

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
September 13, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Schneider presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the internet.

Councilmembers present: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Other Village officials present were Clerk DeCapite, Treasurer Siemborski, Service Director Biggert, Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Robinson, Finance Administrator Mulh, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

The minutes of the August 9, 2022 regular Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Press read a change in wording for Page 3, paragraph 2, third sentence. The sentence should read, "Councilmember Press agreed and said he noticed twice as much deterioration in tree canopy in Gates Mills as compared to Hunting Valley in the initial presentation by CT Consultants". Councilmember Atton asked that \$282,000 be inserted before "liability mortgage" on Page 2, paragraph 2, third line. There was discussion pertaining to Councilmember Welsh's abstention and then "no" vote at the August Council meeting. Law Director Hunt noted the vote did not change the outcome, but that Council decides on whether the reason for abstaining is acceptable or not. Councilmember Turner moved to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes as amended with Councilmember Steinbrink seconding the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Abstain: Deacon.
 Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1265 in the amount of \$472,903.83 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh to approve Pay Ordinance #1265. Councilmember Press seconded the motion

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Treasurer Siemborski read his report for the eight months ending August 31, 2022. His report is attached. There will be a Finance/Budget Committee held on October 5 to review the long-range financial schedules and hear from our investment advisor. He hopes to present the schedules to Council at its October meeting. Treasurer

Siemborski will also be presenting to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee on September 27 to provide an overview of Village finances.

Mayor Schneider read a thank you letter from John Finley, Chairman of the Committee that reviewed how communities are charged for using Chagrin Valley Dispatch. He thanked Mayor Schneider for appointing Chip AuWerter to the Committee and for Chip's time spent writing the report and leading the final presentation.

Mayor Schneider noted that Chuck Spear will present information about the Heritage Home Program at next month's meeting. The program is available for owners with homes over 50 years old.

Mayor Schneider asked Council to approve the appointment of Laurie Deacon to the Broadband Committee along with Meghan Perez and Angela Baker to the Mayfield Schools Liaison Committee. Councilmember Press stated he was good with Laurie for Broadband, but after listening to the video of the Mayfield Schools Liaison Committee meeting, he thinks we may want to help them by explaining their role and is reluctant to appoint more people to the Committee until the remit of the Committee is clear. Mayor Schneider stated the purpose of the Committee is to attend School Board meetings to keep the Mayor and Council informed, communicate with residents about current school activities, issues and recognitions for the purpose of conveying value delivered to the community. They also host the Superintendent and Treasurer annually at a Council meeting. Councilmember Atton asked if the Committee is a liaison to the school or the school district. Mayor Schneider stated they all work together, hand-in-hand. Councilmember Press stated the Outside Perspectives group of the Comprehensive plan said there is a real or perceived problem with the school district and its rating. Mayor Schneider stated that when the Comprehensive Plan is completed, it will be up to Council to consider recommendations regarding the school. Councilmember Turner noted that Jim Stafford is the new Chair of the Committee and the Committee had not met since COVID began. As he reunited the Committee, they discussed a variety of things and were supportive of the school system. Councilmember Atton, as a member of the Committee, had pointed out some other ideas for the Committee to consider. Councilmember Turner stated Chairman Stafford will go over Committee objectives at their next meeting. As far as getting the results of the Comprehensive Plan to the school district, Councilmember Turner noted we aren't done with the Comprehensive Plan or report yet. She noted both positive and negative comments about the schools were received. The district is a community asset and, though not a unanimous opinion, we received repeated praise. We need to wait for the report and recommendations to be completed before communicating it to the school. Councilmember Atton asked if that would be next year then. Councilmember Turner stated yes.

