

Resolution #15-R-21
Honeybee Rescue Resolution

Date: November 17, 2021

Submitted By: Alderperson Meltzer – District 2, & Alderperson Schultz – District 9

Referred To: Board of Health

WHEREAS Honeybee rescue is a service provided for free by local beekeepers in order to provide an alternative to insecticides and relocate bees from undesired locations while preserving the safety of both humans and bees; and

WHEREAS the rescue process is physically challenging and the queen of the colony often does not survive the extraction, and a colony will die off without its queen; and

WHEREAS a nucleus colony is a very small hive that produces no honey, which is kept solely for the purpose of replacing failed queens; and

WHEREAS other circumstances such as severe weather events can cause a hive to fail and need a replacement queen, but replacement queens that can be purchased may not survive transit or may not arrive in time for a hive in crisis; and

WHEREAS the local beekeepers who perform rescues are the only individuals with the resources and opportunity to find a new home for a rescue colony and if necessary a new queen;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Appleton make the following amendments to Sec 3-52(b) in the Municipal Code:

1. Amend “(5) honeybee hives may be maintained” to “(5) honeybee hives and (2) nucleus colonies may be maintained”
2. Add to the end of Sec 3-52(b) the following language: “A beekeeper may temporarily exceed the allowable number of hives for a 30 day period in order to rescue a colony, to determine that it’s disease-free, and to verify or establish a viable queen.”