

CASE 014-AT-21
PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM
July 20, 2021

Petitioner: Zoning Administrator

Request: Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to establish beekeeping requirements as summarized in the full legal advertisement and summarized as follows:

1. Amend Section 3.0 Definitions by adding a definition for “apiary”, “beekeeping”, “honey bee”, “nucleus colony” and other related terms.
2. Add footnotes 29 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses.
3. Add footnote 30 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses.
4. Add new Section 7.8 Beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, with new requirements for beekeeping.
5. Amend Section 9.3.1 G.6. by adding a \$33 Change of Use Permit Application Fee to establish beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts.

Location: Unincorporated Champaign County

Time Schedule for Development: As soon as possible

Prepared by: Susan Burgstrom, Senior Planner
John Hall, Zoning Administrator

BACKGROUND

The Environment and Land Use Committee heard complaints about honey bees in residential subdivisions at the April 8, 2021, meeting and asked to review a proposed honey bee amendment at the May 6, 2021 meeting. ELUC approved consideration of the proposed text amendment at that meeting.

Any zoning approval must be based on a similar land use as listed in Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Uses in the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance, but there is no similar land use in Section 5.2.

Numerous comments have been received, which can be found in Attachments D, E and F. A petition signed by 561 people was received the week of July 12th; an example set of those sheets can be found in Attachment G, and all signature sheets can be found on the ZBA meetings website: http://www.co.champaign.il.us/CountyBoard/meetings_ZBA.php.

Attachment H includes two maps prepared by P&Z Staff that illustrate the residential zoning districts in Champaign County where beekeeping would be regulated.

ELUC MEETINGS LEADING TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The following is a timeline of the ELUC meetings that led to this amendment:

- The Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) heard complaints about honey bees in the Prairieview Subdivision at their July 5, 2018, meeting. The Zoning Administrator was later told that all bees had been moved out of the Prairieview Subdivision.
- ELUC heard complaints about honey bees in the Prairieview Subdivision again at their October 8, 2020 meeting, and reviewed selected honey bee ordinances and relevant Illinois Administrative Code rules. Attachment B is the memorandum dated September 28, 2020. The Zoning Administrator confirmed to ELUC that he had been told there were no honey bees being kept in the Prairieview Subdivision.
- A draft amendment was reviewed by ELUC at their November 5, 2020 meeting, where 14 citizens spoke against the proposed amendment and the Committee decided not to send the amendment for a public hearing at the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- The Committee heard complaints about honey bees in the Prairieview Subdivision again at their April 8, 2021 meeting, and reviewed a petition supporting the adoption of a Zoning Ordinance amendment for beekeeping signed by residents of both the Prairieview Subdivision and two residents on Mary Lou Drive, not in the Prairieview Subdivision. Attachment D includes the comments from this meeting. Attachment E includes the petition.
- The Committee reviewed the same draft amendment again at their May 6, 2021 meeting, and authorized the amendment to go to a public hearing. Attachment C is the memorandum dated April 26, 2020. The Zoning Administrator confirmed to ELUC that he had been told there were no honey bees being kept in the Prairieview Subdivision.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT AS IT RELATES TO THE NUISANCE ORDINANCE

The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance goes hand in hand with a proposed amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance. The Nuisance Ordinance amendment does not require ZBA recommendation and only requires one hearing before ELUC. The proposed Nuisance Ordinance amendment means that nonconformities (existing beekeeping enterprises) will need to bring their colony into compliance if the P&Z Department confirms a valid nuisance complaint. The proposed amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance can be found in Attachment J, but is not subject to revision or approval by the ZBA.

APPROVAL PROCESS

At minimum, the proposed amendment (at the end of Attachment K) will be discussed at the July 29, 2021 and August 12, 2021 ZBA meetings in order to provide municipalities and interested parties time to provide comments. The earliest that a recommendation from the ZBA would come back to ELUC is September 9, 2021, and the earliest that the County Board could adopt the amendment would be October 21, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

- A Legal advertisement
- B ELUC Memorandum dated September 28, 2020
- C ELUC Memorandum dated April 26, 2021
- D Public comments regarding problems with honey bees from the April 8, 2021 ELUC meeting
- E Public handouts and a petition requesting adoption of a honey bee amendment from the April 8, 2021 ELUC meeting
- F Public comments received between the May 6, 2021 ELUC meeting and July 19, 2021
- G Example of petition sheets received the week of July 15, 2021
(full signature pages of petitions can be found on ZBA meetings website)
- H Maps of Proposed Regulated Beekeeping Areas in unincorporated Champaign County created by P&Z Staff on July 12, 2021
- I Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Goals & Objectives *(available on ZBA meetings website)*
- J Proposed Nuisance Ordinance amendment *(not subject to revision or approval by ZBA)*
- K Preliminary Finding of Fact, Summary Finding of Fact, and Final Determination for Case 014-AT-21 dated July 29, 2021, with attachment:
 - Full text of the proposed beekeeping amendment dated July 29, 2021

LEGAL PUBLICATION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021

CASE: 014-AT-21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING IN REGARD TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

CASE 014-AT-21

The Champaign County Zoning Administrator, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, has filed a petition to amend the text of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance. The petition is on file in the office of the Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, IL.

A public hearing will be held **Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** prevailing time in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, IL, at which time and place the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals will consider a petition for the following:

Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance as follows:

1. Amend Section 3.0 Definitions by adding a definition for “apiary”, “beekeeping”, “honey bee”, “nucleus colony” and other related terms.
2. Add footnote 29 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, that indicates that beekeeping shall be authorized per the requirements of Section 7.8.
3. Add footnote 30 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-4 and R-5 Districts, that indicates that beekeeping is not an authorized USE in the R-4 and R-5 DISTRICTS.
4. Add new Section 7.8 Beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, with new requirements including but not limited to the following:
 - A. Beekeeping shall be authorized only as a home occupation and subject to the requirements of Section 7.1.1 except where the requirements of this Section are in addition to or exceed the requirements of Section 7.1.1, and shall be authorized by a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 of the Zoning Ordinance prior to establishment.
 - B. All beekeeping shall be in compliance with the State of Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and all beehives and/ or nucleus colony shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
 - C. Beekeeping shall be in compliance with the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance.
 - D. Add a limit on the number of beehives that may be kept on a lot based on the area of the lot as follows:
 - (1) On a lot with no more than 10,000 square feet of area there shall be no more than three beehives and for each additional 10,000 square feet of lot area there may be one additional beehive; and

- (2) One nucleus colony shall be allowed for each authorized beehive provided that the nucleus colony is moved or combined with an authorized colony within 30 days; and
 - (3) Allow temporary housing of one swarm of honey bees for no more than 3 months from the date acquired, subject to notifying the Zoning Administrator.
- E. Add a minimum required separation between any beehive and/or nucleus colony and a lot line of 10 feet and 30 feet to any street right of way, improved alley, or access easement, and 30 feet to any structure on any adjacent lot.
- F. Add requirements for management practices as follows:
- (1) Add a requirement that any beehive and/or nucleus colony on any lot with 40,000 square feet or less lot area to be enclosed by a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate.
 - (2) Add a requirement for a minimum six-foot high flyway barrier for any beehive and/or nucleus colony located less than 16 feet from a lot line and require the flyway barrier to extend a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the beehive and/or nucleus colony.
 - (3) Add a requirement for a minimum of two sources of water to be continuously available in the apiary when honey bees are active outside a beehive. Each required water source shall be no further from a beehive or nucleus colony than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent lot and shall allow honey bee access to water by landing on a hard surface.
- G. Add a requirement that any BEEKEEPING that exceeds any of the standards in paragraphs 7.8 D. through F. may be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit.
5. Amend Section 9.3.1 G.6. by adding a \$33 Change of Use Permit Application Fee to establish beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. If you would like to submit comments or questions before the meeting, please call the P&Z Department at 217-384-3708 or email zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us no later than 4:30 pm the day of the meeting. The hearing may be continued and reconvened at a later time.

Ryan Elwell, Chair
Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals

TO BE PUBLISHED: WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021, ONLY

Send bill and one copy to: Champaign County Planning and Zoning Dept.
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802
Phone: 384-3708

TO: **Environment and Land Use Committee**

FROM: **John Hall, Zoning Administrator**

DATE: **September 28, 2020**

RE: **Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and Selected County and Municipal Honeybee Ordinances**

Champaign County
Department of



Brookens Administrative
Center
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802

(217) 384-3708
zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us
www.co.champaign.il.us/zoning

BACKGROUND

Neighbors in the Prairieview Subdivision Northeast of Urbana are again having problems with honeybees in their subdivision. The Committee previously received complaints about honeybees in this subdivision in 2018 and 2019.

Beekeeping is typically considered an agricultural activity although it is not explicitly indicated as such in the county zoning enabling act (55 ILCS 5/5-12001). State law in Illinois prohibits zoning regulation of agriculture for anything other than setback from streets. However, the Champaign County State’s Attorney’s Office has determined that Champaign County may adopt regulations for beekeeping on properties in residential districts on which agriculture is not a principal use.

As background for possible draft amendments to both the Zoning Ordinance and the Nuisance Ordinance which should be available for review at the November meeting, this memorandum includes as attachments a copy of the Administrative Rules implementing the Bees and Apiaries Act (8 IAC 60), to illustrate the role of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and several selected municipal and county beekeeping ordinances, most of which were provided by Mr. Barney Bryson, a resident in the Prairieview Subdivision. Neither Champaign nor Urbana have beekeeping regulations.

ATTACHMENTS

- A Administrative Rules implementing the Bees and Apiaries Act (8 IAC 60)
- B Model Beekeeping Ordinance prepared by the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association. February 22, 2007.
- C Village of St. Charles, Illinois Beekeeping zoning regulations
- D Municipality of Whitewater, Wisconsin Backyard Beekeeping zoning regulations
- E Sec. 151.133 (R) Beekeeping and apiaries excerpted from the Lake County, Illinois Unified Development Ordinance

TITLE 8: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SUBCHAPTER b: ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS (EXCEPT
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION ACT REGULATIONS)

PART 60
BEES AND APIARIES ACT

Section

- 60.10 Definitions
- 60.20 Registration; Colony Identification
- 60.30 Inspection
- 60.40 Equipment
- 60.50 Diseased or Parasitized Colonies; Exotic Strains
- 60.60 Permits
- 60.70 Quarantine
- 60.80 Administrative Rules (Repealed)

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by the Bees and Apiaries Act [510 ILCS 20]

SOURCE: Rules and Regulations Relating to the Bees and Apiaries Act, filed March 4, 1970, effective March 15, 1970; amended May 18, 1971, effective May 28, 1971; amended January 18, 1974, effective February 1, 1974; codified at 5 Ill. Reg. 10447; Part repealed, New Part adopted at 6 Ill. Reg. 7385, effective July 1, 1982; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 8803, effective June 7, 2002.

Section 60.10 Definitions

"Bee Parasites" means the parasitic bee mites and other parasitic bee pests including but not limited to Varroa destructor (varroa mite), Tropilaelaps clareae and Aethina tumida (small hive beetle).

"Exotic Strain of Bees" means any African or Africanized honey bees or any developed strain of bee not known to be present ordinarily in the State that may present a hazard to beekeeping and/or the public.

"Infestation" means the presence of bee parasites or exotic strains of bees.

"Moved (Movement, Move)" means shipped, offered for shipment to a common carrier, received for transportation or transported, moved or allowed to be moved, by any person by any means. Movement and move shall be construed accordingly.

"Quarantine" means a circumstance in which bees, colonies, bee equipment or honey is restricted to the existing location, unless allowed to be moved or the honey extracted and removed under permit or compliance agreement with the Director.

"Registration Certificate" means a certificate provided by the Department to a beekeeper upon acceptance of the application for registration. The certificate shall be numbered and show each beekeeper's name and mailing address.

"Scientific Permit" means a document issued by the Department to allow

the movement of regulated articles to a specified destination for scientific purposes.

(Source: Amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 8803, effective June 7, 2002)

Section 60.20 Registration; Colony Identification

- a) Any person acquiring ownership or possession of bees shall within ten (10) days of such acquisition file an application for registration with the Department.
- b) Any person moving bees into this State from another state or country shall within ten (10) days after arrival file an application for registration with the Department.
- c) Any person owning or possessing bees in the State shall during the month of November of each year file with the Department an application for registration to renew his or her current registration.
- d) Application for registration will be made on forms available from the Department. The registration information shall include:
 - 1) The beekeeper's name, mailing address, county of residence, phone number and date.
 - 2) The county name and exact location (such as township, section number, road number, street address, etc.) where the bees are kept.
 - 3) The current number of colonies at each location.
 - 4) The name of the landowner of each site where apiaries are maintained.
- e) The Department will issue to beekeepers a registration certificate after the Department receives the application. All registration certificates will remain valid unless cancelled by the Department when it is determined that a beekeeper is no longer keeping bees or at the registrant's request.
- f) All apiaries shall be identified. This identification shall consist of the State abbreviation "IL" followed by the beekeeper's Illinois registration number in weatherproof lettering not less than one-half inch in height. The number shall be displayed prominently on the front of a hive.
- g) All bees or colonies not registered with the Department shall be declared a nuisance. The beekeeper shall have 30 days in which to register. Failure to comply within 30 days will result in abatement of the nuisance.
- h) There shall be no registration fees.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

Section 60.30 Inspection

- a) Every beekeeper shall when requested by the Department provide the location of all bees, colonies and bee equipment owned or in his or her possession.
- b) The Department may require that the beekeeper assist in locating and handling bees, colonies and bee equipment so that inspection may be properly performed.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

Section 60.40 Equipment

- a) Any hive from which all frames or honeycomb cannot be readily removed for inspection including cross-comb hives or any hive in any situation where adequate or efficient inspection is difficult, impractical, or impossible is hereby declared a nuisance.
- b) When such a nuisance is declared, the colony owner and/or beekeeper shall be notified in writing via certified mail to cease the use of such hives. Compliance must be effected within 90 days from the receipt of the notice by the beekeeper.
- c) When the beekeeper has failed to comply within the 90 day period, the Department will issue a notice to the colony owner and/or beekeeper ordering the nuisance to be abated. The nuisance must be abated with 7 days from the date of receipt of the notice by the beekeeper.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

Section 60.50 Diseased or Parasitized Colonies; Exotic Strains

- a) Any colony of bees within the State found to be affected with American foulbrood disease shall be abated. All combs, frames, honey and bees must be abated by burning in a pit at least 18 inches deep and then covering the ashes with at least 6 inches of soil. Hive bodies, supers, bottom boards, inner covers and outer covers may be salvaged by sanitizing with a scorching flame. Unless otherwise approved by the Department, abatement by burning shall be accomplished by the beekeeper no later than 10 days after receiving written notice from the Department that American foulbrood disease has been detected in honeybee colonies.
- b) Bees, colonies or items of bee equipment can be moved within or into the State if treatment for the control of bee parasites using United States Environmental Protection Agency approved substances has been initiated not more than 30 days prior to movement.
- c) No person shall possess exotic strains of bees within the State. Any colony within the State found to contain exotic strains of bees shall be abated. Colonies or package bees accepted from any area known to be infested with exotic strains of bees must be certified by the USDA or any state apiary inspection program as being European by using any USDA approved identification method.
- d) The regulation of bees or colonies in an Africanized honey bee area shall be in accordance with the European Honey Bee State Certification Procedure of the Model Honey Bee Certification Plan

(November 20, 1991) as approved by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (1156 - 15th Street N.W., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20005) and the United States Department of Agriculture Interagency Technical Working Group on the Africanized Honey Bee (Agricultural Research Service, National Program Staff, Beltsville, MD 20705).

- e) Incorporations by reference do not include any amendments or editions beyond the date specified and may be viewed and/or copied at the Department's Springfield office.

(Source: Amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 8803, effective June 7, 2002)

Section 60.60 Permits

- a) No person shall move bees, colonies or used bee equipment from one county to another within the State, or into this State from any other state or country, without notifying the Department in person, in writing or by telephone at least ten days prior to such movement to allow issuance of a permit.
- b) The permit shall specify the following information:
 - 1) Beekeeper's name and mailing address.
 - 2) The apiary registration number as assigned or other unique identification codes and/or marks or similar information.
 - 3) The origin of the bees or equipment being moved.
 - 4) The number of colonies or nature of equipment being moved.
 - 5) The destination of the bees or equipment being moved.
 - 6) The date when movement will be made.
 - 7) The date of treatment for bee parasites.
- c) A permit shall be issued if bees or equipment being moved from county to county or into the State of Illinois have been inspected within 90 days before the date of shipment. The person moving the bees or equipment into Illinois shall furnish to the Department an inspection certificate signed by an authorized inspector, entomologist, or other responsible official identifying all bee diseases and bee parasites and any controls that were implemented.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

Section 60.70 Quarantine

- a) The area to be quarantined will be designated by commonly accepted and readily identifiable boundaries (i.e., counties). Boundaries shall be changed by the Director to include contiguous areas if it has been determined the harmful disease, parasite or exotic strain has spread into that area.
- b) A quarantine will include specific restrictions on or requirements for movement into, out of, or through the quarantine area.

- c) A quarantine will specify the articles to be regulated and, if required, those exempted.
- d) A quarantine will specify the measures to be undertaken to control or eradicate the harmful disease, parasite or exotic strain.
- e) The Director may stop, inspect and seize, destroy, or otherwise dispose or order disposal of regulated articles found in violation of a quarantine.
- f) If the Director determines that the harmful disease, parasite or exotic strain for which a quarantine has been implemented has been controlled or eradicated according to the Department's recommendation, he or she shall cancel a quarantine.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

Section 60.80 Administrative Rules (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 20 Ill. Reg. 2390, effective January 25, 1996)

February 22, 2007

MODEL BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

prepared by the
Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association

This model ordinance is not intended to be adopted without legal review by counsel representing the jurisdiction considering it. Like any proposed ordinance, it must be reconciled with existing ordinances and may be revised to fit community standards and needs. Our purpose in advancing the model ordinance is to offer a document with the apicultural framework we believe will enable hobbyist and sideliner beekeepers to safely and successfully pursue this pleasurable and economically, culturally and agriculturally critical activity in urban and suburban areas.

WHEREAS, honey bees (*apis mellifera*) are of benefit to mankind, and to Minnesota in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, and other useful products; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota is among the leading states in honey production and agricultural by products associated with beekeeping throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, tendency not to swarm and non-aggressive behavior, characteristics which are desirable to foster and maintain; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by _____:

Section 1. Preamble Adopted.

That the findings contained in the preamble of this ordinance are hereby adopted as a part of this ordinance.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context of their usage indicates another usage.

- 2.1 "Apiary" means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
- 2.2 "Beekeeper" means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
- 2.3 "Beekeeping equipment" means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.

Model Beekeeping Ordinance

February 22, 2007

- 2.4 “Colony” means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.
- 2.5 “Hive” means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.
- 2.6 “Honey bee” means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.
- 2.7 “Lot” means a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.
- 2.8 “Nucleus colony” means a small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.
- 2.9 “Undeveloped property” means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

Section 3. Purpose of Ordinance.

- 3.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to establish certain requirements for beekeeping within the City, to avoid issues which might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.
- 3.2 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony constitutes a nuisance, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper’s efforts to abate any proven nuisance.
- 3.3 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony violates applicable ordinances regarding public health, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper’s compliance with acceptable standards of practice among hobby beekeepers in the State of Minnesota.

Section 4. Standards of Practice.

- 4.1 Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- 4.2 Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
- 4.3 Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insect-proof container.
- 4.4 For each colony permitted to be maintained under this ordinance, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one nucleus colony in a

hive structure not to exceed one standard 9-5/8 inch depth 10-frame hive body with no supers.

- 4.5 Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall not be a defense to this ordinance that a beekeeper's unused equipment attracted a swarm and that the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping bees.

Section 5 Colony Density.

- 5.1 Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, in each instance where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be 4 feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches 6 feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for 10 feet in either direction from the hive, or contain the hive or hives in an enclosure at least 6 feet in height. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line (1) is undeveloped, or (2) is zoned agricultural, industrial or is outside of the City limits, or (3) is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within 25 feet of the apiary lot line.
- 5.2 No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the City, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:
- | | |
|---|----------------|
| a. One half acre or smaller lot | 2 colonies |
| b. Larger than 1/2 acre but smaller than 3/4 acre lot | 4 colonies |
| c. Larger than 3/4 acre lot but smaller than 1 acre lot | 6 colonies |
| d. One acre but smaller than 5 acres | 8 colonies |
| e. Larger than 5 acres | no restriction |
- 5.3 Regardless of lot size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least 200 feet from any hive, measured from any point on the front of the hive, remain undeveloped, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.
- 5.4 If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honey bees from locations where they are not desired, the beekeeper shall not be considered in violation the portion of this ordinance limiting the number of colonies if he temporarily houses the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice set out in this ordinance for no more than 30 days from the date acquired.

Section 6. Inspection.

A designated City official shall have the right to inspect any apiary for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this ordinance between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. once annually upon prior notice to the owner of the apiary property, and more often upon complaint without prior notice.

Section 7. Presumed Colony/Hive Value.

For the purpose of enforcing City ordinances against destruction of property, each colony/hive shall be presumed to have a value of \$275.

Section 8. Compliance.

- 8.1 Upon receipt of credible information that any colony located within the City is not being kept in compliance with this ordinance, [the designated City official] shall cause an investigation to be conducted. If the investigation shows that a violation may exist and will continue, [the designated City official] shall cause a written notice of hearing to be issued to the beekeeper, which notice shall set forth:
- a. The date, the time and the place that the hearing will be held, which date shall be not less than 30 days' from the date of the notice;
 - b. The violation alleged;
 - c. That the beekeeper may appear in person or through counsel, present evidence, cross examine witnesses and request a court reporter, and
 - d. That if [the designated City official] finds that they have been kept in violation of this ordinance, and if the violation is not remediated within the time allowed, the bees may be ordered removed and/or destroyed.

Notices shall be given by certified US Mail return receipt requested or personal delivery. However, if the beekeeper cannot be located, then notice may be given by publication in a legal newspaper for the county in which the apiary property is located, at least seven days before the hearing.

- 8.2 The hearing shall be conducted by [the designated City official]. The burden shall be on the City to demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that the colony or colonies have been kept in violation of this ordinance. If [the designated City official] finds a violation, then he/she may order that the bees be removed from the City or such other action as may address the violation, and that the apiary lot be disqualified for permitting under this ordinance for a period of 2 years from the date of the order, the apiary lot ownership changes, in which case the prohibition shall terminate. If the order has not been complied with within 20 days of the order, the City may remove or destroy the bees and charge the beekeeper with the cost thereof. Upon destruction of bees by the City, all equipment shall be returned by the City to the beekeeper, with expenses of

transportation to be paid by the beekeeper. The City's destruction of the bees shall be by a method that will not damage or contaminate the equipment, include wax foundation.

- 8.3 The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed by the beekeeper as provided in the City's rules and procedures. If no provision for appeal exists, then the beekeeper may file a notice of appeal with the City secretary within 15 days of the date the order is placed in US Mail to the beekeeper, or 10 days if the decision is announced at the hearing by [the designated City official]. An appeal shall not stay [the designated City official]'s decision, and the beekeeper shall be required to comply with such order pending the outcome of the appeal.
- 8.4 No hearing and no order shall be required for the destruction of honey bees not residing in a hive structure that is intended for beekeeping.

Section 9. Savings Clause.

In the event any part of this ordinance or its application to any person or property is held to be unenforceable for any reason, the unenforceability thereof will not affect the enforceability and application of the remainder of this ordinance, which will remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective on _____, 20_____.

6.12.085 – Beekeeping

"Apiary" shall mean a place where bee colonies are kept.

"Bee" shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee.

"Colony" shall mean a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

"Hive" shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

Registration of Hives:

All Bee colonies must be registered with the state of Illinois Department of Agriculture.

All bee colonies must be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which must be kept in sound and usable condition.

Signage:

Beekeepers shall conspicuously post a weather-proof sign at least ten (10) inches by one (1) foot on all lot lines facing abutting properties and on the Beehive or Apiary fence outside of the latched gate with the statement, "State Registered Beehive(s) on Property" or similar language that makes clear that bees are on the premises. The sign must be visible and easily read from outside the property.

Water:

Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water within ten (10) feet of the Beehive is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

Maintenance:

Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

Prohibited:

The keeping by any person of bee colonies in the City not in compliance with this Section is prohibited. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned, neglected, or mismanaged by the beekeeper, is unlawful.

Size and Number of Hives:

Apiaries may consist of not more than two (2) hives on a property consisting of no more than six (6) boxes per hive.

Beehive Location:

Apiaries may only be located and maintained in residential districts with single family owner occupied residences occupied by the Beekeeper.

- (a) Apiaries shall be located only in a rear yard.
- (b) Apiaries shall be located at least twenty (20) feet from all side and rear property lines.
- (c) Apiaries and Beehives shall not be permitted on rooftops or balconies.

(2017-M-12: § 2)

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6.12.090 – Selling rabbits or fowl as novelties prohibited

No person shall sell, offer for sale or give away as a pet any rabbit or fowl that has been dyed, colored or otherwise treated to impart an artificial color thereto. Baby chicks, ducklings, goslings and turtles shall not be sold, offered for sale, bartered or given away as pets or novelties.

(1977-M-11: (part): Prior code: § 20.41)

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Chapter 9.20 - BACKYARD BEEKEEPING

Footnotes:

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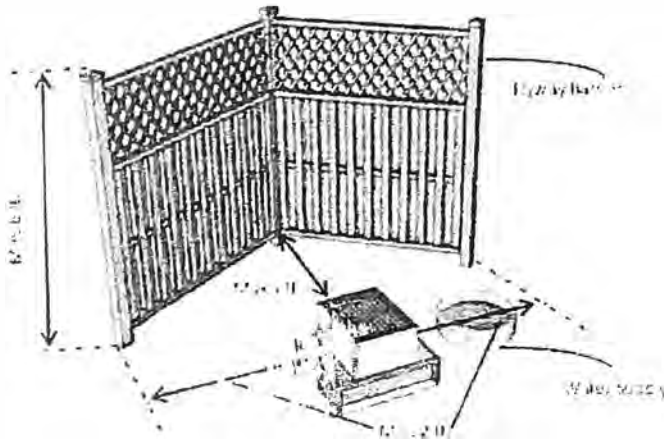
Editor's note— *Ord. No. 1915A, § I, adopted Feb. 18, 2016, amended the code by adding provisions designated as Ch. 9.18, §§ 19.18.010—19.18.040. Inasmuch as there were already provisions so designated, the provisions have been redesignated as Ch. 19.20, §§ 19.20.010—19.20.040 at the discretion of the editor.*

9.20.010 - Purpose.

The following regulations will govern the keeping of honey bees and are designed to prevent nuisances and prevent conditions that are unsafe. No person shall keep honey bees unless the following regulations are followed:

- (1) **Number.** No more than three colonies of honey bees shall be allowed for each principal structure. There may be maintained on the same property, one additional nucleus colony in a hive structure not exceeding one standard nine and five-eighths-inch depth ten-frame hive body with no supers attached as required from time to time for management of splitting colonies or captured swarms. Each such nucleus colony shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized colony within thirty days after the date it is acquired. If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honey bees from a location where they are not desired at the request of a property owner or city of Whitewater employed staff, a beekeeper may maintain these swarm colonies on their property and not be considered in violation of the portion of this chapter limiting the number of colonies while temporarily housing the swarm for no more than thirty days after the date the swarm is acquired. Two additional colonies per acre would be allowed for every property one acre or larger in size.
- (2) **Setbacks.** Beehives shall be kept at least thirty feet from any principal structure other than the owner's principal structure. Beehives shall not be located within five feet of a side yard or rear yard lot line. Beehive entrances shall face away from the property line of the residential lot closest to the beehive. Beehives shall not be located in the front yard.

- (3) Enclosure. Honey bees must be maintained in beehives with removable combs for inspection purposes. Both langstroth and top bar beehives are acceptable structures. The beehive structures must be maintained in good repair.
- (4) Flyway Barrier. For any beehive placed within thirty feet of a developed public or private property line, as measured from the nearest point of any hive to the property line, a six-foot tall flyway barrier must be constructed and must extend at least ten feet on either side of the nearest beehive. The flyway barrier is defined as a solid or closely slatted fence (no more than three inches between slats), wall, dense line of vegetation, or combination thereof. The purpose of the flyway barrier is to raise the flight path of bees leaving the beehive, thereby limiting their interactions with nearby residents. The requirement will be waived, however, if the beehive is placed on an elevated porch, balcony, or roof top that is at least ten feet off the ground and at least ten feet from the property line and at least twenty-five feet from any adjacent dwelling or occupied structure. The flyway barrier shall still be required for an elevated porch, balcony, or roof top if the adjacent property has a similar elevated porch, balcony, or roof top.



- (5) Water Sources. Because the most common nuisance complaint of urban honey bees is bees congregating at nearby water sources such as bird baths, pet water bowls, and pools, beekeepers must maintain two water sources on their property and each water source shall be continually filled with water when the bees are active outside the hive (water source may cease in the winter months). At least one of the two water sources shall be placed within

twenty feet of the beehives. Suggested water sources would include a bird bath that is regularly filled with water and/or a chicken waterer — each filled with stones to allow bees to perch near the water.

- (6) Beekeepers shall ensure that no empty beehives, bee comb, or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the property. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure. No open feeding of honey bees is allowed.

(Ord. No. 1915A, § I, 2-18-2016)

9.20.020 - Permit.

A permit shall be required to keep honey bees in the city of Whitewater. An application for a permit must contain the following items:

- (1) The name, phone number, and address of the applicant.
- (2) The location of the subject property.
- (3) A proposal containing the following information:
 - (A) A description of beehives and required flyway barriers providing dimensions and the precise location of beehives and flyway barrier in relation to property lines and adjacent properties.
 - (B) The application fee charge for the permit shall be \$10.00. There shall be no charge for renewal of the permit.
- (4) If the applicant proposes to keep honey bees in the yard of a rented dwelling, the applicant must present a signed statement from the owner of the dwelling consenting to the applicant's proposal for keeping honey bees on the premises.

(Ord. No. 1915A, § I, 2-18-2016)

9.20.030 - Permit renewal.

Permits will be granted on an annual basis (unless this section is repealed). If the permittee follows the terms of the section, the permit will be presumptively renewed (unless this section is repealed) and the applicant may continue to keep honey bees under the terms and conditions of the initial permit. The city neighborhood services director may refuse to renew or may revoke the

permit at any time, (after giving the permittee fifteen days' notice of the basis for the revocation or nonrenewal and an opportunity to be heard on the issue) if the permittee does not follow the terms of this section, or if the neighborhood services director finds that the permit holder has not maintained beehives or provided the required two water sources that are continuously containing water. If the honey bee ordinance is repealed, no party shall have the right to keep honey bees based on a nonconforming use status obtained under this section.

(Ord. No. 1915A, § I, 2-18-2016)

9.20.040 - Penalty.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a penalty of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$100.00 for the first offense; and for the second offense within one year, shall be subject to a penalty of not less than \$100.00 or more than \$200.00; and for a third and subsequent offenses within one year not less than \$200.00 or more than \$300.00, together with the costs of prosecution.

(Ord. No. 1915A, § I, 2-18-2016)

From Section 151.133 Accessory Uses from the Unified Development Ordinance of Lake County, Illinois

(R) *Beekeeping and apiaries.* The keeping of honey bees, of the European species *Apis mellifera*, shall be permitted in the Agricultural, Rural Estate. Estate, R1, R2, R3, and R4 Zoning Districts on lots less than 200,000 square feet in area, as an accessory use to a principal use, provided the following conditions are met,

(1) *Number of beehives.* Two full beehives (hives) and two “nucleus hives” shall be permitted on lots up to and including a minimum lot area of 10,000 square feet of area, and one beehive and one nucleus hive shall be permitted for each additional 10,000 square feet. There shall be no limit on the number of hives kept on parcels with an area of 200,000 square feet or more. Nucleus hives, consisting of five or fewer frames, are kept for the purposes of queen and pest management.

(2) *Location and setbacks.*

(a) *Setbacks to property lines.* Hives and related structures that form the apiary shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any adjoining improved alley, easement for purposes of ingress or egress, or road right-of-way and a minimum of ten feet from all other property lines. In the case of an unimproved right of way, this provision may be modified by the Planning, Building and Development Department Director in consultation with the appropriate local roadway authority.

(b) *Setback to habitable structures.* Hives shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any existing habitable structures on any adjoining parcel, such as dwellings, non-residential buildings, patios, porches, gazebos, decks, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but not including storage structures such as garages or sheds.

(c) *Fencing.* On parcels of 40,000 square feet or less, hives shall be enclosed behind a minimum four-foot high fence, hedge, or wall.

(d) *Signage.* In lieu of the fencing requirement in subsection (R)(2)(c) above, a sign, or signs, identifying the presence of beehives on the property shall be posted so as to be reasonably visible within close proximity of the apiary.

(e) *Flyway barrier.* On parcels of 40,000 square feet or less, where the beehive entrance is oriented to an exterior property line, a six-foot high, solid flyway barrier (e.g., fence, wall, or dense shrub) shall be located between the hive entrance and the property line and shall extend five feet in each direction.

(3) *Management practices.*

(a) *Water supply.*

1. A supply of water shall be continuously available and located within the parcel, provided that it is closer than water sources on any adjoining parcel.

2. Water supply shall be designed to allow bees to access water by landing on a hard surface. Water requirement shall be in effect from April 1 to November 30 or any and all days in which temperature exceeds 55 degrees for three consecutive days.

(b) *Requeening*. In any instance in which a hive exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics, as verified by Illinois Apiary inspector, the property owner shall destroy, move to another parcel, or requeen the hive within 14 days of observation.

(c) *Moveable combs*. All honey bees shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in good repair and usable condition.

COMMENTARY:

State Regulations: Per the Illinois Department of Agriculture, hives shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and actively maintained in accordance with 510 ILCS 20/1 et seq., the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act.

TO: **Environment and Land Use Committee**

FROM: **John Hall, Zoning Administrator**

DATE: **April 26, 2021**

RE: **Authorization for Public Hearing on Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Add Requirements for Beekeeping in Residential Districts**

Champaign County
Department of



Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802

(217) 384-3708
zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us
www.co.champaign.il.us/zoning

BACKGROUND

The Committee heard complaints about honeybees in residential subdivisions at the April 8, 2021, meeting and asked to review a proposed honeybee amendment at the May 6, 2021 meeting. The attached amendment is the same amendment as was previously reviewed by the Committee at the 11/05/20 meeting.

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT TIMELINE

Text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance require a public hearing before the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals (CCZBA). The end result of such a public hearing is a recommendation to ELUC and then ELUC must make a recommendation to the County Board.

At this time, a public hearing on the proposed amendment would open at the CCBZA on July 15, 2021. The earliest that a recommendation from the CCZBA would likely come back to ELUC is September 9, 2021, and the earliest that the County Board could adopt the amendment would be November 18, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

- A ELUC Memorandum dated 10/23/20 with Attachments:
 - A Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances
 - B Ohio State Beekeepers Model Beekeeping Ordinance
 - C Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
 - D Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance

TO: **Environment and Land Use Committee**

FROM: **John Hall, Zoning Administrator**

DATE: **October 23, 2020**

RE: **Authorization for Public Hearing on Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Add Requirements for Beekeeping in Residential Districts**

Champaign County
Department of

**PLANNING &
ZONING**

**Brookens Administrative
Center**
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802

(217) 384-3708
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BACKGROUND

Proposed amendments to add “beekeeping” to both the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance and the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance are attached.

Attachment A compares the proposed amendments to the selected beekeeping ordinances that were included in the 9//28/20 memo and reviewed by the Committee at their October 8, 2020 meeting. Note that another model beekeeping ordinance by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association has been included for comparison.

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT TIMELINE

Text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance require a public hearing before the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals (CCZBA). The end result of such a public hearing is a recommendation to ELUC and then ELUC must make a recommendation to the County Board.

At this time a public hearing on the proposed amendment could open at the CCBZA in January 2021. A recommendation from the CCZBA would likely not come back to ELUC until March 2021 at the earliest and in that case the earliest that the County Board could adopt the amendment would be April 2021.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

An amendment to the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance requires a recommendation from ELUC prior to County Board adoption. It is recommended that the Nuisance Ordinance amendment be considered by ELUC in parallel with the CCZBA recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

- A Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances
- B Ohio State Beekeepers Model Beekeeping Ordinance
- C Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
- D Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Beekeeper training requirement	Section 4.6 "...a complete course on beekeeping..."	None	None	None	None	None
Type of authorization	Not specified	Not specified	One time permit	Annual permit	Registration required (one time)	Section 7.8A. One time Zoning Use Permit
Where authorized (which zoning districts)	Not specified but intended for urban and suburban areas	Not specified but intended for urban and suburban areas	"Apiaries may only be located and maintained in residential districts with single family owner occupied residences occupied by the beekeeper."	Not specified	Section 151.133(R) Agricultural, Rural Estate, Estate, R1, R2, R3, R4 as accessory use to a principal use	Section 7.8A. R-1, R-2, R-3 Districts as a "home occupation" (owner occupied)
Number of beehives allowed	Section 5.2 ≤½ AC.....2 colonies ½ to ¾ AC..4 colonies ¾ to <1AC..6 colonies 1< to<5AC..8 colonies >5AC.....No limit	Section 5.1 ≤7,000 SF ..2 colonies >7,000 SF ..2 colonies plus one additional colony per 3,000 SF	"...not more than two (2) hives on property consisting of not more than six (6) boxes per hive".	Section 9.20.010 (1) "No more than three colonies of honey bees shall be allowed for each principal structure."	Section 151.133(R)(1) "Two full beehives (hives) and two "nucleus hives" on ≤ 10,000 SF plus "...one beehive and one nucleus hive...for each additional 10,000 SF	Sec. 7.8D.1. & 2. 10,000SF or less...3 beehives Each additional 10,000SF .one additional beehive
Temporary housing allowed for swarm management	Section 5.4 "If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm from location where they are not desired...temporarily housed for no more than 6 months..."	Section 5.5 "If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm from location where they are not desired...temporarily housed for no more than 30 days..."	None authorized	Section 9.20.010 (1) "If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm from location where they are not desired...a beekeeper may maintain these swarm colonies... for no more than 30 days..."	Presumably allowed as a nucleus hive	Sec. 7.8D.3. "If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm from location where they are not desired.....temporarily housed for no more than 30 days..."

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Nucleus colony	Section 4.4 "For each colony permitted...there may also be one nucleus colony in a hive structure not to exceed one standard 9-5/8 inch depth 10-frame hive body with no supers".	Section 4.5 "For each colony permitted...there may also be one nuc..."	None authorized	Section 9.20.010 (1) There may be maintained on the same property, one additional nucleus colony or hive structure not exceeding one standard 9-5/8 inch depth 10-frame hive body with no supers...each nucleus colony shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized colony within thirty days after the date acquired.	Section 151.133(R)(1) The limit equates to one nucleus hive for each beehive (see above). "Nucleus hives" are five or fewer frames.	Section 7.8D. 1.&2. One nucleus colony allowed for each authorized beehive
Hive requirements	Section 4.1 "...shall be kept in hives with removable frames...which shall be kept in sound and usable condition."	Section 4.6 "...shall maintain beekeeping equipment in good condition."	"All bee colonies must be kept in inspectable type hives...which must be kept in sound and usable condition."	Section 9.20.010 (1) "Honey bees must be maintained in beehives with removable combs for inspection purposes." "The beehive structures must be maintained in good repair."	Sec. 151.133(R)(3)(c) "All honey bees shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in good repair and usable condition."	None required (Relies on Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act enforcement by Illinois Department of Agriculture)

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Minimum separation from bee hive to lot line	No minimum but flyway barrier required if colony is less than 16 feet from property line	Section 5.2 "No colony shall be kept closer than 10 feet from any lot line..." "The front of the hive shall be face away from the property line of the residential lot closed to the bee hive."	"...shall be located only in a rear yard...at least twenty (20) feet from all side and rear property lines."	Section 9.20.010 (2) "Beehives shall not be located within five feet of a side yard or rear yard lot line." Beehive entrances shall face away from the property line of the residential lot closest to the beehive.	Sec.151.133(R)(2)(a) "Hives and related structures that form the apiary shall be located...a minimum of ten feet from all property lines."	Sec. 7.8E.1. "...a minimum of 10 feet from all other LOT LINES."
Minimum separation to right of way	None	Section 5.2 No colony shall be kept...within 30 feet of any public sidewalk or roadway..."	"...shall be located only in a rear yard..."	Section 9.20.010 (2) "Beehives shall not be located in the front yard."	Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(a) "Hives and related structures that form the apiary shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any adjoining improved alley, easement for ingress or egress, or road right of way." "In the case of an improved right of way, this provision may be modified by the Director in consultation with the appropriate local roadway authority."	Sec. 7.8E.1. "...a minimum of 30 feet from any STREET RIGHT OF WAY, or improved ALLEY, or easement for purpose of ingress or egress..."