Councilmember Atton, member of the Mayfield Schools Liaison Committee, noted this was the first meeting of the Committee in three years. He learned enrollment is down at the elementary school; however, the number of Gates Mills children at the school is increasing. There were 24 children from Gates Mills in 2021 and now there are

30. Total enrollment at the elementary school is 92. Dr. Barnes, Superintendent of the Mayfield City School District, will be attending the October Council meeting. Councilmember Atton asked why the video of the Committee's meeting was taken down and then put back up three days later? He asked why all meetings aren't recorded. Mayor Schneider stated there is a learning curve with recording meetings and having them available online. Law Director Hunt stated when the video was made, it became a public record. We will have to have a Records Committee meeting to set a policy for videos; however, the videos do not have to be posted anywhere. Committees can decide if the meeting should be on video unless there is an ordinance to do so. Councilmember Atton said he thinks it is important for transparency and permanent transparency. Mayor Schneider noted we may need to hire a technology person on staff then, as it is a lot for the current staff to handle. Councilmember Turner stated that committees do vote on items and cannot vote in a Zoom meeting any longer. You need to be in person when voting. Councilmember Atton said they are not voting on executive decisions. He stated he will put an ordinance together for next month. He concluded by reporting Mayfield Schools does a survey every three years via phone calls. This will take place September 25-28. If you receive a call, please answer and provide your opinions.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve the Mayor's appointments of Laurie Deacon to the Broadband Committee and of Meghan Perez and Angela Baker to the Mayfield Schools Liaison Committee. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. In response to a question from Councilmember Atton, Mayor Schneider read short introductions for Meghan Perez and Angela Baker.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Clerk DeCapite did not have a report.

Councilmember Turner reported that the Western Reserve Historical Society will be holding an open house on September 15 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Holsey Gates residence located at 762 Broadway in Bedford.

Councilmember Turner, for the Gates Mills Land Conservancy, reported the annual meeting will take place on October 19 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The speaker will be Erick Carlson who is a Village resident, biologist and teacher at University School. She also announced the second newsletter is out and congratulated Celeste McClung on a great job putting the newsletter together. To end her report, she noted there will be an invasive species removal at the Sherman Road Preserve on September 22 with Hawken students, but all are welcome to help.

Councilmember Turner provided a report for the Comprehensive Plan project. On August 15th a Town Hall workshop was held at the Community House. There were 80 attendees. There was a 45-minute presentation to explain the planning process, highlight

key existing conditions, assets and issues noted so far, and summarize the revised, first cut vision and goals. This was followed by an opportunity for attendees to provide comments on eight exhibits.

August 17th through August 25th, there were six neighborhood meetings held for the ten Village neighborhoods. There were over 300 attendees. Residents were contacted with a personal reminder or door hanger about the neighborhood meetings along with Pink Sheet, website, and GM Connect reminders. She and Chip AuWerter conducted the meetings with the help of facilitators from the Neighborhood Outreach Team and Advisory Committee. There were three topics addressed at each meeting. They were as follows:

Future of the Village Center: What are the top three ways to enhance the Village Center as our community gathering space? What are the challenges to achieving these enhancements?

Attracting New Wage-Earning Residents and Accommodating the Needs of Existing Residents: What are the top three challenges that need to be addressed in order to attract new residents and address the desire of older residents to downsize? What are the top three qualities of the Village that you treasure and do not want to see changed?

Creating Community: What are the top three steps the Village should take to increase residents' sense of community? What do you think are the top three reasons why more people do not volunteer?

The September 27th Advisory Committee meeting will review and assess the summary of 200 comments recorded on flip charts and 311 comments written as table notes, along with the post-it notes from the 8 exhibits displayed at each of the August meetings. Kris Hopkins will provide the summary, and the Advisory Committee will respond and give direction to her to prioritize the issues. The summary will be on the Village website after the September 27 meeting. With the range of issues identified and the framework of draft Village goals articulated, this September meeting will discuss specific topics. Basic information about the Village's finances, zoning and the operation of public schools will be provided to the Advisory Committee over the next few meetings.

