

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

RESOLUTION 2018 – 15

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BEEKEEPING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, New Jersey's state insect is the honey bee; and

WHEREAS, honey bees are of benefit to mankind, and to New Jersey in particular, by providing plant pollination, recreation for the beekeeper, honey, wax, and other beneficial hive products; and

WHEREAS, even according to the Department of Agriculture's website, "without a healthy honey bee population, successful fruit and vegetable production would be at risk since New Jersey's 20,000 bee colonies, valued at \$350 per colony, represent a \$7 million honey bee industry for the State and contribute to successful production of nearly \$200 million worth of fruits and vegetable annually"; and

WHEREAS, domestic strains of honey bees have been selectively bred for desirable traits, including gentleness, honey production, tendency not to swarm and non-aggressive behavior, which are all characteristics desirable for fostering and maintaining honey bee colonies within all populated areas; and

WHEREAS, gentle strains of honey bees can be maintained within populated areas in reasonable densities without creating a detriment to public health and safety if the bees are properly located, managed and maintained; and

WHEREAS, many New Jersey residents desire to provide sustainability and value for New Jersey's home gardeners, farms, and all homeowners with a variety of locally grown vegetables and fruits for New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, the honey bee assists the agricultural community to increase productivity and through sustained productivity maintain an environment that promotes agricultural land use as opposed to development; and

WHEREAS, these new regulations include a section on Apiary Standards which states that bee colony density will be regulated as follows: on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where agriculture has not otherwise been determined as permitted, new (not already in existence) hives are not permitted; on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, the hobbyist beekeeper may seek a waiver; on a residential lot of one-quarter acre to less than five acres, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may seek a waiver to keep two hives per lot; and

WHEREAS, these new regulations include a section on Apiary Standards which states that bee colony density will be regulated as follows: on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre where agriculture has been determined as permitted, new (not already in existence) hives are not permitted; on a residential lot of less than one-quarter acre, where agriculture has been determined as permitted where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, the hobbyist beekeeper may seek a waiver; on a residential lot of one-quarter to less than five acres, where agriculture has been determined as permitted, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may keep two new hives; on a residential lot of one-quarter to less

than five acres, where agriculture has been determined as permitted where hives are in existence as of July 31, 2015, a person wishing to keep bees as a hobbyist may seek a waiver to keep more than two hives; and

WHEREAS, these new regulations include a section on Location of Hives, which requires that all hives must be located at least 10 feet from any property line and at least 25 feet from any roadside, sidewalk, or path and 85 feet from any public place including playgrounds, sports fields, schools or churches, unless permission is granted for educational or research purposes, as well as establishing a Flyway Barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, or dense vegetation parallel to the property line and extending 10 feet beyond the colony in each direction; and

WHEREAS, the N.J. Department of Agriculture is proposing beekeeping regulations that would severely restrict beekeeping in the State of New Jersey and consequently in Franklin Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Franklin Township wishes to go on record with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that the Township of Franklin is opposed to the proposed beekeeping regulations which would have a detrimental effect on beekeeping in Franklin Township as well as throughout New Jersey and urges the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to work towards creating legislation with straightforward regulations based on facts, science, and best management practices which will protect both beekeepers and non-beekeepers within the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Beekeepers Association; and all Hunterdon County municipalities, urging them to oppose the adoption of the new beekeeping regulations as proposed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

CERTIFICATION

I, **Ursula V. Stryker**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on the 8th day of FEBRUARY, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of this Township this 8th day of FEBRUARY, 2018.


Ursula V. Stryker, RMC
Municipal Clerk