

Proposed New Fairfield, CT Zoning Amendment:

- The keeping of one goat is permitted on a lot of 32,670 square feet or greater. One additional goat may be kept for each 20,000 square feet by which the lot exceeds 32,670 square feet, up to a maximum of 4 goats. Adequate fencing must be installed and maintained. Any building associated with the keeping or stabling of horses or livestock must be located at least 50' to any property line.

Reason for the Amendment:

I am very excited to begin the petition for the change in zoning regulations to allow for ownership of goats in our beautiful town. I have always had a sense of pride from being born and raised in the quaint town of New Fairfield, attending all levels of early education here and going on to purchase my first home here in town as well. I am excited for my growing future and find significant importance in small farm initiatives and the freedom to utilize our land for sustainable, educational, and social benefits. My husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed being chicken owners and have always dreamed of adding to our little livestock family with the addition of 2-3 Pygmy goats. To our surprise, when we began doing our research to make sure everything was properly executed, we found no existing zoning language supporting goat ownership in New Fairfield despite most of our surrounding towns and communities having that in place. Through our research we found that our neighboring towns including Bethel, Brookfield, Newtown, New Milford, Ridgefield, Pawling, Patterson, and Brewster all have existing regulations to allow for the ownership of goats with the parameters being different for each town. We are proposing that the following language be added to the New Fairfield town zoning regulations: "The keeping of one goat is permitted on a lot of 32,670 square feet or greater. One additional goat may be kept for each 20,000 square feet by which the lot exceeds 32,670 square feet, up to a maximum of 4 goats. Adequate fencing must be installed and maintained. Any building associated with the keeping or stabling of horses or livestock must be located at least 50' to any property line".

My hope for this amendment to our zoning regulations is the opportunity to experience the joy, responsibility, and pride that comes along with hobby farming for myself and my fellow New Fairfield residents while also contributing value to our great small town.

Town Zoning Regulations for Neighboring Towns regarding Goats:

- Bethel, Connecticut: for parcels containing at least three (3) acres, one goat or similar small animal for the first 20,000 square feet of parcel area and one additional goat or similar small animal for each additional 10,000 square feet of parcel area.
- Brookfield, Connecticut: Non-commercial livestock and poultry may be kept in residential zones. Hoofed Animals for personal use and enjoyment provided that: for

horses, ponies, mules, donkeys and cattle, the property lot shall contain two acres of land for the first such animal and an additional one acre of land for each additional animal. For llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, swine or similar animals, the lot shall contain two acres of land for the first such animal and an additional 20,000 square feet of land for each additional animal. **Poultry** - the keeping of poultry for personal use provided that the lot shall contain at least one acre for the first 12 fowl, and there shall be no more than six fowl per every additional 20,000 square feet. The keeping of one or more roosters requires a minimum of three acres. The keeping of poultry on lots of less than one acre may be permitted by Zoning Permit - please refer to the Zoning Regulations Article 3.8C.

- Newtown, Connecticut: Farming- Essential activities on a farm including horticulture, crop raising, and the management of livestock but excluding operating a kennel or the raising of pelt bearing animals or wildlife.
(Added effective 11/25/23) (Amended 02/01/24).
- New Milford, Connecticut: The keeping or stabling of horses and livestock is permitted subject to the following limitations and conditions:
A minimum of three-fourths (3/4) of an acre of land is available for the first unit and one-half (1/2) an acre of land is available for each additional unit. A unit shall be defined as the following: Five (5) goats or sheep.
No limitation with respect to the number of units is imposed on parcels of land containing five (5) acres or more. Adequate fencing must be installed and maintained. Any building associated with the keeping or stabling of horses or livestock must be located at least 50' to any property line.
- Pawling, New York: The minimum lot size shall be one grazing acre for each four sheep, goats, pigs or other similar sized animals which are kept, grazed, fed and cared for on the property;
- Patterson, New York: FARM, HOBBY - A parcel or lot, containing at least five (5) acres on which activities, typically associated with agriculture or farm operations including the raising of farm animals, are conducted for the enjoyment of the property owner and/or where no profit can be shown in any three out of five successive years. It excludes the raising of swine, fur-bearing animals, riding academies, equestrian centers, livery or boarding stables and dog kennels.
- Brewster, New York: The keeping of one pig, goat, sheep, llama, alpaca or similarly sized animal is permitted on a lot of 40,000 square feet or greater. One additional pig, goat, sheep, llama, alpaca, or similar-sized animal may be kept for each 20,000 square feet by which the lot exceeds 40,000 square feet, up to a maximum of 15 pigs, goats, sheeps, llamas, alpacas or similar-sized animals.
- Ridgefield, Connecticut:

Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to:

A.

Regulate the management of hooved animals and their waste on properties of 1.5 acres or less.

B.

Protect, preserve and promote the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of Ridgefield residents.

§ 120-13

Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

LIVESTOCK

Any hooved animal, such as cattle, bison, swine, goats, sheep, llamas, camels, horses, ponies, donkeys, mules and other hooved animals. When used in the singular, the term in this article shall be referred to as "livestock."

USABLE

The accessible portion of a property that will be used solely for the keeping of hooved animals and that contains no steep slopes or significant rock outcroppings.

§ 120-14

Minimum lot size.

A.

A minimum of 1/2 acre of usable lot area shall be required.

B.

There shall be no more than one hooved animal per 1/2 acre of usable land.

§ 120-15

Enclosures.

A.

All buildings and structures used for housing hooved animals shall require zoning and building permits.

B.

A run-in shed or enclosed building shall be provided that is sized to simultaneously accommodate all hooved animals on the property. (For horses, a 10 foot by 10 foot enclosed area per horse is required.)

C.

Fencing shall be installed and maintained to safely contain the hooved animals within the property. Such fencing must be set back five feet from all adjacent property lines. Alternatively, a solid board fence may be installed on the property line if it is of sufficient height so as to prevent encroachment by the hooved animal(s) onto neighboring properties.

D.

All uses concerning Subsections A, B and C above shall be in compliance with all applicable Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.^[1]

§ 120-16

Sanitation of enclosures.

A.

Manure shall be collected frequently from all areas and regularly removed from the property to maintain a sanitary condition and minimize odor, dust-producing substances and waste so as to prevent any health hazard, pollutants, disturbance or nuisance conditions with respect to adjacent properties and the neighboring community.

B. The setback for any manure pile shall be a minimum of 15 feet from any property line and in compliance with all local and state environmental regulations

Requirements for Goats:

Goats are active and playful. A miniature goat requires a minimum of approximately 135 square feet of romper room space; a standard goat needs twice that, with the square footage multiplied by the number of goats you have. Goats, whether big or small, need a yard that provides part sun and part shade and is protected from strong winds.

Goats also need an attached and draft-free shed or barn for cover, sleeping and protection from predators and extreme temperatures. Any windows in their enclosure should be higher than the head of the tallest goat when she is standing on her hind feet. If not, the windows should be covered with bars or screens so that a goat can't poke her head through.

Goats like to rub on fences, especially when shedding, or try to stick their heads through any

openings to eat some delectable item just out of reach. Goats are also clever about getting out of their enclosures. All of this means that goats are hard on fencing.

It needs to be reinforced with strong wood posts sunk deep into the ground and needs to be escape-proof with slats close enough to prevent their heads from slipping through. It also needs to be high enough to keep them in (4' high for mini-goats; 5' high for standard).

Support Letters:

- DC Woodworks: NF Resident *
- Wendy: NF Resident & Neighbor *
- Bob & Karen: NF Resident & Neighbor
- The Kaback's: NF Resident *
- Hailey Barbarie: Previous NF Resident, current Southbury resident*
- Elaine & Kevin: Co-workers, previous Goat owners, Pawling, NY residents
- The Segatti's: NF Residents *
- Mary & Dylan: NF Resident's *
- Sam Waruch: Previous Patterson resident & Goat Owner *

In Hand: *