

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2018 – 055 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BEEKEEPING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has published new beekeeping regulations in the New Jersey Register which are now open to public comment, which must be submitted by January 19, 2018; 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 also include a section of 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 space 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, these new regulations ignore key best management practices for beekeeping, and would be difficult for the vast majority of New Jersey municipalities to enforce; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Beekeepers Associations has notified the Township of West Milford that if these new regulations are adopted; beekeepers in the Township of West Milford will immediately be in violation of the new regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of West Milford that the Township wishes to go on record with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that the Township is opposed to the new beekeeping regulations which would have a detrimental effect on beekeeping in the 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 fact, science, and best management practices which will protect both beekeepers and non-keepers 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 Passaic County municipalities, urging them to oppose the adoption of the new beekeeping regulations as proposed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Adopted: January 17, 2018

Adopted this 17th day of January, 2018
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk