

Charlton Historic District Sign Design Guidelines

Signs in the Town of Charlton are regulated in Article 4V, Section 4J of the Town of Charlton Zoning Ordinance. Please check the zoning ordinance first to determine the sign type, sign area, and location restrictions that apply in each specific case.

Signs should be compatible with the proportion, scale, form and architectural detail of the structure to which it is attached. The message should be simple and easy to read.

Sign Types:

Wall-mounted rectangular and oval signs, as well as signs hung perpendicular to a wall on a decorative bracket are appropriate to most historic structures. Signs should be placed on structures in a way that does not obscure important architectural features. Free standing signs surrounded by appropriate landscaping are appropriate for buildings that are set back from the right-of-way.

Materials:

Signs made of natural materials such as wood or metal are appropriate to any historic period. However, modern materials such as plastic and composite materials can provide extended sign life and an authentic look.

Graphics:

Lettering on the signs should be easy to read. Painted, carved, raised or engraved letters are appropriate. No specific font is recommended, but the size of the font should be in proportion to the size of the sign. Simple symbols and logos can help provide interest to the sign.

Lighting:

Sign lighting (if required) should be limited to low-level flood lighting with a reasonably concealed source. Small gooseneck lights can provide adequate lighting for most wall-mounted signs.

Neon signs, rotating signs, moving signs, inflated signs, flashing signs, internally-illuminated signs, and signs with luminous or reflective materials are not in keeping with the historic character of the hamlet and *are strongly discouraged*. Special consideration will be given to signs that are placed for public safety.

An Application for Recommendation of Appropriateness and accompanying sketch should be submitted the Charlton Historic District Commission for review. The Commission invites community members to attend a meeting to open up a dialog about each individual project.