

**Title 13 – Real Property and Housing**  
**Chapter 6 – Addressing and Road Naming Standards**

**Sec.**

13-06.010	Title
13-06.020	Authority
13.06.030	Definitions
13-06.040	Establishment of Uniform Policy
13-06.050	Proper Display of Building Addresses
13-06.060	Proper Display of Road Names
13-06.070	Civil Enforcement
13-06.080	Civil Penalties
13-06.090	Tribal Remedies and Tribal Court
13-06.100	Repealer
13-06.110	Severability
13-06.120	Effective Date

**Legislative History**

Enacted:

Ordinance 379 Enacting Addressing and Road Naming Standards (5/8/18).

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**13-06.010 Title.**

This Title shall be known and may be cited as the “Swinomish Addressing and Road Naming Standards.”

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.020 Authority.**

This Chapter is enacted pursuant to Article VI, Sections 1 (h), (k)(1) and (3), (l), and 5(c) of the Swinomish Constitution and By-Laws originally ratified by the Tribe on November 16, 1935, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 27, 1936, and as most recently amended and ratified by the Tribe on May 23, 2017 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on July 7, 2017; the inherent sovereign powers of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; rights reserved in the Treaty with the Dwamish, Suquamish, etc., (“Treaty of Point Elliott”), 12 Stat. 927 (January 22, 1855), 25 C.F.R. § 162.017, and such other powers as have been delegated to, vested in, or confirmed in the Tribe through the actions of the United States, the state of Washington, or any municipal corporations.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.030 Definitions.**

As used in this Chapter:

- (A) **“Building”** means the principal dwelling, business establishment, meeting hall or occupied recreational lot for which an address needs to be established. Other buildings such as peripheral outbuildings, sheds, and garages shall require an address when it is in the best interest of public safety, as deemed by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- (B) **“Stand alone utility site”** means any type of utility service, located on a legal parcel of land with no association to a building structure, requiring periodic maintenance or readings by utility company personnel.
- (C) **“Tribe”** means the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.040 Establishment of Uniform Policy.**

- (A) Geographic Scope: The geographic scope of this Chapter is the portion of the Swinomish Indian Reservation indicated in the map at Attachment A.
- (B) There is hereby established a uniform system of addressing buildings and other structures fronting on all public and private roads within the Geographic Scope of this Chapter. All principal dwellings and other structures shall be addressed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (C) For the purposes of this Chapter, the Tribe shall be the determining body in instances where the predominant direction, beginning, end, etc. of a road is not readily apparent or consistent.
- (D) The Tribe will assign new addresses pursuant to policies, procedures and internal controls adopted by the Land Management Department and will distribute notice of new addresses to the appropriate local emergency service agencies, utilities, and post offices.
- (E) Public safety is the first priority when assigning addresses under this Chapter. If a newly assigned address conflicts with adjacent municipal addresses, the Tribe retains the discretion to utilize the adjoining municipality’s addressing scheme.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.050 Proper Display of Building Addresses.**

- (A) For structures situated fifty feet or less from the road, the address may be conspicuously placed immediately above, on or at the side of the proper door of each building so that the number can be seen plainly from the road. As an alternative, the owner may choose to post the address placard in the same manner as a structure situated more than fifty feet from the road. If it is opted by the owner to post the address on the structure, and the main entrance is on the side or does not face the road, the address shall be conspicuously placed on the side of the building facing the road.
- (B) Whenever a building is situated more than fifty feet from the road, or when the view of the building is blocked, the number shall be conspicuously placed on a post, gate, fence, tree, etc. This placement must be somewhere in an arc within 30 feet from where the center of the driveway or access meets the road. It will be posted in such a way so that the address placard is parallel with the main roadway or visible when accessing from either direction. It shall be at a height of between four and six feet from the level of the road. On roads that may be accessed from “only” one direction, the placard may be posted perpendicular to the main roadway in such a way that it is clearly visible when being approached by emergency responders.
- (C) All owners subject to this Chapter must:
- (1) Display the address at the access or driveway in the same manner as a building located more than fifty feet from a roadway on addressable entities other than buildings, such as recreational lots or stand alone utility sites.
  - (2) Face the building number toward the road named in the address when located on a corner lot.
  - (3) Set the building addresses on a blue reflective background.
  - (4) Use white reflective numbers for building addresses, making them easily visible at night.
  - (5) Use plain block numerals for building addresses, not script or written numbers.
  - (6) Use numbers that are a minimum of 5 inches in height for building addresses.
  - (7) Post addresses at the road and also on the building or addressable entity if more than one address is on one driveway and the buildings or entities are further than 50 feet from the road. The address shall also be posted at any confusing intersection within the private drives.
  - (8) Maintain the street number of each building and structure in a conspicuous place over or near the principal street entrance, or in another conspicuous place so that the address is easily visible from the street.
- (D) The Tribe will provide owners with building address signs in accordance with STC 13-

