**BERLIN TOWNSHIP SIGN REGULATION**

**ORDINANCE #2015 - 1**

**ADMINISTRATION**

The Purpose of this Ordinance is to establish standards for the regulation of signs within BerlinTownship in order to safeguard the public interest and:

A. to protect property values within Berlin Township;

B. to preserve the beauty and the unique character of Berlin Township;

C. to promote and aid in the tourist industry of Berlin Township;

D. to protect the general public from damage and injury which may be caused by the faulty construction of signs;

E. to protect pedestrians and motorists of Berlin Township from damage of injury caused, or partially

attributable to the distractions and obstructions caused by improperly situated signs;

F. to promote the public safety, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of travel and the free flow of traffic within Berlin Township;

G. to assure that signage is clear and provides the essential identity or direction to facilities in the

community; and,

H. to enable the fair and consistent enforcement of the sign restrictions throughout Berlin Township.

**APPLICABILITY – EFFECT**

A sign may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained in the Township only in conformance with the standards, procedures, exceptions, and other requirements of this Ordinance. The effect of this Ordinance as more specifically set forth herein is:

A. to establish a permit system to allow a variety of types of signs in the various zones, subject to the standards and the permit procedures of this Ordinance;

B. to allow certain signs that are small, unobtrusive, and incidental to the principal use of the respective

lots on which they are located, subject to the substantive requirements of this Ordinance,

without a requirement for permits;

C. to provide for temporary signs without commercial messages in limited circumstances in the

public right-of-way; and

D. to prohibit all signs not expressly permitted by this Ordinance.

**REQUIREMENT OF CONFORMITY**

No sign, for which a permit is issued after the effective date of this Ordinance, may be placed or maintained in Berlin Township except as provided herein. All signs maintained contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be nuisances, and as such may be abated as provided by law.

**DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

Words and phrases used in this Article shall have the meanings set forth in this Section. Words and phrases not defined in this Section but defined in Article II shall be given the meanings set forth in said Article. Principles for computing sign area and sign height are contained in this section. All other words

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and phrases shall be given their common, ordinary meaning, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. Section headings or captions are for reference purposes only and shall not be used in the interpretation of this Ordinance.

**ABANDONED SIGN** - A Sign located on a property or premise which is vacant and/or unoccupied for a period of six (6) months, or a sign which is damaged, in disrepair, or vandalized and not repaired within sixty (60) days of the date of the damaging event and/or for which no legal owner can be found.

**ADVERTISING SIGN, OFF-PREMISES** - A sign which conveys a commercial or noncommercial message unrelated to the activity conducted on the lot where the sign is located or a sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, entertainment or attraction sold, offered, or existing elsewhere than on the same lot where the sign is located. A structure intended to support or contain such a sign shall also be considered an off-premises advertising sign.

**ANIMATION** - The movement or the optical illusion of movement of any part of the sign structure, design or pictorial segment, including the movement of any illumination or the flashing or varying of light intensity; the automatic changing of all or any part of the facing of a sign; the movement of a sign set in motion by the atmosphere. Time and temperature devices shall be considered animated signs.

**APPLICANT** - A person or entity who applies for a sign permit in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**AREA OF SIGN** - In the case of individual letters used as a sign, the area is ninety percent (90%) of the area enclosed within the smallest regular geometric figure needed to completely encompass all letters, insignias or symbols, except as otherwise provided herein. For signs other than individual letters, words, insignias or symbols, the area is the total area of the facing or the total area within the outer edge of any existing border of the sign.

**ATTRACTION BOARD** - See *changeable panel sign*.

**AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE DIRECTIONAL SIGN** - A traffic directional sign which is used to direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a parcel to the location of an automated teller machine.

**AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SIGN** - Any sign located on or architecturally associated

with the exterior face of an automated teller machine.

**AWNING SIGN** - Signs which are placed on or integrated into fabric or other material canopies which are mounted on the exterior or a building.

**BANNER SIGN** - Any sign of lightweight fabric or similar material that is permanently mounted to a pole or building by a permanent frame at one or more edges with no enclosing framework. National flags, state or municipal flags of any institution or business shall not be considered banners.

**BANNER, DECORATIVE** - A banner which contains no text.

**BANNER, PUBLIC INFORMATION** - A banner which displays graphics and

limited text regarding a special event.

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**BILLBOARD** - A type of off-premises advertising sign and which conveys a commercial or noncommercial message unrelated to the activity conducted on the lot where the sign is located, or a sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, entertainment or attraction sold, offered, or existing elsewhere than on the same lot where the sign is located. A structure intended to support or contain such a sign shall also be considered a billboard.

**BUSINESS** - For the purposes of this Article 9, business shall mean any approved non-residential use including commercial, manufacturing, and industrial enterprises; public buildings and uses such as public schools, parks, civic centers, municipal buildings; and semi-public buildings and uses such as churches, fire houses, ambulance buildings, private schools, and libraries.

**BUSINESS NAME** - The name by which a business is commonly recognized and used by the applicant. The applicant shall provide stationary or other supporting documents illustrating the use of the business name or verification of the official business license or tax name. Slogans or product information shall not be considered as the business name.

**CABINET** - A three-dimensional structure which includes a frame, borders and sign panel face and may include internal lighting upon which the sign letters and logos are placed or etched, and is architecturally integrated with the building.

**CANOPY SIGN** - Any sign that is a part of or attached to an awning, canopy or other fabric, plastic,

or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area. A marquee is not

a canopy.

**CHANGEABLE PANEL SIGN** - A sign designed to allow its informational content to be changed or

altered.

**COMMERCIAL MESSAGE -** Any sign wording, logo, or other representations that, directly or

indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial

activity.

**COMPUTATION OF AREA IN INDIVIDUAL SIGNS** - The area of sign face (which is also the sign area of a wall sign or other sign with only one face) shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure

against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework, bracing, or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meets zoning ordinance regulations and is clearly incidental to the display itself.

**COMPUTATION OF AREA OF MULTI-FACED SIGNS** - The sign area for a sign with more than one face shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical sign faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are of the same sign structure and are not more than forty-two (42”) inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.

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**COMPUTATION OF HEIGHT** - The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of (1) existing grade prior to construction or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign. In cases in which the normal grade cannot reasonably be determined, sign height shall be computed on the assumption that the elevation of the normal grade at the base of the sign is equal to the elevation of the nearest point of the crown of a public street or the grade of the land at the principal entrance to the principal structure on the zone lot, whichever is lower.

