



VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

85 MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING, NY 10516

TEL: (845) 265-3611

FAX: (845) 265-1002

WEB: WWW.COLDSRINGNY.GOV

KATHLEEN E. FOLEY, MAYOR
LAURA BOZZI, TRUSTEE
CATHRYN FADDE, TRUSTEE
ELIZA STARBUCK, TRUSTEE
TWEEPS PHILLIPS WOODS, TRUSTEE

JEFF VIDAKOVICH, CLERK/TREASURER
MICHELLE ASCOLILLO, ACCOUNTANT
LARRY BURKE, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
MATT KROOG, WATER SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT DOWNEY, ROADWAYS & FACILITIES CREW CHIEF
GREG WUNNER, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

GUIDE TO THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE VILLAGE CODE'S SIGN CHAPTER (104)

April 2023

THE CURRENT SIGN CHAPTER ON THE BOOKS

The current Chapter 104 is deficient in terms of modern code standards, and has some provisions that are unlikely to pass muster under legal challenge. The proposed draft now under consideration builds upon a previously drafted update, from September 2021; that draft was not adopted by the Board of Trustees in office at the time.

The 2021 draft was used as a basis for the current draft (April 2023) that is under consideration by the Board of Trustees at this time.

IMPORTANT MODIFICATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Updating the name of the chapter from "Signs and Placards" to "Signs"
- Introducing new sections, including "Purpose; Overall Objective," "Definitions," "Temporary Signs," "Exempt Signs," "Non-Conforming Signs," "Enforcement," "Severability," and sections dealing with signs in various Zoning Districts.
- Following code chapter conventions
- Including missing definitions
- Properly cross-referencing Zoning Districts with the draft revised Zoning Chapter, which is also currently under review by the Board of Trustees
- Removing Constitutionally-vulnerable provisions, including that the removal of any sign in violation of the code "may be removed by any citizen of the Village."
- Expanding requirements for the placement of "temporary" signs on public property.
- Treating all classes of permitted and prohibited signs equally under the local law.
- Limiting the placement of campaign signs to private property and for a limited period of time.
- Renumbering 104-3 (Penalties for Offenses) to 104-11.

WHY ARE THE TRUSTEES CONSIDERING THESE MODIFICATIONS?

- Without updating Zoning District references, Chapter 104 would not align with the proposed new Chapter 134, Zoning.
- In both the current chapter and the 2021 proposed revision, due process was lacking, creating legal vulnerability for the Village.
- The Code Enforcement Officer has requested additional code-based tools to help enforce temporary signs on public property, about which he receives complaints
- The Village's primary intersections have become cluttered with temporary signs, particularly during election cycles, causing both visual blight and traffic visibility concerns.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- You can view the Sign and Placard code this currently on the books here:
<https://www.coldspringny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf416/f/uploads/signs.pdf>
- You can view the 2021 draft and its redline from the existing Signs and Placards Code here:
https://www.coldspringny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf416/f/uploads/0104-proposed_version_0.pdf
- You can review the Proposed 2023 Draft Chapter here:
[0104-signs for public review. april 2023.pdf \(coldspringny.gov\)](#)
- You can review the redline of the 2021 proposed Signs and Placards Chapter here:
[0104-signs track changes on nov 2021 revisions. april 2023.pdf \(coldspringny.gov\)](#)
- Send questions to the Village Clerk at vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov

HOW CAN I ASK QUESTIONS AND GIVE FEEDBACK?

The public hearing on Chapters 134, 76 and 104 is scheduled to open on Wednesday, April 26th at Village Hall, 85 Main Street. At this time, the planning consultant will provide an overview of the proposed changes. There will be a written comment and response document that will be available on the Village website so everyone can see how their questions and concerns have been addressed.

Time can be allotted at subsequent Village Board of Trustees meetings for residents to provide feedback and ask questions:

- April 26
- May 3
- May 10
- May 16 (note: this is a Tuesday)

You are welcome to join in person or online via zoom. Weekly agendas and the Zoom link are available here:
[Mayor & Board of Trustees | Cold Spring, NY \(coldspringny.gov\)](#)

You can also send questions and comments to vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov.

Depending on feedback, the Board of Trustees will determine the need to continue the public hearing. If more discussion is needed, the Board of Trustees will take up a vote to leave the public hearing open.

ARE THERE OTHER CODE CHANGES UNDER CONSIDERATION RIGHT NOW? WHY?

Yes, the public discussion also covers Code Chapter 76, Noise and Code Chapter 134, Zoning. Sign and Noise regulations are referenced in parts of the Zoning chapter, so revisions there need to be reflected in Chapters 104 and 76, as well. All of the proposed chapters can be found here: <https://www.coldspringny.gov/mayor-board-trustees/pages/chapters-76-noise-104-signs-and-134-zoning>