070(C). The owner of a building must post the sign in accordance with this Chapter.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.060 Proper Display of Road Names.**

- (A) Swinomish signing standards apply to all street types, including but not limited to public and private roads.
- (B) Swinomish signing standards for public roads require white characters on a green reflective background.
- (C) Swinomish signing standards for private roads require black characters on a yellow reflective background.
- (D) The name of any private road not named in accordance with this Chapter may not be displayed in the formats in Subsections (B) or (C).

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.070 Civil Enforcement.**

- (A) The owner of any building erected or located within the Geographic Scope of this Chapter shall procure the correct number(s) for the building(s) from the Tribe and display the assigned number(s) following the standards set forth in this Chapter. The owner must post a temporary sign displaying the Tribally assigned number(s) at the lot(s) while a structure is under construction.
- (B) The owner must procure the official number of the premises prior to receiving a building permit. After the effective date of the ordinance codified in this Chapter, the Swinomish Planning & Community Development Department or Skagit County Permit Center shall withhold final approval of any structure erected, repaired, altered, or modified, until permanent and proper numbers are affixed to said structure(s).
- (C) The Tribe will enforce this Chapter. The owner of the property may request that the Tribe ascertain the correct address in accordance with the addressing system as set forth in this Chapter. The Tribe may charge for addressing and house numbers pursuant to fees set by Swinomish Senate in a resolution.
- (D) Whenever the irregularity of plats, the changing of direction of the public or private rights-of-way, the interruption of continuity of public rights-of-way or any other condition causes doubt or difference of opinion as to the correct address of any piece of property or any building thereon, the address shall be determined by the Tribe. The Tribe

shall be guided by the specific provisions of this Chapter so far as they are applicable, and by policies adopted by the Swinomish Planning Commission.

- (E) If notified by the appropriate Rural Fire Protection District, other governmental employee or representative, or other concerned citizen in writing that any building, structure or premises does not have an address as herein required, or is not correctly addressed, or said address is not displayed as required herein, the Tribe shall notify the owner, agent, occupant or lessee of said building structure or premises and require the owner, agent, occupant or lessee to obtain an address in accordance with this Chapter within a reasonable period of time as outlined below.
- (F) In the event that the owner, agent, occupant or lessee in charge of any house or building refuses to comply with the terms of this Chapter by failing to affix the number assigned within 30 days after notification, or by failing within said period of 30 days to remove any old numbers affixed to such building entrance or elsewhere, which may be confused with the number assigned thereto, the occupant shall be in violation of this Chapter.  
  
It shall be unlawful for any person to alter, deface or take down any address placed on any property in accordance with this Chapter, except for repair or replacement of such address, or when a structure is being demolished.
- (G) The provisions of this Chapter may be enforced by the Tribe through civil proceedings against any person who has violated or is violating any provision of this Chapter, including but not limited to declaratory and injunctive relief in Tribal Court requiring any person to come into compliance with, or to cease non-compliance with, this Chapter. The provisions of this Chapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any remedies provided by any other provision of the Swinomish Tribal Code
- (H) In the event the Tribe determines and gives notice that a person is in violation of this Chapter, failure to correct the violation within the time period allowed in the notice shall subject the violator to civil penalties set forth in Section 13-06.080.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

### **13-06.080 Civil Penalties.**

In addition to any other civil penalty or remedy that may be provided in any other section of the Swinomish Tribal Code, any person found by the Tribal Court to have violated any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine in an amount not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per violation; provided that for the purpose of assessing a

fine, each day that the person is in violation of this Chapter may be considered a separate violation.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.090 Tribal Remedies and Tribal Court.**

All cases or controversies arising under the terms and provisions of this Chapter shall be heard only in the Swinomish Tribal Court, and only as provided in this Chapter.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.100 Repealer.**

[Reserved]