**CONSTRUCTION SIGN -** A temporary sign identifying an architect, contractor, subcontractor, and/or material supplier participating in construction on the property on which the sign is located.

**CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR SIGNS** - The temporary signs which

identify the contractor or subcontractor engaged in the construction, reconstruction or

repair of a building or buildings on a lot or parcel or property.

**DEVELOPMENT SIGN** - A temporary sign used to identify an approved future

development.

**DIRECTORY SIGN** - A sign which provides a listing of the names of businesses,

activities, addresses, locations, uses or places within a building or complex of buildings

for the purposes of giving directions, instruction, or facility information and which may

contain the name and logo of an establishment but no advertising copy.

**DOUBLE-FACED SIGN -** A sign with two faces, essentially back to back.

**EMERGENCY SIGNS** - Emergency warning signs erected by a governmental agency,

a public utility company, or a contractor doing authorized or permitted work within the

public right-of-way.

**FLAG** - Any fabric, banner, or bunting containing distinctive colors, patterns, or symbols, used as a symbol of a government, political subdivision, or other entity which is mounted on a pole, cable, or rope at one end.

**FLAG, DECORATIVE** - A flag which contains no text or graphics.

**FREESTANDING SIGN** - A sign supported permanently upon the ground by poles or braces and that is not attached to any building.

**GOVERNMENT SIGN -** Any temporary or permanent sign erected and maintained by the township, county, state, or federal government for traffic direction or for designation of or any school, hospital, historical site, or public service, property, or facility.

**GRAND OPENING** - The introduction, promotion or announcement of a new business, store, shopping center or office, or the announcement, introduction or promotion of an established business changing ownership. A business qualifies for a grand opening sign when it has been closed to the public for a period of thirty (30) days.

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**GROUND LEVEL -** The finished grade of the adjacent street curb or where there is no street curb, six (6) inches above street grade. Ground level shall be the existing natural grade.

**GROUND SIGN** - A freestanding sign that is architecturally integrated with the building with individually mounted letters and/or logos only. This sign shall be built with continuous background surface built from the ground up.

**HEIGHT** - The vertical distance measured from the highest point of the sign, excluding decorative embellishments, to the grade of the adjacent street or the surface grade beneath the sign, whichever is less.

**ILLEGAL SIGN** - Any sign erected without first obtaining an approved sign permit,

other than non-conforming signs, and which does not meet the requirement of this

ordinance.

**ILLUMINATED SIGN -** A sign with an artificial light source incorporated internally

or externally for the purpose of illuminating the sign.

**INCIDENTAL SIGN** - A sign, generally informational, that has a purpose secondary

to the use of the zone lot on which it is located, such as “no parking,” “entrance,”

“loading only,” “telephone,” and other similar directives. No sign with a commercial

message legible from a position off the zone lot on which the sign is located shall be

considered incidental.

**INDIRECT ILLUMINATION** - A source of external illumination located away from

the sign, but which is itself not visible to persons viewing the sign from any street,

sidewalk or adjacent property.

**INDIVIDUAL LETTERS -** A cut-out or etched letter or logo which is individually placed on a landscape, screen wall, building wall or ground sign.

**INTERNAL ILLUMINATION** - A source of illumination entirely within the sign which makes the contents of the sign visible at night by means of the light being transmitted through a translucent material but wherein the source of illumination is not visible.

**INTERNAL/INDIRECT ILLUMINATION** - A source of illumination entirely within an individual letter, cabinet or structure which makes the sign visible at night by means of lighting the background upon which the individual letter is mounted. The letters are opaque, and thus are silhouetted against the background. The source of illumination is not visible.

**LOGO** - A graphic symbol representing an activity, use or business. Permitted logos shall be registered trademarks or symbols commonly used by the applicant, and may include graphic designs in addition to lettering. The applicant shall provide stationary or other supporting documents illustrating the use of the logo.

**MAINTENANCE** - The replacing or repairing of a part or portion of a sign necessitated by ordinary wear, tear or damage beyond the control of the owner or the reprinting of existing copy without changing the wording, composition or color of said copy.

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**MARQUEE** - Any permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

**MENU SIGN** - A temporary sign used to inform the public of the list of dishes, foods or entrees available in a restaurant and may include the corresponding prices.

**MODIFIERS** - A word describing uses and activities other than the business name.

**MONUMENT SIGN** - A free-standing cabinet or panel sign mounted on, or within a base (above grade), which is detached from any building.

**MULTIPLE TENANT COMMERCIAL BUILDING** - A commercial development in which there exists two or more separate commercial activities, in which there are appurtenant shared facilities (such as parking or pedestrian mall), and which is designed to provide a single area in which the public can obtain varied products and services. Distinguishing characteristics of a multiple tenant commercial building may, but need not, include common ownership of the real property upon which the center is located, common-wall construction, and multiple occupant commercial use of a single structure.

**NAMEPLATE -** A small sign which identifies a resident’s or home’s name and address or the name of a farm, ranch or commercial stable. Such signs may be shingle, building wall or archway-mounted signs.

**NONCONFORMING SIGN** - Any sign which is not allowed under this Ordinance, but which, when first constructed before this ordinance was in effect and for which a sign permit was issued, was legally allowed by the Township.

**OCCUPANCY** - A purpose for which a building, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.

**OWNER -** A person recorded as such on official records. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the owner of property on which a sign is located is presumed to be the owner of the sign unless facts to the contrary are officially recorded or otherwise brought to the attention of the Zoning Officer.

**PANEL -** A two-dimensional visual background behind the sign letters and logos which is visually separated from the mounting upon which the sign letters and logos are placed by the presence of a border, different colors, different materials, or other technique of visual framing around the letters or logos.

**PARAPET -** That portion of a building exterior wall projecting above the plate line of the building.

**PENNANT -** Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in series, designed to move in the wind.

**PERMANENT SIGN -** Any sign which is intended to be and is constructed as to be in lasting and enduring condition remaining unchanged in character, condition (beyond normal wear) and

position, and in a permanent manner affixed to the ground, wall or building, provided the sign is listed as a permanent sign in the Ordinance.

**PLATE LINE -** The point at which any part of the main roof structure first touches or bears upon an external wall.

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**POLITICAL SIGN** - A temporary sign which supports candidates for office or urges action on any other matter on the ballot of primary, general and special elections.

