



VILLAGE OF COLONIE

VILLAGE HALL

2 THUNDER ROAD
COLONIE, NY 12205

(518) 869-7562 FAX (518) 464-0389

JAMES M. RUBINO

MAYOR

villagehall@colonievillage.org

www.colonievillage.org

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2025 "CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE CODE"

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

6:30 P.M.

FRANK A. PREVRATIL
DEPUTY MAYOR

PATTY SCHWARZ LOCKART

TRUSTEE

JASON M. DEPAULO

TRUSTEE

MARK P. STEVENS

TRUSTEE

JAMIE L. BLOT

VILLAGE CLERK

A motion was made by Trustee Stevens to open the public hearing.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Lockart.

Vote:	Trustee Lockart	Yes
	Trustee Stevens	Yes
	Mayor Rubino	Yes

Motion passed. Public hearing opened at 6:30 p.m.

The Clerk read aloud the public hearing notice as it appeared in the newspaper.

Clerk Blot stated that the public hearing is now open and gave a brief background on the matter stating that we have noticed an issue arises in the Village due to some residents feeding outdoor/feral cats. She added that this proposed local law is to lay guidelines for those individuals who decide to care for outdoor/feral cats. She also stated that the intent of the local law is to address the concerns of those individuals who are concerned with the health and safety of areas where outdoor/feral cats have become overpopulated and are imposing a threat to the safety, health and welfare of the community. She added that this proposed local law is to mitigate this issue in a compassionate fashion, while addressing the concerns of those affected.

Clerk Blot asked if anyone from the public would like to speak on the matter, to please keep their comments to three (3) minutes each, and to refrain from repeating the same topic.

Ms. Janice Potter, 21 Forest Drive, was present and had questions regarding costs associated with the care of cats, as described within the proposed local law. She asked about crates, and shots. She stated that she made some phone calls to local facilities for pricing, and sterilization, rabies vaccination and other fees associated are not inexpensive, she wanted to know who would be paying for these items. She also added that more clinics won't sterilize without rabies shots. Code Enforcement Officer Lennox was present to comment on Ms. Potter's questions, to which he stated that those costs are incurred by the individual who is taking on the care of the outdoor/feral cat. He added that the residents who engage in feeding, and/or harboring the outdoor/feral cats on or near their property would take ownership of the cat for the items in question, and they would be responsible for tending to these items. He added that whoever chooses to take care of the outdoor/feral cat is responsible for coming up with a plan to take care of said cat. He stated that if people want to feed the outdoor/feral cats, then they need to take onus of providing these other needs. He added that the idea is that if someone wants to harbor a cat, then part of the obligation is that they'll take care of the cat to ensure that the cat is safe. One of the purposes of this local law is to avoid colonies of feral cats in the Village.

Ms. Potter asked the procedure if someone wasn't following the proposed law, to which Code Officer Lennox said that the individual would be served an order to remedy the situation, and would be encouraged to work with humane society or other third-party organizations to spay or neuter the cat, and to develop a plan for the cat for the future.

The Board thanked Ms. Potter for her input and stressed that these are all valid points being made and great conversation.

Ms. Ellen Collins, Grace Street was present and thanked the board for adding the quick button to the website, adding it makes finding the public hearing information much easier. Ms. Collins said she has a few concerns with the proposed local law. She said the number of cats allowed per household is too many, in her opinion, and would like the board to reconsider the current four (4) per household, and thinks, one (1) is more appropriate. She also stated that any owned outdoor cat should be spayed or neutered. She stated that cats should not be abandoned. Ms. Collins also stated that she feels it is going to be difficult to tell the difference between an outdoor cat and a feral cat, as some outdoor cats will also act skittish out people much like a feral cat would. She also said limiting any animal to enter a yard seems impossible. She also stated that the fines seem like punishment for someone who might be trying to do the right thing.

The Board thanked Ms. Collins for her input and appreciated the input.

Ms. Megan Brickner, Mayhall Street addressed the Board with her concerns regarding the proposed local law. Ms. Brickner was in favor of the proposed local law. She stated that her neighborhood, particularly her own yard, is being used as an outdoor litterbox. She said her children and her own pets can't even go outdoors due to this issue. While she understands that people are acting out of compassion, they are causing a problem of health and safety for the environment. She said for the past several months she has contacted several agencies to address this matter and pursue legislation. She supports this effort, and thinks it is a steppingstone. Mr. Brickner, Megan's father, was also present and stated that he has borne witness to the destruction of this matter. He is an attorney and said if the Village would like his assistance in the future regarding the matter, he would be happy to assist.

Mr. Brian Shapiro, Director of the NYS Humane Society, was present to address the proposed local law. Mr. Shapiro said that it is not an easy task and stressed to the board not to feel isolated in the matter. Mr. Shapiro said that he was a former County legislator and Board member in Ulster County. He said that the concept of local law is there and would like the opportunity to add some input for the board that might help this local law be successful. He said that there are right ways and wrong ways to do this. He also mentioned that something is bringing the cats to this area, not sure what the cause is, but he would like to offer his assistance to the Village to see what help he can provide on this issue. He also said that if you continue on a punitive basis, you end up with a bunch of fines, and then the problem remains. Mr. Shapiro also said that the Humane Society can provide traps and other resources. He said they also have a community cat guide, which also might be of some help.

Mayor Rubino said our main concern is the safety and welfare of the community, especially the children.

Mr. Brickner also stated that the Town of Colonie has a program that loans traps and delivers them to residents, anyone who needs one.

Clerk Blot thanked everyone for their input. She also stated that this matter was not going to be voted on until the September 15, 2025, board meeting, at 6:30 p.m.

There were no further questions or comments from the board or public.

Trustee Lockart made a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion seconded by Trustee Stevens

Vote:	Trustee Lockart	Yes
	Trustee Stevens	Yes
	Mayor Rubino	Yes

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie L. Blot
Village Clerk