
Memo

DATE: 5/1/18

TO: Selectboard

FROM: Erik Wells, Assistant to the Town Manager

RE: CHICKEN ORDINANCE SECOND READING, SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Included with the agenda is a redlined version of the draft of the Care and Keeping Chickens Ordinance. Changes discussed at the April 3 meeting have been included in this latest draft. This memo will summarize the changes that have been made by section.

Authority & Purpose

Language changed to specify the ordinance pertains to female chickens, known as hens.

Permit Required

Language added to require that a sign is posted as notification that a chicken permit has been issued to a residence for 15 days. This draft ordinance does not allow for an appeal for a chicken permit, is this posting something that the Town should require with that in mind?

Exemptions

Amended to exempt all residential properties in Town one acre or greater in size from the ordinance.

Number & Type of Chickens Allowed

Amended to limit the quantity of chickens to 6. Language changes to specify chickens as hens.

Enclosures

Language changed to state preventative measures must be taken to restrict access to pests, rather than structures must be impenetrable. Language changed to 30 square foot maximum size for structures to correspond with the 6 chicken limit.

Waste Storage and Removal

Change made to allow up to three 20 gallon containers for chicken manure, language added to allow for manure to be used in composting and as fertilizer in a garden.

Enforcement: Administrative Enforcement

Language addressing a nuisance added. Time limit defined for correction of issues related to public health or nuisance as one calendar day after violation notice issued. If

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public health/nuisance issue is not corrected within a day the Town may issue a civil penalty up to the maximum amount allowed in the ordinance (\$400).

Enforcement: Appeals

Language moved to beginning stating that an appeal cannot delay the mitigation of a public health threat or nuisance. Appeal process steps and timelines shortened.