

Town of Proctor



Special Town Meeting
April 19, 2023/ 6:00PM – 7:02PM
Proctor Free Library/Evelyn Peterson Community Room

Special Town Meeting Minutes

Moderator Andrew Maass called the meeting to order and opened with a reading of the ground rules.

In order to vote residents must have checked in with the Town Clerk and received a green card.

Moderator Maass read the article in full.

Kevin Blongy made the motion to accept the article as warned.

The motion was seconded by Reed DeRemer, passed unanimously.

Carrie Covey made the motion to suspend the rules for the multiple reading of the article.

The motion was seconded by Kevin Blongy, passed unanimously. 42-0

Article 1:

Shall the voters disprove amendments to Proctor's Public Nuisance Ordinance as adopted by the Selectboard on January 23, 2023:

Section II. G7:

The keeping of livestock including swine, hogs, cattle, horse, fowl and other animals on property in any manner that constitutes a public health hazard or in a manner That does not comply with the conditions for keeping certain animals as stated in Section III.

Section III Conditions for Keeping Certain Animals

- A. Nonconformity with the provisions and conditions listed hereinafter regarding harboring or keeping of animals within town limits shall constitute a public nuisance:
1. Harboring or raising livestock is prohibited, including but not limited to horses, cattle, sheep, swine, hogs or fur bearing animals without the written approval of all owners owning property within one hundred (100) yards of the premises on which the livestock is being kept.
 2. No livestock, swine or hogs shall be kept within 100 feet of any residence, dwelling house or street. Livestock pens and yards must be kept deodorized by the application of dried muck, dry earth or other effective absorbent or disinfectant: provided, nevertheless, that no person, persons, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall keep or maintain more than 4 swine or hogs within the limits of the city.
 3. No fowl or chickens shall be kept on property in such a manner as to cause a public nuisance and buildings and yards shall be kept deodorized by the application of dry earth or other effective absorbent or disinfectant. All fowl and chickens kept within the town limits shall be confined in an enclosure and shall not be permitted to run at large. No more than twelve (12) Fowl or chickens may be harbored on a single premises.

4. It is prohibited for any person to own, possess, or harbor a rooster within town limits.
5. No more than four (4) cats and/or dogs over six (6) months old shall be harbored or kept on a property or premises.
6. Required agricultural practices as defined in 24 VSA 4413 (d) shall not constitute a public nuisance.

Discussion on the article:

- People should discuss issues with neighbors to work out problems
- Concerns about enforcement of the ordinance
- Better solution than an ordinance
- Most owners are responsible and respectful of neighbors
- Talking with neighbors is not a solution
- Article says Town of Proctor – what about farms
- Use the map similar to the shooting ordinance
- Most of the information in the article exists - it is just in Zoning Regulations
- People need to compromise with their neighbors
- Issue with ordinance that no discussion occurred – simply adopted by the Selectboard
- Speak with current chicken owners- many parts of the ordinance are not realistic
- Believe there need to be an ordinance – but language needs to be cleaned up
- Farms are exempt from this ordinance
- Moved from zoning to an ordinance for the enforcement piece
- Ordinances are complaint driven
- Neighbors do not want chicken on their property digging up flowerbeds
- Be respectful of private property and keep animals on your property
- Roosters should be allowed
- Chickens need to free range – cost prohibitive to have enclosures
- Feel that Selectboard is trying to enforce big city rules on rural community
- Believe residents should not be limited to the number of pets they can own

Gail Curtis moved the question. Seconded by Steve Lanphere, passed unanimously.

Moderator Maass read the full article again prior to voting.

Clarification: Yes, vote means remove the amendments. No vote means keep the amendments.

Yes- 26

No- 16

The Ordinance will revert to the original language.

Reed DeRemer made the motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:02 p.m.
The motion was seconded by Blithe Milks, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa Miser

I accept the minutes of the Special Town of Proctor Meeting as written:

Judy Frazier, Proctor Selectboard Chair

Andy Maass, Town Moderator