

August 9, 2021

To President Parro and Trustees,

The Tower Lakes Improvement Association (TLIA) Board wishes to provide input to you on the pending variance request regarding the current VOTL Chicken Ordinance. TLIA was under the impression that this issue had been voted on and settled last year. Last year, the past TLIA President provided TLIA input as to our position regarding the Chicken Ordinance and the ordinance not allowing “outbuildings”.

The TLIA Board continues to hold to its previous position that outbuilding have NEVER been allowed in VOTL. The new ordinance allows chicken coops and chicken runs to residents in A3 and A4 Zones over 2 acres, which limits the scope to a small number of residences all of which are outside the TLIA boundaries. Should this variance pass, all residents within TLIA would potentially have the option to request a variance regarding outbuildings – sheds, doghouse, cat house or any other outbuildings. There will be no way to go backwards on that issue. If you allow the variance, the zoning board will have their hands full with people requesting outbuilding. The easy argument is, “you are allowing them to build a chicken “house” for their chickens (animals). I need a dog “house” for my dog. Dogs need shelter so we want a wooden structure for our dog “house”. My doghouse will be smaller than a chicken coop.”

Subsequently, anyone who wants any other building for any other reason will have a case via this precedent to build any building they want. While this is not the intent of the variance, this will become the reality of it.

The current TLIA covenants also restrict the number of buildings on each lot to one (plus a garage in certain circumstances). Granting the variance would then also violate TLIA covenants, which are more restrictive than by-laws.

Thus, the Tower Lakes Improvement Association (TLIA) Board provides the following:

1. The TLIA Board objects to granting the variance for chickens in VOTL.

Although there have been discussions about chicken waste getting into our lakes, we are most concerned and do not support opening the door to more outbuildings. We wish to maintain the current aesthetic character of our suburban residential community. Granting the variance for the chicken ordinance (which clearly states which properties within VOTL are eligible to have chickens) at the potential detriment of the entire balance of the community, as well as the ecological environment of our watershed, is not something that TLIA can support.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the community.

Tower Lakes Improvement Association Board of Governors