

**TOWNSHIP OF LOYALSOCK  
LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 391**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP  
ZONING ORDINANCE (Ordinance No. 252 of April 12, 1994, as amended)**

BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, following proper public notice and public hearing, it is hereby ordained and resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Loyalsock, County of Lycoming, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

**I. SHORT TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known as the 2020 Amendment to the Loyalsock Township Zoning Ordinance of 1994, as amended, and shall be incorporated into the Loyalsock Township Zoning Ordinance of 1994, as amended (Ordinance No. 252 of April 12, 1994, as amended).

The intent of this Ordinance is to replace Article V, Signs, in its entirety.

**II. ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

Article V, Signs, Section 215-30 through Section 215-38 of the Loyalsock Township Zoning Ordinance of 1994, as amended, Chapter 215, Zoning, of the Codified Ordinances of Loyalsock Township are hereby repealed and replaced with the following new provisions:

**Article V  
Signs**

**§215-30. Applicability.**

Any sign erected, altered, or maintained after the effective date of this Ordinance shall conform to the regulations of set forth in this Article. All signs shall comply with any and all applicable zoning regulations of Loyalsock Township, and any and all municipal, state and/or federal regulations. In the event any other applicable regulation is in conflict with the provisions of this Article, the more strict regulation shall apply.

**§215-30A. Intent.**

The intent of the sign requirements of this chapter is to recognize the importance of signs in the community, both commercial and non-commercial in nature and establish regulations to protect the public from damage or injury attributable to distractions and obstructions caused by poorly designed or improperly located signs. These regulations are also intended, in part, to stabilize or enhance the overall appearance of the community, and to protect property values. This chapter is intended to regulate the number, size, placement and physical characteristics of

signs and sign structures. These regulations are not intended to and do not restrict, limit, or control the content of any sign message.

**§215-30B. Purpose.**

The purpose of this article is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare through a comprehensive system of reasonable, effective, consistent, content-neutral and non-discriminatory sign standards and requirements. This article has also been adopted to:

- 1) Set standards and provide uniform, non-discriminatory controls that permit reasonable use of signs and preserve the uniformity of the Township.
- 2) Prohibit the erection of signs in such numbers, sizes, designs, illumination, and locations as may create a hazard to pedestrians and motorists.
- 3) Avoiding excessive conflicts from large or multiple signs, so that permitted signs provide adequate identification and direction while minimizing clutter, unsightliness, and confusion.
- 4) Establishing a process for the review and approval of sign permit applications.
- 5) Protect the public right-of-way from obstructions.
- 6) Recognize free speech rights by regulating signs in a content-neutral manner

**§215-30C. Permit Requirements for Signs.**

Except for signs listed under the signs exempt from a permit requirements section of this article, no person, firm, corporation or partnership shall erect, place, alter, construct or cause to be erected, placed, altered or constructed, any sign on any property within the Township until a permit for the same has been issued by the Township Zoning Officer. Property owners who authorize or allow any sign on their property shall ensure that all provisions of this Article are adhered to and will be held responsible for any violations of this Article. In cases where a sign is erected by others without the property owner's permission and the property owner is unable or unwilling to remove said sign, the Township may remove said sign.

**§215-30D. Nonconforming Signs.**

Signs legally existing at the time of enactment of this article and which do not conform to the requirements of this article shall be considered nonconforming signs.

1. Any nonconforming sign which is removed shall be replaced only with a conforming sign. Legal nonconforming signs may be repainted, repaired or maintained (including lighting), provided such maintenance or repair does not extend the dimensions of the existing sign.

2. Permanent Nonconforming signs on existing nonconforming uses may be continued and maintained, provided that such signs conform with the “general regulations for all signs” section of this Article.

**§215-31. Definitions.**

Words and terms used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given in this Article. Unless expressly stated otherwise, any pertinent word or term not part of this listing but vital to the interpretation of this ordinance, shall be construed to have their legal definition, or in absence of a legal definition, their meaning as commonly accepted by practitioners including civil engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape architects, and planners.

**Aggregate Area:** The total height times the total width and shall mean the sign face.

**Abandoned Sign:** A sign which has not identified or advertised a current business, service, owner, product, or activity for a period of at least 180 days, in the case of off-premises signs, or at least 360 days in the case of on-premises signs. Abandoned signs also includes signs that are broken, defaced, faded, rusted, peeled or otherwise deteriorated and are not repaired within 30 days of receiving notice from the Township.

**Address Sign:** A sign that designates the street number and/or street name for identification purposes, as designated by the United States Postal Service. (Also known as a nameplate sign)

**Animated Sign:** A sign depicting action, motion, or light or color changes through electrical or mechanical means.

**Awning Sign:** A sign displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces of an awning.

**Balloon Sign:** A lighter-than-air, gas-filled balloon, tethered in a fixed location, which contains an advertisement message on its surface or attached to the balloon in any manner.

**Banner:** Any cloth, bunting, plastic, paper, or similar non-rigid material attached to any structure, staff, pole, rope, wire, or framing which is anchored on two or more edges or at all four corners. Banners are temporary in nature and do not include flags.

**Beacon Lighting:** Any source of electric light, whether portable or fixed, the primary purpose of which is to cast a concentrated beam of light generally skyward as a means of attracting attention to its location rather than to illuminate any particular sign, structure, or other object.

**Billboard** – See “off-premises sign.”

**Building Frontage:** The maximum linear width of a building measured in a single straight line parallel, or essentially parallel, with the abutting public street or parking lot.

**Canopy:** A structure other than an awning made of fabric, metal, or other material that is supported by columns or posts affixed to the ground and may also be connected to a building.

**Canopy Sign (aka, Fascia Sign):** Any sign that is part of or attached to a canopy or affixed to an architectural projection of a wall of a building or structure, or any other projected surface.

