

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2017**

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, December 11, 2017. Village President O’Hara called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Village Clerk Joy Markee called the roll.

The following were present:

Village President:	Kathleen O’Hara
Trustees:	Barbara Ankenman Mark Dewart Eric Grenier Paul Lemieux (arrived at 6:29) Aaron Towle
Absent:	William Meyer
Also Present:	Joy Markee, Village Clerk Drew Irvin, Village Administrator Peter Friedman, Village Attorney Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator

Consideration of the Minutes from the November 27, 2017 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Village Administrator Irvin noted that a minor correction had been made since the original draft of the minutes was circulated. Trustee Towle moved to approve the November 27, 2017 COW Meeting Minutes as amended. Trustee Grenier seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Continued Discussion Regarding Backyard Chicken Keeping and Beekeeping Pilot Programs

President O’Hara introduced the item and invited SEC Co-Chair Brian Rener to present. Co-Chair Rener thanked the Committee-of-the-Whole for their continued review and support. After the prior COW meeting, there were items outstanding from both the public and the COW for the SEC to review and address. The SEC has done so, and has developed the pilot programs into a complete document. He reviewed the cover memorandum with the COW, including: process for approval; new restrictions recommended; criteria for measurement of success; additional research on disease and nuisances; photos and video from nearby residential chicken coops; and how the SEC would balance neighbor concerns due to difficulties in implementing neighbor consent.

Trustee Ankenman asked how the program would ensure that accessory structures were attractive to the neighborhood. She also discussed the Deerfield experience and the activity level of chickens in the winter. Co-Chair Rener responded that no other accessory structures have appearance review, and that he was unfamiliar with the activity level of chickens in the winter.

Trustee Lemieux arrived and took his seat at the dais at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Towle asked about the lot size of the example lot from the video of a residential coop. AVA Cole responded that he believed the lot measured 125'x75', or just under 10,000 square feet. Trustee Towle indicated that he was comfortable trying the pilot program.

President O'Hara asked if the consensus of the COW was to support the pilot beekeeping program. The consensus of the COW was that they could support the beekeeping program.

President O'Hara stated that she does not believe there is a consensus yet on the pilot chicken-keeping program. Trustee Towle said he supports the pilot program. Trustee Grenier said he would want to see the number of permits reduced from 15 to something closer to 7 or 8. Trustee Dewart concurred that there should be fewer initial permits, and a focus on granting permits to larger lot sizes. He thanked the COW for their additional documentation. Trustee Ankenman complimented the SEC's work, and believes they have responded to every concern she's heard during this consideration. However, she is uncomfortable introducing additional tension among neighbors at this time in the Village. She said that the Village's answer may not need to be "No" forever. She also said that residents have many options for organic and home raised goods that do not require adoption of the pilot program.

Co-Chair Rener reviewed the SEC's public outreach, and said that over 3-in-4 residents supported it when they were able to physically visit with a chicken at the Farmers Market. The Village is dealing with many issues, and he was pleased to see that there were positive and constructive views contributing to the discussion. He believes that residents are really passionate about this proposal and about local food production.

President O'Hara stated that there appears to be a consensus on bee-keeping, but that there are still mixed feelings on chicken keeping. She asked that Staff prepare an action item for the next Village Board agenda, where Trustee Meyer would also be in attendance. She asked that the number of permits be reduced substantially lower, such as to five in total. She thanked the SEC for their extremely hard work. She believes they have matched every argument or concern with an answer and that they have been extremely thorough. This is the most thorough review she has heard from any Village advisory board.

President O'Hara asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Nancy Drowne (resident) came forward to address the Committee-of-the-Whole. She supports both pilot programs. The review process has been very long, and there is not much more than the SEC can do or say. It is time to make a decision. She believes there are many more positives in the literature than negatives. She does not want noisy or smelly chickens any more than the board, but we have to trust that residents will do the best they can to make this successful. She does not believe the average resident will take this responsibility on themselves if they are not interested in making it work. She acknowledges that predators will be the biggest concern, but she will protect her pets from anything that comes in her backyard. She hopes that the Board votes soon. President O'Hara thanked her and said that the Board would vote at their first meeting in January.

Kristen Moore (resident) came forward to address the Committee-of-the-Whole. She came from a community where chickens were allowed and part of the school curriculum. She believes that it is very valuable to know where your food comes from and how to care for an animal. It helps the community, helps the environment, and supports pollination and compost. Residents are much less likely to use harmful lawn chemicals that hurt our bees and lakes if they are eating eggs laid by chickens consuming those chemicals. She believes that the job of Lake Bluff residents is to communicate effectively with their neighbors throughout the pilot process, and she trusts they will do so.

Robert Isham (resident) came forward to address the Committee-of-the-Whole regarding short term rentals. President O’Hara asked that he do so during the Board’s regular meeting where it was on the agenda immediately following the COW. He agreed to do so and then returned to the audience.

Adjournment

As no further business came before the Committee of the Whole, Village President O’Hara called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Trustee Ankenman and seconded by Trustee Grenier. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator