



Adopted February 21, 2017

Drive Permits on Unimproved Roads Policy

Whereas the Leelanau County Road Commission has approximately 66 miles of Seasonal Roads which may not be open to vehicular traffic during the months of November through April, many of which are narrow, hilly and/or winding in nature, and

Whereas most seasonal roads are remnants of the trail system that served horse and buggy traffic, and along with certain unimproved secondary roads, have never been upgraded or reconstructed to meet current road standards for width, surfacing or sight distance, and

Whereas these roads provide access to many parcels of land that are currently vacant, wooded, or in agricultural production, and traffic on these roads is generally intermittent and infrequent, and

Whereas the condition of seasonal and unimproved roads often poses an inherent danger to fire and rescue vehicles, particularly if they are forced to meet oncoming traffic during difficult weather conditions, and

Whereas encouraging or introducing additional traffic onto these roads may not be in the best interest of the public or the Road Commission because of the inherent danger of collisions due to the lack of sufficient width, surfacing and sight distance to accommodate two-way traffic and also because extensive traffic may destroy the basic roadbed or make it very difficult to maintain, and

Whereas there is not sufficient funding to improve all of these roads to support 2-way or increased traffic, and

Whereas in Leelanau County there are over 650 miles of roads that are maintained year round and most have been improved to provide adequate width, surface and sight distance to support and accommodate 2-way intensive traffic, thereby providing high quality access to thousands of parcels of land,

Therefore be it resolved that the Leelanau County Road Commission opposes the development of property along any county road that lacks sufficient width, surfacing, or sight distance to safely accommodate 2-way traffic. Such development may include any multiple residential or commercial enterprise or any activity that is not generally associated with the private or personal use of vacant, wooded or agricultural parcels, and

Be it further resolved that the Leelanau County Road Commission strongly disfavors and discourages the issuance of any driveway permits, approval or support for any proposed multiple residential or commercial enterprise or any activity that is not generally associated with the private or personal use of vacant, wooded or agricultural parcels unless the parcel of land in question has appropriate access to a public road where the travelled portion of the road has been improved to provide adequate width, surface and sight distance to support and accommodate 2-way and additional traffic.

Commissioners

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Contacts

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