**Carried Sign** — means a hand-held or carried sign held or carried by a person.

**Changeable Copy Sign:** A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change either automatically through electrical or electronic means, or manually through placement of letters or symbols on a panel mounted in or on a track system. The two types of changeable-copy signs are *manual changeable copy signs and electronic changeable copy signs, which include: message center signs, digital displays, and Tri-Vision Boards.*

**Channel Letter Sign:** A sign consisting of fabricated or formed three-dimensional letters, individually applied to a wall, which may accommodate a light source.

**Clearance:** The distance above the grade, or other surface if specified, to the bottom edge of a sign. This term can also refer to a horizontal distance between two objects.

**Digital Display:** The portion of a sign message made up of internally illuminated components capable of changing the message periodically. Digital displays may include but are not limited to LCD, LED, or plasma displays.

**Directional Sign:** A sign designed to guide or direct pedestrians or vehicles.

**Festoon Lighting:** A type of illumination comprised of either: (a) a group of light bulbs hung or strung overhead or on a building or other structure, or (b) light bulbs not shaded or hooded or otherwise screened to prevent direct rays of light from shining on adjacent properties or rights-of-way.

**Flag:** Any sign printed or painted on cloth, plastic, canvas, or other like material with distinctive colors, patterns, or symbols attached to a pole or staff and anchored along only one edge or supported or anchored at only two corners. Includes commercial feather flags a/k/a swooper flags or banner flags.

**Flashing Sign:** A sign whose artificial illumination is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use and which exhibits changes in light, color, direction, or animation. This definition does not include electronic message centers signs or digital displays that meet the requirements set forth herein.

**Foot-candle:** A unit of incident light (on a surface) stated in lumens per square foot and measurable with an illuminance meter, a.k.a. footcandle or light meter. One (1) footcandle is equal to one (1) lumen per square foot

**Foot-lambert:** A unit of emitted light (from a surface) stated in lumens per square foot and measurable with an illuminance meter, a.k.a. footcandle or light meter. One (1) foot-lambert is equal to one (1) lumen per square foot.

**Freestanding Sign:** A sign supported by structures or supports that are placed on, or anchored in, the ground; and that is independent and detached from any building or other structure. The following are subtypes of **freestanding signs**:

**-Ground Sign:** A sign permanently affixed to the ground at its base, supported entirely by a base structure, and not mounted on a pole or attached to any part of a building. (Also known as *monument sign*)

**-Pole Sign:** A freestanding sign that is permanently supported in a fixed location by a structure of one or more poles, posts, uprights, or braces from the ground and not supported by a building or a base structure.

**-Gas Station Canopy:** A freestanding, open-air structure constructed for the purpose of shielding service station islands from the elements.

**-Gas Station Canopy Sign:** Any sign that is part of, or attached to, the vertical sides of the gas station canopy roof structure. For the purposes of this ordinance, gas station canopy signs shall be considered wall signs.

**Government/Regulatory Sign:** Any sign for the control of traffic or for identification purposes, street signs, warning signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger or construction, which are erected by or at the order of a public officer, employee or agent thereof, in the discharge of official duties.

**Holiday Decorations:** Signs or displays including lighting which are a non-permanent installation celebrating national, state, and local holidays, religious or cultural holidays, or other holiday seasons. (Also known as seasonal decorations).

**Holographic display sign:** A type of sign that utilizes light diffraction to create a virtual three-dimensional projected image of an object. Holographic display signs are distinguished from other forms of 3D imaging in that they do not require the aid of any special glasses or external equipment for a viewer to see the image.

**Illuminated Sign:** A sign with electrical equipment installed for illumination, either internally illuminated through its sign face by a light source contained inside the sign or externally illuminated by a light source aimed at its surface.

**Illumination:** A source of any artificial or reflected light, either directly from a source of light incorporated in, or indirectly from an artificial source.

**Illumination, External:** Artificial light, located away from the sign, which lights the sign, the source of which may or may not be visible to persons viewing the sign from any street, sidewalk, or adjacent property.

**Illumination, Halo:** A sign using a 3-dimensional message, logo, etc., which is lit in such a way as to produce a halo effect. (Also known as *back-lit illumination*).

**Illumination, Internal:** A light source that is concealed or contained within the sign and becomes visible in darkness through a translucent surface. Message center signs, digital displays, and signs incorporating neon lighting shall not be considered internal illumination for the purposes of this ordinance.

**Incidental Sign:** A sign that displays general site information, instructions, directives, or restrictions that are primarily oriented to pedestrians and motor vehicle operators who have entered a property from a public street. These signs shall not contain any commercial advertising.

**Incidental Window Sign:** Signs displayed in the window displaying information such as the business' hours of operation, credit institutions accepted, commercial and civic affiliations, and similar information. These signs shall be informational only and shall not contain a commercial message.

**Inflatable Sign:** A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device.

**Marquee Sign:** See "canopy sign."

**Mechanical Movement Sign:** A sign having parts that physically move rather than merely appear to move as might be found in a digital display. The physical movement may be activated electronically or by another means, but shall not include wind-activated movement such as used for banners or flags. Mechanical movement signs do not include digital signs that have changeable, programmable displays.

**Memorial Sign:** A memorial plaque or tablet, including grave markers or other remembrances of persons or events, which is not used for a commercial message.

**Menu Sign:** A permanent sign oriented to the drive-through lane for displaying the bill of fare available at a restaurant or other use.

**Message Center Sign:** A type of illuminated, changeable copy sign that consists of electronically changing alphanumeric text often used for gas price display signs and athletic scoreboards.

**Message Sequencing:** The spreading of one message across more than one sign structure.

**Multi-Tenant Sign or Development Complex Sign:** A freestanding sign used to advertise businesses that occupy a shopping center, plaza, strip mall, or complex with multiple tenants which is controlled by a single owner or landlord.

