



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: April 10, 2018
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Cam Forbes, By-law Enforcement Officer
SUBJECT: Exemption and Licensing of Backyard Hens

STRATEGIC PLAN:

10.12 Increase local food purchases, food sovereignty and empowerment by developing a series of skills training workshops, in partnership with businesses and local food advocates.

BACKGROUND:

In October of 2015 a policy was written to exempt three properties from By-law 02-80 to permit keeping of hens in a residentially zoned area and the requirements to obtain a license. For any new proposals an exemption is still required under the bylaw. The Town policy requires no more than five hens, setbacks for the coop, proper maintenance, screening of equipment, safe disposal of refuse, proper care, and veterinarian oversight.

Licenses are issued for 12 months. Letters are sent to adjoining landowners giving notice that a license has been requested.

COMMENTS:

Norwell District Secondary School, 135 Cumberland St. Palmerston, is looking to keep 5 hens, as part of the new LEAF Program (Local Environmental Agriculture & Food). The proposed coop will be built in the inner courtyard of the school. The chickens will be cared for by the students and teachers 7 days per week from September to December and then taken to a staff member's farm to be cared for over the winter months. This property meets all the requirements with the exception of being zoned as institutional. No adjoining landowners have concerns having received the required notice.

If approved this will mean four licensed chicken coops in Minto including these chickens at Norwell. Annual inspections have been occurring at the locations licensed in 2015 and no problems have been found.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The \$50.00 licensing fee will help to offset the cost of enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council of the Town of Minto receives the By-law Enforcement Officer's April 10, 2018 report regarding the exemption to By-law 02-80 for keeping backyard hens at 135 Cumberland St. Palmerston and approves the exemption.

Cam Forbes
By-law Enforcement Officer