Councilmember Atton asked if the people in attendance at the neighborhood and Town Hall meetings had already filled out the questionnaire. Councilmember Turner responded that Kris Hopkins is trying to verify if attendees were the same respondents or residents providing new information. Councilmember Atton asked who is doing a presentation on public schools. The Mayor responded it is Tony Podojil who is the head of Alliance for Public Schools which represents over 70 suburban public school systems. He was the Superintendent at West Geauga and a Principal at Orange and Chagrin Falls. He is well-versed on schools and their operation.

Councilmember Steinbrink reported for the Real Estate Committee. The Committee met and discussed a "For Lease" sign that could be utilized and then used for a new tenant's name. Many people want the space for office use, but we want a retail-oriented purpose for the space. Councilmember Press asked if we should be looking for a coffee shop, as that is what people want. Councilmember Steinbrink stated that Councilmember Press had spoken with some coffee shop people, but the interest seems to have dried up. They would like a retail tenant to create foot traffic for other tenant's places. Councilmember Atton inquired about the 1,000 square feet of Burton Court being rented as well. Councilmember Steinbrink noted we are still reviewing the Burton Court space and it takes time.

Councilmember Press stated he would like to hear a report from the Charter Review Committee. Mayor Schneider noted Chairman Riley is not in attendance and there has not been a meeting yet. She will see if there will be a report for October.

For the Broadband Committee, Chairperson Ann Whitney welcomed Councilmember Deacon to the Committee. Since the report was presented to Council, they have supplied answers to questions from Council and the Treasurer. They have spoken to officials from Hudson, Mayfield Village and Hunting Valley as well. They are now looking at consultants for services related to choosing a provider, negotiating a contract, funding options and program management. Outside help with expertise in working with municipalities and broadband is needed.

Chief Minichello had provided his report in the Council packet. He noted that deer hunting season is from September 25, 2022 through February 5, 2023. Bow hunting can take place on properties with 5 contiguous acres. Hunting is not permitted on Village property. Councilmember Atton requested an update on the traffic camera project. Chief Minichello noted there has been a delay in construction due to getting power to the westbound camera location. Software integration with the court and Gatso is still going on, with a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday. There will be some contract modifications coming to Council.

Service Director Biggert had provided his report in the Council packets. Village Engineer Chris Courtney provided a handout on this year's road program with Ronyak Paving. The handout is attached. It was noted that Dorchester is not a part of the work awarded for this year. The bulk of the work on Carpenter Road will be from Old Mill to just north of the service yard. The road is in good shape past the service yard area.

Fire Chief Robinson provided his report in the Council packet. Councilmember AuWerter inquired about an incident at Cedar Road and Chagrin River Road. The location is in Hunting Valley; however, with a cell phone call it put the incident in an overlapped area. Gates Mills requested the ambulance, so it is a call for the Village. Chief Robinson noted we are in possession of the new pick-up truck now. Councilmember Atton asked about 3 calls happening at the same place on the same day.

Chief Robinson noted the smoke detector is located in the ductwork and kept setting off the alarm.

Resolution No. 2022-25 “A Resolution Approving the Adoption of the Countywide All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for Cuyahoga County, 2022-2027” was read by Mayor Schneider.

Councilmember Press moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-25 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules. Chief Robinson noted the plan is reviewed every five years and he reviews it for the Village. He also helped write the original plan. All communities must adopt the plan if they want to qualify for federal money. He ranks flooding as the most prevalent disaster for the Village.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-25, with Councilmember Steinbrink seconding the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2022-26 “A Resolution Accepting the Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor” was read by Councilmember AuWerter.

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-26 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-26. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-26.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2022-27 “An Ordinance Amending Zoning Code Section 1157.03, ‘Accessory Uses in U1 Single-Family House District; New Standards’ to Adopt a New Subsection (n) to Permit the Keeping of Chickens and Certain Other Domesticated Fowl as an Accessory Use in Residential Zoning Districts and Amending the General Offenses Code to Adopt a New Section 518.18, ‘Backyard Chickens and Certain Other Domesticated Fowl’” was read by Councilmember Steinbrink. Councilmember Steinbrink noted the Ordinance is on first reading.

