

## **“QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM” STUDENT RELATED TOPIC**

### **WHAT IS STUDENT HOUSING?**

Town of Bloomsburg Zoning Ordinance Chapter 27 Definition:

**STUDENT HOUSING** – a building which contains a dwelling unit occupied by two or more students who are not related to each other by adoption or marriage or are not the great-grandparent, great-grandchild, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, great uncle, great aunt, great nephew, or great niece of each other.

**STUDENT** – a person who is registered to be enrolled or who is enrolled and matriculating at Bloomsburg University as an undergraduate student or who is on a semester or summer break from studies at a college or university.

### **HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN OCCUPY A STRUCTURE?**

This is determined in two ways: Town of Bloomsburg Zoning Ordinance Chapter 27 or adopted International Property Maintenance Codes. Quantities of students permitted in a dwelling unit can **only** be determined after a complete review of the property. Site plans and floor plans of the dwelling unit **must** be submitted to obtain this information.

### **WHERE CAN STUDENTS RESIDE?**

Essentially a student can reside any place in the Town of Bloomsburg, however “**student housing**” is only permitted in specified zoning districts. The “Zoning Districts” which permit *student housing* are shown in the Town of Bloomsburg Zoning Ordinance Chapter 27 with a Zoning Map providing each “District” location.

### **WHAT ARE ZONING ORDINANCES OR ZONING DISTRICTS?**

Town of Bloomsburg Zoning Ordinance Chapter 27 Definition:

**ZONING** – the designation of specified districts or zones within the Town, reserving them for certain classes of uses together with limitations on lot area and size, heights of structures and other stipulated requirements.

### **HOW CAN I OBTAIN A COPY OF THE “Town of Bloomsburg” Zoning Ordinance?**

Copies of the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27) are available at the Bloomsburg Town Hall, 301 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. 17815 for a fee or you may review the ordinance during normal business hours. The Zoning Ordinance is also available online at [www.bloomsburgpa.org](http://www.bloomsburgpa.org) by clicking of Code of Ordinances and then choosing Chapter 27 from the Table of Contents.

### **HOW CAN I OBTAIN THE APPROVALS FOR DEVELOPING STUDENT HOUSING?**

You must submit a zoning permit application along with detailed site plans and floor plans for review. If a permit is issued the applicant shall then apply and must receive an occupancy license before entering into a rental agreement.

### **ARE INSPECTIONS REQUIRED?**

**YES,** The Town of Bloomsburg Rental Unit Occupancy Regulations, Chapter 11 requires: All premises shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer or another duly authorized agent of the Town. Such inspection may take place when an application is submitted for a license, or at any time during the year.

### **WHAT ARE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODES?**

Adopted codes that apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises and constitute minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants; the occupancy of existing structures and premises, and for administration, enforcement and penalties. This code is available from the “International Code Council”

### **WHERE CAN I OBTAIN APPLICATIONS FOR ZONING OR REGULATED RENTAL LICENSES?**

Applications for Zoning Permits and Occupancy Licenses may be obtained in the Code Enforcement/ Zoning Office on the second floor of Town Hall (301 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA) during normal business hours or by visiting our website at: [www.bloomsburgpa.org](http://www.bloomsburgpa.org) by clicking on **Code Enforcement/ Zoning** and looking under the **FORMS** heading.

### **ARE THERE ANY FEES ASSOCIATED WITH ZONING APPLICATIONS OR REGULATED RENTAL LICENSES?**

**YES**, the Town establishes a yearly fee schedule which includes zoning review fees and occupancy fees.

THE “QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM” ARE GENERAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. THEY SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED OR INTERPRETED AS LEGAL AND BINDING WITHOUT FIRST BEING REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG CODE ENFORCEMENT & ZONING OFFICER.

**HELPFUL TIP:** *Consult your local Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer before committing to or entering into any legal transaction regarding zoning use of property or other ordinance related requirements.*