
**TOWN OF DORSET
ORDINANCE
FOR
STREET NAMING & STREET ADDRESSING**

Section I – Purpose

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2291(16) and 24 V.S.A. § 4421, the Selectboard of the Town of Dorset hereby establishes the following ordinance regarding:
Street Naming and Street Addressing.

THIS ORDINANCE IS DESIGNATED AS A CIVIL ORDINANCE PURUANT TO 24 V.S.A. § 1971(B). ENFORCEMENT SHALL BE IN THE TRAFFIC & MUNICIPAL COURT.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a uniform street naming and street addressing system throughout the Town of Dorset. Easily locatable addresses will have a number of beneficial results:

- (1) It will enable emergency services to arrive at a scene faster.
- (2) Deliveries (e.g. UPS & FEDEX) will be easier to make.
- (3) Visitors to our town will be able to find an address and know where they are in case of emergency.
- (4) When the State of Vermont begins Enhanced 911, the Town of Dorset will be ready for it.

Section II – Street Naming

Every street and road, both public and private, shall be assigned a name. This will be done by the Dorset Selectboard after public input and public hearing.

In the future, any new development must meet the guidelines of this ordinance.

All road names must be a separate and distinct name. No two roads can have the same or similar sounds names. No new road can have any currently used name in the Town of Dorset. Furthermore, the Dorset Selectboard may change the names of the streets, both public and private, (after duly warned public hearings) within the Town of Dorset when necessary to promote public welfare and safety.

Section III – Administration

Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a developer shall furnish a plan for a street addressing and street naming system in accordance with this policy to the Zoning Officer, who will then assign a number so that satisfactory mail delivery and emergency systems will be maintained.



Section IV – General Number System Guideline

All roads shall be given an official name by the Board of Selectmen and shall be measured in segments of 1/1,000 of a mile (5.28 feet) from a designated starting point, usually the end of the road nearest the intersection of a larger road. Odd numbers shall be assigned to the LEFT side of the road and even numbers to the RIGHT side of the road. The first 5.28 foot increment contains numbers 1 and 2, the second 5.28 foot increment contains the numbers 3 and 4, and so on.

All numbers shall be established based on front entrance from the street, from the center of the driveway (or in some cases the center of the structure).

All numbers shall be properly affixed on or near the front entrance or in some other manner visible from the street. The numbers must be easily legible figures not less than four inches (4”) high, and in a color contrasting to the building background. (Your Fire Chiefs recommend reflective numbers.) The United States Post Office requires correct, easily legible numbers which are not obscured by anything. The home owner is responsible for the numbers on the house or unit. If a house is not visible from the road, it needs a number at the driveway visible from the road.

Numbering shall begin at the northerly boundary of the Town of Manchester and the southerly boundary of the Town of Dorset and its intersection with Route 7A, with the first 5.28 feet being number one, and continuing in a northerly direction to Route 7A’s intersection with the northerly boundary of the Town of Dorset and the southerly boundary with the Town of Danby. Every street or road which intersects with Route 7A shall begin with the number one for the first 5.28 feet of its intersection with Route 7A, and shall continue until the road terminates or becomes a new road. Every new road will begin at its intersection with the old road, with the number one for the first 5.28 feet, and continue to its termination or change to a new road.

A multiple unit structure composed of two or more units shall bear one number for the principal building, and each unit shall affix a letter or number suffix.

Numbers shall be reserved to provide for future growth in property in all areas.

Be it ordained by the Selectboard of the Town of Dorset, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, as follows:

Section V – Designation of Street Names

Public and private roads shall be named by the Selectboard. The street name shall be assigned by direction of the Selectboard. Any new road named after the adoption of this ordinance (except new subdivision roads as noted below) and after a public hearing, notice shall be given to any party who resides on (or owns property accessed from) the street named.

A public hearing will not be required for new subdivision roads that will be approved by the Selectboard upon the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Approval will be at a regular or special Selectboard meeting and notice of the approved name will be given to the developer who will be responsible for the erection of the street sign(s) and notifying new property owners of the street name.



Section VI – Designation of Street Address

1. Street numbers for dwelling units and place of business on all public and private streets shall be assigned by the Selectboard in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.
2. The Board of Selectmen shall keep a record of all numbers assigned under this ordinance.

Section VII – Posting of Designated Street Address

1. The owner or occupant or person in charge of any house or building to which a number has been assigned will be notified by the Selectboard of the number assigned to the same at any time after the adoption of this ordinance.
2. Within sixty (60) days after the receipt of such notification from the Selectboard, the owner or occupant or person in charge of a house or building to which a number has been assigned shall affix the number to the structure, if visible from the road, or to a sign or number post if not visible from the road, in such a way that the numbers can be clearly seen from the roadway.
3. It shall be the duty of such owner or occupant or person in charge thereof, upon affixing the new number, to remove any different number which might be mistaken for, or confused with, the number assigned to said structure by the Selectboard.
4. Each principal building shall display the number assigned to the frontage on which the front entrance is located. In case a principal building is occupied by more than one business or family dwelling unit, each separate front entrance shall display a separate number.
5. Numerals indicating the official numbers for each principal building or each front entrance to such building shall be posted in a manner as to be legible and distinguishable from the street on which the property is located, with letters painted or applied, of a contrasting color to the background, of not less than four inches (4”) in height. If a building or dwelling is situated in such a way that the numbers cannot be easily seen from the roadway in front of said structure, then a sign or number post must be used in front of the structure and placed in such a way that it can easily be seen from the roadway.

Section VIII – New Structures

1. Numbers will be assigned to each proposed lot or tract on the surveyor’s copies of Final Subdivision Plats by the Selectboard.
2. No building permit shall be issued for any principal building until the owner or developer has procured from the Selectboard of the Town of Dorset the official number of the premises. (Final approval of a certificate of occupancy of any principal building erected or repaired after the effective date of this ordinance shall be withheld until permanent and proper numbers have been displayed in accordance with the requirements of No. 2 above.)



Section IX – Penalties

In the event that the owner or the occupant or person in charge of any house or building refuses to comply with the terms of this ordinance by failing to affix the number assigned within sixty (60) days after notification, or by failing within said period of sixty (60) days to remove any old numbers affixed to such house, or house entrance, or elsewhere, which may be confused with the number assigned thereto, he shall be punished by paying a fine. Any individual who is responsible for the removal of, destruction of, or obscuring of a number assigned to a house without permission of the individual in charge of the house or building shall be punished by paying a fine. The fine for violating any portion of this ordinance shall be not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for every day that the situation is not rectified. The waiver fee will be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per day. Enforcement of this ordinance shall be by the Zoning Officer or the Town Manager.

Section X – Severability

If any portion of this ordinance and amendments is held unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance and amendments shall not be affected.

Section XI – Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect sixty (60) days after its passage, unless a petition is filed as provided by 24 V.S.A. § 1973 requiring a voted at an annual or special meeting.

NOTE: MAP WITH NAMES

A map dated December 20, 1995 with the names of the town and private roads as approved by the Selectboard is on display in the Selectboard Meeting Room in the Dorset Town Offices in East Dorset.

TOWN OF DORSET ORDINANCE FOR STREET NAMING & STREET ADDRESSING

ADOPTED this 30th day of January, 1996

**Henry Chandler, Chair
David Wilson
William Mahlmann
Angela Coolidge
Jack Frost**
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF DORSET

NOTE: This ordinance has been adapted for use on the Town of Dorset website; the official ordinance can be accessed at the Town Clerk's Office at 112 Mad Tom Rd. East Dorset, VT 05253



