



REPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

Report Prepared by: Thomas Roloff – Sourcewell

Date: May 20th, 2024

Subject: Ordinance Summary/Report of general information regarding current zoning standards for the Urban Residential Zone pertaining to the maximum animal unit numbers allowed, specifically for keeping of chickens.

Report: As requested by the Planning Commission during the April 2024 Public Hearing, the following report details the current standards for the Urban Residential zone pertaining to the keeping of chickens. This report will highlight current animal unit maximums for the various zones within the City of Pequot Lakes & will provide additional information for various other entities regarding residential chickens as requested by the Planning Commission.

In the Urban Residential (UR) Zone there are currently no animal unit values present in the lot standards to allow for defined animal units from Code. Staff interpretation of this is the determination that any animal unit not defined as “animal, domestic” would not be allowed to be kept on properties zoned Urban Residential.

The City of Pequot Lakes Ordinance provides the following definitions related to animal units:

- **Animals, Domestic:** Common household pets, such as dogs and cats, kept for amusement, companionship, decoration or interest.
- **Animal Husbandry:** The care or breeding of domestic animals such as cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, poultry, for the occupants of a property.
- **Animal Unit:** A unit of measure based on the approximate production of wastes from 1000 pounds of live weight of poultry or animals (see attached units) – with Chickens at 0.1 animal units.

Other Zone Animal Unit standards from PL Code:

- Open Space (OS) – no maximum animal unit
- Water Resource (WR) – no maximum animal unit
- Forest Management (FM) – no maximum animal unit
- Agriculture (AG) – maximum animal unit per acre = 4
- Rural Residential (RR) – maximum animal unit per acre = 0.5
- Transition Residential (TR) – maximum animal unit per acre = 0.5
- Shoreline Residential (SR) – no maximum animal unit*
- Commercial (C) – no maximum animal unit
- Shoreland Commercial (SC) – no maximum animal unit*
- Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) – no maximum animal unit
- Light Industrial, Recreation, Public – no maximum animal unit
- Patriot District (PD) – no maximum animal unit

*DNR Shoreland Regulations in effect

City of Nisswa:

- Section 20-532(d) Chickens: The keeping of chickens may be allowed in residential districts Ur, SR, and LR provided that the following performance standards are met:
 1. Minimum lot size for the keeping of chickens is .5 acres (21,780 sq ft)
 2. No more than 7 hen chickens shall be allowed. Roosters are prohibited
 3. Chickens must be kept confined on the residential parcel at all times in a chicken coop or chicken run. Chickens must be secured in a chicken coop from sunset to sunrise each day.
 4. Chicken coops and runs require a permit and must meet the following standards:
 - Coops and runs must be located in the rear yard or side yard. Screening is required for all coops and runs located in the side yard. Coops and runs are not allowed in the shoreland impact zone (SIZ).
 - Coops and runs must maintain a minimum 30' setback from any adjacent property and must not be located in a residential structure; including porches, garages, or sheds.
 - Coops shall be elevated or rodent proof.

- Must be a minimum of 4 sq ft per chicken in size, must not exceed 10 sq ft per chicken in size and must not exceed 8 ft in height. Attached fenced in runs must not exceed 20 sq ft per chicken and 6 ft in height. Chicken runs may be enclosed with wood and or welded wire materials.
 - 5. Chicken feed shall be kept in rodent proof containers.
 - 6. Accumulation of animal wastes or manure shall not be allowed.
 - 7. Animal husbandry is prohibited.
- The city of Nisswa adopted this ordinance in September of 2023.

City of Dassel:

- Section 94.04A of the City of Dassel's Ordinance: The keeping or maintaining of chickens within the city of Dassel in a non-agricultural district on a residential city parcel of less than ten (10) acres shall be allowed, subject to the following terms, limitations, and conditions, and only after obtaining a Chicken Maintenance Permit from the City of Dassel.
 - (B) General Terms and Conditions: The following terms, limitations, and conditions apply to the keeping and maintenance of chickens on residential parcels within the city:
 1. Keeping of chickens on an unimproved parcel is prohibited.
 2. The residential parcel must be of a size and configuration to allow full compliance with all of the terms, limitations, and conditions noted hereafter.
 3. No more than five chickens may be maintained on a residential city parcel of less than one (1) acre in size. For city parcels of one (1) acre or more, up to five (5) additional chickens may be maintained on the parcel. Two or more contiguous or non-contiguous parcels may not be combined for the purpose of complying with this condition. Under no circumstances shall the total number of chickens on a residential city parcel exceed ten (10).
 4. Chickens shall not be kept in a dwelling or garage, nor in a porch, patio, or similar extension of a dwelling.
 5. No roosters or adult male chickens shall be maintained on a city parcel. In the case of a delayed discovery that a chicken is a rooster or adult male chicken, the chicken shall be removed from the parcel within seven (7) days of discovery.

Report notes:

- Of the other residential zones in the City, Urban Residential is more restrictive regarding the keeping of any non-domestic animals by prohibiting them outright.
- The City of Nisswa's ordinance speaks to multiple zoning districts within the City, and sets a number on specifically chickens based on the area of the lot.
- The City of Dassel's ordinance also provides allowances for residential zones, and extends the authority over the process to a licensing system in addition to the ordinance language and performance standards.
- Both the City of Nisswa and the City of Dassel have language prohibiting the keeping of roosters or male chickens. The City of Dassel has built in a timeline for removal of roosters in addition to the prohibition, allowing for unexpected outcomes of chicken hatchings.
- DNR shoreland prohibitions would remain in effect, prohibiting any of such animal units from being placed/pastured in the Shore Impact Zone (setback from the OHW).

This report is for referential purposes only, no proposed changes or amendments have been formally introduced to City Council.