Portland, Maine | Yes. Life's good here.

Reviewed for Code Compliance
Inspections Division
Approved with Conditions
Date: 08/30/16

Department of Permitting and Inspections

Sign Permit Application
Sidewalk Sign Permit

One sign per establishment for each street frontage having a public entrance, provided that all dimension and location standards are met. When standards would not otherwise permit a sign, a sign may consist of multiple listings.

Sign Dimensions

Single Listing: Maximum width is 24 inches or such lesser width sufficient to retain 4 ½ feet of unobstructed sidewalk width perpendicular to major flows. Maximum height is 40 inches to top of sign in place. Minimum height is 30 inches to top of sign in place.

Multiple Listings: Maximum width is 30 inches or such lesser width sufficient to retain 4 ½ feet of unobstructed sidewalk width perpendicular to major flows. Maximum height is 40 inches to top of sign in place. Minimum height is 30 inches to top of sign in place.

Location

Minimum distance between signs is 20 feet. Maximum distance of sign from public entrance of advertiser is 20 feet. The City may vary these distances for exceptional physical circumstances where public safety and streetscape aesthetics will be maintained. However, under no circumstances shall signs obstruct vehicular stops, benches, fire hydrants or other street visual amenities. Signs shall be located near the curb rather than the building face.

Materials and Graphics

All signs shall be of an A-frame type design, shall be constructed of durable, weather-resistant materials and finish, shall have no moving parts and shall be non-electrified. All signs shall be maintained in a clean and original appearance. Sign materials, graphics and finish shall be of a unified design and shall be compatible with the local streetscape. All signs shall have horizontal braces spanning each side of the sign to assure rigid support. Lettering shall be legible and consistent.

Sign Removal

All signs shall be removed when the business is closed or while any snow or ice exists on the walk within eight feet of the sign in any direction.

Insurance

No permit shall be issued unless the applicant has posted in advance with the City a Certificate of Liability listing the City as additional insured in the amount of $400,000.00.

Enforcement

If the sign does not conform to the standards outlined, the permit may be revoked and once the owner has been notified, the sign could be removed.

Checklist

To apply for a sign permit, provide documentation electronically according to directions on our website and include:

- ☑ **Certificate of liability insurance, naming The City of Portland as additionally insured**
- ☑ **Drawing/Mockup of sign showing dimensions and design work**
- ☑ **Plot plan or location plan showing structures, location of sign and dimensions around sign**
- ☐ **Permission from owner if applicable**
- ☐ **Payment of fees: twenty five dollars ($25.00) plus twenty cents (.20) per s.f. of signage**
- ☐ **Complete application with pre-application questionnaire and checklist complete**

This is NOT a permit; you may not commence ANY work until the permit is issued

*389 Congress Street * Portland Maine 04101-3509 * Phone: (207) 874-8703 * Fax: (207) 874-8716*
http://www.portlandmaine.gov * E-Mail: buildinginspections@portlandmaine.gov