



Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance

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Amendment Record

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ARTICLE 1 - TITLE, PURPOSE, SCOPE

1.01 SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance, and will be referred to herein as "this Ordinance," or this Zoning Ordinance, or the Zoning Ordinance.

1.02 PURPOSE

The fundamental purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Township by:

- A. Promoting the orderly development of the Township.
- B. Encouraging the use of lands and resources of the Township in accordance with their character and adaptability.
- C. Securing safety from fire and other dangers and providing for safety in traffic, adequacy of parking and reduction in hazards to life and property.
- D. Facilitating the development of adequate systems of fire protection, education, recreation, water supplies and sanitary facilities.
- E. Conserving the use of public funds for public improvement and services to conform with the most advantageous use of lands, properties and resources of the Township.
- F. Protecting fish and wildlife resources, water quality, scenic and aesthetic qualities, historical and recreational values.
- G. Preventing flood damages due to interference with natural drainage characteristics of rivers and streams.
- H. Promoting the economic progress of the Township and protecting and enhancing the property values thereof.

1.03 SCOPE

It is not intended by this Ordinance to repeal, abrogate, annul, or in any way impair or interfere with existing provisions of law or ordinance, except as hereinafter specifically repealed, or with any rules, regulations or permits previously adopted or issued or which shall be adopted or issued pursuant to law, relating to the use of buildings or premises, or with any private restrictions placed upon property by covenant or deed; provided, however, that where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of buildings or premises than are imposed or required by such existing provisions of law or ordinance or by such rules, regulations or permits or by such private restrictions, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

1.04 SPLITTING LOTS WITHIN A RECORDED SUBDIVISION

No lot, outlot or other parcel of land in a recorded plat shall be further partitioned or divided unless in conformity with the standard of the district in which it exists.

1.05 RULES OF INTERPRETATION

The following rules are intended to clarify the intent of the standards within this Ordinance. The following shall apply, except when clearly indicated otherwise:

- A. Terms not defined shall be assumed to have the customary meaning assigned them.
- B. Any interpretation of this Ordinance shall be defined by the Whitewater Township Zoning Board of Appeals.
- C. The particular shall control the general.
- D. The word "shall" is always mandatory and never discretionary. The word "may" is permissive.

- E. The phrase "used for" includes "arranged for," "designed for," "intended for," "maintained for," and "occupied for."
- F. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, where a regulation involves two (2) or more items, conditions, provisions or events, the terms "and," "or," "either ... or," such conjunction shall be interpreted as follows:
 - G. "And" denotes that all the items, conditions, provisions or events apply in combination.
 - H. "Or" indicates that the items, conditions, provisions or events may apply individually or in any combination.
 - I. "Township" shall refer specifically to "Whitewater Township."
- J. The term "person" shall mean an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company or other legal entity, or their agents.

1.06 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any clause, sentence, subsentence, paragraph, section or part of this Ordinance be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect. Impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, subsentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which said judgment shall have been rendered.

1.07 REPEAL

All zoning ordinances and amendments, or parts of zoning ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance. The repeal of existing ordinances or parts of ordinances and their amendments does not affect or impair any act done, offense committed or right accrued or acquired, or liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred prior to the time it was enforced, prosecuted or inflicted.

1.08 ENACTMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people and are hereby ordered to become effective seven (7) days following publication of a "Notice of Ordinance Adoption" in a newspaper circulating within the Whitewater Township, unless referendum procedures are initiated under MCL 125.3402. If referendum procedures are initiated, this Ordinance will take effect in accordance with MCL 125.3402. The effective date of this Zoning Ordinance is February 26, 2025.

ARTICLE 2 - DEFINITIONS

2.01 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions apply.

ACCESSORY BUILDING: A supplemental building or structure located on the same lot as the primary building or where a primary use is being established.

ACCESSORY USE: A use naturally incident to and subordinate to the main use of the land or building.

ADULT FOSTER CARE FACILITIES: A governmental or nongovernmental establishment having as its principal function the receiving of adults for foster care. Subject to Michigan Public Act 218 of 1979 as amended, adult foster care facilities include facilities and foster care family homes for adults who are aged, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or physically disabled who require supervision on an ongoing basis but who do not require continuous nursing care. An adult foster care facility does not include a nursing home, home for the aged, hospital, hospital for the mentally ill, facility for the developmentally disabled, county infirmary, childcaring institution, an establishment commonly described as an alcohol or substance abuse rehabilitation center, a residential facility for persons released from or assigned to an adult correctional institution, and any other use excluded under Act 218 of 1979 as amended.

ADULT BOOKSTORE OR ADULT VIDEO STORE: A commercial establishment, which, as one of its principal business purposes, offers for sale or rental one or more of the following:

- A. books, magazines, periodicals or other printed matter, photographs, film, motion pictures, video cassettes or video reproductions, slides, or other visual representations which depict or describe "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas"; or
- B. instruments, devices, or paraphernalia which are designed for use in connection with "specified sexual activities."

A commercial establishment may have other principal business purposes that do not involve the offering for sale or rental of material depicting or describing "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas" and may still be categorized as ADULT BOOKSTORE or ADULT VIDEO STORE. The sale or rental of those items described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall be deemed to constitute a principal business if it comprises 50% or more of sales volume or display area of visible inventory within the establishment.

For purposes of this definition, the sales volume will mean – the total amount of sales in a six (6) month period. Thus, if more than 50% of the total sales comes from sexually oriented items, then it will be considered an adult bookstore or adult video store;

$$\frac{\text{Sales of Sexually Oriented Items}}{\text{Total Sales}} = \text{Sales Volume of Sexually Oriented Items}$$

For purposes of definition, the display area shall comprise the area utilized for the display of merchandise and/or inventory including, but not limited to, the surface areas of wall displays.

$$\frac{\text{Sexually Oriented Items Display Area}}{\text{Total Display Area}} = \text{Display Area of Sexually Oriented Items}$$

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENT: A theater, concert hall, auditorium, or similar commercial establishment which regularly features persons who appear in a state of nudity or live performances presented for the enjoyment of the audience which has paid or promised to pay an admission fee and which are characterized by the exposure of "specified anatomical areas" or by "specified sexual activities."

ADULT MINI-THEATER: A commercial establishment where, for any form of consideration, in an enclosed area with a capacity of less than ten (10) persons, films, motion pictures, videocassettes, slides, or similar photographic reproductions are shown which are characterized by an emphasis on

the depiction or description of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas."

ADULT MOTEL: A hotel, motel or similar commercial establishment which:

- A. Offers accommodation to the public for any form of consideration and provides patrons with closed-circuit television transmissions, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions which are characterized by the depiction or description of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas"; and has a sign visible from the public right of way which advertises the availability of the adult type of photographic reproductions; or
- B. Offers sleeping rooms for rent for a period of time that is less than twenty-four (24) hours.

ADULT MOTION PICTURE THEATER: A commercial establishment where, for any form of consideration, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or similar photographic reproductions are regularly shown which are characterized by the depiction or description of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas."

AGRICULTURAL COOLING PAD: The area and its related equipment where crops, cherries in particular, are collected, temporarily stored, and rinsed with water to lower the temperature and prepare the crop for transport and processing.

AGRICULTURAL PREMISES: A premises used or occupied for the cultivation of field crops, truck crops, nurseries, orchards, greenhouses, woodlots, pastures, husbandry of livestock, poultry or small animals, or any activities of a similar nature.

AGRICULTURAL STAGING AREA: An area where trucks, transport equipment, harvesting coordination, and assembly and loading of agricultural products takes place related to the logistics of harvesting and transporting agricultural crops.

ALTERNATIVE TOWER STRUCTURE: means man-made trees, clock towers, bell steeples, light poles and similar alternative-design mounting structures that camouflage or conceal the presence of antennas or towers.

ANTENNA: means any exterior transmitting or receiving device mounted on a tower, building or structure and used in communications that radiate or capture electromagnetic waves, digital signals, analog signals, radio frequencies (excluding radar signals), wireless telecommunications signals or other communication signals.

AUTOMATIC TIMING DEVICE: A device which automatically turns on and off outdoor light fixtures or circuits. Photo-electric controls and motion detectors are not considered automatic timing devices for the purposes of Article 11.

BACKHAUL NETWORK means the lines that connect a provider's towers/cell sites to one or more cellular telephone switching offices, and/or long distance providers, or the public switched telephone network.

BED AND BREAKFAST: A single family residential structure that meets all of the following criteria:

- A. Has 10 or fewer sleeping rooms, including sleeping rooms occupied by the innkeeper, 1 or more of which are available for rent to transient tenants.
- B. Serves meals at no extra cost to its transient tenants.
- C. Has a smoke detector in proper working order in each sleeping room and a fire extinguisher in proper working order on each floor.

BILLBOARD: A sign structure generally available for lease or rent, although sometimes owned by the user, intended to support an off-premises business. Commercial Outdoor Advertising and Outdoor Advertising are other terms commonly applied to larger billboards.

BUILDING: A structure having a roof supported by columns or walls for the shelter, support, or enclosure of persons, animals, or property.

BUILDING COVERAGE: The horizontal area measured within the outside of the exterior walls of the ground floor of all principal and accessory buildings on a permanent foundation on a lot.

BUILDING FOOTPRINT: The area of land occupied by the foundation of a single building and does not include appurtenances like decks unless they are on a permanent foundation.

BUILDING HEIGHT: The building height is the vertical distance measured from the finished grade level to the highest point of the roof surface if a flat roof; to the deck of mansard roofs; and to the mean height level between eaves and ridges of gable, hip and gambrel roofs. Where the building may be situated on sloping terrain, this height shall be measured from the highest finished grade at the building wall.

BUFFER STRIP: A strip of land reserved or used for plant material, berms, walls, or fencing to serve as a visual and/or sound barrier between properties, often required between properties in different zoning districts.

CABIN: A simple housing structure providing temporary accommodation for recreational purposes.

CAMPGROUND, COMMERCIAL: A campground owned and operated expressly for the purpose of renting space in the campground on a transient basis for profit to the general public. A campground owned and operated by a non-profit organization for the exclusive temporary use and enjoyment of its members shall also be considered a commercial campground.

CAMPGROUND, PRIVATE FAMILY: Parcels of land owned and operated exclusively for the temporary use and enjoyment of those sharing in the ownership of the parcel, their invited guests and are not for remuneration.

CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION: Any property or group of properties whose form of ownership is changed to condominium units from another form of ownership. A condominium conversion also refers to a condominium project containing condominium units some or all of which were occupied before the filing of a notice of taking reservations under section 71 of the Condominium Act 59 of 1978.

CONDOMINIUM UNIT: That portion of a condominium project or site condominium subdivision which is designed and intended for separate ownership and use, as described in the master deed, regardless of whether it is intended for residential, office, industrial, business, recreational, use as a time-share unit, or any other type of use. The owner of a "condominium unit" also owns a share of the common elements. The term "condominium unit" shall be equivalent to the term "lot" for purposes of determining compliance of a site condominium subdivision with provisions of this Ordinance pertaining to minimum lot size, minimum lot width, maximum building coverage, and maximum floor area ratio.

CONDOMINIUM PROJECT: A plan or project consisting of not less than two (2) condominium units if established and approved in conformance with the Condominium Act (Public Act 59 of 1978). The term "condominium project" is also defined as being synonymous with term "condominium development" herein.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES: A premises used or occupied for transportation, retail sales or service businesses, wholesale sales facilities, apartments, hotels, motels, or commercial recreation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT: An assessment of the developmental, ecological, social, economic and physical impacts of a project on the natural environment and the physical improvements on and surrounding the development site. Information required for compliance with other ordinances shall not be required to be duplicated in the Community Impact Statement.

CONSTRUCTION SIGN: A sign erected at a construction site identifying the architects, engineers, contractors or other parties responsible for a project, or identifying the intended purposes or uses of the building.

CORRIDOR OVERLAY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (COPUD): A corridor overlay zone which employs the methods and techniques of a planned unit development.

CUL-DE-SAC: A circular vehicular turn-around at the end of a private road or easement.

CUT-OFF SHIELDING: A technique or method of construction which causes light emitted from an

outdoor light fixture to be projected only below and imaginary horizontal plan passing through the fixture below the light source.

DEED RESTRICTION: A restriction on a property that is recorded as part of a deed with the County Register of Deeds. A deed restriction is binding on subsequent owners and enforced by the parties to the agreement.

DEVELOPMENT ENTRY SIGN: A sign which identifies the name of a residential development or the developer or the type of residential structures included in the development, and which is harmonious in appearance with that of the vicinity.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN: A sign identifying the exit(s) and entrance(s) of premises, and containing only the name or logo of the premises or information directional thereto.

DOMESTIC PETS: Dogs, cats and other animals customarily housed within a dwelling.

DWELLING: Any building or structure or portion thereof legally occupied as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons.

EASEMENT: A grant of one or more of the property rights by a property owner to and/or for use by the public, or another person or entity.

EQUIPMENT: Tangible property, excluding land, buildings, and vehicles, that is used in the operations of a business or completion of a task.

ESCORT: A person who, for a fee, tip, or other consideration, agrees or offers to act as a companion, guide, or date for another person, or who agrees or offers to privately model lingerie or to privately perform a striptease for another person.

ESCORT AGENCY: A person or business association who furnishes, offers to furnish, or advertises to furnish, escorts as one of its primary business purposes for a fee, tip, or other consideration.

ESTABLISHMENT (Sexually Oriented Business): Includes any of the following:

- A. The opening or commencement of any sexually oriented business as a new business;
- B. The conversion of an existing business to any sexually oriented business;
- C. The additions of any sexually oriented business to any other existing sexually oriented business; or
- D. The relocation of any sexually oriented business.

EXISTING BUILDING: A building existing or for which the foundations are in place or upon which there has been substantial work done prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any amendment thereto.

EXISTING USE: A use of premises or buildings or structures actually in operation, openly, visibly and notoriously prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any amendment thereto.

FAA: means the Federal Aviation Administration.

FARM MARKET – A farm market is a year-round or seasonal location where transactions and marketing activities between farm market operators and customers take place. A farm market may be a physical structure such as a building or tent, or simply an area where a transaction between a customer and a farmer is made. The farm market does not have to be a physical structure. The farm market must be located on property owned or controlled (e.g., leased) by the producer of the products offered for sale at the market. Fresh products as well as processed products may be sold at the farm market. At least 50percent of the products offered must be produced on and by the affiliated farm measured by retail floor space during peak production season, or 50 percent of the average gross sales for up to the previous five years or as outlined in a business plan. Processed products will be considered as produced on and by the farm if at least 50 percent of the product's primary or namesake ingredient was produced on and by the farm, such as apples used in apple pie, maple sap in maple syrup, strawberries in strawberry jam, etc.

FCC: means the Federal Communications Commission.

FENCE: A fence is a structure usually constructed from posts that are connected by boards, wire, rails or netting enclosing an area of ground to mark a boundary, control access, prevent escape, or provide a decorative feature.

FLOOR AREA: The sum of the horizontal areas of each floor of a building, measured from the interior faces of the exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating two buildings. The floor area measurement is exclusive of areas of basements, unfinished attics, attached garages or space used for off-street parking or loading, breezeways, enclosed and unenclosed porches, elevator or stair bulkheads, and accessory structures.

FREE STANDING SIGN: A sign the principal support of which is independent of any building.

GREENBELT: An area of grass, trees and other natural vegetation between a structure or parking area and a public thoroughfare.

HAMMERHEAD TURNAROUND: A T-shaped vehicular turnaround at the end of a road or easement.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND POLLUTING MATERIALS: Hazardous substances and polluting materials shall mean hazardous chemicals as defined by the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Michigan Department of Labor; flammable and combustible liquids as defined by the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division; critical materials, polluting materials and hazardous waste as defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; hazardous substances as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and hazardous materials as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

HEIGHT: means, when referring to a tower or other structure, the distance measured from the finished grade of the parcel to the highest point on the tower or other structure, including the base pad and any antenna.

HEIGHT OF SIGN: The maximum vertical distance from the uppermost extremity of a sign or sign support to the average ground level at the base of the sign.

HIGHWAY: Any public thoroughfare in Whitewater Township, including federal and state roads and highways.

HOME OCCUPATIONS: An occupation or business activity located within a residential dwelling or in an accessory building which is clearly subordinate to the principal residential use.

IMPLEMENT: A tool or an instrument used in doing work.

INDIRECTLY ILLUMINATED: Illuminated from an exterior light source.

INSTITUTIONAL PREMISES: Includes such premises or portions thereof upon which is situated a public utility or other publicly owned, operated, or administered facility, any public, private or commercial vocational school, a cultural facility, including a museum, art gallery, library or auditorium, or a religious or charitable facility.

INSTITUTIONAL PREMISES: Shall be interpreted to include such premises or portions thereof upon which is situated a public utility or other publicly owned, operated, or administered facility, any public, private or commercial vocational school, a cultural facility, including a museum, library or auditorium, or a religious or charitable facility.

LAND DIVISION: Creation of a new lot or parcel.

LIGHT POLLUTION: Artificial light which causes a detrimental effect on the environment, astronomical observation, enjoyment of the naturally illuminated night sky or causes undesirable glare or unnecessary and/or unwanted illumination of adjacent or even distant properties.

LIGHT SOURCE: The bulb which creates the light.

LOT: A unit of land separated from others by description on a recorded plat or by metes-and-bounds

description which meets the requirements of this Ordinance, a condominium unit in a site condominium which meets the requirements of this Ordinance, a common area or element in a condominium project, a condominium unit. See also "parcel."

CORNER LOT: Any lot having at least two (2) contiguous sides abutting upon one or more streets, provided that the interior angle at the intersection of such two sides is less than one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees. A lot abutting a curved street(s) shall be a corner lot if the arc has a radius less than one hundred and fifty (150) feet. Corner lots, for the purpose of setbacks, shall have two front lot lines and two side lot lines.

INTERIOR LOT: A lot which has only one lot line or portion thereof fronting on a street.

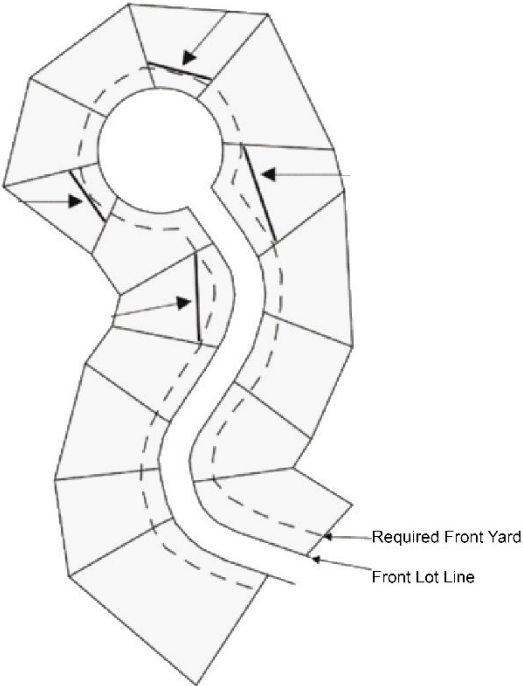
LOT AREA: The area of the horizontal plane within the lot lines of a lot, exclusive of the area of any public or private road right-of-way adjoining any portion of the lot. Lot area is also defined as only including land unbroken by any road, street, or thoroughfare.

LOT DEPTH: The average horizontal distance between the front and rear lot lines, measured along the average midpoint between side lot lines.

LOT FRONTAGE: The length of the front lot line.

LOT OF RECORD: A tract of land which is part of a subdivision shown on a plat or map which has been recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Grand Traverse County, Michigan; or a tract of land described by metes-and-bounds which is the subject of a deed or land contract which is likewise recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds.

LOT WIDTH: The horizontal distance between side lot lines measured at the required front yard line as shown below.



NONCONFORMING LOT: A lot of record which does not meet the requirements of this Ordinance.

THROUGH LOT (also called a double frontage lot): An interior lot having frontage on two (2) more or less parallel streets.

LOT LINES: The property lines bounding a lot or parcel.

FRONT LOT LINE: The line separating a lot from any street right-of-way, private road or other access easement. In the case of a waterfront lot, the line which fronts on a navigable waterway shall be a front lot line. Corner lots, for the purpose of setbacks, shall have two front lot lines and two side lot lines.

REAR LOT LINE: The line opposite and most distant from the front lot line. In the case of a triangular or otherwise irregularly shaped lot or parcel, an imaginary line ten (10) feet in length entirely within the lot or parcel, parallel to and at a maximum distance from the front line.

SIDE LOT LINE: Any lot line other than a front or rear lot line.

ZERO LOT LINE: The location of a building on a lot in such a manner that one or more of the building's sides rest directly on or adjacent to a lot line.

MAJOR STREET: A Regional Arterial, Local Arterial, Principal Collectors, or Secondary Collectors Route.

MANAGED VEGETATIVE STRIP: A natural vegetative area extending along both sides of rivers, streams or watercourses, containing native trees, shrubs and other vegetation and natural materials. The purpose of the managed vegetative strip is to stabilize the river banks, prevent erosion, absorb nutrients in water runoff from adjacent lands, provide shading for the stream to maintain cool water temperatures, and screening of adjacent man-made structures.

MANUFACTURED HOME: A dwelling unit constructed primarily within a factory in modules or components, which are then transported to a site where they are assembled on a permanent foundation to form a dwelling, and meet all codes and regulations applicable to conventional home construction.

