

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 17, 2022  
Village of North Bennington, Vermont**

**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

14-3.1 No person shall move, injure, deface, or destroy any sign, light post, light, building or fence in the Village of North Bennington erected by or for the Village for the use or ornament of the Village.

14-3.2 No person shall move, injure, deface or destroy any sign, signpost, awning or other private property of individuals lawfully set, erected or placed in or upon the public lands or right of way of the Village.

14-3.3 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 Village without the permission of the Board of Trustees 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 is hereby adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont on this 17th day of February 2022. It shall be documented in the minutes of the Board of Trustees, posted in five (5) conspicuous places within the Village of North Bennington and a summary published in the Bennington Banner within fourteen (14) days of its adoption and shall become in full force and affect sixty (60) days after the date of adoption subject to the right of petition provided by law.

Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
[First name] [Last name] [Print]

\_\_\_\_\_