

WARREN TOWNSHIP SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION

Date: _____

OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

BLOCK: _____ LOT: _____ TELEPHONE #: _____

SIGN INFORMATION

LOCATION: _____

TYPE: (circle appropriate categories)

Ground Projecting

Wall or Façade

Commercial

Residential

Industrial

Temporary

Neon

DETAILS:

Background Color: _____

Letter Color: _____

Square Footage: _____

Illuminated? YES ____ NO ____

BE ADVISED THAT A PERMIT FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICE IS ALSO REQUIRED FOR SIGN INSTALLATION (ELECTRIC PERMIT REQUIRED IF APPLICABLE).

PLEASE INCLUDE 2 COPIES OF A SURVEY SHOWING ALL SETBACKS AND A DETAILED DRAWING OF SIGN AND LOCATION

Fee Due: _____

Permit #: _____

Check #: _____

Date Issued: _____

Zoning Officer Approval: _____ Date: _____

John T. Chadwick, IV, P.P.

Comments: _____

16-25 SIGN REGULATIONS.

16-25.1 General Provisions. All **signs** hereafter erected or maintained except official traffic and street **signs** shall conform with the provisions of this chapter and the Uniform Construction Code of the Township of Warren. Any sign(s) not specifically permitted is hereby prohibited.

- a. *Permits Required.* It shall be unlawful for any person to erect or structurally alter any sign without first obtaining a permit and making payment of the fee required by the Construction Code of the Township of Warren. The erection or relocation of a free-standing sign as defined herein shall require minor site plan submission prior to issuance of any permit.
- b. *Reference to Zoning Districts.* Except as otherwise provided, no outdoor sign or other form of exterior advertising shall be erected or maintained unless the sign complies with the requirements established for the zoning district in which the sign is located.
(Ord. No. 93-24)

16-25.2 Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them by this subsection.

- a. *"Sign"* shall mean a name, identification, description, display or illustration which is affixed to, or printed to, or represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure or parcel of land, and which directs attention to a person, institution, organization, activity, place, object or product of business, provided that the display of public notices, the flag, emblem or insignia of the United States of America, political unit, temporary **signs** or temporary display in connection with a charity drive for contributions shall not be considered **signs** under the provisions of this section.
- b. *"Animated sign"* shall mean a sign which has its illumination maintained at a constant intensity at the source of illumination, and the animation created by means other than the increase or decrease of said intensity at its source.
- c. *"Business sign"* shall mean a sign which directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service or entertainment sold or offered upon the same premises where such sign is located.
- d. *"Directional sign"* shall mean **signs** containing directional information about public places owned or operated by Federal, State or local governments or their agencies; publicly or privately owned natural phenomena, historic, cultural, scientific, educational and religious sites; and areas of natural beauty or naturally suited to outdoor recreation.
- e. *"Erect"* shall mean to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw or in any other way bring into being or establish, but it shall not include any of the foregoing activities when performed as an incident to the change of advertising message or normal maintenance or repair of a sign or sign structure.
- f. *"Flashing sign"* shall mean a sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use.
- g. *"Indirectly illuminated sign"* shall mean any illuminated sign whose illumination is derived from an external artificial source.
- h. *"Marquee"* shall mean a permanent roof-like shelter extending from part or all of a building face.
- i. *"Nameplate sign"* shall mean a sign which states the name or address or both of the occupant of the lot where the sign is located.
- j. *"Outdoor advertising sign"* (billboard) shall mean a sign which directs attention to a business, industry, profession, commodity, service or entertainment not necessarily sold or offered upon the premises where the sign is located.
- k. *"Professional sign"* shall mean a sign listing only the name and profession of the practitioner.
- l. *"Projecting sign"* shall mean a sign which is attached to the building wall and extends more than eighteen (18) inches from the face of such wall.
- m. *"Roof sign"* shall mean a sign constructed or supported upon the roof of any building or structure.
- n. *"Revolving sign"* shall mean a sign which moves in any manner by mechanical means.
- o. *"Sign area"* shall mean the entire area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the limits of the actual message or copy area. It does not include any structural elements outside the limits of the sign surface and not forming an integral part of the display. For projecting or double-faced **signs**, where the sign

faces are parallel, the sign area of only one (1) display face shall be measured in computing total sign area.