MASTER DEED: The document recorded as part of a site condominium subdivision to which are attached as exhibits, and incorporated by reference, the approved bylaws for the site condominium subdivision and the site condominium subdivision plan.

MASTER PLAN. A community planning document adopted by Whitewater Township pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended).

MICROCELL: means the antenna cables and appurtenances necessary for cellular telecommunications.

MOBILE HOME: A structure, with a title issued by the State of Michigan, that is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and can be moved in one (1) or more sections, which is built on a chassis and designed as a dwelling with or without permanent foundation, when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, and electrical systems. "Mobile home" does not include a recreational vehicle or recreational trailer but shall include HUD housing.

MOBILE HOME OR MANUFACTURED HOME CONDOMINIUM PROJECT: A condominium project in which mobile homes or manufactured homes are located upon separate sites which constitute individual condominium units.

MOBILE HOME PARK, TRAILER COACH PARK, OR PARK: Any parcel or tract of land under the control of any person, upon which three (3) or more occupied trailer coaches are harbored on a continual basis, or which is offered to the public for that purpose, regardless of whether a charge is made therefor, together with any building, structure, enclosure, street, equipment or facility used or intended for use incident to the harboring or occupancy of trailer coaches; except as provided by

Section 91, Public Act 172 of 1970.

MOBILE HOME SUBDIVISION: A subdivision approved under the Land Division Act (Public Act 288 of 1967), as amended, which by deed restriction has been designated solely for occupancy by mobile homes, HUD, or similar housing.

MOTION DETECTOR: a device triggered by motion and used to energize incandescent lights.

MODULAR HOUSING UNIT: See Manufactured Home.

MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING: A building, structure, or portion thereof used or designed as a residence for three (3) or more families living independently of each other and independently doing their own cooking in said building. This definition includes three-family houses, four-family houses and apartments, but does not include trailer camps or mobile home parks.

MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PREMISES: A premises used or occupied as residences for three or more families or as group housing.

NATURAL FEATURES: Natural features shall include soils, wetlands, floodplain, water bodies, sand dunes, topography, vegetative cover and geologic formations.

NONCONFORMING USE: A use which lawfully occupied a structure or site prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any amendment thereto, and which does not conform with the current use regulations of the district in which it is located.

NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE: A structure lawfully existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any amendment thereto, which does not meet the current Zoning Ordinance standards for building size or location on a lot for its use and district.

NUDITY OR STATE OF NUDITY: The appearance of a human bare buttock, anus, male genitals, female genitals, or female breast without a fully opaque complete covering of the breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola, or human male genitals in a discernible turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.

NUISANCE: An offensive, annoying, unpleasant, or obnoxious thing or practice, especially when constant or repetitive. A condition which is perceivable and extends its effect upon neighbors across property lines by the generation of excessive noise, odors, trash, abnormal traffic, congregation of people (particularly at night), or other similar conditions.

OFFICIAL ZONING MAP: A map that graphically shows all zoning district boundaries and classifications within Whitewater Township, as defined within this Zoning Ordinance. The Official Zoning Map is signed by the Whitewater Township Supervisor and Clerk and includes the effective date and dates of any subsequent amendments.

OFF-PREMISES SIGN: shall mean a sign which directs attention to a use, business, commodity, service or activity not conducted, sold or offered upon the premises where the sign is located.

ON-PREMISES SIGN: shall mean a sign which identifies the occupant of the premises or relates solely to the use, business or profession conducted, or to a principal commodity, service or entertainment sold, offered, or provided upon the premises.

ORDINARY HIGH-WATER MARK: The point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic.

OUTDOOR DISPLAY AREA: An outdoor arrangement of objects, items, products, or other materials, typically not in a fixed position and capable of rearrangement, designed and used for the purpose of advertising or identifying a business, product, or service.

OUTDOOR INVENTORY AREA: A designated outdoor area designed to allow for storage of excess inventory in a manner not visible to the public.

OUTDOOR LIGHT FIXTURE: An illuminating device which is permanently installed outdoors,

including, but not limited to, devices used to illuminate signs.

OUTDOOR SALES AREA: The display and sale of products and services outside of a building or structure, including vehicles, garden supplies, gas, motor oil, food and beverages, boats and aircraft, farm equipment, motor homes, burial monuments, building and landscape materials, and similar materials or items.

PARCEL: A unit of land described by metes and bounds or described in a recorded plat. See also "Lot."

PERMITTEE (Sexually Oriented Uses): A person to whom a permit to operate a sexually oriented business has been issued, as well as, the individual listed as an applicant on the application for a permit.

PERMIT (Sexually Oriented Uses): A special use permit for the operation of a sexually oriented business and issued pursuant to this Ordinance.

PERSON: An individual, proprietorship, partnership, Limited Liability Company, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

PREEXISTING TOWERS AND PREEXISTING ANTENNAS: means any tower or antenna for which a building permit or special use permit has been properly issued prior to the effective date of this ordinance, including permitted towers or antennas that have not yet been constructed so long as such approval is current and not expired.

SECURITY LIGHTING: Such lighting fixtures and/or practices intended to discourage intrusion on the premises by unwanted persons.

SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS: An adult bookstore or video store, adult entertainment establishment, adult mini-theater, adult motel, adult motion picture theater, escort or escort agency.

SHIELDING: in general, a permanently installed, non-translucent shade, cowl, hood, baffle or other construction which limits, restricts or directs light or the visibility of a light source to meet the standards of Article 11.

SPECIFIED ANATOMICAL AREAS: includes:

- A. less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks and/or female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areola;
- B. human male genitals in a discernible turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.

SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTIVITIES includes:

- A. acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, or sodomy;
- B. fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, or female breasts;
- C. human genital in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD): A piece of property developed as a separate neighborhood or community unit. This form of development is based on an approved site plan and allows flexibility of design not available under normal zoning district requirements. The plan may contain a mixture of housing types, open spaces, and other various land uses.

PLAT: A map of a subdivision of land.

PLOT PLAN: The documents and drawings normally consisting of a drawing of the subject lot or parcel of land together with an outline drawing of the proposed structure(s) or modification(s), including all porches, extensions and roof overhangs, showing the principal dimensions of the structure(s) and all setback distances measured perpendicular to all lot lines. The documents and drawings shall bear the name, address and telephone number of the landowner and applicant, and the date of the application.

POLE SIGN: A type of freestanding sign that is elevated above the ground on a pole.

POLITICAL SIGN: A sign relating to the election of a person or persons to public office or relating to a political party or relating to a matter to be voted upon at an election called by a public body.

PORTABLE SIGN: Any sign which by its description or nature may be or is intended to be moved from one location to another.

PREMISES: A unit of contiguous real property under common ownership.

PRIMARY or PRINCIPAL BUILDING: A building which houses the main or principal use of the lot on which it is located. All other buildings are accessory structures.

PRIMARY OR PRINCIPAL USE: The main use to which the lot or premises are devoted. For example, the main use of a single-family home is residential, and the main use of a retail store is commercial.

PROJECTING SIGN: Any sign attached to a building which extends more than twelve (12) inches beyond any vertical surface of the building which supports it.

REAL ESTATE SIGN: A sign advertising the sale, rental, or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the sign is displayed

RECREATIONAL PREMISES: A premises used or occupied for recreational purposes, including parks, play areas, indoor or outdoor swimming pools, bathing beaches, boating and fishing areas, winter recreational areas, nature study areas, community halls and fairgrounds.

RECREATIONAL UNIT: A vehicular structure, primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational camping or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle which is self-powered. Recreational units shall include travel trailers, camping trailers, motor homes, truck campers, slide-in campers and chassis-mounted dwellings.

ROOF SIGN: Any sign which is attached to a building and any part of which extends above either the top line of the building silhouette or any portion of the roof surface.

SIGN: Any name, identification, description, display, illustration, surface or device which is affixed to, painted on, or otherwise represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure, or land which bears any inscription, notice, motto or design, or which directs attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or business and which is visible from a public street, right-of-way, sidewalk, alley, park or other area open to the public.

SIGN STRUCTURE: A permanent physical structure on a fixed footing, foundation, column or base designed or used for the support and/or illumination of a sign.

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING: A building, structure, or portion thereof containing not more than one dwelling unit designed for residential use and attached to a permanent foundation, except where hereinafter exempt.

SITE CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION: A division of land on the basis of condominium ownership, which is not subject to the provisions of the Subdivision Control Act, Public Act 288 of 1967, as amended, but is subject to the requirements of the Condominium Act, Public Act 59 of 1978, as amended.

SITE CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN: The drawings attached to the master deed for a site condominium subdivision which describes the size, location, area, horizontal and vertical boundaries and volume of each condominium unit contained in the site condominium subdivision, as well as the nature, location and size of common elements.

SITE PLAN: A plan drawn to scale showing proposed uses and structures for a parcel of land, including any details necessary to illustrate the final proposed use. A site plan may include elements such as the location of lot lines, the location of buildings, open spaces, parking, landscaping, and utility lines.

SPECIAL USES: Special uses are those uses which are not essentially incompatible with the uses permitted in a zoning district but require individual review and standards to avoid conflict with adjacent uses of land.
allows a specific activity in and on a property with additional specified requirements or provisions.

STRUCTURE: A structure is any production or piece of material artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner; any construction, including dwellings, garages, building, mobile homes, signs and sign boards, tower, poles, antennae, stand pipes or other like objects, but not including fences.

SURFACE DISPLAY AREA: The area expressed in square feet, within a single continuous rectilinear perimeter of straight lines enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representations, emblems or figures of a similar character together with all material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed, provided that:

- A. In the case of a sign designed with more than one (1) exterior face, the area shall be computed as including only the maximum single displayed surface which is visible from any ground position.
- B. The supports, uprights, or structure on which any sign is supported shall not be included in determining the surface display area unless such supports, uprights or structure is designed in such a manner as to form an integral background of the display.
- C. The areas of lamps, neon tubing or artificial illumination on walls of any structure shall be counted as part of the total allowable sign area.

TEMPORARY DWELLING: A building, structure, or portion thereof that is intended to be used on a temporary basis, has some of the facilities of a conventional dwelling, and is used in conjunction with the construction of a permanent residence.

TEMPORARY SIGN: A sign not constructed or intended for long term use. Examples of temporary signs include signs which announce a coming attraction, a sale or bargain, a community or civic project or other special events that occur for a limited period of time.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL OF A SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS: means and includes any of the following:

- A. The sale, lease, or sublease of a business;
- B. Controlling interest in the business, whether by sale, exchange, or similar means;
- C. The establishment of a trust, gift, or other similar legal device which transfers the ownership or control of the business, except for transfer by bequest or other operation of law upon death of the person possessing the ownership or control.

TOWER: means any structure that is designed and constructed primarily for the purpose of supporting one or more antennas for telephone, radio and similar communication purposes, including self-supporting lattice towers, guyed towers, or monopole towers. The term includes radio and television transmission towers, microwave towers, common-carrier towers, cellular telephone towers, alternative tower structures, and the like. The term includes the structure and any support thereto.

TOWNSHIP BOARD: The Whitewater Township Board elected as the governing body of Whitewater Township, consisting of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees.

TWO FAMILY DWELLING: A building, structure, or portion thereof designed for or occupied exclusively by two families living independently of each other and attached to a permanent foundation, except where hereinafter exempt.

UNDERLYING ZONING: The zoning classification and regulations applicable to the property immediately preceding the designation of the property as a Corridor Overlay Planned Unit Development Zoning District.

VARIANCE: A variance is a modification of the literal provisions of the Zoning Ordinance granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals under qualifying circumstances.

VEHICLE: A device or structure for transporting persons or things; a conveyance.

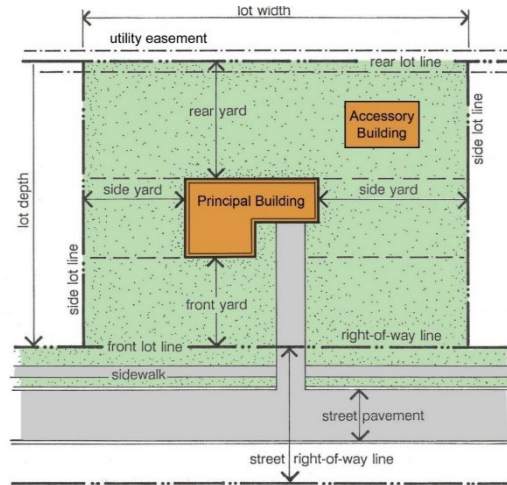
WALL SIGN: A sign which is attached directly to, or painted, or otherwise inscribed upon a building wall.

YARD: The space surrounding a structure. Yards are more specifically also defined and illustrated as as:

YARD, FRONT: The space extending across the full width of the lot between the front of the principal building and the front lot line.

YARD, REAR: The space extending across the full width of the lot between the back of the principal building and the rear lot line.

YARD, SIDE: The space between a principal building and side lot line, extending from the front yard to the rear yard.



YARD LIGHTING: such lighting fixtures and/or practices intended for the convenience, enjoyment and safety of a property owner or tenant or guest.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (ZA): The officer and/or his duly appointed deputies, agents, employees and inspectors charged with the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

ZONING DISTRICT: A portion of Whitewater Township within which on a uniform basis, certain uses of land and buildings are permitted and within which certain yards, open spaces, lot areas, and other requirements are established under the provisions of this Ordinance. Zoning Districts are delineated on the Official Zoning Map under the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 3 - ZONING MAP AND DISTRICTS

3.01 ZONING DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED

For the purpose of this Ordinance, Whitewater Township is hereby divided into the following zoning districts, which shall be known by the following respective symbols and names, and shall have boundaries as delineated on the Official Zoning Map.

R-1 Residential
R-2 Residential
R-3 Residential
RC-1 Recreational
A-1 Agricultural
C-1 Commercial
N-1 Industrial
V-1 Village
COPUD Corridor Overlay PUD
PUD Planned Unit Development
MHP Manufactured Home Park

3.02 OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

The boundaries of the zoning districts are defined and established on the Official Zoning Map which is a part of this Ordinance. This map is identified by the signature of the township supervisor, attested to by the township clerk, and bearing the statement that this is the "Official Zoning Map" with an effective date. If, in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, changes are made in district boundaries or other matters portrayed on the Official Zoning Map, such changes shall be made on the Official Zoning Map and include the dates of any amendments made thereon.

3.03 INTERPRETATION OF ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Where, due to the scale, lack of details, or illegibility of the Official Zoning Map, there is uncertainty, contradiction, or conflict as to the intended location of any zoning district boundaries shown thereon, interpretation concerning the exact location of district boundary lines shall be determined, upon written application, to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Zoning Board of Appeals, in arriving at a decision on such matters, shall apply the following standards:

- A. Boundaries indicated as approximately following roads or highways shall be construed as following the right-of-way center lines of said roads or highways.
- B. Boundaries indicated as approximately following section lines, quarter-section lines, quarter-quarter section lines, or lot lines shall be construed as following such lines.
- C. Boundaries indicated as approximately following Township boundary lines shall be construed as following such boundary lines.
- D. Boundaries indicated as approximately following railroad lines shall be considered midway between the main tracks.
- E. Boundaries indicated as approximately parallel to the center lines of streets or highways shall be construed as parallel thereto and at such distance as indicated on the Official Zoning Map. If no distance is given, such dimension shall be determined by using the scale shown on the Official Zoning Map.
- F. Boundaries following the shoreline of a stream, lake, or other body of water shall be construed to follow such shorelines, and in the event of a change in the shorelines shall be construed as moving with the actual shorelines; boundaries indicated as approximately following the thread of streams, canals, or other bodies of water shall be construed to follow such threads.
- G. Where the application of the aforesaid rules leaves reasonable doubt as to the boundaries between two districts, the regulations of the more restrictive district shall govern.

ARTICLE 4 - USE REGULATIONS AND PRIMARY DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

4.01 ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS

Except as may otherwise be provided in this ordinance, every building and structure erected, every use of any lot, building, or structure established, every structural alteration or relocation of an existing building or structure occurring, and every enlargement of, or addition to an existing use, building, and structure occurring after the effective date of this ordinance shall be subject to all regulations of this ordinance applicable in the zoning district in which such use, building, or structure is located.

4.02 PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS

This Article identifies the principal land uses permitted in each zoning district. No land use shall be established on a lot or parcel except in conformance with the use regulations provided herein. To minimize potential land use conflicts and advance other purposes as described in Article I, land uses permitted in a particular Zoning District are defined as being a "Use Permitted by Right" or a "Special Land Use" as described hereunder.

- A. Uses Permitted by Right: Uses permitted by right are the primary uses and structures specified for which the district has been established. The Zoning Administrator may approve proposed uses and related structures if all other development standards and requirements contained in this ordinance are met
- B. Special Land Uses: Special land uses are uses and structures generally regarded as reasonably compatible with the uses permitted by right in a zoning district but could also present potential land use conflicts or are otherwise unique in character. According to [Article 13](#), such special uses require special consideration concerning potential impacts on adjacent properties and the Township as a whole.

4.03 ACCESSORY USE AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

Accessory uses and are incidental to and customarily associated with the principal use of the property, are permitted in all Districts, and shall conform to all applicable standards of this Ordinance (See also [Section 18.01](#)).

4.04 R-1 RESIDENTIAL- INTENT

It is the intent of the R-1 Residential District to provide a dedicated space for residential structures, specifically a Single-Family Dwelling, and the structures and uses typically associated with a residential area.

- A. R-1 Residential District Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single-Family Dwellings 2. Publicly owned and operated parks and recreational facilities. 3. The keeping of animals for home use and enjoyment subject to all applicable requirements of Section 5.07. 4. Adult foster care facilities serving 6 or less individuals. 5. Family day-care homes serving 6 or less individuals. 6. Churches with a building footprint less than 5,000 square feet. 7. Home occupations subject to the requirements of Section 5.09. 8. Accessory buildings and uses customarily incidental to the same Section 18.01. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bed and Breakfast Establishments (See Section 13.17 A). 2. Schools. 3. The keeping, breeding or training of dogs for monetary gain or for profit, subject to all applicable requirements of Article 5. 4. Adult foster care facilities serving more than 6 individuals. 5. Family day-care homes serving more than 6 individuals. 6. Group day-care homes serving more than 6 individuals. 7. Churches with a building footprint that is 5,000 square feet or more. 8. Planned Unit Developments See Article 7.

4.05 R-2 RESIDENTIAL – INTENT

It is the intent of the Residential District R-2 to provide a dedicated space for residential structures, specifically, single and two-family dwellings, and accessory structures incidental thereto.

A. R-2 Residential Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted by right in the R-1 Residential District. 2. Two-family dwellings. 3. Schools. 4. Farming of all types, subject to the requirements of Article 5. 5. Libraries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All special uses permitted and as regulated in the R-1 Residential District. 2. Planned Unit Developments See Article 7. 3. Residential Care Facilities, Convalescent or Nursing Homes.

4.06 R-3 RESIDENTIAL – INTENT

It is the intent of the Residential District R-3 to provide a dedicated space for residential structures, specifically multi-family dwellings, townhouses, apartments, and other compatible uses.

A. R-3 Residential Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted by right in R-2 Residential District. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All special uses permitted and as regulated in the R-2 Residential District. 2. Multi-family dwellings such as townhouses and apartments.

4.07 C-1 COMMERCIAL– INTENT

The purpose of the C-1 Commercial District is to provide a location for a diversity of small and moderate scale business types and is situated along a regional arterial roadway, M-72, to serve local passers-by traffic and local needs.

A. C Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted in R-1 or R-2 Residential Districts. 2. Restaurants, bakeries, coffee shops, and diners. 3. Office buildings and uses such as: accountants, legal services, medical, dental, and physical therapy offices. 4. Financial institutions. 5. Retail stores and shops; food, drug, variety, dry goods, clothing, music, hardware, equipment, and other similar light retail uses. 6. Equipment, tool, and event rental establishments. 7. Personal service establishments which perform services on the premises, such as: barber and beauty shops, shoe repairs, business services, printing, publishing, and related trades. 8. Places of public assembly, religious, civic, and social facilities not operated for profit and facilities customarily incidental thereto. 9. Licensed daycare facilities. 10. Assisted living, extended care, and licensed group home facilities. 11. Essential service, including public utility buildings with outside storage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any permitted use located in a building with a building footprint of 10,000 square feet or more, includes drive-through services, offers live entertainment, or serves alcoholic beverages. 2. Retail sales and/or rental of automobiles, watercraft, farming equipment, or recreational equipment, including servicing, repair, and/or storing vehicles. 3. Fuel and oil service stations. 4. Hotels and motels. 5. Dwelling units that are part of a commercial unit, such as second-story "flats" or apartment units. 6. Multi-family dwellings. 7. Laundry and dry-cleaning establishments. 8. Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities (e.g., miniature golf or athletic clubs). 9. Production, processing, assembly, manufacturing or packaging of goods or materials. Such facilities may include testing, repair, storage, distribution, and sale of such products. 10. Schools licensed or chartered by the State of Michigan and private educational institutions. 11. Funeral homes. 12. Veterinary clinics, veterinary hospitals, and related kennel facilities. 13. Carpentry, plumbing, contracting, and other skilled trades. 14. Rental storage building, with the following conditions included in the rental contracts and posted on the premises: Excluding storage of flammable liquids or gases, explosives or toxic materials. 15. Places of public assembly, event venues, and social facilities operated for profit. 16. Sexually oriented businesses (See Section 13.17 B). 17. Billboards subject to the standards of Article 14. 18. Any other use of a retail commercial nature designed primarily to serve the residents of the area and the traveling public.

4.08 V-1 VILLAGE DISTRICT V – INTENT

The purpose of the V-1 Village District is to maintain and enhance the traditional character of the Village of Williamsburg while allowing it to develop in a manner that follows the historic pattern of

rural villages in the Grand Traverse Region.

A. V-1 Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses allowed in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and C-1 Districts in buildings with a building footprint that is less than 5,000 square feet 2. Apartments and offices located above commercial uses in mixed-use buildings with a building footprint that is less than 5,000 square feet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permitted Uses allowed in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and C-1 districts in buildings with a building footprint of 5,000 square feet or more. 2. Any use in a building which exceeds 5,000 square feet, and any use which includes drive-through services, and any use offering live entertainment,.

4.09 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT N-1 - INTENT

It is the intent of the Industrial District to provide a dedicated location to accommodate the potential noise, outdoor storage, and increased commercial traffic common to wholesale sales and light manufacturing facilities.

A. N-1 Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted and as regulated within the C-1 Commercial, V-1 Village, and R-1, R-2 and R-3 Residential Districts. 2. Wholesale warehouses. 3. Storage warehouses. 4. Outside storage of earth moving and similar large equipment. 5. Billboards, subject to the standards in Article 14. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Industry or business, the operation of which uses any product or by-product or other thing which may cause contamination to the water, air, or land of the area unless adequate provision is made for the disposition of such product, by-product or waste which meets the approval of the Planning Commission and shall not be offensive, objectionable, or in any way endanger public health, safety or welfare. 2. Junk, scrap metal, or salvage yards. 3. Stock yards, slaughterhouses, rendering plants, meat or pelt processing establishments. 4. Establishments primarily engaged in heavy industry such as smelters, foundries, heavy industrial stamping operations. 5. Any similar business or operation offensive or objectionable to public health, safety, or welfare. 6. All special uses permitted within the C-1, Commercial, V-1 Village, and R-1, R-2, and R-3 Residential Districts.

4.10 AGRICULTURAL A-1 – INTENT

The intent of the Agricultural District is to define areas where farming and related activities is the predominant land use.

A. A-1 Agricultural Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted and as regulated in R-2 Residential District. 2. Farming (See Section 5.10). 3. Golf courses. 4. Riding academies and stables, veterinarian hospitals and kennels (See Section 5.10). 5. Roadside stands for the sale of fresh or processed fruits and vegetables, grown or produced on said property (See Section 5.10). 5. Farm Market (See Section 5.10). 6. Agricultural dumps (See Section 5.10). 7. Private Family Campgrounds (See Section 5.11) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commercial Campgrounds (See Section 13.17 D)
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4.11 RC-1 RECREATIONAL AND CONSERVATION – INTENT

The intent of the RC-1 Recreational and Conservation District is to define areas where outdoor recreation and low-density residential uses are the predominant land use.

A. RC-1 Recreational and Conservation Use Regulations

Uses Permitted by Right	Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All uses permitted and as regulated in R-2 Residential District 2. Bed and breakfast establishments providing tourist/vacation accommodations. 3. Private Family Campgrounds (See Section 5.11) 4. Riding academies and stables, veterinarian hospitals and kennels 5. Hydro-electric plants. 6. State-owned conservation lands. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planned Unit Developments. (See Article 7). 2. Commercial Campgrounds (See Section 13.17).

4.12 PRIMARY DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Table 4-1 contains primary dimensional requirements for each zoning district. These requirements express required spatial relationships between buildings and parcels of land, such as setbacks, lot area, and building height. All structures, lots and structure setbacks from property lines shall comply with the regulations in this Article, unless specifically exempted elsewhere in this Ordinance.

TABLE 4-1 PRIMARY DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Zoning District	Min. Lot Width (ft.)	Min. Lot Area (sq. ft., or acres)	Min. Front Yard (ft.)	Min. Side Yard (ft.)	Min. Rear Yard (ft.)	Max. Building Height (ft.)	Max. Building Coverage (%)	Min. Width Max. Depth Ratio	Min. Dwelling Floor Area- each Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)
R-1 Single Family	100	20,000	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
R-2 Single Family	100	12,000	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
R-2 Two Family	120	22,000	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
R-3 Single-Family	100	12,000	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
R-3 Multi-family	120	11,000 per dwelling unit	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
A-1	200	40,000	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
RC-1	300	5 Acres	30 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
C-1	100		50 ⁽¹⁾	10 ⁽¹⁾	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾	40%	1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
V-1 With common sewage disposal or water supply.	80	20,000	0 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁷⁾	10 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
V-1 With common sewage disposal and water supply.	50	8,000	0 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁷⁾	10 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
V-1 Without common water supply or sewage.	100	40,000	0 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁷⁾	10 ⁽¹⁾	15 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾
N-1	100	-	50 ⁽¹⁾	15ft. ⁽¹⁾ (provided that the sum of both side yard setbacks shall not be less than 30% of the lot width).	30 ⁽¹⁾	35 ⁽⁵⁾	40%	1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	700 ⁽⁹⁾

Zoning District	Min. Lot Width (ft.)	Min. Lot Area (sq. ft., or acres)	Min. Front Yard (ft.)	Min. Side Yard (ft.)	Min. Rear Yard (ft.)	Max. Building Height (ft.)	Max. Building Coverage (%)	Min. Width Max. Depth Ratio	Min. Dwelling Floor Area- each Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)
MHP	300	17 Ac.	Per Statue	Per Statue	Per Statue	35 ⁽⁵⁾		1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	
SPECIAL SITUATIONS: (except for the specific requirement stated, the regulations for the underlying zone (shown above) shall remain unchanged)									
Frontage on Boardman River and tributaries. ⁽²⁾	200 ⁽³⁾		100 feet from Ordinary High-Water Mark ^{(2) (3) (6)}						
Frontage on all other lakes and streams.			50 feet from Ordinary High-Water Mark ⁽⁴⁾						
M-72 in the A-1 Zone			100 ⁽¹⁾						
Supply Road			150 ⁽¹⁾						
Old M-72 in C-1 Zone			30 ⁽¹⁾	0					
Enclosures/ structures for livestock, domestic animals (except house pets)		See Section 5.07	See Section 5.07	See Section 5.07	See Section 5.07				
M-72 in C-1, R-3 & N	100		75 ⁽¹⁾		30 ⁽¹⁾		33%	1:4 ⁽⁸⁾	9

Footnotes

1. No structure shall be built within the minimum yards required except when expressly allowed elsewhere in this Ordinance.
2. No structure shall be built within 100 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of the Boardman River or its tributaries.
3. In no case shall a lot having frontage on the Boardman River or its tributaries be less 200 feet wide at the ordinary high-water mark, or have a lot depth of less than 200 feet.
4. No structure shall be built within 50 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of all other lakes and streams.
5. Or 2 1/2 stories above grade.
6. A dock may be constructed parallel to the bank, not exceeding ten (10) feet in length.
7. New buildings shall be constructed in the "V" Zoning District so that their front facades are in one of the following locations:
 - a. The same distance from the road as any adjacent principal building (on the same side of the road) within 100 feet, or
 - b. The average distance from the road of both adjacent principal buildings (on the same side of the road) if within 100 feet, or
 - c. If no principal buildings are within 100 feet on the same side of the road, the front

setback shall be 15 or more feet from the front lot line or such other distance as the Planning Commission may approve by site plan review.

8. Variance provisions for the width-to-depth ratio will be found in General Ordinance 26, Land Division Ordinance. Section VII D.
9. Floor area is defined in [Article 2](#). For mobile homes, the floor area shall be that stated as the manufacturers declared measurements.

4.13 HARDSHIP

No requirements contained in this Article shall prevent the use of a lot or parcel of land of lesser size, provided the same was of legal record or had been laid out by a registered surveyor prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; and provided, further, that Zoning Board of Appeals may grant a variance in accordance with [Article 20](#).

ARTICLE 5 - SUPPLEMENTAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND PROVISIONS

5.01 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES, OPERATIONS

Utilities and public services shall continue to be operated and maintained subject to the provisions of this Ordinance excepting that poles, wires and usual underground utilities shall be excepted from the requirements of this Ordinance and may be installed without a land use permit and without compliance with setback requirements; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall abrogate the necessity of any utility to obtain franchises and comply with the provisions of any other law or ordinance and nothing herein contained shall give any utility or municipality the right to install structures in this Township without compliance with the terms of this Ordinance excepting as otherwise provided in this Article.

5.02 SHARED WATERFRONT EASEMENTS.

In the event that a waterfront property is used for shared easement purposes the following conditions shall apply:

- A. A waterfront property accessed by one off-water dwelling unit shall have a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) square feet and a minimum frontage on the water of not less than one hundred (100) feet.
- B. Where a waterfront property is accessed by more than one off-water dwelling unit, an additional fifty (50) feet of continuous frontage on the water is required for each additional off-water dwelling unit accessing the property.

5.03 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BOARDMAN RIVER VALLEY.

The following special requirements shall apply to all properties within fifty (50) feet of the Boardman River and its tributaries.

- A. A managed vegetative strip shall be maintained within fifty (50) feet of the water's edge, as follows:
 - 1) Vegetative strips shall consist of native trees, shrubs, vegetation and other natural materials.
 - 2) Existing native vegetation should be preserved whenever possible.
 - 3) No ponds shall be constructed, no earth moved, surface soils removed or filled for building within the managed vegetative strip.
 - 4) Utility lines shall be installed only as follows:
 - a. New distribution lines for utilities within the housing setback line shall be placed underground unless overhead lines are less disruptive to the environment.
 - b. Brushy vegetation shall be restored to the disturbed area in the managed vegetation strip.
 - c. Local service lines to private dwellings shall originate from the landward side of the dwelling.
 - 5) Chemical control of vegetation shall be prohibited within the managed vegetative strip.
 - 6) Fencing, grazing, riding trails and soil tilling for farm crops is prohibited within the managed vegetative strip.
 - 7) The use of the managed vegetative strip for stock watering areas and stream crossing of horseback trails is subject to the approval of the Zoning Administrator, who may require a plan from the Soil Conservation District, or Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) as part of the requirement for use.
- B. Any variance from these standards shall be in accordance with a plan approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals. In evaluating such applications, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall consider all relevant factors pertaining to the purpose of the vegetative strip which is to:
 - 1) Stabilize the river banks.
 - 2) Prevent erosion.
 - 3) Absorb nutrients in water runoff from adjacent lands.

- 4) Provide shading for the stream to maintain cool water temperature.
- 5) Screen adjacent man-made structures.

5.04 TRI-COUNTY HEALTH ORDINANCE

Compliance shall be had in all land uses and in all structures erected, altered, or moved upon a premise with all provisions of the County Health Ordinance in force in Grand Traverse County entitled "Sanitary Code of Minimum Standards Regulating Sewage Disposal, Water Supplies and Sanitation of Habitable Buildings in Grand Traverse County Michigan" as the same may be amended from time to time, and violation of any provision of that Ordinance shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.

5.05 OUTDOOR STORAGE

No land in any of the foregoing districts shall be used in whole or in part for the storage of unused or discarded equipment or materials, or for the storage of unlicensed cars, salvage, waste and Junk outside of properly authorized buildings within said districts, except as required for the storage of usable farm machinery necessary for permitted agricultural uses and except as permitted in connection with a use otherwise authorized in the Commercial and Industrial Districts.

5.06 TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

A. **Permitted Temporary Buildings and Uses.** The following buildings and uses are permitted subject to meeting all of the following requirements of this Section:

- 1) Temporary Dwellings. No temporary dwelling shall be erected or moved onto a lot and used for dwelling purposes except during construction of a permanent dwelling on the premises which has been issued a building permit and conforms to the following:
 - a. The residence under construction shall conform to all other Township Ordinances.
 - b. The reasonable date for removal of the temporary dwelling, established on the permit issued by the Zoning Administrator, shall not exceed ninety (90) days from the date of occupancy of the permanent structure.
 - c. The temporary dwelling shall be connected to a water supply and sewage disposal system approved by the Grand Traverse County Environmental Health Department.
 - d. The applicant for a temporary dwelling permit shall complete the "Temporary Dwelling Agreement" as adopted by the Township Board.
- 2) Temporary Use of an Existing Residence during Construction of New Residence. A property owner may utilize an existing residence while building a new home on the same parcel of land when conforming with the following:
 - a. The residence under construction shall conform to all other Township Ordinances.
 - b. The reasonable date for removal of the temporary dwelling, established on the permit issued by the Zoning Administrator, shall not exceed ninety (90) days from the date of occupancy of the permanent structure.
 - c. The applicant for a temporary dwelling permit shall complete the "Temporary Dwelling Agreement for the use of Existing Homes" as adopted by the Township Board.
- 3) Temporary Camping. A property owner shall be entitled to a camping permit for temporary recreational use when conforming with the following:
 - a. The structure shall not be permanently connected to a water supply, electrical supply, septic system, natural gas supply, nor permanently attached to a foundation.
 - b. No "gray water" or sewage shall be drained or dumped from the structure, except into such collection vehicles, or septic disposal systems as may be approved by the Grand Traverse County Environmental Health Department.
 - c. The maximum duration of stay shall not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) days per year.
 - d. All camping activities shall be kept 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark.
 - e. Camping activities shall not be a nuisance to surrounding property.
- 4) Temporary Construction Structures. Temporary structures used for storage of equipment and construction offices may be used only during the construction of a permanent structure(s) which has been issued a building permit. The temporary structures shall be removed from the site prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

- 5) Special Events and Other Temporary Uses. The Township Zoning Administrator may grant temporary use of land and structures for special events and other temporary uses as listed below:
 - a. Carnival, Circus and Musical Concert or other Transient Entertainment or
 - b. Recreational Enterprise
 - c. Sidewalk or Tent Sale or other Similar Outdoor Sale
 - d. Other Special Events as deemed similar by the Zoning Administrator.
- B. **Temporary Building or Use Permit.** A temporary building or use shall require issuance of a land use permit from the Zoning Administrator under **Article 19** of this Ordinance. The Zoning Administrator shall make a determination that the location of a temporary building or use will not adversely affect adjoining properties, not adversely affect the public health, safety, and the general welfare of the Township. The permit shall set forth all conditions to be placed and may require a fee as established by the Township Board.
- C. **Performance Guarantee.** The Township may require a deposit by the applicant in the form of a certified check, cash or letter of credit in an amount sufficient to hold the Township free of all liabilities incident to the operation of a temporary building or use, to indemnify any adjoining land owner for any damages resulting from the operation of such activity and to ensure proper cleanup after the temporary use and removal of all temporary structures. The amount of the guarantee shall be estimated by the Zoning Administrator. The Township shall rebate to the applicant upon satisfactory removal of all temporary uses and structures.

5.07 RAISING AND KEEPING OF ANIMALS

- A. The keeping of domestic animals shall be allowed provided that the animals are maintained so as to not constitute a public nuisance. Dogs shall be limited to three (3).
- B. The keeping of livestock, including horses and poultry shall be allowed provided that the same are kept on a parcel of land of not less than two and one-half (2 1\2) acres and provided further that all livestock and poultry be properly housed and fenced so as not to be a public nuisance and provided that no enclosure or space for the permanent housing of livestock or poultry shall be located nearer than one hundred (100) feet from any adjoining property line or highway right-of-way.
- C. The keeping of female poultry and rabbits is permitted on parcels of land less than two and one-half (2 ½) acres provided that the female poultry is properly housed and adequately contained within the property so as not to be a public nuisance and provided that no enclosure or space for permanent housing shall be located nearer than forty (40) feet from any adjoining property line or highway right-of-way.

5.08 DOG KENNELS

- A. Dog kennels shall be subject to the following conditions: The parcel of land upon which such activity is conducted shall be no less than ten (10) acres in area.
- B. All enclosures for breeding, rearing, shelter or other uses in conjunction with the harboring of dogs, shall be hard surfaces and provide proper drains for washing with water pressure.
- C. All breeding areas, runs and shelter areas shall not be located nearer than two hundred (200) feet from any adjoining property line or highway right-of-way.
- D. The entire facility including breeding areas, shelters and runs shall be enclosed by a visual screen or sound reducing wall or fence six (6) feet in height.

5.09 HOME OCCUPATIONS

Home Occupations shall be divided into 2 classes: Minor and Major Home Occupations.

- A. Minor Home Occupations shall be conducted entirely within a residence, must be operated by the occupants of the residence and there shall be no visible external evidence of the occupation. This type of occupation shall not require permitting from the Township. Examples - Internet Sales, Accountants, Artists, Engineers, Medical Marijuana Caregivers, Private Teachers/Tutors, Authors, Wedding Planners and similar uses.
- B. Major Home Occupations can be conducted within the residence and/or an accessory building

located on the property. Signage shall be allowed on site and non-resident employees may be allowed. Further, this type of occupation shall require a special use permit from the Planning Commission and meet the special conditions listed in [Article 13](#), and specifically [Section 13.17, C](#). Examples - Hairdresser, Retail Shops (including antiques and gifts) and similar uses as determined by the Planning Commission.

5.10 FARMING RRAND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE A-1 ZONE

Farming and agricultural activities are permitted in the A-1 Zone subject to the following limitations.

- A. **Farming:** Farming of all types, including the construction and maintenance of migrant worker's quarters, provided that yard requirements are met and provided further, that no enclosure or space for the permanent housing of livestock, poultry or other animals shall be located less than one hundred (100) feet from any adjoining property line, nor less than one hundred (100) feet from any highway right-of-way.
- B. **Riding Academies and Stables:** Riding academies and stables, veterinarian hospitals and kennels, provided that no enclosure or space for the permanent housing of animals shall be located less than one hundred (100) feet from any adjoining property line, nor less than one hundred (100) feet from any highway right-of-way.
- C. **Roadside Stands:** Roadside stands for the sale of fresh or processed fruits and vegetables, grown or produced on said property, provided that the same shall not be closer than twelve (12) feet to any highway right-of-way.
- D. **Agricultural Dumps:** The Planning Commission may permit agricultural dumps when the same are in a land area of not less than twenty (20) acres and are located at least three hundred (300) feet from the nearest lot line and at least one hundred (100) feet from the nearest right-of-way line and provided that they are utilized only for junk or refuse of the owner and from farming activities and provided that the Planning Commission shall impose as one of the conditions of usage that no bulky items be deposited in said dump.

5.11 PRIVATE FAMILY CAMPGROUNDS

- A. Private family campgrounds are intended to allow owners to utilize their property for the purpose of temporary but reoccurring recreational uses. The private campground may consist of temporary and/or permanent structures and shall meet the following conditions:
 - 1) The property shall contain a minimum of 10 acres.
 - 2) Cabins shall be limited to one per 5 acres.
 - 3) Campground cabins shall not exceed 650 square feet of floor area, including covered porches.
 - 4) Permanent camping pads shall be allowed at a rate of one per 2 acres.
 - 5) Each cabin or pad shall be provided water and sanitary service approved by the Grand Traverse County Health Department.
 - 6) No structures or pads shall be located within 50 feet of a property line.
 - 7) An accessory/service building for storage, cooking, etc. shall be allowed provided that the building does not exceed 1200 square feet.
 - 8) A pavilion up to 400 square feet shall be allowed.
 - 9) Permanent residency is prohibited on the property.
 - 10) Recreational elements shall not have a negative impact on the surrounding areas with regard to noise, light, odors, etc.
 - 11) The campground or portions thereof shall not be rented or offered to the public.
 - 12) A document shall be filed with the Grand Traverse County Register of Deeds stating the conditions and limitations of the site plan by the property owner.

5.12 FENCES, RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS:

- A. Fences shall have the finished side facing outward away from the property in which it is located.
- B. No fence shall be erected within the 50-foot setback of any lakes, rivers, streams.
- C. Fences shall not exceed a height of 6 feet.
- D. Prohibited fences include barbed wire, electric charges, or fences with sharp materials located on

top.

ARTICLE 6 - CORRIDOR OVERLAY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT

6.01 PURPOSE

A Corridor Overlay Planned Unit Development (COPUD) Zoning District is hereby established consistent with the goals and objectives of the Whitewater Township Master Plan and pursuant to the zoning enabling statutes of the State of Michigan.

All developments proposed within this District shall be subject to the procedures, standards and guidelines specified in the following sections, in addition to those standards pertaining to the particular base zoning district in which the development occurs.

The purposes of establishing this district are as follows:

- A. To encourage the use of land in accordance with its character and adaptability.
- B. To encourage economy and efficiency in the use of land, natural resources, energy and the provision of public services and utilities.
- C. To encourage the preservation of scenic vistas and viewsheds. Further, to establish site and structure design standards which will protect and enhance property values and encourage successful commercial and industrial development in the District.
- D. To preserve or enhance the visual character of the corridor for the economic benefit to local land owners and the region by establishing and maintaining an orderly, well-designed corridor in keeping with the character and values of the Township and the region.
- E. To afford applicants the greater flexibility of a Planned Unit Development regulated primarily through performance-based standards so that proposed designs can be reviewed with the applicant in a cooperative manner to determine whether the proposed plan meets the standards and guidelines of this zoning district.

6.02 DELINEATION OF THE CORRIDOR OVERLAY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT

The Corridor Overlay Planned Unit Development zoning district shall include all those lands adjoining M-72 from Cook Road westward to the west township line and lying 500 feet north and 500 feet south of the centerline of the M-72 right-of-way.

6.03 APPLICABILITY OF THIS ARTICLE

Within this COPUD District, all development projects are eligible to employ the design standards and applicable procedures of this article. Development projects entailing principal structures with an over-all floor area in excess of 4,000 square feet shall be subject to the design standards and application procedures of this Article. Development projects in this COPUD District on parcels of land fronting on M-72 but of greater depth than 500 hundred feet may extend the applicability of these procedures and design standards by means of rezoning or through variances.

There shall be no alteration of the existing condition of the lands, uses or structures within this COPUD Zoning District from the date of the enactment of this Article henceforth except as provided for by this section or by other sections of this Article.

6.04 GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS

- A. Subject to paragraph B of this section, all regulations applicable to lot size, lot width, lot coverage, setback, parking and loading, general provisions, and to other requirements and facilities, shall meet the regulations applicable in the underlying district in which the project is located. In addition, all projects in this COPUD Zoning District shall meet the design standards and guidelines of this article.

- B. Consistent with the planned unit development concept, and toward the end of encouraging flexibility and creativity in development, departures from compliance with the regulations provided elsewhere in this ordinance may be recommended in the discretion of the Planning Commission and granted by the Township Board as part of the approval of a planned unit development. Such departure may be authorized on the condition that there are features or planning mechanisms, deemed adequate by the Planning Commission and the Township Board, designed into the project for the purpose of achieving the objectives intended to be accomplished with respect to each of the regulations from which a departure is sought.
- C. The development shall be designed so as to promote preservation of natural resources and natural features. In the interpretation of this provision, natural resources and natural features may be impaired or altered, moved or removed if it is in the public interest to do so. In determining whether action is in the public interest, the benefit which would reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal shall be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments of the activity, taking into consideration the local, state and national concerns for the protection and preservation of natural resources and natural features, and taking into account the provisions and standards of Act 127 of the Public Acts of 1970, as amended, the Michigan Environmental Protection Act.
- D. The Planning Commission and the Township Board shall take into account the following considerations, as the same may be relevant to a particular project and insure compliance with all related applicable regulations established elsewhere in the Ordinance including, but not limited to, architectural design standards, perimeter setbacks, grading and berming, roads and driveways, drainage, stormwater runoff, snow clearing and storage, underground installation of utilities, insulating the pedestrian circulation system from vehicular traffic, achievement of an integrated development with respect to signage, lighting, landscaping and building materials; and, noise reduction and visual screening mechanisms particularly in cases where nonresidential uses adjoin off-site residential uses or residentially zoned property. The Whitewater Township Commercial/Industrial Designs Example Book, which is available in the office of the Zoning Administrator, contains graphic and photographic examples of structures and landscaping which would comply with or approach compliance with the design standards of this article.

6.05 SETBACKS FOR STRUCTURES ON PARCELS OR SITES FRONTING ON THE M-72 CORRIDOR

- A. **Front Yard Setbacks:** No permanent structure other than a free-standing sign approved by the Township shall be constructed closer to a public right-of-way than seventy-five (75) feet.
- B. **Side Yard Setbacks:** No permanent or temporary structure shall be constructed or placed within twenty-five (25) feet of any side yard not facing a public right of way. Of this minimum side yard, an open strip of fifteen (15) feet in width shall be maintained as a service drive, as a lawn or planted in low-growing ground cover (such as myrtle or euonymous) to permit emergency equipment access. At least five (5) feet of the side yard adjacent to the property line shall be planted and maintained as a green-belt/buffer strip to the adjacent property (see [Article 10](#)). In no case shall structures occupy more than sixty percent (60%) of the width of any parcel when measured along lines perpendicular to the centerline of the principal adjoining road.
- C. **Rear Yard Setbacks:** The rear yard setback shall be thirty (30) feet plus the width of any required green-belt or buffer zone.

6.06 OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING

- A. All off-street parking and loading areas shall comply with the standards and regulations of [Article 9](#), Off-Street Parking and Loading.
- B. Parking allowed in the front yard setback in excess of six (6) vehicles shall be screened from view of the adjoining roads as follows:
 - 1) In the C-1, R-3 and N zoning districts adjoining M-72, parking shall be screened in accordance with the requirements of [Article 10](#). Similar screening by means of a six (6) foot high buffer zone shall be required along yards of corner lots where parking is located in the side yard adjoining the side street.

6.07 ARTERIAL ROAD ACCESS, DRIVEWAY, AND SERVICE DRIVE REGULATIONS

Access to arterial roads, side roads on corner lots, and other roads; driveways; connections between parking lots on adjacent parcels; and service drives shall comply with **Article 9**, Off-Street Parking and Loading.

6.08 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW AND STANDARDS

The compatible relationship of the proposed development in the District is of critical public concern for any buildings or site improvements. The intent of the design review is not to stifle innovative architecture but to assure respect for existing designs that substantially comply with the intent and design standards of this article and to reduce incompatible and adverse impacts on the visual experience from the roadways in these corridors, parks, and residential districts. To accomplish this the Site Plan Review Committee and the Planning Commission shall exercise the following standards and guidelines in reviewing all such proposed development:

- A. Proposed development shall avoid excessive or unsightly grading, indiscriminate earth moving or clearing of property, and removal of trees and vegetation which could cause disruption of natural water courses or disfigure natural land forms.
- B. Proposed development shall be located and configured in a visually harmonious manner with the terrain and vegetation of the land parcel and surrounding parcels. Structures shall impede, as little as reasonably practical, scenic views of the natural environment from the corridor.
- C. Although maximum site densities and special site regulations listed in the particular zoning districts of **Table 4-1**, shall be preserved, proposed structures shall not dominate, in an incompatible manner, any existing general development or adjacent building which is substantially in compliance with this article. This may be accomplished by use of appropriate site design, architectural features, and/or landscaping to reduce the appearance of excessive and inappropriate height or mass of proposed structures. When viewing the site in a direction perpendicular to the adjacent roadway, no more than sixty (60) percent of the view to property or open space beyond the site may be obstructed by structures and in no case will more than three hundred (300) feet of uninterrupted structure with no view to the property or open space beyond be allowed.
- D. The architectural design of structures and their materials and colors shall be visually harmonious with the overall traditional appearance and cultural history of the township and region, that is, structures which are designed to be unobtrusive and which are situated and landscaped in a manner to blend with or to be complementary to natural land forms and existing vegetation or vegetation indigenous to this region.
- E. Structures shall demonstrate the general principles of good design including, but not limited to those dealing with form, mass, scale, height, texture and color. Specific consideration shall be given to compatibility with adjacent structures where such structures are substantially in compliance with this Article.
 - 1) Pitched roofs with a minimum slope of 4/12 and with wide overhangs are strongly encouraged. False mansard roofs are not acceptable. Shingles, metal standing seam, tile or other roof materials which are nature-blending in texture and appearance are considered appropriate to the township and regional character.
 - 2) Long monotonous facade designs including, but not limited to, those characterized by unrelieved repetition of shape and form or by unbroken extension of line shall be avoided. Excessive ornamentation shall be avoided to prevent visual clutter. All facades of a building or structure which may be visible from a roadway, an adjacent consideration. Exterior building components such as windows, doors, eaves and parapets shall have balanced proportions. Screening of monolithic or monotonous facades by means of trees or other vegetation may be considered in design reviews.
 - 3) Natural wood siding, log or quarter log siding, brick, stone, or other materials of similar texture and appearance are considered appropriate to the township character. Reflective surfaces are not acceptable. Metal or plastic surface materials which are visually similar in color and texture to natural materials may be considered.
 - 4) Colors of paints, stains, and other finishes or materials shall be nature-blending in colors natural to the predominant hues of spring, summer and fall, with generally no more than three colors per building. Semi-transparent stains are recommended for application on natural wood finishes.

- 5) Exterior architectural, display and decorative lighting visible from the roadway shall be generated from concealed light source, low level light fixtures. Refer to items (7) and (9)b in this section for other types of lighting and to **Article 11** Exterior Lighting. The most restrictive regulations shall apply.
 - 6) All interior lighting shall be so designed to prevent the light source or high levels of light from being visible from the corridor roadway.
 - 7) All projections and mechanical details such as louvers, exposed flashing, flues, vents, gutters and downspouts are to be recognized as architectural features and are to be treated to match the color of the adjacent surface or an approved complementary color.
 - 8) Mechanical equipment or other utility hardware on the roof, ground, or elevations of a structure shall, whenever possible, be located so as not to be visible from any public ways or adjacent residential areas. Where such limitation on location is not possible, the facilities shall be screened from public view with materials harmonious with the building.
 - 9) In any design in which the structural frame or mechanical components are exposed to view as architectural features, the structural materials shall be compatible within themselves and the overall structure design and their surroundings.
 - 10) Refuse and waste removal areas, service yards, storage yards, and exterior work areas shall be screened from view from public ways with materials harmonious with the building. Solid Waste collection and storage facilities shall be designed to accommodate trash collection and recycling as well as composting, if the planned use will generate compostable waste.
 - 11) Structures shall be so sited or screened by means of berms and/or vegetation that garage doors and larger service entrance doors are not visible from the public roadways.
 - 12) The outdoor display of vehicles, equipment, boats, etc. for sale shall be limited to not more than four (4) representative units. All other such units, if not stored or displayed in a completely enclosed structure, shall be fully screened from view from public roads and all adjacent properties by means of berms and/or vegetation barriers or fences, approved by the Planning Commission, which shall be maintained to be fully effective year around. Units being serviced or stored shall be similarly enclosed or screened.
 - 13) Structures, whenever reasonably possible, shall be oriented to the sun, with window sizing and placement, roof overhangs or awnings, and landscaping designed to provide shade and wind protection to achieve economies in heating and cooling costs.
 - 14) Monotony of design in single or multiple building projects shall be avoided. Variation of detail, form and siting may be used to provide visual interest. In multiple building projects, variable siting of individual buildings may be used to prevent a monotonous appearance.
- F. The landscape plan for any proposed development shall provide visually harmonious and compatible settings for structures on the same lot and on adjoining or nearby lots and shall blend with the landscape characteristic of the township and region. Natural appearing landscape forms are strongly encouraged as is the planting of indigenous plant species; formal plans and the appearance of straight hedges are discouraged. Landscaping shall be required between buildings and sidewalks, parking lots and driveways. The scale of the proposed landscaping shall be in proportion to the building.
- G. Site lighting shall be low-level from a concealed light source fixture and shall not spill over into adjoining properties (except with the written consent of the adjoining property owner and the concurrence of the Site Plan Review Committee and the Planning Commission), road right-of-ways, waterfronts, parks or wetlands. Nor shall site lighting interfere in any way with the vision of motorists. Exterior lighting shall also comply with **Article 11**.
- H. To the extent that they relate to both appearance standards and resource conservation, the design standards and construction techniques of any proposed development shall be responsive to energy consumption and environmental quality considerations such as heat loss, heat gain, air emissions and runoff water retention and discharge quality.
- I. Streetscape Improvements:
- 1) Streetscape improvements include those architectural or functional facilities or structures which occur on site but are not part of the building and which encourage and facilitate human interaction with the environment. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: decorative light fixtures, fountains, sculpture, benches and tables, planters, retaining walls, pedestrian and bicycle paths, bicycle parking structures, trash receptacles and enclosures, vendor areas, bollards and fences. These improvements shall be designed to be consistent with all guidelines of this section and shall be reviewed for design function and compatibility with the character of the Township.
 - 2) Decorative, low-level intensity, non-concealed source lighting which defines vehicular and/or pedestrian ways may be acceptable if part of a lighting masterplan. It is strongly

discouraged as general lighting for a development. The plans must show the relationship of the fixtures and the light patterns to each other, to the overall sight, to other proposed or existing development (to the extent it is known), and the COPUD Zoning District.

J. Signs

- 1) All signs shall meet all requirements of **Article 14**. The Site Plan Review Committee and/or the Planning Commission may place further requirements on signs visible from adjacent roads if consistent with the provisions of this Article.
- 2) New or replacement signs in the COPUD District shall receive approval from the Site Plan Review Committee prior to installation.
- 3) The Site Plan Review Committee and/or the Planning Commission is authorized to approve or disapprove the appearance of features on such proposed signs. Signs will be reviewed for compliance with the guidelines of this section and for compatibility with the township character. The Zoning Administrator's approval shall be given only after the Site Mas Review Committee and/or the Planning Commission's approval is granted.
- 4) The amount of information on signs shall be no more than is necessary to provide reasonable identification of the business and whether the business is open or, in the case of hotels or motels, whether there are vacancies. "Open" or "Vacancy" signs shall be no more than two (2) square feet in area and shall be incorporated in the free standing sign which identifies the business.
- 5) Flags: (1) Non-governmental flags are deemed to be signs and shall be subject to the provisions of this article and **Article 14**. Poles or any other means used to fly flags are deemed structures and shall be subject to the restrictions on structure heights (see **Table 4.1**).

6.09 LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

The information required for Site Plan Review shall include a detailed and comprehensive Landscape Plan for the entire project which achieves the following objectives:

- A. retains existing trees insofar as possible and retains natural or existing topographic patterns which contribute to the beauty and utility of the development.
- B. addresses the functional aspects of landscaping, such as drainage, erosion prevention, wind barriers, provision of shade, sound absorption, dust abatement, and reduction of glare.
- C. enhances architectural features, strengthens vistas and important axis and sight lines.
- D. achieves unity of design by repeating certain plant varieties and other materials and by correlation with adjacent developments.
- E. selects plant material for interest in its structure, texture, and color and also for its ultimate growth. Indigenous plant species and others that will be hardy, harmonious to the design and of attractive appearance shall be used. A list of species which are recommended to be used or to be avoided may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator.
- F. enhances parking areas and related vehicular and pedestrian trafficways with landscaped areas, including trees and tree groupings.
- G. protects plants from injury by pedestrians or motor traffic with appropriate curbs, tree guards, or other devices.
- H. where landscaping is used as screening, it shall be equally effective in winter and summer and shall attain a height and density so that it provides the full desired effect within three (3) years growing time.
- I. controls run-off of fertilizers and pesticides.
- J. minimizes watering and maintenance requirements.
- K. in areas where general plantings will not prosper, other material is used such as wooden, brick or stone fences, wall, and pavings of wood, brick, stone, gravel or cobbles. Suitable plants shall be combined with such materials where possible.
- L. avoids monotony by offering visual variety to structural masses and helps the man-made structures achieve harmonious appearance with the retained natural trees, vegetation and features and with the setting as a whole.

M. is consistent with the regulations, guidelines and intent of [Article 10](#) Landscape Standards.

6.10 INTERIOR ROADS, SERVICE DRIVE, AND PATHWAY STANDARDS

The interior road and service drive system shall conform to the standards for design and construction of the Grand Traverse County Road Commission if the road/drive system is to be dedicated as a public right-of-way. The interior road/drive system may however, consist of private roads and may, for the purpose of lessening impact on the site, have reduced right-of-way widths, turn radii, surface widths, and greater permissible grades provided that the standards for construction and quality meet or exceed the standards for paved local access roads of the County Road Commission and further provided that the road/drive system provides adequate and safe access for both ingress and egress of emergency equipment. When a development uses a private road/drive and/or a private pathway system, all deeds and agreements affecting lands having access to the private road/drive and/or path system shall mandate the formation of an association or corporation for the purpose of managing and maintaining the system and require the owners of those lands to approve a special assessment district if necessary as a means of funding the maintenance or improvement of the private road/drive and/or pathway system.

6.11 SPECIAL DESIGN STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

For Special Land Uses, the standards and requirements associated with [Article 13](#) apply along with the design standards in this Article.

6.12 PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

- A. The grant of a planned unit development application shall require a rezoning, i.e., an amendment of the Zoning Map constituting a part of this ordinance so as to designate the property which is the subject of the application as planned unit development. Further, an approval granted under this Article, including all aspects of the final plan, and conditions imposed, shall constitute an inseparable part of the zoning amendment.
- B. All planned unit developments shall be subject to the full site plan review procedure as set forth in [Article 12](#) of the Ordinance, including not less than one public hearing, notice of which hearing shall be given by two publications in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, the first to be printed not more than 30 days nor less than 20 days and the second not more than 8 days before the date of the hearing. Not less than 20 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing shall also be given by mail to each electric, gas, pipeline and telephone public utility company, and to each railroad operating within the district or zone affected, that registers its name and mailing address with the Township Planning Commission for the purpose of receiving the notice. Written notice of the hearing shall also be given to the owner of the property in question, to all persons to whom any real property within 300 feet of the premises in question is assessed, and to the occupants of a single and two family dwellings within 300 feet. The notice shall be delivered personally or by mail to the respective owners and tenants at the address given in the last assessment roll. If the tenant's name is not known, the term "occupant" may be used. If the notice is delivered by mail, an affidavit of mailing shall be filed with the Planning Commission before the meeting. The notice shall be made not less than 8 days before the hearing and shall state the time, place, date and purpose of the hearing.

In addition to the information required under [Article 12](#), the application for a planned unit development shall include:

- A. Statement of intent of proposed use of land and phasing of the project. Later phases of the development may be revised to allow for different building types when the possible need for such deviation is indicated on the approved plan.
- B. All open spaces, including preserves, recreational areas, and the like, and each purpose proposed for such areas together with copies of deeds, deed restrictions, easements, restrictive covenants or other legal instruments to be recorded as a condition of approval of the application and site plan.
- C. All known natural resources and natural features to be preserved.
- D. Density calculations, number and types of units (if applicable), and floor area per habitable space.
- E. A separately delineated specification of all deviations from this Ordinance which would otherwise be applicable to the uses and development proposed in the absence of this planned unit

development Article.

- F. In the event the property on which the project is to be situated consists of ten (10) acres or more, a community impact statement shall be submitted as part of the application.
- G. A detailed landscaping plan.
- H. A specific schedule of the intended development and construction details, including phasing or timing, and the general improvements to constitute a part of the development, including without limitation, lighting, signage, the mechanisms designed to reduce noise, utilities and visual screening features.
- I. Within a reasonable time following the public hearing and completion of the site plan review process, the Township Planning Commission shall consider the application and prepare a report recommending that the application be denied, approved or approved with conditions. The report shall include the basis for the recommendation together with the documents related to the planned unit development request. The report and documents shall be transmitted to the Township Board for consideration in making a final decision.

6.13 PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES:

The Planning Commission may require reasonable performance guarantees, as authorized under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to insure completion of improvements.

6.14 CONDITIONS:

Reasonable conditions may be required with the approval of a planned unit development, to the extent authorized by law, for the purpose of insuring that public services and facilities affected by a proposed land use or activity will be capable of accommodating increased services and facility loads caused by the land use or activity, protecting the natural environment and conserving natural resources and energy, insuring compatibility with adjacent uses of land, and promoting the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner. Conditions imposed shall be designed to protect natural resources and the public health, safety and welfare of the individuals in the project and those immediately adjacent, and the community as a whole, shall be reasonably related to the purposes affected by the planned unit development, and shall be necessary to meet the intent and purposes of this Ordinance, and be related to the objective of insuring compliance with the standards of this Ordinance. All conditions imposed shall be made a part of the record of the approved planned unit development.

6.15 PHASING AND COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION:

- A. **Phasing:** Where a project is proposed for construction in phases, the planning and designing shall be such that, upon completion, each phase shall be capable of standing on its own in terms of the presence of services, facilities, and open space, and shall contain the necessary components to insure protection of natural resources and the health, safety, and welfare of the users of the planned unit development and the residents of the surrounding area. In addition, in developments which include residential and non-residential uses, phasing shall contemplate that at least 35% of all proposed residential uses are completed concurrent with the first phase of any non-residential construction; completion of at least 75% of all proposed residential construction prior to the second phase of non-residential construction; and completion of 100% of all residential construction prior to the third phase of non-residential construction. For purposes of carrying out this provision, the percentages shall be approximations as determined in the discretion of the Planning Commission, and further, such percentage may be significantly varied should the Planning Commission determine, in its discretion, that the applicant has presented adequate and effective assurances that the residential component or components of the project shall be completed within the specified period.
- B. **Commencement and Completion of Construction:** Construction shall be commenced within one year following final approval of a planned unit development, or within one year of any other necessary governmental approval for commencement of the project, whichever is later, provided all other necessary approvals have been actively pursued. Each phase of the project shall be commenced within one year of the schedule established for same in the application submitted for the planned unit development. If construction is not commenced within such time, any approval of the final plan for the project shall expire and be null and void, provided, an extension for a

specified period may be granted by the Planning Commission upon good cause shown if such request is made to the Planning Commission prior to the expiration of the initial period.

6.16 EFFECT OF APPROVAL:

If and when approved, the planned unit development, with all conditions imposed, if any, shall constitute the land use authorization for the property, and all improvement and use shall be in conformity with such approval. The applicant shall record an affidavit with the Register of Deeds containing the legal description of the entire project, specifying the date of approval of the planned unit development, and declaring that all future development of the planned unit development property has been authorized and required to be carried out in accordance with the approved planned unit development unless an amendment thereto is duly adopted by the Township upon the request and/or approval of the applicant, or applicant's transferee and/or assigns.