**PORTABLE SIGN** - Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported, including, but not limited to, signs designed to be transported by means

of wheels, signs converted to A or T-frames, menu and sandwich board signs, balloons used as signs, umbrellas used for advertising and signs attached to or painted on vehicles parked and visible from the public right-of-way, unless said vehicle is used in the normal day-to-day operations of the business.

**PROJECTING SIGN -** Any sign affixed to a building wall in such a manner that its leading edge extends more than six (6) inches beyond the surface of such building or wall.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY** - Unless otherwise expressly provided, public property

means any and all real or personal property over which the Township or other

governmental entity has or may exercise control, whether or not the government

owns the property in fee, including, sidewalks, rights-of-ways and improved or

unimproved land of any kind and all property appurtenant to it.

**REAL ESTATE SIGN -** A temporary sign advertising the real estate upon

which the sign is located as being for rent, lease, or sale.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY** - No commercial sign shall be erected so as to project beyond a property line, over a public sidewalk or over or within a public right-of-way.

**ROOF LINE** - The uppermost line of the roof of a building or, in the case of an

extended facade or parapet, the uppermost point of said facade or parapet.

**ROOF SIGN -** Any sign mounted on the main roof portion of a building or on the topmost edge of a parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by such building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves, and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs. See the following illustration for example of roof signs, and comparison of differences between roof and fascia signs.

**SHINGLE SIGN** - A sign suspended from a roof overhang of a covered porch, walkway or horizontal plane surface which identifies the tenant of the adjoining space.

**SIGN** - Any device for visual communication which is used or is intended to attract the attention of the public with a purpose of identifying, when the display of the device is visible beyond the boundaries of the public or private property upon which the display is made. The term “sign” shall not include any flag or badge or insignia of the United States, State of Pennsylvania, Wayne County, Berlin Township, or official historic plaques of any governmental jurisdiction or agency.

**SIGN WALL** - Any surface (excluding windows) of a building within twenty-five (25) degrees vertical.

**SPECIAL EVENT** - A promotional event such as, but not limited to, grand openings, bazaars, street fairs, shows, exhibitions, sporting events, runs, bicycling events, and block parties. This does not include

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sidewalk sales occurring on private property where merchandise normally sold indoors is transferred from indoors to outdoors for sale.

**TEMPORARY SIGN** - Any sign, banner, pennant, or valance of advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, plastic, wallboard or other like materials, with or without frames; or any sign not permanently attached to the ground, wall or building.

**TRAFFIC DIRECTIONAL SIGN -** Signs used at driveways to improve public safety and to enhance public access to the site from public streets, which provides information to assist the operators of vehicles in the flow of traffic. Such signs may use names, logos, or symbols of buildings, businesses, activities, uses or places as a means of direction.

**WALL SIGN** - Any sign attached parallel to, but within six inches of, a wall, painted on the wall surface of, or erected and confined within the limits of an outside wall of any building or structure, which is supported by such wall or building, and which displays only one sign surface.

**WINDOW SIGN -** Any poster, cut-out letters, painted text or graphics, or other text or visual presentation affixed to or placed behind a window pane which is intended to be read from the exterior of the building.

PROCEDURES

The procedures included in this shall apply to all signs requiring permits. In addition to the information

required by this section, a Master Sign Plan shall be prepared for approval by the Township in accord with Section.

REQUIREMENT OF PERMIT

A sign permit shall be required before the erection, re-erection, construction, alteration, placing, or installation of all signs regulated by this Ordinance. However, a permit shall not be required for the following signs and actions, provided however, that such signs shall be subject to any and all applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

A. Exempt signs as specified in this Ordinance.

B. Real estate, temporary construction and contractor signs.

C. Routine maintenance or changing of the parts or copy of a sign, provided that the maintenance or change of parts or copy does not alter the surface area, height, or otherwise render the sign non-conforming.

PERMIT APPLICATION

Applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the Building Code Official and shall, at a minimum, contain or have attached thereto the information listed in this section. The applicant shall pay the required application fee at the time when the sign application is filed. Two copies of plans and specifications shall be submitted with each application. One copy shall be returned to the applicant at the time the permit is granted. The plans shall include complete details about the size of the sign, the method of attachment or support, locations and materials to be used, and the name, address and profession of the person designing the plans and specifications. If the Building Code Official determines that the sign will be subject to excessive stresses, additional data shall be required, showing that supporting surfaces and other members of an existing building to which the sign is to be attached are in good condition and are adequately strong

to support the load, including the proposed sign.

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A. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the applicant, the owner of the property on which the sign is to be erected or affixed, the owner of the sign, and the person to be erecting or affixing the sign.

B. The location of the building, structure, or zoning lot on which the sign is to be erected or affixed.

C. A sketch plan of the property involved, showing accurate placement thereon of the proposed sign.

D. Two (2) blueprints or ink drawings of the plans and specifications of the sign to be erected or affixed and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground. Such plans and specifications shall include details of dimensions, color, materials, and weight.

E. If required by the Building Code Official, a copy of stress sheets and calculations prepared by or approved by a registered structural engineer, licensed by the State of Pennsylvania, showing that the sign is designed for dead load and wind pressure in any direction in the amount required by this and all other applicable ordinances of the Township.

F. The written consent of the owner of the building, structure, or property on which the sign is to be erected or affixed.

G. Such other information as the Zoning Officer may require to determine full compliance with this and other applicable ordinances of the Township.

ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

Upon the filing of an application for a sign permit, the Building Code Official shall examine the plans, specifications, and other submitted data, and the premises upon which the sign is proposed to be erected or affixed. If it appears that the proposed sign is in compliance with all the requirements of this Ordinance and other applicable ordinances of the Township and if the appropriate permit fee has been paid, the Zoning Officer shall issue a permit for the proposed sign.

EXPIRATION

If the work authorized under a sign permit has not been completed within ninety (90) days after the date of issuance, the permit shall become null and void, unless otherwise extended by the Zoning Officer for a single additional ninety (90) day period.

PERMIT FEES

Each sign required by this Ordinance requiring a sign permit shall pay a fee as established pursuant to a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Prohibited Signs

All signs not expressly permitted or exempted under this Ordinance from regulation are prohibited in the Township. Such prohibited signs include, but are not limited to the following:

A. "A" Frame or Sandwich Board Signs - "A" frame or sandwich board and sidewalk, or curb signs, except as a temporary sign as provided for in Section 1105 of this Ordinance.

