

1410-04  
Report –  
Planning

xref: 1110-30  
Animals Bylaw

## **CONSIDERATION OF ALLOWING MINIATURE GOATS ON URBAN RESIDENTIAL LOTS**

Report of the Director of Planning dated April 7, 2016 recommending that Council proceed with Option 3 (community engagement and a pilot project) as outlined in the report.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Planning stated:

- Some work priorities that may have to be shifted to account for this new work include work on heritage or public art or the review of a local area plan.
- It may be possible to create a site specific zone to allow the goats from the pilot project to stay on the properties.
- Goats can be kept as pets or can be used as a farm animal; breeding would not be allowed to take place on an urban property; females would be taken offsite to be bred.
- Concerns of animal welfare would be reported to Saanich Bylaw and then referred to an appropriate organization.
- Adjacent neighbours within 100 metres would have to provide written approval to allow a property owner to keep goats; 100 metres takes into account noise and odour.
- Properties in the EDPA are not being considered as part of the pilot project; consultation would include owners of properties in the EDPA.
- It may be possible to cordon off an area on a property that is within the EDPA so that the owner could keep goats if they wish.
- Staff costs for the Backyard Urban Chicken Study was approximately \$2,000; if Council hired a consultant, costs would be significantly more.
- A survey of neighbours could be embedded into the pilot project process at the 12 and 18 month timeline.
- Feedback from the broader community would be considered when drafting the bylaw; the bylaw would apply across Saanich and would not limit where goats could occur therefore feedback should be sought from the broader community.
- Having a pilot project and a consultation process run in parallel would result in a more fulsome discussion.

### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

J. McCue, Peshurst Drive, stated:

- The 100 metre requirement may be excessive; she would keep goats as pets and to help keep grass and invasive species under control.

A. Rawes, on behalf of the Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Marigold and Glanford, stated:

- Option 4 to defer the issue to 2017 should be considered; it is a low priority and the Association is unconvinced as to its' contribution to food security.
- There are concerns about the potential for increased noise and odour and that unpasteurized goats milk could lead to disease; goats are excellent escape artists and are fond of ornamental plantings; there is the potential for significant damage to neighbours' gardens should a goat get loose.
- Staff resources could be better spent on higher priority items that will have a greater impact on a larger number of Saanich residents.

**COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS:**

In response to questions, the Director of Planning stated:

- 100 metres was chosen because in comparison to chickens, goats can be noisier and there could be a greater impact to neighbours.
- 100 metres is approximately 6-7 lots on either side of the subject property; 50 metres is approximately 3-4 lots on either side of the subject property.
- A cost estimate to hire a consultant for consultation and facilitating Open Houses would be approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- One other member of the public has advised that they would be interested in having goats.
- Running the pilot project and receiving feedback only from immediate neighbours effects the validity of the information received; having a parallel process would mean an overlap of information gained from each process.
- Sometimes residents are uncomfortable providing feedback that could affect their neighbour.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- He thanks Ms. McCue for her efforts to bring the issue forward; it may be appropriate to have the pilot project move forward now and get broader feedback in 12 to 18 months.
- A pilot project is an opportunity to determine the impacts on neighbours.

**Motion:**

**MOVED by Councillor Murdock and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland:**  
**“That it be recommended that Council approve:**

- 1. a pilot project, for a minimum of 18 months, allowing miniature goats to be kept on up to ten (10) single family zoned urban residential lots in accordance with the basic conditions for the pilot project as outlined in report of the Director of Planning dated April 7, 2016; and**
- 2. that a broader public engagement process be undertaken following the end of the pilot project.”**

Mayor Atwell stated:

- A pilot project would help to determine the impact on neighbours and the benefits; the success will be determined by the participants in the pilot project.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- Deferring the public engagement process to the end of the project may alleviate concerns for staff resources and the deferral of other priorities; it will be beneficial to have Saanich data.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- Food and manure may attract rodents; he supports the item being brought forward in 2017 for consideration.

In response to questions, the Director of Planning stated:

- Further clarification on the distance for written approval of neighbours, the length of the pilot and what happens to the goats after the pilot project is

- needed; further direction would be needed if Council considers site specific zoning to keep goats on the properties that participate in the pilot project.
- Goats would be permitted on the properties for a minimum of 18 months.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- She is concerned as to which work priorities would be deferred while staff work on this item.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- Keeping goats for farming/learning experience would be appropriate.
- Getting written approval of neighbours within 100 metres is appropriate.
- Other initiatives may be deferred to allow staff to work on this initiative; a pilot project is an opportunity to recognize the farming aspect of goats.

Councillor Brice stated:

- The temperament of the goats may be the deciding factor in the success of the pilot project; there may not be a lot of interest in keeping goats; it is a big time commitment and could be a lot of work.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- It is important to be nimble; a pilot project may show how beneficial goats are to the community.

In response to questions, the Director of Planning stated:

- She recommends the goats be allowed to stay on the property until the end of the consultation process.
- It may be possible that no one participates in the pilot project because of the need for the approval of neighbours within 100 metres.

**MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Mayor Atwell: “That the pilot project condition to require participants obtain written approval of all neighbours within 100 metres of the subject property be amended to 50 metres.”**

**The Amendment to the Motion was CARRIED  
with Councillors Brownoff and Sanders OPPOSED**

**The Main Motion, as Amended, was then Put and CARRIED**

Motion as Amended:

“That it be recommended that Council approve:

1. a pilot project, for a minimum of 18 months, allowing miniature goats to be kept on up to ten (10) single family zoned urban residential lots in accordance with the basic conditions for the pilot project as outlined in report of the Director of Planning dated April 7, 2016; and the pilot project condition be amended to require participants obtain written approval of all neighbours within 50 metres of the subject property.
2. a broader public engagement process be undertaken following the end of the pilot project.”