

Agricultural Committee Special Meeting
Proposed Zoning Regulation Changes – 6.65 – KEEPING OF ANIMALS
May 2, 2017, 7:00 pm

Members present – Michael Orefice, Gene Heavens, Gretchen Mathes, Patti Sederquist, Mark Gauger, Absent: Steve Camp, Cory Iacino
Also present: Animal Control Officer Tom Mitchell and Zoning Commission member Cindy _____

Minutes: Mr. Mitchell presented some of the issues that he has been seeing in town related to farm animals. He indicated that there have been complaints related to Guinea Hens, abandoned roosters and chickens wondering onto neighboring properties. He has issued a couple of citations but it's nothing more than a piece of paper.

A member of the Lake Harwinton Association stated that he has had issues with a neighbor who had a rooster that would wake him up at night and would process turkeys on their driveway in plain sight. He was also worried about waste run off into the lake. Mr. Mitchell had to intervene.

The committee members discussed the proposed zoning regulation changes with the general consensus being that what was being proposed was adequate but had some further suggestions.

Suggestions include:

- Make sure the proposed regulation changes are aligned with the towns Right to Farm Ordinance and the current Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Check with the Town Attorney to see if the changes will have any impact on current situations or will they be grandfathered.
- Check with the Town Attorney to see if it would be feasible to impose progressive fines for violators.
- Contact the Farm Bureau, specifically Joan Nichols for her input. She would more than likely attend a Zoning meeting.
- Include setbacks to the front and rear yards as well as side yards.
- Seek input from the Wetlands Commission to simplify water language – *watercourses and water bodies, ponds, swamps, and bogs* – and to use the all inclusive term "wetlands and watercourses" instead.
- Review the minimum lot size for poultry, item a. A ½ acre piece of property (21,780 square feet) is approximately the equivalent of a 100' x 210' parcel. With a 50' setback (which would actually total 100' - 50' from each property line), would give no area for an accessory building.
- Consider rooster restrictions for Non-Business use when the lot size is less than an acre.
- Consider granting Special Permits for unique situations. For example, raising 25 meat chickens for personal use on a ½ acre parcel. Generally these are raised for 8-10 weeks and then butchered. Meat birds can be males but are fairly quit.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Gretchen Mathes, seconded by Patti Sederquist. Meeting ended at 7:49 pm.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 05/08/17 AT 8:30AM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK