

Plan Update: Roosters

Planning Advisory Committee

May 17, 2022

Planning Advisory Committee



EAST HANTS

Background

- At the April 2022 meeting, Council passed the following motion:

Motion C22(149)

- *Moved that Council direct staff to review any other regulations rural municipalities have in place and look at the average lot size in the GMA to come up with a solution to managing roosters.*

MEDIAN LOT SIZE IN THE GMA

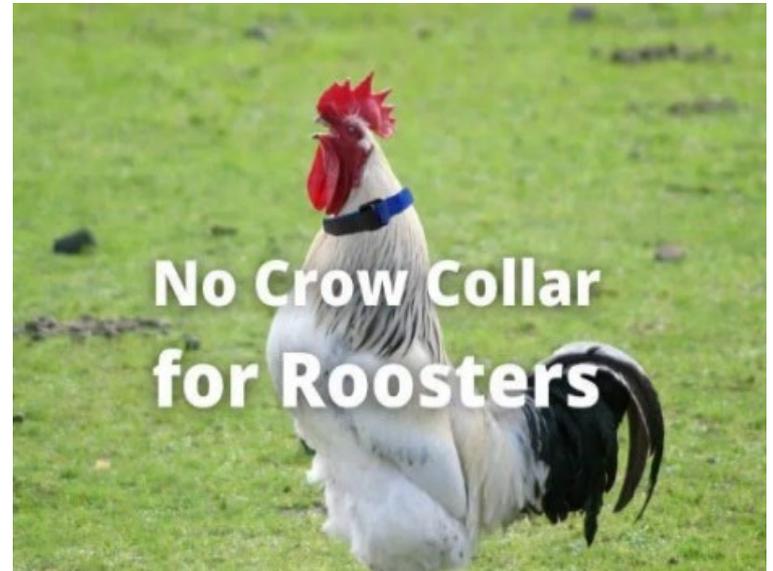
- The median lot size of all R1/R2 zoned lands in the Corridor, which includes the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz, Milford, and Shubenacadie is 1,172 m².

Jurisdictional Scan: Non HRM Communities with Services

Municipality	Regulation	Are Roosters Permitted?
Antigonish Town	No Roosters permitted only four laying hens.	No
Truro	Roosters and swine (excluding pot-bellied pigs) are prohibited in all Zones excluding the Rural Residential Zone (R8) and Watershed Residential Zone (R9). Min. R8 Zone area = 3,716 m ² Min. R9 Zone area = 3,716 m ²	Only permitted in two zones that have larger lot size requirements.
Wolfville	No roosters permitted only four laying hens.	No
Digby	In the Town of Digby, no person shall: a) keep a Rooster; b) keep a Hen, other than an Urban Chicken for which a valid Chicken License has been issued.	No
Amherst	The keeping of agricultural animals is prohibited in Town except for the following lots which have agricultural uses existing at the date of this bylaw: i) PID# 25047010 ii) PID# 25037219 iii) PID# 25358086	No, except for three lots.
County of Kings	Controls Animals, cats and urban chicken with an Animal Control Bylaw, which allows urban rooster but requires them to be kept in a fully enclosed Chicken Coop, which is impervious to light, between the hours of 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.	Yes, but under certain provisions.
Windsor	The keeping of roosters and/or the slaughtering of animals is prohibited	No

Rooster Collars

- After the last meeting of PAC, a resident suggested the use of rooster collars as a method to prevent a rooster from crowing.
- A rooster collar is a belt/band that goes around a rooster's neck that limits the force of air coming from the rooster and reduces the crowing noise.
- There are mixed reviews on the product, with some claiming that it works, while others indicate that it is torture to the animal, while still other users have indicated that the product doesn't work and that its use has ended in the death of the rooster.



<https://chickenjournal.com/>

Rooster Collars Continued

- Planning staff reached out to the Nova Scotia Farm Animal Welfare Program for their comments on the use of rooster collars.
- Animal welfare inspectors don't determine whether a product is humane or not humane, it depends on if the product is used correctly or not.
- For example, they would have concerns if a rooster wearing the collar appeared to be in distress.
- Staff also requested legal advice; it was recommended that the Municipality do not directly regulate the use of a product.
- If East Hants directly regulated the use of a rooster collar, we could be called upon to justify the standards we have selected, and rooster collars are likely to be controversial.
- Enforcing the use of a rooster collar would also be extremely difficult.
- Staff do not recommend the use of rooster collars as a method of preventing the crowing of roosters.

Alternatives

Proposed Regulation	Are Roosters Permitted?	Issues
<p>The median residential lot size (R1/R2) in the Corridor is 1,172 m² (12,615 ft²). Propose that any lot that is 1,000 m² or under would not be permitted to have a rooster. This would mean that over half of the population in the Corridor would still be permitted to have a rooster.</p> <p><i>*Or any other lot area identified by PAC.</i></p>	Yes, on some lots in the serviced GMAs.	Could still end up with a rooster in a densely populated neighbourhood, if one or more of the lots in a subdivision exceeded the min. lot size requirement.
Amend the Land Use Bylaw to prohibit roosters in the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area. Roosters would still be permitted in other serviced GMA's such a Milford and Shubenacadie.	Not in the South Corridor and Commercial GMA. Yes, in Milford and Shubenacadie.	Prohibits roosters in the fastest growing and most densely populated area of the Municipality. But does nothing for residents in other parts of the Municipality.
Create an animal control Bylaw that requires roosters to be kept in fully enclosed chicken coop to prevent or minimize crowing.	Yes, inside a coop.	Would require extra Bylaw Enforcement staff time outside of regular office hours to enforce the Bylaw.
Maintain the current Land Use Bylaw Regulations	Yes	Permits roosters everywhere, even in dense subdivisions.
Prohibit roosters in Growth Management Areas that have Municipal Services	No	If a property owner has a large lot in the serviced area, they would not be permitted to have a rooster.



Recommendation

- That PAC review the chart of proposed regulations, select a method of regulating roosters in the Corridor and authorize staff to amend the LUB as part of the Plan Update.