

New Bamboo Nuisance Ordinance Approved

Phyllostachys Bambuseae - or commonly known as running bamboo is an invasive type of grass native to China. It spreads like wild fire through underground runners to produce more canes that then can grow up to 20 feet in height. Township officials as well as commissioners have received many complaints about this plant spreading uncontrolled from neighboring properties that have planted it for the purpose of privacy screening. After looking into recently passed ordinances that restricted or regulated the planting of bamboo in nearby municipalities township officials felt that township residents were ready for such an ordinance. During the winter months, the township's Environmental Board, Code Enforcement Dept. and Solicitor wrote a draft ordinance that was presented to the Public Works and Safety Committee. After increasing the removal time from thirty to sixty days after being notified by code enforcement of non-compliance, members sent the draft ordinance to the full board for approval.

The BOC at their February Stated meeting unanimously approved Ordinance No. 15-1298 - Ordinance to Regulate the Planting, Growth and Maintenance of Running Bamboo. **It is now illegal to plant running bamboo in Upper Dublin Township.** However if you currently have bamboo growing on your property and you still want to keep it, there are several conditions that you need to meet and maintain annually.

Bamboo must be kept at least forty feet from a traveled street or twenty-five feet from a property line. You will also have to prevent it from spreading by digging a trench and installing an impenetrable material so that the runners cannot spread.

If you have bamboo growing on your property and it was spread from an adjacent property that had planted it, that adjacent property owner is the owner of said bamboo growing on your property. In this situation, you should contact code enforcement. When the owner of the bamboo is notified by the township in writing (certified mail), they are responsible to remove the bamboo

plants from your property at their cost within sixty days. If the bamboo owner does not remove the bamboo and will not work with the township or neighbor reasonably, Township forces will remove the plants and bill the owner for the cost thereof, plus an administration fee of 10%. Township officials will work with any bamboo owner as long as there is an effort to remove bamboo plants permanently.