



Office of the Zoning Administrator
3680 STH 60
Slinger, WI 53086
Ph. 262-677-2123
zoning@townofpolk-wi.gov

APPLICATION for KEEPING of BEES LICENSE

*This application and its application fee are required to determine compliance with the **Zoning Ordinance**.*

*This Application **must be completed in full**. The Town of Polk **cannot accept** an incomplete Application Form or an Application Packet lacking all required information.*

Contact Information:

Property Owner: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant (if different from Property Owner): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Property Description:

Address: _____ Parcel ID: _____

Current Zoning: _____ Lot Size: _____ Lot Width: _____

(If additional parcels, please attach as separate sheet)

Current Use of Property: _____

Bees and Hives:

Number of hives: _____ Dimensions of hives: _____

Is this is a renewal of a previously issued license?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, have there been any changes in terms of number, size, of location of hives from the previous year?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please describe: _____

Site Map:

Include site map showing location of hive(s), signage, and flyway barriers on property, including distances from onsite structures, property lines, and structures on adjoining properties.

Affirmations:

1. *I hereby certify that this application is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge.*
2. *I further certify that the keeping of bees is for personal, non-commercial use.*
3. *I understand that no commercial sales from the residence or any residential area within the Village is permitted.*
4. *I agree, in the consideration of the issuing of this license, to comply with the laws of the State of Wisconsin and the provisions of Town of Polk Code of Ordinances.*
5. *I understand that the Keeping of Bees License is valid for one calendar year beginning January 1st and ending December 31st and shall be renewed no later than March 31st for as long as bees are kept on the property.*
6. *I have reviewed Section 336-104 of the Zoning Ordinance and understand that keeping of bees shall conform fully with its requirements.*
7. *I understand that the violation of any terms of this License or of the Zoning Ordinance may result in revocation of the License.*

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Fee:

The Application Fee for a Keeping of Bees License is **\$25.00**. The Application cannot be accepted until the Application Fee has been paid.

Chapter 336. Zoning

Article IV. Specific Provisions

§ 336-104. Keeping of bees in residential zoning districts.

A. Standards. The keeping of bees shall comply in all respects with the following:

- (1) No bees shall be intentionally kept and maintained other than Mason bees or Honeybees.
- (2) No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume.
- (3) An ever-present supply of water shall be provided for all hives.
- (4) The Town Clerk shall be notified immediately if a hive swarms. The owner is responsible for tracking and managing the swarm and notifying affected landowners.
- (5) Hives.
 - (a) No more than two hives may be kept on a residential zoning lot.
 - (b) Hives shall not be located on vacant lots.
 - (c) Hives shall be located in the back or rear yard with access to direct morning sun".
 - (d) No hive shall be located closer than 10 feet from any property line of a residential district lot.
 - (e) No hive shall be located closer than 10 feet from a public sidewalk or 25 feet from a principal structure on an abutting lot in different ownership.
 - (f) The area around the hive(s) shall be kept clean of hive scrapings to avoid attracting wasps, nuisance insects, and animals.
 - (g) Signage shall be posted informing that bees are kept on the property. Such signage shall conform to the following:
 - [1] Signs shall be no smaller than seven inches by 10 inches and printed in a font size clearly legible to the general public.
 - [2] Signs shall be placed at locations visible to all adjoining parcels.
 - [3] Signs shall be posted to a fence or semipermanent post at a height no lower than four feet and no higher than six feet.
 - [4] Signs shall be made of aluminum, heavy-duty plastic, or vinyl laminate.
 - [5] Signs shall be composed of black writing on a yellow background.
 - [6] Signs shall include the words "Caution" or "Warning" in large block letters at the top and "Bees," "Honeybees," "Beehives," or similar below.

- (h) A flyway barrier at least six feet in height shall shield any part of a property line of a lot in different ownership that is within 25 feet of a hive. The flyway barrier must effectively direct bees to fly up and over the barrier when flying in the direction of the barrier. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation, or combination thereof, and it shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex at the hive to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded.

B. License required.

- (1) An application for "license: keeping of bees" shall be completed and submitted to the Town Clerk.
 - (a) The application shall include a diagram describing the location of the hive(s) in relationship to lot boundaries.
 - (b) The license shall be issued only to the primary owner(s) of record of a residence located in the designated residential districts.
 - (c) The property owner/licensee shall reside on the premises regulated by the license.
 - (d) The keeping of bees for commercial purposes or for any activity or purpose not related to the personal purpose of the license holder, including the commercial sale of honey or other materials related to the keeping of bees, shall be prohibited.
 - (e) The license shall include the standards described in Subsection **B** above.
 - (f) The license shall be approved and issued by the Zoning Administrator.
- (2) Revocation. A license may be revoked by the Plan Commission for failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section.
- (3) Once revoked, a license shall not be reissued for a two-year period.
- (4) Any applicant whose application has been denied or license has been revoked under the provisions of this chapter shall have the right to appeal said denial.
- (5) Any license holder who has his/her license revoked must properly remove the hive(s) from the subject property within 96 hours of revocation or decision on appeal.