

Original _____
Renewal _____

Annual Registration of Honey Beekeeping
Updated 6-2019

A honey beekeeper must register their honey bee keeping with the City of Stoughton within 30 days after commencing honey bee keeping on their property. This registration expires on December 31 each year, and must be renewed by March 31st the following year or the registration will be subject to a \$25 late fee. You can register at City Hall, 207 S. Forrest St., Monday - Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or by mail by completing and mailing the registration form below.

Registration Process:

- **Provide the following information:**

Registration Date: _____ Number of honey bee colonies to be kept: _____

Registrant Name (please print): _____

Street Address where honey bees will be housed: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone (day time): _____

- **New applicants must submit a site plan showing hive location from the lot lines and all dimensions.**
- **Sign and mail this form to the City of Stoughton, 207 S. Forrest St., along with:**
 - A self-addressed, stamped envelope
 - For NEW registrations: \$25 check made payable to the City of Stoughton
 - There is no fee for registration renewals

Your signature acknowledges that you have read and accept the following standards for keeping honey bees in the City of Stoughton:

1. You will abide by the regulations set forth in zoning code section 78-206(8)(z). (attached).

2. You agree to allow Planning Department and Police Department staff to enter on your property to inspect the bee keeping operations.

Registrant Signature _____ Date _____

Date Registered: _____

Sec 78-206(8)(z) Honey Beekeeping

Description: The purpose of this section is to permit and to establish certain requirements for sound beekeeping practices, which are intended to avoid problems that may otherwise be associated with the keeping of bees in populated areas.

1. Regulations

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context of their usage clearly indicates another meaning:

1. **Apiary.** The assembly of one or more colonies of bees at a single location.
2. **Beekeeper.** A person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of bees.
3. **Colony.** An aggregate of bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and many drones, including brood, combs, honey and the hive inhabited by the bees.
4. **Hive.** A structure intended for the housing of one bee colony. A single hive, including the attached honey supers, shall not exceed twenty (20) cubic feet in size.
5. **Honey Bee.** All life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Mellifera* species.
6. **Parcel.** A distinct or defined portion of land which is considered as a unit.

(b) Location and Standards.

1. All hives shall be located at least three (3) feet from any property line. No hive shall be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any dwelling, except that of the beekeeper.
2. The entrance to any hive located closer than ten (10) feet to any adjoining property line shall not face the nearest property line.
3. In each instance in which a colony is situated within twenty-five (25) feet of a property line, a flyway barrier is required. This flyway barrier must: be at least six (6) feet in height; consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof; and be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle, extending from an apex at the hive to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded. A flyway barrier is not required if the lowest part of the colony is situated six (6) feet or more above grade.
4. All honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with movable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

5. A source of water shall be available to all honey bees kept by a beekeeper, on the same parcel on which the colony is located. The water shall be available at all times during the year when the honey bees are active, so that the honey bees will not congregate at swimming pools, pet watering bowls, bird baths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact.
6. No bee comb or similar materials may be left upon the grounds of the apiary. Upon removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container, or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.
7. Whenever a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics, such as stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation, or exhibits an unusual disposition toward swarming, the beekeeper shall promptly re-queen the colony with another queen. Queens shall be selected from European stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.
8. It shall be unlawful to keep more than the following number of colonies on any parcel within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the parcel on which the apiary is situated:
 - a. One-half (1/2) acre or less – two (2) colonies.
 - b. More than one-half (1/2) acre but less than one (1) acre – four (4) colonies.
 - c. One (1) acre or larger – six (6) colonies.
9. Beekeeping activities conducted on property on which the principal use is residential shall be conducted in compliance with those home occupation standards in Section 78-206(8)(j) of the Municipal Code, excepting 78-206(8)(j)(1)(b) and (1)(d).
10. Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any beekeeper to keep any colony or colonies in such a manner, or of such disposition, as to cause any unhealthy condition, interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of human or animal life, or interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of any other property.