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## TOWN OF DORSET - SIGN ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, at the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Dorset held in said Township on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.A. 1945, or the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1952, or both, it was voted by said meeting to give the Board of Selectmen, the legislative body of said Township, the authority to regulate and restrict outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 173 of Vermont Statutes Revision of 1947, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen, Paul E. White, J.S. Stannard, and Guy W. Stone, recognize the general effort throughout the United States to check the defacement of, and to preserve the value of property and in order to promote the general welfare of the Township of Dorset and encouraging the most appropriate use of the land throughout said Township it appears fitting and proper to said Board to regulate and restrict the use of outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays throughout the said Township of Dorset, by the enactment of ordinances governing the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the following ordinances regulating and restricting the size and location of outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays, and the regulations governing the administering of said ordinances and the enforcement thereof shall become effective when the Township of Dorset immediately after a public hearing has been held and the said ordinances have been approved by the legal voters of the Town of Dorset as provided in Chapter 173 of Vermont Statutes, Revision 1947.

### Section I – Districts

The Town of Dorset, bounded as said Town is bounded, shall constitute one district.

### Section II – Restrictions and Regulations

1. After enactment of these ordinances no outdoor advertising structure, device or display shall be erected by any person, firm, or corporation in the Township of Dorset, except signs exempted under subsections I, II, III, and V of Section 7687 of the Vermont Statutes, Revision of 1947, unless said outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays shall conform to the following regulations and restrictions.

a. No outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays shall be erected or re-erected within the Town of Dorset without unanimous written permission of the Board of Selectmen.

b. The advertising signs or other devices described under subsections I, II, III, and V of Section 7687 and existing structures under Sections 3855 and 3856 of Vermont Statutes Revision 1947, are hereby exempt from the regulations and restrictions of the ordinances as set forth above.

c. A certified copy of this ordinance, together with a certificate of action taken toward the passing of said ordinance, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State with a request that he shall not issue or reissue any permits to erect any outdoor advertising structures, devices or displays within the Town of Dorset as required in Section 7682 of VTS.



### Section III – Administrative Officer

There is hereby created the office known as Administrative Officer. Such officer shall be appointed by and serve the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen.

### Section IV – Board of Adjustments

There is hereby created a Board of Adjustment which may, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safe-guards, make special exceptions to the terms of these ordinances in harmony with its general purpose and intent as set forth in the preamble hereof, and the powers of the Board of Adjustment shall be those set forth in Chapter 173 of the Public Laws of the State of Vermont and the procedure of the Board of Adjustment shall be governed by said Chapter. Appeals from the Board of Adjustment to the Courts shall be governed by said Chapter.

### Section V – Enforcement of Ordinances

Upon being notified by the Administrative Officers that an outdoor advertising structure, device or display is being erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, converted or maintained in violation of the terms of these ordinances, the Board of Selectmen may forthwith notify the Town Agent to institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent, restrain, correct and abate such violation or the Selectmen of the Town of Dorset shall cause such outdoor advertising structure, device or display to be removed. A penalty not to exceed \$20.00 may be recovered in an action of tort for each violation of the ordinance.

### Section VI – Enforcement

The rights of enforcement provided herein shall not be construed as exclusive and shall not abridge any other right or remedy now provided by 1

### Section VII – Amendments

The regulations and restrictions set forth herein may be amended upon petition of 10 percent of the real estate owners in the Town of Dorset, no such amendment shall become effective until after a public hearing in relation thereto at which parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. At least fifteen (15) days notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in said Town. No Amendment shall become effective except by unanimous vote of the legislative body.

Dated at Dorset, Vermont this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1953.

Paul E. White  
James S. Stannard  
Guy W. Stone  
Selectmen of the Town of Dorset



## Section VIII – Amendment

New signs shall not be larger than (3'x5') three feet times five feet. Signs already in use as of this date shall be legal providing a permit is applied for, per ordinance. Permission from property owners must be obtained before applying for permit. Signs (2'x4') two feet times four feet and smaller do not require a permit.

Dated: April 6, 1964

Selectmen, Town of Dorset  
John Ford Shroder  
David Gilbert  
Robert Dressler

### NOTE:

This ordinance information has been adapted for use on the Town of Dorset Website; the official ordinance can be located at the Dorset Town Clerk's office 112 Mad Tom Rd. East Dorset, VT 05253