B. Light Strings, Banners, Pennants, and Balloons - Strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background, except those exempt under the Section 1104.2, banners, pennants, streamers, balloons, and other inflatable figures, except as a temporary sign as provided for in Section 1105 of this Ordinance.

C. Animated, Moving and Flashing Signs - Signs which flash, revolve, rotate, swing, undulate, or move by any means, or otherwise attract attention through the movement or flashing of parts, including automatic, electronically controlled copy changes, or through the impression of movement or flashing

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except for time and temperature indicators whose movement is either digital or analogue, and flags as permitted by this Ordinance.

D. Portable and Wheeled Signs - Portable and Wheeled signs, except as a temporary sign, as provided for in this Ordinance.

E. Projecting Signs - Signs which are attached or otherwise affixed to a building and project more than fifteen (15) inches beyond the wall surface of such building to which the sign is attached or otherwise affixed thereto.

F. Signs on Parked Vehicles - Signs placed on or affixed to vehicles and/or trailers which are parked on a public right-of-way, public property or private property, so as to be visible from a public right-of-way where the apparent purpose is to advertise a product or direct people to a business, organization or activity.

G. Signs on Utility Poles or Trees - Signs which are attached or otherwise affixed to utility poles, or trees or other vegetation. H. Signs Which Imitate Traffic Control Devices - Signs which imitate, interfere with, obstruct the view of, or can be confused with any authorized traffic control sign, signal, or other device.

I. Emissions - No sign shall be permitted to emit any sound, odor or visible matter such as smoke.

Exempt Signs

The following signs are hereby exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance, excepting for such instances where any sign listed herein is found to be unsafe or unlawful as provided for in other Sections of this Ordinance.

A. Awning, Canopy, and Marquee Signs - Signs, not exceeding an aggregate gross surface area of four (4) square feet, indicating only the name of the activity conducted on the premises on which the sign is to be located and/or a brief generic description of the business being conducted by the activity. Advertising material of any kind is strictly prohibited on signs affixed to awnings, canopies, and marquees.

B. Civic and Religious - Civic and religious organization signs indicating only the organization insignia, name, meeting place, and time. Such signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet for each exposed surface area.

C. Directional or Instructional Signs - Signs, not exceeding four (4) feet in aggregate gross surface area, which provide direction or instruction to guide persons to facilities intended to serve the public, providing that such signs contain no advertising of any kind. Such signs include those identifying rest rooms, public telephones, public walkways, affiliation with motor clubs, acceptance of designated credit cards, and other similar signs providing direction or instruction to persons using a facility, but not including those signs accessory to parking areas. Advertising material of any kind is strictly prohibited on directional and instructional signs.

D. Non-Commercial Signs - Flags, emblems, and insignia of political, professional, religious, educational, or fraternal organizations providing that such flags, emblems, and insignia are displayed for non-commercial purpose.

E. Governmental Signs - Governmental signs for control of traffic and other regulatory purposes, street signs, warning signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger and aids to services or safety which are erected by, or at the order of a public officer or employee in the performance of the officer's or employee's duties.

F. Holiday Decorations - Signs or other materials temporarily displayed on traditionally accepted civic, patriotic, or religious holidays related to observance of the civic, patriotic, or religious holiday.

G. Interior Signs - Signs which are fully located within the interior of any building or stadium, or within an enclosed lobby or court of any building, and signs located within the inner or outer lobby court or entrance of any theater.

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H. Memorial Signs - Memorial plaques or tablets, grave markers, statutory, or other remembrances of persons or events that are non-commercial in nature.

I. Name and Address Plates - Wall signs, one (1) per street frontage and not exceeding one and one-half (1.5) square feet in surface area, indicating the name of the occupant, the address of the premises, and identification of any legal business or operation which may exist at the premises.

J. No Trespassing, No Hunting, No Fishing, No Dumping, No Parking, No Towing, and Other Similar Signs - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no dumping, no parking, towing and other similar signs (as set forth in Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and its regulations and as set forth in Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code and its regulations) not exceeding two (2) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face nor exceeding an aggregate gross surface area of four (4) square feet.

K. Parking Lot Directional and Instructional Signs

(1) Directional Signs - Signs designating parking area entrances and exits limited to one (1) sign for each entrance and/or exit and not exceeding four (4) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face. five (5) feet in height, as measured from the established grade of the parking area to which such signs are accessory.

(2) Instructional Signs - Signs designating the conditions of use or identity of parking areas and not

exceeding eight (8) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face nor exceeding an aggregate

gross surface area of sixteen (16) square feet. Parking lot instructional signs shall not project higher

than ten (10) feet for wall signs and seven (7) feet for ground signs, as measured from the established

grade of the parking area(s) to which such signs are accessory.

L. Patron Advertising Signs - Signs erected on the perimeter of an organizational sponsored youth athletic field for the sole purpose of sponsoring or contributing to the organized youth athletic sport. Signs erected for this purpose shall be one sided with a maximum of thirty-two (32) square feet of gross aggregate surface area. Sponsors advertising on score boards may not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the surface area of the score board.

M. Plaques - Plaques, nameplates, or memorial signs, directly attached or affixed to the exterior walls of a

building, not exceeding four (4) square feet in aggregate gross surface area.

N. Public Notices - Official notices posted by public officers or employees in the performance of the officer's or employee's duties

O. Government Signs - Signs required by governmental bodies or specifically authorized for a public purpose by any law, statute, or ordinance. Such signs may be of any type, number, area, height, location, or illumination as required by law, statute, or ordinance.

P. Signs on Vehicles - Signs placed on or affixed to vehicles and/or trailers where the sign is incidental to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer. However, this is not in any way intended to permit signs placed on or affixed to vehicles and/or trailers, which are parked on a public right-of-way, public property, or private property so as to be visible from a public right-of-way where the apparent purpose is to advertise a product or direct people to a business or activity located on the same or other property.

Q. Symbols or Insignia - Religious symbols, commemorative plaques of recognized historical agencies, or identification emblems of religious orders or historical agencies not exceeding two (2) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face not exceeding four (4) square feet in aggregate gross surface area.

R. Vending Machine Signs - Permanent, non-flashing signs on vending machines, gasoline pumps, ice or milk containers, or other similar machines indicating only the contents of such devices, the pricing of the contents contained within, directional or instructional information as to use, and other similar information as to the use, and other similar information not exceeding four (4) square feet in gross

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surface area for each exposed face not exceeding an aggregate gross surface area of eight (8) square feet on each machine.

