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Town of North Attleborough

TOWN COUNCIL

BY-LAW SUB-COMMITTEE

43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760

Phone: (508) 699-0100 ext. 2555

PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM

NORTH TV

93 South Washington St. North Attleborough, MA

I. Pledge Of Allegiance

II. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of December 4, 2025 Bylaw Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

III. Resident And Community Comment

IV. Old Business

- a. Measure 2026-042-The proposed amendments to §108-4 modernize the Town's approach to backyard chicken keeping by recognizing the rights of residents to responsibly maintain chickens on their own property, while also establishing clear public-health protections to address concerns from neighbors—particularly those related to rodents. If accepted, this will also require an update of Ch.290 § 290-18.1 Use Schedule B 2 Agriculture (stock) to remove the prohibition and special permit requirements.

Documents:

[MEASURE 2026-042- APPROVAL TO UPDATE CHICKEN BYLAW.COMplete.PDF](#)

V. New Business

- a. None at this time.

VI. Adjournment

*Paper copies of Measures can be obtained at the Town Manager's Office at the North Attleborough Town Hall between the hours of 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Thursday, and

Friday 8:00AM -12:00PM.*

Hardcopies of all "Voted Measures" can be obtained in the Town Clerk's Office at the North Attleborough Town Hall between the hours of 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Thursday, and Friday 8:00AM -12:00PM.

All measures can be accessed in the [Measures Database](#)



Measure #: _____

TOWN COUNCIL MEASURE SUBMITTAL

Date: _____	Submitted By: _____	Telephone #: _____
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MEASURE DESCRIPTION:

Signed: _____

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

ATTACHMENTS:

REFER TO SUB-COMMITTEE:

Chapter 108 Animals

Article 1 Animal Control

§ 108-4 Keeping of Chickens

A. By Right.

Residents may keep chickens on their property by right, subject to the conditions of this section. Chickens shall be considered domestic animals under §108-2.

B. Licensing.

1. The owner or keeper of chickens shall obtain an annual license for each property where chickens are kept. Licenses shall be issued by the Town Clerk.
2. The license period shall be from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. License fees shall be established by the Town Council.

C. Inspection.

1. The Animal Control Officer shall conduct an annual inspection of all licensed chicken coops to ensure compliance with sanitary, safety, and rodent-prevention standards.
2. No additional inspections are required after the initial inspection is satisfactorily completed.
3. If the ACO, Board of Health, or any other governmental body receives a complaint about the licensed coop(s), a follow-up inspection by the ACO may be conducted to ensure compliance with the terms of this bylaw.
4. Owners and keepers shall allow access for inspections upon reasonable notice.

D. Cooperation with Health Agent.

Owners and keepers shall cooperate with the Town Health Agent in responding to complaints concerning the health, sanitation, rodent activity, or nuisance conditions related to chickens or chicken coops.

E. Number of Chickens by Zoning District.

The maximum number of chickens permitted per property shall be:

- R10: six (6) chickens
- R15/R20: twelve (12) chickens
- R40: no maximum limit

Chickens in excess of these limits are prohibited unless a variance is granted in accordance with the Town's Zoning Bylaws.

F. Roosters.

Roosters are prohibited in all zoning districts except R40.

G. Rodent-Prevention and Sanitation Requirements.

1. **Feed Storage.** All chicken feed shall be stored in rodent-proof, weather-tight containers made of metal or other rodent-resistant materials.
2. **Feeders.** Feed shall be provided only in covered, rodent-resistant feeders, such as treadle or gravity feeders. Open feeding or scattering feed on the ground is prohibited.
3. **Spilled Feed.** Spilled or excess feed shall be cleaned up daily.
4. **Coop Construction.** Coops and runs shall be constructed to prevent entry by rodents, including the use of ¼-inch hardware cloth for any openings or ventilation areas.
5. **Sanitation.** Coops and runs shall be maintained in a clean condition with regular removal of manure and waste to prevent odors, pests, and rodent harborage.
6. **Water Sources.** Water shall be provided in containers designed to minimize spillage and shall be removed or secured overnight to prevent attracting pests.
7. **Surrounding Conditions.** Owners shall maintain the area around the coop free of trash, food waste, and other materials that could provide food or shelter for rodents.

H. Enforcement.

Violation of this section shall constitute a public nuisance under §108-2 and may result in fines, revocation of the chicken license, or other remedies as provided by law.

I. Building Permit Clarification.

A building permit shall not be required for chicken coops or runs that are less than 200 square feet in area, not permanently affixed to a foundation, and not intended for human occupancy, consistent with the Massachusetts State Building Code. A permit shall be required only when a coop exceeds these thresholds or otherwise falls within the scope of the State Building Code.