**Mural (or mural sign):** A large picture/image (including but not limited to painted art) which is painted, constructed, or affixed directly onto a vertical building wall, which may or may not contain text, logos, and/ or symbols.

**Neon Sign:** A sign illuminated by a neon tube, or other visible light-emitting gas tube, that is

bent to form letters, symbols, or other graphics.

**Nit:** A unit of measurement of luminance, or the intensity of visible light, where one nit is equal to one candela per square meter. Nits are used to describe the brightness of computer displays, such as LCD and CRT monitors.

**Nonconforming Sign:** A sign that was legally erected and maintained before the effective date of this Ordinance, or amendment thereto, that does not currently comply with Loyalsock Township sign regulations.

**Off-Premises Sign:** An outdoor sign whose message directs attention to a specific business, product, service, event or activity, or other commercial or noncommercial activity, or contains a non-commercial message about something that is not sold, produced, manufactured, furnished, or conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located. (Also known as a third-party sign, billboard, or outdoor advertising)

**Official Traffic Sign:** Official highway route number signs, street name signs, directional signs and other traffic signs erected and maintained on public highways and roads in the interest of public safety or for the regulation of traffic.

**On-Premises Sign:** A sign whose message and design relate to an individual business, profession, product, service, event, point of view, or other commercial or non-commercial activity sold, offered, or conducted on the same property where the sign is located.

**On-Premises Directional Sign:** Signs designed to provide direction to pedestrian and vehicular traffic into and out of, or within a site.

**Pennant:** a triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, commonly attached in strings or strands, or supported on small poles intended to flap in the wind.

**Permanent Sign:** A sign attached or affixed to a building, structure, or to the ground in a manner that enables the sign to resist environmental loads, such as wind, and that precludes ready removal or movement of the sign and whose intended use appears to be indefinite.

**Personal Expression Sign (aka Ideological sign):** An on-premises sign that expresses an opinion, interest, position, or other non-commercial message. For this ordinance, these types of signs are not to be classified as a temporary sign.

**Portable Sign:** A sign designed to be transported or moved and not permanently attached to the ground, a building, or other structure. This definition includes sandwich boards and portable reader boards if placed on private property. This definition also includes trailered signs.

**Private Drive Sign:** A sign indicating a street or drive which is not publicly owned and maintained and used only for access by the occupants of the development and their guests.

**Projecting Sign:** A building-mounted, double-sided sign with the two faces generally

perpendicular to the building wall that projects more than 18 inches from the building face or wall, not to include signs located on a canopy, awning, or marquee. (Also known as blade sign)

**Public Sign:** A sign erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification signs for public facilities.

**Reflective Sign:** A sign containing any material or device which has the effect of intensifying reflected light.

**Revolving Sign:** A sign which revolves in a circular motion; rather than remaining stationary on its supporting structure.

**Roof Sign:** A building-mounted sign erected upon, against, or over the roof of a building.

**Security Sign:** An on-premises sign regulating the use of the premises, such as a “no trespassing,” “no hunting,” or “no soliciting” sign. (Also known as warning sign)

**Shielded:** The description of a luminaire from which no direct glare is visible at normal viewing angles, by virtue of its being properly aimed, oriented, and located and properly fitted with such devices as shields, barn doors, baffles, louvers, skirts, or visors.

**Sign:** A device for visual communication that is used to bring the subject to the attention of the public. Signs include lettering, logos, trademarks, or other symbols which are an integral part of the architectural design of a building, which are applied to a building, or which are located elsewhere on the premises; flags and insignia of civic, charitable, religious, fraternal, patriotic, or similar organizations; insignia or flags of governments or government agencies; banners, streamers, pennants, spinners, reflectors, ribbons, tinsel, and similar materials; and inflatable objects. Signs do not include architectural features which may be identified with a particular business; backlit awnings that include no lettering, logos, or other symbols; signs within a building which are obviously intended to be seen primarily from within the building; outdoor signs intended for use within a property, such as menu signs by fast food restaurant drive through lanes.

**Sign Area:** The total dimensions of a sign surface used to display information, messages, advertising, logos, or symbols.

**Sign Face:** The part of the sign that is or can be used for the sign area. The sign area could be smaller than the sign face.

**Sign, Gross Surface Area** - The entire area within a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem or any figure or similar character together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate a sign from the background against which it is placed, excluding the necessary supports or uprights upon which the sign is placed. For signs utilizing individual letters or figures or characters mounted directly on the wall or face of a structure, the gross surface area shall be the entire area



within a single continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of the writing, representation or other communication material.

**Sign Height** – the vertical distance measured from the grade below the sign or upper surface of the nearest street curb, whichever permits the greatest height, to the highest point of the sign.

**Sign Setback** – means the horizontal distance from the property line to the nearest edge of the sign cabinet or sign.

**Sign Supporting Structure:** Poles, posts, walls, frames, brackets, or other supports holding a sign in place.

**Snipe Sign:** A sign tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences, public benches, streetlights, or other objects, or placed on any public property or in the public right-of-way or on any private property without the permission of the property owner. (Also known as bandit sign)

**Special Signs:** Any other signs not included under this ordinance are prohibited unless a Special Sign Permit is issued by the Zoning Officer under the regulations herein set forth:

**Streamers:** A display made of lightweight, flexible materials, consisting of long, narrow, wavy strips hung individually or in a series, with or without a logo or advertising message printed or painted on them and typically designed to move in the wind.

**Street Frontage:** The length in feet of a property line(s) or lot line(s) bordering a public street. For corner lots, each street-side property line shall be a separate street frontage. The frontage for a single use or development on two or more lots shall be the sum of the individual lot frontages.

**Temporary Sign:** A sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of a transitory or temporary nature. Portable signs or any signs not permanently embedded in the ground, or not permanently affixed to a building or sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, are considered temporary signs.

