

THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-00

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, ADOPT AND ENACT SECTIONS OF THE TOWN CODE OF SYKESVILLE TO AMEND AND ENACT CHAPTER 180 – ZONING, ARTICLE XIV – SPECIAL PROVISIONS, SUBSECTION §180-89. SIGNS.

WHEREAS, The Town of Sykesville (the "Town") is a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, organized and existing under the Charter adopted in 1965 contained in the Public Local Laws of Carroll County, 1976 Edition, as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland and the Town Charter, the Town is empowered to adopt by ordinance and enforce within the Town general provision to protect the health safety and welfare of the citizens of Sykesville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE THAT CHAPTER 180 – ZONING, ARTICLE XIV – SPECIAL PROVISIONS, SUBSECTION §180-89. SIGNS BE ENACTED AS FOLLOWS:

§ 180-89. Signs.

In order to properly integrate all regulating provisions affecting signs, as defined in §180-122, and to regulate such devices in an orderly and comprehensive manner, it is hereby provided that signs are subject to regulations as set forth herein.

- A. Signs permitted without zoning certificate. The following signs are permitted without a zoning certificate provided that the following conditions are adhered to:
 - (1) Permanent Signs located in any R district not exceeding one square foot in area.
 - (2) Temporary Signs, not exceeding 9 square feet located in the Downtown Historic District and 32 square feet located outside of the Downtown Historic District. No sign shall be located in such a manner that traffic visibility is impaired.
 - (3) A Banner may be displayed across the roadway at the intersection of Oklahoma/Sandosky Road and Main Street. No other locations within the Town are approved for placement of across the roadway banners.

- B. Signs requiring zoning certificate. The following signs are permitted in accordance with zoning district regulations and require a zoning certificate provided the following conditions are adhered to:
 - (1) Permanent Signs located in any commercial, industrial or mixed-use district.
 - (2) Permanent Signs located in any R district that exceed one square foot.
 - (3) No such sign shall project over or into any street right-of-way or more than 12 inches above the parapet wall or roofline.
 - (4) Any sign which is attached to the ground shall be located in such a manner that traffic visibility is not impaired.
 - (5) The total area for all signs shall not exceed four times each linear foot of the building wall most nearly parallel to or confronting the adjacent street. Only one

building frontage shall be used in computing the sign area allowance, except on a corner lot, in which case an additional 25% of the sign area allowed may be authorized. In no case shall the area of any one sign exceed 200 square feet on any one side. Computations of signs shall include all sides (where applicable) including the entire face of the sign and any wall work incidental to its decoration and shall include the space between letter figures and designs or the space within letter figures and designs.

- C. Approval of location and maintenance of signs requiring zoning certificates. The following general regulations shall, without exception, be observed with respect to the approval of location and maintenance of signs enumerated in Subsection B of this section:
- (1) No sign shall be permitted which is an imitation of or which resembles an official traffic control device, railroad sign or signal, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic control device or any railroad sign, signal or traffic sight lines. Illuminated signs shall be so constructed as to avoid glare or reflection on any portion of an adjacent highway or residential buildings. However, no flashing or rotating flashing illumination shall be permitted.
 - (2) No sign which uses the word "stop" or "danger" or presents or implies the need or requirement of stopping or the existence of danger shall be permanently displayed.
 - (3) No sign shall be placed closer than 300 feet to an intersection on a dual or proposed dual highway or within 100 feet of any other intersection; provided, however, that such signs may be affixed to or located adjacent to a building at such intersections in such a manner as not to materially cause any greater obstruction of vision than caused by the building itself. No sign shall be so located to obstruct the vision of traffic using entranceways, driveways, or any public road intersection.
 - (4) No sign shall be closer to any public highway where permitted than the required front yard requirement of the district in which it is authorized, if the distance between such sign and the nearest lot line on which a building is located is 100 feet or less.
 - (5) No sign shall be permitted which contains statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character, or such as will offend public morals or decency.
 - (6) No sign shall be placed on any infrastructure maintained by public utilities.
 - (7) No sign shall be permitted which becomes unsafe or endangers the safety of a building, premises or person and unless maintained in a good general condition and in a reasonable state of repair, the Zoning Administrator shall order such sign to be made safe or repaired and such order shall be complied with within five days of the receipt of such order.
 - (8) All signs shall be spaced in such a manner that in the B-G and I Districts, there shall be a minimum of 300 feet between signs. In the case of existing dual-lane highways, each side of the dual highway shall be considered separately in determining such spacing requirements. In the case of non-dual-lane highways, spacing shall be determined and measured between signs regardless of the side of the highway in which they are located or proposed.
 - (9) Where a sign structure does not contain a sign for a period of 120 days, such sign structure shall be deemed a violation thereafter and shall be removed.