Councilmember Steinbrink noted our code is silent on keeping chickens, which means it is a prohibited activity. We live in a rural area, so he thinks it would be appropriate to permit the activity. Planning and Zoning Commission members had a robust discussion last week about this. Law Director Hunt confirmed that if it is not in the code, it is prohibited. Councilmember Welsh read a handout that was distributed. The handout is attached. He stated that he thinks the person who wrote the ordinance doesn’t know what they are talking about. He stated it should be reviewed by a Committee.

Holly Mathews, Sherman Road resident, stated her surprise that a law is needed to allow the activity. She stated there are not laws for dogs, cats, goats or sheep in the code. We only have language for horses. She stated dogs are more bothersome than roosters. She stated we should put thought into what we want Gates Mills to look like. Limiting the number of chickens to 15 doesn’t make sense if you are a poultry keeper. Hobby or working farms are part of the community.

Councilmember AuWerter noted that if we don’t have an ordinance like this, then chickens are prohibited. He also noted he disagreed with a rooster last year from 5:00 a.m. until evening. Councilmember Press stated it is hard to defend an ordinance when people have had chickens all this time. He said that it is site specific on whether you have a lot of land or live cheek-to-jowl with someone. Councilmember Deacon noted the ordinance can be broad enough and we have a lot of people in the Village who are familiar with what is needed. Councilmember Steinbrink stated the language in the ordinance is based on language in place in other communities. Law Director Hunt stated he looked at many other communities, including Cleveland. The ordinance will require a public hearing with a 30-day notice. Councilmember Steinbrink noted they are happy to discuss the ordinance at Planning and Zoning again and asked for the first reading to get feedback from Council.

Holly Mathews asked about our current ordinances and if we only permit horses. It was noted the Village permits domesticated animals. Councilmember Steinbrink noted the Planning and Zoning Commission has also been discussing an alpaca ordinance. Ms. Mathews noted if we want to preserve the rural feeling, this is a part of that. She also noted that lot size matters.

Mayor Schneider asked Ms. Mathews and Mrs. Sara Welsh to provide input to the Village. A variety of things can be done by acreage.

Ordinance No. 2022-28 “An Ordinance Amending Section 1163.11, ‘Fences; New Standards’, of Chapter 1163, ‘Lot and Yard Regulations’, to Further Regulate Chain Link Fences” was read by Councilmember Steinbrink. Councilmember Steinbrink noted the Ordinance is on first reading.

Councilmember Steinbrink noted this issue was brought up at the August Council meeting as chain link fence that could be seen from the road. Law Director Hunt stated the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the issue, but not yet recommend it to Council. Council needs to refer the Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an official recommendation and there will be a public hearing with a 30-day notice. Existing chain link fences are grandfathered. If the fencing is visible from the road, it will need to be screened.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to refer Ordinance No. 2022-28 to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an official recommendation. Councilmember AuWerter seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Council Matters: None.

Business from the Audience: None.

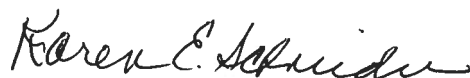
There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember AuWerter, seconded by Councilmember Steinbrink, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:


Karen E. Schneider, Mayor

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022

September 7, 2022

Financial statements were provided to the Mayor, Clerk and Council in advance of the September council meeting.

EIGHT MONTH RESULTS-GENERAL FUND

The Village continues to be in a solid financial position. We have positive cash flow, a balanced budget and no debt. The Village is able to continue its level of police, fire, service and administrative services as budgeted for 2022, despite the economic uncertainties in the markets and inflationary pressures. We are benefiting from the hybrid work environment as work-from-home (WFH) villagers are paying taxes to Gates Mills as their work city rather than other municipalities. Municipal income tax revenue is also benefiting by a subtle shift in wage earners moving into the Village and replacing villagers who paid less in tax. The mid-year financial Outlook, reflecting a current view of 2022 from the budget set in December of 2021, is being affirmed by July and August results. In summary, the Village is in good financial shape.