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Minimum separation to principal structure under other ownership	None	None	None	Section 9.20.010 (2) "Beehives shall be kept at least thirty feet from any principal structure other than the owner's principal structure."	Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(b) "Hives shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any existing structures on any adjoining parcel, such as dwellings, non-residential buildings, patios, porches, gazebos, decks, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but no including storage structures such as garages or sheds."	Sec. 7.1.8E.2. "...a minimum of 30 feet from any existing PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT and any ACCESSORY STRUCTURE...except garages or sheds."
Fencing requirement	None	None	Not specified but mentioned in regards to signage (see below)	None	Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(b) "On parcels of 40,000 SF or less, hives shall be enclosed behind a minimum four-foot high fence, hedge, or wall."	Sec. 7.8F.1. "On a LOT with 40,000 SF or less LOT AREA...shall be enclosed within a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate."

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Flyway barrier requirement	<p>Section 5.1 "...where a colony is kept less than 16 feet from a property line...shall...maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height...parallel to the lot line for 10 feet either direction from the hive or contain the hives in an enclosure at least 6 feet in height..."</p>	<p>Section 5.3 "...where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line...shall...maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height...parallel to the lot line for 10 feet either direction from the hive or contain the hives in an enclosure at least 6 feet in height...not required if adjoining property is undeveloped or zoned agricultural. Alternatively, locating the hive 8 feet above ground shall be considered suitable. Such location shall be at least 20 feet from windows, doors, or sidewalk on adjacent property."</p>	None	<p>Section 9.20.010 (4) "For any beehive placed within thirty feet of a developed public or private property line...a six-foot tall flyway barrier must...extend at least ten feet on either side of the nearest beehive...a solid or closely slatted fence (no more than three inches between slats), wall, dense line of vegetation, or combination thereof..."</p>	<p>Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(b) "On parcels of 40,000 SF or less, where the beehive entrance is oriented to an exterior property line, a six-foot high, solid flyway barrier (e.g., fence, wall, or dense shrub) shall be located between the hive entrance and the property line and shall extend five feet in each direction."</p>	<p>Sec. 7.8F.2. "When any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY is located less than 16 feet from a LOT LINE there shall be a six-foot high flyway barrier that shall extend 10 feet on each side of the BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY entrance."</p>

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Exemption to minimum lot line separation and/or flyway requirement	Section 5.1 "...not required if adjoining property is undeveloped or zoned agricultural or outside of City limits or a naturalistic park land with no trails within 25 feet of property."	Section 5.4 "...by obtaining written permission from the adjacent lot owner(s)."	No exemption	Section 9.20.010 (4) "...however, the requirement shall be waived if the beehive is placed on an elevated porch, balcony, or roof top that is at least ten feet off the ground and at least ten feet from the property line and at least twenty-five feet from any adjacent dwelling or occupied structure. The flyway barrier shall still be required for an elevated porch, balcony, or rooftop if the adjacent property has a similar elevated porch, balcony, or rooftop."	No exemption	No exemption
Water supply requirement	Section 4.2 "...convenient source of water...so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive."	Section 4.3 "...convenient source of water...so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive...closer than a neighboring source where bees could become a nuisance...maybe natural...or artificial source."	"Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water within ten (10) feet of the beehive is available at all times...The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant."	Section 9.20.010 (5) "...must maintain two water sources on their property and each water source shall be continually filled with water when the bees are active outside the hive (water source may cease in winter months)...At least one of the water	Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(b) "1. A supply of water shall be continuously available and located within the parcel, provided that it is closer than water sources on any adjoining parcel. 2. Water supply shall be designed to allow	Sec. 7.8F.3. "Two sources of water shall be continuously available...and shall be no further from a BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent LOT."

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Maintenance required to prevent robbing by other honey bees	Section 4.3 "...shall ensure that no wax comb, syrup for feeding honey bees, or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds..."	Section 4.4 "...shall ensure that no wax comb, syrup for feeding honey bees, or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds...shall be...stored in sealed container or placed within a building or other insect-proof container."	"Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds...all such materials shall be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a bee-proof enclosure."	Section 9.20.010 (6) "...shall ensure that no empty beehives, bee comb, or other material that might encourage robbing are left upon the property. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall be promptly disposed of in a sealed container... or placed within a bee proof enclosure."	None	<p>Water sources shall be continuously available from April 1 to November 30 and all days in which temperatures exceed 55 degrees for three consecutive days.</p> <p>Each water source shall be designed to allow HONEY BEES to access water by landing on a hard surface.</p> <p>Nuisance Ordinance Draft Amendment Sec. 3.20.2. It is a nuisance to conduct beekeeping with "...any wax comb or syrup for feeding HONEY BEES or other material that might encourage robbing by other HONEY BEES left open on the lot. Such materials shall be stored in sealed insect-proof container or placed within an insect-proof building."</p>

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Prohibition on unmanaged beehive	None	Section 4.6 "...shall maintain beekeeping equipment in good condition...and securing unused equipment from...occupancy by swarms."	"Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned, neglected, or mismanaged by the beekeeper is unlawful."	Section 9.20.010 (6) "...shall ensure that no empty beehives...that might encourage robbing are left upon the property."	None	Nuisance Ordinance Draft Amendment Sec. 3.20.4. It is a nuisance to have "BEEHIVES left outside on a property without regular husbandry by a BEEKEEPER."
Signage requirement	None	None	"Beekeepers shall conspicuously post a weatherproof sign at least ten (10) inches by one (1) foot on all lot lines facing abutting properties and on the beehive or apiary fence outside of the latched gate with the statement "State registered beehive(s) on property" or similar language..."	None	None	None

Attachment A. Comparison of Selected Beekeeping Ordinances DRAFT October 23, 2020

Parameter	Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance (2018) ¹	Ohio State Beekeepers Association Model Ordinance	Village of St. Charles IL ²	Whitewater WI (municipality) ²	Lake County IL ²	DRAFT Champaign County Amendment ³
Other requirements			<p>Beehives shall not be permitted on rooftops or balconies.</p> <p>All bee colonies must be registered with the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture.</p>	Section 9.20.010 (6) "No open feeding of honey bees is allowed."	<p>Sec. 151.133(R)(2)(b) "In any instance in which a hive exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics, as verified by an Illinois Apiary inspector, the property owner shall destroy, move to another parcel, or require the hive within 14 days of observation."</p>	Section 7.8B. requires all BEEKEEPING to be in compliance with the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and documentation to be provided to Zoning Administrator.

NOTES

1. The Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Model Ordinance included with the September 28, 2020, ELUC memorandum was dated February 22, 2007. The version used here was dated May 19, 2018. The only change between the two ordinances was the minimum separation to a property line that required a flyway barrier. The minimum separation in the 2/22/07 ordinance was 25 feet but that was reduced to 16 feet in the 5/19/18 ordinance.
2. The ordinance was included with the September 28, 2020, ELUC memorandum.
3. References are to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment unless noted as being to the proposed Nuisance Ordinance amendment.



Ohio State Beekeepers Association

Beekeeping in Urban/Sub-Urban Environments

Honey bees have played a vital role in Ohio's agricultural industry for over 100 years. Pollinators are critical to Ohio and our Nation's economy, food security, and environmental health. Honeybee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion dollars annually nationally in value to agricultural crops each year, and provides the foundation to healthy diets, abundant with fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

Ohio has a rich history of beekeeping with many advancements occurring in Ohio that have shaped national approaches to beekeeping. Records indicate that honeybees were present in Ohio as early as 1788. In fact, the "Father of American Beekeeping", Lorenzo Langstroth developed the modern beehive in Oxford, Ohio around 1860.

Honey bees have successfully and safely been kept in urban and sub-urban settings for many years. They contribute to the success of individual and community gardens and pollinate fruit and nut trees in yards. Beekeeping is a growing in popularity with more than 1000 new beekeepers picking up the hobby in Ohio alone every year. As of 2015 there were over 36,000 bee hives in the state, averaging more than 400 colonies per County.

Honey bees are kept safely in many large cities worldwide including New York City, Paris France, Downtown Chicago Illinois, Boston Massachusetts, Seattle Washington and closer to home, on the Statehouse property in Columbus, and at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland next door to the Cleveland Clinic.

Ohio already has legislation in the Ohio Revised Code (Section 909), regulating the practice in beekeeping in Ohio and providing for inspection of bee hives in Ohio. However, some practical guidelines are required when keeping bees within an urban or sub-urban area. This includes providing a water source, offsets, and flyway barriers. They are designed to reduce the already small chance of encountering a honey bee. These practices are outlined in OSBA's Best Management Practices found on the OSBA website (<http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/resources/beekeeping-best-management-practices/>) and are reflected in the following Model Beekeeping Ordinance.

The following model ordinance was developed after reviewing existing local laws in Ohio, as well as laws and model ordinances found in other states. This ordinance encourages responsible beekeeping within an urban/sub-urban environment while placing reasonable requirements and restrictions to address the safety of the public. It also addresses the flaws and/or weaknesses found in many of Ohio's existing local laws.

MODEL BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

prepared by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association
adapted from the model ordinances prepared by the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association,
model ordinances from Florida and Louisiana, and in consideration of existing ordinances in
Ohio

This model ordinance is not intended to be adopted without legal review by counsel representing the jurisdiction considering it. Like any proposed ordinance, it must be reconciled with existing ordinances and may be revised to fit community standards and needs. Our purpose in advancing the model ordinance is to offer a document with the apicultural framework we believe will enable hobbyist and sideliner beekeepers to safely and successfully pursue this pleasurable and economically, culturally and agriculturally critical activity in urban and suburban areas.

WHEREAS, honey bees (*apis mellifera*) are of benefit to mankind, and to Ohio in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, and other useful products; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has a rich history of beekeeping with many advancements occurring in Ohio that have shaped modern beekeeping worldwide; and

WHEREAS, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, tendency not to swarm and non-aggressive behavior, characteristics which are desirable to foster and maintain; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the bees are properly located and carefully managed;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by _____:

Section 1. Preamble Adopted.

That the findings contained in the preamble of this ordinance are hereby adopted as a part of this ordinance.

Section 2. Definitions

As used in this article, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context of their usage indicates another usage.

- 2.1 "Apiary" means any place where one or more colonies or nucleus colony of bees are kept.
- 2.2 "Honey Bees" or "Bees" means any stage of any species of the genus *Apis*.
- 2.3 "Beekeeper" means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.

- 2.4 "Hive" means any modern frame hive, box hive, box, barrel, log gum, skep, or any other natural or artificial receptacle, or any part thereof, that may be used as a domicile for bees.
- 2.5 "Colony" means the hive and its equipment, including bees, combs and brood.
- 2.6 "Beekeeping Equipment" means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies supers, frames, top and bottom boards, hive tools, smoker, gloves, veil, protective clothing, and extracting equipment.
- 2.7 "Tract" means a contiguous parcel or land under common ownership.
- 2.8 "Nuc" or "Nucleus colony" means a small hive smaller than the usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.
- 2.9 "Undeveloped property" means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human use occupancy and the grounds maintained in association therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

Section 3. Purpose of Ordinance.

- 3.1 The purpose of this ordinance is to establish certain requirements for beekeeping within the City, to avoid issues which might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.
- 3.2 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony constitutes a nuisance, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's efforts to abate any alleged nuisance.
- 3.3 Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony violates applicable ordinances regarding public health, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's compliance with acceptable standards of practice among beekeepers in the State of Ohio.

Section 4. Standards of Practice.

- 4.1 Beekeeper must abide by Ohio Revised Code, including Chapter 909.
- 4.2 Beekeeper may not opt out of the annual inspection by the county or state bee inspector as part of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's inspection program.
- 4.3 Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony at all times bees remain active outside of the hive. The water source shall be closer to the hives than a neighboring source where bees could become a nuisance such as a pool or pet water bowl. The water source may be natural such as a pond, stream, or artificial source.

- 4.4 Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax, comb, or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insect-proof container.
- 4.5 For each colony permitted to be maintained under this ordinance, there may also be maintained one nuc upon the same apiary tract.
- 4.6 Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall not be a defense to this ordinance that a beekeeper's unused equipment attracted a swarm and that the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping bees.
- 4.7 Each beekeeper should practice best hive management practices which includes: replacing queens in colonies exhibiting defensive behavior, practicing swarm control measures, and avoiding disturbing hives when such disturbance is more likely to cause issues with neighbors or the general public.

Section 5. Colony Density.

- 5.1 **Number:** No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any tract within the City, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary tract:
 - a. Up to 7,000sq ft. = 2 colonies
 - b. Over 7,000 sq. ft. = 2 colonies + additional colony per 3,000 sq. ft.

Regardless of tract size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least 200 feet from any hive, measured from any point on the hives, remain undeveloped, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.

No hives are permitted on any tract where the setback requirements cannot be satisfied regardless of tract size.

- 5.2 **Setbacks & Locations:** No colony shall be kept closer than 10 feet from any lot line or within 30 feet of any public sidewalk or roadway. The front of the hive shall face away from the property line of the residential lot closest to the bee hive.
- 5.3 **Flyway Barrier:** Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, in each instance where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height.

The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof such that bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony between the hives and the adjacent lots. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be 4 feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches 6 feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for 10 feet in either direction from the hive, or contain the hive or hives in an enclosure at least 6 feet in height.

Alternately, locating the hive 8 feet or more above the ground shall also be considered a suitable barrier. Such location must be at least 20 feet from any windows, doors or sidewalks on the adjacent property.

A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line (1) is undeveloped, or (2) is zoned agricultural, industrial or is outside of the City limits, or (3) is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within 25 feet of the apiary lot line.

- 5.4 Exemption: The beekeeper may be exempt from the setback to adjacent lot lines and requirements for a flyway barrier by obtaining written permission from the adjacent lot owner(s). The setback to public sidewalks and roadways may not be waived.
- 5.5 Swarms: If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honey bees from locations where they are not desired, the beekeeper shall not be considered in violation the portion of this ordinance limiting the number of colonies if he temporarily houses the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice set out in this ordinance for no more than 30 days from the date acquired.

Section 6. Compliance.

- 6.1 Upon receipt of credible information that any colony located within the City is not being kept in compliance with this ordinance, [the designated City official] shall cause an investigation to be conducted. If the investigation shows that a violation may exist and will continue, [the designated City official] shall cause a written notice of hearing to be issued to the beekeeper, which notice shall set forth:
- a. The date, the time and the place that the hearing will be held, which date shall be not less than 30 days from the date of the notice;
 - b. The violation alleged;
 - c. That the beekeeper may appear in person or through counsel, present evidence, cross examine witnesses and request a court reporter, and
 - d. That if [the designated City official] finds that they have been kept in violation of this ordinance, and if the violation is not remediated within the time allowed, the bees may be ordered removed and/or destroyed. Notices shall be given by certified US Mail return receipt requested or

personal delivery. However, if the beekeeper cannot be located, then notice may be given by publication in a legal newspaper for the county in which the apiary property is located, at least seven days before the hearing.

- 6.2 The hearing shall be conducted by [the designated City official]. The burden shall be on the City to demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that the colony or colonies have been kept in violation of this ordinance. If [the designated City official finds a violation, then he/she may order that the bees be removed from the City or such other action as may address the violation, and that the apiary lot be disqualified for permitting under this ordinance for a period of 2 years from the date of the order, the apiary lot ownership changes, in which case the prohibition shall terminate.

If the order has not been complied with within 20 days of the order, the City may remove or destroy the bees and charge the beekeeper with the cost thereof. Upon destruction of bees by the City, all equipment shall be returned by the City to the beekeeper, with expenses of transportation to be paid by the beekeeper. The City's destruction of the bees shall be by a method that will not damage or contaminate the equipment, include wax foundation.

- 6.3 The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed by the beekeeper as provided in the City's rules and procedures. If no provision for appeal exists, then the beekeeper may file a notice of appeal with the City secretary within 15 days of the date the order is placed in US Mail to the beekeeper, or 10 days if the decision is announced at the hearing by [the designated City official]. An appeal shall not stay [the designated City official]'s decision, and the beekeeper shall be required to comply with such order pending the outcome of the appeal.
- 6.4 No hearing and no order shall be required for the destruction of honey bees not residing in a hive structure that is intended for beekeeping.

Section 9. Savings Clause.

In the event any part of this ordinance or its application to any person or property is held to be unenforceable for any reason, the unenforceability thereof will not affect the enforceability and application of the remainder of this ordinance, which will remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective on _____, 20_____.

Questions and Answers?

Why isn't registration required?

The model ordinance requires beekeepers to follow all state laws. Ohio Revised code 909.02 requires registration of every apiary with the Ohio Department of Agriculture within 10 days of obtaining bees and yearly thereafter. Furthermore, permits and inspections are required for any sale, barter or gift of honey bees, queens or used equipment (909.09). Failure to comply with these sections is a 4th degree misdemeanor on the 1st offense, and 3rd degree misdemeanor on subsequent offenses. Information on apiaries registered in a county or municipality is available from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. They can also verify if a given apiary is registered with ODA.

Why doesn't the model ordinance prohibit Africanized bees?

Ohio revised code 909.03 already prohibits Africanized honey bees and provides means to destroy them without remuneration (909.99) should the beekeeper fail to take care of the problem. The ordinance actually goes further and encourages beekeepers to replace any queen that exhibits undesirable behavior.

Why doesn't the model ordinance require removable frames or certain hive types or sizes?

Ohio revised code 909.12 requires all hives have frames that can readily be removed for inspection and furthermore requires hives not be situated where inspection is difficult, impractical or impossible. It furthermore provides means to seize or destroy hives in violation with this section.

Why doesn't the ordinance require posting ownership of the hives on properties the beekeeper doesn't own?

Ohio revised code 909.02 already requires the apiary identification number be posed: "No person shall maintain an apiary located on premises other than that of his residence unless such apiary is identifiable by an apiary identification number assigned to such person by the director. Such identification number shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the apiary."

Why are additional nucs permitted? Doesn't this significantly increase the number of hives an apiary may have?

Nucs are an important part of managing beehives, are much smaller in population than standard bee hives and are typically are only used for a portion of the season.

Nucs allow beekeepers to keep or raise replacement queens so they are available when needed to quickly deal with aggressive or queen less hives. This is important because queens are often hard or impossible to obtain during certain times of the year.

They may also be used for swarm control, allowing the beekeeper to reduce crowding in the standard hive as well as being used to capture swarms before they become a nuisance. While it's impossible to prevent all swarms, management techniques such as swarm traps and splitting hives require the use of nucs.

What is a swarm trap?

A swarm trap is simply a small hive or similarly sized container that is placed outside in the hopes of capturing a swarm. Typically, swarm traps are placed 8 to 20 feet off the ground, in the shade and have comb or swarm lures to attract a swarm. Once bees are discovered living in the trap, it should be taken down and moved into an apiary at which point it would count towards the number of hives or nucs permissible by the ordinance.

Why is there no minimum tract size to keep bees?

While there is not an explicit minimum tract size for keeping bees, the minimum setbacks still must be followed. Therefore, tracts that are too small to satisfy these setback requirements may not have bee hives. This minimum size will vary based on the specific geometry of the property.

Why are there no recommendations for maximum hive density?

The ordinance only provides a maximum number of hives per apiary that aims to ensure there are not too many bees as to cause a nuisance. The number of hives an apiary can support may be less or many more than the allowed number.

The maximum number of hives an area can reasonably support throughout the year depends on the forage (blooms providing nectar and pollen) available up to 5 miles from the hive. Understandably this varies significantly from area to area making it impossible to provide any general recommendations. This is additionally impacted by the goals of the beekeeper, for example if they are looking to just pollinate their garden or to produce lots of honey. When there are too many hives for an area to support, honey production will drop, and the beekeeper may have to feed their bees more or will move them to another location. As such, overall colony density in an area will tend to be self-regulating.

*This is the original proposed ordinance from the April 26, 2021 ELUC memo.
The revised proposed amendment is at the end of Attachment K.*

Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance

1. Add the following to Section 3. Definitions:

APIARY: The assembly of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES at a single location.

BEEHIVE: The receptacle or box inhabited by a COLONY of HONEY BEES that is manufactured for that purpose.

BEEKEEPER: A person who owns or has charge of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

BEEKEEPING: The keeping, raising, and management of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

COLONY: A BEEHIVE and its equipment, the HONEY BEES, honey combs and honey, and the brood.

