



# DU PAGE COUNTY

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
www.dupagecounty.gov

## Joint Special Call Meeting of the Development and Environmental Committee Summary

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Tuesday, August 20, 2024

11:30 AM

County Board Room

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

11:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Sheila Rutledge at 11:37 AM.

### 2. ROLL CALL

<b>PRESENT</b>	Chaplin, Garcia, Ozog, Rutledge, and Tornatore
<b>ABSENT</b>	Cronin Cahill, Covert, Evans, Gustin, Krajewski, and LaPlante

### Motion to allow a Board Member to join committee for quorum purposes

Chair Rutledge made a motion to appoint Member Dawn DeSart and Member Grant Eckhoff to the Environmental Committee for this special meeting for purposes of forming a quorum. All ayes, motion carried.

### 3. CO-CHAIR'S REMARKS - CO-CHAIRS TORNATORE & RUTLEDGE

Chair Rutledge made an opening statement referencing the importance of increasing habitat for pollinators and her continued efforts to work toward that. Chair Rutledge thanked all those in attendance and those who came to provide information on the proposed Zoning Code change and other information relative to beekeeping and any potential environment implications.

### 4. PRESENTATION

#### 4.A. Paul Hoss, Planning & Zoning Administration Coordinator

Presented the proposed Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping.

#### 4.B. Jim Wellwood, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Presented information about the State Apiary Statutes, the State Department of Agriculture apiary and bee registration requirements and the State Department of Agriculture bee/apiary inspection process.

#### 4.C. Pete Soltesz, President of Cook/DuPage Beekeepers Association

Presented the history of honey bees and the impact of habitat in favor of the changes to DuPage County's Zoning Ordinance for residential beekeeping.

#### 4.D. Connie Schmidt, Group Executive Chair Sierra Club

Presented an informational Powerpoint provided by bee experts supporting the idea that different bee species compete for food due to lack of proper plants and habitat, stating that changing the current Zoning Ordinance would increase competition.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

According to the DuPage County Board Rules, individual remarks shall not exceed three minutes in length, nor shall the total time provided for all remarks exceed thirty minutes.

The following individuals made public comment:

Dennis Wisnosky: WillBees

Richard Rooney

Bill Whitney: Cook/DuPage Beekeepers Association

Nadine Rorem: Wheaton College- Biological & Health Sciences Department

Greg Stickels

All online submissions for public comment from the August 20, 2024, DuPage County Joint Special Call Meeting of the Development and Environmental Committees are included for the record in the entirety. They are found in the minutes packet and at the link below.

[24-2284](#)

Online Public Comment

**6. DISCUSSION**

**6.A. [DC-O-0050-24](#)**

T-1-24 Text Amendments (b) to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance: To approve the following: Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping.

ZBA VOTE (No Recommendation): 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent  
Development Committee VOTE (to Approve): 4 Ayes, 1 Nays, 1 Absent

Chair Rutledge reiterated that this is for informational purposes and there will not be a vote but encouraged comments and questions. Member Garcia asked for clarification on the issue between different species of bees and habitat. Presenters Pete Soltesz and Connie Schmidt provided additional information and clarification. Member DeSart shared a few comments about other entities being involved in the decision to change the Zoning Ordinance and shared research regarding different species of bees. Paul Hoss provided clarification regarding the variety of organizations he had reached out to who referred him to the Department of Agriculture.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.M.



# Online Public Comments - Minutes Only

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

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**File #:** 24-2284

**Agenda Date:** 8/20/2024

**Agenda #:**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 6:51 PM  
**To:** Web Master; County Board Public Comment  
**Subject:** PublicComment

[Caution: This email originated outside Dupagecounty.gov. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]



[REDACTED] **PublicComment**  
Submitted at 08/17/24 6:51 PM

**Meeting Date:** 08/20/24

**Meeting:** Joint Special Meeting of the Development and Environmental Committees

**Name:** Marilyn Schweitzer

**Organization:**

**Address:** [REDACTED]  
Naperville, IL 60540

**Daytime Phone:**

**Subject:** Proposed Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to Beekeeping

**Comment:**  
I support the amendment. My rationale is:  
1) The biggest risk on native bees is other human controlled activities such as pesticides, habitat loss, food source loss, and climate change.  
2) Those human activities are severely impacting insect populations in general, not just native bees.  
3) Honeybees are some of the very few domesticated insects. They act as

emissaries between humans and their insect brethren. Were it not for that relationship and their use in commercial pollination, I suspect people would care not so much about dramatic declines in insect populations. (Monarchs butterflies are similar non-domesticated emissaries.)

