

Article XII

Sign Regulations

Signs may be erected and maintained only when in compliance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 1200 General Standards

- a. Sign Area, Height, and Setback: The following guidelines shall apply when interpreting area and height regulations in this Section:
 - 1) Area
 - a) The area of a sign shall be the area of the smallest geometric shape, such as a rectangle, triangle, or circle that will encompass all elements of the sign, such as letters, figures, symbols, designs, logos or other displays.
 - b) When the sign is a separate unit, the area shall include any borders, framing, trim, decorative attachments, background, and space between elements; it shall include any supporting structure unless that structure is illuminated, is in the form of a symbol, or contains advertising elements. The maximum sign area including the supporting structure shall be six (6) square feet.
 - c) When the sign is applied to a wall or otherwise has no definable edges, the area shall include all color, artwork, or other means used to differentiate the sign from the surface upon which it is placed.
 - d) When a single sign structure has more than one face and no two sign faces are more than 3' apart at any point, the area shall be computed by determining the greatest total area of all sign faces visible from any single location.
- b. Height: The height of a sign shall be measured from the average ground level beneath the sign to the highest point of the sign. The ground level shall be the lower of the ground level existing at the time of construction or the ground level existing prior to construction and prior to any earth disturbance at the site. This prior ground level may be established by any reliable source, including, without limitation, existing topographic maps, aerial photographs, photographs of the site, or affidavits of people who are personally familiar with the site. No person(s) shall

artificially increase the maximum height of a sign by altering the grade at the base of the sign by any means.

- 1) No sign shall be higher than the height limitation of the district in which it is located.
 - 2) Wall signs may be at any height on the wall to which they are attached, except that they may not extend higher than the top of the wall.
 - 3) Roof signs may extend no more than five (5) feet above the lowest point where they are attached to the building and may not extend above the highest point of the roof, except when a sign is located on a flat roof, the total height of the sign shall not extend higher than five (5) feet above the roof.
- c. Setback: Minimum sign setback shall be in accordance with the zoning district in which it is located.
- d. General Regulations: The following regulations shall apply to all signs in Felton Borough.
- 1) All signs shall reflect the general character of the neighborhood.
 - 2) All signs shall be constructed of durable materials and maintained in good condition.
 - 3) When a sign becomes unsafe, the Zoning Officer shall give written notice to the owner of the premises on which the sign is located that the sign must be made safe or removed immediately.
 - 4) The areas surrounding all signs shall be maintained in a neat, clean, and attractive condition.
 - 5) All signs shall be removed within 90 days if the purpose for which they were erected no longer exists.
 - 6) No temporary signs shall be permitted except as authorized elsewhere in this Section.
 - 7) No sign shall be located within a street right-of-way, except a government sign, a public utility sign, a non-profit organization sign, or another sign approved by the governing body or the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Non-

profit organizational signs shall not be in conflict with existing or proposed traffic regulatory signs.

- 8) No sign more than 30" high, other than a government sign or temporary traffic/pedestrian controls for construction operations, shall be located within the 75' clear sight triangle of any street intersection or in any other position where it could endanger vehicular or pedestrian traffic by obstructing vision.
- 9) No signs shall be painted, pasted, nailed, stapled, or otherwise attached to utility poles. Nor shall any signs be painted, pasted, nailed, stapled, or otherwise attached to trees, fences, fire hydrants, or in any unauthorized manner to walls or other signs, except for "warning", "no hunting", "no trespassing" or similar signs.
- 10) No sign shall be placed so as to obstruct any door, stairway, window, fire escape, or other means of egress or ingress.
- 11) No sign shall be placed so as to obstruct ventilation or light from a building.
- 12) No overhead sign shall have a clearance of less than 8' between any pedestrian walk and the lowest part of the sign.
- 13) No sign that is parallel to and attached to the face of a building shall project more than 18" over a public sidewalk.
- 14) No sign that is perpendicular to and attached to the face of a building shall project over a public sidewalk nor extend beyond any property line.
- 15) No sign shall have lights or other illuminating devices that constitute a public safety or traffic hazard.
- 16) No sign other than authorized governmental signs shall be permitted which imitates or which might be confused with an official traffic sign or signal, such as (1) by containing the words "Stop" or "Danger" or (2) by including red, green, or yellow lights.
- 17) No sign shall advertise activities or products that are illegal under federal, state, or local municipal laws or regulations.
- 18) No signs shall include statements, words, or pictures that are considered to be vulgar, obscene, or pornographic.

- 19) Streamers, banners, pennants, spinners, reflectors, ribbons, tinsel, or similar materials are permitted in the Commercial/industrial and Village Center zoning districts when used in conjunction with a commercial or industrial use.
- 20) No animated, sequential, intermittent, flashing, rotating, or oscillating signs shall be permitted except for time and temperature signs.
- 21) No sign shall emit smoke, visible vapors, particles, sound or odor.
- 22) No permanent inflatable sign shall be permitted. Inflatable signs are permitted as a temporary sign in accordance with the applicable regulations governing temporary signs.
- 23) No open flames shall be permitted as part of a sign display.
- 24) Advertising painted upon or displayed upon a barn or other structure shall be considered a sign and shall comply with the regulations of this Article.
- 25) Any sign which has been authenticated as historically significant by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, whether original or replica shall be exempt from the regulations of this Section.
- 26) Signs may be interior lighted with non-glaring lights; signs may be externally lighted by lights which are directed downward and shall be shielded so there is no direct light transmitted to other properties or public rights-of-way.
- 27) The light from any illuminated sign shall not adversely affect (1) safe vision of operators of vehicles moving on public or private streets or parking areas, (2) any residential district, or (3) any part of a building or property used for residential purposes.
- 28) No exposed neon tubing or strings of lights shall be permitted to outline buildings, structures, or parts thereof used for commercial, home occupations home businesses or industrial use. Customary holiday decorations may be installed 45 days prior to and removed not later than 30 days after the holiday.
- 29) All electrically illuminated signs shall be constructed to the standards/listing of the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. and the latest edition of the National Electric Code.
- 30) The display of property address numbers only is not considered a sign under this ordinance and as such is not regulated. If the sign includes other

information in addition to the property address number, it shall be regulated under the appropriate sign section.