

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

The meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, in the Council Room of the Towanda Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda, PA.

The meeting was called to order and roll call done by Vice-Chairman Karen Johnson at 7:15 PM. Chairman Kacyon was on vacation.

Members Present: Karen Johnson – Vice-Chairman, Mark Christini, Erin Groves, Jim Lacek, Jimmy Lacek & Diane Siegmund

Members Absent: Larry Kacyon, Kevin Doupe, and Keith Long

Others: None

Visitors: None

Minutes: Motion was made by James Lacek and seconded by Diane Siegmund to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2018, meeting. Motion passed.

Old Business – Mr. Christini stated that the Commission has made recommendations amending relevant sections of Towanda Code Chapters - 305 and 298 to be more defined and inclusive for vehicle parking, abandoned vehicles, R.V.'s and motor vehicle trailers. The below items were presented for approval by Borough Council, and Council voted to accept the recommendations and have them reviewed and prepared by Solicitor, Fred Smith before publication notice.

- A. Chapter 305 Vehicles & Traffic, Article VII Commercial Vehicles in Residential Zones. §305-57 B. (2).
- B. Chapter 298 Vehicles, Abandoned. §298-1 Definitions. (Change 7 days to 2 days).
- C. Chapter 298 Vehicles, Abandoned. §298-1 Definitions.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles – and – Abandoned Motor Vehicle Trailers

New Business – Borough Council requested the commission discuss enactment of an ordinance to restrict farm animals in the borough. The Commission members who were present reviewed several sample ordinances from other municipalities to determine if they would recommend a new addition to the code such as Article III – Other Animals. The main concerns are noise and health/cleanliness.

The existing Towanda Code is the following:

Chapter 88: Animals

Article I Dog Control

§ 88-1 Unaccompanied dogs at large prohibited.

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§ 88-2 Duty of police officer.

§ 88-3 Unlicensed dogs.

§ 88-4 Failure to locate owner.

§ 88-5 Violations and penalties.

§ 88-6 Remission of fine.

Article II General Dog Regulations

§ 88-7 Muzzling or confinement of dogs.

§ 88-8 Prohibited acts.

§ 88-9 Female dog in heat.

§ 88-10 Removal of feces.

§ 88-11 Exception for guide dogs.

§ 88-12 Violations and penalties.

and

Chapter 325: Zoning

Article V Special Exception and Uses

§ 325-39 Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds.

The Commission discussed the recent complaints that have been received from residents concerning chickens/animals in the Borough (primarily roosters), which the residents consider a nuisance due to noise. The 2 (two) existing ordinances pertaining to animals do not directly cover specific issues. The Planning Commission reviewed a few sample ordinances from other municipalities recommended to Manager Lane from PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs).

The discussion about chickens was mostly positive, however everyone was leaning toward not allowing “roosters” at all in the borough.

1) A motion was made by Jimmy Lacek and seconded by Diane Siegmund to suggest that Borough Council add to the existing **Chapter 88. Animals**, a new article called **“ARTICLE III – Other Animals”** and to prohibit all male fowl in the borough. Motion passed.

2) The Planning Commission also agreed that the fines be the same as in the current code Chapter 88. Animals, which is §88-5. Violations and penalties. See below:

§ 88-5. Violations and penalties.

In addition to the foregoing provisions, any person responsible for keeping or harboring a dog in accordance with the provisions of this article may be brought before the Mayor or any Magisterial District Judge in and for the Borough of Towanda on such a charge and, if found guilty, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and costs for the first of-

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fense, and for any subsequent offense occurring within one calendar year shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$600 and costs, or shall undergo imprisonment in the county jail for up to 30 days.

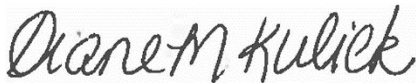
The board agreed the **definition of fowl** should be in the new [Article III. – Other Animals](#) in the code [Chapter 88. Animals](#).

3) Add new definition for “Fowl”. One definition was deemed acceptable by those present was the following:

Fowl – (as found in Google dictionary); a gallinaceous bird kept chiefly for its eggs and flesh; a domestic cock or hen. Any other domesticated bird kept for its eggs or flesh, e.g., the turkey, duck, goose, and guineafowl. The flesh of birds, especially of the domestic cock or hen, as food; poultry.

In concluding the meeting, the board members will review the packet of information further before the next meeting on October 16th. Mrs. Kulick will send this packet (Sept) to the absentees, Larry Kacyon, Kevin Doupe and Keith Long.

A motion was made by Jim Lacek and seconded by Mark Christini to adjourn at 8:13 PM.



Recording Secretary
Planning Commission