6.17 MODIFICATION OR WAIVER OF STANDARDS OR REQUIREMENTS:

Since the express purpose of this Article is to achieve better use of land than would be likely under strict adherence to the standards and requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission may recommend and the Township Board may approve applications for rezoning to Planned Unit Development where the application requires the modification or waiving of specific standards or requirements contained within this Article provided that the proposed PUD complies with the full intent and purpose of this Article, and further that it is clearly shown that such modification or waiving of specific standards or requirements will result in a recognizable and substantial benefit which would not otherwise accrue to the community if all provisions of this Article were to be met.

ARTICLE 7 - PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

7.01 PURPOSE, AUTHORITY, APPLICABILITY, AND PROCEDURES

The purpose of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) is to preserve large tracts of intact open space land in order to maintain the rural landscape and environmental resources of Whitewater Township by allowing planned unit development standards. This Article is adopted pursuant to MCL 125.3503 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2006 and shall apply only in the A-1, RC, R2, and R3 Districts.

7.02 CONVENTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Conventional developments are those that are not PUDs and that comply with the conventional development requirements without setting aside land as permanently protected open space. The Township discourages this type of development where it may detract from the Township's rural landscape and natural resources.

7.03 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS

The Township encourages the use of Planned Unit Developments as an alternative to conventional developments. Planned Unit Developments allow units to be clustered on those portions of a property most suitable for development, while leaving substantial portions as undeveloped open space. Planned Unit Developments also may include a variety of lot sizes, ranging from large farm lots to small village-size lots. Planned unit development results in the preservation of contiguous open space and important environmental resources, while allowing compact development, more walkable neighborhoods, and more flexibility than conventional developments. Planned Unit Developments commonly consist of clusters of three or more homes that share lot, parcel or site unit lines. Noncontiguous land shall not be considered open space.

7.04 STANDARDS FOR PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS

- A. Density calculations shall be based on contiguous parcels of land. If the parcels are not contiguous each tract shall be a separate application (road right of ways do not break continuity).
- B. To determine the net acreage of a piece of property verify with [Section 7.15](#) that your property has conservation value then subtract from the total (gross) acreage of the site the total acreage of all the existing road right-of-ways.
- C. To determine the number of allowable residential units on the site, divide the net acreage by .92 in the A-1 District, by 4.0 in the RC District, .27 in R-2 and R-3 District. Fractional units shall be rounded up if .5 or greater and rounded down if less than .5. If the intent of this Article is met and Whitewater Townships private road requirements are used, the Planning Commission may also allow for additional lots or units up to 15% of the gross acreage.
- D. For parcels that are located within more than one district, calculations shall be made separately for the portion of the parcel in each district. This density may then be combined and distributed anywhere within the parcel, provided that the plan protects open space with conservation value (see [Section 7.14](#)).

7.05 TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The allowable residential units may be developed as single-family in the RC-1, A-1, R-2 and R-3 districts, two-family in A-1, RC-1 and R-2 or multi-family residences in R-3 districts, provided that applicable Special Use Permit requirements are satisfied. Planned unit development may be accomplished through the Subdivision Control Ordinance approval processes. Subdivision and Special Use Permit/Site Plan reviews shall occur concurrently in one proceeding to the extent practical.

7.06 MINIMUM LOT DIMENSIONS IN PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS

- A. The minimum parcel size for a planned unit development shall be twenty (20) acres.

- B. Without common or municipal sewage disposal services or water supply: The Planning Commission may allow for lots or units to be a minimum of 20,000 square feet with 100 feet of road frontage.
- C. With common or municipal sewage disposal services or water supply: The Planning Commission may allow for lots or units to be a minimum of 12,000 square feet in area with 80 feet of road frontage.
- D. With common or municipal sewage disposal services and water supply: The Planning Commission may allow for lots or units to be a minimum of 8,000 square feet with 50 ft. of road frontage.
- E. The applicant shall submit proposed setback requirements if they deviate from the required setbacks in the zoning district.
- F. The above minimum requirements are subject to Health Department approval.
- G. Larger lots or units may be required for multi-family dwellings.

7.07 MINIMUM PRESERVED OPEN SPACE

Since the major purpose of a planned unit development is to preserve open space, all Planned Unit Developments shall preserve at least 50% of the parcel(s) as open space in the A-1, R2 and R3 districts, and 80% in the RC district. The requirements for preserving such open space are described in [Section 7.14](#).

7.08 OPEN SPACE LAND

Preserved open space may be included as a portion of one or more large lots. Such open space may be owned by, private landowner(s), a non-profit organization, the Township or another governmental entity, as provided in [Section 7.14](#), as long as it is protected from development by a conservation easement.

The required open space land may not include land within a lot parcel or a site condo unit.

7.09 ARRANGEMENT OF LOTS OR SITES

Lots or units shall be arranged in a manner that protects land of conservation value and facilitates pedestrian and bicycle circulation. The lot layout shall comply with applicable portions of any design guidelines provided in Conservation Design for Subdivisions published by Island Press in 1996 or establish the same intent with similar designs acceptable to the Whitewater Township Planning Commission. A copy of the publication is available for viewing in the Planning and Zoning office.

7.10 PROJECT PHASING

Each Planned unit development phase shall be designed to stand alone. Each phase shall be designed to provide the required amount of open space in relation to the acreage being developed.

7.11 INFRASTRUCTURE

All infrastructure shall be approved by Grand Traverse County and any other entity with jurisdiction. Private road development shall follow the Whitewater Township Private Road Ordinance. Drainage structures such as detention / retention ponds shall be designed to blend with the landscaping features of the project.

7.12 RECREATIONAL USES

Recreational areas are recommended to be incorporated in a portion of the open space in order to create a park like setting. Paths for walking throughout the open space are required in a planned unit development. Outdoor basketball or tennis courts that create impervious surfaces may be allowed in 10% of the required open space in the planned unit development, structures such as buildings are not allowed in the open space.

7.13 ASSESSMENTS

The Planning Commission may require an Environmental Impact Statement, Traffic Impact Study or any other assessment to ensure the public health safety and welfare of the Whitewater Township residents.

7.14 PERMANENT OPEN SPACE

Open space set aside in a planned unit development or as a condition of any Special Use Permit or Site Plan approval (see [Article 12](#) and [Article 13](#)) shall be permanently preserved as required by this Section. Land set aside as permanent open space may be included as a portion of one or more large parcels on which dwellings and other structures are permitted, provided that a conservation easement is placed on such land pursuant to [Section 7.17](#) below, and provided that the Planning Commission approves such configuration of the open space as part of its Subdivision, Special Use Permit, or Site Plan approval. Any development permitted in connection with the setting aside of open space land shall not compromise the conservation value of such open space land.

7.15 CONSERVATION VALUE OF OPEN SPACE

The open space protected pursuant to [Section 7.14](#) must have "conservation value," which may include recreational, historic, ecological, agricultural, water resource, scenic or other natural resource value. Examples of lands with conservation value include land in active agriculture, large areas of contiguous mature forest, stream corridors, ridgelines, and scenic areas including important vistas or viewsheds seen from public places. Wetlands are considered to have conservation value yet will not count towards density calculation. Land of conservation value shall be included for purposes of calculating density in [Section 7.04](#). Whenever the Planning Commission approves a plan with protected open space, it shall make written findings identifying the specific conservation values protected and the reasons for protecting such land.

7.16 NOTATIONS ON PLAT OR SITE PLAN

Preserved open space land shall be clearly delineated and labeled on the final plat or Site Plan as to its use, ownership, management, method of preservation, and the rights, if any, of the owners of other lots in the development to such land. The plat or Site Plan shall clearly show that the open space land is permanently reserved for open space purposes, and shall contain a notation describing recording information for any conservation easements or restrictive covenants required to be filed to implement such restrictions.

7.17 PERMANENT PRESERVATION BY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

- A. A perpetual conservation easement restricting development of the open space land and allowing use only for agriculture (not including structures), forestry, recreation, protection of natural resources, or similar conservation purposes, pursuant to MCL 324.2140 - 2144, shall be granted to the Township, with the approval of the Township Board, or to a qualified not-for-profit conservation organization acceptable to the Planning Commission. Such conservation easement shall be approved by the Planning Commission and shall be required as a condition of municipal approval. The Planning Commission may require that the conservation easement be enforceable by the Township if the Township is not the holder of the conservation easement. The conservation easement shall be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds prior to or simultaneously with the recording of any final plat or Master Deed in the office of the Register of Deeds.
- B. Access roads, driveways, water supply wells, septic waste disposal facilities, local utility distribution lines, trails, temporary structures for outdoor recreation, are permitted provided that they do not impair the conservation value of the land. The conservation easement shall prohibit residential, industrial, or commercial use of open space land.
- C. A development rights easement under MCL 324.36101 et seq. may be substituted for a conservation easement for purposes of [Section 7.14](#) only if its term is perpetual.

7.18 OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LAND

Open space land may be dedicated to Township, County, or State governments, transferred to a non-profit organization acceptable to the Planning Commission, or held in such other form of ownership as

the Planning Commission finds adequate to properly manage the open space land and to protect its conservation value.

7.19 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

- A. Ongoing maintenance standards shall be established, enforceable by the Township against an owner of open space land as a condition of development approval, to ensure that the open space land is not used for storage or dumping of refuse, junk, or other offensive or hazardous materials.
- B. If the Township Board finds that the provisions of Subsection (A) above are being violated such that the condition of the land constitutes a public nuisance, it may, upon 30 days written notice to the owner, enter the premises for necessary maintenance, and the cost of such maintenance by the Township shall be assessed against the landowner or, the owners of properties within the development, and shall, if unpaid, become a tax lien on such property or properties.

7.20 PROCEDURE FOR PUD APPROVAL

The procedure for Planned Unit Development review shall follow the Special Use Permit procedure and Subdivision Ordinance #16 procedure concurrently.

ARTICLE 8 - CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

8.01 INTENT

The intent of this Article is to provide procedures and standards for the review and approval, or denial of condominium projects implemented under the provisions of the Condominium Act (Act 59 of 1978, as amended) and to ensure that such developments are consistent and compatible with conventional platted subdivisions as provided for through the Land Division Act (P.A 288 of 1967, as amended), and promote the orderly development of adjacent areas. These regulations are enacted by authority of the Condominium Act, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, and this Ordinance, as amended, whereby all developments utilizing any form of condominium ownership shall be reviewed, approved or disapproved by the Township.

8.02 APPLICABILITY

- A. **General Provisions:** Prior to recording of the master deed, required by Section 72 of the Condominium Act, a condominium project shall undergo a site plan review and approval by the Township in accordance with the provisions of this section. Approval under this section shall be required as a condition to the right to construct, expand or amend a condominium project in the Township.
- B. **Plat Approval:** There shall be no requirement for plat approval for a condominium project under the Township Subdivision Control Ordinance, General Ordinance 16.
- C. **Planned Unit Developments:** The procedural provisions of this section shall not apply to Planned Unit Developments, which are reviewed and approved through the Special Use Permit – Planned Unit Development procedures in [Article 6](#) or [Article 7](#) of this Ordinance.
- D. **Condominium Conversion:** All individuals proposing a Condominium Conversion shall present the township with two copies of all required documents as indicated in the Condominium Act (Act 59 of 1978, as amended). Said review shall be conducted by the township Zoning Administrator and township attorney for compliance with the Condominium Act (Act 59 of 1978, as amended). Applicant shall be provided with a written response of approval or specific reason for failure to approve within 60 days of submission.
- E. **Mobile/Manufactured Home Condominium Project:** Mobile/Manufactured home condominium projects shall conform to the requirements of this Ordinance, in accordance with the Condominium Act and other applicable Local, State laws, ordinances and regulations. Such projects shall be located only in a zoning district that provides for mobile/manufactured home. The review and approval shall be processed in accordance with this Article as a site condominium subdivision.
- F. **Site Condominium Subdivisions**
 - 1) **Site Condominium Definition.** For this section, a site condominium subdivision shall include all developments, in any zoning district, proposed under the provisions of the Condominium Act (Act 59 of 1978, as amended).
 - 2) **Site Condominium General Requirements.** The site condominium subdivision plan indicates specific unit dimensions with front, rear and side lot lines. These parcels are also referred to as site condominium lots, and the size, location and arrangement of these site condominium lots shall conform to the requirements of this ordinance. A condominium project is designed to function in a similar manner, or as an alternative to, a platted subdivision. Outside of the condominium lots, common elements of the development are defined for co-owners.

8.03 CONSULTATION

In determining whether to approve a condominium development plan, the Township may charge for consultation with the Township Attorney and other experts, regarding the adequacy of the master deed, deed restrictions, utility systems, and streets, site layout and design, and compliance with all requirements of the Condominium Act and this Ordinance. Estimated costs related to said consultation, shall be placed in an escrow account in addition to the standard nonrefundable application fee.

The Township may require that the applicant place additional funds in escrow if deemed necessary. Any unused consultation funds shall be returned to the applicant with an itemized record of distributions.

8.04 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws:** All condominium projects shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and ordinances. No condominium documents shall conflict with the standards of this Ordinance.
- B. **Fee Required:** Before the Township reviews a condominium development plan, the applicant shall submit to the Township a nonrefundable application fee or preliminary review fee as established by resolution of the Board to cover the Township's cost of internal review. Such application fee shall be independent of any required consultation costs as described in Section 8.03 above.
- C. **Information Required:** All condominium development plans shall include the information required by Section 66 of the Condominium Act and the material required in **Section 12.03 (F)**. A person, firm, or corporation intending to develop a condominium development shall provide the following information:
- 1) Size and Scale - Plans may be on paper and shall not be less than 24 inches by 36 inches, at a scale of at least 1 inch to 200 feet showing the date and north arrow.
 - 2) The name of the proposed condominium development.
 - 3) The name, address, telephone number of:
 - a. All persons, firms, or corporations with an ownership interest in the land on which the condominium development will be located and a description of the nature of each entity's interest (for example, fee owner, optionee, or land contract vendee)
 - b. All engineers, attorneys, architects, landscape architects, or registered land surveyors associated with the condominium development.
 - c. The individual or entity applying for the condominium development.
 - 4) The legal description of the land on which the condominium development will be developed together with any expansion plans and appropriate tax identification numbers.
 - 5) The acreage of the land on which the condominium development will be developed located.
 - 6) The land use and existing zoning of the proposed condominium development.
 - 7) The following information for subject parcel and all parcels within 300 feet of the proposed site: a. Name and address of the owners b. The zoning classifications c. Existing structures or significant landmarks
 - 8) Location, type, dimensions, and proposed use of all existing structures.
 - 9) A location map showing the relationship of the proposed condominium development plan to the surrounding area.
 - 10) Statement of intended use(s). Such as, residential single-family, residential multi-family, commercial, industrial, etc. and the number of acres of each type of land use proposed.
 - 11) Condominium unit lot lines and the total number of condominium units to be developed on the subject parcel.
 - 12) Description of water system to be implemented.
 - 13) Description of sanitary waste disposal system to be implemented.
 - 14) Public roads, private roads, and right-of-way easements, showing location, width, and purpose. All private roads in a condominium subdivision shall comply with the specifications of any applicable ordinance, state law, or federal law
 - 15) Existing topographic elevations at two (2) foot intervals, proposed grades, and direction of drainage flows.
 - 16) Location and types of all significant existing vegetation, water courses and bodies, flood plains and water retention areas, wetlands, and soil types. Significant vegetation includes all trees with a minimum trunk diameter of 18 inches at 4 1/2 feet above the surrounding

grade.

17) Any additional information deemed necessary during plan review

- D. **Utility Easements:** The condominium development plan shall include and describe all necessary easements for the purpose of constructing, operating, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, altering, replacing, and/or removing pipelines, mains, conduits, and other installations of a similar character providing public utilities.
- E. **Performance Guarantees:** As a condition of approval of the condominium development plan by the Township, a performance guarantee may be required to ensure construction of required improvements and the completion of filing requirements before land use permits are issued. Upon fulfillment of all requirements and filings, the applicant shall apply to the Township for release of performance guarantees. Performance guarantees shall comply with the requirements in **Article 12**, specifically **Section 12.08** of this Ordinance.

8.05 STANDARDS AND DESIGN FOR SITE CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENTS

- A. **Site-Condominium Lots:** The condominium development plan shall indicate specific parcel dimensions allocated to each condominium dwelling unit or lot.
- B. **Site-Condominium Development Layout and Design:** The description, size, location and arrangement of the site condominium lots shall conform to the requirements of this Ordinance. The design of a condominium development shall be subject to the following requirements and guidelines.
 - 1) Should there be unusual topographic or other natural feature constraints, these requirements may be adjusted to unique site conditions in accordance with the judgement of the township Planning Commission.
 - 2) Each condominium lot shall comply with the requirements of each zoning district in which it is located, and all condominium lots and required setbacks shall be measured from the designated front, rear and side condominium lot lines.
 - 3) Each condominium dwelling unit shall be located within a condominium lot. In a condominium development approved for single-family detached dwelling units, not more than one (1) dwelling unit shall be located on a condominium lot.
 - 4) There shall be a proper relationship between existing streets and highways within the vicinity, and proposed deceleration lanes, service drives, entrance and exit driveways, and parking areas to assure the safety and convenience of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and that the proposed streets and access plan conform to any street or access plan adopted by the Township or the County Road Commission.
 - 5) Existing features which add value to a residential development and enhance the attractiveness of the community shall be retained, insofar as possible, in the design of the condominium development.
 - 6) Lands subject to flooding or otherwise deemed by the Township to be uninhabitable shall not be used for uses that may increase the danger to health, life, or property or increase the flood hazard. Such land within a condominium development may be set aside for other uses, such as parks or other open space.
 - 7) Easements shall provide for utilities when necessary.
 - 8) All condominium development units and accessory structures shall be accessible to emergency vehicles.
 - 9) Common open space provided shall remain open for recreational and conservational purposes and recorded as part of the master deed.
 - 10) Condominium development units having water frontage shall meet the requirements of **Section 5.02** Easement to Waterfront.
 - 11) A plan for erosion control and storm water discharge must be approved by the appropriate public agency.
 - 12) All condominium developments shall obtain approval from all applicable governing agencies.

8.06 REVIEW PROCEDURES

- A. **Preliminary Review:** Any applicant can request a preliminary review of a proposed condominium

development with the Planner, Zoning Administrator and one to two Planning Commissioners. This review allows an open dialogue and an opportunity to discuss a proposed goals, features, location and scope of operations prior to a formal application. Preliminary Review is available as a sounding board only, no decisions or approvals shall be rendered, either stated or implied.

- B. **Agency Submittal:** The applicant shall provide necessary full size hard copies and an electronic file (.pdf) of the proposed condominium development plan to Whitewater Township and the following Grand Traverse County Agencies: Health Department (or Department of Public Works if proposed on municipal water and/or sanitary sewer), Drain Commission, Soil Erosion, and Road Commission (or Michigan Department of Transportation if proposed on a state highway), as well as the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (when sensitive areas and wetlands are a concern), and the Whitewater Township Fire Department or the respective successor for any of the above agencies. The Zoning Administrator shall distribute the proposed condominium development plans to the Planning Commission, Board of Trustees, and other parties as required.
- C. **Site Plan Review and Public Hearing:** The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed site condominium development plan in accordance with the requirements contained in **Section 13.07** to receive input regarding the proposed development.
- D. **Planning Commission Determination:** After the public hearing held in accordance with **Article 13**, specifically, **Sections 13.07**, the Planning Commission shall make a determination and recommendation to the Township Board regarding whether the proposed plan meets all the requirements of this Ordinance and the Condominium Act. If the proposal is found in compliance, the Planning Commission shall recommend approval or approval with conditions of the site condominium development plan and shall send written notice of action taken with comments to the Township Board and applicant.

If the Planning Commission determines that the condominium development plan does not meet all requirements, the Planning Commission shall state its reason in its official minutes and shall provide written notice of said decision to the Township Board and applicant. The Planning Commission shall not recommend approval of the project until all requirements of this Ordinance and the Condominium Act have been met.

- E. **Township Board Procedure:** The Township Board shall not review, approve or reject a condominium development until it has received from the Planning Commission its report and recommendations.

The Township Board shall consider the condominium development plan at its next meeting after receipt of the report and recommendations from the Planning Commission provided all documents are received 15 days prior to meeting date. The Board shall render a written decision within 15 days of their meeting unless the applicant and Board agree to a later deadline.

- F. **Township Board Determination:** The Township Board shall approve the condominium development plan, with or without conditions, reject the plan and give its reasons, table the proceedings pending further review or pending changes to the plan to make it acceptable to the Board, or refer that application back to the Planning Commission for further review and report.

8.07 CONDITIONS AND DURATION OF APPROVAL

- A. **Conditions:** The approval of the Board of Trustees will indicate that the proposed condominium development plan meets the ordinances and regulations of Whitewater Township but does not cover additional permits that may be required after the Master Deed has been recorded. The Township may impose reasonable conditions on the approval of any condominium development plan consistent with the Condominium Act, this Ordinance, and the protection of public health, safety and welfare.
- B. **Duration:** Approval of the condominium development plan by the Township shall be for a period of two (2) years from the date of approval. If no Master Deed is recorded with the Grand Traverse County Register of Deeds Office within two years of approval, such approval shall be considered null and void. The Zoning Administrator may extend the two-year period by one additional year if applied for by the applicant subject to satisfying all requirements of **Article 12**.
- C. **Condominium Development Plan Approval Contract:** If the Township Board approves the site condominium development plan, it shall prepare a written order setting forth the conditions upon which the approval is based. Such order shall be entered into between the Township and the applicant prior to the issuance of a Land Use Permit for any construction in accordance with the

approved site condominium development plan. All reasonable costs related to the preparation of said order, as established by the Township, shall be paid by the applicant to the Township Treasurer prior to Township signature and issuance of such order.

