

To Whitewater Township Residents and Property Owners:

Recently you may have received a copy of a letter from a group identifying themselves as Whitewater Watch. The letter expressed concerns about the Township getting close to passing a new PRIVATE ROAD ORDINANCE.

Please consider the following:

- The proposed Ordinance is months away from the public hearing stages and/or adoption. The Committee has been working on a new Ordinance and wishes to address many issues including the allowance of shared driveways, construction standards and road expansion requirements.
- The Committee visited several private roads in the Township's fire truck. Many roads were found to be impassible.
- The Road Committee's intent is not to burden our citizens with excessive costs, but to ensure that fire and ambulance services are accessible to them.
- Further, the intent of the new Ordinance is proposed to allow current conditions to remain as is or "grandfathered" but that expansions of substandard private roads would require upgrades.
- Without some changes, the International Fire Code (IFC) would supersede portions of the current Private Road Ordinance and force requirements that were stricter than even the Grand Traverse County Road Commission requirements. As an example, without a definition of driveway, the IFC would require driveways to be 20' wide!
- The concerns brought up in the letter from Whitewater Watch were brought to the attention of the Committee at their last meeting which was held March 28, 2011.
- The next meeting of the Township Road Committee is scheduled for June 8, 2011 at 4:00 PM at Township Hall and those concerns will be addressed and considered. Please feel free to attend or send written comments.

Should you have additional comments and/or questions, please feel free to contact Leslie Meyers, Planning/Zoning Administrator, 267-5141 ext. 21 or myself at 264-5535.

Sincerely,

Pat Miller  
Chairman, Whitewater Township Road Committee  
Vice Chairman, Whitewater Township Planning Commission