- p. "Temporary sign" shall mean a sign which is intended to advertise community or civic projects, real estate for sale or lease, or other special events on a temporary basis. Temporary **signs** advertising community or civic projects or other special events shall be permitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days. Except for real estate and Warren Township-based nonprofit and charitable organization community or civic projects or events, all temporary **signs** shall require a zoning permit. (See subsection 16-25.6e.). Banners shall only be permitted as set forth in herein. (Ord. No. 2016-15)
- q. "*Wall sign*" shall mean a sign which is attached to the wall of a building with the face in a plane parallel to such wall and not extending more than eighteen (18) inches from the face of the wall. (Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 2016-15)

16-25.3 Exempt Signs. The provisions and regulations of this section shall not apply to the following **signs**:

- a. Professional nameplate **signs** indicating the name and profession of the occupant of a dwelling, provided such **signs** do not exceed two (2) square feet. Said **signs** shall not be lighted between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- b. Temporary **signs** inside windows of commercial establishments not covering more than twenty-five (25%) percent of any given window.
- c. Temporary **signs** of nonprofit and charitable organizations (excluding banners as authorized herein), provided that such **signs** do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. Said **signs** shall be removed within ten (10) days after completion of said event or function. The provisions of subsections 16-25.4 and 16-25.5 shall apply to the aforesaid **signs**, except for banner **signs**. (Ord. No. 2016-15 § 3)
- d. Bulletin boards not over sixteen (16) square feet in area for public, charitable or religious institutions when same are located on the premises of said institutions and located twenty-five (25) feet from any lot line.
- e. **Signs** denoting the architect, engineer or contractor when placed upon work under construction, and not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area. Said **signs** to be removed within ten (10) days of issuance of certificate of occupancy. Such sign shall be located no less than ten (10) square feet from any property line.
- f. Memorial **signs** or tablets, names of buildings and dates of construction when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible metal.
- g. **Signs** indicating a political preference for a person and/or political party seeking election provided such **signs** do not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area on any one (1) side. Said **signs** to be removed within ten (10) days after the completion of the election. The provisions of subsections 16-25.4 and 16-25.5 shall apply to the aforesaid **signs**.
- h. Traffic directional **signs**:
 - 1. As shown on an approved site plan or,
 - 2. If no development plan is required, such sign shall be located no less than five (5) feet from edge of pavement and have dimensions of no greater than one (1) foot by two (2) feet and shall not exceed three (3) feet in height.
- i. On site real estate or lease **signs** not exceeding six (6) square feet in area and off site real estate sales/directional **signs** not exceeding six (6) square feet in area, when erected and maintained in accordance with the requirements set forth in subsection 16-25.7d. The provisions of subsections 16-25.4 and 16-25.5 shall apply to the aforesaid **signs**. (Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 95-1 § 1; Ord. No. 98-26, § 1; Ord. No. 2016-15 § 3)

16-25.4 Prohibited Sign Features.

- a. No sign shall be erected, used or maintained which in any way simulates official, directional or warning **signs** erected or maintained by the State of New Jersey, by any County or municipality thereof, or by any public utility or similar agency concerned with the protection of the public health or safety.
- b. No neon sign or similar illustrated advertisement shall be of such color or located in such a fashion as to diminish or detract in any way from the effectiveness of any traffic signal or similar safety or warning device.
- c. The following advertisements are specifically prohibited: any advertisement which uses a series of two (2) or more **signs** placed in a line parallel to the highway or in similar fashion all carrying in a single advertisement message, part of which is contained on each sign.

- d. No **signs** shall have flashing lights or exposed high flashing lights or exposed high intensity illumination.
- e. No sign may obstruct any windows, door, fire escape, stairway or opening intended to provide light or ingress and egress to or from any building or structure.
- f. No sign may be placed in such a position to cause a danger to traffic by obscuring visibility.
- g. No banners, pinwheels or similar **signs** shall be permitted, except that a banner may be permitted only for events sponsored by Warren Township, or at the discretion of the Township Committee as authorized by Resolution.
(Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 2016-15 § 2)

16-25.5 Prohibited Signs.

- a. Billboards, outdoor display structures and **signs** mounted on trailers, platforms and atop vehicle(s).
- b. **Signs** projecting more than three (3) feet from the wall of a building and all roof **signs**.
- c. **Signs** visible from the street using the word "Stop" or "Danger" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character with the effect of simulating a public safety warning or traffic sign.
- d. **Signs** other than officially authorized **signs** or temporary banners of a Warren Township-sponsored event tacked, pasted, painted or otherwise attached to poles, posts, trees, fences, sidewalks or curbs.
(Ord. No. 2016-15 § 3)
- e. Exterior **signs** using animated display except for clocks and weather information.
- f. No sign other than official traffic control devices or street **signs** shall be erected within, or encroach upon, the right-of-way of any street.
- g. Rotating or moving by mechanical means **signs**.
(Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 2016-15 § 3)

16-25.6 General Regulations.

