

BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ZONING ORDINANCE

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GUIDE TO USING THIS ZONING ORDINANCE

- ☛ **Contact the Zoning Officer** to ensure you have the latest version of the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map and to help you find what you are looking for.
- ☛ The **Table of Contents** and the **Index** at the back of the Ordinance should help you find the sections applicable to your situation.
- ☛ The **Zoning Map** shows all of the **Zoning Districts** in the Township. Each District is listed in the **Schedule of Uses** in Article IV.
- ☛ The **Schedule of Uses** in Article IV lists all of the uses allowed in each district and the **Table of Uses Permitted by Districts** lists uses by category and specifies in which Districts the uses are allowed.
- ☛ The **Schedule of Uses** in Article IV also classifies all of the uses allowed in each Zoning District.
 - ☛ **Principal Permitted Uses** and **Accessory Uses** - action by the Zoning Officer.
 - ☛ **Conditional Uses** - review by Planning Commission, action by Board of Supervisors. (See §1208)
 - ☛ **Special Exceptions** - review by Planning Commission, action by Zoning Hearing Board. (See §1208)
- ☛ The requirements for **Permit Applications** are found in §1202.
- ☛ The **Schedule of Development Standards** in Article IV sets the minimum lot size and property line and road setback requirements.
- ☛ The **Definitions** in Article III provide the meaning for specific terms.
- ☛ Many uses are subject to specific requirements of this Ordinance.
 - ☛ Article V includes requirements for decks, garages, sheds and other **Accessory Uses, Home Occupations and Off-Street Parking**.
 - ☛ Article VI governs **Residential Uses** -- conservation design, two-family dwellings, group homes, etc.
 - ☛ Article VII includes performance standards for **Commercial and Manufacturing Uses**.
 - ☛ Article VIII includes standards for **Specific Uses** ranging from the keeping of animals to cell towers.
- ☛ **Signs** are governed by Article XI and a business sign will probably require a permit.
- ☛ Applications for **Variances** are heard by the Zoning Hearing Board. The application must document *unnecessary hardship* and meet all of the applicable criteria in §1207.1.
- ☛ A legally existing use which predates the Zoning Ordinance and which does not comply with the Ordinance is a **Nonconforming Use**. Commonly referred to as *grand-fathered*, the nonconformity runs with the land and the use can continue and be sold. Such uses can also be expanded within the limits set in Article IX. Nonconforming lots, lots which do not meet the minimum size and dimension requirements, can also be used if they meet the setback, water supply and sewage disposal requirements in §911.
- ☛ If a project involves the creation of a new lot or lots, the change of lot lines, or the erection of one or more new principal nonresidential buildings, the **Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance** will also apply. This ordinance is separate from the Zoning Ordinance.
- ☛ **Fees** are set by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors per §1203 and are shown on the **Fee Schedule** available from the Zoning Officer.

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