group’s expense adequate police traffic control officers and fire department EMT’s as may be required by the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Part 2 Violation of any provision of the ByLaw shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred ($100.00) dollars.

Adopted May 6, 1985 (Article 71)

Section 6.60 Signs

Part 1 Purpose and Adoption

This ByLaw shall be known as the Sandwich Sign Code and is adopted under Section 29, Chapter 93, Massachusetts General laws.

The purpose of this ByLaw is to provide for the reasonable regulation and control of the erection and maintenance of signs and advertising devices within the Town to the end that the appearance and amenities of the Town may be preserved and enhanced, without unduly restricting the conduct of lawful enterprise. For this purpose, the following terms shall have the meanings hereinafter ascribed to them.

Part 2 Definitions

Sign shall mean any device designed to inform or attract attention of persons not on the premises on which the device is located. The following, however, shall not be considered signs within the context of this ByLaw:

a) flags and insignia of any government except when displayed in connected with commercial promotion;
b) legal notices or informational signs erected or required by government bodies;
c) temporary signs erected for a charitable or religious cause;
d) temporary signs inside display windows, covering not more than twenty (20) per cent of window area, illuminated by building illumination only;
e) standard gasoline pumps bearing thereon in usual size and form the name, type, and price of gasoline;
f) signs guiding and directing traffic, not exceeding one (1) square foot.

Sign Area shall mean the surface area within a single continuous perimeter enclosing all the display area of the sign, including borders, decorative structural members and without deduction for open space or other irregularities, but not including structural members not bearing advertising matter unless internally or decoratively lighted. One side only of a flat, back-to-back sign shall be counted.

Part 3 Administration

a) This ByLaw shall be administered by the Office of the Sign Inspector. No sign shall be erected without a permit issued by the Sign Inspector, for which a five ($5.00) dollar fee shall be charged, and which shall not be issued for any sign except in conformance with this ByLaw.

b) When the provisions of this code or of the drawing and specifications approved thereunder are not complied with, a Stop Work or Removal Order shall be served on the owner or his representative by the Sign Inspector, and a copy thereof shall be posted at the site of the violation. Such Stop Work or Removal Order shall not be removed except by written notice from the Sign Inspector’s Office after satisfactory evidence has been supplied that the violation has been corrected. Failure to comply with such Stop Work or Removal Order shall constitute a violation of this ByLaw.
c) The Sign Inspector, in the name of the Town, shall take measures as required to carry this bylaw into effect.

d) Any person violating any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be fined not more than twenty ($20.00) dollars for each offense. Each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

e) Persons aggrieved by this ByLaw or by actions of the Sign Inspector relative to it and persons seeking special permits as allowed hereunder or variances from the provisions of this bylaw, may appeal or apply to the Sandwich Zoning Board of Appeals, whose procedures and decision criteria in acting on such appeals and applications shall be to the extent applicable to those prescribed for the Board of Appeals in Chapter 40A of the General Laws as amended, such procedures and decision criteria shall be promulgated by the Board and on file with the Selectmen.

Part 4 Size and Number of Signs

The following shall apply in all zoning districts, except where otherwise specified:

a) A single business enterprise on a single lot may have not more than two signs, either attached to a building or free standing, with a combined area of not more than sixteen (16) square feet. However, on premises having more than one hundred (100) feet of frontage on a single street, additional sign area shall be allowed at the rate of 0.04 additional square feet of allowable sign area per additional linear foot of frontage, to a maximum sign area of twenty (20) square feet. Miscellaneous signs such as auto club, credit card, or vacancy signs must be incorporated into the principal sign within its borders and included in its area. Home occupations may have only one sign of not over two (2) square feet.

b) Groups of two or more businesses on a single lot, such as a “plaza” or “shopping center” may as an alternative to signs as above, have one sign, identifying the plaza or center name, with maximum size of:

Up to 5 stores or 4,000 square feet floor area…………………………….16 square feet
6-8 stores of 4,000-10,000 square feet floor area…………………………. 20 square feet
9+ stores or 10,0001+ square feet floor area……………………………. 24 square feet

In addition, each individual business within the plaza or shopping center shall be allowed a wall sign having a total sign area of one-half (½) square foot for each lineal foot horizontal length of the façade of the building. The length of the sign shall not exceed three-quarters (3/4) of the length of the building and shall not project more than six (6) inches from the face of the building. All such signs within a place or shopping center shall be consistent in structural design and in color.

If the building has multiple frontage, an additional sign area computed on the same basis as above shall be allowed. Additional sign area allowed by reason of multiple frontage shall be allowed only on a sign facing that frontage.

c) A dwelling may have a single sign not over two (2) square feet in area indicating the owners or occupants or pertaining to a permitted accessory use.

d) A farm, institutional use, or noncommercial recreational use may have a single sign not over nine (9) square feet in area.

e) Driveway signs (entrance, no turning, no parking, etc.) are allowed for private
driveways, but shall not exceed one (1) square foot in sign face area, and shall bear no advertising.

f) One “For Sale” or “For Rent” sign only may be erected on the property to be sold or rented and shall not exceed three (3) square feet in sign face area. Such a sign shall be removed forthwith when the transaction is completed.

g) One subdivision name sign not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet may be permitted for each designated main entry to the subdivision, as shown on a plan approved by the Planning Board.

h) Temporary construction identification signs are allowed and may have an area of nine (9) square feet. Such signs shall be removed forthwith when the project is completed.

i) All signs from this date forward, unless excepted herein shall be wooden and either painted or carved and painted. Specifically excluded are temporary Real Estate signs placed at property for sale, rent or lease and temporary Construction Business signs placed by tradesman at the location where work is being performed.

Part 5 Prohibitions

a) Only signs pertaining to the premises on which they are located or to products, accommodations, services or activities on the premises shall be allowed. Billboards of a general advertising nature are prohibited. However, off-premise directional signs (a maximum of two (2) signs) not exceeding three (3) square feet may be allowed in any zoning district by special permit from the Sandwich Zoning Board of Appeals, upon their determination that such will serve the public convenience without detriment to the neighborhood.

At road intersections where two or more different business directional signs are permitted, a multiple listing sign shall be required.

b) When visible from a highway, no advertising shall be permitted on storage tanks or similar types of containers. This restriction applies to both permanently located and mobile units, and trailers and trucks regularly located for fixed display.

c) Signs on trees, etc. except for signs warning of danger or prohibiting trespass or the like; no sign shall be painted on or affixed to any tree, fence, utility pole, rock or ledge, or painted or posted on any wall, without an intermediary removable substance.

d) Temporary signs tacked, posted, painted or otherwise attached to poles, posts, trees, rocks, sidewalks, or curbs, or to motor vehicles and trailers regularly located for fixed display are prohibited.

e) Pennants, streamers, advertising flags, spinners or similar devices are prohibited.

f) No sign, free standing or attached, shall exceed the height of the building or twenty (20) feet in height, whichever is the lesser. At no point shall any sign extend beyond the roof line.

g) No sign, or any part thereof, shall be within the layout of a public way. No sign shall obstruct highway vision.

h) Moving or flashing signs. No sign or any part thereof which is designed intentionally to move or oscillate shall be permitted. A sign which is designed, for structural reasons, to align itself with the direction of the wind shall not be considered a moving sign.
i) Signs shall be illuminated from the exterior only by a stationary, shielded light directed solely at the sign, without causing glare for motorists, pedestrians or neighboring premises. Signs of the exposed neon or other gas-filled tube type are prohibited. No sign shall be internally illuminated.

Part 6 Signs and Town Property

a) Private signs on Town property are prohibited unless a permit for such a sign is authorized by the Board of Selectmen. No such authorization shall be given until after a duly advertised public hearing; any such signs shall conform in all respects to all other provisions of this section. Permits for such signs may be revoked at any time by the Board of Selectmen.

b) No sign overhanging a pedestrian way may exceed twelve (12) square feet. At the time of application, proof must be shown or provided of adequate public liability insurance coverage applicable to signs suspended over Town property.

Part 7 Nonconforming Signs

Except as otherwise provided herein, any sign existing at the time of enactment of this ByLaw which does not conform to its provisions is a nonconforming sign. Each nonconforming sign shall conform to the provisions hereof on or before November 24, 1977; provided, however, that all prohibited signs described in Section 5 shall be removed no later than one year from the enactment of the Code. Thereafter, any nonconforming sign, which has not been authorized by the Sandwich Zoning Board of Appeals as hereinbefore provided, shall be removed. Nonconforming signs which are structurally altered, relocated, or replaced, or which are not properly maintained, shall comply immediately with all provisions of this ByLaw.

Part 8 Historic District Signs

All signs in the Historic District must also comply with the requirements of the Historic District Committee.

Part 9 Maintenance

All signs whether erected prior to the effective date of this section or not shall be maintained in a safe and neat condition to the satisfaction of the Office of the Sign Inspector. Failure to correct a violation of this provision within twenty (20) days after notice hereof shall constitute grounds for revocation of the permit, or for removal of the sign. To fulfill the requirements of the Sign Code ByLaw, the Board of Selectmen shall annually appoint a Sign Inspector to administer and enforce the Sign Code ByLaw.

Part 10 Severability

The invalidity of any section or provision of this ByLaw shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof.

Part 11 Amendment

This ByLaw may be amended from time to time by vote at any Town Meeting, either Annual or Special.

Adopted August 6, 1973 (Article 11)
Amended May 6, 1974 (Article 54)
Amended May 5, 1975 (Article 39)
Section 6.99  Revocation

Part 1  Any Board, Officer, Committee or Department may deny any application for, or revoke or suspend any local license or permit including renewals and transfers for any person, corporation or business enterprise who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or other matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges to increase a local licensing authority's power to withhold the granting, renewal or transfer of licenses or permits in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 57 in accordance with the following:

Part 2  The Tax Collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments, and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the Tax Collector, shall annually furnish to each Department, Board, Committee, or Officer, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for not less than a twelve-(12) month period, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for any abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

Part 3  The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or other matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges, or local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the Tax Collector; provided however, that written notice is given to the party and the Tax Collector, as required by applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held no earlier than fourteen (14) days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party.

The Tax Collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this ByLaw shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the Tax Collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as of the date of issuance of said certificate.