HONEY BEE: All life stages and castes of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

NUCLEUS COLONY: A small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual BEEHIVE box kept for a particular purpose such as queen management or pest management. A NUCLEUS COLONY shall not exceed one standard nine and five-eighths-inch deep ten-frame BEEHIVE body with no supers attached.

SWARM: A group of HONEY BEES, usually calm and with a queen, that have left a hive to find a new home.

2. Add footnote 23 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses and indicate footnote 23 for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, as follows:

23. BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 DISTRICTS shall be authorized per the requirements of Section 7.8.

3. Add footnote 24 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses and indicate footnote 24 for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-4 and R-5 Districts, as follows:

24. BEEKEEPING is not an authorized USE in the R-4 and R-5 DISTRICTS.

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The revised proposed amendment is at the end of Attachment K.*

**Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
(continued)**

4. Add Section 7.8 as follows:

7.8 BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 DISTRICTS

- A. In the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Residential Districts, BEEKEEPING shall be authorized only as an ACCESSORY USE conducted by a member or members of the immediate FAMILY, residing on the premises, and shall be authorized by a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 of the Zoning Ordinance prior to establishment.
- B. All BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the State of Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act (510 ILCS 20/ 1 et. seq.) and all BEEHIVES and/ or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as follows:
 - 1. A copy of the original Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of the Zoning Compliance Certificate.
 - 2. The BEEKEEPER shall provide the Zoning Administrator with any changes or revisions to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate.
- C. BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance.
- D. Number of BEEHIVES allowed.
 - 1. On a LOT with a LOT AREA of no more than 10,000 square feet, three BEEHIVES shall be allowed. One NUCLEUS COLONY shall also be allowed for each authorized BEEHIVE. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 - 2. For each additional 10,000 square feet of LOT AREA one additional BEEHIVE and one additional NUCLEUS COLONY shall be allowed. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 - 3. If the BEEKEEPER serves the community by removing a SWARM or SWARMS of HONEY BEES from locations where they are not desired, the BEEKEEPER may temporarily house the SWARM on the APIARY LOT in compliance with the standards set out in this ordinance and the Nuisance Ordinance for no more than 3 months from the date acquired, in addition to the other COLONIES allowed under this ordinance. One such SWARM may be housed at a given time on the APIARY LOT. The BEEKEEPER shall provide notice to the ZONING ADMINISTRATOR when the SWARM is temporarily established on the APIARY LOT and when the SWARM has been relocated to another location from the APIARY LOT.

*This is the original proposed ordinance from the April 26, 2021 ELUC memo.
The revised proposed amendment is at the end of Attachment K.*

**Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
(continued)**

- E. Location of BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY on the LOT.
 - 1. Minimum separation to LOT LINE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, adjoining improved ALLEY, or easement for purposes of ingress or egress and a minimum of 10 feet from all other LOT LINES.
 - 2. Minimum separation to PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any existing PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT and any ACCESSORY STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT such as a patio, gazebo, deck, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but not including garages or sheds.
 - 3. All proposed BEEHIVES and NUCLEUS COLONIES shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application with dimensions to all LOT LINES.
 - 4. BEEHIVES may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit.

- F. Management practices
 - 1. Fencing.
 - a. On a LOT with 40,000 square feet or less of LOT AREA, any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be enclosed within a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate.
 - b. The fence shall be at least three feet from any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY.
 - c. Any required fencing shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.
 - 2. Flyway barrier.
 - a. When any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY is located less than 16 feet from a LOT LINE there shall be a six-foot high flyway barrier (fence, wall, or dense vegetation) that shall extend a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY entrance.
 - b. If dense vegetation is used the initial planting may be only 4 feet in HEIGHT.
 - c. Any required flyway barrier shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.

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The revised proposed amendment is at the end of Attachment K.*

**Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
(continued)**

- 3. Water supply.
 - a. Two sources of water shall be continuously available to the APIARY and shall be located no further from a BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent LOT.
 - b. Water sources shall be continuously available from April 1 to November 30 and all days in which temperatures exceed 55 degrees for three consecutive days.
 - c. Each water source shall be designed to allow HONEY BEES to access water by landing on a hard surface.
 - d. All required water sources shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application. The type of water source including the type of hard surface to be provided shall be noted on the site plan.
 - e. Water sources may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit but any required water sources shall be equivalent to the water sources indicated on the original approved site plan.

4. Add Section 9.3.1 G.6. adding Zoning Use Permit fee as follows:

- 6. Change of Use to establish BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 District.....\$33

*This is the original proposed ordinance from the April 26, 2021 ELUC memo.
The revised proposed amendment is at the end of Attachment K.*

Attachment D. Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance

Add new defined terms in Section 2.0 as follows:

BEEHIVE: The receptacle or box inhabited by a COLONY of HONEY BEES that is manufactured for that purpose.

BEEKEEPER: A person who owns or has charge of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

BEEKEEPING: The keeping, raising, and management of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

COLONY: An aggregate of HONEY BEES consisting principally of worker HONEY BEES, but having, when perfect, one queen HONEY BEE and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.

HONEY BEE: All life stages and castes of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

Add new Section 3.2O. as follows:

- O. BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts as defined in the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance and as mapped on the Champaign County Zoning Map and that is conducted as follows:
 - 1. BEEKEEPING that does not conform to Section 7.8 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance.
 - 2. BEEKEEPING with any wax comb or syrup for feeding HONEY BEES or other material that might encourage robbing by other HONEY BEES left open on the lot. Such materials shall be stored in a sealed insect-proof container or placed within an insect-proof building.
 - 3. BEEKEEPING which opens or disturbs HONEY BEE COLONIES when neighbors or general public are participating in outside activities or using machinery within 150 feet.
 - 4. BEEHIVES left outside on a property without regular husbandry by a BEEKEEPER.

Comments received during the April 8, 2021 ELUC meeting (as listed in the meeting minutes)

Mr. Thorsland read the letter from Sue Stimson into the record regarding the bee situation in Prairie View Subdivision. She is a friend of Mr. Bryson and has been stung by the bees multiple times while at his home. She has had so many bee stings she is now having bigger reactions and it is recommended she have an Epi-Pen. She has a heart issue, so an Epi-Pen is not an option. Retirement plans they had have needed to be changed because the neighbor can't take care of her bees properly.

Derald Seeds – had sent in a letter regarding the bee issue in their neighborhood and just wanted to be sure it was received and would appreciate any help from the committee.

Barney Bryson – Mr. Bryson had sent in information on the bee issue. It's been brought to his attention that other neighborhoods close by are now being affected by the bees. The beekeeper not properly caring for the bees is having a damaging effect on their neighbors. He restated all the issues they are having with the bees.

Diane Koch – spoke to the bee issue. She has had issues with the bees around her bird feeders and bird baths.

Joan Mathis – had sent a letter regarding the bee issue. She wanted to restate that they have lived there for 31 years and had not had a problem until after the beekeeper moved in. Feels that they are a residential area and not agricultural and the beehives are agricultural.

Mr. John Hall and E.L.U. Committee

3/26/2021

RECEIVED
MAY 9 2021
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY P & Z DEPARTMENT

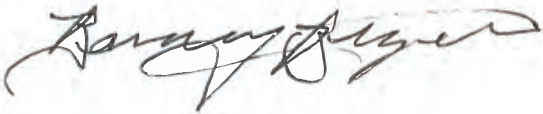
It is very unfortunate that we/I have to continue to beg this body to take action to enable a growing amount of people the ability to enjoy their property, in peace, and avoid damage to our homes, vehicles, and health. In reading the last meeting minutes there seems to be confusion. Those that participated seemed to believe that we "hate" bees. That this board by enacting such zoning does not like bees. Even though there is a past beekeeper on this board. Demonizing those that wish to have peace and quiet without the annoyance, disturbance, and health issues along with those that are on this Committee and the Zoning Administration to protect the greater good of people are avoiding the subject. I am sure these fine beekeepers, and those that do not keep bees have not been told the truth about the situation these people live in. We would gladly welcome a proper beekeeper in our neighborhood if they had the control over their bees as they say they do. This Zoning amendment will not affect them at all. I have also found it interesting that the incapable beekeeper has never attended any meetings. Nor did she agree to meet with Darlene Kloepfel for an attempt at mediation. It is very clear that Rena Jones Wilson has no desire to work with or abide by any amendments that are put into place. To be clear. One participant made the statement that it sounded like an argument between two neighbors. By the numbers on the petition you can clearly see that there are more people affected by this issue than myself. I quit trying when complaining to Rena Wilson Jones about her bees, she told us what color of clothes not to wear, not to wear sweet smelling lotion, or cologne, and to bathe with unscented soap. I used to save her bees when there was 1 or 2 a week. The numbers continually increased. Unfortunately now they die. On March, 7th, 2021 while attempting to perform repairs to the upper deck before the bees started coming out, 46 bees were killed, 8 the week before that (see

pictures). If anyone was concerned about the bees they would properly address this issue. Most all of us agree we like honey, we also like bacon. We just don't want a hog farm in our neighborhood. That is what the Ag. Zoning is for. I have taken the liberty to include a letter from the person that used to live next door to Rena Wilson Jones. That letter will also acknowledge the damage, the pain, the loss of property income those bees have caused. Please keep us informed of ANY meeting we are supposed to attend.

In closing. It is not whether we like bees or not. It is the nuisance, damage to property, peace, and health that we oppose.

Thank you,

Barney Bryson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barney Bryson", written in a cursive style.

March 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

From 2004 until July of 2017, I lived at 2004 Barnes, Urbana, Illinois. My life circumstances changed and I put the house on the market in 2016. At the request of my former neighbors in the Barnes area, I am sharing my experiences with the neighborhood bees.

At our first open house, a couple expressed interest in the house and were in agreement with the price of \$199,900. Only one thing held them back. Their two daughters were allergic to bee stings. The numerous hives (10 or more) and the estimated 2 million bees next door were too much of a risk. They decided not to purchase the house. Other potential buyers expressed concern about the bees too.

The bees were a concern when we had family or friends over. Our adult son was stung cleaning the gutters. Our granddaughter was stung just playing in the backyard, not trying to interact with the bees. My wife had a bee go up her nostril and sting her other stings took place as well. These stings took place in just a couple of months. There were regularly swarms of bees visible with bees noticeably zooming across the back yard to get to the hives. I believe this huge number of bees kept in a residential area is dangerous. We could not relax and safely enjoy our own backyard.

These bees really diminished the value of our property. The original listing price was \$199,900. I sold the house for \$162,500—a loss of \$37,500. The house sold for what I paid for it 14 years earlier. This in spite of the fact that I spent several thousand dollars for improvements.

The people of the neighborhood have a right to a safe environment. It is time for the bees to go. If you have questions for me, feel free to contact me at the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth Mills
217-377-5233
kmills1019@aol.com



This one is still Alive



Bee Frass (POOP)

IN FEBRUARY

IMAGINE SUMMER





RECEIVED

MAR 30 2021

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ZONING DEPARTMENT

2006 Duruell Street
Uplana, Illinois
61802
March 27, 2021

Dear Mr. Hall,

Thank you for taking the time to read my note. As you recall, I spoke with you last year on the phone regarding this same issue.

I don't want to sound like a broken record but the bees are back and are already causing some undesirable issues in my yard.

The issues that I contend with are the bees infiltrating my bird feeder and bird baths. I would put out hummingbird feeders but my neighbors who have them claim that they draw even more bees to their yards.

My request is that the bees are maintained by their keeper.

Sincerely,
Diane Koch

April 3, 2021

Champaign County Board,
Zoning Department

I am a resident of the County living on Burwell Street. We have had problems with bees at our house. I know it is normal to see a few occasionally but this is different because our neighbor has bee hives. We are zoned residential not agricultural. The lots are too small and the houses too close for this to work well.

We have had problems with bees swarming our humming bird feeders and our bird baths. We are 83 and 84 and enjoy sitting on our porch and watching the birds. We had neighbors visiting on our porch who got up and left because of bees. Also bees leave a yellow streak on our cars. It hardens on the car in the warmer months. It is almost impossible to get off. We wash our own cars. Other neighbors and their grandchildren have been stung. Those with swimming pools can not enjoy them.

Bee hives should be kept in rural areas not residential. Please help us.

Sincerely - Joan Mathis Robert Mathis

Bob & Joan Mathis
2004 Burwell
Urbana, IL 61802

RECEIVED

APR 05 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

April 5 2021

RECEIVED

APR 06 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Champaign County Board - Zoning Department

I AM A Resident of The county living on Barnes street.

we have had problems with Bees AT our house. I know IT IS NORMAL TO see Bees once in a while BUT this is DIFFERENT because our neighbor has several Bee hives.

We are zoned Residential not Agricultural, we have had Problems with these Bees stinging our Great Grand kids while swimming and playing in the small plastic pods and stepping on the Bees in the yard around thier pool when they get out. When they walk on the side walk bare footed, also, they cover our Deck when we try to eat out on the Deck. They bother our friends when we have them come over to visit outside also. we cant put water in the bird bath any more because they cover them up completely. our cars and truck are white and the crap all over them and you cant just wash it off with water and soap it has to be hot water, our house and garage doors are white also and they really make a mess. we have asked them to be nice neighbors and get rid of some of thier hives but that did not work. So I am asking for you help to limit thier Bee bussiness operation, they should do this in a non Residential Area. Please help us with this problem.

Derald + Patsy Seeds
 2005 Barnes St.
 Urbana, IL 61802

Petition to Champaign County Illinois Zoning Administrator and E.L.U.C.

We, the undersigned tax paying residents of Prairieview Subdivision and Mary Lou Drive, both in areas designated as Residential, strongly request and petition the Zoning Administrator and the E.L.U.C. to enact a Zoning Amendment addressing beekeeping. As per County Nuisance Ordinance, Article 1, part O. While also recognizing both the private and public nuisance, Black's Law Dictionary defined comprehensively as everything that endangers life, health, gives offense to senses, and obstructs reasonable and comfortable use of property. The current action by the particular beekeepers also does not allow for taxpayers in these communities to quietly and peacefully enjoy their land. The beekeeper has created a Nuisance. Reducing beehives to two per acre (a manageable and sustainable amount on beekeepers property), and to be considered a nuisance when bees are not managed properly. Any inability to maintain bees within the property of the beekeeper will be deemed a nuisance.

The people that have signed this petition have suffered if not one but several of the following. Bee manure/feces (as defined in Section 2.2) on their property (Vehicles, houses, laundry), infestation of bird baths, dog watering bowls, hummingbird feeders, pools, water condensate areas. Bees swarming, gatherings on porches in single settings and groups, causing people to leave or go inside. Stinging, municipal drainage workers, grandchildren, residents (multiple times), some with allergies to bee stings. Recently, the invasion of bird feeders. We have been told by the beekeeper, how to dress, how to bathe, and what lotions we should not wear, and not to wear cologne.

We strongly request that you take action amending the Zoning Ordinance to include beekeeping and inability to manage bees as a nuisance. That will allow the tax paying property owners in areas designated Residential and properties that are contiguous to residential areas to be able to enjoy their property in repose. Sincerely, residents signed on back of page 1 and attached page.

Petition to Amend Zoning Code to include Beekeeping and Nuisance

Petition summary and background	To return the peaceful and comfortable use of property while minimizing health risks as stated on page 1.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are affected citizens who urge Champaign County Zoning Administrator and the Environmental Land Use Committee to act now to Amend Residential Zoning Code pertaining to beekeeping and nuisance in Residential designated properties.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Contact	Date
BARNEY BRAYSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	2102 BARNES ST U	217-344-6689 bbrayson@gmail.com	3-20-21
Charles Glass	<i>[Signature]</i>	2407 Mary Lou Dr Urbana IL 61802	217-898-8060 CLGJL@comcast.net	3-20-21
Jennifer Glass	<i>[Signature]</i>	2407 MARY LOU URBANA IL 61802	217-898-8060 Chyenn98@yahoo	3-20-21
Mickey Forsen	<i>[Signature]</i>	2408 MARY LOU DR URBANA, IL 61802	217-521-9413	3-20-21
Sara Forsen	<i>[Signature]</i>	2408 MARY LOU DR URBANA, IL 61802	(217) 972-9811	3-20-21
Bill Tolson	<i>[Signature]</i>	2401 MARY LOU DR URBANA, IL 61802	217-369-5770	3-10-21
DERALD SEEDS	<i>[Signature]</i>	2005 Barnes	217-621-8695	3/20/21
DEBY SEEDS	<i>[Signature]</i>	2005 Barnes	217-621-8695	3/20/21
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	2011 Corral Urbana IL	217-648-2204	3/20/21
JOAN MATHIS	<i>[Signature]</i>	2004 Burwell	217-621-1261	3/20/21
Robert Mathis	<i>[Signature]</i>	2004 Burwell U	217-493-6164	3/20/21
JEAN SULLIVAN	<i>[Signature]</i>	2018 The Wood View	217-493-5662	3/20/21

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Contact	Date
Diana Johnstone	Diana Johnstone	2005 Burwell U.	217-328-1983	3-24-21
Ziggy + Oca	Diane M. Goll	2006 Burwell Pl.	217-337-0226	3-24-21
Jeff Johnstone	Jeff Johnstone	2005 Burwell U.	217-328-1983	3-24-21
Lisa Richardson	Lisa Richardson	2007 Corray, U.	217-841-2887	3-24-21
Kenny Richardson	Kenny Richardson	2007 Corray, U.	↓	3-24-21
Quentin Amstead	Quentin Amstead	2006 Barnes St, U.	217-202-2187	3-24-21
Polly Amstead	Polly Amstead	2006 Barnes St, U.	217-552-6046	3-24-21
Cameron Amstead	Quentin Amstead	2006 Barnes St, U.	217-714-9157	3-24-21
Jerry Bryson	Jerry Bryson	2003 Burwell U.	217-377-0820	3/24-21
Gina Bryson	Gina Bryson	2003 Burwell U.	217-377-1830	3/24/21
Sue Stimson	Sue Stimson	1809 Autumn Ridge, U. ⁶¹⁸⁰²	217-474-6812	03/26/2021

Susan Burgstrom

From: John Hall
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: Bee Hives

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, July 5, 2021 8:00 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

RECEIVED

JUN 09 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Leslie Revo <leslie_revo@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:41 AM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Bee Hives

I Do NOT support the posted ordinance to restrict bee hives that can be maintained on residential properties!!!!
I don't understand why more people don't realize it without the bees then the human race will be wiped out themselves. There is no logical reason for a woman that mandates a bee farm to have to be taken away from everything she loves and believes in because of one man. A man who is deliberately making lewd acts, just long enough for this woman to see him. If this man is disrespecting, and putting down this woman because of something she loves, or something that she's spent a long time on, then why should she be the one to suffer. You know, I know, and pretty much everyone knows(even children) that bees are extremely important. This woman has taken her time tending her colony of bees, which by the way is a lot of work. She is also growing plants for the bees. Letting someone who is degrading people because he isn't getting what he wants, isn't the man that should have any say in this situation, is he going to try and kill the rest of the bees that come to his property??? Before your final decision, Please understand, this woman isn't hurting anyone, she's minding her own business doing the things she loves and also BENEFITING the planet which we all call home.

Sent from Yahoo for iPhone

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 8:06 AM
To: John Hall; Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: opposition to beekeeping restrictions

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Leslie McClintock <lesliemcclin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 8:47 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: opposition to beekeeping restrictions

I understand that the county board is considering regulating beekeeping through an amendment to the zoning ordinance. I am strongly opposed to the amendment which entails restrictions that would make it difficult and expensive for everyday people to participate in the beneficial activity of keeping bees. The decline of pollinators in our environment is becoming a crisis, and we should do all we can to support and encourage beekeeping in our county. At a minimum, the board should listen to the advice of knowledgeable entomologists before deciding on and initiating restrictions that may not be necessary or advisable.

Thank you,
Leslie and Rob McClintock

Susan Burgstrom

From: John Hall
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: Backyard Beekeepers

RECEIVED

JUN 24 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Cassi Pearson <cassi.pearson2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:29 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Backyard Beekeepers

Hello,

I am opposed to the amendment to restrict backyard beekeepers in unincorporated areas of Champaign County. Bees are so important for our ecosystem and those who keep bees are trying to make the planet a better place for all. I would think that beekeepers live in unincorporated areas for that reason. So they can have their bees.