4) The Morton Arboretum, Forest Preserves of DuPage County, and other local forest preserves keep honeybee hives and offer classes.

5) While the National Wildlife Society recognizes the potential impact of honeybees on native bees, they also conclude raising them as a hobby or teaching/learning experience is okay. See

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Gardening/Honey-Bees>

6) The proposed amendment is limited to 4-H projects, not general hobbyists or commercial enterprises. This to me is a good example of a teaching/learning experience. The hives must be maintained by a resident of the permitted property. Based on the comments by staff in the Development Committee meeting, it seems the number of potential applicants will be small.

7) The proposed amendment adds better controls on beekeeping for 4-H projects in general. For example, by requiring State of Illinois Department registration, 4-H projects can now be fined for violations such as abandoning hives, illegally transporting bees, or properly maintaining them.

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**File #:** DC-O-0050-24

**Agenda Date:** 8/27/2024

**Agenda #:** 6.A.

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**ORDINANCE**

ZONING PETITION T-1-24 (B) PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE DUPAGE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE  
RELATIVE TO BEEKEEPING

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on May 14, 2024, in the DuPage County Administration Building, 421 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, Illinois at 6:00 P.M. before the DuPage County Zoning Board of Appeals and notice of said hearing was duly given; and

WHEREAS, a petition was presented at this hearing requesting the following text amendment:

**Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance:**

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Board of Appeals, having considered in relation to the above requested text amendment presented at the above hearing and at the recommendation meeting held on June 6, 2024 does find as follows:

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. That the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that over the last several months, County Board members have requested staff to research various land use topics that are of importance to their constituents. Staff has completed its research and developed several proposed amendments to the County Zoning Ordinance that would address the concerns of the County Board members relative to the following:
  - Beekeeping as part of a 4-H Project
2. That the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that on Tuesday April 16, 2024, the Development Committee voted to request staff to have the proposed text amendment considered at public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. Furthermore, that the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that they have concerns regarding native bee and non-native honeybee species, and that they do not have sufficient information regarding the impact of non-native honeybee species on native bee species. Therefore, the Zoning Board of Appeals made a motion of “no recommendation” regarding the subject text amendments for beekeeping.

WHEREAS, the Zoning Board of Appeals, having considered in relation to the above and at the recommendation meeting held on June 6, 2024, made a motion of “no recommendation” regarding the following text amendments:

**Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance:**

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A:

**ZBA VOTE (No Recommendation): 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent**

WHEREAS, the County Board Development Committee on August 6, 2024, considered the above findings and recommendations of the Zoning Board of Appeals and recommends to approve the following text amendment:

**Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance:**

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A:

**Development Committee VOTE (to Approve): 4 Ayes, 1 Nays, 1 Absent**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of DuPage County, Illinois that the following text amendment be granted:

**Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance:**

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the County Board of DuPage County, Illinois that should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this Ordinance be transmitted by the County Clerk to the DuPage County Finance Department; DuPage County Auditor; DuPage County Treasurer; Paul J. Hoss, Zoning; State's Attorney's Office; DuPage County Health Department; and DuPage County Division of Transportation.

Enacted and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024 at Wheaton, Illinois.

