

E911 Addressing Ordinance

Section 1. Title

This ordinance will henceforth be known as the “Addressing Ordinance.”

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to enhance the easy and rapid location of structures by law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel in the town of Freedom.

Section 3. Authority

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to and consistent with Municipal Home Rule Powers as provided for in Article VIII, Part 2, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Maine and Title 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 3001.

Section 4. Administration

This ordinance shall be administered by the Addressing Officer who is authorized to and shall assign road names and numbers to all properties, both on existing and proposed roads, in accordance with the criteria in Sections 5 and 6. The Addressing Officer shall be responsible for maintaining the following official records of this ordinance:

- a. A municipal map(s) for official use showing road names and numbers.
- b. An alphabetical list of all property owners as identified by current tax records, by last name, showing the assigned numbers.
- c. An alphabetical list of all roads with property owners listed in order of their assigned numbers.

The Board of Selectmen shall designate an Addressing Officer, who is responsible for and authorized to provide all required addressing and database information to the state agency for implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 service.

Section 5. Naming System

All roads that serve two or more structures shall be named regardless of whether ownership is public or private. A “road” refers to any highway, road, street, avenue, lane, private way, or similar paved, gravel, or dirt thoroughfare. A road name assigned by the municipality shall not constitute or imply acceptance of the road as a public way.

The following criteria shall govern the naming system:

- a. No two roads shall be given the same name (ex. Pine Road and Pine Lane).
- b. No two roads shall have similar-sounding names (ex. Beech Lane and Peach Lane).
- c. Each road shall have the same name throughout its entire length.

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Section 6. Numbering System

The following criteria govern the numbering system:

- a. Numbers shall be assigned every 50 (fifty) feet along both sides of the road, with even numbers appearing on the left side of the road and odd numbers appearing on the right side of the road, as the numbers ascend. A 25-foot or less interval may be applied in more densely structured areas.
- b. All the numbers of origins shall begin from Freedom/Knox Townline on Route 137 (Belfast Road) or that end of a road closest to the designated origin. For dead end roads, numbering shall originate at the intersection of the adjacent road and terminate at the dead end.
- c. The number assigned to each structure shall be that of the numbered interval falling closest to the front door or the driveway of said structure if the front door cannot be seen from the road.
- d. Every structure with more than one principle use or occupancy shall have a separate number for each use or occupancy, i.e. duplexes will have two separate numbers; apartments will have one road number with an apartment number, such as 235 Maple Road, Apt 2.

Section 7. Compliance

All owners of structures shall, by the date stipulated in Section 9, display and maintain in a conspicuous place on said structure, assigned numbers in the following manner:

- a. Number on the Structure or Residence. Where the residence or structure is within 50 (fifty) feet of the edge of the road right-of-way, the assigned number shall be displayed on the front of the residence or structure in the vicinity of the front door or entry.
- b. Number at the Road Line. Where the residence or structure is over 50 (fifty) feet from the edge of the road right-of-way, the assigned number shall be displayed on a post, fence, wall, the mailbox, or on some structure at the property line adjacent to the walk or access drive to the residence or structure.
- c. Size, Color, and Location of Number. Numbers shall be of a color that contrasts with their background color and shall be a minimum of four (4) inches in height. Numbers shall be located to be visible from the road at all times of the year.
- d. Proper Number. Every person whose duty is to display an assigned number shall remove any different number which might be mistaken for, or confused with, the number assigned in conformance with this ordinance.
- e. Interior Location. All residents and other occupants are requested to post their assigned number and road name adjacent to their telephone for emergency reference.

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Section 8. New Construction and Subdivisions

All new construction and subdivisions shall be named and numbered in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and as follows:

- a. New Construction. Whenever any residence or other structure is constructed or developed, it shall be the duty of the new owner to obtain an assigned number from the Addressing Officer. This shall be done at the time of the issuance of the building permit.
- b. New Subdivisions. Any prospective subdivider shall show a proposed road name and lot numbering system on the pre-application submission to the Freedom Planning Board. Approval by the Freedom Planning Board after consultation with the Freedom Addressing Officer, shall constitute the assignment of road names and numbers to the lots in the subdivision. On the final plan showing proposed roads, the applicant shall mark on the plan, lines or dots, in the center of the streets every 50 feet to aid in the assignment of numbers to structures subsequently constructed.

Section 9. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective as of the date of the Town Meeting acceptance. It shall be the duty of each property owner to comply with this ordinance, including the posting of new property numbers, within 30 (thirty) days following notification. On new structures, numbering will be installed prior to final inspection or when the structure is first used or occupied, whichever comes first.

Section 10. Enforcement

It will be the duty of the Addressing Officer to enforce all provisions of this Ordinance. Failure to comply with this Ordinance could possibly put any resident at risk due to delayed emergency response time, confusion, and possible adverse consequences to anyone in need of emergency services.