

City of Augusta, Maine
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT
CODE ENFORCEMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENGINEERING
FACILITIES & SYSTEMS
PLANNING

Memo

To: Planning Board

From: Matt Nazar, Director of Development Services

Date: November 26, 2013

Re: Contactor signage and signage for service organizations

The previous sign ordinance allowed contractor signs on properties where projects were under construction. Only contractors that required a building permit were allowed to place signs and that was a method of managing these signs within the city. The current ordinance does not allow contractor signs at all. The reality of enforcement is that these types of signs are nearly impossible to manage and enforce. Even when we had three code enforcement officers and were less strict about these signs, we couldn't keep up with it. Contractors for all sorts of jobs are all over the city and many of them use lawn signs during their jobs.

The lawn signs serve two functions, the obvious is advertising for their business based on the job they are doing at the property where the sign is located. The second is simply information for the neighbors, so neighbors understand why a bunch of guys in a truck pulled up next door.

City staff recommends that the sign ordinance be modified to enable contractors doing work at a property be allowed to place lawn signs at properties where they are conducting work in the following manner:

5.1.17.8.7 **Temporary Street Graphics.** Temporary street graphics shall be allowed in the following manner:

5.1.17.8.7.1 Contractor. Signs placed at a property where a contractor is performing work may be installed without a permit as follows:

5.1.17.8.7.1.1 Signs shall not be larger than 24" x 18" for any one contractor, unless multiple contractors are working on the job and will create a common sign for all contractors. A project with multiple contractors displayed on a single sign shall not be larger than 48" x 96".

5.1.17.8.7.1.2 Signs shall not be placed more than 7 calendar days prior to the start of a contractor's job and shall be removed within 7 calendar days of the completion of

the job. Signs for jobs that require a building permit are considered to start on the date the building permit is issued and end on the date a certificate of occupancy is issued. Signs for jobs that do not require a building permit shall not be place for more than 30 calendar days during any 1 calendar year.

International Service Organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, and others have traditionally been allowed to have signs at the entrances to the city for their organization that typically includes a meeting time and place on the sign. These types of signs are common throughout the country, and staff recommends that our sign ordinance specifically allow them to be located in the public right of way on city managed and maintained posts. The following language should be added to the ordinance:

5.1.17.8.9 **Service Organization Signs.** The city shall allow official signs within the public right of way for international service organizations that have chapters and organized meetings within the city, but don't own or rent permanent space, as follows:

5.1.17.8.9.1 Signs dimensions shall meet Maine DOT Official Business Directory Sign dimensions and specifications; or

5.1.17.8.9.2 Round signs shall not exceed 18" in diameter.

5.1.17.8.9.3 All signs shall be installed in locations and a manner approved by the city Public Works Director, who may require that signs be installed only by the Public Works Department.