



LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP

Honeybee Apiary Permit Application Checklist

Application Checklist ✓:

These items must be attached to the application for it to be considered complete!

- Site Plan of Property
 - Must be legible
 - Show location and number of hives. Limitation of hives is outlined in Article 6, Section 618.2.B of the Zoning Ordinance (attached).
 - Hive Entrance(s)
 - Show location and size of water source
 - Distance of hives from property lines
 - Location of flyaway barriers (if required)
 - Distance to any pools or kennel animals, both your own and neighbors
- Copy of Beekeeping Education Course/Program with a minimum of (8) hours of instruction or validation from of an officer of the PA State Beekeepers Association, officer of local bee club, or a certified Master Beekeeper.
- Written Support regarding hive density from entities listed in Article 6, Section 618.2.C.
- Written permission and signature from property owner or landlord if you are not the property owner.



LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP

623 Municipal Drive
Nazareth, PA 18064

Ph. 610-759-7434/Fax 610-746-3317
www.lowernazareth.com

**HONEYBEE APIARY
PERMIT APPLICATION**

*The regulations governing honey bee apiaries are attached to this package.
Please read them carefully prior to completing this application.*

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!!

<u>TOWNSHIP USE ONLY</u>	
Permit # _____	
Received Stamp	

LOCATION OF PROPOSED HONEYBEE APIAR(IES)

Address _____ Zoning District: _____

Tax Map Id# (If Known) _____

Subdivision Name & Lot# (If Known) _____

ARE YOU THE PROPERTY OWNER? Yes No If Not, Complete the Tenant information AND Property Owner Information below. You must also attach a letter of permission from the Property Owner.

Tenant: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Address: _____ Alternate Phone #: (____) _____

Point of Contact: _____ Email Address: _____

Property Owner: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Address: _____ Alternate Phone #: (____) _____

Point of Contact: _____ Email Address: _____

Answer the following questions regarding the proposed honeybee apiar(ies):

1. Have you completed a Beekeeping Education Course? Yes No - Provide written documentation.
2. Proposed Number of Hives ____ What is the area of your property? _____ Acres
3. Distance of Hive(s) to Side Property Lines: Left ____ ft Right ____ ft Rear Property Line ____ ft
4. Distance of Hive(s) to Buildings on Adjacent Properties: _____
5. Will you have a Flyaway Barrier? Yes No Height? ____ ft
What will the barrier be made of? _____
6. Is there a pool on your property or an adjoining property? No Yes
If Yes, is it Your Pool or Neighbor's Pool? Distance to all pool(s) _____
7. Is there a pre-existing kenneled animal on your property or an adjoining property? No Yes
If Yes, is it Your Animal or Neighbor's Animal? Distance to all kenneled animals _____

The Applicant certifies that all information on this application is correct. Issuance of a permit shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any provisions of the codes or ordinances of Lower Nazareth Township or any other governing body. The Applicant certifies he/she understands all the applicable codes, ordinances, and regulations. The application, together with attachments, are made part of this application by the undersigned.

By signing this application, authorization is granted to any municipal representative of Lower Nazareth Township to access the above property as stated within this application at any reasonable hour; to inspect and verify that any proposed use and/or structure contained within this application and/or that exists on the above property complies with all Lower Nazareth Township ordinances; and states that the information provided on this application by the Applicant(s) and owner(s) is true and correct to the best of their knowledge or belief. The Applicant hereby acknowledges that Lower Nazareth Township and their assigns are the sole producer of inspection services for Lower Nazareth Township.

The Applicant also understands that accessory use of the property for a honeybee apiary is not approved until a permit for the proposed use has been issued.

I have read and understand the Standards of Operation attached to this document. I agree to comply and enforce all terms of this permit to any and all guests on this property.

SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER(S) _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURE OF TENANT (if applicable) _____ **DATE** _____

Payment must be submitted in CASH or CHECK, payable to: "*Lower Nazareth Township*".

OFFICE USE ONLY

Zoning Permit Fee \$ _____ Cash Check _____ Receipt # _____

Lower Nazareth Township Zoning Ordinance

Article 6, Supplemental Regulations

§ 618 Honey Bee Apiaries.

Honey Bee Apiaries shall comply with the Pennsylvania Bee Law (3 Pa.C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended) and subject to the following regulations:

1. Registration, Certification and Permits.
 - A. No beekeepers may own or maintain an apiary within the Township without first registering and maintaining a current permit for all apiaries with the Department as required by the Pennsylvania Bee Law, 3 Pa. C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended.
 - B. A beekeeper owning or maintaining an apiary in the Township shall promptly notify the Zoning Officer or appropriate office without unnecessary delay, and in no event longer than 72 hours, if the Department revokes said apiary registration or if said registration has lapsed.
 - C. No beekeeper shall own or maintain a Honey Bee Apiary within the Township without first obtaining a registration permit from the Township. An application for a one-time registration permit shall be made in writing and upon supplied form or in such format as established by the Township. The application shall be accompanied by a lot plan that includes the size of the lot, the location and number of hives, the location of the water source, the distance of the hives from any property lines, and, if required, the location of any flyway barriers. The issuance of a permit shall not obviate the necessity for compliance with all other municipal ordinances.
 - D. Fees. See the Township Fee Schedule.
 - E. The application for a municipal permit shall also be accompanied by written evidence that the applicant has completed a beekeeping educational course/program with a minimum of eight (8) hours of instructions or has a letter of validation from an officer of the PA State Beekeepers Association, an officer of a local bee club or a certified Master Beekeeper.
 - F. Beekeepers that wish to own or maintain an apiary on property that they do not own must include written permission from the property owner or landlord that explicitly indicates that the beekeeper has permission to own or maintain an apiary on the subject property. Such written permission shall be supplied to the Township as part of the beekeeping registration application.
2. Location and Colony Density. Placement of an apiary on a residential property should conform to the following regulations so as to minimize and eliminate an possible concerns to adjoining neighbors:
 - A. Hive Location and Density.
 - (1) Location of hives must comply with the following criteria:
 - (a) Hives shall not be located within ten (10) feet of any side or rear property line unless a flyway barrier is in place or the hive(s) are located at least ten (10) feet above grade.
 - (b) Hives shall not be located within a front yard.
 - (c) Hives shall not be located within fifty (50) feet of a pre-existing swimming pool or a pre-existing kenneled animal.
 - (d) Apiaries are not permitted within ten (10) feet any buildings located on adjacent properties.
 - B. Maximum Number of Hives.
 - (1) For a property with a minimum of 2,000 square feet of lot area, a beekeeper is permitted to keep two hives. For each additional 2,000 square feet of lot area, the beekeeper is permitted two additional hives.

Lower Nazareth Township Zoning Ordinance
Article 6, Supplemental Regulations *(continued)*

- (a) Exceptions. A beekeeper may exceed these regulations under the following conditions:
- 1) As part of normal honey bee colony management, a beekeeper may also keep, in addition to allowable standard hives, for up to forty-five (45) days between April 15 and August 15th, two (2) nucleus colonies per standard hive, provided they are used for managing colony strength, to minimize reproductive swarming, queen rearing or swarm capture.
 - 2) For each allowed hive, a single nucleus hive may be kept from August 16 to April 14 to allow a beekeeper to mitigate winter bee losses.
 - 3) Apiaries that are pre-existing prior to enactment of this ordinance shall not be subject to the limitations of section 4b and shall not exceed the number of hives active at the time of the ordinance and shall be confirmed by the pre-existing apiary registration of the location as reported by the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry.

C. Hive Density.

- (1) The Township recommends that the applicant provide written proof from any of the following entities expressing support upon examination of the proposed density of hives associated with the application:
- (a) The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association;
 - (b) The Penn State Center for Pollination Research;
 - (c) The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture;
 - (d) A local beekeeping association;
 - (e) or a University or College with an Apiary program and accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

D. To the extent possible, hive entrances shall face away from the closest neighboring property and in such a direction that the bees fly across the beekeeper's property at sufficient distance to gain a height of at least six (6) feet at the property line. The use of barriers may be employed to redirect the bees' flight pathway and establish bee flight pathways above six (6) feet. Should the flight path not be able to be obtained as described above, then a "flyway barrier" shall be placed in the following manner:

- (1) at least six (6) feet in height,
- (2) alongside of the hive(s) that contains the entrance to the hive(s);
- (3) within five (5) feet of the hive(s); and
- (4) extend at least two (2) feet on either side of the hive(s). A "flyway barrier" shall consist of a fence, vegetation, hedge, or a combination thereof. No flyway barrier is required for hive(s) that are located greater than ten (10) feet from property lines or on porches, balconies or roof tops that are at least ten (10) feet above grade except on adjacent properties where such porch, balcony or roof is located less than ten (10) feet from a property line.

Lower Nazareth Township Zoning Ordinance
Article 6, Supplemental Regulations (*continued*)

- E. Exceptions to a Flyway Barrier.
- (1) A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line is:
- (a) Undeveloped;
 - (b) Zoned agricultural or industrial (see § 27-201); or
 - (c) Located on state game lands, a state park, national forest, state forest, natural park, or conservation area and has no pre-existing human or horse trails located within twenty-five (25) feet of the property line.
- F. A supply of fresh water shall be maintained in a location readily accessible to all bee colonies on the site throughout the day to prevent bees from congregating at neighboring swimming pools or other sources of water on nearby properties between April 1 and November 1.
- G. All beekeepers shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that attract honeybees are left upon the ground of the apiary site. Upon removal from the apiary, all such materials shall be properly maintained in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee proof enclosure, so long as bees are kept on the property.
3. Inspection. If an inspection is required as a result of a nuisance complaint, the Township Zoning Officer will inspect the property only and not the bee hives. It is recommended that the state or local beekeeping organization be contacted to assist in understanding how the complaint arose and to what extent it is actually caused by the honey bees/beekeeper. A notice of forty-eight (48) hours shall be given to the beekeeper prior to any inspection.
4. Nuisance. It shall be unlawful for any beekeeper to keep any hive in such a manner as to cause any unhealthy condition or purposefully interfere with the normal use of adjoining properties. By way of example and not limited to, the following activities are hereby declared a nuisance and therefore unlawful:
- A. The use of receptacles for honey bees that does not comply with the Pennsylvania Bee Law, 3 Pa. C.S.A. § 2101 et seq., as amended.
 - B. Hive placement and related bee movement such that the bees, without provocation, interfere with the reasonable freedom of movement of persons in a public right-of-way, or the location of bees have a proven impact to the general safety, health, and welfare of the general public.