**Trailer Sign** – any sign located on or affixed to a trailer or vehicle normally licensed by the state as a trailer, or a sign that has its own wheels, or is located on or affixed to its own wheels, capable of being used to move the sign from location to location. Trailer sign does not mean signs that are permanently or temporarily affixed to motor vehicles other than trailers, such as passenger cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles.

**Tri-Vision Boards:** An outdoor unit with a slatted face that allows three different copy messages to revolve at intermittent intervals.

**Under Canopy Hanging Sign** – A sign attached to the underside of an architectural projection.

**Vehicular Sign:** A sign affixed to a vehicle in such a manner that the sign is used primarily as a stationary advertisement for the business on which the vehicle sits or is otherwise not incidental to the vehicle's primary purpose.

**Wall Sign:** A building-mounted sign which is either attached to, displayed on, or painted on an exterior wall in a manner parallel with the wall surface. A sign installed on a false or mansard roof is also considered a wall sign.

**§215-32. Prohibited Signs.**

The following signs are unlawful and prohibited unless protected by State statute:

- A. Abandoned signs.
- B. Snipe or Bandit signs. Signs shall only be attached to utility poles in conformance with state and utility regulations and the requirements of this Chapter.
- C. Mechanical movement signs, including revolving signs.
- D. Pennant strings and streamers.
- E. Flashing signs, or signs that flash text or graphics.
- F. Inflatable devices or balloon signs, with the exception of balloons used in temporary, non-commercial situations.
- G. Any signs that imitate, resemble, interfere with, or obstruct official traffic lights, signs, or signals.
- H. Signs which emit smoke, visible vapors, particulate matter, sound, odor or contain open flames.
- I. Reflective signs or signs containing mirrors.
- J. Signs incorporating beacon or festoon lighting.
- K. Signs attached or painted on trees, rocks or natural features.
- L. Signs erected without the permission of the property owner, with the exception of those authorized or required by local, state, or federal government.
- M. Any sign containing information which states or implies that a property may be used for any purpose not permitted under the provisions of the Loyalsock Township Zoning Ordinance.

- N. Signs that exhibit statements, words, or pictures of obscene or pornographic subjects as determined by Loyalsock Township or Local Law Enforcement.
- O. Any sign that promotes illegal activity.
- P. Signs in the legal right of way.
- Q. Signs installed, attached, or painted on fences, with the exception of a sign attached to a temporary construction fence for a temporary period of time.
- R. A permitted on-premises sign containing an off-premises sign message.
- S. Vehicular Sign. This regulation does not include the use of business logos, identification or advertising on vehicles primarily and actively used for business purposes and/or personal transportation.
- T. Holographic Display Signs.

**§215-33. Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements.**

The following signs are allowed without a permit in all zoning districts but must comply with the regulations in this section, if any. Section 215-32 "General regulations for all signs" shall also apply.

- A. Official traffic signs.
- B. Government/regulatory signs.
- C. Signs inside a building, or other enclosed facility including window decal signs.
- D. Holiday and seasonal decorations.
- E. Personal expression signs of any sign type, including flags, provided that they are non-commercial in nature, are not illuminated, and do not exceed four (4) square feet in area per side in the R-1, R-U, and A-R zoning districts and do not exceed (16) square feet in area per side in the C, C-N, I, and A-O zoning districts .
- F. Public signs - Signs erected or required by government agencies or utilities, including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing, and identification or directional signs for public facilities.
- G. Signs or emblems of a religious, civil, philanthropic, historical or educational organization that do not to exceed four (4) sq. ft. in area.
- H. Private drive signs - One (1) sign per driveway entrance, not to exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.

- I. Security and warning signs - These limitations shall not apply to the posting of conventional “no trespassing” or “no dumping” signs in accordance with state law.
1. Residential districts. Signs not to exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.
  2. Non-residential districts. Maximum of one (1) large sign per property, not to exceed six (6) sq.ft.in area. All other posted security and warning signs may not exceed two (2) sq. ft. in area.
- J. Signs of schools, churches, hospitals, colleges, or other institutions of similar nature and signs identifying housing developments, provided that:
1. The size of any such sign is not in excess of 32 square feet.
  2. Not more than two signs are placed on a property in a single and separate ownership, unless such property fronts upon more than one street, in which case two such signs may be erected on each frontage.
- K. Incidental signs, including incidental window signs.
- L. Directional signs, provided they do not contain any commercial messaging.
1. Area. No single directional sign shall exceed four (4) sq. ft. in area.
  2. Height. Directional signs shall have a maximum height of five (5) ft.
  3. Illumination. Directional signs shall be non-illuminated.
- M. Art and murals, provided such signs do not contain any commercial messaging.
- N. Signs advertising home occupations provided they are no larger than six (6) square feet in area and limited to one (1) per lot.
- O. Umbrella Signs.
1. For each table in an outside seating area for a licensed business establishment, one (1) Umbrella Sign per umbrella is allowed. The umbrella with sign must be on the table and shall not exceed 8 feet in height.
- P. Flags:
1. Location. Flags and flagpoles shall not be located within any right-of-way and shall have a maximum height of forty (40) feet.
  2. Maximum individual flag size is 24 sq. ft. in residential districts, 35 sq. ft. in all other districts.
- Q. Memorial Signs.

R Carried Signs

S. Temporary signs in accordance with the Regulations by Sign Type (Temporary Signs).

**§215-34. General Regulations for all signs.**

The following general regulations for all signs shall apply to this Article and to all lawful conforming and nonconforming signs.

