



Memo

TO: Chair, Finance and Administration

SUBJECT: Polling on Backyard Chicken

DATE: October 9, 2020

FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

Different perspectives have been advanced on whether the Town should allow individuals to raise and keep chickens in an urban environment. This matter has been discussed at length at various times through public presentations and at council and advisory planning commission deliberations. Even though chickens are not legally permitted, some residents have continued to maintain chickens within the Town boundaries.

The Advisory Planning Commission on September 24th, 2020 recommended to council that it permit backyard chickens in residential areas within the Town. Council has directed that a polling be conducted on the subject.

The question to be posed to the public is attached.

Council direction on who should receive the Question is requested:

- Residential property owners who reside in their homes?;
- Tenants or renters?;
- Include residential property owners who live elsewhere?;
- Limit the poll to all qualified voters who can vote in local elections only?; OR
- Some combination of the above.

CONCLUSION

It would be sensible to limit polling on this matter to all those who are on the voters' list. Once the results of the polling are known, council can then determine what regulatory approach is most appropriate for Lake Cowichan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Fernandez".

Joseph A. Fernandez

Backyard Chickens

Town of Lake Cowichan
2020
Non-Binding Bylaw Question on
Backyard Chickens



Place an "X" in the circle next to your choice. Select only ONE answer.

Are you in favour of the Town of Lake Cowichan
permitting residents in Lake Cowichan to keep
chickens in their backyards?

YES

NO