

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Charlie Sellers and Blowing Rock Town Council

FROM: Kevin Rothrock, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Draft ordinance to increase flag pole height from 20 feet to 30 feet

DATE: January 3, 2018

There has been a request from Town staff to consider an increase in height of ground-mounted flag poles. The current ordinance limits flag poles to 20 feet above ground. Some have commented that 20 feet is too short to display an American flag of any adequate size. Also, to display a group of three (3) poles, with one flag pole of prominence at 20 feet, the other two (2) poles would be 15 feet tall. It has been suggested that freestanding flag pole height be increased to 30 feet. As a note, the flag pole in front of Town Hall is 30 feet in height.

In the attached ordinance, the suggested changes are **highlighted** and underlined. I can provide further clarification on the ordinance amendment during the meeting, or questions can be directed to me at 295-5240 or kevin@townofblowingrocknc.gov.

Section 16-17.3 Restrictions and Prohibitions. The signs listed herein shall be prohibited regardless of zoning district.

16-17.3.1 Any sign that revolves, or is animated, or that utilizes movement or apparent movement to attract the attention of the public. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to, propellers, discs, banners, pennants, streamers, animated display boards, and flags. However, this shall not include flags of any governmental or nonprofit organization provided that (a) such flags are not being displayed in conjunction with a commercial promotion or as an advertising device; (b) not more than three such flags, including not more than one of any particular government or nonprofit organization, are being displayed at the same time; (c) any such flag does not exceed 60 square feet in area; and (d) any such flag is flown from a standard flag pole attached to a building, with the height of the pole not to exceed 15 feet above ground level or from a freestanding standard flag pole not to exceed a height of **20 30** feet above ground level.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE
ALLOWABLE FLAG POLE HEIGHTS IN
THE TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Sign Ordinance in the Land Use Code specifies the restriction for the heights of attached and freestanding flag poles; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board has evaluated the appropriate height for flag poles related to allowable building heights; and

WHEREAS, Town Staff and the Planning Board recommend that flag pole heights be increased to allow more prominent display of the United States flag and other associated governmental flags; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners agrees that if properly regulated, flag pole heights that are complimentary to the adjacent building heights will promote the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners agree that this ordinance amendment is consistent with the 2014 Comprehensive Plan Update, and is in keeping with proper regulation of flag pole heights that are in scale with the architecture of the buildings in Blowing Rock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, that:

Section 1. Section 16-17.3 of the Land Use Code of the Town of Blowing Rock is hereby amended to read as set forth herein.

“Section 16-17.3 Restrictions and Prohibitions. The signs listed herein shall be prohibited regardless of zoning district.

16-17.3.1 Any sign that revolves, or is animated, or that utilizes movement or apparent movement to attract the attention of the public. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to, propellers, discs, banners, pennants, streamers, animated display boards, and flags. However, this shall not include flags of any governmental or nonprofit organization provided that (a) such flags are not being displayed in conjunction with a commercial promotion or as an advertising device; (b) not more than three such flags, including not more than one of any particular government or nonprofit organization, are being displayed at the same time; (c) any such flag does not exceed 60 square feet in area; and (d) any such flag is flown from a standard flag pole attached to a building, with the height of the pole not to exceed 15 feet above ground level or from a freestanding standard flag pole not to exceed a height of **20 30** feet above ground level.”

Section 2. Severability; Conflict of Laws. If this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given separate effect and to that end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the ____ day of _____, 2018.

TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK

Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Hilari H. Hubner, Town Clerk