

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF STAFFORD  
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

ORDINANCE

At a regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors (the Board) held in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, Stafford, Virginia, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020:

<u>MEMBERS:</u>	<u>VOTE:</u>
Meg Bohmke, Chairman	No
Thomas C. Coen, Vice Chairman	Yes
Tinesha O. Allen	Yes
L. Mark Dudenhefer	Yes
Cindy C. Shelton	Yes
Gary F. Snellings	No
Crystal L. Vanuch	No

On motion of Mr. Dudenhefer, seconded by Mr. Coen, which carried by a vote of 4 to 3, the following was adopted:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SEC. 28-25, "DEFINITIONS OF SPECIFIC TERMS," SEC. 28-35, TABLE 3.1, "TABLE OF USES AND STANDARDS," AND SEC. 28-39, "SPECIAL REGULATIONS," TO ALLOW THE KEEPING OF HONEYBEES (APIARIES) WITHIN THE R-1, SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS REGARDING THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Code (Code) allows for specific uses and defines how such uses are permitted within the zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, the keeping of honeybees (apiaries) is permitted in the A-1, Agricultural and A-2, Rural Residential Zoning Districts as an agriculture operation; and

WHEREAS, a request has been made to allow apiaries as an accessory use in the R-1, Suburban Residential Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the Board carefully considered the recommendations of the Planning Commission and staff, and the testimony, if any, received at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practices require adoption of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020, that Stafford County Code Sec. 28-25 “Definitions of specific terms,” Sec. 28-35, Table 3.1 “District Uses and Standards,” and Sec. 28-39, “Special regulations,” be and they hereby are amended and reordained as follows, with all other portions remaining unchanged:

**Sec. 28-25. Definitions of specific terms.**

Apiary. Any place where one or more colonies of bees are kept.

Hive. A box, skep, barrel, log gum, or other container used as a domicile for bees.

**Sec. 28-35. - Table of uses and standards.**

**Table 3.1. District Uses and Standards**

*R-1 Suburban Residential.*

(a) *Uses permitted by right:*

Apiary, as accessory use (in accordance with subsection 28-39 (aa)).

**Sec. 28-39. - Special regulations.**

(aa) Special provisions applicable to apiary as an accessory use in the R-1, Suburban Residential District.

(1) The keeping of honeybees in four (4) hives or less shall be permitted as an accessory use to a single-family dwelling subject to the issuance of a zoning permit.

(2) Hives shall be located in the rear yard and shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from all property lines.

(3) Minimum lot size requirements:

a. No hives shall be permitted on any lot less than 10,000 square feet in size.

b. A minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet is required for up to two (2) hives.

- c. A minimum lot size of 12,500 square feet is required for three (3) hives.
  - d. A minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet is required for four (4) hives.
- (4) There shall be at least one adequate and accessible water source provided on-site exclusively for the hives, which shall be located within twenty (20) feet of all hives. A natural stream, pond or spring may constitute an adequate and accessible water source.
- (5) If the landing platform of a hive faces and is within twenty (20) feet of any lot or property line, there shall be a flight path barrier, consisting of a fence, structure or evergreen shrubs not less than six (6) feet in height, located in front of and shielding the entire hive or set of hives.
- (6) Signs shall be posted at the perimeter of any property not enclosed by a fence warning of the presence of hives. Such signs shall meet the standards of a minor sign.
- (7) A beekeeping best management plan shall be submitted with the zoning permit application.
- (8) Brood boxes shall be stacked no more than two (2) high.
- (9) All colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition. For the purpose of this section, "colony" means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one (1) queen and at times many drones, including brood, combs, honey, and the receptacle inhabited by the bees.

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Thomas C. Foley  
County Administrator