

SUMMARY OF PLANNING BOARD ACTION

Subject: Development Ordinance Text Amendment: Non-Commercial Signage

Meeting Date: June 4, 2002

Recommendation: The Board recommends that the Town Council adopt an Ordinance amending Article 14.14.4(h) as follows:

“Temporary political signs advertising candidates or issues, provided such signs do not exceed **twelve (12)** signs per zoning lot nor four (4) square feet in area per display surface, are not erected prior to **forty-five (45)** days before the date of the appropriate election, and are removed within **twelve (12)** days after the election.”

And amend Article 14.13.2(o) as follows:

“Non-commercial signs not covered by other exemptions listed in Subsection 14.13.4, provided such signs are located on private property, are non-illuminated, and do not exceed one (1) sign per zoning lot nor fifteen (15) square feet in area per display surface.

Vote: 7-0

Ayes: John Hawkins (Chair), Coleman Day, Gay Eddy, Nancy Gabriel, Sally Greene, Suzanne Haff, Ruby Sinreich

Nays: none (two members were absent)

Issues/Comments:

There were differences of opinion about what square footage was appropriate for political signs and whether the Town should dictate how many signs could be placed on private property.

The Board discussed the importance of considering the context and location of signage. The differences between the issues of land use, which is governed under regulations in the Development Ordinance, and other uses which are governed under the Town's Code of Ordinances was discussed. First Amendment issues versus appearance issues were discussed.

A second motion was made and passed by a vote of 7-0 to request the Town Council look into amending the Town Code of Ordinances as it relates to signage and picketing on sidewalks.

Prepared by: John Hawkins, Planning Board Chair *JCH*
Roger Waldon, Planning Director