximum Area (Total)	1.5 sq. ft. per linear ft. of building frontage facing a public street or parking lot, subject to maximum size limitations based on sign type		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum Area (Individual)	Wall: 32 sq. ft.  Awning/Canopy: N/A (see 8)	20 sq. ft.	25% total window area (permanent signs); 35% (all signs)	200 sq. ft.	50 sq. ft. plus an additional 10 sq. ft. per tenant up to 100 sq. ft.	200 sq. ft.
Maximum Height	The eaveline		N/A	The eaveline	20 ft.	The eaveline



## Section 17. Removal of Unsafe, Unlawful, or Abandoned Signs

1. Abandoned, Unsafe or Unlawful Signs.
  - a. Upon written notice by Smithfield Township, the owner, person, or firm maintaining a sign shall remove any sign when it becomes unsafe, is in danger of falling, or it becomes so deteriorated that it no longer serves a useful purpose of communication, or it is determined by Smithfield Township to be a nuisance,, or it is unlawfully erected in violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance.
  - b. Smithfield Township may remove or cause to be removed unsafe or unlawful signs at the expense of the owner and/or lessee in the event of the owner of the person or firm maintaining the sign has not complied with the terms of the notice within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice. In the event of immediate danger, Smithfield Township may remove the sign immediately upon the issuance of notice to the owner, person, or firm maintaining the sign.
  - c. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of any property upon which an abandoned sign is located to remove such a sign within 180 days of the sign becoming abandoned as defined in this section or remove the content of the sign in the case of an abandoned sign. Removal of an abandoned sign shall include the removal of the entire sign including the sign face, supporting structure, and structural trim.
  - d. Where the owner of the property on which an abandoned, unsafe or unlawful sign is located fails to remove such sign within the time frames noted in this section, Smithfield Township may remove or replace such sign. Any expense directly incurred in the removal of such sign shall be charged to the owner of the property. Where the owner fails to pay, Smithfield Township may file a lien upon the property for the purpose of recovering all reasonable costs associated with the removal of the sign.

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## Section 18. Permits & Applications

1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to erect, alter, repair, or relocate any sign within Smithfield Township without first obtaining a sign permit as outlined in this section, unless the sign is specifically exempt from the permit requirements as outlined in §5 – Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements.
2. In order to apply for a sign permit, the applicant must provide the following information, in writing, to Smithfield Township:
  - a. Name of organization and location.
  - b. Name, address, and telephone number of the property owner, and the signature of the property owner or duly authorized agent for the owner.
  - c. Contact person and contact information.
  - d. Description of the activities occurring on the site where the sign will be installed.
  - e. Description of any existing signage that will remain on the site.
  - f. Identification of the type of sign(s) to be erected by the applicant.
  - g. A description of the sign to be installed, including design of each sign face and sign

structure, size, shape, dimensions, total area, sign height, depth, color scheme, structural details, materials, lighting scheme and proposed location, and in the case of Limited Duration Signs and Street Pole Signs, the expected length of time the sign will be displayed and number of signs to be installed;

- h. Two copies of a site plan depicting the locations of proposed signage and existing remaining signage. Site plan must also provide any and all details necessary to confirm that the sign to be installed complies with all requirements set forth in this Chapter. Depending on this sign type and location, this may include:
    - i. Lot dimensions, building frontage, and existing cartways, rights-of-way and driveways.
    - ii. Building elevations, existing and proposed facades, parapet walls, eaveline and the location and size of all proposed and existing permanent signage.
    - iii. Current photographs showing existing signs on the premises and certifying the date on which photographs were taken.
  - i. If not the owner of the property, written permission from the owner. In the case of Street Pole Banner, this must include written permission from the owner of the pole as well.
  - j. A permit fee, to be established from time to time by Resolution of Smithfield Township shall be paid.
- 3. Smithfield Township shall have 30 days from the receipt of a complete application to review the application.
- 4. A permit shall be issued on or before the end of the 30 day review period if the application for a new sign or renewal complies with the regulations contained herein.
- 5. If Smithfield Township does not issue a determination within the 30 day period, the sign permit is deemed approved.
- 6. An application for a sign permit may be denied by Smithfield Township within the 30 day review period if the application fails to comply with the standards contained herein. Smithfield Township shall inform the applicant of the reasons for denying the application for sign permit by certified mail.
- 7. Upon denial of an application for a sign permit, the applicant has 30 days to revise and resubmit the application for review by Smithfield Township. In the alternative, the applicant may also appeal the decision of Smithfield Township to the governing body within the 30 day time period. Smithfield Township at its next regularly scheduled meeting, shall review Smithfield Township's denial of the application.
- 8. With the exception of permits for signs emitting light, in accordance with Section 7, Sign Illumination Standards, as well as Section 10 Limited Durations Signs and Section 13 Street Pole Signs, Sign Permits shall not expire provided that such signs are not abandoned or destroyed. In the instance that substantial repair or replacement becomes necessary the organization must apply for a new sign permit, and pay an additional fee, if required. Limited duration signs and Street Pole Banner permits are issued for one (1) year and may be renewed, by approval of the Board of Supervisors.

