

AMBLER BOROUGH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1110

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF AMBLER AMENDING CHAPTER 10, PART I OF THE BOROUGH CODIFIED ORDINANCES (GRASS AND WEEDS) BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 10-105, FORBIDDING THE PLANTING OF CERTAIN TYPES OF NEW BAMBOO PLANTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH; REQUIRING REMOVAL AND ABATEMENT OF EXISTING BAMBOO IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; LEAVING THE REMAINDER OF THE ORDINANCE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; EFFECTIVE ON THE EARLIEST DATE PERMITTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH CODE

WHEREAS, the Ambler Borough Council seeks to preserve and protect private and public property from the damaging spread of bamboo grasses, and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received numerous complaints about bamboo that has migrated from the property on which it was originally planted onto adjoining properties without the permission of the owners, thereby constituting a noxious growth, and

NOW THEREFORE Ambler Borough Council does ORDAIN as follows:

§10-105. Bamboo.

1. Definitions.

BAMBOO – Any Monopodial (running) tropical or semi-tropical grasses from the genera Bambusa, including but not limited to Bambusa, Phyllostachys, Fallopiia and Pseudosasa, as well as common bamboo, golden bamboo, arrow bamboo, and Japanese bamboo. For purposes of this ordinance, bamboo does not include clumping varieties (non-invasive rhizome structure).

BAMBOO OWNER – Any owner or occupier of property that contains any type of running bamboo Except where the bamboo has migrated from another property without the knowledge or consent of the owner/occupier.

2. Prohibition of New Bamboo. As of the effective date of this section, the planting of new bamboo (as bamboo is defined in this ordinance) is prohibited on any property within the Borough. A violation of this ordinance is a summary offense punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). After seven (7) days have elapsed from a violation notice, each day thereafter is a separate offense.
3. Regulation of Existing Bamboo. Any bamboo that has been planted or otherwise permitted to grow on any property within the Borough prior to the effective date of this subsection may remain on such property subject to compliance with this subsection.

- A. No part of a bamboo plant, regardless of whether the plant is contained within a vessel or not, shall be planted, maintained or otherwise permitted to migrate beyond the property boundary lines of the bamboo owner onto other properties.

4. Removal and Abatement.

- A. Any property owner whose property contains bamboo that violates §10-105.3 shall remove and abate growth of the bamboo so that it is no longer in violation of this subsection.
- B. The bamboo owner, defined herein, is responsible for removing, trimming, or cutting any part of a bamboo plant that grows in violation of this section.
- C. The bamboo owner shall be responsible for any incurred costs related to the removal and/or abatement of bamboo that is in violation of this subsection.

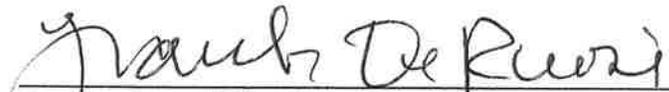
5. Replanting Prohibited. Any bamboo either planted or caused to be planted or existing on a property prior to the effective date of this subsection may not be replanted or replaced once such bamboo is or has become, for any reason, dead, destroyed, uprooted, or otherwise removed.

6. Violation and Penalty.

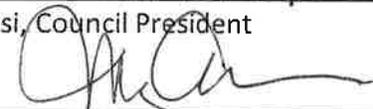
- A. Upon a determination by the Borough that a violation of this ordinance exists, the property owner will be sent a letter explaining the violation and the steps that must be undertaken to abate and remedy the violation. Such notice shall be sent by regular mail to the property owner's address of record.
- B. The letter will instruct the property owner that it has ten days within which to begin a correction of the violation and advise that if such work does not commence within ten days (or any additional period agreed to by the Borough), then the owner will be issued a summary citation enforceable in magisterial district court. The letter will also advise that the owner has 120 days within which to complete the removal of the bamboo that forms the basis for the violation. The letter shall include details as to the steps that need to be taken to correct the violation.
- C. If the work to correct the violation does not commence within ten days or such additional time as agreed to by the Borough, or is not completed within 120 days, the summary citation shall issue as in the usual course.

- D. A violation of this ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$600.00 (to be determined by the court) along with the payment of court costs. The Borough reserves the right to enforce this ordinance through all legal and equitable means, including injunctive relief.
7. This ordinance is effective upon adoption. Enforcement of this ordinance will commence one year (365 days) after adoption.
8. Should a court of competent jurisdiction find any provision herein to be without legal effect, then such infirm portion shall, to the extent possible, be severed from the remainder of the ordinance, which shall continue in effect.

SO ORDAINED this 19 day of JUNE, 2018.



Frank DeRuosi, Council President

ATTEST: 

Mary Aversa, Secretary