- a. *Illumination.* All **signs** shall be shielded to prevent the direct rays of illumination from being cast into adjoining property and approaching vehicles.
- b. *Location.* No sign shall be located in a required buffer area.
- c. *Nonconforming Signs.* Nonconforming **signs** shall not be enlarged, relocated, altered, rebuilt, and further provided that failure to keep **signs** in good repair for a period of six (6) consecutive calendar months shall constitute abandonment and such sign may not then be replaced or rehabilitated and must be removed by the owner.
- d. *Maintenance of Signs.* Any sign that is or shall become dangerous or unsafe in any manner whatsoever shall be repaired and made safe or shall be removed.
- e. *Permit Required.* No temporary or permanent sign(s) shall be installed without first obtaining a temporary or permanent sign zoning permit from the Zoning Officer of Warren Township, unless specifically exempted by subsection 16-25.3.
(Ord. No. 93-24)

16-25.7 Signs Permitted in Residential Districts.

- a. **Signs** not exceeding one (1) square foot for driveway entrances and exits or for warning or directional purposes. No such **signs** shall show any type of commercial identification or advertising.
- b. Identification **signs** for schools, churches or similar public or quasi-public institutions, clubs, lodges, farms, estates or similar uses provided the area of such **signs** does not exceed twelve (12) square feet. No such sign shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to a lot line.
- c. **Signs** advertising the sale of products from a farm as defined in this chapter, when the products are grown or raised on the premises, provided the area of such **signs** does not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. No such sign shall be located less than twenty-five (25) feet from the edge of pavement or ten (10) feet from a lot line, whichever the greater.
- d. One (1) unlighted real estate sign, not over six (6) square feet in area, advertising the sale or lease of the building or lot upon which the sign is maintained, provided that the same is removed immediately upon the execution of a contract relative to the sale or lease of the said property. One (1) unlighted garage sale sign, not over six (6) square feet in area, advertising a garage sale for a period not to exceed five (5) days upon the lot which the sign is maintained, provided that same is removed immediately upon the end of the garage sale.

The Zoning Officer may allow, on a individual basis and upon showing of substantial need, a limited number of unlighted real estate sale or lease, directional **signs**, and garage sale **signs** not over six (6) square feet in area, to be placed at location approved by the Zoning Officer and for limited periods of time as also approved by the Zoning Officer.

- e. The maximum height of any ground (a/k/a freestanding) sign shall not exceed six (6) feet.
(Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 95-1 § 2)

16-25.8 Signs Permitted in Nonresidential Districts.

- a. A sign shall identify only the business or use conducted on the premises except that one (1) directory ground sign in addition to business or use identity sign shall be permitted in accordance with paragraphs e. through g. below and that the height of a directory sign shall not exceed ten (10) feet.
- b. Sign(s) attached to a wall shall not exceed five (5) feet in height nor fifty (50%) percent of the width of the wall to which attached.
- c. **Signs** attached to a wall of a building shall not exceed ten (10%) percent of the area of wall. No one (1) sign shall exceed one hundred (100) square feet in area.
- d. The maximum height of any ground sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) feet above the ground level or the height of the principal building, whichever the lesser.
- e. Ground **signs** shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area and shall be limited to one (1) per lot except for corner lots, for which one (1) sign per street frontage will be allowed provided the total street frontage exceeds three hundred (300) feet.
- f. No ground sign shall be located closer to a lot line than ten (10) feet or the height of the ground sign, whichever the greater.
- g. No ground sign shall be permitted in a side or rear yard area.
- h. One (1) unlighted real estate sign, not over six (6) square feet in area, advertising the sale or lease of the building or lot upon which the sign is maintained, provided that the same is removed immediately upon the execution of a contract relative to the sale or lease of the said property. One (1) unlighted garage sale sign, not over six (6) square feet in area, advertising a garage sale upon the lot which the sign is maintained, provided that same is removed immediately upon the end of the garage sale.

The Zoning Officer may allow, on a individual basis and upon showing of substantial need, a limited number of unlighted real estate sale or lease, directional **signs**, and garage sale **signs** not over six (6) square feet in area, to be placed at locations approved by the Zoning Officer and for limited periods of time as also approved by the Zoning Officer.

(Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 95-1 § 3)

16-25.9 Penalties. For violation and conviction of any provision of this section the fine shall be:

Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars for first time offenders;

Fifty (\$50.00) dollars for second time offenders;

Up to five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for third time offenders at the discretion of the Municipal Court Judge.

(Ord. No. 93-24; Ord. No. 95-1 § 4)

16-25.10 Administrative and Enforcement. This Section 16-25 shall be administered by the Township Zoning Officer and enforced by the Township Zoning Officer and the Township Police. The removal of any **signs** violating the within section shall be accomplished by the Township Zoning Officer, the Township Police Officers and/or their designee. All **signs** confiscated by the Township shall become Township property. A confiscated sign, at the option of the Township Zoning Officer, may be returned to its owner. (Ord. No. 95-1 § 5)