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.110 Severability.**

The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this Chapter shall not affect the validity of any part of this Chapter that can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

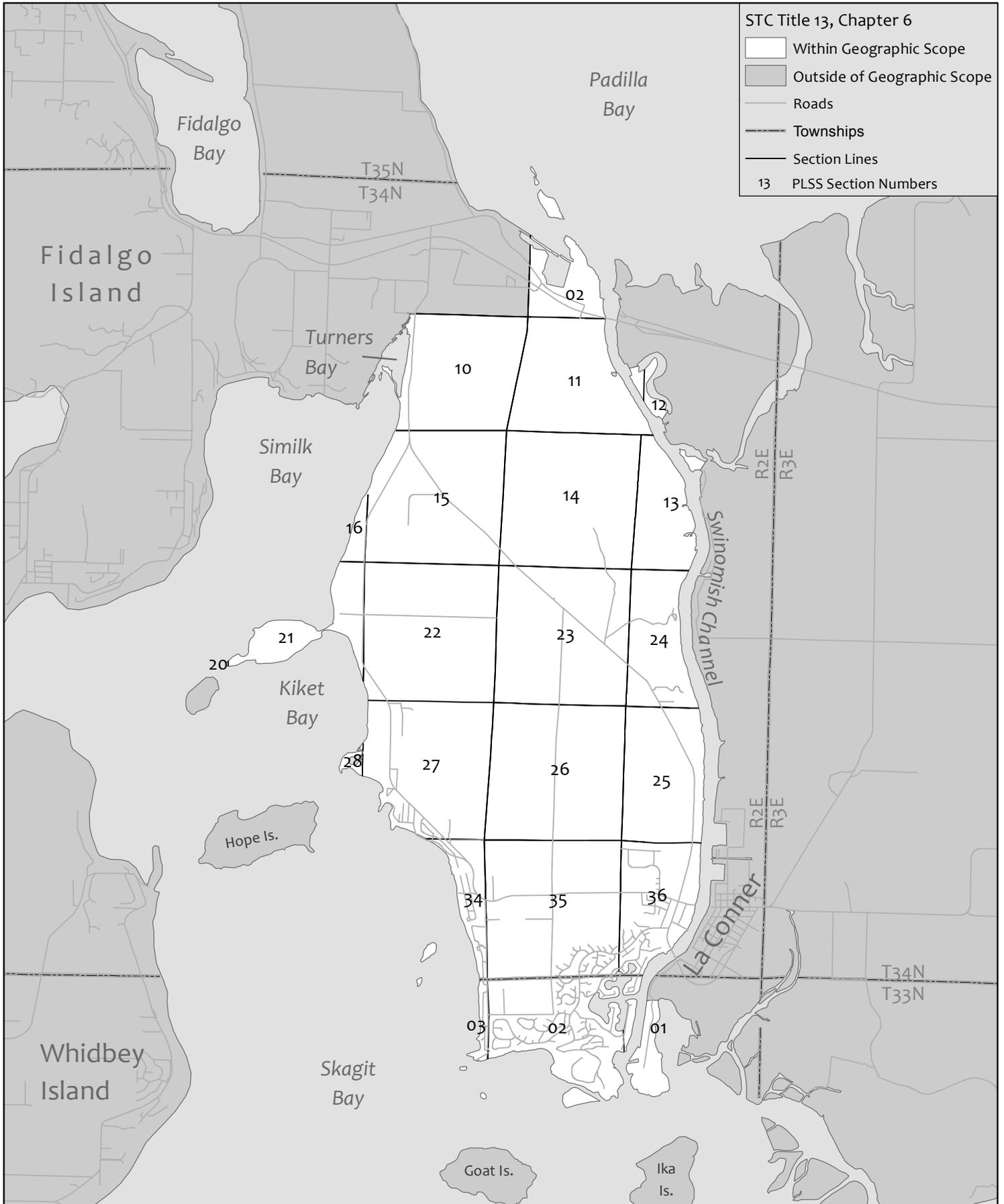
[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

**13-06.120 Effective Date.**

This Chapter is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare, and for the support of emergency services and their existing functions and programs, and therefore shall take effect immediately, upon approval by the Senate.

[History] Ord. 379 (5/8/18).

# Attachment A: Geographic Scope of STC Title 13, Chapter 6



**SWINOMISH INDIAN  
TRIBAL COMMUNITY**



Geographic Scope,  
STC 13-06