



TOWN OF RAYNHAM

Selectmen and Board of Health
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REGULATIONS AFFECTING BEEKEEPING AND ASSOCIATED APIARY ACTIVITIES

The Board of Health, in the Town of Raynham, Massachusetts, in accordance with and under the authority of section 31, Chapter 111 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby adopts the following Regulations Affecting Beekeeping and Associated Apiary Activities.

RATIONALE: Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are an important component to any successful farming effort and provide a market in honey for beekeepers. Massachusetts, as with most States, has statutes regulating and inspecting apiary activities such as a system for Inspections and Registrations to prohibit infectious or contagious diseases within honey bee hives. Bee colonies, when stressed or compromised by these diseases, may become a Public Nuisance.

THEREFORE:

- (1) The Town of Raynham Board of Health adopts into its Regulations 330 CMR 8.00 "Apiary Inspection Regulations" in its entirety.
- (2) Any property owner that meets Town of Raynham Zoning requirements and who participates in Apiary Activities shall register with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Apiary Program which is administered through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Proof of registration is required prior to issuance of a Beekeeper's Permit from the Raynham Board of Health.
- (3) Any applicant who does not meet Town of Raynham Zoning requirements must receive prior approval from the Raynham Zoning Board of Appeals. This approval shall be in writing and shall not be transferable.
- (4) All applicants shall show proof of completion of a Beekeeping Course which has been sponsored by an established Town, County or State association.
- (5) All applicants shall observe "Best Beekeeping Practices" as outlined by the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association.
- (6) Notification via certified mailing to direct abutters of Apiary Activities shall be required prior to issuance of a Beekeeper's Permit.
- (7) A fee of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) shall be paid annually to the Raynham Health Department for a Beekeeper's Permit and shall expire on December 31st for the year registered. Renewal applications must be submitted by December 1st of each year for the following year's permit.
- (8) First offense of this regulation will result in a \$50.00 (fifty dollars) fee assessment. Any subsequent offense will result in a \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) fee assessment. Failure to comply within the allotted time period, or subsequent violations, may result in suspension, revocation or modification of their permit and may be subject to a criminal complaint.

Adopted by Unanimous vote of
Raynham Board of Health June 10, 2014
Effective: June 11, 2014