Revenue for the eight months was \$5.2 million. The month of August was particularly strong with \$822,000 of real estate tax revenue and \$462,000 of municipal Income tax revenue. For the year to date, real estate tax revenue was on budget and prior year figures, as expected. Income tax revenue is \$300,000 favorable to the full year budget driven by WFM and the shift in taxpayers. It is likely that we will achieve the \$2.5 million Outlook figure for municipal income revenue. Other Sources Revenue is running \$100,000 less than prior year driven by a non recurring \$50,000 BWC refund in 2021 and less rental income at the Mills building due to tenant movement and payment timing.

Expenditures for the eight months were \$3.8 million. The month of August was a typical month with expenditures of \$434,000. There were no unusual departmental expenditures during the month, except for payment of the Service Department truck outfitting of \$84,000. For the year to date, we are running \$400,000 above prior year due to personnel costs (\$169,000), legal and professional fees (\$76,000), EMS costs(\$65,000) and Service Department equipment (\$105,000).

The General Fund cash balance at August 31 was \$8.8 million compared to the beginning of the year balance of \$7.4 million. On September 9th, we transferred \$1,000,000 to the invested balance account at Ancora to earn higher returns.

OTHER FUNDS

The Village is required to maintain other special purpose funds by statute or contract, such as the Capital Improvement Fund. There were no unusual receipts or expenditures during August. Cash in those funds amounted to \$1.6 million.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. I will present an overview of Village finances to the Advisory Committee at its September 27 meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee. We have scheduled a meeting for October 5, 2022 to (1) review the updated long range planning financial schedules based on assumptions developed and remarks from the last Committee meeting and (2) hear a presentation by Ancora on the Village's investments.

Long Range Financial Planning schedules. Following the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on October 5th, I would expect to present the LRP schedules to Council at its October 11 meeting. This report will be published to the Village website. Please direct any questions to Treasurer@gatesmillsvillage.com.

Steven L. Siemborski
Treasurer, Village of Gates Mills
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee

Proposed Domesticated Fowl Zoning Law Issues

About Gates Mills:

- In a Cleveland Jewish News article on August 2, 2021, Mayor Karen Schneider wrote: “Its 2,300 residents enjoy rural living, equestrian farms and stunning views of the river and valley. Gates Mills is steeped in tradition, history and community spirit.”
- It is a very special community, consisting of extensive wooded hillsides, broad meadows, paddocks, historic homesteads and tranquil wetlands. Large open spaces surround well-tended homes and beautiful ravines. The Chagrin River lends other fine qualities to Village life as it winds its way through our valley.
- Gates Mills has an idyllic residential community designated bird sanctuary
- Does the proposed law match with the idea of rural living by regulating what can be put on Gates Mills’ many farms?

About The Welsh Family:

- In the early 1900’s, the first generation of our family came to Gates Mills, A.C. Ernst, and purchased a large farm on Epping Road.
- For over 100 years, our family has raised chickens, turkeys, peacocks, lambs, cows, horses and a variety of other animals on the property. To this day, we continue to operate part of the original hobby farm, constructed in 1923, raising horses, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, and lambs (seen in the 2022 Gates Mills July 4th parade in the Gentleman Farmers Float).
- Edward F. Welsh V, 16 years old and the 5th generation of our family, raises animals for 4H and currently just won the title of 2022 Geauga County Fair Jr. Fair King, and is a nationally ranked junior rabbit breeder.

Our Barn

- Our barn, where we raise all our animals, would immediately be in direct violation of the new zoning laws related to setback and we would be unable to have any domesticated fowl.
- Animals are all raised in the same building, each species in a 12x12 stall and we follow guidance from the USDA and Ohio State University Agriculture extension office.
- We raise animals to be sold at The Great Geauga County Fair Jr. animal auctions. Does this new law prohibit that? What animal will be next for Gates Mills to limit? Horses?

