

6.11 BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

Whereas, honey bees are of benefit to mankind and to Wisconsin in particular, by providing agriculture, fruit, and garden pollination services and by furnishing honey, wax, and other useful products; and

Whereas, the honey bee has been designated as the official Wisconsin insect; and

Whereas, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including honey production, tendency not to swarm, and non-aggressive behavior, and,

Whereas, honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without causing a nuisance if the honey bees are properly located, carefully managed, and maintained.

DEFINITIONS:

"Apiary" is where one or more managed colony(s) or hive(s) is located. An apiary consists of managed honey bee colony(s) or hive(s) that are kept in a structure(s) intentionally provided by the beekeeper for honey bee housing. The honey bee housing structure has movable-frames to allow the beekeeper and inspector complete access to the inner living area of colony(s) or hive(s) and its contents for manipulations such as requeening, viewing, evaluation, and/or sampling.

"Bee Smoker" means an appliance utilizing smoke or fire used to aid in manipulating or moving honey bees.

"Bees" are the domesticated European sub-species of *Apis mellifera* honey bee with a cooperative temperament historically managed and kept by beekeepers for agricultural purposes.

"Beekeeper" is any person or persons who owns, operates, maintains, possesses or otherwise controls an apiary and/or the owner of property upon which an apiary is situated.

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

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

"Location" means any property upon which an apiary is located.

"Property Line" is the demarcation, whether natural or artificial (man-made), of legal ownership between two contiguous estates, usually contained in a grant deed or shown on a subdivision map of record.

APPROVED HIVES, COLONIES, OR APIARIES

Beekeepers shall maintain honey bees in a structure(s) intentionally provided by the beekeepers for honey bee housing. The honey bee housing structure shall have movable-frames to allow full access to the inner honey bee living quarters by the inspector for viewing, evaluation, and/or sampling of the structure and its contents including but not limited to brood, drones, queens, workers, beeswax, comb, honey, and pollen.

LICENSE

Beekeepers located in the Village of Allouez shall register with the Village the number of colonies and the location of each apiary on the first day of January of each year or within 30 calendar days of acquiring a hive.

ISSUANCE OF LICENSES. Only one license may be issued to each location of a apiary. Upon payment of the required license fee, the Village Clerk shall complete and issue to the owner a license stating the owner's name and address, location of hive(s), date of issuance, and date of license expiration. The Village Clerk shall keep a duplicate copy of the license on file.

LATE FEES. The Village Clerk shall assess and collect a late fee as outlined in Section 8.01A from every owner of a hive if the owner failed to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or within thirty (30) days of acquiring ownership of a licensable hive.

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IDENTIFICATION SIGNS

Beekeepers shall identify the beekeeper's name and telephone number information on all apiary hives in black letters, not less than one inch high, on a background of contrasting color.

REGULAR HIVE CHECK

Beekeepers shall inspect each colony at least once a month to detect objectionable honey bee behavior and/or apiary pests in order to take corrective action(s) in a timely manner. Beekeepers shall practice swarm prevention techniques and provide additional space for colony growth to minimize honey bee swarming.

LOCATION AND NUMBER OF HIVES:

Each beekeeper is allowed up to three hives per location and only one location allowed per designated spots assigned. The Village may allow the placement of apiaries closer than the

distance requirements from the property line if the Village finds the location is on an open-space adjacent to property that would not endanger public health or safety or create a nuisance.

WATER SUPPLY REQUIRED

Beekeepers shall maintain an adequate and accessible supply of fresh water available at all times, including prior to introduction to a new location. If the property on which the apiary is located does not contain sufficient natural water, the beekeeper shall provide one or more water containers or water sources. The water supply shall provide landing sites for the honey bees to drink without drowning, undue competition, or over-crowding. It is unlawful for a beekeeper to allow a water source to become stagnant or a mosquito breeding site.

FIREBREAK

Beekeepers shall maintain apiaries with a fire break that meets the following specifications:

The area within ten feet (10') surrounding apiaries shall be cleared to bare earth and free from all other combustible material. This shall be the only firebreak required for five (5) colonies or less in Village property.

The area beginning from ten feet (10') surrounding apiaries out to thirty feet (30') surrounding apiaries shall have all combustible vegetation maintained to a height of six inches (6") above the ground or less.

Vegetation along the route being traveled by motor vehicles to any apiary location shall have all combustible vegetation maintained to a height of six inches (6") above the ground or less.

Subsections (a) and (b) shall not be construed to require the owner or operator to remove live trees, unless the fire official having jurisdiction requires trees to be removed to eliminate a fire hazard.

Beekeepers shall keep and maintain the following fire-fighting equipment, in good working condition, located at the apiary or in any motor vehicle used for apiary maintenance, so as to be immediately available in case of fire:

A shovel;

A fire extinguisher or backpack type firefighting pump; or

BEE SMOKERS

Beekeepers shall maintain apiaries free from fire hazards due to use of a bee smokers by complying with the following regulations:

The bee smoker shall be plugged with a noncombustible or fire resistive plug such as metal or hardwood, while being transported to or from an apiary so as to prevent sparks or embers from escaping.

During hand-carry transport of a bee smoker containing burning or smoldering substances to or from an apiary, the smoker shall be carried in a noncombustible secondary container with the lid securely fastened in the closed position to prevent the smoker from spilling its contents when tipped over.

During motorized vehicle transport of a bee smoker containing burning or smoldering substances to or from an apiary, the smoker shall be placed in a noncombustible secondary container with the lid securely fastened in the closed position.

All burning or smoldering substances within a bee smoker shall be completely extinguished with water and cold to touch after use.

TRANSPORTATION OF HONEY BEES

No person shall transport a colony of honey bees between sunrise and sunset or cause honey bees to be transported during that time period unless the honey bees are transported in a vehicle with bee-tight screens or other devices that will prevent honey bees from escaping from the vehicle.