9. All illuminated signs shall require certification in order to demonstrate continued compliance with the brightness requirements set forth in §7 Sign Illumination Standards. This certification must be renewed every three years. This will allow Smithfield Township to adjust standards as needed based on changing technology and evaluation of impacts. Smithfield Township reserves the right to assess the brightness of any sign at any time to ensure compliance with illumination requirements.

### Section 19. Nonconforming Signs

1. 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.
2. All permanent signs and sign structures shall be brought into conformance with the sign regulations when and if the following occurs:
  - a. 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.
  - b. If more than 50% of the sign area is damaged, it shall be repaired to conform to this Ordinance.
  - c. An alteration in the structure of a sign support.
  - d. A change in the mechanical facilities or type of illumination.
  - e. A change in the material of the sign face.
  - f. The property on which the nonconforming sign is located submits a subdivision or land development application requiring municipal review and approval.
  - g. 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 by Smithfield Township.
3. To determine the legal status of existing signs in each of the cases listed in §19.2, the applicant shall submit the following information to the Smithfield Township Zoning Officer:
  - a. Type(s) of existing sign(s) located on the property.
  - b. The area and height of all signs.
  - c. For freestanding signs, the distance between the curblineline or shoulder and the nearest portion of the sign.
  - d. Type of sign illumination.
  - e. The material of which the sign is constructed.
  - f. The building frontage.
  - g. If an Off-Premises sign, the applicant shall also submit the plan requirements listed in §9.13.
4. Prior to the events listed in §19.2, 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.

5. Nonconforming signs shall be exempt from the provisions of §19.2., under the following conditions:
  - a. The nonconforming sign possesses documented historic value.
  - b. The nonconforming sign is of a unique nature or type by virtue of its architectural value or design, as determined by the National Park Service, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, or local historical commission.
  - c. When a nonconforming sign is required to be moved because of public right of way improvements.
6. All nonconforming Temporary Signs, Portable Signs, Banner Flags and Banners must be permanently removed within 90 days of the effective date of this Ordinance, unless specific approval is granted as provided for herein.

### **Section 20. Signs on the Premises of Legally Nonconforming Uses.**

1. 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.
2. 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 Ordinance was adopted.
3. The owner of a property with a legally nonconforming use may seek a special exemption sign permit that would enable them to install on-site signage on the property that is in compliance with the signage requirements set forth for the district in which the non-conforming use would otherwise normally be found (eg. the signage allowed by a legal and registered non-conforming restaurant located in an R1 would be permitted to install on-site signage as if it were located in an ED Zone.

### **Section 21. Substitution Clause**

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, to the extent that this Chapter allows a sign containing commercial copy, it shall allow a non-commercial sign to the same extent. The non-commercial message may occupy the entire sign area or any portion thereof, and may substitute for or be combined with the commercial message. The sign message may be changed from commercial to non-commercial, or from one noncommercial message to another, as frequently as desired by the sign’s owner, provided that the sign is not prohibited and the sign continues to comply with all requirements of this Chapter.

### **Section 22. Violations**

Prohibited or the placement of a sign that requires a sign permit without a sign permit shall be unlawful. In addition to the remedies provided above, in the event that the owner does not

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comply with the notice of violation within the prescribed time, the Zoning Officer shall be authorized to file a civil and/or criminal complaint against the owner on account of any violation(s) of this Ordinance and/or to institute other legal proceedings for the abatement of such violation(s). Each day that a violation is continued shall constitute a separate offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, plus reasonable attorney fees and court costs actually incurred by Smithfield Township, provided that the owner is determined to be guilty of the violation(s).

**Commented [A16]:** Ken suggested adding a minimum of \$150 to avoid issues with judges issuing extremely low judgements.