

*Township of Birch Run
Saginaw County, Michigan*

ORDINANCE #2024-05

ADOPTED: 10-08-2024

PUBLICATION: 10-16-2024

EFFECTIVE: 11-15-2024

Birch Run Township

Event Barn Ordinance

An ordinance to amend the Birch Run Township Zoning Ordinance by amending Article 14 and Section 14.24's language regarding Event Barns. This Ordinance adds a minimum lot size requirement, as well as a buffer requirement from neighboring occupied dwellings.

THE TOWNSHIP OF BIRCH RUN, SAGINAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

SECTION I – AMENDMENTS TO ZONING ORDINANCE

The following articles of the Birch Run Township Zoning Ordinance are being amended by the addition, ~~deletion~~, or changes represented by the text in **red**.

**Article 14 Standards and Regulations for Specific Land Uses
Section 14.24 – Event Barns**

- A. Additional materials to be submitted for Special Use Review: In addition to the information required by this ordinance for submission of site plans and special land use permits, each application shall be accompanied by plans, drawings, and/or written information addressing at a minimum:
1. **A minimum lot area of 5 acres is necessary for an event barn.**
 2. **An event barn must be located no nearer than 200 feet from any occupied dwelling (other than an occupied dwelling on the same parcel as the event barn).**
 3. A description of the range of activities proposed, number of events a year, hours of operation, and days of the week the activities are proposed to be undertaken.
 4. Emergency services necessary based on the anticipated number of participants.
 5. Water supply and facilities.
 6. Toilet facilities.
 7. Noise control and abatement.
 8. Facilities for cleanup and waste disposal.
 9. Insurance and bonding arrangements.
 10. A security plan to address the issues outlined in Section 14.24.B.6; and
 11. Reviews of the proposed plans by the Township Fire Chief and Police Department.

B. Special Performance Standards:

1. Use of Dwelling. No dwelling on the property shall be used for events. All such dwellings shall continue to be used for single family occupancy purposes.
2. Attendance. No event shall involve the presence of more persons than the maximum capacity of the Event Barn under the State Building Code.
3. Number of Events. During each calendar year, not more than thirty-five (35) events shall be conducted. Every day in which any part of an event occurs at an Event Barn shall be considered a separate event, except for weddings held over a weekend only where the wedding shall consist of (i) a pre-wedding rehearsal dinner on Friday, (ii) a wedding and wedding reception on Saturday, and (iii) wedding cleanup on Sunday. In those circumstances, the three activities shall count as one event.
4. Hours of Operation. Every event shall conclude by no later than 10:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday evenings, and by no later than 11:00 p.m. each Friday and Saturday evening; and no event shall commence or continue at an Event Barn earlier than 8:00 a.m. each day
5. Food Service. There shall be no food preparation inside an Event Barn, but food may be prepared at another on-site location outside of the Event Barn. Any food served, provided, or consumed at the venue must be legally prepared in accordance with the Saginaw County Health Department rules. Dishwashing associated with any event at the venue must be accomplished off site.
6. Security. At all times when an event is taking place at an Event Barn, a sufficient number of security personnel and support staff shall be present to provide security, to direct traffic and parking, to prevent any intentional or inadvertent trespassing onto any properties outside the boundaries of the property, and to assure that all events begin and end at the times specified in this Ordinance.
7. Alcoholic Beverages. Where the Event Barn Sponsor intends to sell or provide alcohol or alcoholic beverages, the Event Barn Sponsor must provide an event insurance policy, naming the Township as an additional insured, and shall comply with all applicable liquor licensing and regulatory requirements. The Event Barn permit holder shall not sell or provide alcohol or alcoholic beverages.
8. Use of Outdoor Areas. All events shall take place principally in barns and other outbuildings on the property. Events shall not include outdoor activities, except accessory activities in area proposed and approved in the Site Plan for such activities.
9. Lighting. There shall be no outdoor perimeter lighting at an Event Barn, and no lines or light poles shall be installed or maintained for such purpose on the property. All lighting fixtures, including pathway lighting, shall be down-lit and directed in a manner as to not impact neighboring properties. Lighting in dormers must be extinguished at or before the same time as conclusion of the event. All lighting proposed at an Event Barn shall be addressed and approved as part of the Site Plan.
10. Trash. The Event Barn permit holder shall require that Event Barn Sponsors of every event remove all trash associated with the event immediately after the conclusion of the event. There shall be no dumpster maintained or used on the property.
11. Parking. There shall be no parking on any properties outside the boundaries of the property on which the Event Barn is located, without the express written permission of the property owner. Parking shall be provided on the property on which the Event Barn is located where such is designated as the "parking lot" on the Site Plan. The parking lot shown on the approved Site Plan shall be gravel, or gravel-type material or through the

use of pervious brick pavers. The parking area shall not be paved with blacktop or concrete or any other impervious substance, in keeping with the rural character of the area except as necessary to provide the minimum number of barrier free spaces required. The number of parking spaces shall be in accordance with Township Ordinances and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

12. Temporary Structures; Bathroom Facilities. No temporary structures or tents shall be permitted in connection with any event unless the same is erected by the Event Barn Sponsor and is removed within 24 hours after the conclusion of the event. Adequate bathroom facilities shall be used at an Event Barn.
13. Retail Sales. Retail sales facilities shall be prohibited at Event Barns, unless conducted exclusively by the Event Barn Sponsor. Any such sales must terminate immediately after the conclusion of the event.
14. Insurance. Event Barn permit holders shall maintain general liability for personal injury and property damage in the amounts of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 general aggregate limit. The Township shall be named as an additional insured on the policies and the venue shall provide evidence of insurance to the Township's Zoning Administrator annually or more frequently on request.
15. Permits from Review Authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Event Barn permit holders to obtain all building permits and other approvals from agencies that have jurisdiction applicable to the Event Barn or the holding of the events on the property.
16. Location. Event Barns may only be located on parcels with direct access to paved roads.
17. The Planning Commission may impose limits on a proposed operation necessary to ensure compatibility with the surrounding land uses and to mitigate off-site impacts. Conditions may include the limit on the frequency of a particular activity and the operations hours of operation

SECTION II – SEVERABILITY

This ordinance and its various articles, paragraphs and clauses thereof are hereby declared to be severable. If any article, paragraph or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this amendatory ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION III – REPEAL

All ordinances and provisions of ordinances of the Birch Run Township Zoning Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV – EFFECTIVE DATE

This amendatory ordinance shall be published as required by law and shall take effect 30 days after publication.

CERTIFICATION

ADOPTED

YEAS: D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, C. Trinklein, Watts, K. Kiessling, Sheridan

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Letterman

State of Michigan, County of Saginaw,

I, the undersigned Township Clerk for the Township of Birch Run, Saginaw County, Michigan, certify that the above Ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Township of Birch Run on the 8th day of October 2024, and was recorded in full in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Township Board of Trustees on said date.

Dated: 10.11.2024

Riley Kiessling, Clerk

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