

An Ordinance to amend and reenact Section 14-51 of the Town Code of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia by amending and reenacting paragraph (e) as follows:

(E)

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or place a beehive or cause or allow a beehive to remain:

- (1) Closer than twenty (20) feet to any an alley or to the property of anyone other than the person maintaining the beehive or his immediate family; or
- (2) Closer than fifty (50) feet to the property line of adjoining property of anyone other than the person maintaining the beehive or his immediate family or any apartment, hotel, motel, office, commercial establishment, church or school; or
- (3) Anywhere on the property except in the rear yard.
- (4) In a General Business (B-G) Zone or in a Residential District R-3 Zone
- (5) Unsupported by an adequate, accessible and useable supply of water for the bees within ten (10) feet of each beehive.
- (6) In numbers greater than as follows:
 - (i) no more than four (4) beehives on any parcel of real property which contains ten thousand (10,000) square feet or less in area. With respect to parcels larger than ten thousand (10,000) square feet in area, one (1) additional beehive shall be permitted for each two thousand (2,000) square feet of area in excess of ten thousand (10,000) square feet. Notwithstanding the foregoing,

during the months of April, May and June (swarm season) only, a person shall be permitted to keep two (2) additional beehives, over and above those permitted during the balance of the year.

(ii) The density restrictions established by this section shall have no application to beehives kept, placed or maintained on any parcel of real property of one (1) acre or larger in size or on any parcel zoned R-S, Residential Suburban.

B. The keeping of bees and/or maintaining of beehives within the Town limits a concern to public safety and human health due to the number of persons allergic to bee stings, which can be fatal, and the tendency of bees to swarm periodically. Therefore persons maintaining beehives on properties within the Town limits shall be required to apply for a permit to keep bees and beehives, which permit shall be governed by the following additional requirements:

(1) The Town manager shall promulgate an application for persons wanting to keep beehives in the Town limits to make application for a permit to keep beehives.

(2) The application shall include a drawing sufficient to demonstrate that the location of the beehives comply with the requirements of this ordinance.

(3) Upon receipt of the application the Town Manager or his designee shall notify the adjoining landowners and landowner across the street, if

applicable, of the proposed application and solicit comments and concerns, including the existence of any occupants who are allergic to bee stings.

(4) After making such other investigation as the Town Manager, or his designee, shall deem appropriate, the Town Manager, or his designee, shall approve or disapprove of the application based on public safety concerns.

(5) Applicants who are denied a permit shall have the right to petition the Town Council to consider and approve their application.

(6) The Town Manager, or his designee, may revoke a permit issued hereunder if he determines that public safety concerns warrant it. The decision to revoke a permit may be appealed to the Town Council for review.

State Law References:
As Amended § 3.2-6544 and 15.2-1115