Thank you
Cassandra Pearson

Susan Burgstrom

From: John Hall
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: Honeybees

RECEIVED

JUN 24 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Kiddoo, Diane K <kiddoo@illinois.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 10:05 AM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Honeybees

To whom it may concern,

I strongly believe that amending the zoning ordinance to require fencing with self-closing gates around be hives will make it difficult for the average home beekeeper to have colonies in their yards. I believe that this is driven by fear more than fact and that educating those involved in what is driving this would be the appropriate route to take. Education and understanding will take the fear out of it. I have been keeping bees in my yard for nearly 8 years with no issues for my neighbors. Pollinators need all the help they can get lets not put any road blocks in the way of these good stewards potentially making less people have hives in their back yards. Thank you for your help with this.

Diane Kiddoo

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:03 PM
To: John Hall; Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: Beekeeping ordinance

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Angela Arnott <aarnott1984@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:40 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Beekeeping ordinance

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose any regulations that are to be considered against beekeeping in Champaign County. The western honey bee is responsible for pollinating many of the crops grown here in central Illinois and populations of honey bees are in decline. Honeybees also make a large portion of the available pollinators in our area.

Beekeepers strive to contribute to the healthy population of honeybees, which in turn have irreplaceable benefits for our local community.

The benefits to the residents of Champaign County include, healthy food crops, jobs, and product. One example that immediately comes to mind is Curtis Orchard. Their beekeepers' honey bees pollinate their apple trees and provide high quality honey, this business alone provides many jobs, activities for the community, and high quality produce. Other hobbyist beekeepers provide pollination wherever the bees may travel, such as backyard gardens and corn, soy bean, and other crop fields for local farmers. Because honeybees do not travel more than 5 miles and just an average of 1 mile from the hive, it takes many beekeepers and wild hives to provide the pollination needed to keep our plant life healthy and thriving.

Please make sure to visit local resources for information on the importance of honeybees and the role beekeeping provides. An excellent resource to consider is the University of Illinois Pollinatorium's website, which provides beekeeping courses for local residents in our county and conducts research involving honeybees. I'll provide links below to pollinator information through their website. Thank you in advance for taking the time to carefully consider this decision.

<https://www.life.illinois.edu/pollinatorweek/crisis.html>

<https://www.life.illinois.edu/pollinatorweek/info.html>

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom
Subject: FW: Bee Keeping Ordinance

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Christopher Arnott <carnott1986@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:56 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Bee Keeping Ordinance

I would like to express my displeasure and adamant opposition to the proposed bee keeping ordinance. I live in Mahomet and believe the county should be as pollinator friendly as possible. The agricultural industry has devastated the pollinator population and we as a county need to encourage the repopulation of pollinators. I believe this ordinance is not in line with those values and is a detriment to future generations of Champaign County residents.

Chris Arnott
Mahomet IL
570-708-4856

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 5:12 AM
To: John Hall; Susan Burgstrom
Subject: Fwd: Backyard beekeeping

RECEIVED

JUL 02 2021

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

From: Barbra Bleier <barbra.c.bleier@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 7:48:15 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Backyard beekeeping

Hello
I would like to voice my opinion regarding regulating backyard bee keeping in champaign county. I oppose it and feel that bees are a necessary part of our neighborhood ecosystem. They pollinate back yard gardeners attempts at growing their own food. I am one of those back yard gardeners. The bees are so essential for my small little plot. I strongly disagree with any regulation regarding backyard bee keeping. Our world's insect population is already dwindling, why accelerate it even further?

Respectfully,
-Barbra Bleier

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: Fwd: Bees

RECEIVED

JUL 06 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

From: Stephen Dolan <rrsdolan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 12:34:29 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Bees

Hi,

I oppose the proposed amendment enumerating restrictions on beekeeping in Champaign County.

Stephen Dolan

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 6:59 AM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: Fwd: Proposed ordinance changes to backyard beekeeping

From: Benjamin Clegg <benfrankclegg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 2:37:51 AM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Proposed ordinance changes to backyard beekeeping

I oppose this ordinance.

Please consider policies that make it easier and encourage backyard beekeeping. I have only encountered responsible backyard beekeepers who take their hobby seriously and need all the support our communities can provide with the difficulties from varroa and other pathogens and pesticides. We do not have widespread africanized bees in eastern IL, making backyard beekeeping a safe venture with important benefits and services to the rest of the community.

RECEIVED

JUL 12 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom
Cc: John Hall
Subject: FW: Upcoming Beekeeper zoning regulations for Champaign County

From: Donnelly, Annette <annette5@illinois.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:24 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Cc: WilsonJones@comcast.net; Patrick Donnelly <patrick.donnelly@aocs.org>
Subject: Upcoming Beekeeper zoning regulations for Champaign County

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Dear Zoning representative,

I am writing to share my sadness and puzzlement regarding additional potential regulations for beekeepers in Champaign County. Because of a personal dispute between two neighbors regarding bees in their pool, the county is considering legislation that will restrict beekeeping for all. This is concerning because the legislation inhibits site selection and imposes expensive fencing requirements on beekeepers that the bees are not likely to comply with, as they fly! In essence, the proposed rules hinder beekeepers who are unable to afford the mandates, and the bees will still go where they like, as they do!

Did you know that nationally, beekeeping is declining? [The U.S. has experienced a 40% drop in managed bees from 2018-2019](#), due to Colony Collapse disorder. Within this context, beekeepers in the US have gone from 6 million hives to 2.8 million. Additionally the US Department of Agriculture has suspended collecting data for its honey bee colonies, due to “budgetary” concerns. If these facts don’t give you anxiety, consider that the insect population itself is [experiencing an alarming decline](#) which the BBC called an “[insect Apocalypse](#)” in a recent report. Champaign is the home of pollinator pockets, floriferous parks and agriculture. If ever there appeared to be a welcome home for pollinators, it is here.

Honeybees forage in a 3 mile radius from their hive. It is difficult to imagine how far afield they travel and what backyard flowers and crops they pollinate. The honeybees amazing ability to travel far for forage makes it challenging, if not impossible, to legislate. If anything, managed hives have less of an influence on offending neighbors than rogue hives in the wild. Honeybees swarm when their colonies are at a peak and feel crowded. Beekeepers manage the colony to reduce the swarming instinct. When swarms do happen, beekeepers try to catch the swarm and create a new home for them. The honey bees will still reproduce in the wild...the question is where they will live; in a tree, an attic, the soffit of your house?

I am puzzled and saddened that a dispute between neighbors can turn into a zoning matter for pollinators...this is politics at its worst, and an embarrassment to the city that strives to promote a healthy ecosystem and a beautiful environment for its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration and please consider a “no way, not on my watch” attitude toward imposing restrictions on beekeepers in Champaign County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Donnelly

ANNETTE DONNELLY

VST RES SPEC

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Soybean Innovation Lab

1101 W Peabody Dr.

Room 144 | M/C 710

Urbana, IL 61801

+1 217 377 8317 | annette5@illinois.edu

www.ace.illinois.edu



Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: FW: Research related to honeybee decline and repelling bees from swimming pools
Attachments: Decline of honey and other bees and repelling bees from swim pools.docx

From: Kate Kelly <katherinekel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:02 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Research related to honeybee decline and repelling bees from swimming pools

Dear Zoning Members:

Please consider the attached list of sources on bee colony collapse and on methods for repelling honeybees from swimming pools.

I agree this is a real problem, but the solution of making it more difficult for citizens to keep bees seems worse than the problem.

Thank you
Kate Kelly

--

Katherine E. Kelly, Associate Professor of English (retired)
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4227
katherinekel@gmail.com

RECEIVED

JUL 15 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Sources documenting the decline of honey and other bees:

1. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/pollinators-in-trouble.htm>
2. "Patterns of widespread decline in North American honeybees"
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3021065/>
3. "Pollinators in Peril: A systematic status review of North American and Hawaiian native bees."
Kelsey Kopec & Lori Ann Burd • Center for Biological Diversity • February 2017
Conclusion: "Native bees face myriad threats and are in desperate need of protection to safeguard their future. They contribute more than \$3 billion in fruit-pollination services annually. [62] And these unique insects, and their pollination services, are vital to the survival of ecosystems. Our lives and culture would be significantly impoverished without these hardworking, underappreciated and declining animals. The data compiled in this report offers a snapshot of magnitude of threats native bee species face and the extent of their decline. These findings are in line with those found globally and demonstrate the necessity of more research to fill the data gaps. But what we already know is troubling and should inspire us to act: 24 percent of data-sufficient native bees are imperiled, and 52 percent show population declines. We need to take aggressive steps to better understand and protect our precious bee species before it is too late."

Information about keeping bees away from swimming pools:

4. This youtube video, prepared by a beekeeper, recommends that pool owners use "essential oil of peppermint" to discourage bees from collecting at the pool:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiSEOQNMUcU&list=RDCMUC2g3DukLp8dE9Ap7_LlfPeg
5. <https://carolinahoneybees.com/keep-bees-away-from-swimming-pool/>
Bees prefer salty water and they are attracted to chlorine. Consider providing an alternate water source (preferably slightly salty with mud and other minerals included)...this site offers several suggestions for luring bees away from swimming pools.

RECEIVED

JUL 15 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Susan Burgstrom

From: John Hall
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Chris Harmon
Cc: Susan Burgstrom
Subject: RE: Apiary zoning

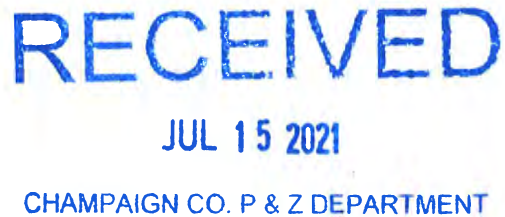
Chris, I do not know if any of the ZBA members have beekeeping experience.

Sincerely,

John Hall
Director
Zoning Administrator

Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning

From: Chris Harmon <ctmharmon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:49 AM
To: John Hall <jhall@co.champaign.il.us>
Cc: Susan Burgstrom <sburgstrom@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Re: Apiary zoning



Good morning John,

Thank you for your timely response. It would be good to have some clearer rules to improve safety and quality. Though, after reading over the proposed changes, I was concerned if these changes would prevent some backyard beekeepers from keeping colonies. I wonder if anyone voting has any experience as a beekeeper, which would be able to provide inside knowledge as far as practicality?

Sincerely,
Christopher Harmon

On Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 10:35 AM John Hall <jhall@co.champaign.il.us> wrote:

Dear Chris Harmon:

Thanks for your questions. See my replies below after each question.

Sincerely,

John Hall
Director
Zoning Administrator

Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana IL 61802

Tel (217) 384-3708
Fax (217) (819-4021)

From: Chris Harmon <ctmharmon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:42:40 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Apiary zoning

To whom this may concern,

I do have a few questions regarding the upcoming apiary zoning ordinance meeting. What problems with the previous ordinances do these changes correct?

REPLY: The Champaign County Board's Environment and Land Use Committee has received complaints about beekeeping from residents in residential zoning districts and neither the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance nor the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance contain requirements or guidelines for operation of beekeeping in residential zoning districts so the proposed amendments will add regulations to minimize incompatibilities between beekeeping and residential neighbors.

How do these changes help increase the honeybee population?

REPLY: By minimizing the incompatibilities between beekeeping and residential neighbors the proposed amendments may facilitate the continued growth of beekeeping in the residential zoning districts.

In which ways do these changes increase the likelihood of someone picking up beekeeping?

REPLY: Unknown.

In what ways do these changes improve the pollination of crops?

REPLY: By minimizing incompatibilities between beekeeping and residential neighbors and thereby facilitating the continued growth of beekeeping in the residential zoning districts, the amendments may contribute in some small way to the pollination of crops.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Christopher Harmon

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: FW: Encouraging honey bees in the Champaign-Urbana area

From: Kate Kelly <katherinekel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:04 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Encouraging honey bees in the Champaign-Urbana area

Dear Members of the Zoning Board:

As a master gardener who grows mostly vegetables and fruits, I am dependent (as is the entire US and the world) on the visits of honeybees to keep my garden producing. I am therefore writing to encourage you to do all that you can to support beekeeping in Champaign County. I have been made aware of a dispute between two neighbors regarding honeybees that has unfortunately developed into a suggestion that beekeeping be more regulated in the area than it is now. This seems unwise. I'm sure you are aware of colony collapse disorder locally and worldwide, which threatens food production here and across the globe. In the face of diminishing populations of bees locally, nationally, and internationally, it doesn't make sense to tighten the conditions under which bees can be kept by our neighbors to placate the owners of a swimming pool.

Requiring beekeepers to construct fences--as has been suggested--wouldn't seem to be an effective answer to disputes between two neighbors. After all, bees can fly. The city or county might more helpfully consider mediation between neighbors to solve a personal dispute rather than turning to more restrictive regulations for all citizens.

The prairie habitat, the crown jewel of this part of the US, supports and depends upon bees. But most of the prairie is now buried beneath cement. Encouraging these insects and their common sense needs can only contribute to the productivity of our ecosystem. Please consider the economic, agricultural, and aesthetic implications of restricting beekeeping before moving ahead with a fencing requirement for beekeepers.

Thank you for your service to the community,

Kate Kelly
1204 White Oak Rd.
Mahomet, IL 61853
979.255.1488

--
Katherine E. Kelly, Associate Professor of English (retired)
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4227
katherinekel@gmail.com

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JUL 15 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:27 AM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: Fwd: Bee Keeping Amendment Proposal

From: Chris Graham <ladyhawke65@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:23:21 AM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Bee Keeping Amendment Proposal

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JULY 16, 2021
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING

Champaign County Board:

I am a bee keeper in Champaign County.

I am astounded by the number of reported bee stings in a community in regard to the request for the amendment to change bee keeping rules in this county. I have never been stung when it hasn't been my fault. I was throwing clumps of dirt, and threw one in the path of a bee who flew around and smacked me in the head – not stung – but smacked as if to say stop that you idiot. We mow within inches of the hives and have never gotten stung doing so. I have been flown into by a bee focused on her mission but never stung on those occasions.

Wasps wantonly sting – even if you just look at them cross-eyed and they sting repeatedly I think for fun. Bees, who's driving force is to collect pollen and nectar for their hive, give warnings if possible, and do not want to sting because they lose their stinger and die. They will sting to defend themselves –but then die- and they sting to protect their home. The males cannot even sting.

The picture of bees in the snow is incredulous. The lowest temperature that they can fly in is 50 degrees – below that their muscles freeze up. I have seen bees try to come out of the hive on a winter day due to a disturbance, and drop like a rock 3 inches or so from the hive. Bees do come out in the winter on a 50 degree sunny day to defecate (poop) they don't have toilets and do not poop in their hive. When they come out they do not dawdle they quickly return to their warm hive.

In regard to a 4 foot fence with latch around the hives: A fence will not stop bees – they will fly on average, 2 miles, and they fly up into tall trees to get their pollen and nectar. The latch will not keep out raccoons. Any person who opens a bee hive to steal a jar of honey will discover the bees do not put it into jars and will protect their home like many animals will, including humans. I think that person will not do it a second time, which is good because theft is a crime, and that person has been punished for his attempted crime.

Although bees keep their inside hive temperature at 95 degrees, if their hives are warmer they have to hang around outside and fan it with their wings wasting energy and resources that they could use in their quest for food and household chores. A 4 foot tall wall denies them access to winds and breezes. Kind of like us living in a house with the windows closed on a 95 degree day and no air conditioner. Sounds like abuse to me.

Bees will fly up to 2 miles on average to find pollen I do not think any bee keeper will place hives near a community path or sidewalk so as not to add stress to his bees but also stress to him when working with his bee hives - I doubt anyone needs a gawking passersby.

Bee hives 10 feet apart. Why? This tells the bee keeper where to put hives, unnecessarily using space not needed that could serve other purposes. Bees know where they live, who their queen and family is. They do not go to the next community – hive- and get recruits saying lets go out and sting some people.

I went up and down the road in my rural community explaining the support bee keepers petition. 78 out on 79 people signed it without hesitation – one person said he was allergic to bees and couldn't support them in any way – he also doesn't have an epipen.

Bees are a “wild thing” and even though we give them hive to live in, and attempt to manage them, they don't follow our rules, they don't pay attention to our fences, and they are generally fairly tolerant when we harvest (steal) their honey.

Bee keeping is not an easy task. I think we need to thank bee keepers for raising bees and honey, pollen, propolis and wax, equaling skin lotion, lip balm, clean burning candles. Etc.

Champaign County has bee keeping rules in place that are well thought out with the safety of the bees and public in mind. I see this amendment as making bee keeping more difficult and tedious, and I hope the board thinks carefully and denies its passage.

Sincerely

Chris Graham

2231 County Rd 675 E

Champaign, Il

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: Fwd: Limiting beehives in Champaign County

From: Dixie Jackson <censdixie@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:04:39 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Limiting beehives in Champaign County

Dear Members of the Zoning Department,

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to any action by the Champaign County Zoning department that would limit the ownership of beehives by county residents. The push to reduce the opportunity of a homeowner to maintain hives on his property is based on misinformation, not science. Hives pose no threat to neighbors. We need more hives, not fewer!

I write as someone who an avid gardener and a supporter of healthy bee-pollinated crops, prairie restoration, and pollinator gardens. I am also allergic to bee stings and must carry an epinephrine injection pen, but I know that I have no reason to fear a neighbor's bee hives.

Cordially yours,

Dixie Smith Jackson
406 Yankee Ridge Lane
Urbana, Illinois
61802

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JUL 16 2021
CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

July 16, 2021

1709 Mayfair Rd.
Champaign, IL
61821

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JULY 16, 2021
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING

Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana IL 61802

Dear Zoning Board Members:

This letter is to state my strong opposition to the Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance now under consideration.

At a time when pollinators, especially honeybees, are under unprecedented pressure, governments and their agencies should be doing everything possible to stabilize and, indeed, increase the number of pollinators available to a healthy community. The zoning amendment moves in the diametrically opposite direction, setting up substantial and unnecessary bureaucratic and economic roadblocks not only for beekeepers who want to continue their stewardship of the environment through their hobby, but also for anyone who might consider becoming a beekeeper in Champaign County.

There are myriad problems with the amendment. Other beekeepers and concerned citizens can address them. I want to ensure the board members are aware of the economic costs of the proposal. I will use my recent experience as an example.

After losing three of my four colonies to the weather or varroa mites over the 2020-2021 winter (not an unusual loss at our latitude), I installed seven new colonies this spring, bringing my hive count to eight, in three Champaign County locations. These seven new colonies consist of five packages of bees and one nuc, all purchased from local vendors (thereby supporting the local economy), and a swarm I caught in my front yard in Champaign.

Adding these seven colonies to my apiaries required me to purchase a variety of wooden equipment and medicinal supplies to supplement the material I already had on hand from my several years of beekeeping. My total expenditure for the equipment and supplies necessary for these seven hives was \$2860.53. (Please see attached spreadsheet.)

So beekeeping is expensive. The \$2800 I spent to go from four hives last fall to eight hives this summer is typical. Breaking my numbers down, an established beekeeper should expect to spend \$700 per new hive. The cost for a new beekeeper would be even higher due to the additional startup costs of a beekeeping suit, smoker, hive tools, etc., etc.

The zoning amendment this body now considers will raise the cost of keeping bees in residential

areas of Champaign County to prohibitive levels. I have three hives on Robert and Leslie McClintock's property just south of Meadowbrook park. Just adding the proposed four foot fence with self-latching gate around those three hives would cost between \$2100 and \$3000 according to an estimate by Peerless Fencing in Mahomet. Fencing my other four hives would more than double this cost.

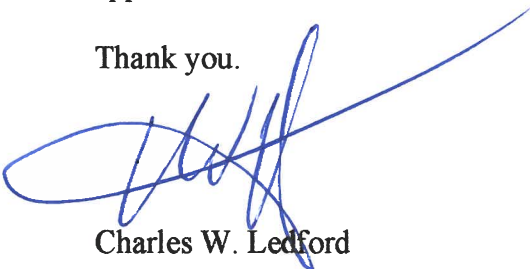
I'm in the fortunate financial position that I can spend \$2800 to remain a beekeeper. I'm not so fortunate that I could spend an additional four to six thousand dollars for a fence on top that. The proposed amendment, really an excise tax on beekeepers, would make beekeeping a luxury I'd not be able to afford, and it would certainly put beekeeping out of reach of most Champaign County residents.

This ill-advised amendment is a classic example of government overreach. The neighbors who are fighting over a few colonies of bees need to find a way to settle their dispute without involving all the other residents of Champaign County.

Passing this amendment is akin to using a sledge hammer to swat away a honey bee.

I urge you to take a more sensible, constructive and environmentally and economically sound approach.

Thank you.



Charles W. Ledford

Report: Payee Transaction

Year to Date: 1/1/2021 - 7/16/2021
 1 Account, 151 Categories

	Date	Account	Category	Amount
Blythewood Bee Company	3/31/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$39.19
Dadant & Sons	5/21/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$91.04
	3/1/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$111.56
Federal Express	4/9/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Freight	-\$111.22
HillCo	5/17/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$38.00
Home Depot	5/1/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$18.03
Joann Fabrics	4/29/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$19.30
Long Lane Apiaries	3/8/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$154.43
	3/1/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$463.28
Lowe's	4/2/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$6.28
Mann Lake	5/21/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$1,765.10
	4/8/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$33.62
	3/31/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$197.99
	3/17/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$78.30
	3/1/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies:Hardware	-\$47.82
WalMart	5/23/21	Wayang Apiaries Cash & Credit	Supplies	-\$1,407.37
				-\$43.10
TOTAL				-\$2,860.53

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JULY 16, 2021
 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
 PLANNING & ZONING

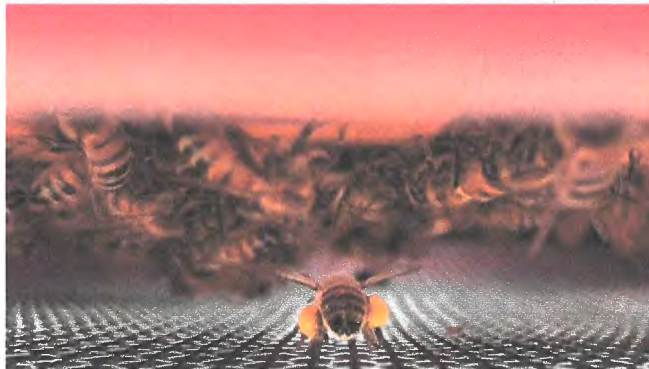
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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING

<https://www.change.org/p/champaign-county-council-protect-the-pollinators>

67%

Protect the Pollinators!



STRETCH LEDFORD started this petition to Champaign County Council

Honeybees are essential to a healthy ecosystem. Diseases and dwindling forage have decimated feral honeybee colonies, making backyard beekeeping more important than ever.

Hobbyist beekeepers live side by side with their neighbors throughout Champaign County. **Neither the City of Champaign nor the City of Urbana have ordinances regulating small-time backyard beekeepers.**

Unfortunately, the Champaign County Board is considering an anti-beekeeping ordinance that will regulate hobbyist beekeepers out of existence in our community.

Champaign County neighborhood beekeepers need your help. Please help them protect backyard pollinators by signing this petition and, especially, by emailing a statement of support for beekeeping in residential districts within unincorporated areas of Champaign County to ZoningDept@co.champaign.il.us.

The honeybees thank you!

We, the undersigned, are OPPOSED to the any amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance that would further regulate the keeping of honeybees anywhere in Champaign County.

746 have signed. Let's get to 1,000!

At 1,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to be featured in recommendations!



Share on Facebook

Send a Facebook message

Send an email to friends

Tweet to your followers

Copy link

Show this petition to more potential supporters

Promote this petition

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Jennifer Lugardo	Champaign	IL	61820	US	6/23/21
andrew troutt	Champaign	IL	61820	US	6/24/21
Theresa Swim	Champaign	IL	61820	US	6/24/21
Shawna den Otter	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Sarah Robinson	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Oliver Marquez	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Chandler Bradford	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Anna Muller	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Leigh Anne Rohl	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Mireya Wilmoth	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/1/21
Patti Evans	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Rebecca Knaur	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Jess higgins	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Emily Schacht	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Christopher Needham	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Cheryl MacKichan	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Markie Zimmerman	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/2/21
Ingrid Kammin	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/3/21
Rebecca Powell	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/4/21
Shelby Marsh	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/6/21
Gretchen Pein	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/7/21
Kate Wegmann	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/10/21
Sabrina Abdulla	Champaign	IL	61820	US	7/10/21
Pamela Watson-Taylor	Champaign	IL	61821	US	6/24/21
Bailee Kaufman	Champaign	IL	61821	US	6/25/21
Linda Owens	Champaign	IL	61821	US	6/25/21
Valeria Smith	Champaign	IL	61821	US	6/25/21
Leslie Barr	Champaign	IL	61821	US	6/28/21
Bonnie Meek	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Mary Ries	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Dana Gentry	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Adam Schuster	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Sandie Burton	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Lisa Roberts	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Lisa Carson	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Diana Mosher	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/1/21
Barbra Bleier	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Elizabeth Gibbons	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Andrew Graumlich	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21

Eric Zoch	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Tim Childress	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Carol Pearson	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Maureen Tan	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Ronnie Ragel	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Tiffanie Bathory	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
sydney grote	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/2/21
Maxine Peyton	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/3/21
ZACHARY NELSON	CHAMPAIGN	IL	61821	US	7/5/21
Diane Cain	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/7/21
Caroline Helton	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/7/21
Therese Kobel	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/7/21
Michael Faullin	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/7/21
Mark Cole	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/10/21
Lena Lakeland	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/10/21
Andrea Harmon	Champaign	IL	61821	US	7/11/21
Brian Johnson	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/22/21
Noni Ledford	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/24/21
Chris Skaar	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/24/21
Jami Warfel	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/25/21
Mary Beth Early	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/25/21
Sonia Springer	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/25/21
Drew MacGregor	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/25/21
Kyle MacGregor	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/26/21
Robert MacKichan	Champaign	IL	61822	US	6/26/21
susan Gonzo	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Aaron Frye	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Rachel Busch Jones	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Bryan Dillow	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Tia Prather	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Mary Hosier	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Georgia Atkinson	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Donna Tellez	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Jodi Hamilton	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/1/21
Steve Halfar	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/2/21
Jennifer Kapolnek	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/3/21
Megan York	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/3/21
Jhane Reifsteck	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/7/21
Jill Butler	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/7/21
Linda Pein	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/7/21
Mark MacLeod	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/8/21
Christopher Gatsche	Champaign	IL	61822	US	7/12/21

Rosanne Brighton	Champaign	IL	61821-3132	US	7/1/21
Kristina Daly	CHAMPAIGN	IL	61822-9415	US	7/10/21
STRETCH LEDFORD	Champaign	IL		US	6/22/21
Kate Cataldo	Champaign	IL		US	7/1/21
Anita Shelton	Charleston	IL	61910	US	6/25/21
Kelsee Bennett	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/24/21
Sarah Malak	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/24/21
Dennis Malak	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/24/21
Scott Benge	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/25/21
Cindy Amstutz	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/25/21
Donna Easterday	Charleston	IL	61920	US	6/25/21
Deanna Lavoie	Dewey	IL	61840	US	7/1/21
David Niccum	Dewey	IL	61840	US	7/10/21
Brenda Birkey	Dewey	IL	61840	US	7/10/21
Richard Schrock	Dewey	IL	61840	US	7/11/21
Meegan Glasgow-Kuhf	Fisher	IL	61843	US	7/10/21
Amy Schrock	Foosland	IL	61845	US	7/11/21
Richard White	Homer	IL	61849	US	6/25/21
Nicole Bromley	Homer	IL	61849	US	7/1/21
Angela Faulkner	Homer	IL	61849	US	7/3/21
Lisa Klein	Ivesdale	IL	61851	US	7/8/21
Chris Arnott	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
Amy Johnson	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
Angie Arnott	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
Melinda Hewkin	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
Jaime Derringer	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
L.A. Thais	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/1/21
Robin Roberts	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/2/21
Valerie Mansfield	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/3/21
Cathy Keltz	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/7/21
Denise Peters	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/10/21
Sally Harris	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/10/21
Carolyn Meyer	Mahomet	IL	61853	US	7/10/21
Tony Stierwalt	Pesotum	IL	61863	US	7/8/21
Beth Morgan	Philo	IL	61864	US	7/1/21
John Morgan	Philo	IL	61864	US	7/1/21
Lee Barnes	Philo	IL	61864	US	7/3/21
Sandra Early	Rantoul	IL	61866	US	6/25/21
Linda Monroy	Rantoul	IL	61866	US	6/25/21
Myra Fawbush	Rantoul	IL	61866	US	7/2/21
Dawn Good	Rantoul	IL	61866	US	7/10/21
katrina good	Rantoul	IL	61866	US	7/11/21

Jason Bartell	Rantoul	IL	61866 US	7/11/21
Gina Marsh	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/6/21
Jeanne Stierwalt	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/7/21
Kenneth Reifsteck	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/7/21
Sharon Baxley	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/7/21
Yvonne Cunningham	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/10/21
Jennifer Campbell	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/10/21
Patty Kocher	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/10/21
Brenda Hall	Sadorus	IL	61872 US	7/11/21
Al Way	Saint Joseph	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Brandi Lowe	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	6/25/21
Katie Reifsteck	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/1/21
Christine Fairfield	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/1/21
Mary Hack	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/1/21
Laura Hartman	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/7/21
Joseph Shirley	Saint Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/10/21
Diane Kiddoo	Savoy	IL	61874 US	6/23/21
Jeremy White	Savoy	IL	61874 US	6/23/21
Heather Nelson	Savoy	IL	61874 US	6/25/21
Sarah Fullilove	Savoy	IL	61874 US	6/25/21
Patrick Fonner	Savoy	IL	61874 US	6/25/21
Suzanne Moss	Savoy	IL	61874 US	7/1/21
Marie Tan	Savoy	IL	61874 US	7/2/21
Denise Bonnell	Savoy	IL	61874 US	7/7/21
Tara Kuebler	Savoy	IL	61874 US	7/7/21
Sarah Hall	Seymour	IL	61875 US	6/23/21
Marina Montez-Ellis	Seymour	IL	61875 US	7/1/21
Katie Deem	Seymour	IL	61875 US	7/7/21
Courtney Kristovich	Sidney	IL	61877 US	6/24/21
Colleen Ruhter	Sidney	IL	61877 US	7/1/21
Gaylon Mitsdarffer	Sidney	IL	61877 US	7/6/21
Mary Adams	St Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/3/21
Eddie Wilson	St Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/10/21
Meghan McCannon	St. Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/1/21
Rosalie Fisher	St. Joseph	IL	61873 US	7/2/21
Tracy Tolliver	Tolono	IL	61880 US	6/25/21
Kathleen Thomsen	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/1/21
Rachel Heiple	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/2/21
Tiffany Leisch	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/2/21
Jenny Buening	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/6/21
Peggy Stierwalt	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/6/21
Robert Meyer	Tolono	IL	61880 US	7/10/21

Christa Weiss	Urbana	IL	61801 US	6/25/21
Alison Colgrove	Urbana	IL	61801 US	6/25/21
Stephanie Swift	Urbana	IL	61801 US	6/26/21
Carol Jean Archer	Urbana	IL	61801 US	6/26/21
Lauren Quinn	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Ben Orwig	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Leslie Rye	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Amanda Morgan	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Luke Wendt	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Savanna Pflugmacher	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
James Munger	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Meg Miller	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/1/21
Nathanael Stearns	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/2/21
Jamie Minnaert	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/2/21
Ian MacKichan	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/2/21
Melissa Muckenhirn	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/3/21
Jessica Heckenmueller	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/5/21
Benjamin Clegg	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/11/21
Natasha Capell	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/11/21
Audrie Roberts	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/12/21
Katrina Wefel	Urbana	IL	61801 US	7/13/21
Lisa Sechler	Urbana	IL	61802 US	6/22/21
Asa Greathouse	Urbana	IL	61802 US	6/25/21
Jill Quisenberry	Urbana	IL	61802 US	6/26/21
Miranda Soucie	Urbana	IL	61802 US	6/27/21
Christina Laukaitis	Urbana	IL	61802 US	6/28/21
Travis-David Smith	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/1/21
Amber Foster	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/1/21
Amy Grindley	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Kristi Donze	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Tonya Chism	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Laura Lasater	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Heather Grossman	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Tess MacKichan	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Krystiana Krupa	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/2/21
Tom Hebert	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/3/21
Sharon Jackson	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/3/21
Stephen Dolan	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/4/21
Mike Hinson	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/6/21
Carolyn Schimpler	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/7/21
Mary Moon	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Ashley Withers	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21

Kim Ford	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
ROBERT SHIRLEY	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Daisy Ford	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Julia Shirley	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Marcus Flinn	Urbana	IL	61802 US	7/10/21
Leslie McClintock	Urbana	IL	62802 US	6/23/21

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lori Busboom
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Susan Burgstrom; John Hall
Subject: Fwd: Proposed bee keeping ordinance

From: Bill <studley36@frontier.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2021 10:34:17 PM
To: zoningdept <zoningdept@co.champaign.il.us>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed bee keeping ordinance

Gentlefolks:

My question regarding the proposed bee keeping zoning ordinance is: Is it really necessary? I have been keeping bees for 49 years, and have maintained contact with bee keepers from various cities and villages throughout the county. In all of these years I have heard of only a single, and recent, complaint alleging the need for county wide regulation of the location of bee hives within village limits. Indeed, if such a need should ever exist, I believe that the solution would best be handled by village, rather than county ordinance. This was implied by a recent County Board Committee, when they unanimously voted to table a recent similar request by an individual. Apparently, this, or a similar, requested hive location proposal has been revived via presentation to your board. I strongly believe that adopting a county wide zoning ordinance regarding bee hive location is, to say the least, "overkill." And, as a tax payer, I believe that the expenses associated with the administration and enforcement of the proposed ordinance would surpass any of the highly questionable benefits. Finally, I am sure that you are aware of the pollination benefits provided by honey bees. As things presently exist, so called "back yard bee hives" are an important source of these benefits, free of charge, to urban flower growers, fruit tree owners, and vegetable gardeners. And, because the bees can pollinate crops two miles or more from their home hive; our soy bean farmers enjoy the benefits of increased yields. The restrictions within the proposed zoning ordinance seem to be designed to discourage the establishment of small apiaries and the introduction of interested individuals to an activity that benefits many.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Bill Studley

1417 Caro Ct., Mahomet, IL 61853

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JUL 19 2021
CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Susan Burgstrom

From: Lucas Shaffer <lucascshaffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 10:21 AM
To: zoningdept; Susan Burgstrom
Subject: Champaign county bee restrictions

CAUTION: External email, be careful when opening.

Hello,

My name is Lucas Shaffer. I am a beekeeper in Effingham Illinois. I also work for The Equity one of the biggest agriculture coops in central Illinois. I am sure you are getting the facts about bees like thir pollination efforts creat 1/3rd of our food and with out them we would die. Also that Honey bees are declining due to many reasons. I am going to let you know one reason why. Farms. This isn't a bad thing per se. I work for a Ag coop. Farming is the back bone of our country. Without farms our country would collapse. Over the years farms have taken most of the bees natural habitat. That is the biggest issue. But are we going to take farms away? No we are not. So the best answer to helping bees survive is urban bee keeping. We need more urban bee keeping now more then ever. Your county creating these new restriction is not good for anyone. We should embrace urban beekeeping and not restrict it. Also I know a guy in town here who cought a bunch of wild bee swarms l'm town. The wild honey bees are already in town. They are in trees, buildings and many other places. I went to a church where there are bees in the steeple. Without major construction we can't remove the bees but they live together and have no issues. They say the bees have been there for 20 years.

I am not sure the reason for this new ordinance. But fear and ignorance is what I believe is leading to this. You might remove apiaries from town but the bees are still there. You don't get rid of peanuts because someone is allergic to them. We don't make it harder to get peanuts and peanut butter. We put a label.

Thanks for my time and I hope you do the right thing.

Sincerely
Lucas Shaffer
Effing Bees Apiary

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JUL 19 2021
CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Below written by Bruce Pea-----
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am a beekeeper and have kept honey bees in the backyard of my property on Elm St., in the heart of 'Vintage Champaign', for more than ten years. I have had up to four hives at a time on my property, and each hive has always been registered annually with the Illinois State Department of Agriculture and the state apiary inspector.

I'm writing to ask for your help. The following explanation is fairly long and I hope you will take a few minutes to understand my concerns.

There is a proposed amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance being considered by the Champaign County Board that is so restrictive it will effectively eliminate beekeeping hobbyist like myself from keeping bees in unincorporated parts of the county.

I have attached the proposed amendment to this letter for your consideration. After reading the proposed amendment several times myself, here are my concerns:

A. The proposed amendment only allows immediate family members living on the premises to keep bees on the property. I cannot tell you how many times over the past ten years I have been asked to place a beehive on someone's property to help pollinate a large garden or to provide a source of honey at the end of the year. I have had several businesses ask me to place beehives on their roofs as well. The people who ask to have beehives placed on their property are not beekeepers, but do recognize the value honey bees provide to our food supply and society at large. This proposed amendment would prevent me or any other beekeeper from placing and maintaining hives on property we didn't reside on, effectively preventing anyone who wasn't a beekeeper from gaining the well-documented benefits and value honey bees provide.

B. Number of beehives. The proposed amendment allows up to three beehives on a lot that is 10,000 square feet or less. For each additional 10,000 square feet of property you get to add one additional beehive. Local beekeepers provide a tremendous public service to the community by removing swarms of bees when they show up in places they are not wanted. The property owner is delighted when the bees are removed (usually at no cost to them), and the beekeepers are delighted because they just got a colony of free bees (bees are expensive to buy). This is a perfect Win-Win for everyone involved! However, if I already have the maximum number of beehives allowed by this proposed amendment and I am fortunate enough to capture a swarm of free honey bees, according to the proposed amendment instead of providing a safe and well managed home for these honey bees I have to get rid of them within 90 days of acquiring them. And of course, as I mentioned above, I won't be able to place these bees at another site if I don't reside on the property.

Sometimes as a beekeeper you get lucky. For as long as I have been a beekeeper, I have almost always kept an empty beehive available in my yard for any swarm of honey bees looking for a new home to move into. Bees are expensive to buy. A package of bees costs more than a hundred dollars. Anytime you are lucky enough to have a free colony of honey bees move into one of your hives, you rejoice!

This year I had two swarms of free bees move into two of my empty hives. If I already had the maximum number of beehives allowed by the proposed amendment I would have to get rid of these free bees... where and how would I do that?

Bee colonies are dynamic. Many, many years I have started in the spring with multiple honey bee colonies only to end up with one or two by the end of the season. Disease, pests, and beekeeper inexperience all take their toll on our honey bee population. To decree that a beekeeper must remove or eliminate the precious and valuable asset each and every beehive and colony represents because their presence exceeds an arbitrary limit is, to put it kindly, a ridiculous notion.

C. Beehive location. According to the proposed amendment, there are a lot of hoops I will have to jump through before I can put a beehive on my property. There are at least six (6) setbacks I will have to comply with when placing a beehive on my property. Complying with all the proposed setbacks will pretty much guarantee the beehive being placed in a less than ideal location. Placing a beehive in a less than ideal location is bad husbandry, poor management, and puts fragile colonies under additional stress that will affect production, is unnecessary and most certainly not healthy for the bees.

Beekeepers do not want their bees to be a nuisance to family, friends, and neighbors. It is a huge concern to me as a beekeeper that any of my bees might cause a problem for anyone. I take great care and consideration to place my bees where they will thrive and not be a problem for anyone living around me. Any problem that may occur will always be immediately and completely remediated to the satisfaction of everyone affected.

And honestly, I am equally concerned about protecting my bees from the public at large. Beehive vandalism is something that happens far too often. Kicking beehives over and/or spraying them with insecticide is some folks idea of fun and sport. When a beehive is violently torn apart in such a way it is usually a dead hive by the time I discover it.

Complying with the proposed setbacks will virtually guarantee beehives being placed in a less than ideal location, leaving them exposed to potential vandalism and damage.

D. Beehive management. According to the proposed amendment, I will most likely have to place my beehives in locations that will not enhance the health and safety of my bees. This section goes further and says I also have to build a four-foot fence around my hive and comply with even more additional setbacks regarding the fence. There are additional minimal six feet tall barriers I will have to install that are required to extend ten feet on either side of the hive if the hive is located less than sixteen feet from a lot line.

I will also be required to provide two constant sources of water each requiring their own setbacks and specific siting rules. To comply with the water requirements I will have to access my neighbor's property to take measurements I will be compelled to document to show that my water sources are in compliance with the proposed amendment's regulations. The proposed amendment also compels me to establish a hard surface landing area in the designated bee drinking areas.

E. Last but not least, unwelcome bureaucracy and fees. The whole point of the proposed amendment is to require me and other beekeepers to apply for and pay a fee to get a permit from the county to keep honey bees on our property (we will no longer be able to use other properties we have previously been invited to use and put beehives on).

