

# TOWN OF SABATTUS

## PROVISIONS FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNS

### Changeable Message Signs

Changeable message signs are permitted provided that each message remains fixed on the display surface, but “which may be changed at reasonable intervals by electronic process or remote control,” and do not “include any flashing, intermittent or moving light or lights.” (23 U.S.C. § 131) and in accordance with subsection 11-A. of Title 23 Chapter 21 of the Maine Revised Statutes annotated. For the purposes of this section, signs whose messages change by mechanical or electronic means are not prohibited as long as the intermittent lighting is used to change messages and not solely to attract attention.

A “flashing” sign will continue to be prohibited except as described below. The regulatory factors in the display of an electronic changeable message signs are:

1) Duration of the message display, 2) Message Transition, and (3) Frame Effects.

### Definitions

**ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN (or DISPLAY)** – A sign capable of displaying words, symbols figures or images that can be electronically or mechanically changed by remote or automatic means.

**DISSOLVE** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Display accomplished by varying the light intensity or pattern, where the first message gradually appears to dissipate and lose legibility simultaneously with the gradual appearance and legibility of the second message.

**FADE** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Display accomplished by varying the light intensity, where the first message gradually reduces the intensity to the point of not being legible and the subsequent message gradually increases intensity to the point of legibility.

**FRAME** – A complete, static display screen on an Electronic Message Display.

**FRAME EFFECT** – A visual effect used on an Electronic Message Display to change from one message to another.

**SCROLL** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Display where the message appears to move vertically across the display surface.

**TIME & TEMPERATURE SIGN** – A special type of changeable message sign that is capable of displaying only public service information such as time, date and temperature, but not words, symbols or other advertising messages.

**TRAVEL** – A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Display where the Message appears to move horizontally across the display surface.

**Permitted Uses**

Changeable signs are not permitted in residential zones. Electronic Message Signs are permitted with the approval of the Code Enforcement Officer if the sign meets the following requirements in addition to the dimensional requirements set forth in by Town ordinance. According to Maine Law, electronic message signs are not permitted for viewing onto controlled access highways (interstate highways) and only a single, single-sided or double-sided Electronic Message Sign is permitted on any lot of record.

**Times Permitted**

Static display panels of text & graphic images are permitted with a two (2) second minimum hold time between changes. Travel and scrolling or similar transitions between static message panels are allowed including frames that appear to move or change in size, or be revealed sequentially rather than all at once including the movement of illumination or the scintillation or varying of light intensity. Time & Temperature Signs are allowed to change display with a 2 second message hold rate.

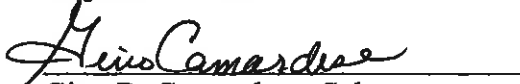
**PERMIT COST**

- 1) All signs less then 12sq.ft. \$25.00
- 2) All signs 12sq.ft. or more.\$50.00

*Adopted On February 20, 2007.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Henshaw, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen J. Wood, Selectman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gino R. Camardese, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark R. Duquette, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guy Desjardins, Selectman