

DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE
AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

William B. Hunt, AICP, Director



James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

SIGN FOCUS GROUP AGENDA

Fourth Meeting

May 2, 2018

6:00 PM

Chesapeake Building, Commissioner's Meeting Room

41770 Baldrige Street

Leonardtown, MD 20650

- I. Temporary on-site business signs (continued from the April 18 meeting): Please see the attachment
- II. Permanent wall signs: Please see the attachment
- III. Next meeting May 24
- IV. Adjournment

The **Calvert County Sign Ordinance** allows two temporary signs on non-residential property (agricultural, business & personal service, commercial, recreational, industrial, public or institutional uses) for each lot or parcel of record.

The standard types of temporary signs are air activated, balloon (only 1 air activated or 1 balloon at any one time), banner, yard, and blade. There is an exception that allows additional blade signs for every 50 lineal feet of frontage. It seems like any number of blade signs can be put up on all frontages provided they are separated by at least 50 feet.

There is an exception that allows an additional temporary sign for property that is for sale or lease.

A portable sign can also be approved.

Pennants seem to be an allowed but unregulated type of temporary sign in Calvert County.

St. Mary's County Chapter 65 (the previous sign ordinance) had a "construction" temporary sign. St. Mary's County also has a civic / non-profit organization event sign category.

After considering the above,

1. How many temporary signs does the SFG recommend for each non-residential lot or parcel of record?

2. Does the SFG recommend allowing additional temporary signs in the following categories:

- A for sale or for lease sign?
- A portable sign?
- A CH 65 construction sign?
- An event sign?

3. Sign face area and height limits from Calvert and St. Mary's are combined in the table below.

What does the SFG recommend for sign face area and height?

Air and balloon	No area	15 feet in height
For Sale or Lease	10, 16, or 32 sq ft	4 feet or 6 feet in height
Civic / Non-profit / Event	12 sq ft	18 feet in height
Portable	12 sq ft max	4 feet in height
Construction	18, 32, or 64 sq ft	5 feet in height
Yard	20 sq ft max	6 feet in height
Banner	20 sq ft max	Not specified
Blade	24 sq ft (12 ft high x 2 ft wide)	12 feet in height

4. Should any temporary signs be illuminated?

5. Should there be a time limit for removal, or require removal based on deterioration?

6. Should a permit be required for a temporary sign?

Wall Signs

The current **St. Mary's County** ordinance does not limit the size of permanent wall signs. **Chapter 65** has the following limits in Schedule 65.3: Maximum Sign Area by Districts and Sign Type (page 65-5).

Rural Preservation and Rural Commercial Limited: 32 square feet of wall signage per business

Mixed Use, Commercial, Marine Commercial, and Industrial Districts: building setback less than 50 feet: 1 square foot per lineal foot of building width, up to a maximum of 100 square feet of wall signage per building. Greater sign area is allowed for multistory office buildings.

Mixed Use, Commercial, Marine Commercial, and Industrial Districts: building setback more than 50 feet: 1.5 square foot per lineal foot of building width, up to 150 square feet per building.

St. Mary's CH 65 allows 250 sq. ft. maximum wall sign area for multistory office buildings

Schedule 65.3 also includes Projecting Signs. Projecting signs are limited to a maximum of 16 square feet per building, with a qualifier: cumulative area of walls and projecting signs shall not exceed 100 square feet or 150 square feet per building.

Calvert County wall sign area is based on wall length as shown in the table below. Calvert includes the sign face area of awning, canopy, and projecting wall signs in the total wall sign area. Buildings with separate uses on two or more stories are allowed fifty (50) percent more building area signage.

Length of Front Building Wall (feet)	Maximum Square Footage of All Building Signs (square feet)
10-19	30
20-29	50
30-39	70
40-49	90
50-59	110
60-69	125
70-79	140
80-89	155
90-99	170
100 or Greater	For building walls that are longer than one hundred feet, add one square foot of maximum sign area for every linear foot over one hundred feet

Window Signs

Calvert County mentions window signs but does not give any area dimensions for window signs.

St. Mary's County CH 65 mentions window signs but does not give any area dimensions. The current recommendation from the SFG includes Window signage with Wall signage. The maximum is 35% of the visible exterior surface of the wall below the roof line, and cannot have a commercial message.