8.08 FINAL FILINGS REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the recording of the Master Deed the Township Treasurer shall certify that all taxes and special assessments are not delinquent. A copy of the Master Deed, Bylaws/ Restrictive Covenants must be recorded with the County Register of Deeds. The Township shall be provided with two (2) copies of each document, including as-built prints, and all pertinent attachments which shall remain on file with the Township.

8.09 CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENTS

Condominium Development Plans may not be amended without Township consent. Condominium amendments which are recorded prior to the receipt of written Township approval are null and void. Condominium Development Plans may be amended as follows:

- A. **Minor Amendments:** Minor amendments are those which are determined by the Zoning Administrator to have no foreseeable effect beyond the condominium development boundary such as minor changes in the location of buildings, the alignment of utilities, and the alignment of interior roadways. Minor amendments for good cause may be authorized by the Zoning Administrator provided that no such changes shall increase the size or height of structures, reduce the efficiency of public facilities serving the site condominium, reduce usable open space, or encroach on natural features proposed by the plan to be protected.
- B. **Major Amendments:** Any amendment not qualifying as a minor amendment as determined by the Zoning Administrator shall be considered a major amendment and must be approved by the Planning Commission according to the procedures authorized by this Article for approval of a condominium development.

ARTICLE 9 - OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING

9.01 SCOPE OF REGULATIONS.

- A. At the time any building or structure is erected, enlarged or increased in capacity, or uses established, off-street parking and loading spaces shall be provided in all zoning districts according to the requirements of this Article.
- B. No parking or loading area or space which exists at the time of the adoption of this Article shall thereafter be relinquished or reduced in any manner below the requirements established by this Ordinance.
- C. Parking areas must have the same zoning classification as the property on which the principal use is located which they are serving.

9.02 LOCATION OF PARKING AND LOADING AREAS.

Off-street parking and loading facilities required by this Article shall be located on the same lot or parcel as the use for which the parking or loading is required or on an abutting lot or parcel under the same ownership. This requirement does not apply to joint parking or loading facilities developed in accordance with the requirements of this Article.

9.03 PARKING LOT AND LOADING AREA REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Plans and specifications showing required off-street parking and loading spaces, including the means of access and interior circulation shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator for review at the time of application for a land use permit for the erection or enlargement of a building. All such plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator and Site Plan Approval obtained prior to the issuance of the land use permit. Such plans and specifications shall be prepared at a scale of not less than one (1) inch equals one hundred (100) feet and shall include the following:
 - 1) Existing and proposed grades;
 - 2) Drainage, including catch basins, pipe sizes and connections to existing drainage structures;
 - 3) Typical dimensions of parking and loading spaces and maneuvering aisles, including handicapped spaces required by State regulations;
 - 4) Lighting;
 - 5) Existing or proposed buildings;
 - 6) Sidewalks, including ramps for use of handicapped persons;
 - 7) Landscaping and required screening;
 - 8) Surfacing and base materials to be used in the construction of the parking lot.
- B. Parking lots required by this Ordinance shall be installed and completed within six (6) months of the issuance of a Land Use Permit. In the event of unusual delays or adverse weather conditions that make it impossible to complete the improvements, the Zoning Administrator may grant a single extension of the time limit for a further six (6) month period.
- C. Every parcel of land hereafter used as a public or private parking area shall be developed and maintained in accordance with the following requirements:
 - 1) All off-street parking areas shall be drained so as to prevent drainage onto abutting properties. No more than 50 percent of the required parking area shall be hard surfaced with concrete or asphalt paving. The unpaved parking area shall be maintained in lawn, gravel or crushed stone and landscaped according to the same standards as the hard surfaced parking areas. The intent of this provision is to limit impervious surface area and reduce storm water run-off retention needs. Off-street storage areas shall not be surfaced with impervious materials except as approved by the Planning Commission.
 - 2) Lighting fixtures and lighting plans and design used to illuminate off-street parking areas shall be in compliance with [Article 11](#), Exterior Lighting Regulations, of this Ordinance and

shall be so arranged as to deflect light away from any adjoining residential properties or streets and highways. Lighting levels in required parking facilities for commercial or industrial use shall be of the lowest intensity necessary to accomplish its purpose. Lighting fixtures within one-hundred and fifty (150) feet of any residential area shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height. All other fixtures shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height. Decorative light fixtures which are adjacent to residential areas which are unshielded and permit light to spread outward rather than downward may be prohibited by the Zoning Administrator.

- 3) All off-street parking and loading areas that make it necessary for vehicles to back directly into a public road are prohibited, provided that this prohibition shall not apply to off-street parking areas serving residential dwellings housing four (4) or less units.
- 4) Parking may be permitted within any required yard with the following exceptions:
 - a. Parking is not permitted within the first thirty (30) feet of the required front yard setback in the C-1 and N zoning districts adjoining the M-72 corridor.
 - b. Loading areas may not occupy any front yard setback. The side yard setback area along the street side of a corner lot shall not be used for loading space.
- 5) Wheel stops shall be provided and so located so as to prevent any vehicle from projecting over lot lines, required setbacks or sidewalks.
- 6) All parking spaces shall be striped with paint or a material approved by the Zoning Administrator. Striping shall be at least four (4) inches in width. The striping shall be maintained at all times.

9.04 MIXED USE/JOINT PARKING FACILITIES.

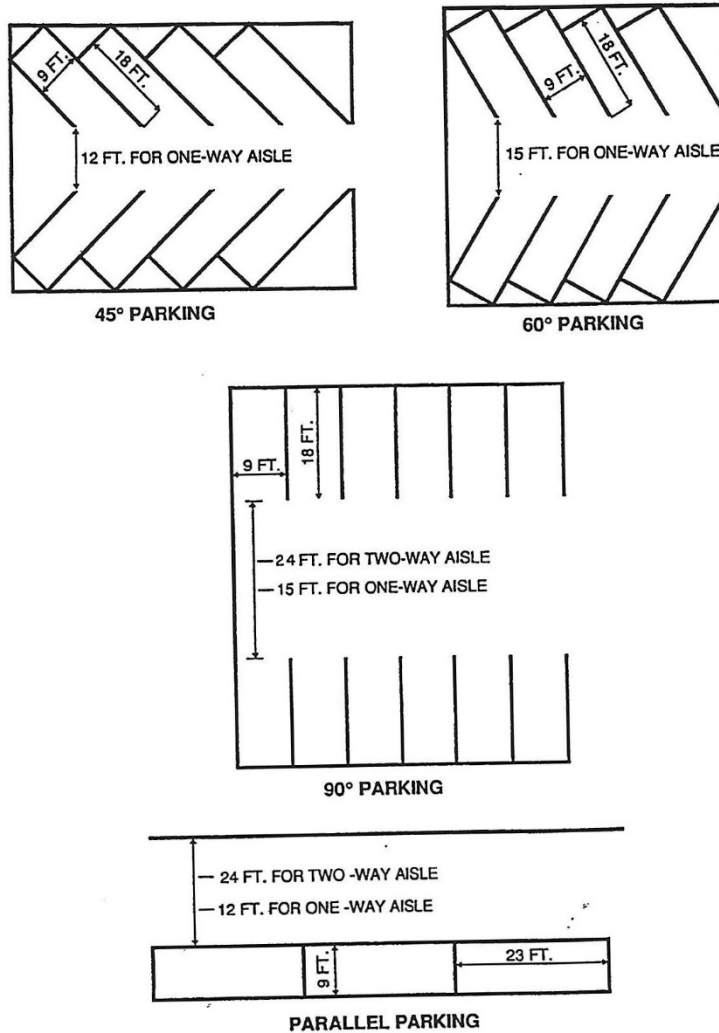
- A. In the case of mixed uses in the same building or on the same lot or parcel, the total requirements for off-street parking and loading shall be the sum of the requirements for the individual uses computed separately.
- B. Joint or collective provision of off-street parking areas for buildings or uses on two or more properties shall not be less than the sum of the requirements for the participating individual uses computed separately except that the Zoning Administrator may approve a lesser parking requirement for such uses provided that the following requirements are met:
 - 1) The uses proposing to combine parking requirements shall have hours of operation which do not coincide.
 - 2) Evidence of a signed agreement between the owners of both properties agreeing to such joint use shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator.
 - 3) Sufficient area shall be available such that the required parking for both uses computed separately may be provided on each lot or parcel involved in the event that one party to the joint parking agreement abrogates or otherwise withdraws from such agreement. Should such agreement be withdrawn by either party each use shall provide the parking as herein required.

9.05 PARKING SPACE AND MANEUVERING AISLE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. All parking spaces and maneuvering aisles shall comply with the requirements contained in Figure 9-1.

Figure 9-1

OFF-STREET PARKING DESIGN STANDARDS



9.06 UNITS OF MEASUREMENT.

A. Floor Area:

- 1) Where floor area is the unit for determining the required number of off-street parking and loading spaces, said unit shall mean the gross floor area, except as noted below.
- 2) Where the floor area measurement is specified as net floor area, parking requirements will apply to all building areas except that floor area used for incidental service, storage, installations of mechanical equipment, heating systems and similar uses and other areas where service to the general public is not provided. For buildings where use areas are not yet defined, the gross floor area may be reduced by fifteen percent (15%) for calculating net floor area. When use areas are defined, the greater of the above calculations (actual net floor area versus 15% of gross floor area) shall be used to compute parking requirements.

B. Places of Assembly: In stadia, sports arenas, churches and other places of assembly in which any

portion of the seating consists of benches, pews or other such seating, each 18 inches of such seating shall be counted as one seat.

- C. Employees: For requirements stated in terms of employees, the calculation shall be based upon the total number of employees.
- D. Fractions: When units of measurement determining the number of required parking or loading spaces result in a fractional space, any fraction shall be counted as one additional space.

9.07 SCHEDULE OF OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS.

USE	Number of Motor Vehicle Parking Spaces Required Per Unit of Measure
RESIDENTIAL	
Single-family, two family or multiple family with three or more bedrooms.	Two for each dwelling unit.
Multiple family with one or two bedrooms.	Two for each two bedroom dwelling unit and 1.5 for each one bedroom dwelling unit.
Efficiencies	One for each dwelling unit
Mobile home parks	Two for each mobile home or mobile home site.
Elderly Housing	For independent living units, two for each unit. For "interim" or "intermediate care" units, one for each two beds, plus one per employee.
Institutional	
Churches or Temples	One for each three seats
Hospitals	One for each two beds plus one for each staff doctor, plus one for each two additional employees.
Nursing homes, homes for the aged and convalescent homes	One for each four beds, plus one for each staff doctor, plus one for each two additional employees
Day Care Centers	Two spaces, plus one for each additional employee or administrator.
Elementary and Junior High Schools	One per teacher plus one for each additional employee or administrator, plus requirements of the auditorium or assembly hall therein.
High Schools	One for each teacher plus one for each ten students, plus one for each employee or administrator, plus requirements of the auditorium or assembly hall therein.
Theaters	One for each four seats plus one for each two employees.
Auditoriums And Assembly Halls	One for each three seats plus one for each two employees.
Stadiums, sports arenas or similar places of outdoor assembly	One for each three seats.
Dance and union halls, civic clubs, fraternal orders, conference rooms, exhibit halls, ball rooms or any similar type of use	One space for every two persons allowed within the maximum occupancy load as determined by the Uniform single state Building Code, or one for each 100 square feet of NUA, whichever is greater.
Private gold clubs, ski clubs, swimming clubs or beaches, tennis clubs, or similar uses	One per every four persons of maximum anticipated capacity as determined by the Uniform single State Building Code.
Golf Courses open to the general public	Five for each golf hole and one for each employee, plus amount required for accessory uses
BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL	

USE	Number of Motor Vehicle Parking Spaces Required Per Unit of Measure
Retail Centers containing between 25,000 and 400,000 square feet	Four Spaces per 1,000 square feet of net useable space.
Retail Centers containing between 400,000 and 600,000 square feet.	Four and one-half spaces per 1,000 square feet of net useable space
Retail Centers containing greater than 600,000 square feet.	Five Spaces per 1,000 square feet of net useable space.
Other retail not otherwise specified herein.	Five spaces per 1,000 square feet of net useable space.
Furniture and home furnishing stores (not including appliance stores)	One for each 800 square feet of NUA
Supermarket, self service food or beverage shop.	One for each 200 square feet of net useable space.
Motor vehicle and mobile home sales establishments	One for each 1,000 square feet of net useable space plus one for each employee
Restaurants, taverns, bars, nightclubs	One space for each three persons allowed within the maximum occupancy load as established by the single state Building Code, plus one for each three employees.
Drive-in restaurants and self service restaurants	One space for each 2.5 persons allowed within the maximum occupancy, plus one space for each employee on the largest shift
Barber Shops, beauty salons.	Two for each barber or beauty operator chair/station plus one for every two employees.
Laundromats and coin operated dry cleaners.	One for each two washing machines.
Car washes	One for each employee on the largest shift.
Auto Service Station	Two for each service bay, plus one for each employee, plus one for each road service vehicle.
Auto service station with sale of convenience goods	The requirements for an auto service station, plus one space per each fifty square feet of NUA devoted to non-gasoline sales area.
Bowling Alley	Five for each bowling lane, plus amount required for accessory uses.
Miniature or Par 3 golf course	Three for each hole, plus one for each employee.
Video rental stores	One for each 100 square feet GFA plus one for each employee on largest shift.
Funeral home or mortuary	One for each fifty square feet in service parlors, chapels and reception areas plus one for each funeral vehicle
Hotel, motel or other commercial lodging establishment.	One space for each guest room, plus one for each employee, plus amount required for accessories uses.
OFFICES	
Banks, credit unions and savings and loan establishments	One for each 150 square feet of NUA, plus one for each employee, plus two for each automatic teller machine.
Business and professional offices; not otherwise specified herein.	One for each 200 square feet of NUA.
Medical and dental offices or clinics.	One for each 150 square feet of NUA.
Office space in a retail shopping center occupying greater than 10% of the center's GLA	One for each 500 square feet of GFA.
INDUSTRIAL	

USE	Number of Motor Vehicle Parking Spaces Required Per Unit of Measure
Industrial or manufacturing establishment, research and testing labs.	Two for each three employee computed on basis of total number of employed on all shifts plus one for each company vehicle stored on the premises.
Warehouses, truck terminals	Two for each three employees based on total number employed on all three shifts.
Mini-warehouse, storage	One for each employee plus one for each 20 or fewer storage units.

BARRIER FREE PARKING REQUIREMENTS	
TOTAL PARKING IN LOT	REQ'D # OF ACCESSIBLE SPACES*
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	8
301 - 400	12
Over 400	12 (plus 2 for every 250 or fraction thereof over 400)
*State or Federal regulations shall apply if requiring more accessible spaces.	

Where a use is not specifically listed above, the parking requirements of a similar use shall apply. The Zoning Administrator shall make such interpretation.

9.08 OFF-STREET LOADING REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Off-street loading spaces shall be provided in size and quantity sufficient to prevent interference with adjacent streets or required off-street parking areas.
- B. Required loading spaces shall not be included in the count of off-street parking spaces.

9.09 PARKING RESTRICTIONS.

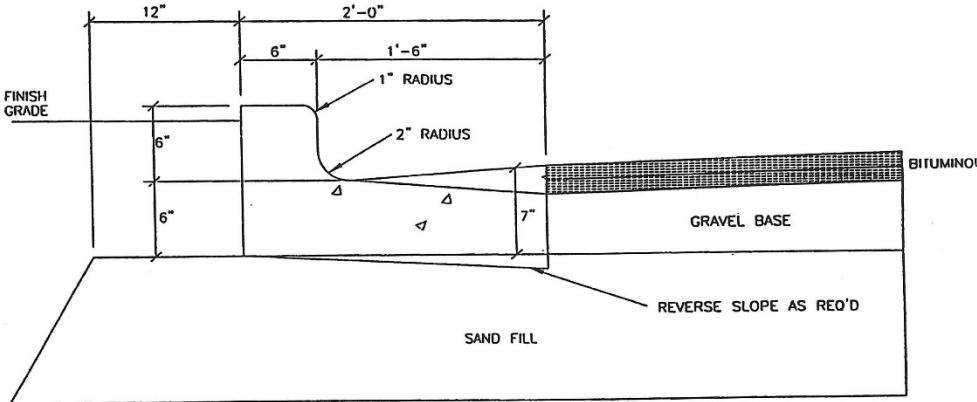
- A. Commercial or Other Vehicles:
 - 1) Parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts shall be limited to not more than one vehicle of light delivery type (not to exceed one ton) for each dwelling unit. The parking of any other type of commercial vehicle in a residential district, except those associated with a lawful use permit in the subject zoning district is prohibited.
 - 2) The open storage or parking of commercial vehicles greater than one (1) ton, semi-trucks and trailers, mobile homes, tractors, bulldozers, earth carriers, cranes or other such equipment, unless in use during construction work, is prohibited in any residential district.
- B. The parking of semi-truck trailers for more than a twenty-four (24) hour period in any off-street parking area in Commercial (C1) zoning districts is prohibited.

C. Parking of Recreational Vehicles and Equipment:

- 3) No mobile homes, tent and travel trailers, motor homes, boats and snowmobiles and trailers designed for them, general purpose trailers, and similar equipment, shall be parked or stored within the primary front setback area in excess of forty-eight (48) hours. It is the intent of this section to provide clear vision areas in front of structures, to insure adequate emergency vehicle access to structures and to maintain the character of existing neighborhoods.

Figure 9-2

MINIMUM PARKING AREA CURB SPECIFICATIONS



ARTICLE 10 - LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

10.01 INTENT.

It is the intent of this Article is to require buffer zones and landscape screening to reduce the negative impacts between incompatible land uses and to provide for landscaping within parking lots. In addition, it is intended to help sustain a pleasing gateway - corridor to the Grand Traverse region consistent with the natural features of the region that attract tourism and support land values. It is further intended to preserve and enhance the aesthetic qualities, character, privacy, and land values of the township.

10.02 BUFFER ZONES REQUIRED.

- A. A buffer shall be required on the subject parcel between zoning districts as indicated in Table 10-1.
- B. A buffer shall be required on the subject parcel even if the adjacent parcel is unimproved land.
- C. When any developed parcel requiring a buffer zone changes to a more intense land use or a special land use approval and/or site plan review is required, the buffer shall comply with the buffer zone matrix (Table 10-1) and buffer zone development standards (Section 10.03).
- D. If existing conditions are such that a parcel cannot comply with the buffer zone standards (Table 10-1 and Section 10.03), then the Zoning Administrator shall determine the character of the buffer based on the following criteria:
 - 1) Traffic impacts.
 - 2) Increased building and parking lot coverage.
 - 3) Increased outdoor sales, display or manufacturing area.
 - 4) Physical characteristics of the site and surrounding area such as topography, vegetation, etc.
 - 5) Visual, noise and air pollution levels.
 - 6) Health, safety and welfare of the township.
 - 7) Additional dwelling units and resulting density (residential development).
- E. If two zoning districts requiring a buffer zone are separated by a thoroughfare, the design of the buffer zone shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator based on the criteria contained in Section 10.02 (D) (1-7) above.

TABLE 10-1 Landscape Buffer Matrix							
	Adjoining Zone						
Subject Zone	A-1	RC-1	R-1	R-2	R-3	C-1	N
RC-1							
A-1							
R-1							
R-2							
R-3			10'				
C-1		10'	30'	10'	10'	10' Shared	
N		30'	30'	30'	30'	30'	
<i>Read from Subject Zone Across to Adjoining Zone</i>							

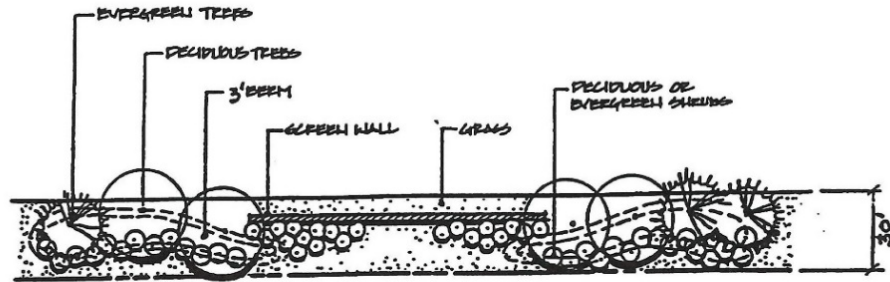
10.03 BUFFER ZONE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.

