



## Fresh Coast Planning

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# MEMORANDUM

To: Tallmadge Charter Township Planning Commission  
From: Gregory L. Ransford, MPA  
Date: June 12, 2025  
Re: Keeping of Animals – Chickens

Pursuant to the direction of the Board of Trustees at their June 10, 2025 meeting and as a result of recent public comment, the Board has asked that the Planning Commission review the current language regarding the keeping of animals, with specific regard to chickens. For your convenience, below, in part, is a copy of Section 3.16 – Keeping of Animals of the Tallmadge Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

### SECTION 3.16 KEEPING OF ANIMALS

(b) Farm Animals. The keeping of farm animals -- including beef and dairy cattle, horses, goats, hogs, poultry, sheep, or other fur-bearing farm animals -- is prohibited in all districts except the AG, RP, R-1 and L Districts, as follows.

1. The keeping of poultry and fowl is permitted in the AG District without limitation.
2. The keeping of poultry and fowl is permitted in the RP, R-1 and L Districts as an accessory use, provided that the number of such animals does not exceed ten (10) animals for the first two and one half (2 1/2) acres and one (1) additional animal for each additional one quarter (1/4) acre thereafter.
  - a. Poultry and fowl in the RP, R-1 and L Districts shall not be free range and shall be securely contained within a fenced area so as to restrict such animals to the lot on which they are kept.
  - b. The fenced area where the poultry and fowl are kept shall be located within the rear yard and shall be at least 20 feet from any side or rear lot line.
  - c. Roosters shall not be permitted in the RP, R-1 and L Districts.

While we discussed the particulars of Section 3.16(b)2 above after your recent meeting with the public and a couple members of the Planning Commission, for those of you who were not present for that discussion, we wanted to describe the intent of said section prior to your deliberations at your upcoming meeting. The language is written to require that any lot in the RP, R-1, and L Zoning Districts shall be at least 2.5 acres in area. As long as the lot is at least that size, then ten chickens are permitted. Beyond the 2.5 acres, at least one quarter acre is required for each additional chicken past ten chickens.

This item has been scheduled as a New Business item at your June 24, 2025 meeting. If you have any questions, please let us know.

GLR  
Planner

cc: Mark Bennett, Supervisor