
ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING PACKET FOR THE
December 28, 2011
REGULAR MEETING



AGENDA
Alexandria Township Planning Commission
December 28, 2011
6:00 p.m. – Township Conference Room

Call to Order

Adopt Agenda

Approve Minutes – November 28, 2011

Public Hearing

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Zoning Administrator's Report

New Business:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Old Business:

1. Discussion – end-of-year ordinance updates
2. Training Session – Septic Systems
- 3.

Adjournment



STAFF REPORT

Application: End of Year Ordinance Amendments

Applicant: Alexandria Township

Agenda Item: Old Business

Background: At the end of every calendar year, Staff typically brings a list of “clean-up” ordinance amendments for discussion by the Planning Commission. These are amendments that are assembled over the course of the year as sections of the ordinance are identified as being unclear or in need of clarification. Staff also typically asks for input from the Planning Commission and/or Town Board as to items they wish to see added, subtracted or amended.

At the November Planning Commission meeting, staff was instructed to prepare a draft ordinance regulating small animals not otherwise regulated under the current ordinance as livestock or by other Township ordinances as a dog or cat.

The attached represents a draft ordinance for discussion purposes. If the Commission feels it is advisable to move forward with this ordinance, as may be amended during discussions, a public hearing would need to be scheduled. The Commission may or may not choose to have such a public hearing at a later date when other ordinance amendments are made (such as the variance and sign ordinance amendments that may be occurring within the relatively near future).

V. KEEPING OF ANIMALS

The purpose of these regulations is to permit and regulate the keeping of small animals not otherwise regulated by this ordinance as livestock or under Alexandria Township Ordinance #117 (dogs and cats) as may be amended from time to time.

1. General

To provide a higher development standard and to control the keeping of small animals so as to preserve the residential nature of certain areas. This section shall be applicable to all parcels of land within the Urban Residential, Rural Residential or shoreland districts that contain five acres or less.

2. Definitions

Animal, Small: Animals or fowl not otherwise defined as livestock by this ordinance, as a dog or cat under Alexandria Township Ordinance #117 as may be amended from time to time, or as a “regulated animal” under Minnesota Statutes 346.155. Small animals shall, except for dogs and cats, include any animal kept as a pet or for the purpose of food production (either for personal consumption or sale) such as, but not limited to, chickens, guinea hens, geese, ducks, turkeys, pigeons, peacocks, rabbits, miniature pigs, mink, ferrets, snakes, bees, parrots and other birds, and other animals or fowl of similar size and type. Small animals or fowl under 3 months in age shall not be included when computing intensity of small animals or fowl.

3. Regulations

This ordinance establishes three general categories of regulations affecting small animals. The three general categories are defined as follows:

- a. **Small animals kept within a dwelling.** Any small animals kept completely and entirely within a dwelling are not regulated by this ordinance. These are animals that are generally kept as pets and are contained within cages, aquariums, or other similar enclosures.
- b. **Small animals kept within an attached or detached accessory building.** The keeping of up to three (3) small animals, or up to one (1) bee hive, shall be allowed as an interim use, provided that such animals (except for bees) are sufficiently contained so as to prevent their running at large or entering the premise of any neighboring property.
- c. **Small animals running at large or in numbers greater than three.** Small animals in numbers greater than three (3), or small animals that are allowed to run at large or are otherwise uncontained within a building or shelter shall not be permitted.

4. Performance Standards

- a. **Disposal of Animal Feces.** A property owner shall clean and properly dispose of animal feces on a daily or weekly basis, or as necessary to ensure that odors do not become a nuisance to any nearby property owner or the public.

- b. **Noise.** No owner shall permit any animal under his or her custody or control to create a nuisance by way of crying, howling, screeching, growling or other vocalization.
- c. **Maintenance of facilities/enclosures.** All facilities, buildings or other enclosures for the housing of small animals shall be constructed of material appropriate for the animal involved, contain and restrain the animal they are designed or built to contain without causing injury to, or depriving the animal of necessary environmental elements, and be maintained in good repair.

Our promise to you is that we will:

1. Without prejudice, reflect the vision of the community as represented in the community's planning documents.
2. Respect the will of the community as enacted in land use policies and regulations.
3. Serve the elected and appointed officials of the community, understanding they are the decision-makers elected by the people they represent.
4. Always seek the truth through an exchange of ideas that is open, honest and without bias.
5. Continually improve community access to planning information and processes.
6. Provide service that is friendly, responsive and professional.

