

Press Release

Submitted by Elizabeth Wood, Community Planner

Zoning Amendments Proposed to Sign Ordinance and Fence Ordinance

In an effort to educate the public on the zoning ordinance amendments that are being recommended by the Planning Board for 2012 Town Meeting, a series of articles will be published leading up to Town Meeting on March 13th. Each article will provide a summary of one or more zoning amendments being proposed.

This week's topics are: **Signs & Fences**

In an effort to encourage improvements to public safety and eliminate confusion for drivers, an amendment is being proposed to the sign ordinance. The ordinance would allow up to eight inch (8") high street numbers to be included on building wall signs for identification purposes and will not count towards the wall sign size and/or as a wall sign if placed separately on the wall of a building. **This is Amendment #7 on the ballot.**

The proposed amendment to the Fence Ordinance is aimed at the regulation of the height of fences in front, rear, and side yards in the Residence A, B, C, Rural, Village Center District, and Historic Districts. Currently fences are regulated according to lot lines and there is nothing in the ordinance to prevent a fence that is constructed 1 ft. from a lot line from being from being eight feet (8') tall in a residential district. The proposal is to replace the words "lot line" with "yard". The resulting regulation would set the maximum height for fences in front yards at four feet (4') and fences in rear yards at six feet (6') in height. **This is Amendment #12 on the Ballot.**

The exact ordinance language of the Sign Ordinance amendment, Fence Ordinance amendment, and the language of all other Zoning Amendments proposed for the 2012 Town Meeting can be found on the Planning Board page of the Town website: www.windhamnewhampshire.com. The proposed amendments are also available at the Community Development Department. If you have any questions feel free to contact Community Development staff at 432-3806.