- (10) No sign shall be permitted in any district which does not have a fixed location, but not necessarily permanent location, on the ground or on a building, including mobile-type signs so constructed as to be mounted on a preassembled vehicle or other device and designed to be movable by means of attached wheels or similar devices.
- (11) No pennant, pinwheels or similar circus or carnival-type attractors shall be permitted in any district other than at a Town approved special event.

D. Overhanging signs. In addition to any and all conditions imposed in this § 180-89, the following general regulations shall be observed with respect to overhanging signs on buildings or structures located in the Downtown Historic District: **[Added 9-24-1990 by Ord. No. 179]**

- (1) The applicant shall submit an application for a zoning certificate authorizing such overhanging sign. The application shall be on a form approved by the Town Zoning Administrator and shall include:
 - (a) Two copies of a drawing which illustrates the building elevation and the exact location of the sign;
 - (b) Two copies of a drawing (to scale) which illustrates sign dimensions, design, contents and other pertinent information as determined by the Town Zoning Administrator; and
 - (c) A nonrefundable application fee of \$10.
- (2) The following size and height restrictions shall apply to each overhanging sign:
 - (a) The sign's maximum projection from the building wall shall be 42 inches, provided that the sign shall be at least 12 inches from or inside the curblineline or sidewalk edge.
 - (b) The sign must have an eight-foot minimum height from grade.
 - (c) The sign is subject to a maximum height of 42 inches.
 - (d) The sign is subject to a maximum thickness of six inches.
- (3) The sign shall not contradict the historic atmosphere of Main Street nor contradict the goals, objectives or policies of the Main Street Master Plan.
- (4) The sign shall be designed, manufactured, assembled and installed with professional workmanship and use high quality materials designed for use in the sign industry.
- (5) The contents of the sign shall be limited to the legal or trade name of the business or the actual business product or service sold at the location. No telephone numbers, addresses or other information shall be permitted on the sign.
- (6) The applicant shall keep the sign in a good state of repair and ensure that it remains properly secured to the building. Any failure of the applicant to keep such sign in a good state of repair shall constitute a zoning violation hereunder. The Town Zoning Administrator, or his designee, shall give 15 days' written notice to the applicant in the event that any such sign shall constitute a detriment to the health, welfare or safety of the public for any reason, including, but not limited to, the failure of the applicant to keep the sign in a good state of repair. In the event that the status of the sign has not been corrected within 15 days of the date of such notice, the Town may

repair the sign and insure that it remains properly secured to the building, at the sole cost and expense of the applicant. In the case of any emergency with respect to any such sign, the Town may correct or repair the sign immediately, without notice to the applicant, and at the sole cost and expense of the applicant.

(7) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Town Zoning Administrator may appeal such decision in accordance with Article XVII.

(8) In the event there is any inconsistency between § 180-89F and the remaining provisions of § 180-89, the more restrictive provisions shall control.

AND NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE THAT CHAPTER 180 – ZONING, ARTICLE XX – DEFINITIONS, SIGNS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

SIGNS

A name, identification, description, display, logo, illustration or device (including wigway, twiller, pinwheel, pennant, and other similar devices) which is affixed, stationed, or represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure or land and which directs attention to a product, place, activity, person, institution, or business.

A. Banner (Over the Road)

Any sign of lightweight fabric or similar material that is attached to a building or other structure which projects out over a public right-of-way. Signs in this category cannot exceed 4' by 22' in height and width.

B. Permanent

Any legal sign designed or used in excess of six (6) months

C. Temporary

A sign that is not permanently attached to the ground, a structure, or another sign, designed or constructed in such a manner that it can be moved or relocated without involving any structural support changes, and is typically constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard, or other like materials. Signs in this category shall not be displayed for a period longer than six (6) months.

THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2022

ATTEST:

Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk

Stacy Link, Mayor

Anna Carter, Council President

Mark Dyer, Council Member

Al Grasley, Council Member

Elizabeth Guroff, Council Member

Leo Keenan, Council Member

Jeremiah Schofield, Council Member