Required buffer zones shall comply with the following standards:

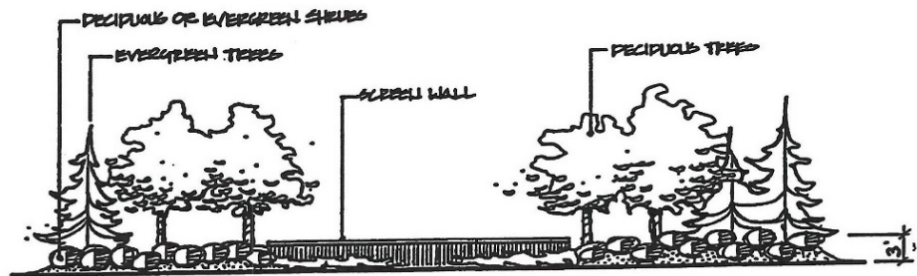
- A. Buffer Zone Thirty (30) Feet (See Fig 10-1).
 - 1) 30 ft. minimum width.
 - 2) The equivalent of 1 canopy tree per linear ft. or fraction of buffer zone length.
 - 3) 6 ft. high continuous obscuring screen comprised of plant material, berming, screen walls or fences or any combination of these elements.
 - 4) If berming is used for all or part of the buffer zone, all required plant material shall be

- placed on the top and side slope facing the exterior of the site.
- 5) If a screen wall or fence is used for all or part of the buffer zone then:
 - The equivalent of 4 shrubs are required per 20 linear feet of wall or fence with at least 50 percent being 24" high at time of planting.
 - All required plants shall be placed on the side facing the exterior.
 - 6) All areas outside of planting beds shall be covered with grass or other living ground cover.
 - 7) All applicable standards in Section 10.07.

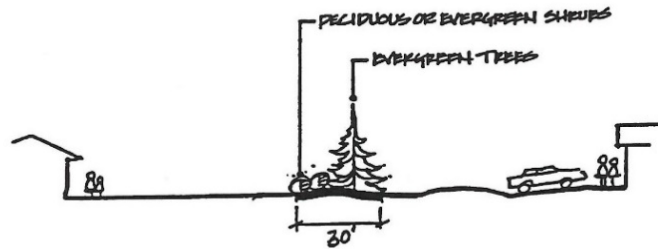
Figure 10-1
Buffer Zone – 30 Feet



PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION



SECTION

- B. Buffer Zone Ten (10) feet. (See Fig. 10-2)
- 1) 10 ft. minimum width.
 - 2) The equivalent of 1 canopy tree per 30 linear feet or fraction of buffer zone length.
 - 3) 6 ft. high continuous obscuring screen comprised of plant material, berming, screen walls or fences or any combination of these elements.
 - 4) If being is used for all or part of the buffer zone, then:
 - All required plant material shall be placed on the top and side slope facing the exterior.
 - The minimum buffer width shall be increased to accommodate a side slope of 3 to 1.
 - 5) If a screen wall or fence is used for all or part of the buffer zone then:
 - The equivalent of 4 shrubs are required per 20 linear ft. of wall with at least 50 percent being 24" high at time of planting.
 - All required plants shall be placed on the side facing the exterior.
 - 6) All areas outside of planting beds shall be covered with grass or other living ground cover.
 - 7) All applicable standards in Section 10.07.

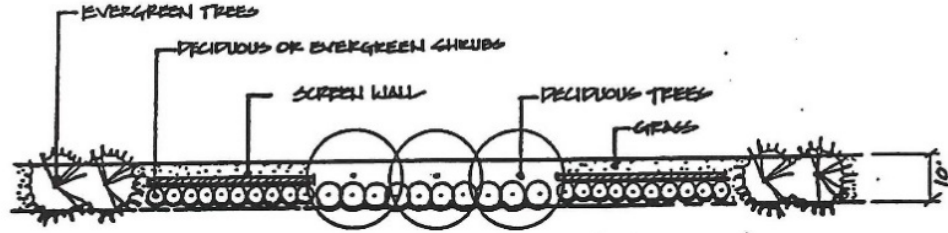
10.04 OFF-STREET PARKING AREAS (See Fig. 10-3)

- A. Off-street parking areas containing 6 or more parking spaces shall be provided with landscaping in accordance with the following:
- 1) 6 through 100 spaces: 1 canopy tree and 100 sq. ft. of landscaped area per 6 spaces.
 - 2) 101 through 200 spaces: 1 canopy tree and 100 sq. ft. of landscaped area per 8 spaces.
 - 3) 201+ spaces: 1 canopy tree and 100 sq. ft. of landscaped area per 10 spaces.
- B. In no case shall any buffer zones or greenbelts required in Sections 10.02, 10.03, and 10.05 be considered as part of the off-street parking landscape area.

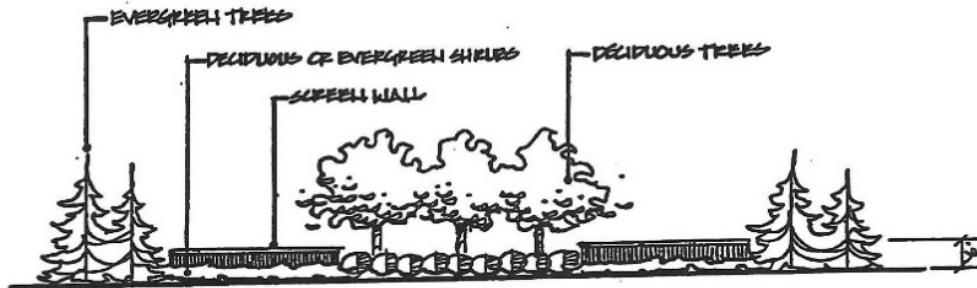
10.05 OFF-STREET PARKING LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- A. Required parking lot landscape areas shall comply with the following standards:
- 1) The minimum size of a landscaped area shall be 60 sq. ft. and at least 6 ft. wide.
 - 2) All landscaped areas shall be covered by grass, shredded bark, stone or a living ground cover.
 - 3) All landscaped areas shall contain at least 1 canopy tree. The tree shall be located so as not to be damaged by any surrounding vehicle (See Fig. 10-4).
 - 4) The Zoning Administrator shall approve the location of required off-street parking landscaping using the following criteria:
 - a. Landscaping shall be installed such that, when mature, it does not obscure traffic signs, fire hydrants, lighting, drainage patterns on site or adjacent properties, or obstruct vision for reasons of safety, ingress or egress.
 - b. Trees shall be installed in such a manner that parked motor vehicles are shaded whenever possible.
 - c. Landscaping shall be dispersed throughout the parking lot in order to break up large expanses of impervious surfaces.
 - d. At least 50 percent of the required trees shall be installed in the interior of the parking area and 50 percent on the perimeter. The interior shall be considered as any point 10 ft. from the outside boundary of the parking area.
 - 5) All landscaped areas shall be protected by a raised standard or rolled concrete curb.
 - 6) Where any parking area, with the exception of parking serving single-family or two-family dwellings, abuts or faces a thoroughfare, a 3 ft. high continuous obscuring screen shall be required between the parking area and the road R.O.W. The screen may be comprised of plant material, berming, or any combination of these elements, in compliance with the following requirements:
 - a. If a berm is used for all or part of the screen, all required plant material shall be placed on the side facing the thoroughfare.
 - b. If plant material is used for all or part of the screen, it shall be 24" high at time of initial planting and at least 36" high within one (1) year of initial planting.
 - c. Minimum width for screen area shall be 8 ft. A berm will require a width sufficient to accommodate a side slope of 3 to 1.
 - 7) All applicable requirements of Section 10.07 shall be complied with.

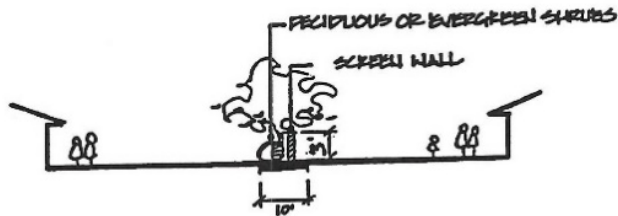
Figure 10-2
Buffer Zone - 10 Feet



PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION



SECTION

Figure 10-3
Greenbelt and Off-Street Parking Landscape Standards

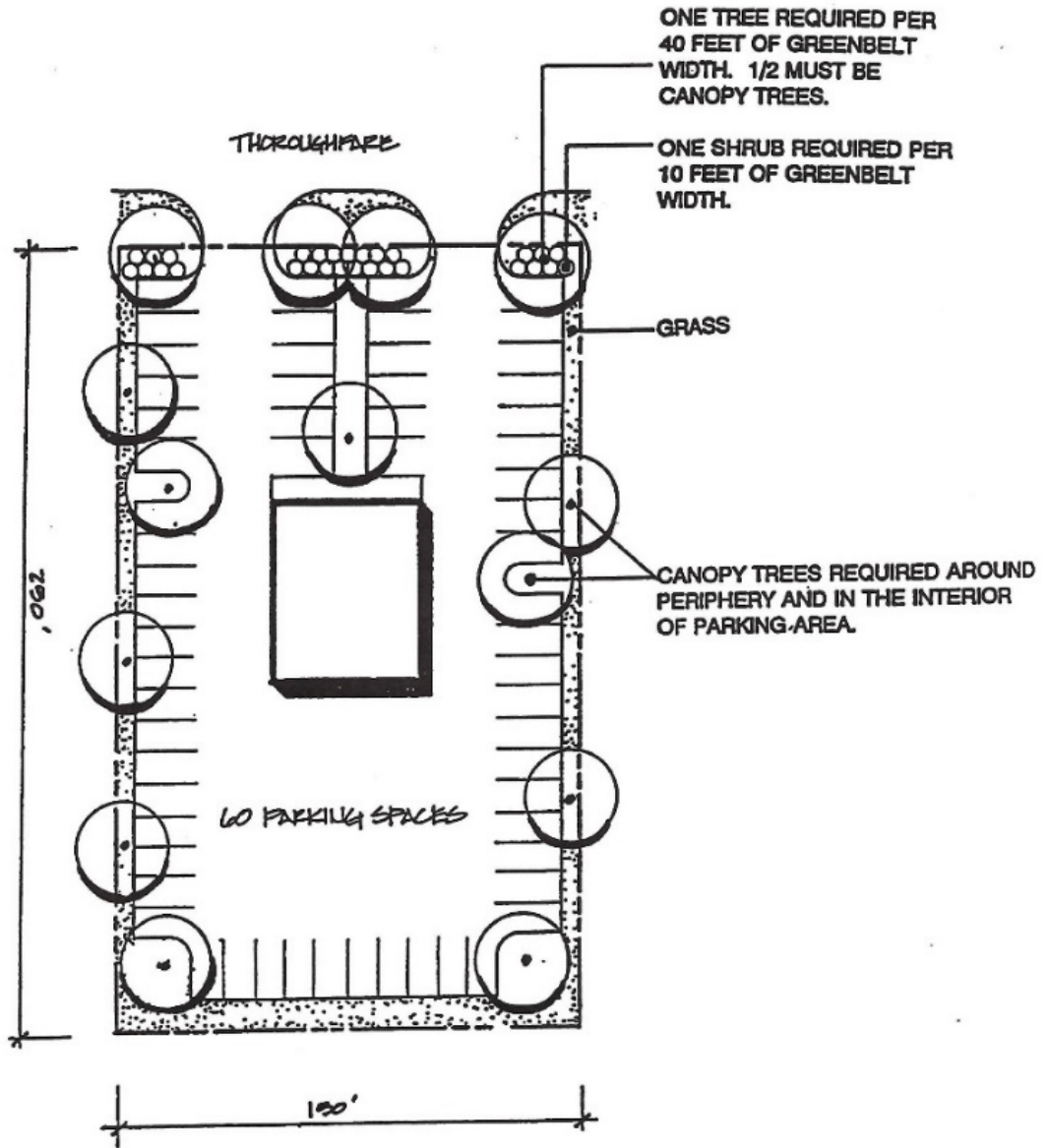
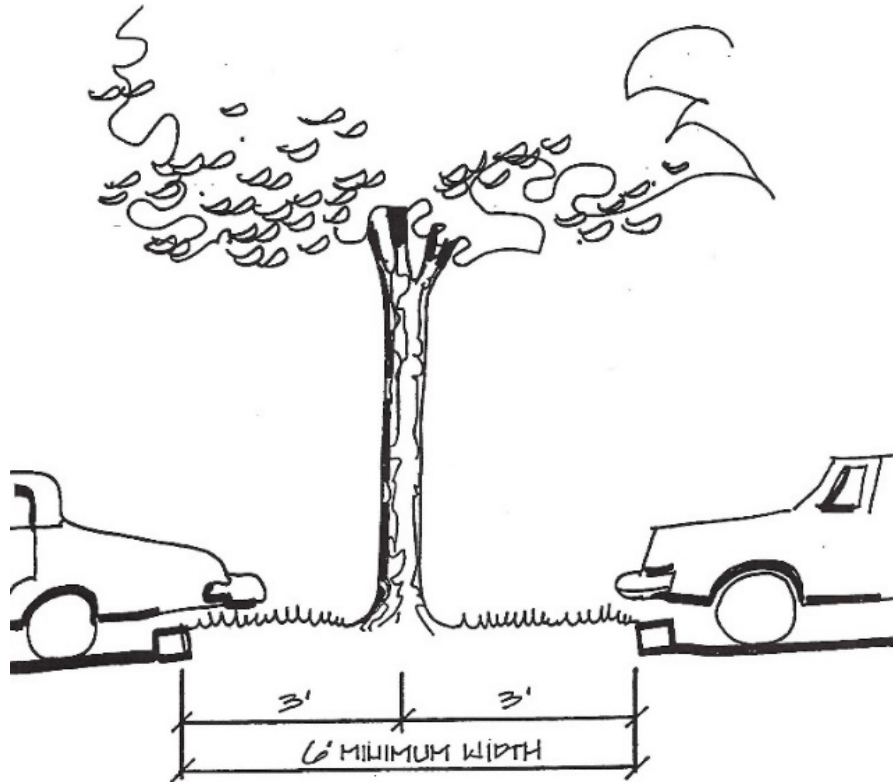


Figure 10-4
Typical Off-Street Parking Landscaped Area



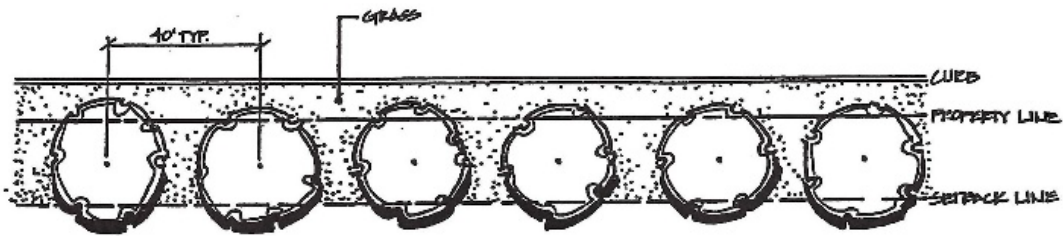
10.06 GREENBELTS.

- A. Greenbelts shall be required where any developed parcel abuts or faces a public thoroughfare in the C-1 and N districts.
- B. If a buffer zone is required along a thoroughfare, then the greenbelt requirement shall be waived.
- C. In no case shall off-street parking lot landscaping required in [Section 10.03](#) and [Section 10.04](#) be considered as part of any greenbelt requirement.

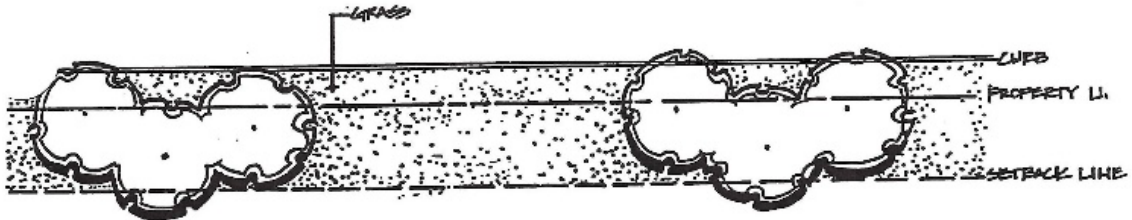
10.07 GREENBELT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (SEE FIG 10-5).

- A. All greenbelts shall comply with the following standards:
 - 1) One canopy tree for every 40 linear ft. or fraction of frontage abutting a public thoroughfare.
 - 2) All greenbelts shall be covered by grass.
 - 3) The width of the greenbelt shall correspond to the required front setback requirements for off-street parking areas contained in [Article 9](#).

**Figure 10-5
Greenbelts**



CONTINUOUS ROW OF EQUALLY SPACED TREES



GROUPINGS OF A VARIETY OF PLANT MATERIAL

10.08 GENERAL LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.

A. Minimum Plant Material Standards:

- 1) All plant material shall be hardy to Grand Traverse County, free of disease and insects and conform to the standards of the American Association of Nurserymen. A list of recommended plants are available from the Zoning Administrator.
- 2) All plant materials shall be installed in such a manner so as not to alter drainage patterns on site or adjacent properties or obstruct vision for reasons of safety, ingress or egress.
- 3) All plant material shall be planted in a manner so as to not cause damage to utility lines (above and below ground) and public roadways.
- 4) Minimum plant sizes at time of installation (see [Fig. 10-6](#) and [Fig. 10-7](#)):

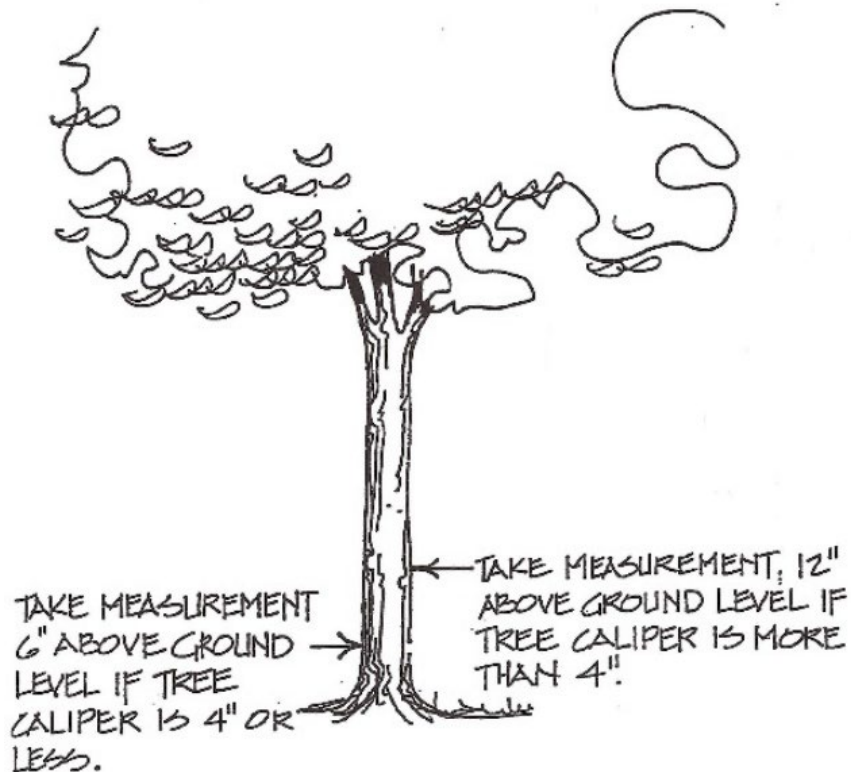
Deciduous Canopy Trees:	2 1/2" caliper
Deciduous Ornamental Trees:	2" caliper
Evergreen Tree:	6' height
Deciduous Shrub:	2' height
Upright Evergreen Shrub:	2" height
Spreading Evergreen Shrub:	18" - 24" spread

- 5) Existing plant material which complies with the standards and intent of the Ordinance, as determined by the Zoning Administrator, shall be credited toward meeting the landscape requirements.
- 6) The plant material shall achieve its horizontal and vertical screening effect within 4 years of initial installation.
- 7) The overall landscape plan shall not contain more than 33 percent of any plant species.
- 8) The following trees are not permitted as they split easily; their wood is brittle and breaks easily; their roots clog

COMMON NAME	HORTICULTURAL NAME
Boxelder	Acer Negundo
Ginkgo	Ginkgo Biloba (female only)
Honey Locust	Gleditsia Triacanthos (with thorns)
Mulberry	Morus Species
Poplars	Populus Species
Black Locust	Robinia Species
Willows	Salix Species
American Elm	Ulmus Americana
Siberian Elm	U. Pumila
Slippery Elm: Red Elm	U. Rubra
Chinese Elm	U. Parvifolia