S. Warning Signs - Signs warning the public of the existence of danger, but containing no advertising material; to be removed within three (3) days upon the subsidence of danger. Such warning signs may be of any type, number, area, height, location, or illumination as deemed necessary to warn the public of the existence of danger.

T. Tourist Signs - Tourist orientation directional signs when erected in accord with a permit issued by PennDOT.

Construction Requirements

All signs permitted by this Ordinance shall be constructed in accord with the National Electrical Code and the Berlin Township Building Code and the provisions of this Section.

A. Obstruction to Exit - No sign shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window, door opening, or wall opening intended as a means of ingress or egress.

B. Obstruction to Ventilation - No sign shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to interfere with any opening required for ventilation.

C. Clearance from Electrical Power Lines and Communication Lines - All signs shall be located in such a way that they maintain horizontal and vertical clearance of all electrical power lines and communication lines in accordance with the applicable provisions of the National Electrical Code. However, in no instance shall a sign be erected or constructed within eight (8) feet of any electrical power line, conductor, or service drop, or any communication line, conductor, or service drop. D. Clearance from Surface and Underground Facilities - All signs and supporting structures shall maintain

clearance and non-interference with all surface and underground facilities and conduits for water, sewage,

gas, electricity, or communications equipment or lines. In addition, the placement of all signs and their

supporting structures shall not interfere with natural or artificial drainage or surface or underground water.

E. No Obstruction to Any Existing Warning or Instructional Sign - No sign shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to interfere with any existing warning or instructional sign.

F. Traffic Hazards - No sign shall be erected in such a way as to interfere with or to confuse traffic, to present any traffic hazard, or to obstruct the vision of motorists, and all signs shall comply with the clear sight triangle requirements of this Ordinance.

G. Public Right-of-Way - No sign may be erected or maintained in the public right-of-way unless an encroachment permit has first been obtained for the sign.

Maintenance

Each sign shall be maintained in good order and repair at all times so that it does not constitute any danger or hazard to public safety, or a visual blight, and is free of peeling paint, major cracks, or loose and dangling materials.

Illumination

All signs permitted by this Ordinance may be illuminated in accord with the provisions of this Section

A. Type of Illumination - Illumination may be by internal, internal indirect or by indirect means.

B. Flashing - Flashing signs are prohibited in accord with Section 1104.1.

C. Glare - All signs shall be so designed located, shielded, and directed so as to prevent the casting of glare or direct light from artificial illumination upon adjacent publicly dedicated roadways and surrounding property.

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D. Illumination of Buildings, Structures, and Areas

1. The use of unshielded lighting, including incandescent light bulbs hung or strung on poles, wires, or

any other type of support, to illuminate buildings, structures, outdoor sales areas, or outdoor storage

area is prohibited except during the month of December for areas in which Christmas trees are offered

for sale and on a temporary basis for areas in which carnivals, fairs, or other similar activities are held;

2. A building or other structure may be illuminated, but all lighting used for this purpose must be

designated, located, shielded, and directed in such a manner that the light source is fixed and not

directly visible from any adjacent publicly dedicated roadway and surrounding property.

Signs on Roof

No sign attached to a building shall be placed on nor shall extend above any part of the building roof.

Awning, Canopy, and Marquee Signs

A. Number - There shall not be more than one (1) awning, canopy, or marquee sign exceeding an aggregated gross surface area of four (4) square feet for each principal building. Awning, canopy, and marquee signs which are four (4) square feet or less in aggregate gross surface area are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance.

B. Area - The gross surface area of an awning, canopy, or marquee sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet, but shall be limited to not more than fifty (50%) percent of the gross surface area of the face of the awning, canopy, or marquee to which such sign is affixed.

C. Height - Any awning, canopy, or marquee sign shall not project higher than the top of the awning, canopy, or marquee to which such sign is to be affixed.

D. Illumination - Only the face area of the letters or logos may be illuminated and all illumination must be internal behind the surface of the awning, canopy or marquee.

E. Awning Valance - If sign letters or logos are place on the awning valance, no letters or logos may be placed elsewhere on the awning.

Changeable Panel Signs

One (1) changeable panel sign board may be erected on the lot containing one (1) or more commercial, manufacturing, industrial, public or semi-public use, referred to as *business* in this section, subject to the following:

A. Type - The changeable panel sign shall be a ground sign or may be attached to the same support of the permitted business identification ground sign.

B. Number - One (1) changeable panel sign may be erected on the business parcel identifying special, unique, limited activities, services, products, or sale of limited duration occurring on the premises on which the changeable panel sign is located.

C. Area - The gross surface area of a changeable panel sign shall not exceed ten (10) square feet for each exposed face.

D. Location - A changeable panel sign shall maintain side and rear setbacks, and shall not extend within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway.

E. Height - If the changeable panel sign is separate from the main freestanding sign, the changeable panel sign may not project higher than ten (10) feet, as measured from the base of the sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher. The changeable panel sign shall be separated by a minimum of twelve (12) inches from the main ground pole sign.

F. Fuel Prices - Establishments engaged in the retail sale of fuel may also erect one additional changeable panel sign on the same frame as the main business identification sign to list fuel prices, and said sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet for each exposed face.

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Sign Faces

All signs may be multi-faced.

Freestanding Sign Landscaping

All freestanding business and residential identification signs shall be placed in a landscaped area of not less than four (4) square feet of landscaping for one (1) square foot of sign area, but in no case less than one hundred and twenty (120) square feet.

Sign Design

Signs shall be architecturally integrated with the design of the building and landscaping for the property, and other signs on the property.

Flags

Flags shall be permitted for commercial, manufacturing, industrial, public and semi-public uses, referred to as *business* in this section, subject to the following:

A. Business Identification - The flag shall identify the business.

B. Flag Pole - The flag shall be suspended from a pole and the maximum height shall be thirty-six (36) feet. The flag pole shall be placed within a landscaped setting of not less than one (1) square foot for every one (1) foot of each flag pole.

C. Area - The maximum area of the flag shall be twenty-four (24) feet, however this shall not apply to the United States Flag or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Flag.

D. Government Flags - Governmental flags provided for elsewhere in the Ordinance are not restricted by the provisions of this Section.

Wall Signs

Wall signs as permitted by this ordinance shall be securely attached to the wall; and each sign shall be parallel to and in the same plane as the wall to which the sign is attached and shall not extend more than six (6) inches from the wall, nor above or beyond the top and ends of the wall.

Temporary Signs

Temporary signs may be erected and maintained in accordance with the following provisions:

General Conditions

A. Permit Required - No person shall erect, construct, repair, alter, or relocate within the Township any temporary sign except in compliance with this Ordinance.

B. Materials and Methods - The Zoning Officer shall impose as a condition of the issuance of a permit for temporary signs such requirements as to the material, manner of construction, and method of erection of a sign as are reasonably necessary to assure the health, safety, welfare, and convenience of the public.

C. Illumination - Temporary signs may be illuminated in accord with this Ordinance.

D. Sign Types - Temporary signs shall be limited to non-projecting wall signs, attached ground signs, or portable and wheeled signs.

Temporary Business Signs – permit required

Temporary business signs in association with an approved use identifying a special, unique, or limited activity, service, product, or sale of limited duration shall be subject to the following:

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A. Number - There shall not be more than two (2) permits for temporary business signs issued for the same premises within one (1) calendar year. Each temporary business sign permit may be erected and maintained for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days and shall be removed within three (3) days of the termination of the activity, service, project, or sale. Or, alternatively, a temporary business sign permit may be applied for a maximum of five (5) times during one (1) calendar year for the same premises; each permit shall be issued for a maximum of seven (7) days. It is expressly stated that temporary business sign permits shall be issued under one method or the alternative and that the methods may not be used jointly or in combination during any one (1) calendar year.

B. Area - Temporary business signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face.

C. Location - Temporary business signs shall be located only upon the premises upon which the special, unique, or limited activity, service product, or sale is to occur. Such signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway.

D. Height - Temporary business signs shall not project higher than fifteen (15) feet, as measured from the average grade of the associated principal use or structure.

Temporary Development Signs – permit required

Temporary development signs in association with an approved use identifying the parties involved in the development to occur or occurring on the premises on which the sign is placed shall be subject to the following:

A. Number - There shall not be more than one (1) temporary, construction sign for each project or

development, except that where a project or development abuts two (2) or more streets, additional such

signs, one (1) oriented to each abutting street, shall be permitted.

B. Area -

1. Residential Districts - In residential districts, temporary construction signs shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face.

2. Non-Residential Districts - In non-residential districts, temporary construction signs shall not sixteen (16) exceed square feet in gross surface area for each exposed face.

C. Location - Temporary construction signs shall be located only upon the premises upon which construction neither is about to occur, or is occurring. Such signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access from a public roadway.

D. Height - Temporary construction signs shall not project higher than fifteen (15) feet, as measured from the base of the sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

E. Special Conditions - Temporary construction signs shall be permitted only as accessory to an approved building permit for a project or development. Temporary construction signs may be erected and maintained for a period not earlier than sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of construction of the project or development and must be removed prior to an occupancy permit being issued or if no occupancy permit is required, the sign shall be removed upon project completion.

Temporary Event Signs (including Banners) – permit required

Temporary event signs announcing a campaign, drive, activity, or event of a civic, philanthropic, educational, or religious organization for non-commercial purposes shall be subject to the following:

A. Number, Area, Height, and Location - The permitted number, area, height, location, and construction of temporary event signs shall be determined by the Zoning Officer with consideration given

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to the public intended purpose. In any event, no sign shall exceed sixteen (16) square feet for each exposed face.

B. Timing - Temporary event signs may be erected and maintained for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days prior to the date of which the campaign, drive, activity, or event advertised is scheduled to occur and shall be removed within three (3) days of the termination of such campaign, drive, activity, or event.

C. Limit on Number of Permits - No more than two (2) permits for temporary event signs shall be issued for the same premises within one (1) calendar year.

Temporary Political Signs – permit not required

Temporary political signs announcing political candidates seeking office, political parties, and/or political and public issues contained on a ballot shall be subject to the following:

A. Location - On private property, temporary political signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not be attached to any utility pole.

B. Height - Temporary political signs shall not project higher then fifteen (15) feet, as measured from base of sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

C. Timing - Temporary political signs may be erected or maintained for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election to which such signs are applicable and shall be removed within seven (7) days following such election. The candidate is responsible for all political signs of candidates of the party if they are located in the public right-of-way.

Temporary Real Estate Signs – permit not required

Temporary real estate signs advertising the sale, lease, or rent of the premises upon which such sign is located shall be subject to the following:

A. Number - There shall be not more than one (1) temporary real estate sign per real estate company for each lot except that where a lot abuts two (2) or more streets, one (1) additional sign, oriented to each abutting street, shall be permitted.

B. Area 1. Residential Districts - In all residential districts, temporary real estate signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet for each exposed face.

2. Non-Residential Districts- In non-residential districts, temporary real estate signs

\shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet for each exposed face.

C. Location - Temporary real estate signs shall be located only upon the premises for sale, lease, or rent. Such signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway.

D. Height - Temporary real estate signs shall not project higher than sixteen (16) feet, as measured from the base of the sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

E. Special Conditions - Temporary real estate signs shall be removed within seven (7) days of the sale or lease of the premises upon which the sign is located.

Temporary Contractor or Subcontractor Signs – no permit required

Temporary contractor or subcontractor signs for the sole purpose of designating the contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) engaged in the development of a property shall be subject to the following:

A. Number - There shall be not more than one (1) temporary contractor or subcontractor sign for each contractor or subcontractor working on the premises.

B. Area - Temporary contractor or subcontractor signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet for each exposed face.

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C. Location - Temporary contractor or subcontractor signs shall be located only upon the premises where the contractor or subcontractor is working. Such signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway.

D. Height - Temporary contractor or subcontractor signs shall not project higher than six (6) feet, as measured from the base of the sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

E. Special Conditions - Temporary contractor or subcontractor signs shall be removed immediately upon completion of the contractor’s or subcontractor’s work.

Temporary Yard or Garage Sale, Open House, or Auction Signs – no permit required

Temporary yard sale, garage sale, or open house signs advertising the sale of items and the sales location shall be subject to the following:

A. Number - There shall not be more than three (3) such temporary signs for each location of a sale.

B. Area - No such temporary signs shall exceed four (4) square feet in size.

C. Location - Such temporary signs may not be located within the street or road right-of-way. No such sign may be placed on a utility or municipality owned pole or structure. Any such temporary signs shall be self-supported and shall not create a public hazard.