A. Sign Location:

1. No sign shall be placed in such a position as to endanger pedestrians, bicyclists, or traffic on a street by obscuring the view or by interfering with official street signs or signals by virtue of position or color.
2. No sign, other than an official traffic sign, shall be erected within the right-of-way lines of any street. No sign may project over a public sidewalk area or public right-of-way.
3. Where public sidewalks are present, no sign, other than an official traffic sign, may be placed between the curb line and the sidewalk.
4. Signs shall not attempt to direct the movement of traffic or interfere with, imitate or resemble any official signs, signal, or device.
5. Signs shall not prevent a driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view of approaching or merging traffic.
6. No portion thereof, including lights, shall be permitted in any district when, by reason of its design, content, intensity, color, location or movement, that may interfere or cause confusion with traffic lights, signals or other controls or otherwise interfere with the operation of vehicles upon a public thoroughfare. Signs may be internally or externally illuminated except as further restricted by this article.
7. Signs and their supporting structures shall maintain clearance and noninterference with all surface and underground utility and communications lines or equipment.
8. All permanent signs with a clearance of less than 6 feet above grade must be a minimum of 10 feet back from the property line abutting any street or 20 feet back from the face of the curb, whichever distance is less restrictive. Where no curbs are present, the edge of the paved road is to be used for this setback requirement.

B. Sign Area.

1. Where the sign consists of individual letters, designs, or symbols attached to a building, awning, or wall, the area shall be that of the smallest rectangle which encompasses all of the letters, designs, and symbols.
2. Signs may be double sided.
  - a. On premises signs.
    - i. Only one (1) side shall be considered when determining the sign area, provided that the faces are equal in size, the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees, and the two faces are not more than 18 inches apart.
    - ii. Where the faces are not equal in size, but the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees and the two faces are not more than 18 inches apart, the larger sign face shall be used as the basis for calculating sign area.
    - iii. When the interior angle formed by the faces is greater than 45 degrees, or the faces are greater than 18 inches apart, all sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area.
  - b. Off premises signs.
    - i. Only one (1) side shall be considered when determining the sign area, provided that the faces are equal in size, the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees, and the two faces are not more than five (5) feet apart at the closest point of where the two sign faces meet.
    - ii. Where the faces are not equal in size, but the interior angle formed by the faces is less than 45 degrees and the two faces are not more than five (5) feet apart at the closest point of where the two sign faces meet, the larger sign face shall be used as the basis for calculating sign area.
    - iii. When the interior angle formed by the faces is greater than 45 degrees, or the faces are greater than five (5) feet apart at the closest point of where the two sign faces meet, all sides of such sign shall be considered in calculating the sign area.
3. Signs that consist of, or have attached to them, one or more three dimensional or irregularly-shaped objects, shall have a sign area of the sum of two adjacent vertical sign faces of the smallest cube encompassing the sign or object.
4. The permitted maximum area for signage allowed on a property will be determined by either: the sign type, zoning district in which the sign is located, or total linear feet of property or total linear building frontage a business occupies.

C. Sign Height.

1. Sign height shall be measured as the distance from the highest portion of the sign to the mean finished grade of the street closest to the sign. In the case of a sign located greater than 100 feet from a public street, the height shall be measured to the mean grade at the base of the sign.
2. Clearance for free standing and projecting signs shall be measured as the smallest vertical distance between finished grade and the lowest point of the sign, including any framework or other structural elements.
3. The permitted maximum height for all signs is the maximum building height of the zoning district unless specifically stated otherwise in this Article.
4. Signs shall not exceed 20 feet in height when erected within 10 feet of the right of way line of a street, road, or highway adjoining the premises.

D. Sign Spacing: The spacing between sign structures shall be measured as a straight-line distance between the closest edges of each sign.

E. Sign Illumination.

1. Signs may be illuminated, unless otherwise specified in this article, and are consistent with the following standards:
  - a. Light sources to illuminate signs shall neither be visible from any street right of way, nor cause glare hazardous or distracting to pedestrians, vehicle drivers, or adjacent properties.
  - b. No more than 0.2 foot candle of light shall be detectable at the boundary of any abutting property.
  - c. On premises signs on non-residential properties in the R-1, R-U, A-R Zoning Districts may be illuminated from 5am until 11pm, or ½ hour past the close of business of the facility being identified or advertised, whichever is later. The restriction of this subparagraph shall not apply within the A-O, C, C-N, or I Zoning Districts.
  - d. Signs shall provide an automatic timer to comply with the intent of this section
  - e. Brightness: Message center signs and digital displays are subject to the following brightness limits:
    - i. During day light hours between sunrise and sunset, luminance shall be no greater than five thousand (5,000) nits.
    - ii. At all other times, luminance shall be no greater than two hundred fifty (250) nits.
    - iii. Each sign must have a light sensing device that will automatically adjust the brightness of the display as the natural ambient light conditions change to comply with the limits set here within.

- f. Message Duration: The length of time each message may be displayed on a message center sign, digital display, or Tri-Vision Board sign is three (3) to eight (8) seconds.
2. Types of Illumination: Where permitted, illumination may be:
    - a. External: Externally illuminated signs, where permitted, are subject to the following regulations:
      - i. The source of light must be concealed by translucent covers.
      - ii. External illumination shall be a steady, stationary light source, shielded and directed solely at the sign. The light source must be static in color.
    - b. Internal: Internally illuminated signs, where permitted, are subject to the following regulations:
      - i. Internal illumination, including neon lighting, must be static in intensity and color.
      - ii. Message center signs and digital display signs are permitted in accordance with the requirements above.
  3. Message center signs are subject to the following regulations, in addition to all other illumination requirements established by this section.
    - a. Sign Type: Message center signs are permitted in the form of free standing, monument, and wall signs, both on-premises and off-premises.
    - b. Height: A message center sign shall have the same height limits as other permitted signs.
    - c. Area:
      - i. When used as an on-premises sign, message center signs shall not exceed 50% of the sign area for any one sign, and shall not exceed more than 30% of the total area for all signs permitted on the property.
      - ii. When used as an off-premises sign, message center signs may be used for the full permitted sign area.
    - d. Maximum Number: Where permitted, one (1) message center sign is permitted per street frontage, up to a maximum of two (2) message center signs per property.
    - e. Message Display:
      - i. No message center sign may contain text which flashes or pulsates.
      - ii. The content of the message center sign must transition by changing instantly (e.g., no fade-out or fade-in).
      - iii. Default Design: The sign shall contain a default design which shall freeze the sign message in one position if a malfunction should occur.
    - f. Conversion of a non-message center sign to a message center sign requires the issuance of a permit.



