



**PLANNING BOARD STAFF REPORT**

To: Auburn Planning Board  
From: Zach Mosher, City Planner  
Re: Planning Board Initiated Text Amendment for Livestock.  
Date: September 12, 2017

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As discussed at last month's Planning Board meeting, staff realized earlier this year that there existed a discrepancy between definitions relating to livestock in **Chapter 60 Zoning Article I Definitions** and **Chapter 8 Animals Article I Definitions**. The discrepancy was discovered when a citizen requested to keep goats as pets. According to Chapter 60 Zoning definitions the goats could be interpreted to be pets and could be permitted on the citizen's .39 acre lot. Chapter 8 does not permit goats to be pets and also sets a 1 acre minimum lot size. Earlier this year the citizen was visited by Auburn Police who had received a complaint about the goats and was informed that goats were not allowed to be kept on lots less than 1 acre, according to Chapter 8 Animals of the Auburn Code of Ordinances.

Two major discrepancies arise between Chapters 8 & 60 that staff would like to address: 1) how livestock is defined, and 2) acreage required for the keeping of livestock. The definition of livestock from Chapter 60 Sec. 60-2 reads: "*Livestock means domestic animals kept, used or raised on a farm for the production of income.*" This definition leaves the door open, if goats are not being raised for the production of income, to be interpreted as pets. The definition of livestock from Chapter 8 Animals reads: "*Livestock means, but may not be limited to, any horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, goats, sheep, or swine.*" Therefore Chapter 8 specifically defines goats as livestock, irrespective of purpose.

The simplest and most effective change would update the definition of livestock in Chapter 60 to read identical to the definition in Chapter 8. If text amendment is approved, goats could never be considered pets. In addition to integrating the definition of livestock from Chapter 8 into Chapter 60, staff recommends updating the definition title of "**Farm, Animal**" to read as "**Farm, Livestock**" in Chapter 60 Definitions since the definition refers only to what the definition of livestock in Chapter 8 refers to as livestock. Staff also recommends the new definition of "**Farm, Livestock**" in Chapter 60 to include the one acre minimum specified by Chapter 8, Sec. 8-264 (2) Keeping of Livestock generally.

**The definition for Livestock and Farm, Animal definitions in Chapter 60, Sec.60-2**  
**Definitions would now read:**

Livestock means, ~~domestic animals kept, used or raised on a farm for the production of income. but may not be limited to, any horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, goats, sheep, or swine.~~

Farm, ~~animal livestock~~, means any parcel of land that contains at least the following land area used for the keeping of horses, mules, cows, goats, sheep, hogs and similar sized animals for the domestic use of the residents of the lot, ~~provided that there is a minium of 1 acre of land as required by Chapter 8 Animals and provided that~~ adequate land area is provided for each animal unit, excluding water bodies of one-quarter acre surface area or larger:

(1)

Cattle: One bovine animal unit per acre of cleared hay-pasture land.

(2)

Horse: 1.5 animal units per acre of cleared hay/pasture land.

(3)

Sheep: Three animal units per acre of cleared hay/pasture land.

(4)

Swine: Two animal units per acre of cleared land.

(5)

Other ~~livestock animal~~ farms: The required lot size shall be determined by municipal officer charged with enforcement and shall conform to the lot size for similar sized animals.