In order to get a permit we will have to submit a site plan. We'll have to prepare a drawing (it is unclear if it will have to be a technical drawing made to scale or if we can provide something less precise) showing my lot and the lots adjacent to my property, the principal and accessory structures located on adjacent lots, and any pools or water sources located on adjacent lots. I will have to show where on the

site plan I propose to locate my beehive, fence, water sources, and, if needed, my six-foot high barrier that extends ten feet on either side of my hive. I will have to document on the site plan the distances from structures and water sources on adjacent properties to prove I am complying with all required setbacks and water siting requirements.

I will be required to submit a new site plan drawing each and every time I add or remove a beehive from my property, if I understand the proposed amendment correctly. As I mentioned above, bee yards are dynamic. Bee colonies come and go. Constantly updating site plans will become a tedious and time-consuming activity very quickly.

Every time I collect a swarm of bees I will be required to contact the county zoning administrator to let them know I am keeping the swarm on my property in a way that complies with all required setbacks and regulations. I will have to contact the county zoning administrator again to let them know I have removed the swarm I collected earlier within the 90-day window I am allowed to possess the swarm.

Finally, to be considered for a beekeeping permit, I will have to pay a fee of \$33.00.

The reason this amendment is being proposed is because the neighbor of a local beekeeper objected to honey bees drinking water from his swimming pool (bees can travel four or more miles foraging for pollen, nectar, and water). The beekeeper, along with the Illinois State Apiary Inspector, has been working to resolve the matter with the neighbor for over a year. I don't know the neighbor with the pool drinking honey bee concerns, nor can I comment on how reasonable or willing the neighbor has been to work with the beekeeper and apiary inspector to help resolve the matter.

I can say with certainty there isn't any beekeeper in Champaign County that wouldn't bend over backwards and do backflips to accommodate anyone who has worries or concerns about their beehives. Bees are gentle creatures minding their own business gathering pollen and nectar. The only time they will bother you is when you bother them.

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JUL 19 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

7/18/21

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rena Jones. Kenny Mills and I were friends for over thirty years. We not only worked together but socialized together as well with our wives. I have concerns about the authenticity of the content of the letter from Kenny regarding Ms Jones and the bees. Only the signature is handwritten and it was composed during the last weeks of Kenny's battle with terminal cancer. Lastly it completely contradicts what Kenny shared with me during our conversations about Ms. Jones and her bees. Kenny always spoke highly of Ms Jones and the beehives. He never voiced the bees or hives were problematic for him or his family. He actually took me into her yard and showed me the beehives. Since then I have purchased honey from her multiple times for myself and family. In the multiple times I was at Kenny's house. I never had any concerns about or problems with the bees or hives at Ms Jones home.

Sincerely,

Chris Mackey

cwmack1959@gmail.com

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JUL 19 2021

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CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

July 18, 2021

To: ZBA, ELUC, and Champaign County Board Members,

I am writing this in response to the recent proposed amendment to regulate beekeeping in the unincorporated areas of Champaign County.

I apologize in advance to the length of this narrative. But, I am well known in my professional nursing arena and in my apiary and pollinator community as well. I believe I need to present a comprehensive history to adequately explain my perspective on this matter. My reputation is on the line and I take this quite seriously.

Honeybees are such a vital component to our ecosystem, that to have backyard beekeepers imposed with these restrictions, would severely handicap our endeavors. With such dramatically declining bee populations due to several factors, (disease, lack of forage, environmental chemicals, etc) we need to foster and encourage managed bee activities. Beekeepers are unsung heroes in my estimation. We are supporting a portion of a fragile ecosystem requiring laborious commitment, unique expertise and expense, with minimal compensation other than the satisfaction of knowing we've contributed to a more sustainable ecosystem. Contained in your packet is a narrative written by Bruce Pea, a local, seasoned beekeeper. He has comprehensively detailed the ramifications to beekeepers if this proposed amendment is approved. As a 15 year veteran beekeeper, I find his descriptions accurate and in reality, quite daunting for the beekeeper, to the point in which it would become impractical for some to continue in the practice. Currently there are 88 beekeepers registered with the state registry. Dan Wright, (local Illinois State Apiary Inspector) could not determine the exact number of beekeepers that this proposed amendment would effect, but as Bruce Pea described, many of us have multiple apiaries in various zoning districts in the county, therefore, I suspect it would impact a significant number.

I no longer manage honeybees in the defined zoning district described in the proposal, therefore I will not be directly impacted by the decision since I took corrective action over two years ago. I maintain that this is an isolated incident which originated with me and I do not want my fellow beekeepers penalized. As stated, I began corrective action well over two years ago when contacted by John Hall, Director of Zoning and Development when a honey bee complaint from Barney Bryson was submitted to the county several month earlier. He explained that I did not need to take any action until the case was heard by the county committees several months in the future. And even then, it would be several months more before any action might be needed. In consultation with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association, I decided that I would take proactive steps and promptly moved hives off of my property. While a daunting and laborious task, considering a 6 day work week schedule, my husband's 12hour shifts at the hospital and caring for my demented,

disabled father in our home, in addition to requiring rain free days, we managed to move all hives but one that spring. The remaining one was moved this spring. I still manage hives in this region but the majority are scattered among this county and others. 90 mile circuit to visit them all. Contrary to some critiques I have recently read about me, I have done my best to be a responsible steward to my honey bees and to the bee and pollinator community at large. I have been either the president or co-president of our local honeybee club(CEIBA- Central Eastern Illinois Beekeeping Association for many years. I have captured and relocated a myriad of swarms around the county, instructed classes for beginner beekeepers, have presented multiple Power-Points to local clubs, such as the local herbal society and other honey bee clubs in the state. I have been a guest speaker with Prairie Gardens for several different events, provided instruction to 4-H students, annually volunteered for the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and have ongoing mentoring of several new beekeepers, typically on a gratis bases.

In retrospect, I conclude that years ago I was an overzealous beekeeper. I quickly acquired a number of hives due to strong survival rates, splitting hives and swarm captures. However, I noticed in one of the documents a very inflated number of hives in my yard. I believe they derived that number either by counting individual hive bodies or uninhabited, stacked bee equipment that would appear to be functioning hives. Regardless, at this time, I started moving hives from my property to other locations to reduce the number. This included one neighbor (upon her request), several houses away from me, but very close to the Barney Bryson residence. She is an avid gardener and expressed a great pleasure in observing the bees in her garden. She had several bee-friendly flowers and innocently enough, I obliged her. She and the next door neighbor were excited to have the hives nearby. They expressed that they enjoyed watching them and were glad to be pro-bee supporters. In all the years that the hives were there, they were never stung, even working closely among the bees in the gardens. They had annual garden parties with numbers of attendees. I cautioned her to inform the guests of the hives and to keep a safe distance from the bee's flight path. She said everyone was fascinated by them and no one was ever stung. I verified this information with her recently and she maintains that position. When I pro-actively started removing hives from the subdivision, after being contacted by John Hall, I started with her property given that Barney Bryson had expressed complaints about bees visiting his swimming pool and I was trying to mitigate this for him since he lived close by, even though she had no complaint. In fact, she stated no other neighbor ever approached her with any complaint. She expressed great sadness that they were removed. While we were removing them, Barney Bryson and an acquaintance stood at the street goading us as we worked. This type of derogatory behavior escalated in him by displaying graphic, vulgar body language to me as I drove by his residence on several occasions. Whatever the conflict, I find this completely unacceptable. Therefore, we have a very degraded relationship. Around that same time, I inquired with other neighbors, including one who also has a swimming pool. I wanted to get his perspective to see if it was consistent with Barney

Bryson's view. He expressed that part of having a pool is regular skimming of debris. He acknowledged that he had skimmed some honey bees, but in addition, skimmed June bugs, Japanese beetles, moths, twigs, leaves, etc.. He express that honey bees were not an issue for him. In fact, for many years he asked for pollinator friendly plants that I grew from seed to actually attract the honey bees. Other than one neighbor stating they were visiting his hummingbird feeder, (which is usually a temporary situation in the fall when forage is scarce), and one who had small bee feces on his vehicle (short term situation while the bees were foraging in his Maple tree near his driveway). I offered money to wash the vehicle and honey. I did not believe they were creating significant problems because they were short term situations. And also, considering that honey bees fly a foraging distance of at least 1-2 mile radius, (8,000 acres) from their hive, any of these unwanted visits to the neighborhood could be from surrounding colonies. I know of two apiaries, (one being University of Illinois hives) that are both ¼ mile from our subdivision. And, this does not include any feral colonies in the wild. There could be many because we have timber patches in this area and feral colonies can inhabit dead trees. It's hard to judge the impact they are having, but when food is scarce, bees will fly farther to forage and they are especially attracted large bodies of water; i.e.,swimming pools. Dan Wright (local Illinois State Apiary Inspector) informed Barney Bryson that even after my hives were moved, he would still have unwanted bees visiting his pool.

I have one additional item I would like to comment on and then I will wrap this up. I recently read a letter from my previous next door neighbor, Ken Mills,(recently deceased). It is contained in your packet. He moved away about four years ago. In the letter, he recounts several unfortunate events involving honey bees. I was actually shocked as I read through it. At no time did he ever disclose to me any objections to the bees. In fact, he and his wife, Nila would regularly visit our yard just to watch the bees! They observed us catching a swarm and were fascinated by the experience. He asked me many questions about honeybee behavior over the years and appeared quite intrigued. Face to face with me, he only expressed a positive opinion. And, he had many opportunities to openly discuss any concern because he summoned me to his home on several occasions to provide nursing assistance to Nila, (who had a debilitating, chronic illness). She too is now deceased, so I have no way to reconcile this now. I am saddened if this were their true feelings and it negatively impacted the sale of their home. As I pondered this new information, I remembered a good friend of Ken, Christopher Mackey of Urbana. He had been a previous honey customer, introduced through Ken. I recently contacted him to get his opinion. When he realized it was me he said, "oh, you're the bee lady...he loved your bees." I explained that there was a recently produced letter by Ken, (a few month before his passing)that expressed otherwise. He reiterated that he only ever heard positive comments about the bees from Ken. He feels so strongly about his that he has submitted a letter, (in your packet) and invites anyone to contact him at cwmack1959@gmail.com or call 217-841-6721.

I sincerely thought I was making reasonable and responsible management decisions about my honey bees with the information from credible neighbors at the time the county contacted me. I acted by removing my hives well in advance of a decision by ELUC, (which was dismissed fall 2020). I recognize that I have hives within flight distance of this subdivision in addition to all of the other managed and feral colonies in this region. Therefore, I have been regularly scanning my yard specifically assessing the number of honey bees. At this point in time, I am observing more bumblebees and wasps and very few honey bees. As fall approaches, there will probably be an uptick of flying insects. Yellow jacket wasps, (which are many times misidentified as honey bees) will become more obvious and food scarcity may alter honey bee visitations as well. I cannot control this phenomena. These insects are in our environment and they're flying to areas of their choice.

Thank you for your patience in reading this since I have taken up much narrative to support my reputation. I maintain that this is isolated to the historic issues regarding honey bee complaints in my subdivision, which I have taken action to remedy. I do not believe these proposed amendment restrictions are necessary and they will unduly discourage much needed, current and future beekeepers.

On a lighter note, for anyone who would like to visit a bee hive up close, I will extend an invitation. I will put you in protective clothing, of course and show you the wonders of the amazing honey bee!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rena Wilson Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rena Wilson Jones
217-369-1808
wilsonjonez@comcast.net

Public hearing July 30th

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD BEEKEEPERS NEED YOUR HELP

Honeybees are essential to a healthy ecosystem. Diseases and dwindling forage have decimated feral honeybee colonies, making backyard beekeeping more important than ever.

Hobbyist beekeepers live side by side with their neighbors throughout Champaign County. Neither the City of Champaign nor the City of Urbana have ordinances regulating small-time backyard beekeepers.

Unfortunately, the Champaign County Board is considering an anti-beekeeping ordinance that will regulate hobbyist beekeepers out of existence in our community.

Champaign County neighborhood beekeepers need your help. Please help them protect backyard pollinators by signing this petition and, especially, by emailing a statement of support for beekeeping in residential districts within unincorporated areas of Champaign County to ZoningDept@co.champaign.il.us.

RECEIVED

The honeybees thank you!

JUL 15 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

We, the undersigned, are OPPOSED to any amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance that would further regulate the keeping of honeybees anywhere in Champaign County.

- | NAME | ADDRESS | EMAIL |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. McKenzie Zappa | 502 S Mattis Ave Apt G
61863 | Mckem07@hotmail.com |
| 2. Deborah Kader | 102 N. Oak
Pesotum, IL | debekaden@hotmail.com |
| 3. Cherie Foster | 1470 Cambridge Dr
Champaign IL 61821 | cherie_foster_05@yahoo.com |
| 4. Wendy Hardney | 249 Illinois Dr.
RANTON, IL 61866 | whardney@aol.com |
| 5. Michael Maxey | 502 S Mattis Ave Apt G | mmaxey179@gmail.com |
| 6. William Uptmor | 15655 LAUREL DR.
DANVILLE, IL 61834 | uptmor1784@yahoo.com |

Champaign County Board Petition

7. Malinda Gosnell 209 S. Richman Villa Grove, IL 61956 gosnellmalinda@yahoo.com

8. Alyssa Freeman 303 E. South St Mansfield IL 61859 Afreeman523@gmail.com
Carollarrg8477@yahoo

9. Carl Wise 12584 N 4100 East Rd Saybrook IL 61770

10. _____

11. _____

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23. _____

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24. _____

Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance (continued)



JUL 15 2021

4. Add Section 7.8 as follows:

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

7.8 BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 DISTRICTS

- A. In the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Residential Districts, BEEKEEPING shall be authorized only as an ACCESSORY USE conducted by a member or members of the immediate FAMILY, residing on the premises, and shall be authorized by a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 of the Zoning Ordinance prior to establishment.
- B. All BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the State of Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act (510 ILCS 20/ 1 et. seq.) and all BEEHIVES and/ or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as follows:
 - 1. A copy of the original Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of the Zoning Compliance Certificate.
 - 2. The BEEKEEPER shall provide the Zoning Administrator with any changes or revisions to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate.
- C. BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance.
- D. Number of BEEHIVES allowed.
 - 1. On a LOT with a LOT AREA of no more than 10,000 square feet, three BEEHIVES shall be allowed. One NUCLEUS COLONY shall also be allowed for each authorized BEEHIVE. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 - 2. For each additional 10,000 square feet of LOT AREA one additional BEEHIVE and one additional NUCLEUS COLONY shall be allowed. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 - 3. If the BEEKEEPER serves the community by removing a SWARM or SWARMS of HONEY BEES from locations where they are not desired, the BEEKEEPER may temporarily house the SWARM on the APIARY LOT in compliance with the standards set out in this ordinance and the Nuisance Ordinance for no more than 3 months from the date acquired, in addition to the other COLONIES allowed under this ordinance. One such SWARM may be housed at a given time on the APIARY LOT. The BEEKEEPER shall provide notice to the ZONING ADMINISTRATOR when the SWARM is temporarily established on the APIARY LOT and when the SWARM has been relocated to another location from the APIARY LOT.

JUL 15 2021

CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

**Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance
(continued)**

- E. **Location of BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY on the LOT.**
1. Minimum separation to LOT LINE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, adjoining improved ALLEY, or easement for purposes of ingress or egress and a minimum of 10 feet from all other LOT LINES.
 2. Minimum separation to PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any existing PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT and any ACCESSORY STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT such as a patio, gazebo, deck, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but not including garages or sheds.
 3. All proposed BEEHIVES and NUCLEUS COLONIES shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application with dimensions to all LOT LINES.
 4. BEEHIVES may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit.
- F. **Management practices**
1. **Fencing.**
 - a. On a LOT with 40,000 square feet or less of LOT AREA, any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be enclosed within a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate.
 - b. The fence shall be at least three feet from any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY.
 - c. Any required fencing shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.
 2. **Flyway barrier.**
 - a. When any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY is located less than 16 feet from a LOT LINE there shall be a six-foot high flyway barrier (fence, wall, or dense vegetation) that shall extend a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY entrance.
 - b. If dense vegetation is used the initial planting may be only 4 feet in HEIGHT.
 - c. Any required flyway barrier shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.

Attachment C. Draft Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance (continued)

3. **Water supply.**

- a. Two sources of water shall be continuously available to the APIARY and shall be located no further from a BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent LOT.
- b. Water sources shall be continuously available from April 1 to November 30 and all days in which temperatures exceed 55 degrees for three consecutive days.
- c. Each water source shall be designed to allow HONEY BEES to access water by landing on a hard surface.
- d. All required water sources shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application. The type of water source including the type of hard surface to be provided shall be noted on the site plan.
- e. Water sources may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit but any required water sources shall be equivalent to the water sources indicated on the original approved site plan.

4. **Add Section 9.3.1 G.6. adding Zoning Use Permit fee as follows:**

- 6. Change of Use to establish BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 District..... \$33

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CHAMPAIGN CO. P & Z DEPARTMENT

Proposed Regulated Beekeeping Areas in Unincorporated Champaign County

Case 014-AT-21
July 29, 2021

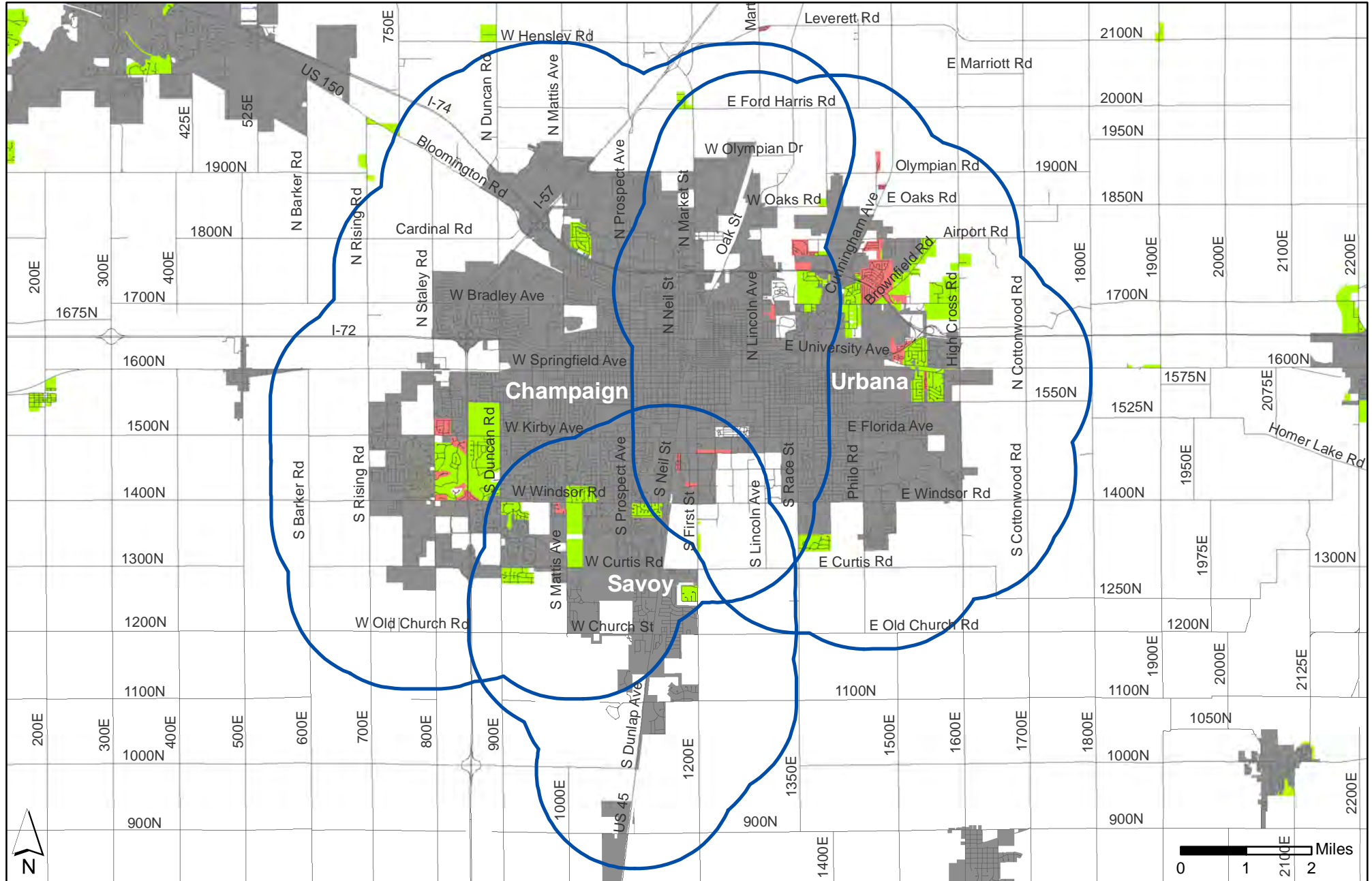
Restricted beekeeping area (R-1, R-2, R-3 Districts) 4,262 acres (0.72%) of unincorporated area
Prohibited beekeeping area (R-4, R-5 Districts) 820 acres (0.14%) of unincorporated area



Proposed Regulated Beekeeping Areas in 1.5 mile ETJ of Champaign, Urbana & Savoy

Case 014-AT-21

July 29, 2021



Regulated beekeeping area (R-1, R-2, R-3 Districts) Prohibited beekeeping area (R-4, R-5 Districts) Municipal Boundary 1.5 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction of C-U-S

Attachment I: LRMP Goals, Objectives and Policies

can be found online at: http://www.co.champaign.il.us/CountyBoard/meetings_ZBA.php

Attachment J. Beekeeping Amendment to the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance

1. Add new defined terms in Section 2.0 as follows:

BEEHIVE: The receptacle or box inhabited by a COLONY of HONEY BEES that is manufactured for that purpose.