- g. The addition of any message center sign to a non-conforming sign is prohibited.
4. Digital display signs are subject to the following regulations in addition to all other illumination requirements established by this section.
- a. Sign Type: Digital displays are permitted in the form of free standing, monument, and wall signs, both on-premises and off-premises.
  - b. Height: A digital display shall have the same height limits as for other permitted signs of the same type and location.
  - c. Area:
    - i. When used as an on-premises sign, digital displays shall not exceed more than 30% of the total sign area permitted on the site.
    - ii. When used as an off-premises sign, digital displays may be used for the full permitted sign area.
  - d. Maximum Number per Property: Where permitted, one (1) digital display sign is permitted per property.
  - e. Message Display:
    - i. Any Digital Display containing animation, streaming video, or text or images which flash or pulsate is prohibited. Each complete message must fit on one screen.
    - ii. One message/display may be brighter than another, but each individual message/display must be static in intensity.
    - iii. The content of a digital display must transition by changing instantly, with no transition graphics (e.g., no fade-out or fade-in).
    - iv. Default Design: The sign shall contain a default design which shall freeze the sign message in one position if a malfunction should occur.
  - f. Conversion of a permitted non-digital sign to a digital sign requires the issuance of a permit.
  - g. The addition of any digital display to a nonconforming sign is prohibited.
5. Glare Control: Glare control shall be achieved primarily through the use of such means as cutoff fixtures, shields, and baffles, and appropriate application of fixture mounting height, wattage, aiming angle, and fixture placement. Vegetation screens shall not be employed to serve as the primary means for controlling glare.

**§215-35. Regulations by Sign Type: On-Premises Permanent Signs-Non-Residential Districts (Business Identification Signs).**

A. Locations Permitted

Signs bearing the name of the occupant, products manufactured, processed, sold, or displayed and services available may be erected and maintained on the premises in the C-N-Commercial Neighborhood, C-Commercial, A-O-Apartment-Office, and I-Industrial Districts.

B. Types of Signs Permitted and their Regulations:

1. Wall Signs:

No wall sign shall extend above the top of the wall, nor beyond the left or right extremity of the wall to which it is attached, nor shall it extend or project more than 18 inches from the wall upon which it is attached.

The aggregate area of all wall signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet for each lineal foot of width of the front wall of the building, or portion of the building occupied by the business.

2. Canopy, Awning Signs:

- i. A canopy or awning without lettering (other than an address), or other advertising shall not be regulated as a sign.
- ii. Canopy or awning signs must be centered within or over architectural elements such as windows or doors.
- iii. No awning or canopy sign shall be wider than the building wall or tenant space it identifies.
- iv. Awning signs above the ground floor may be fixed, provided they do not project more than four (4) feet from the face of the building.

3. Fascia Sign:

A sign attached to or which is an integral part of the face of an architectural projection may extend a maximum of two (2) feet above and/or below the face of such projection and zero (0) feet from the side of such projection. Such a sign can extend out a maximum of 18 inches from the surface to which it is attached.

4. Portable Signs:

- i. On existing lawful uses, nonilluminated movable ground signs advertising the product offered for sale on the premises may be erected and maintained. Such signs shall be limited to one double-faced sign per business and shall be included in the total maximum square footage of signs allowed.
- ii. Such signs shall not be greater than twelve (12) square feet in area per side and shall not be more than six (6) feet in height above the ground.

- iii. All portable signs shall be anchored, weighted, spring-loaded or otherwise designed to resist wind action.
- iv. All portable signs must be taken in during hours of non-operation of the business being advertised.
- v. No portable sign can block a public walkway or create a hazard to vehicles by obstructing the view.

5. Projecting Signs:

- i. No portion of a projecting sign shall project more than four (4) feet from the face of the building.
- ii. The outermost portion of a projecting sign shall project no closer than ten (10) feet from the curb line or shoulder of any public street/road nor project any closer than five (5) feet from any other property line.
- iii. No portion of the sign may project over any public sidewalk.
- iv. The lowest edge of a projecting sign shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.

6. Under Canopy Hanging Signs:

A sign may be placed entirely below and may be supported by an architectural projection of a building when such architectural projection is designed to carry the additional weight of such signs. Such signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in length or sixteen (16) inches in height. Such signs shall not project beyond the face of the architectural projection or more than ten (10) feet from the face of the building. Such signs shall be placed perpendicular to the face of the building and located only at the entrance thereto.

7. Free-standing Signs: (aka, Pole, Ground, Monument)

- i. A free-standing sign may be erected one (1) foot from the side property line in the C - Commercial, I-Industrial, A-O-Apartment -Office and C-N- Commercial Neighborhood zoning districts if the abutting use is a commercial use. If not, the side yard requirement in the district must be respected.
- ii. If the lowest edge of a free-standing pole sign has clearance over six (6) feet above grade, then the outermost edge of the sign can be up to the front property line as long as no portion of the sign overhangs a public sidewalk. Any free-standing sign with less than 6 feet of clearance must be a minimum of 10 feet back from a property line or 20 feet back from the edge of a street, whichever distance is less restrictive.
- iii. No free-standing sign may occupy an area designated for parking, loading, walkways, driveways, fire lane, easement, right-of-way or other areas required to remain unobstructed.
- iv. Not more than two (2) free standing signs may be erected and maintained on any premises at any one time, except when a building is located on a corner lot and has a public entrance on two or more public ways; or when a building has both a front and rear public entrance, one (1) additional sign may be erected.

8. Roof Signs:

- i. The highest point of a roof sign shall not exceed the building height limit for the district in which it is erected.
- ii. The maximum area of a single roof sign shall not exceed 200 square feet.
- iii. Not more than two (2) roof signs may be erected and maintained per business at any one time, except when the business is located on a corner lot and has a public entrance on two or more public ways; or when the building has both a front and rear public entrance, one (1) additional sign may be erected.

9. Directional Signs (with commercial message):

i. Signs may not exceed 4 feet in height.

ii. Signs may not exceed 4 square feet in area.

iii. The business name or trademark may be placed on the sign, said name or trademark may not exceed more than 50% of the sign area of said sign.

C. Area of Signage allowed for non-residential uses.

1. Single non-residential use on one lot. The total sign area for a free-standing sign or roof mounted sign per premises shall not exceed four (4) square feet per one lineal foot of street property frontage.
2. No single non-residential use on its own lot shall be limited to less than 32 square feet of total sign area nor exceed more than 300 square feet of total sign area associated with the non-residential use.
3. More than one non-residential use on a single lot. The total sign area of a free-standing sign or roof-mounted sign per business shall not exceed four (4) square feet per one linear foot of building frontage of the portion of the building occupied by the business.
4. No single non-residential use where there is more than 1 business on the same lot shall be limited to no less than 32 square feet of total sign area nor exceed more than 200 square feet of total sign area associated with the non-residential use.
5. Non-residential signs identifying commercial complexes or shopping centers accommodating multiple tenants shall not exceed 300 square feet in area. Signs identifying the individual commercial establishments within a commercial complex may be attached to the complex structure. Such identification signs shall not exceed an aggregate area of 300 square feet. A maximum of two (2) complex identification sign structures are allowed per premises.

6. Apartment-office building and apartment-office complex, including office building and office complex signs shall conform to all general regulations applicable, and be limited to:
  1. One free standing sign for each single office building, apartment or office-apartment combination
  2. One free-standing sign for each office complex, or combination office complex and apartments.
  3. Each occupant of an office building or an office complex may have one (1) wall sign or one (1) canopy sign not exceeding twenty-five (25) square feet in area.

**§215-36A. On Premises Permanent Signs for non-residential uses in residential zoning districts.**

1. Types of signs permitted: Free Standing Signs and Wall Signs.
2. For a non-residential use in a residential zoning district, a maximum of one (1) onsite free-standing sign is permitted for any lot or parcel. The size of any one free-standing sign is not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area and eight (8) feet in height.
3. For a non-residential use in a residential zoning district, a maximum of one (1) onsite wall sign is permitted. One additional wall sign is permitted when a property is on a corner lot. No use shall exceed twenty-four (24) square feet of total wall sign area.

**§215-36B. Regulation by Sign Type: Off-Premises Commercial Signs, Permanent (aka. Billboards or Advertising Sign Boards).**

- A. Locations Permitted.

Off Premise Signs are permitted in the C-Commercial and I-Industrial zoning districts only.
- B. Sign Size.
  1. Such signs are not to exceed 300 square feet in area in a C-Commercial District.
  2. Such signs are not to exceed 672 square feet in area in an I- Industrial District.
  3. Such boards shall not exceed 12 feet in height nor 25 feet in length in the C-Commercial District or 14 feet in height nor 48 feet in length in the I-Industrial District, inclusive of all trim and border area but exclusive of bases, aprons, supports and other structural members.
- C. Height and Location of Sign.
  1. The lowest edge of an off-premises sign shall be at least seven (7) ft. above the finished grade.
  2. Off premise signs shall have a maximum height of 35 feet above ground level at the curb line or edge of pavement.

D. Spacing of Off-premises signs shall be:

1. Such boards shall be set back from any property line abutting a limited access highway right-of-way line a distance of 30 feet and a minimum of ten 10 feet from a property line abutting any other street.
2. Such boards shall not be less than 500 feet from an interchange with a limited access highway measured from the point of widening of pavement at the entrance to and/or exit from the main traveled way and extending 500 feet in both directions along the highway and on both sides of the highway.
3. Off premises signs shall be spaced not less than 1,000 feet apart measured radially.
4. Off premises signs must conform with Act 160, the Outdoor Advertising Control Act of 1971, as amended, except as further controlled by this section.

**§215-36C. Regulations by Sign Type: Temporary Signs.**

- A. Temporary Signs as defined in this article, located on private property, are exempt from standard zoning permit requirements. Temporary signs that comply with the requirements in this sub-section shall not be included in the determination of the type, number, or area of signs allowed on a property. A temporary sign is unlawful if it does not meet the criteria of this section.
- B. Unless otherwise stated below, the requirements listed below shall apply to both residential and non-residential signs.
- C. Temporary signs must also comply with the "General Regulations for All Signs" section of this article.
- D. Maximum Number of Signs:

An individual business or property in both a residential and non-residential district shall be limited to two (2) temporary signs per 100 feet of street frontage per event. If a business is on a corner lot fronting two streets, then two (2) additional temporary signs may be placed ( 4 signs total per 100 feet of street frontage).

E. Duration and Removal:

1. On-Premises Temporary Signs- A temporary sign erected in either a residential or non-residential zoning district may be displayed a maximum of thirty (30) days before the event, and must be removed within seven (7) days after the event concludes.
2. Off Premises Temporary Signs - In residential zoning districts, each residential use with at least one principal structure may place up to 6 offsite Temporary Signs on private property for the purpose of directing the public to a residential activity/event ( e.g. real estate open house, garage/yard sale, estate sale, tag sale, auction). Said signs shall be displayed a maximum of 7 days prior to the activity/event, and must be removed within 48 hours after the conclusion of the activity/event.

