



Steve Tone <stevetone@gmail.com>

Wisconsin Poultry Regulations & Backyard Hens

Steve Tone <STone@ci.stoughton.wi.us>

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To: Mayor Donna Olson <dolson@ci.stoughton.wi.us>

Cc: Carl Chenoweth <cchenoweth@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Dave McKichan <dmckichan@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Elvin Swangstu <sswangstu@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Eric Hohol <ehohol@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Eric Olstad <eolstad@charter.net>, Greg Jenson <gjenson@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Larry Weis <lweiss@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Paul Lawrence <plawrence@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Ron Christianson <cracdkc@hotmail.com>, Ross Scovotti <rscovotti@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Steve Tone <stone@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Tim Carter <par4dad2@aol.com>

Mayor Olson:

Thank you for forwarding the letter from Mr. Petty regarding Wisconsin poultry regulations (I have re-attached his letter to this email). I know that you welcome all input into the legislative process, as does the Common Council. Our city becomes stronger as a result.

I can not officially speak for the entire membership of **Chickens in Stoughton?!**, but I will say that as a Stoughton resident and Alderman I take public safety very seriously. All levels of government have carefully enacted legislation that is designed to protect businesses and the public from many unsafe practices. The chapters cited in Mr. Petty's letter, having to do with poultry commerce in Wisconsin, are examples that I am sure have improved the production of retail food throughout our state.

The National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) mentioned in his letter is a national industry designation that chickens being bred, hatched, sold or shown are certified to be free from two specific poultry diseases, pullorum and fowl typhoid. The Wisconsin Tested Flocks Program is a state-based program that addresses the same two poultry diseases. Neither of the programs apply to the local keeping of micro-flocks for non-commercial, non-exhibition personal use.

Specifically to the items of concern mentioned by Mr. Petty, ATPC Chapter 17, having to do with premise registration, is a topic that **Chickens in Stoughton?! covered in its very first meeting.**

As a result of the members' concern to be wholly compliant with state requirements, the group specifically requested that proof of premise registration be a part of the City's licensing process. This was present from day one in the draft municipal code changes that are soon to be considered by the committees. This is a licensing requirement not found in any other city that I am aware of.

The second point raised by Mr. Petty, referencing ATPC Chapters 10.40-10.42, only applies to poultry used for breeding, hatching or exhibition.

The intent of the proposed municipal code change is to allow Stoughton residents to keep up to 4 hens contained in their backyards as pets and to supply eggs for personal consumption. Since roosters are strictly prohibited by the proposal, the fertile eggs required for breeding and hatching are not possible.

However, those that wish to show their hens would need to become compliant prior to exhibition entry. Note that there are somewhat relaxed regulations for youth exhibits.

Where ATPC Chapter 10.40-10.42 may apply to backyard micro-flocks is in the initial purchase of the hens or fertile eggs. In this case, my understanding is that the seller of the hens or eggs must comply with all federal and state laws, including ATPC 10.40-10.42, if applicable.

As a supporter of **Chickens in Stoughton?!**, I have found that the group consistently promotes adopting the "best

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practices" of the dozens of municipalities that allow small micro-flocks of hens. As the draft ordinance changes make their way through committees, I am confident that the end product will reflect these practices.

Thank you for your time,

Steve Tone



Chicken info 5-27-10.pdf

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