

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE TOWN OF VASS**

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) has determined that it is beneficial to the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Vass to provide for the keeping of chickens; and

WHEREAS the keeping of chickens allows for chickens as pets; and

WHEREAS the keeping of chickens provides for a local food (egg) source.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF VASS ORDAINS THE FOLLOWING:

Chickens may be kept for purposes other than as part of a bona fide agricultural operation, provided that they shall be allowed only in the RA, R-1 and R-2 zoning districts subject to the following additional requirements.

1. **Maximum Number of Animals.** Any number of chickens may be kept on a single lot, provided the minimum acreage requirement is one chicken per 5000 square feet of lot area is met.
2. **Additional Requirements for Chickens.**
 - a. Chickens are the only type of domestic fowl permitted pursuant to this ordinance.
 - b. Roosters are prohibited.
 - c. Chickens, roosters and other domestic fowl living outside the planning and zoning jurisdiction of the town may be brought into the town planning and zoning jurisdiction for temporary events such as festivals and other special events, provided that no such fowl shall be allowed to remain for more than three (3) days.
 - d. Coops and yarding areas (i.e. the areas where chickens roam outside the coop) shall be located in back yards or pastures/fields located to the rear of a dwelling. No coop or yarding area may be located in a front or side yard, pasture or field.
 - e. Chickens shall be kept in coops at night time, but they may be allowed to roam during the day in the yarding area.
 - f. Coops and yarding areas shall be fully enclosed by a perimeter fence. Coops shall be located within the yarding area and shall be set back either a minimum of thirty (30) feet from solid perimeter fencing or a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from open wire perimeter fencing.
 - g. Slaughter is not allowed.
 - h. Provided that the requirements of this section are met, no certificate of zoning compliance shall be required for coops or yarding areas.
 - i. Nonconforming situations: The effective date of this ordinance is November 9, 2015. Coops and yarding areas that were lawful prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall be subject to Article 2, Nonconforming Situations, of this code. The owners of coops and yarding areas that were unlawful prior to the effective date of the ordinance shall have six (6) months from the effective date to bring said coops and yarding areas into conformity with this ordinance. Roosters living within the planning and zoning jurisdiction of the town as of the effective date of this ordinance may remain until they die, but they shall not be replaced. Chickens or other domestic fowl living within the planning and zoning jurisdiction of the town as of the effective date of this ordinance that are illegal or lawful nonconformities with respect to this ordinance may remain until they die, but they shall not be replaced.

Adopted this 9th day of November, 2015.

Henry E. Callahan, Mayor

Barbara Boyd, Town Clerk