D. Height - Such temporary signs shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.

E. Timing - Such temporary signs may be erected no sooner than seven (7) days before the event and must be removed no later than three (3) days after the event. No such sign shall remain erected for a period longer than ten (10) days.

**Residential Uses**

For all residential uses, only the following signs are permitted and then only if accessory and incidental to a permitted residential use.

Building Name and Address Signs

Name and address signs of buildings containing six (6) or more residential units indicating only the name of the building, the name of the development in which it is located, the management thereof, and/or address of the premises shall be subject to the following:

A. Type - Building name and address signs may be either wall signs or ground signs.

B. Number - There shall not be more than one (1) name and address sign for each building except that whereas building abuts two (2) or more streets, one (1) additional sign oriented to each abutting street shall be permitted.

C. Area - Building name and address signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area for exposed face.

D. Location - Building name and address signs shall not be located closer than one-half the minimum setback, or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway. The location and arrangement of all building name and address signs shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors.

E. Height - Building name and address signs shall not project higher then sixteen (16) feet for wall signs and five (5) feet for ground signs, as measured from base of sign or building to which the sign is to be affixed or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway whichever is higher.

Residential Development Road Entrance Signs

Residential development road entrance signs for developments with two (2) or more buildings with a total of twenty (20) or more dwelling units indicating only the name of the development, including single-

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family, two-family, and multi-family developments and mobile home parks, the management or developer thereof, and/or the address or location of the development shall be subject to the following:

A. Type - The residential development road entrance signs shall be ground signs.

B. Number - There shall not be more than two (2) residential development road entrance signs for each point of vehicular access to a development

C. Area - Residential development road entrance signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in gross surface area.

D. Location - Residential development road entrance signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access from a public roadway. The location and arrangement of all residential development signs shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors.

E. Height - Residential development road entrance signs shall not project higher than ten (10) feet, as measured from base of sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

F. Sign Faces - Residential development road entrance signs may be double-faced only when one (1) such sign is used at a road entrance.

Exempt Signs

Temporary Signs

Temporary signs as specified in this Ordinance.

Home Occupation Signs

One (1) non-illuminated sign identifying a permitted home occupation shall be permitted on each street frontage, and each sign may have two (2) faces and each face area shall not be greater than four (4) square feet.

**Commercial, Manufacturing, Public Use and Semi-public Use Signs**

For all commercial, manufacturing, industrial, public and semi-public uses, referred to as *business* in this section, only the following signs are permitted and then only if accessory and incidental to a permitted use.

Individual Business Identification Signs

The following provisions shall apply to parcels upon which an individual business is located.

A. Building Wall Signs

1. Number - There shall be not more than one (1) wall sign for each principal building except that where the building abuts two (2) or more streets, one (1) additional such sign oriented to each abutting street shall be permitted.

2. Area - The surface area of a wall sign shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the area of the building wall, including doors and windows, to which the sign is to be affixed or sixty-four (64) square feet, whichever is smaller. The surface area of a wall sign may be increased by ten (10) percent if such wall sign consists only of individual, outlined alphabetic, numeric, and/or symbolic characters without background, except that provided by the building surface to which the sign is to be affixed, and if illuminated, such illumination is achieved through shielded spot lighting, but not any lighting where the light source is visible or exposed on the face or sides of the characters.

3. Location - A wall sign may be located on the outermost wall of any principal building. The location and arrangement of all wall signs shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors.

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4. Height - A wall sign shall not project higher than the parapet line of the wall to which the sign is to be affixed or sixteen (16) feet, as measured from the base of the building wall to which the sign is to be affixed, whichever is lower.

Freestanding Business Identification Signs

Freestanding business identifications signs may be ground signs or monument signs used solely for the identification of the development and shall be subject to the following:

1. Number - There shall not be more than one (1) freestanding business identification sign for each lot.

2. Area - The surface area of a freestanding business identification sign shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet.

3. Location - A freestanding business identification sign shall maintain side and rear setbacks, and shall not extend within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access to a public roadway.

4. Height - A freestanding business identification sign shall not project higher than sixteen (16) feet, as measured from the average grade at the base of the sign or the grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is lower.

5. Individual Occupant Identification - The freestanding business identification sign shall not contain the name of any individual business occupant of the premises unless such tenant or occupant occupies thirty percent (30%) or more of the total development. Each freestanding business identification sign may include affixed directly to it a directory indicating only the names of the business occupants of the development in which the sign is to be located. The directory shall include the names of all business tenants/occupants on one sign and shall not be comprised of individual signs. The gross surface area of a directory sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet for each exposed face for each occupant in the development.

Shopping Center and Multiple Occupant Business Identification Signs

The provisions of this section shall apply to developments in which two (2) or more businesses are housed in one (1) or more a principal structures.

Building Wall Signs

1. Number - There shall be not more than one (1) wall sign for each principal business occupant except that where a principal occupant abuts two (2) or more streets, one (1) additional such sign oriented to each abutting street shall be permitted.

2. Area - The surface area of a wall sign shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the occupant’s proportionate share of the area of the building wall, including doors and windows, to which the sign is to be affixed or sixty-four (64) square feet, whichever is smaller. The surface area of a wall sign may be increased by ten (10) percent if such wall sign consists only of individual, outlined alphabetic, numeric, and/or symbolic characters without background, except that provided by the building surface to which the sign is to be affixed, and if illuminated, such illumination is achieved through shielded spot lighting, but not any lighting where the light source is visible or exposed on the face or sides of the characters.

3. Location - A wall sign may be located on the outermost wall of any principal building. The location and arrangement of all wall signs shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors.

4. Height - A wall sign shall not project higher than the parapet line of the wall to which the sign is to be affixed or sixteen (16) feet, as measured from the base of the building wall to which the sign is to be affixed, whichever is lower.

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Business Subdivision Road Entrance Signs

Business subdivision road entrance signs for developments with two (2) or more commercial, manufacturing, industrial, public and semi-public buildings, referred to as *business* in this section, indicating only the name of the development shall be subject to the following:

A. Type - The business subdivision road entrance signs shall be ground signs.

B. Number - There shall not be more than two (2) business subdivision road entrance signs for each point of vehicular access to a development

C. Area - Business subdivision road entrance signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in gross surface area.

