

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN**

**BY-LAW NO. 2024-XX**

**A BY-LAW TO AMEND ZONING BY-LAW NO. 2017-70, AS AMENDED OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN**

**WHEREAS** the Township of West Lincoln Council is empowered to enact this by-law by virtue of the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning Act, 1990, as amended;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. THAT Part 2 – Definitions of Zoning By-law 2017-70, be amended by adding the following definitions:

**“Backyard Chickens”** means a hen (female chicken) kept for companionship as a pet or for the purpose of providing food for the personal consumption of occupants of a main dwelling on the same lot, and shall not include roosters, waterfowl or other non-domesticated birds.

**“Coop”** means a fully enclosed, locking, weatherproof structure where hens are kept and the interior of which contains nest boxes for egg laying, roosts for hens to sleep on and containers for food and water. Does not apply to lots zoned as Agricultural greater than 0.5 hectares (1.2 acres) in size.

**“Hen”** means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old.

**“Run”** means a covered, fully fenced and secure enclosure that allow hens access to the outdoors from the coop. Does not apply to lots zoned as Agricultural greater than 0.5 hectares (1.2 acres) in size.

2. THAT Part 3 – General Provisions of Zoning By-law 2017-70, be amended to include the following section as follows:

**3.4 BACKYARD CHICKENS**

**3.4.1 Regulations**

The following regulations apply to backyard chickens:

- a) Shall be permitted in lots zoned as Agricultural “A”, Rural Residential “RuR”, and Residential Low Density “R1A” as an accessory use or incidental to a main dwelling and principle use on a lot.
- b) Shall have a minimum lot size of 0.5 hectares (1.2 acres).
- c) Maximum of four (4) hens and no roosters (male chickens) are permitted per lot.
- d) Multiple residential properties such as townhouses and apartments are not permitted to have hens.

**3.4.2 Setback Regulations**

The following regulations apply to the coop, or similar enclosures for the backyard chickens:

- a) Coops/enclosures shall only be permitted in the rear yard.
- b) Coops/enclosures shall be a minimum of:
  - i. 3.5 metres from the rear yard/lot line.
  - ii. 2.5 metres from the interior or exterior side yard/lot line.
- c) Runs and exterior portions of the coop shall meet the minimum setback regulations.

3. THAT, regulations for the coop, enclosure, manure storage and animal care are found in the Animal Care and Control By-law 2023-54, as amended from time to time.
4. THAT, Section 3.13 Prohibited Uses be amended to make an exception to permit a maximum of four (4) hens.
5. THAT, all other provisions of Zoning By-law 2017-70, as amended continue to apply.
6. THAT, the Clerk of the Township of West Lincoln is hereby authorized to effect any minor modifications or corrections to the By-law of a descriptive, numerical or grammatical nature as may be deemed necessary after passage of this By-law.
7. THAT, this By-law shall become effective from and after the date of passing thereof.

**READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD  
TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS  
XX DAY OF XXXXX, 2024**

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**MAYOR CHERYL GANANN**

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**JUSTIN PAYLOVE  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/CLERK**

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## EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF BY-LAW NO. 2024-XX

The purpose of this by-law is to address the current trend in the Niagara Region and throughout Ontario for backyard chickens and their cited benefits related to sustainability and food quality, and economical benefits. Conversely, to address concerns related to disease, odour, noise and potential for attracting rodents and predators. These regulations are to control the accessory use that is to be incidental to the principle use of an Agricultural, Rural Residential or Residential Low Density lot with a minimum lot area of 0.5 hectares (1.2 acres) in size including the location and setbacks for the backyard chickens and their coops/enclosures.

A Public Meeting was held on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ members of the public provided oral comments. \_\_\_\_\_ written comments were additionally received by the public and agencies. All comments received were evaluated by Staff and Council through their decision.

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Township of West Lincoln

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