

**TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 45-23-53 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown will conduct a Public Hearing at the Town Hall Council Chambers, 80 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, **October 20, 2025**, for the purpose of discussing the following proposed ordinance amendment:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-XX

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, ENTITLED, "ZONING", ARTICLE X, ENTITLED, "SIGNS", SECTION 21-242, ENTITLED, "DEFINITIONS", SECTION 21-248, ENTITLED, "GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AREA AND MAINTENANCE", SECTION 21-249, ENTITLED, "REQUIREMENTS BY ZONE AND TYPE OF SIGN", AND SECTION 21-250, ENTITLED, "WICKFORD VILLAGE BUSINESS DISTRICT"

Note: Words set as strikeover are to be deleted from the ordinance; all underlined text is to be added to the ordinance.

The Town Council of the Town of North Kingstown hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 21, Article X, Sec. 21-242 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Definitions", is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 21-242. Definitions.

Awning. A roof cover of canvas or other material extending over building openings to provide protection from the sun and rain.

Sign, wall-mounted, means a sign erected against or attached to the wall of any building or structure, except a freestanding sign support, including signs affixed to fences, screens, awnings, and freestanding walls.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 21, Article X, Sec. 21-248 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "General requirements for area and maintenance", is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 21-248. General requirements for area and maintenance.

(a) *Determination of sign area.* Sign area shall be determined as follows:

- (1) The area shall be considered to include all lettering, wording and accompanying designs and symbols, together with the background, whether open space or enclosed, on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework and bracing which are incidental to the display itself.

(2) Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols painted on or attached to a building, wall, awning, or window, the area shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other convex shape which encompasses all the letters and symbols.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 21, Article X, Sec. 21-249(b) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Requirements by zone and type of sign requirements for area and maintenance", is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 21-249. Requirements by zone and type of sign.

b. Wall-mounted, awning, projecting or permanent glass signs. Wall-mounted, awning, projecting or permanent glass signs may be used in any number or combination on the front of the building, provided that the signs do not exceed ten percent of the store front area.

1. Side wall signs may be used in any combination that does not exceed ten square feet when the store side directly or indirectly abuts a parking lot or street. Wall-mounted and projecting signs shall not extend more than 12 inches from the wall.
2. One awning sign may only be used when mounted on the main entrance of a nonresidential use. No awnings shall be allowed above the second floor.
 - a. If an awning encompasses more than one store front, each establishment having an entrance under the awning is allowed one sign located at the main entrance of such establishment.
 - b. The awning sign shall be flat against the awning surface and located only on the portion of the awning which is parallel to the building front. Signage is not allowed on awning sides.
 - c. The area of signage on an awning is calculated by drawing the smallest possible square or rectangle around the alphanumeric characters and/or graphic elements of the sign portion of the awning.
 - d. Any awning sign must be designed in accordance with RI SBI-C Rhode Island Building Code (Commercial) requirements.
 - e. No more than 30% of the awning may be used for signage which may include lettering, logos, symbols, and graphics.
 - f. An awning sign shall not be lit from underneath or behind.
 - g. Individual window awnings shall not contain signage.

SECTION 4. That Chapter 21, Article X, Sec. 21-250 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of North Kingstown, entitled, "Wickford Village Business District", is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 21-250. Wickford Village Business District.

Businesses within the Wickford Village Business District, defined as those properties with frontage on West Main Street, Main Street, Brown Street, Boston Neck Road to Hussey Bridge, and Phillips Street, shall comply with the following sign regulations in order to help retain the historic charm of the area:

- (1) Signs shall be wall-mounted, projecting, or painted permanent glass only; freestanding or ground-mounted signs are only allowed by special exception from the zoning board of review in accordance with Subsection 21-251(a)(6).
- (2) Except for painted permanent glass signs **and awning signs**, signs shall be constructed of wood.
- (3) One wood sign, **one awning sign**, or up to two permanent painted glass window signs shall be allowed per business. Additional signs may be permitted to face waterways, parking lots and other streets, as allowed in Subsection 21-249(a)(1)b.1.
- (4) Signs shall be no larger than necessary so as to not detract from the charm and architecture of the building, and under no circumstances, shall they be larger than 15 square feet or five percent of the area of the first floor frontage of the building occupied, whichever is smaller. First floor frontage shall be determined by measuring the outside wall to outside wall and first floor joist to second floor joist. Subject to the limitation contained in the first sentence of this subsection, permanent painted window signs shall be no greater, in the aggregate, than ten percent of the total glass area of the first floor frontage of the building including the glass area of front store doors provided that the total square footage of signage shall not exceed 15 square feet.
- (5) Signage in multiple business buildings shall not exceed ten percent of the first floor frontage, and no one sign shall be larger than 15 square feet. Multiple business buildings shall also be allowed eight square feet of signage to be used only for a directory sign.
- (6) Lighting shall be indirect only.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

First Read at the Town Council Meeting of September 22, 2025 and referred to the Town Council Meeting of October 20, 2025 for Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption.

Jeannette Alyward
Town Clerk

Proposed amendments may be altered or amended prior to the close of the Public Hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the Public Hearing. Any such alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said Public Hearing.

Copies of the proposed amendment and other pertinent information may be examined at the Department of Planning and Development or the Town Clerk's Office in the North Kingstown Municipal Offices Building, 100 Fairway Drive, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Town will provide interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing provided three (3) days' notice is provided by calling 294-3331, Ext. 122.