D. Location -Business subdivision road entrance signs may be located in any required setback, but shall not extend over any lot line or within fifteen (15) feet of any point of vehicular access from a public roadway. The location and arrangement of all residential development signs shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors. Road entrance signs shall not project higher than five (5) feet, as measured from base of sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.

F. Sign Faces - Business subdivision road entrance signs may be double-faced only when one (1) such sign is used at a road entrance.

Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Signs

ATM signs shall be permitted in association with an approved commercial use subject to the following:

A. Location - Such sign shall be located on the face of the machine and may only identify the individual business name, logo, time, and principal services offered at the ATM.

B. Area - The area of any such sign shall not exceed ten (10) feet. The bezel and architectural border of an ATM sign shall not be included in the sign area unless they contain sign characters, logos, or other sign graphics. The area of any ATM signage not visible beyond the boundaries of the property shall not be deducted from the sum total area permitted for the use. Wording, symbols, and graphics which instruct persons on the use of the ATM shall not be considered part of the sign area unless they are visible beyond the boundaries of the property and attract the attention of the public.

C. Permit - No sign permit shall be required for such sign.

Business Directional Signs

The intent of this section is to allow commercial, manufacturing, industrial, and institutional uses, referred to as *business* in this section located in Berlin Township, to erect temporary signs directing the public to the *business*.

A. Number - There shall not be more than four (4) directional signs for each parcel of land eligible for such signs. In the case of multi-businesses on the same parcel, each business shall not be eligible for signs; instead, the directional signs shall refer to the parcel as a whole.

B. Area - The surface area of each sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet for each exposed face.

C. Height - A directional sign shall not project higher than ten (10) feet, as measured from the average grade at the base of the sign or the grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is lower.

D. Sign Information - The information on the sign shall be limited to the business name, logo, telephone number and directional information.

E. Property Owner Permission - The person making application for the erection of a business directional sign shall provide a written statement of permission signed by the owner of the property upon which the sign is proposed.

F. Temporary Nature of Signs - All business directional signs shall be considered temporary signs in terms of nonconformity status should the number of signs erected in the Township dictate the

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imposition of limitations on such numbers to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Any such signs which do not comply with any subsequent amendment of this Ordinance shall be brought into compliance, including removal of the sign if required by any new or amended regulations adopted by the Township and shall be limited to a total of one hundred and twenty (120) days out of each calendar year in any combination of days.

H. Annual Permit - An annual permit shall be required for the placement of the directional signs and which shall establish the number, location and time periods when the signs will be erected.

**Billboards**

The intent of this section is to limit the number, size and location of off-premises advertising signs and

billboards to reduce visual clutter in the Township, prevent the distraction of drivers, and maintain the character of the community.

Illumination

Off-premises advertising sign or billboard may be illuminated, but flashing lights or devices and animation shall be prohibited.

Setbacks

The applicable setbacks for principal structures shall be maintained for off-premises advertising signs and billboards.

Height of Signs

A. The maximum area for any one off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet with a maximum height of sixteen (16) feet.

B. A sign structure shall contain only one (1) sign per facing.

Spacing of Off-Premises Advertising Signs and Billboards:

A. No off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall be permitted within one thousand (1,000) feet of another off-premises advertising sign or billboard, measured in all directions. The separation distance shall be measured between the closest points of the two (2) signs in question.

B. No off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall be permitted within four hundred (400) of any dwelling.

C. No off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall be permitted within four hundred (400) feet of any park, recreational area, trail system, public or parochial school, municipal building, library, church, hospital, or similar institutional use.

D. No off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall be erected within two hundred (200) feet of the public street intersection. The separation distance shall be measured between the closest point of the proposed sign and the nearest intersection of the right-of-way lines of the streets in question.

E. No off-premises advertising sign or billboard shall be constructed parallel to, or at an angle of less than forty-five (45) degrees to the right-of-way upon which it faces.

Engineering Certification

Any applications for an off-premise advertising sign or billboard shall be accompanied by certification under seal by a Professional Engineer registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the sign as proposed will not present a structural safety hazard.

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**Nonconforming Signs**

Legal, Non-Conforming Signs

Any sign lawfully existing or under construction on the effective date of this Ordinance, which does not conform to one (1) or more of the provisions of this Ordinance, may be continued in operation and maintained as a legal non-conforming sign subject to compliance. Normal maintenance of legal non-conforming signs, including changing of copy, necessary repairs, and incidental alterations which do not extend or intensify the non-conforming features of the sign, shall be permitted. However, no alteration, enlargement, or extension shall be made to a legal non-conforming sign unless the alteration,

enlargement, or extension will result in the elimination of the non-conforming features of the sign. If a legal non-conforming sign is damaged or destroyed by any means to the extent of fifty (50%) percent or more of its replacement value at the time, the sign may not be rebuilt to its original condition and may not continue to be displayed.

**Removal of Certain Signs**

Obsolete Signs

Any sign, whether existing on or erected after the effective date of this Ordinance, which advertises a business no longer being conducted or a product no longer being offered for sale in or from the premises on which the sign is located, shall be removed within ninety (90) days upon the cessation of such business or sale of such product by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial interest in the building or premises on which such sign is located. If the Board of Supervisors shall find that any such sign advertising a business no longer being conducted or a product no longer being offered for sale in or from the premises on which the sign is located has not been removed within ninety (90) days upon the cessation of such business or sale of such product, they shall give written notices to the owner, agent,

or person having the beneficial interest in the building or the premises on which such sign is located. Removal of the sign shall be affected within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice. If such sign is not removed after the conclusion of such ten (10) day period, the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to cause the sign to be removed forthwith at the expense of the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial interest in the building or premises on which such sign is located.

This section also includes bus stop shelters.

Unsafe Signs

If the Board of Supervisors shall find that any sign is unsafe or insecure, or is a menace to the public, they shall give written notice to the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial interest in the building or the premises on which such sign is located. Correction to the condition shall be effected within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice. If such condition is not corrected after the conclusion of such ten (10) day period, the sign will be removed forthwith at the expense of the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial interest in the building or premises on which such sign is located. Notwithstanding, the foregoing provisions, the Board of Supervisors is authorized to cause any sign to be removed

summarily and without notice, at the expense of the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial interest in the building or premises on which such sign is located, whenever it is determined that such sign is an

immediate peril to persons or property.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP SIGN REGULATION ORDINANCE**

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Any Ordinance or any portion of any Ordinance inconsistent with this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Chairman

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date