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DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR  
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK





**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

Building  
Division

Zoning &  
Planning Division

Environmental  
Division

## BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

630-407-6700  
fax: 630-407-6702

[www.dupagecounty.gov/building](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/building)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: DuPage County Board

FROM: DuPage County Development Committee

DATE: August 6, 2024

RE: **T-1-24 (b) Proposed Text Amendments  
(Waive First Reading)**

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**DuPage County Board: August 13, 2024:**

**DuPage County Development Committee: August 6, 2024:** The DuPage County Development Committee recommended to approve the following

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A:

**Development Committee VOTE (to Approve): 4 Ayes, 1 Nays, 1 Absent**

**Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting: June 6, 2024:** The Zoning Board of Appeals made a motion of “no recommendation” regarding the following text amendments:

Zoning Petition T-1-24 (b) proposed text amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to beekeeping, presented on May 14, 2024, and attached hereto as Exhibit A:

**ZBA VOTE (No Recommendation): 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent**

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. That the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that over the last several months, County Board members have requested staff to research various land use topics that are of importance to their constituents. Staff has completed its research and



developed several proposed amendments to the County Zoning Ordinance that would address the concerns of the County Board members relative to the following:

- Beekeeping as part of a 4-H Project
2. That the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that on Tuesday April 16, 2024, the Development Committee voted to request staff to have the proposed text amendment considered at public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals.
  3. Furthermore, that the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that they have concerns regarding native bee and non-native honeybee species, and that they do not have sufficient information regarding the impact of non-native honeybee species on native bee species. Therefore, the Zoning Board of Appeals made a motion of “no recommendation” regarding the subject text amendments for beekeeping.

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**EXHIBIT A:**

Add to ARTICLE III. RULES AND DEFINITIONS, Section 37-302: DEFINITIONS to include the following:

**BEE KEEPING:**

**APIARY: A place where one or more bee colonies are kept.**

**BEE: Any stage of the common domestic honeybee, Apis mellifera species.**

**BEEKEEPER: A person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.**

**BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT: Anything used in the operation of an apiary, including, but not limited to, hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards, and extractors.**

**COLONY (COLONIES): A hive and its equipment and appurtenance, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.**

**HIVE: A structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.**

**HOBBY BEEKEEPING: The keeping of bees subject to the restrictions set forth in this chapter.**

**NUCLEUS COLONY: A small quantity of bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose**

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Amend Sections: 37-701.1; 37-702.1; 37-703.1; 37-704.1 PERMITTED USES:

4-H projects **accessory to the principal use of the property:**

1. May be permitted on a zoning lot containing not less than forty thousand (40,000) square feet of land area **(the 4-H minimum lot area shall not be required for 4-H bee keeping projects)**. All buildings for a 4-H project shall be set back not less than one hundred fifty feet (150') from the front lot line and not less than thirty feet (30') feet from any side or rear lot line.

2. **4-H projects for bee keeping and bee colonies maintained as a hobby by a resident of the same property, and which is not for commercial purposes are permitted subject to the following terms and conditions:**
- a. **A permit issued by the County Building and Zoning Department is required to keep bees on a property.**
- b. **The permit application requirements shall include:**
- (1) **A site plan showing that all buildings and structures used for bee keeping shall be set back not less than twenty-five feet (25') from all property lines and shall be located behind the front wall of the home.**
  - (2) **Provide a copy the local Illinois Cooperative Extension 4-H program certification for the 4-H project.**
  - (3) **Provide a certified copy of the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture registration form as required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act (510 ILCS 20/I et seq.) as amended from time to time, and comply with all applicable regulations of said Department as may be amended from time to time.**
  - (4) **Provide documentation showing that all bees shall be of the common domestic honeybees of the Apis Mellifera species.**
  - (5) **Provide documentation showing that all colonies will be kept in inspectable-type hives, with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound, usable and sanitary condition.**
  - (6) **Provide documentation showing that all beehives shall be kept within one or more contiguous beehive structure(s) with a combined area not exceeding 8 square feet and 6 feet in height.**
  - (7) **Lots containing less than 40,000 sq. ft. of land shall not have more than two colonies. Lots exceeding 40,000 square feet of lot area shall have a maximum of four colonies.**
  - (8) **In any instance where a bee colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging of attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to re-queen the colony. Queens shall be selected from a stock bred for gentleness and non-swarmling characteristics.**

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**\*END\***