

ARTICLE 14 PUBLIC PROPERTY DEFACEMENT

Article 14-1 Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the protection of public property including but not limited to trees, plants and shrubs, buildings and other structures.

Article 14-2 Authorization

By authority of VSA 24 Chapter 61 Section 2291(3), municipalities are enabled to provide protection for public property.

Article 14-3 Prohibitions

- 4-3.01 No person shall move, injure, deface or destroy any sign, light post, light, building or fence in the Town of Bennington erected by or for the Town for the use or ornament of the Town.
- 4-3.02 No person shall move, injure, deface or destroy any sign, sign post, awning or other private property of individuals lawfully set, erected or placed in or upon the public lands or right of way of the Town.
- 4-3.03 No person shall cut down or remove, mutilate or otherwise injure or destroy any ornamental or shade tree growing in any public street, lane, alley, common or other public land in the Town without the permission of the Town Manager or their designee.

Article 14-4 Enforcement

A violation of this ordinance in which the damage to property of any value not exceeding \$250.00 shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA Section 1974A and 1977 Et Seq. A civil penalty of not more than \$500.00 may be imposed for the violation of this civil ordinance.

Article 14-5 Severability

This ordinance and the various parts, sentences, sections and clauses thereof, are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, section, or clause is adjudged invalid, it is hereby provided that the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Article 14-6 Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect sixty (60) days from date of adoption by the Select Board.