BEEKEEPER: A person who owns or has charge of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

BEEKEEPING: The keeping, raising, and management of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

COLONY: An aggregate of HONEY BEES consisting principally of worker HONEY BEES, but having, when perfect, one queen HONEY BEE and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.

HONEY BEE: All life stages and castes of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

2. Add new Section 3.2 O. as follows:

O. BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Zoning Districts as defined in the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance and as mapped on the Champaign County Zoning Map and that is conducted as follows:

1. BEEKEEPING that does not conform to Section 7.8 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance.
2. BEEKEEPING with any wax comb or syrup for feeding HONEY BEES or other material that might encourage robbing by other HONEY BEES left open on the lot. Such materials shall be stored in a sealed insect-proof container or placed within an insect-proof building.
3. BEEKEEPING which opens or disturbs HONEY BEE COLONIES when neighbors or general public are participating in outside activities or using machinery within 150 feet.
4. BEEHIVES left outside on a property without regular husbandry by a BEEKEEPER.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

014-AT-21

**FINDING OF FACT
AND FINAL DETERMINATION**

**of
Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals**

Final Determination: ***{RECOMMEND ENACTMENT/RECOMMEND DENIAL}***

Date: ***{July 29, 2021}***

Petitioner: **Zoning Administrator**

Request: **Amend the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

- 1. Amend Section 3.0 Definitions by adding a definition for “apiary”, “beekeeping”, “honey bee”, “nucleus colony” and other related terms.**
- 2. Add footnote 29 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, that indicates that beekeeping shall be authorized per the requirements of Section 7.8.**
- 3. Add footnote 30 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-4 and R-5 Districts, that indicates that beekeeping is not an authorized USE in the R-4 and R-5 DISTRICTS.**
- 4. Add new Section 7.8 Beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, with new requirements including but not limited to the following:**
 - A. Beekeeping shall be authorized only as a home occupation and shall be authorized by a Zoning Use Permit.**
 - B. All beekeeping shall be in compliance with the State of Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and all beehives and/ or nucleus colony shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture**
 - C. Beekeeping shall be in compliance with the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance.**
 - D. Add a limit on the number of beehives that may be kept on a lot based on the area of the lot as follows:**
 - (1) On a lot with no more than 10,000 square feet of area there shall be no more than three beehives and for each additional 10,000 square feet of lot area there may be one additional beehive; and**
 - (2) One nucleus colony shall be allowed for each authorized beehive provided that the nucleus colony is moved or combined with an authorized colony within 30 days; and**

(3) Allow temporary housing of one swarm of honey bees for no more than 3 months from the date acquired, subject to notifying the Zoning Administrator.

E. Add a minimum required separation between any beehive and/or nucleus colony and a lot line of 10 feet and 30 feet to any street right of way, improved alley, or access easement, and 30 feet to any structure on any adjacent lot.

F. Add requirements for management practices as follows:

(1) Add a requirement that any beehive and/or nucleus colony on any lot with 40,000 square feet or less lot area to be enclosed by a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate.

(2) Add a requirement for a minimum six-foot high flyway barrier for any beehive and/ or nucleus colony located less than 16 feet from a lot line and require the flyway barrier to extend a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the beehive and/ or nucleus colony.

(3) Add a requirement for a minimum of two sources of water to be continuously available in the apiary when honey bees are active outside a beehive. Each required water source shall be no further from a beehive or nucleus colony than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent lot and shall allow honey bee access to water by landing on a hard surface.

G. Add a requirement that any BEEKEEPING that exceeds any of the standards in paragraphs 7.8 D. through F. may be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit.

5. Amend Section 9.3.1 G.6. by adding a \$33 Change of Use Permit Application Fee to establish beekeeping in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts.

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT**FINDING OF FACT**

From the documents of record and the testimony and exhibits received at the public hearing conducted on **July 29, 2021**, the Zoning Board of Appeals of Champaign County finds that:

1. The petitioner is the Zoning Administrator.
2. The proposed amendment is intended to establish the requirements for the keeping of honey bees in residential areas.
3. Municipalities with zoning and townships with planning commissions have protest rights on all text amendments and they are notified of such cases.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

4. The proposed amendment is attached to this Finding of Fact as it will appear in the Zoning Ordinance.

GENERALLY REGARDING THE LRMP GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

5. The *Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan* (LRMP) was adopted by the County Board on April 22, 2010. The LRMP Goals, Objectives, and Policies were drafted through an inclusive and public process that produced a set of ten goals, 42 objectives, and 100 policies, which are currently the only guidance for amendments to the *Champaign County Zoning Ordinance*, as follows:
 - A. The Purpose Statement of the LRMP Goals, Objectives, and Policies is as follows:

“It is the purpose of this plan to encourage municipalities and the County to protect the land, air, water, natural resources and environment of the County and to encourage the use of such resources in a manner which is socially and economically desirable. The Goals, Objectives and Policies necessary to achieve this purpose are as follows:...”
 - B. The LRMP defines Goals, Objectives, and Policies as follows:
 - (1) Goal: an ideal future condition to which the community aspires
 - (2) Objective: a tangible, measurable outcome leading to the achievement of a goal
 - (3) Policy: a statement of actions or requirements judged to be necessary to achieve goals and objectives
 - C. The Background given with the LRMP Goals, Objectives, and Policies further states, “Three documents, the *County Land Use Goals and Policies* adopted in 1977, and two sets of *Land Use Regulatory Policies*, dated 2001 and 2005, were built upon, updated, and consolidated into the LRMP Goals, Objectives and Policies.

REGARDING LRMP GOALS

6. LRMP Goal 1 is entitled “Planning and Public Involvement” and states that as follows:

Champaign County will attain a system of land resource management planning built on broad public involvement that supports effective decision making by the County.

Goal 1 has 4 objectives and 4 policies. The proposed amendment will **NOT IMPEDE** the achievement of Goal 1.

7. LRMP Goal 2 is entitled “Governmental Coordination” and states as follows:

Champaign County will collaboratively formulate land resource and development policy with other units of government in areas of overlapping land use planning jurisdiction.

Goal 2 has two objectives and three policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 2.

8. LRMP Goal 3 is entitled “Prosperity” and states as follows:

Champaign County will encourage economic growth and development to ensure prosperity for its residents and the region.

Goal 3 has three objectives and no policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 3.

9. LRMP Goal 4 is entitled “Agriculture” and states as follows:

Champaign County will protect the long-term viability of agriculture in Champaign County and its land resource base.

Goal 4 has 9 objectives and 22 policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 4.

10. LRMP Goal 5 is entitled “Urban Land Use” and states as follows:

Champaign County will encourage urban development that is compact and contiguous to existing cities, villages, and existing unincorporated settlements.

Goal 5 has 3 objectives and 15 policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 5.

11. LRMP Goal 6 is entitled “Public Health and Safety” and states as follows:

Champaign County will ensure protection of the public health and public safety in land resource management decisions.

Goal 6 has 4 objectives and 7 policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 6.

12. LRMP Goal 7 is entitled “Transportation” and states as follows:

Champaign County will coordinate land use decisions in the unincorporated area with the existing and planned transportation infrastructure and services.

Goal 7 has 2 objectives and 7 policies. The proposed amendment will *NOT IMPEDE* the achievement of Goal 7.

13. LRMP Goal 8 is entitled “Natural Resources” and states as follows:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT**Champaign County will strive to conserve and enhance the County's landscape and natural resources and ensure their sustainable use.**

Goal 8 has 9 objectives and 36 policies. The proposed amendment will **NOT IMPEDE** the achievement of Goal 8.

14. LRMP Goal 9 is entitled "Energy Conservation" and states as follows:

Champaign County will encourage energy conservation, efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources.

Goal 9 has 5 objectives and 5 policies. The proposed amendment will **NOT IMPEDE** the achievement of Goal 9.

15. LRMP Goal 10 is entitled "Cultural Amenities" and states as follows:

Champaign County will promote the development and preservation of cultural amenities that contribute to a high quality of life for its citizens.

Goal 10 has 1 objective and 1 policy. Goal 10 will **NOT IMPEDE** the proposed amendment in general.

REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE

16. The proposed amendment will **HELP ACHIEVE** the purpose of the Zoning Ordinance as established in Section 2 of the Ordinance for the following reasons:
- A. Paragraph 2.0 (a) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to secure adequate light, pure air, and safety from fire and other dangers.
- The proposed amendment seeks to address complaints that improperly maintained bee colonies have created safety concerns from some neighbors in residential districts in the county.
- B. Paragraph 2.0 (b) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to conserve the value of land, BUILDINGS, and STRUCTURES throughout the COUNTY.
- The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.
- C. Paragraph 2.0 (c) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to lessen and avoid congestion in the public STREETS.
- The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.
- D. Paragraph 2.0 (d) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to lessen and avoid hazards to persons and damage to property resulting from the accumulation of runoff of storm or flood waters.
- The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

-
- E. Paragraph 2.0 (e) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to promote the public health, safety, comfort, morals, and general welfare.

A summary of comments and petitions regarding the proposed ordinance amendment can be found in Attachment C to Preliminary Memo #1 dated July 20, 2021.

- F. Paragraph 2.0 (f) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to regulate and limit the height and bulk of BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES hereafter to be erected.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- G. Paragraph 2.0 (g) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to establish, regulate, and limit the building or setback lines on or along any street, trafficway, drive or parkway.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- H. Paragraph 2.0 (h) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to regulate and limit the intensity of the use of LOT areas, and regulating and determining the area of open spaces within and surrounding BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- I. Paragraph 2.0 (i) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to classify, regulate, and restrict the location of trades and industries and the location of BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, and land designed for specified industrial, residential, and other land USES.

The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.

- J. Paragraph 2.0 (j) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to divide the entire County into DISTRICTS of such number, shape, area, and such different classes according to the USE of land, BUILDINGS, and STRUCTURES, intensity of the USE of LOT area, area of open spaces, and other classification as may be deemed best suited to carry out the purpose of the ordinance.

The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.

- K. Paragraph 2.0 (k) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to fix regulations and standards to which BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, or USES therein shall conform.

The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.

- L. Paragraph 2.0 (l) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to prohibit USES, BUILDINGS, or STRUCTURES incompatible with the character of such DISTRICTS.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.

- M. Paragraph 2.0 (m) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to prevent additions to and alteration or remodeling of existing BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, or USES in such a way as to avoid the restrictions and limitations lawfully imposed under this ordinance.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- N. Paragraph 2.0 (n) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to protect the most productive agricultural lands from haphazard and unplanned intrusions of urban USES.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- O. Paragraph 2.0 (o) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to protect natural features such as forested areas and watercourses.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- P. Paragraph 2.0 (p) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to encourage the compact development of urban areas to minimize the cost of development of public utilities and public transportation facilities.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

- Q. Paragraph 2.0 (q) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to encourage the preservation of agricultural belts surrounding urban areas, to retain the agricultural nature of the County, and the individual character of existing communities.

The proposed amendment is consistent with this purpose.

- R. Paragraph 2.0 (r) of the Ordinance states that one purpose of the zoning regulations and standards that have been adopted and established is to provide for the safe and efficient development of renewable energy sources in those parts of the COUNTY that are most suited to their development.

The proposed amendment is not directly related to this purpose.

17. The proposed text amendment **WILL** improve the text of the Zoning Ordinance because it **WILL** provide:
- A. A classification which allows beekeeping on residential properties while establishing minimum requirements that ensure the purposes of the Zoning Ordinance will be met.

SUMMARY FINDING OF FACT

From the documents of record and the testimony and exhibits received at the public hearing conducted on **July 29, 2021**, the Zoning Board of Appeals of Champaign County finds that:

1. The proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment **WILL NOT IMPEDE** the Land Resource Management Plan because:
 - A. The proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment **WILL NOT IMPEDE** the achievement of LRMP Goals 1 through 10.

2. The proposed text amendment **WILL** improve the Zoning Ordinance because it will:
 - A. **HELP ACHIEVE** the purpose of the Zoning Ordinance (see Item 16).

 - B. **IMPROVE** the text of the Zoning Ordinance (see Item 17).

DOCUMENTS OF RECORD

1. Legal advertisement for Case 014-AT-21
2. Preliminary Memorandum for Case 014-AT-21, with attachments:
 - A Legal advertisement
 - B ELUC Memorandum dated September 28, 2020
 - C ELUC Memorandum dated April 26, 2021
 - D Public comments regarding problems with honey bees from the April 8, 2021 ELUC meeting
 - E Public handouts and a petition requesting adoption of a honey bee amendment from the April 8, 2021 ELUC meeting
 - F Public comments received between the May 6, 2021 ELUC meeting and July 19, 2021
 - G Example of petition sheets received the week of July 15, 2021
(full signature pages of petitions can be found on ZBA meetings website)
 - H Maps of Proposed Regulated Beekeeping Areas in unincorporated Champaign County created by P&Z Staff on July 12, 2021
 - I Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Goals & Objectives *(available on ZBA meetings website)*
 - J Proposed Nuisance Ordinance amendment *(not subject to revision or approval by ZBA)*
 - K Preliminary Finding of Fact, Summary Finding of Fact, and Final Determination for Case 014-AT-21 dated July 29, 2021, with attachment:
 - Full text of the proposed beekeeping amendment dated July 29, 2021

FINAL DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the authority granted by Section 9.2 of the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Board of Appeals of Champaign County recommends that:

The Zoning Ordinance Amendment requested in **Case 014-AT-21** should ***{BE ENACTED / NOT BE ENACTED}*** by the County Board in the form attached hereto.

The foregoing is an accurate and complete record of the Findings and Determination of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Champaign County.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Ryan Elwell, Chair
Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals

Secretary to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Date

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

1. Add the following to Section 3. Definitions:

APIARY: The assembly of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES at a single location.

BEEHIVE: The receptacle or box inhabited by a COLONY of HONEY BEES that is manufactured for that purpose.

BEEKEEPER: A person who owns or has charge of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

BEEKEEPING: The keeping, raising, and management of one or more COLONIES of HONEY BEES.

COLONY: A BEEHIVE and its equipment, the HONEY BEES, honey combs and honey, and the brood.

HONEY BEE: All life stages and castes of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* species.

NUCLEUS COLONY: A small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual BEEHIVE box kept for a particular purpose such as queen management or pest management. A NUCLEUS COLONY shall not exceed one standard nine and five-eighths-inch deep ten-frame BEEHIVE body with no supers attached.

SWARM: A group of HONEY BEES, usually calm and with a queen, that have left a hive to find a new home.

2. Add footnote 29 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses and indicate footnote 29 for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Districts, as follows:

29. BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 DISTRICTS shall be authorized per the requirements of Section 7.8.

3. Add footnote 30 to Section 5.2 Table of Authorized Principal Uses and indicate footnote 30 for “AGRICULTURE” for the R-4 and R-5 Districts, as follows:

30. BEEKEEPING is not an authorized USE in the R-4 and R-5 DISTRICTS.

SECTION 5.2 TABLE OF AUTHORIZED PRINCIPAL USES

Principal USES	Zoning DISTRICTS															
	CR	AG-1	AG-2	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	B-1	B-2	B-3	B-4	B-5	I-1	I-2	
AGRICULTURE, including customary ACCESSORY USES				29	29	29	30	30								

4. Add Section 7.8 as follows:**7.8 BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 DISTRICTS**

- A. In the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Residential Districts, BEEKEEPING shall be authorized only as a home occupation and subject to the requirements of Section 7.1.1 except where the requirements of this Section are in addition to or exceed the requirements of Section 7.1.1, and shall be authorized by a Zoning Use Permit in accordance with Section 9.1.2 of the Zoning Ordinance prior to establishment.
- B. All BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the State of Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act (510 ILCS 20/ 1 et. seq.) and all BEEHIVES and/ or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as follows:
1. A copy of the original Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of the Zoning Compliance Certificate.
 2. The BEEKEEPER shall provide the Zoning Administrator with any changes or revisions to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Registration Certificate.
- C. BEEKEEPING shall be in compliance with the Champaign County Nuisance Ordinance.
- D. Number of BEEHIVES allowed.
1. On a LOT with a LOT AREA of no more than 10,000 square feet, three BEEHIVES shall be allowed. One NUCLEUS COLONY shall also be allowed for each authorized BEEHIVE. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 2. For each additional 10,000 square feet of LOT AREA one additional BEEHIVE and one additional NUCLEUS COLONY shall be allowed. Each NUCLEUS COLONY shall be moved, disposed of, or combined with an authorized COLONY within 30 days after the date it is acquired.
 3. If the BEEKEEPER serves the community by removing a SWARM or SWARMS of HONEY BEES from locations where they are not desired, the BEEKEEPER may temporarily house the SWARM on the APIARY LOT in compliance with the standards set out in this ordinance and the Nuisance Ordinance for no more than 3 months from the date acquired, in addition to the other COLONIES allowed under this ordinance. One such SWARM may be housed at a given time on the APIARY LOT. The BEEKEEPER shall provide notice to the ZONING ADMINISTRATOR when the SWARM is temporarily established on the APIARY LOT and when the SWARM has been relocated to another location from the APIARY LOT.
- E. Location of BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY on the LOT.
1. Minimum separation to LOT LINE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, adjoining improved ALLEY, or easement for purposes of ingress or egress and a minimum of 10 feet from all other LOT LINES.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

2. Minimum separation to PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE. A BEEHIVE and/or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be located a minimum of 30 feet from any existing PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT and any ACCESSORY STRUCTURE on any adjacent LOT such as a patio, gazebo, deck, swimming pools, or permanently affixed play equipment, but not including garages or sheds.
 3. All proposed BEEHIVES and NUCLEUS COLONIES shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application with dimensions to all LOT LINES.
 4. BEEHIVES may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit.
- F. Management practices
1. Fencing.
 - a. On a LOT with 40,000 square feet or less of LOT AREA, any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY shall be enclosed within a four-foot high fence or wall with a self-latching gate.
 - b. The fence shall be at least three feet from any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY.
 - c. Any required fencing shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.
 2. Flyway barrier.
 - a. When any BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY is located less than 16 feet from a LOT LINE there shall be a six-foot high flyway barrier (fence, wall, or dense vegetation) that shall extend a minimum of 10 feet on each side of the BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY entrance.
 - b. If dense vegetation is used the initial planting may be only 4 feet in HEIGHT.
 - c. Any required flyway barrier shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application.
 3. Water supply.
 - a. Two sources of water shall be continuously available to the APIARY and shall be located no further from a BEEHIVE or NUCLEUS COLONY than one-half the distance to any other possible water source on any adjacent LOT.
 - b. Water sources shall be continuously available from April 1 to November 30 and all days in which temperatures exceed 55 degrees for three consecutive days.
 - c. Each water source shall be designed to allow HONEY BEES to access water by landing on a hard surface.

- d. All required water sources shall be indicated on the site plan for the Zoning Use Permit Application. The type of water source including the type of hard surface to be provided shall be noted on the site plan.
 - e. Water sources may be replaced or changed over time without requiring a new Zoning Use Permit, but any required water sources shall be equivalent to the water sources indicated on the original approved site plan.
- G. Any BEEKEEPING that exceeds any of the standards in paragraphs 7.8 D. through F. may be authorized by SPECIAL USE Permit.

5. Add Section 9.3.1 G.6. adding Zoning Use Permit fee as follows:

- 6. Change of Use to establish BEEKEEPING in the R-1, R-2, or R-3 District: \$33