A. Purpose
The provisions of this article shall govern the regulation and control of the location, size, type and the number of signs permitted. The purpose of this article shall be to safeguard and enhance property values; to protect public and private investment in buildings and open spaces; to preserve and improve the appearance of the community as a place to live, work or visit.

B. A permit must be obtained before erection or placement of a sign.

C. Sign Requirements

1. Individual commercial businesses occupying single premises shall be permitted two on premise advertising signs, and no more than one of the signs shall be free standing.
2. Signs shall be permitted no larger than fifteen (15) square feet. Size of the sign shall be computed based on overall dimensions including moldings, trim, decorations, etc., but excluding posts, brackets, or other installation devices.
3. Where two or more commercial businesses occupy a single premise, each commercial business shall be permitted one building mounted sign. There shall be no more than one free standing sign encompassing all of the commercial businesses on the premises, and this shall not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet in size.
4. No signs shall be placed within 5 feet of any public right of way, or in such a position as to endanger traffic on a road by obscuring a clear view, or by confusion with official street signs or signals.
5. If the sign shall be illuminated, it shall be done with directional lighting focused on the sign itself; the lighting shall not be directed in any part toward traveled ways used by vehicles or pedestrians.
6. Any sign erected shall be constructed of durable materials and shall be maintained in good condition and repair at all times.
7. Freestanding signs shall not exceed 10 feet above the natural ground line.
8. Off premises signs shall be directional in nature and shall not exceed 4 square feet.

D. PROHIBITED SIGNS
The following types of signs are prohibited:

- Neon or tubular gas
- Internally lit
- Flashing electric
- Mobile or portable
- Signs that move
Non-conforming signs already in existence may continue to be used provided they are maintained. If a non-conforming sign is moved, or replaced, it must be made to conform.

F. REMOVAL OF SIGNS
Any sign now or hereafter existing that no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted, or product sold, shall be removed by the owner, agent, or person having beneficial use of the building or property upon which the sign may be located. Removal must occur within fourteen (14) days of written notification by the Selectmen or building inspector. If not removed, the sign shall thereby constitute a public nuisance and be removed by an agent of the Town of Milan at the owner's expense.

G. TEMPORARY SIGNS
Temporary signs in the form of banners, placards, or advertisements of special events are allowed, but they must conform to other sections of this article. The Board of Selectmen may waive any part of this section if they deem it to be in the best interest of the Town of Milan. These temporary signs shall be approved for a specific period of time.

H. EXEMPTIONS
The following signs do not require a permit:

1. Incidental to the operation of any business are signs indicating entrance, exit, open, closed, sale, parking, restrooms, directions on premises, and business hours. Such signs are not part of this ordinance provided they are two (2) square feet in size or smaller, contain no advertising or logo material, and are located on the premises.

2. Signs denoting the name and address of the residents (non commercial) of the premises

3. Signs advertising the sale, lease, or rental of the premises upon which the sign is located

4. Political signs in accordance with State law.

End. For March 2005 Town Meeting Vote