



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

37 Washington Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

Telephone: 508.228.7231

Fax: 508.325.7572

COMMISSIONERS

Dirk Roggeveen
Chairman

Linda Williams
Secretary

John McLaughlin

Valerie Norton

David Barham

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

John Wagley

Diane Coombs

Dawn Hill Holdgate

STAFF

Mark W. Voigt, AICP
Administrator
mvoigt@nantucket-ma.gov

James E. Grieder
Assistant Administrator
jgrieder@nantucket-ma.gov

Terry Norton
Office Administrator
tnorton@nantucket-ma.gov

Ann Medina
Office Assistant

SIGN REGULATIONS

FINAL DRAFT

4.5.1 DEFINITION:

4.5 FLAG SIGNS

4.5.1 DEFINITION:

Any sign constructed of fabric, canvas, or similar material bearing information relating to or identifying a business (with the exception of a national or state flag) secured or mounted on a structure in such a way as to allow wind movement and intended to be displayed in a free-flowing manner ~~with the exception of a national or state flag~~ is designed as a flag sign. Flag signs should comply with the other relevant requirements from Section 3 regarding placement, design and color.

4.5.2 SIZE:

Flag signs shall be of such a size that will not obscure any architectural features.

4.5.3 PLACEMENT:

The lowest point of a flag sign shall be not less than seven feet, six inches (7' - 6"), above the sidewalk.

4.5.4 COMBINATIONS:

A flag sign may be used in combination with one (1) of the following: menu box, wall sign, or window sign.

4.5.5 PROVISIONS:

A. One flag sign is permitted for each public entrance of a building, with a maximum of one (1) flag sign per business.

B. Flag signs should be designed to have similar character, color, and style as other signs of the business and must conform to general guidelines regarding context.

C. ~~“Open/Closed” and “Sale” flags must be applied for and are generally discouraged.~~ Flag signs should be displayed only during hours of operation of the business.

4.7 MENU BOXES/CHALKBOARDS

4.7.1 DEFINITION:

A menu box is a weather-tight box constructed of wood with a glass or plexiglass front which is used to display menus, signs, bulletins, photographs, or other information.

A chalkboard is a reusable writing surface, typically made of slate or some other similar material, on which text or drawings are made with chalk only. Chalkboards are intended to be temporary and removed daily, placed in proximity to the entrance and not in a public way.

4.7.2 SIZE:

The menu box or chalk board shall be no larger than five (5) square feet, and be no larger than 36" in any one direction.

4.7.3 CONSTRUCTION:

A menu box shall be constructed of wood, which may be painted or left natural. The front of the box shall use safety glass or plexiglass. Interior lighting should be no brighter than 450 Lumens (30 watts) of incandescent light.

A chalkboard shall be framed with wood, which may be painted an approved color or left natural. There shall be no text or logo painted, incised, carved or in any other manner applied to the frame or the chalkboard.

4.7.4 PLACEMENT:

A menu box shall be placed on a structure and may not be freestanding. (See Appendix C.1)

4.7.5 COMBINATIONS:

A menu box or chalkboard may be used in combination with one (1) of the following: awning sign, fence sign, flag sign, projecting sign, symbol sign, wall sign, or window sign. A menu box and chalkboard may be used in combination.

4.7.6 PROVISIONS:

A description of proposed illumination must be included with application.

4.8 MONUMENT SIGNS

4.8.1 ROCK SIGNS

Rock signs must be applied for and may be approvable if the following conditions are met:

The rock sign:

- a. must be in a rural or semi-rural setting (i.e., outside of the OHD and SOHD);
- b. space allocated for lettering must not exceed three (3) square feet in area (defined as the maximum height by the maximum width) and the lettering may be no more than 3" in height;
- c. must not exceed three (3) feet as measured from the average grade of the surrounding area;
- d. must be securely installed;

- e. must not be placed in or on the street, sidewalk, or municipal utility easement;
- f. may not be used in combination with other signs.
- g. graphics and text must comply with the relevant General Guidelines from Section 3.

4.9 PROJECTING SIGNS

4.10 PUBLIC INFORMATION SIGNS

4.11 QUARTERBOARDS

4.12 STREET NAME SIGNS

4.12 STREET NAME SIGNS

4.12.1 DEFINITION:

A street name sign is a sign, usually supplied by the Department of Public Works (DPW), located at the intersection of two streets, displaying the name of a street.

4.12.2 SIZE:

Street name signs must be no more than five and a half inches (5 ½”) in height.

4.12.3 PLACEMENT:

Street name signs shall be placed at the intersection of the main road and the new street and may be attached to a fence, the wall of a building, or on a four (4) inch by four (4) inch wolmanized freestanding post with beveled top, seven feet, six inches (7’ - 6”), above grade.

4.12.4 PAINT COLORS:

Background should be cream. Lettering and Posts should be gray. There also should be one half (1/2) inch gray border around the edge of the sign.

4.12.5 LETTERING TYPE:

Shall be in three inches (3”) in height. The lettering may be sans-serifed *if* it is all cap and block lettered.

4.12.6 ALTERNATIVE STREET NAME SIGNS

Outside the ROH the following alternative street name sign types are permitted:

- A. Recommended for rural areas (such as those zoned LUG- 2 or LUG- 3) that have low-lying vegetation: two (2) four (4) inch by four (4) inch posts. Secure sign with four (4) carriage bolts. The height shall not exceed thirty (30) inches. The sign face shall not exceed twelve (12) inches in height and forty- two (42) inches in length.
- B. Four (4) foot high post set twelve (12) inches below grade with street names painted directly on a vertical layout or wood plates mounted with expansion bolts bearing street names.
- C. Four (4) inch by four (4) inch wolmanized post set into concrete base with street signs set through the post and secured with wood dowels. This is recommended for areas where theft of signs is a problem.
- D. Within the ROH, only signs complying with sections 4.12.3-5 are permitted.

4.12.7 PROVISIONS

~~A. Rocks and stone posts are not permitted as street name signs.~~

- A. Metal signs and posts are not permitted.

4.13 SUSPENDED SIGNS

4.14 SYMBOL SIGNS:

4.15 TEMPORARY SIGNS:

4.16 TRAFFIC/DIRECTIONAL SIGNS:

4.17 VEHICLE SIGNS:

4.18 VENDING MACHINES:

4.19 WALL SIGNS:

4.20 WHARF SIGNS:

4.21 WINDOW SIGNS:

4.21.1 DEFINITION:

A window sign is any sign affixed to the surface of the glass or visible through a window or door on a permanent basis within one (1) foot of the glass and visible from a traveled way.

4.21.2 SIZE:

The area of window signs shall not exceed fifteen per cent (15%) of the window area or ten per-cent (10%) of the glass area of any required exit door (See Section 4.18). No window sign shall exceed the maximum allowable space for a wall sign when visible from the exterior.

4.21.3 COMBINATIONS:

Window signs may be used in combination with one (1) of the following: awning sign, flag sign, menu box, projecting sign, symbol sign, or wall sign.

4.21.4 PROVISIONS:

A. Permanent basis is defined as more than thirty (30) days.

B. Removable window signs, indicating hours of operation **and/or "open/closed"**, business affiliations, emergency information and the like (excluding product or service information) are permitted provided the aggregate area of all such signs for a single business does not exceed (1) square foot per entrance and that bright or fluorescent colors are not used.

4.21.5 TEMPORARY WINDOW SIGNS:

Temporary window signs pertaining to special sales or events are permitted for no more than fifteen (15) days and may be affixed to windows provided that the total area of such sign(s) shall not cover more than fifteen per cent (15%) of the area of the window to which it is affixed.