



## APPLICATION AND PERMIT FOR THE KEEPING OF BEES

Applications shall be made to the City along with a fee according to the adopted City of Pine City Fee Schedule and applicable ordinance. Upon review and acceptance of the application and fee, a permit shall be issued. Violations of this ordinance make the permit subject to revocation.

**Initial Application** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal Application** \_\_\_\_\_ **Colonies Requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property owner / Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_

Full address and apiary lot size where the bees will be housed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

All required notification mailings will be completed by the City of Pine City at an expense to the applicant in addition to the application fee (560.05.2.b).

Applicant acknowledges the neighbor notification requirement and additional costs: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the type and extent of beekeeping training, experience, and knowledge as required within the City Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance: By signing this application, the applicant agrees to comply with all terms and conditions as set forth by City Code and to pay all expenses incurred by the City of Pine City should compliance with the permit come into question. Your signature constitutes permission for a representative of the City of Pine City to enter your property to evaluate this request or to determine compliance with this permit. Inspections must be scheduled with the Community Development Department.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Council Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Pine City**

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E-mail: Admin01@pinecitygov.com Web site: pinecity.govoffice.com

*Pine City is an equal opportunity employer*

Applicant Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 560.00 KEEPING OF BEES

**560.01. Definitions.** The following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context of their usage indicates another usage.

*Apiary* means the assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.

*Beekeeper* means a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.

*Beekeeping equipment* means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.

*Colony* means an aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.

*Hive* means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.

*Honey bee* means all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *apis mellifera* (African subspecies and Africanized hybrids are not allowed).

*Lot* means a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

**560.02. Purpose of ordinance.** The purpose of this ordinance is to establish certain requirements for beekeeping within the City, to avoid issues that might otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.

(1) Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony constitutes a nuisance, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's efforts to abate any proven nuisance.

(2) Compliance with this ordinance shall not be a defense to a proceeding alleging that a given colony violates applicable ordinances regarding public health, but such compliance may be offered as evidence of the beekeeper's compliance with acceptable standards of practice among hobby beekeepers in the State of Minnesota.

### **560.03. Standards of Practice.**

(1) Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which must be kept in sound and usable conditions.

(2) Each beekeeper must ensure that a convenient source of water is available within 10 feet of each colony at all times that the colonies remain active outside the hive.

(3) Each beekeeper must ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other vermin-proof container.

(4) Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted if they have been painted but are peeling or flaking, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. Honey bee colonies may only be kept on single-family residential property zoned A-0, R-1 and R-2. In all other districts beekeeping is prohibited.

(5) Each beekeeper is allowed to make in person sales of honey from the beekeeper's residence as long as the requirements of the Municipal Development Ordinance regarding Home Occupations is met, Section 10.500.0200.

### **560.04. Colony density.**

1) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the City, based upon the size of the apiary lot:

- a. One half acre lot or smaller: 2 colonies;

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- b. Lot larger than half acre but smaller than 3/4 acre: 4 colonies;
- c. Lot larger than 3/4 acre lot but smaller than 1 acre: 6 colonies;
- d. One acre lot but smaller than five acres: 8 colonies;
- e. Larger than five acres: no restriction.

2) In each instance where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet in height.

**560.05. Permit required.**

1) No beekeeping may occur on any property in the City unless the City issues a permit to the beekeeper on that specific property. The permit will be valid for two growing seasons.

2) A beekeeping permit will only be issued if:

- a. the permit application documents the satisfaction of all applicable items found in this ordinance;
- b. notices have been mailed to all homes within 150 feet of the applicant's property lines.
  - i. If there are objections received within ten days of mailing the notices, then the permit application must be considered by the City Council.
  - ii. If there are no objections received within ten days of mailing the notices, then the permit application will be processed by City staff. It will not be referred to the City Council for consideration.

3) Permits are non-transferable and do not run with the land.

4) A permit constitutes a limited license granted to the beekeeper by the City and in no way creates a vested zoning right.

5) By signing the permit, the beekeeper acknowledges that he or she shall defend and indemnify the City against any and all claims arising out of keeping the bees on the premises.

6) The fee for the initial permit shall be as established by the City. For each subsequent permit there shall be no fee for the permit, unless there are substantial changes to the apiary or there is a new beekeeper. All standards of practice and colony density standards must be met in order to issue a permit.

7) If the standards of practice are not maintained subsequent to issuance of a beekeeping permit, the permit may be revoked by the City.

8) Beekeeping training is required for the beekeeper prior to issuance of an initial beekeeping permit by the City. Either provide a certificate of completion from an educational institution offering a beekeeping course; or request consideration for substituting equivalent experience for the beekeeping course; or provide a letter from a current beekeeping instructor at an educational institution offering beekeeping courses that states that the permit applicant has gained through other means a substantially similar knowledge base to one that could be gained through appropriate beekeeping courses.

9) Any beekeeper wishing to make in person sales of honey from their home according to the Home Occupations section must so indicate on the annual permit.

**560.06. Penalty for violation of section.** Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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