

Commissioners of Ridgely

December 8, 2025

Commissioners Workshop

The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm for a Commissioners Workshop. The following were in attendance: President Clarence Sears, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner Chad Leister, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Andrew Myer, Christine Eckrich.

President Sears opened the meeting.

President Sears reviewed the letter submitted by Andrew Myer for suggestions on Chapter 64 (Animals) of the town code and Henry Sparks concerns voiced during public comment of the 11/12/25 meeting.

Town Code:

1. Chapter 64 (Animals): Reconciliation of Public Comments to Draft Provisions

- **ARTICLE III: Domestic Poultry**
 - **64-15(B)(6):** Application Fee discussion to reduce from \$150 to cover actual costs. Decision to consult inspection agency for reduced rates. Proposals were to drop the fee to \$100. No motion was made.
 - **(C)(2):** Coop Setbacks discussion about reducing setback requirements from 20 ft to 10 ft. A decision was made to prepare revised ordinance for the January meeting reflecting this change.
 - **(C)(3):** Access Requirements – Continued compliance was emphasized with a potential decrease of inspection frequency to occur upon complaints only, due to potential costs and administrative burdens.
 - **(C)(4):** Size Requirements – Agreement to reduce indoor space requirements per hen from 4 sq ft to 2 sq ft. Decision against imposing a maximum size for outdoor run space.
 - **(C)(5)(d):** Easier-clean design with removable roosting bars and nest boxes
 - Decided to remove this requirement as feedback indicated it was an uncommon feature in commercially sold coops.
- Additional discussion covered public concerns including clarification on manure storage and a decision to ensure it is kept within airtight containers for health and safety compliance.

2. Town Charter Code Cleanup: Outdated Provisions

- **Chapter C Charter:**
 - Proposed revisions to Section 26 which include repealing positions of Health Officer, Town Engineer, and Street Commissioner due to redundancy and integration into Public Works.

- **Chapter 24: Historian, Town**
 - Recommended repealing the Historian chapter due to lack of active function and overlap with Caroline County Historical Society.
- **Chapter 27: Identity Theft Protection Program**
 - Suggested repeal due to complexity and lack of local expertise to effectively maintain the program.
- **Chapter 44: Recreation Commission**
 - Proposed removal due to inactivity and current responsibilities being managed by Public Works.
- **Chapter 51: Tree Commission**
 - Recommended repeal of this chapter as its functions are absorbed by Public Works with standard procedures for tree management.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer