AMHERST BUILDING DEPARTMENT "Building Safety is No Accident"

HEIGHT OF FENCES AND WALLS & CLEAR VISION

(Excerpt from Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance)

7-5 Fences and Walls

- 7-5-1 No fence or wall in a residential district shall exceed six feet in height, except where it abuts a nonresidential district, in which event it shall not exceed eight feet in height, provided, however, that a fence or wall not exceeding 12 feet in height enclosing a tennis court shall be permitted. For the purpose of screening, the Planning Board may require fences, vegetation or other appropriate material in nonresidential districts where they abut residential districts to assure privacy for adjacent land uses with visual, noise and air quality factors considered.
- 7-5-2 With the exception of those used for screening loading docks, dumpsters, outdoor storage and mechanical equipment as required by this Ordinance, no fences or wall in a nonresidential district shall exceed eight feet in height.
- 7-5-3 No fence or wall, other than a necessary retaining wall, over three feet in height shall extend into the front yard of any lot, except in an industrial district. For the purposes of administration of this Section, the front yard of a principal structure shall be the yard abutting the street that is directly associated with the primary entrance to the structure.
- 7-5-4 The height of all fences or walls shall be measured from the average finished grade as determined by the Commissioner of Building. Average height should generally follow the lay of the land.

2-5-1 Clear Vision Triangle

A clear vision triangle is the triangle formed on corner lots between points on the front, side or rear lot lines 35 feet from the intersection of the right-of-way lines. Within that area no fence, wall, ornamental gate or portal, bushes, shrubbery or stored material shall be permitted higher than two feet above the average finished grade of the lot. Trees shall be permitted within the area only if maintained and trimmed so that no branches or foliage are less than eight feet above the average finished grade of the lot. No building shall be located within the areas, except that this restriction shall not apply above the bottom of the second floor nor to columns of a size required to carry the weight of upper stories.

