

VILLAGE OF TIVOLI
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES – KEEPING OF HENS

Present: Mayor Griffith, Deputy Mayor Majer, Trustee Ezrati, Trustee Schneider, Trustee Murphy

Public: Amy Peterson, John Collins, Angela Cole, Virginia LaBarbera, Peter Walsh, Matthew Kobalkin, Susan Huyser, Pete Mauney

On a motion made by Trustee Schneider, and seconded by Trustee Ezrati, Mayor Griffith opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM. He reviewed information and the Proposed Local Law regarding the keeping of hens. He also made note that there would not be a vote that evening.

John Collins of Lothrop Lane made a request that chickens not be allowed on lots that are less than 1 acre of land. He has found broken egg shells in his yard, a rat on his back deck, and mentioned that coyotes and foxes have been seen lately, and he believes they were attracted by the chickens that his neighbor keeps.

Peter Walsh of Greentree Road mentioned he believes that chickens attract rodents; mice, rats. These animals are known to be around chickens.

Amy Peterson of Broadway mentioned her chickens are free range, and the neighbors are not bothered by them. She feels there is a certain charm having chickens in the village.

Some shrubbery may be used for blocking the hen houses, if property owners choose, but she disagrees that chickens lower property values.

Peter Walsh does not want a neighbors' hens defecating in his yard.

Virginia LaBarbera of North Road has a fenced in yard; her back yard is fenced in, and was expensive to do. She has a lot of land, and, she noted that many animals are present in the Village. The ZRC has met regarding this law. She indicated that her animals are like her children to her.

Matthew Kobalkin of Broadway brought up that chickens do eat ticks and chicken manure is a natural fertilizer.

Pete Mauney, Montgomery Street, believes the primary divide is between the development and the rest of the Village.

John Collins believes chickens are very loud, and they do wake him up on weekends. Broken eggshells and rodents are a large concern.

Screening from the front is not the only important piece; the development has the back properties adjoining, as well.

Pete Mauney added that differences in lifestyle may possibly be the big idea. Neighborhood concern, not a Village concern; and he would vote in favor of hens.

Amy Peterson added to the topic that John Collins brought up about the hens being loud; she feels that is an owner issue, and not actually a Village issue.

Mayor Griffith mentioned the idea was if someone wanted to own hens, they could obtain a non-transferable license from the Village Clerk. The fee will be determined by the Village Board. The Village's ZEO would inspect the premises, and if the law has been broken, the license would be revoked. Some license particulars were reviewed by Mayor Griffith.

Deputy Mayor Majer added the purpose of the forums and looking into this as a law is to come to a conclusion of how property owners can own hens with the least amount of effect on their neighbors.

Trustee Ezrati reviewed the code which addressed some of the issues regarding hens and how they may impact neighboring properties and neighbors.

Mayor Griffith reiterated the Board will define rules and make a law that is sensible which creates less impact.

Amy Peterson added both sides will have concerns. She would like to find a way to solve the issue without an actual law.

Virginia L had a short discussion with John Collins and Peter Walsh.

Peter Walsh asked if Red Hook or Hyde Park allowed chickens.

Pete Mauney mentioned there could be a few options; 1, do nothing; 2, the code is unclear and can we find middle ground; and 3, ban chickens altogether.

Banning could create a complete uproar, and the intent of the law does address concerns in Part 1.

Deputy Mayor Majer reflected that people have been keeping hens since 1725, and we need to keep the peace.

Matthew Kobalkin spoke about the development being a special area; it is different than the other areas of the Village.

Mayor Griffith added that lot sizes do vary throughout the Village.

Pete Mauney asked if the development can be run by different rules.

Trustee Ezrati mentioned that zoning does not allow for “spot” zoning. She reviewed the drafting laws.

Mayor Griffith reiterated there will be a ban on roosters on any non-farm lot.

Trustee Ezrati said the rules will be the same for 1-acre zoning or 5-acre zoning in that particular district.

John Collins believes that roosters have been in the development.

Amy Peterson also believes roosters should be banned.

Matthew Kobalkin explained that environmental issues do create the larger amount of wildlife.

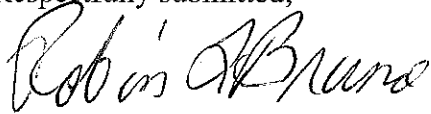
Mayor Griffith told those present the Board will digest all of the comments and all of the notes from the public hearing will be submitted to the board. The Village Clerk’s minutes and the PANDA tape will be available for review.

Virginia added that irresponsible owner’s can create issues for many.

John Collins closed with the fact that he does not think chickens are domesticated enough.

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor Majer, seconded by Trustee Ezrati, the public hearing was closed at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin L. Bruno". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin L. Bruno
Village Clerk