3. Loyalsock Township or the property owner may confiscate signs installed in violation of this article. Neither Loyalsock Township nor the property owner is responsible for notifying sign owners of confiscation of an illegal sign.

- F. Permission: The party posting the temporary sign is solely responsible for obtaining the permission of the property owner before posting such temporary sign(s).
- G. Municipal Notification: Temporary signs are exempt from the standard permit requirements but the date of erection of a temporary sign must be legibly written on the lower right-hand corner of the sign.
- H. Installation and Maintenance.
  - 1. All temporary signs must be installed such that in the opinion of the Township Official, they do not create a safety hazard.
  - 2. All temporary signs must be made of durable materials and shall be well maintained.
  - 3. Temporary signs that are frayed, torn, broken, or that are no longer legible will be deemed unmaintained and required to be removed.
- I. Illumination: Illumination of any temporary sign is prohibited.
- J. Size and Height Limitations of Temporary Signs:
  - 1. Zoning Districts: C-Commercial, C-N-Commercial-Neighborhood, A-O-Apartment-Office, and I- Industrial
    - a) Temporary Banner signs, only when attached to a face of a building, shall have a maximum height of twenty-four (24) feet and shall not exceed a size in area of forty (40) square feet. A single side for all other temporary signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet .
  - 2. Zoning Districts: R-1-Residential-1, R-U-Residential-Urban, and A-R-Agricultural-Rural-Residential
    - a) Temporary Banner signs, only when attached to a face of a building, shall have a maximum height of twelve (12) feet and shall not exceed a size in area of twelve (12) square feet. A single side for all other temporary signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet.
  - 3. Temporary Ground signs shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet in all zoning districts.

**§215-36D. Regulations by Sign Type: Special Signs.**

- A. Any sign not specifically addressed in this ordinance shall be generally prohibited, but may be permitted through the issuance of a Special Sign Permit by the Zoning Officer upon the sign meeting the general regulations for all signs, and meeting one (1) of the following criteria:

- 1) The sign is necessary for the preservation of substantial property rights in the property to which the sign is directed.
- 2) There is no provision in this section for the type of sign for which a Special Sign Permit is required; or
- 3) The sign may be beneficial to a substantial number of people.

**§215-37A. Permits and Applications**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to erect, alter, repair, or relocate any sign within Loyalsock Township without first obtaining a sign permit, unless the sign is specifically exempt from the permit requirements under the “signs exempt from permit requirements” section of this Article.
- B. In order to apply for a sign permit, the applicant must provide the following information when making application to Loyalsock Township:
  1. A completed zoning permit application.
  2. Description of the activities occurring on the site where the sign will be installed.
  3. Description of any existing signage that will remain on the site.
  4. Identification of the type of sign(s) to be erected by the applicant.
  5. Site plan depicting the locations of the proposed signage and existing remaining signage.
  6. Two copies of a plan drawn to scale depicting:
    - a. Lot dimensions, building frontage, and existing cartways, right of way and driveways.
    - b. The design of each sign face and sign structure, including dimensions, total area, sign height, depth, color scheme, structural details, materials, lighting scheme, electronic/digital messaging information, and proposed location.
    - c. Building elevations, existing and proposed facades, parapet walls, eave line, etc., and the location and size of all proposed and existing permanent signage.
    - d. Current photographs showing existing signs on the premises and certifying the date on which the photographs were taken.
    - e. The sign setbacks must be shown for all free-standing signs (distance from property lines).
  7. A permit fee, to be established by the Board of Supervisors from time to time by Resolution, shall be paid. (See Loyalsock Township Fee Schedule)

**§215-37B. Removal and Disposal of Signs.**

1. The Township Zoning Officer, or designee, is authorized to remove any sign posted in violation of this Sign Ordinance that are not removed or replaced by the owner or other responsible party when required in accordance with the provisions of this Sign Ordinance. The Township may also file a civil complaint against the person who posted the sign to recover the costs of removing the sign.



2. A sign removed in accordance with this Chapter may be impounded as evidence, or disposed of as abandoned property, unless claimed by the owner within thirty (30) days.
3. Any sign removed by the Township Zoning Officer or designee, pursuant with the provisions of this Sign Ordinance, shall become the property of the Township and may be disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate by the Township. The cost of removal of the sign by the Township is considered a debt owed to the Township by the owner of the sign and the owner of the property, and is recoverable in an appropriate court action by the Township per the enforcement section of Chapter 215. The cost of abatement or removal shall include any and all incidental expenses incurred by the Township in connection with the sign abatement or removal.

**§215-38. Repeal and Severability.**

- A. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Sign Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
- B. Loyalsock Township hereby declares that it would have passed this Sign Ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, regardless of the fact that any or one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

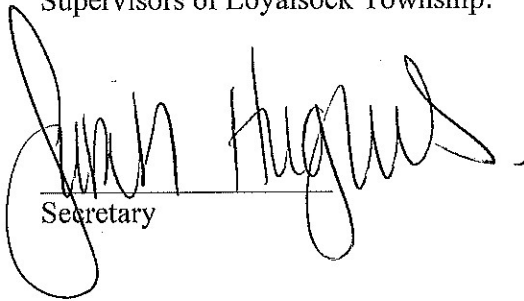
**III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

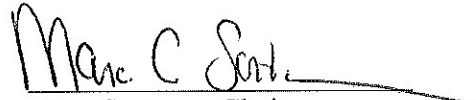
This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment or as otherwise established by operation of law.

**IV. REPEALER**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as they may be inconsistent herewith.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** this 14th day of April, 2020, by the Board of Supervisors of Loyalsock Township:

  
Secretary

  
Marc Sortman, Chairman