Civil liberties and the new zoning law

- This law affect private rights, we must scrutinize the law and its purpose. What is the valid public welfare purpose of this law?
- Based on the case City of Bedford v. James L. Deal, the law that interferes with the right to keep animals will be upheld if the law is "rationally related to a legitimate government interest." What is Gates Mills government interest that needs to be addressed? Is it worried about land value, noise, or disease?

Lawmakers Backgrounds in Domesticated Fowl

- What are the Lawmakers background in animals, especially domesticated fowl?
- Has anyone on Zoning or Council talked to poultry or animal experts at the Ohio department of health, Ohio State University, Cuyahoga County Animal Control or 4-H leadership?

Issues with Domesticated Fowl

- What is the population of residences that have chickens? How many versus dog and cat owners? Other animals?
- What are the statistics related to chicken complaints? What are statistics related to other animals? Dogs barking or loose animals? Other complaints?
- Why micro-managing this specific type of animal, their sex in the zoning laws?
- Why just domestic fowl? Why not limit the number of cats and dogs, since their population is so much larger?

Benefits of Domesticated Fowl

- Very educational for children so they realize where their food comes from.
- Eggs are better, tastier and more nutritional than bought in the store.
- Have you watched the videos on factory farming and where our food comes from?
- Chickens can be used for multiple purposes including eggs, meat and fertilizer.
- Teaches lesson on responsibility, circle of life, and compassion for animals.
- Chickens only lay 2 years. 15 chickens isn't a lot to produce eggs because they don't lay in winter, or colder weather. What happens after 2 years if they are pets? Do you put them down? Some of our chickens are 8 years old and have served their purpose as laying hens. They are now pets.
- Chickens are green pets. They eat weeds and disease carrying insects, making water supplies safer. They turn, rotate and enrich gardens with nitrogen rich fertilizer.

Myths about Chickens

- Myth: Chickens are dirty.
 - Chickens spend hours cleaning themselves. Chicken waste, like all animal waste smells. Compared to dogs, chickens

produce beneficial waste and not toxic like dog and cat waste. Why not regulate that dog walkers on public roads are required to pick up their animals toxic poop that gets ultimately washed into the river?

- Normally, chicken keepers take greater pride in their chickens. It is a myth that chickens would lower property values. There is no evidence that they do. What is the first reaction when you see chickens in a front yard? Disgust? No. They are cute.
- Myth: Chickens are noisy.
 - Hens are normally not noisy. Roosters are no louder in volume or frequency than a barking dog.
 - Barking dog at 1 meter distance: 70-100db
 - Lawnmower at 1 meter distance: 107 db
 - Rooster at 1 meter distance: 48db
 - Intermittent daytime noises are a normal part of living in any community and regulations should not discriminate against any species or gender within a species.
 - Nobody is entitled to live in a silent neighborhood. Any concerns about chicken noises should be addressed in the same manner other noise complaints are addressed, including barking dog noises.
- Myth: Chickens and poultry attract rodents and predators.
 - Wild animals are attracted to food sources. Bird feeders and garbage cans should be addressed with laws that attract wild animals with disease. Skunks, raccoons, Fox, deer, and coyotes frequent Gates Mills yards...with or without chickens.
- Myth: Chickens are kept just for eggs.
 - Chickens are kept for eggs, pets, 4H projects, color of eggs, and heritage breeds in danger of extinction.

Limiting the Number of Domesticated Fowl to 15

- There is no rational reason for limiting head count - it is expensive to keep chickens and hoarding is not endemic to the backyard chicken keeping community. What other animals have limits?
- Is enforcement already covered under animal control and the health department? Why do we need another detailed law?
- Roaming laws- what animal roaming laws are on the books. Is that why you don't want them in the front yard?

Enforcement

- Enforcement of any domestic fowl regulation is an important consideration, but potential problems contemplated in this context usually already fall under the jurisdictions of animal control officials, police and health departments. There is no need to enact a complicated, overly restrictive regulation based on unfounded fears of the unknown. There will always be abuses of any standard, but a few theoretical bad actors should not give rise to regulations that micro-manage pets.