Policy Goals: Urban Agriculture

Build a framework for beekeeping, keeping hens, and growing produce for sale in the City. Beekeeping is the first topic being considered for Cambridge.
Benefits of Urban Agriculture

Nutrition and Food Security
• It is a strategy to encourage healthy food choices and support access to healthy food

Social Integration
• Promotes community cohesion, connection, and engagement in healthy, active recreation

Resiliency
• Supports citywide sustainability and climate change adaptation planning
Beekeeping in Context of Urban Agriculture

Nutrition and Food Security
• Honeybees pollinate crops that contribute to a healthy food supply

Social Integration
• Connects people to nature and where food supply comes from

Resiliency
• Promotes local honey production and educational opportunities
Cambridge Outreach and Partners

Stakeholder Engagement

- City agencies and programs (CPHD, CDD, ISD, DPW, Animal Control, Conservation Commission)
- Local experts (beekeepers, entrepreneurs, academics, clinicians)
- State agencies (MDAR, MDPH)
- Nonprofits and Community Organizations
- Residents
Comprehensive City Policy: Beekeeping

Public Health Regulations

• Beekeeping
• Permit applications and forms

Zoning Ordinance

• Allowable land uses, setbacks, and dimensions

Guidance Documents

• Best management practices
• “Plain Language” guide for navigating permit process
Public Health Regulations
Public Health Regulations

• Sections 1 & 2
  • Purpose and Regulatory Authority
    (M.G.L. c.111§31)

• Section 3
  • Definitions

• Sections 4, 5, & 6
  • Requirements & Standards
    • Includes adoption of Massachusetts Beekeeper’s Association Best Management Practices
  • Sale of Honey

• Section 8
  • Permit Application Requirements
Public Health Regulations

- Sections 9 & 10
  - Variance Requests & Permit Renewals
- Section 11
  - Abutter Notification
- Section 12
  - Public Hearings
- Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17
  - Enforcement, Inspections, Violations, Imminent Health Hazards, & Penalties