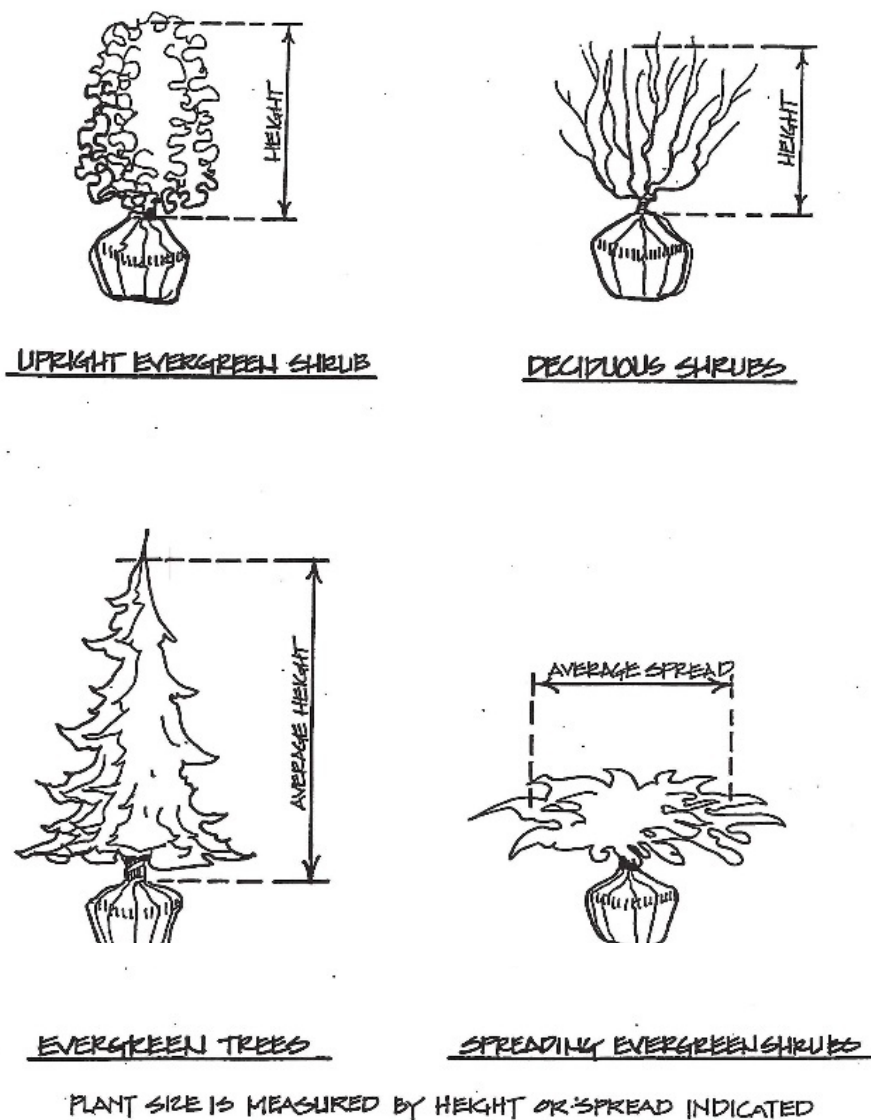
(excluding White Oak and Black Walnut)

**Figure 10-6
Tree Caliper Measurements**



CALIPER = DIAMETER OF TRUNK

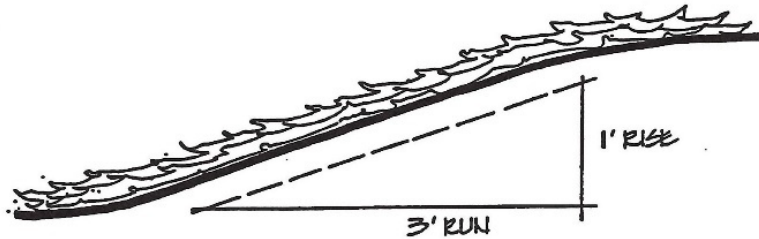
Figure 10-7
Plant Sizes



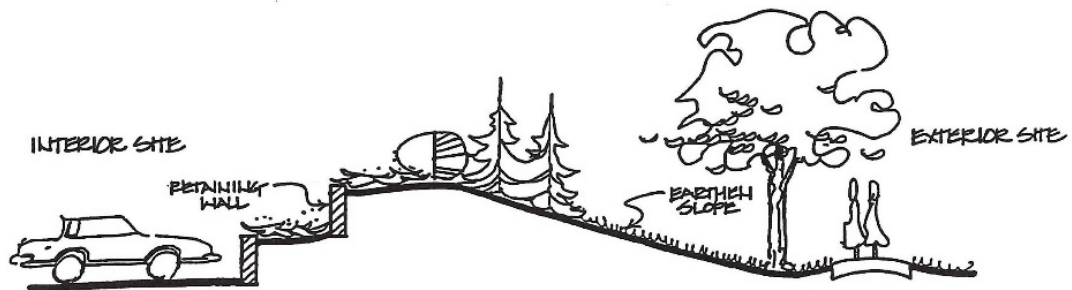
B. Minimum Standard for Berms:

- 1) Berms shall be constructed so as to maintain a side slope not to exceed a 1' rise to a 3' run ratio (See Fig 10-8).
- 2) Berm areas not containing planting beds shall be covered with grass or living groundcover maintained in a healthy growing condition.
- 3) Berms shall be constructed in such a manner so as not to alter drainage patterns on site or adjacent properties or obstruct vision for reasons of safety, ingress or egress.
- 4) If a berm is constructed with a retaining wall or by terracing, the earthen slope shall face the exterior of the site (See Fig. 10-8).

Figure 10-8
Berm Slopes and Berms with Retaining Walls



MAXIMUM SIDE SLOPE FOR BERM



C. Minimum Standards for Screen Walls and Fences:

- 1) All screen walls and fences shall be constructed with new, durable, weather resistant and easily maintainable materials. Chain link and barbed wire fences are not permitted.
- 2) The wall or fence may be constructed with openings that do not exceed 20 percent of the wall surface. The openings shall not reduce the intended obscuring effect of the wall.
- 3) Screen walls or fences shall not be constructed so as to alter drainage on site or adjacent properties or obstruct vision for reasons of ingress or egress.

D. **Detention/retention Areas:** Detention/retention areas shall be permitted within buffer zones provided they do not hamper the screening intent of the buffer or jeopardize the survival of the plant materials.

E. **Solid Waste Dumpsters:** Solid waste dumpsters may be installed in buffer zones provided they contain a continuous opaque screen at least 6' high. The screen may be comprised of berming, plant material, screen walls or fences, or any combination of these elements which are harmonious to the building design.

- F. **Requirements for Projects Developed in Phases:** If a project is constructed in phases, the landscape screen may also be constructed in phases. The Zoning Administrator shall determine the extent of each phase on:
- 1) Adjacent land uses.
 - 2) Distance between land uses.
 - 3) Operational characteristic both on and off site.
 - 4) Building heights.
 - 5) Physical characteristics of the site such as topography, existing vegetation, etc.
- G. **Landscape Screening Waiver:** Should the Zoning Administrator determine, upon inspection, that adequate landscaping screen on a site already exists or that such landscaping screen shall not be required, the applicable Zoning Ordinance provisions may be waived in whole or in part. Criteria which shall be used when considering a landscaping screen waiver shall include, but shall not be limited to:
- 1) Topography variations.
 - 2) Existence of natural vegetation.
 - 3) Existing and proposed building placement.
 - 4) Sight distances.
 - 5) Adjacent land uses.
 - 6) Existence of floodplain and poor soils areas.
- H. **Installation and Maintenance Provisions:**
- 1) The Zoning Administrator shall mandate a financial guarantee of a sufficient amount to insure the installation of all required landscaping.
 - 2) All landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy, neat and orderly state free from refuse and debris. Any dead or diseased plants shall be replaced.

ARTICLE 11 - EXTERIOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS

11.01 DECLARATION OF POLICY AND INTENT:

The Whitewater Township Board of Trustees finds and declares that the naturally lit night sky is an important aspect of our environment and a resource which contributes significantly to our quality of life by contributing to the public peace and to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Whitewater Township and to its visitors, that to preserve and protect this resource it is necessary, essential, a public purpose and municipal affair for the Township to regulate the use of outdoor light fixtures to minimize light pollution which has a detrimental effect on the environment, astronomical research, amateur astronomy, and general enjoyment of the night sky, and causes unnecessary and/or unwanted illumination of adjacent and even distant properties; that it is in the public interest to conserve electrical energy; and that it is in the public interest to protect vehicular and pedestrian traffic from dangerous glare and light pollution in the night sky.

11.02 STANDARDS

- A. **Commercial and Industrial Zones and Land Uses:** All outdoor light fixtures and lighting practices shall conform with either standard No. 1 or No. 2 and with all of the remaining standards in this subsection:
- 1) All outdoor light fixtures shall have full cut-off shielding such that no light is emitted above an imaginary horizontal plane passing through the fixture below the light source regardless of type or wattage, EXCEPT for gas lighting, glass tubes filled with Neon, Argon or Krypton, and small decorative fixtures such as porch lights.
 - 2) Baffles or shields shall be required as needed so that light sources are not visible beyond the property on which they are installed, so that direct light rays are not directed above a horizontal plane passing through the fixture, and also so that vehicular and pedestrian traffic are protected from unnecessary and dangerous glare and from the intense light of directly visible light sources.
 - 3) Exterior lighting should be designed and installed to conserve electrical energy by:
 - a. using fixtures with good optical control to distribute light in the most effective and efficient manner.
 - b. using the minimum amount of light to meet the lighting criteria for safety and visibility.
 - c. using low pressure sodium outdoor light fixtures where required and wherever else feasible.
 - d. energizing light fixtures only when necessary by means of automatic timing devices and through the use of motion detection devices on security lighting.
 - e. requiring that certain outdoor light fixtures be turned off between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise.
 - 4) Sodium light sources shall be used for street lighting, parking lot lighting, and for security lighting when such security lighting is not to be energized by motion detection devices. Where feasible, low-pressure sodium lighting is to be encouraged.
 - 5) All outdoor recreational facilities, including but not limited to tennis courts, baseball, football and softball fields, ski runs and trails, golf courses and driving ranges, shall be illuminated with fixtures equipped with full cut-off shielding as needed to direct and restrict light to the playing surface and playing air space as well as the immediate surrounding area and to eliminate glare in the night sky insofar as possible as well as unnecessarily reflected light in the immediate vicinity or on adjacent property.
 - 6) Floodlights shall be directed downward, shielded as necessary so that the light source is not visible from roads or adjacent property, and located and directed so that light is neither unnecessarily reflected onto adjacent property or into the night sky.
 - 7) In addition to fixture design and shielding, architectural and landscape design features may be incorporated into an outdoor lighting plan to meet the requirements and comply with the intent of this Article.
- B. **Residential and Recreational Zones and Land Uses:** All outdoor light fixtures and lighting practices shall conform with the following standards:
- 1) All outdoor fixtures shall have full cut-off shielding such that no light is emitted above an

imaginary horizontal plane passing through the fixture below the light source regardless of type or wattage, EXCEPT for gas lighting, glass tubes filled with Neon, Argon or Krypton, and small decorative fixtures such as porch lights.

11.03 REQUIREMENTS, LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS:

A. Commercial and Industrial Zones and Land Uses:

- 1) Searchlights, lasers or other high-intensity light designed primarily to light the sky for advertising or entertainment purposes are prohibited as being contrary to the express intent of this Article.
- 2) Off-premises advertising signs, if permitted, shall not be illuminated externally or internally unless expressly allowed as a condition of site plan approval.
- 3) Advertising signs shall not be illuminated between one (1) hour after the close of business and one (1) hour before the opening of business on the following day except by special permission granted as a condition of site plan approval. All fixtures or circuits illuminating advertising signs shall be equipped with automatic timing device. If externally illuminated, all advertising, billboards, advertising kiosks and information boards shall be illuminated from the top downward with full cut-off shielding and such other shielding to direct the light on the sign or structure face only and shield the light source from view of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and adjacent property. If illuminated from the interior, signs, billboards, advertising kiosks and information boards, with the exception of theater marquee-type signs, shall have a dark background with lighter colored translucent (not transparent) lettering, logos and designs. Signs shall not incorporate any flashing or moving lights except as permitted under [Article 14](#), Sign Regulations.
- 4) Quartz and mercury vapor lighting are prohibited because of the broad spectrum of visible light which these sources emit and because of the diffusive and reflective character of such light.
- 5) All parking lots in Commercial and Industrial zones shall be illuminated only when in use during regular business hours and thereafter only until the public and employees have left the premises. Approved security lighting will be permitted.
- 6) Entrance and traffic marker lights along access roads and drives, in parking lots and along pedestrian ways shall be sodium type and equipped with full cut-off shielding as well as shielding to keep the light source out of view of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- 7) The use of non-conforming bulbs and fixtures in Commercial and Industrial zones shall not be permitted land use.
- 8) Outdoor display areas including but not limited to automobile or equipment dealer display or storage lots may be illuminated during the hours the business is open to the public or until 11:00 p.m. Metal halide light sources may be used provided such fixtures are equipped with full cut-off shielding and project only the minimum amount of light necessary for good visibility.
- 9) Lighting of building facades shall be from the top and directed downward with full cut-off shielding and additional shielding to keep the light source from the view of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and adjacent property.
- (10) Security lighting shall be directed away from and/or shielded from road traffic and adjacent properties.

B. Residential and Recreational Zones and Land Uses:

- 1) Residential security lighting shall be energized by motion detectors unless otherwise permitted as a condition of site plan or plot plan approval. Security lighting shall be directed away from and/or shielded from road traffic and adjacent properties.
- 2) Residential yard lights shall be a sodium light source in a fixture with full cut-off shielding.
- 3) Quartz and mercury vapor lighting are prohibited because of the broad spectrum of visible light which these sources emit and because of the diffusive and reflective character of such light.

11.04 APPROVED MATERIALS

The provisions of this Article are not intended to prevent the use of any design, material or method of installation, even if not specifically prescribed by this Article, provided that such alternate has been approved by the Planning Commission and meets or exceeds the Illuminating Engineers Society (IES) standards.

11.05 EXEMPTIONS:

The following uses and activities shall be exempt from these Exterior Lighting Regulations:

- A. Emergency equipment.
- B. Holiday decorations, provided that such decorative exterior lighting shall not include search lights, flood lights, stroboscopic lights, or lights which create glare or distractions potentially dangerous to vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or lights which create unnecessary and unwanted glare in the night sky.
- C. All outdoor light fixtures producing light directly by the combustion of fossil fuels, such as kerosene lanterns or gas lamps, are exempt from the requirements of this Article.
- D. Voluntary compliance with the intent of this Article at any facility exempt from this Article is encouraged.

11.06 RELIEF FROM EXTERIOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS:

Applications for relief from the regulations of this article may be made to the Whitewater Township Zoning Board of Appeals. Any ruling granting relief shall contain all conditions upon which said permit has been granted, including, but not limited to, the effective dates, times, locations and specifications of the lighting fixtures and plan permitted.

11.07 CONFLICTS

Where any provision of the statutes, codes or laws of the United States of America or the State of Michigan or the County of Grand Traverse conflict with any of the provisions of this Article, the most restrictive shall apply unless otherwise required by law.

11.08 VIOLATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this Article.
- B. Any person who shall violate any provision of this Article shall be subject to the penalties specified under [Article 22](#) of this Ordinance.
- C. The Zoning Administrator or his agent is hereby empowered to enforce this Article.
- D. The Zoning Administrator or his agent shall notify each applicant for a Land Use Permit that compliance with the provisions and regulations of this Article is a condition of such Land User Permit.

ARTICLE 12 - SITE PLAN REVIEW

12.01 SITE PLAN REVIEW / SPECIAL USE PERMIT (SUP) -AUTHORIZATION AND PROCEDURES

- A. The Zoning Administrator and/or Planning Commission as specified in this section shall review and approve, approve with conditions or deny all site plans and special use permit applications submitted under this Ordinance. Each action taken shall be duly recorded in the official record by the Zoning Administrator or in the minutes of the Planning Commission. Those applications which require Planning Commission review will then be submitted to the Planning Commission for action along with the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator as to compliance with Ordinance requirements. The Zoning Administrator shall also seek the recommendation of the Fire Chief, Road Commission, Drain Commission, Health Department, and Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), or their successors, where applicable.
- B. Following approval of a site plan or special use permit application, the applicant shall comply with all other local and state laws, including any applicable permits or approvals.

12.02 SITE PLAN REVIEW: WHERE REQUIRED

Site plan review shall be required for any of the following activities:

- A. Erection, moving, conversion or structural alteration to a building or structure other than a single-family dwelling.
- B. Development of non single-family residential uses in single-family districts and development of non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district except for a single-family dwelling.
- C. All special land uses.
- D. Any excavation, filling, soil removal or mining, except for the creation of ponds for agricultural use.
- E. All site condominiums, condominium subdivisions and PUD's.

12.03 SITE PLAN REVIEW: REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES:

- A. **Site Plan Review: Where Required:** Site plan review shall be required for any of the following activities:
 - 1) Erection, moving, conversion or structural alteration to a building or structure other than a single-family dwelling.
 - 2) Development of non single-family residential uses in single-family districts and development of non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district except for a single-family dwelling.
 - 3) All special land uses.
 - 4) Any excavation, filling, soil removal or mining, except for the creation of ponds for agricultural use.
 - 5) All site condominiums, condominium subdivisions and PUD's.
 - 6) All proposed uses or developments in environmentally sensitive areas as required.
- B. **Procedures and Requirements:** The Township has established a range of site plan review procedures intended to allow the appropriate level of review relative to the scope of the project. The more complex the project, the more detailed the review process. The Township has also established two optional review procedures with staff and with the Planning Commission intended to provide applicants an opportunity to discuss projects on a conceptual level with minimal upfront expenditure.
- C. **Optional Pre-Application Conference:** In order to facilitate processing of a site plan in a timely manner, the applicant may request a pre-application conference with the Zoning Administrator, up to three (3) members of the Planning Commission and such other Township representatives as appropriate. The purpose of such a conference is to provide information and guidance to the

applicant that will assist in preparation of the site plan. The applicant is encouraged to provide rough conceptual drawings or site plans indicating the location and boundaries of the subject property. No formal action shall be taken on a site plan at a pre-application conference. There is no fee to the applicant for the pre-application conference.

D. **Preliminary Site Plan Review:** The applicant shall submit the following prior to being scheduled for Planning Commission review:

- 1) Township Review Fee.
- 2) Township Application.
- 3) The name and address of the owner and any designated representative of the owner.
- 4) Written description of the proposed use.
- 5) Ten copies of the preliminary site plan, illustrating existing features, lot dimensions, general footprints for proposed buildings and parking, relationship to adjacent land uses and a location map.
- 6) One digital copy of the site plan in a form acceptable to the Township.

Upon review, the Planning Commission may approve, approve with conditions or deny the preliminary site plan. If the site plan is denied, the Planning Commission shall state the reasons for such denial.

The Zoning Administrator may waive the preliminary site plan review step upon a written request by the applicant provided that all information required for final site plan review is provided by the applicant.

E. **Final Site Plan Review:** The applicant shall submit the following prior to being scheduled for Planning Commission review:

- 1) Township Review Fee (if applicable).
- 2) Township Application (if applicable).
- 3) A written description of the proposed of the proposed project or use.
- 4) Any additional information the Planning Commission finds necessary to make determinations required herein.
- 5) A ten complete site plans that include the information listed in Section 12.03 (F) below, Required Information.
- 6) One digital copy of the site plan in a form acceptable to the Township.

Upon review, the Planning Commission may approve, approve with conditions or deny the preliminary site plan. If the site plan is denied, the Planning Commission shall state the reasons for such denial.

F. **Required Information:** Each submittal for site plan review shall contain all information required in this Ordinance including the following:

- 1) The applicant's name, address and phone number in full.
- 2) Proof of property ownership, and whether there are any options on the property, or liens against it.
- 3) A signed statement that the applicant is the owner of the property or officially acting on the owner's behalf.
- 4) The name and address of the owner(s) of record if the applicant is not the owner of record (or firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the land) and the signature of the owner(s).
- 5) The address and/or parcel number of the property.
- 6) Name and address of the developer (if different from the applicant).
- 7) Name and address of engineer, architect, planner and/or land surveyor.
- 8) Project title.
- 9) Project description, including the total number of structures, units, bedrooms, offices, square feet, total and usable floor area, parking spaces, carports or garages, employees by shift, amount of recreation and open space, type of recreation facilities to be provided, and related information as pertinent or otherwise required by the Ordinance.
- 10) A vicinity map drawn at a scale of 1" = 2000' with the north point indicated.
- 11) The gross and net acreage of all parcels in the project.
- 12) Land uses, zoning classification and existing structures on the subject parcel and adjoining parcels within 300 feet of the site.
- 13) Project completion schedule/development phases.
- 14) Written statements relative to project impacts on existing infrastructure (including traffic capacity of streets, schools and existing utilities) and on the natural environment of the site

and adjoining lands. A formal impact statement may be required.

- 15) A listing of types and quantities of hazardous substances and polluting materials which will be used, stored or generated on-site at the facility, and completion of the "Hazardous Substance Reporting Form for Site Plan Review."

G. **Required Site Plan:** The site plan shall consist of an accurate, reproducible drawing at a scale of not less than 1" = 20' or more than 1"=200', showing the site and all land within 300' of the site. If multiple sheets are used, each shall be labeled and the preparer identified. Each site plan shall depict the following:

- 1) Location of proposed and/or existing property lines, dimensions, legal descriptions, setback lines and monument locations.
- 2) Existing topographic elevations at two foot intervals, proposed grades and direction of drainage flows.
- 3) The location and type of existing soils on the site at least to the detail provided by U. S. Soil Conservation Service and any certification of borings.
- 4) Location and type of significant existing vegetation.
- 5) Location and elevations of existing water courses and water bodies, including county drains and man-made surface drainage ways, floodplains and wetlands.
- 6) Location of existing and proposed buildings and intended uses thereof, as well as the length, width, and height of each building and typical elevation views of proposed structures.
- 7) Proposed location of accessory structures, buildings and uses, including but not limited to all flagpoles, light poles, bulkheads, docks, storage sheds, transformers, air conditioners, generators and similar equipment, and the method of screening where applicable.
- 8) Location of existing public roads, rights-of-way and private easements of record and abutting streets.
- 9) Location of and dimensions of proposed streets, drives, curb cuts, and access easements, as well as acceleration, deceleration and passing lanes (if any) serving the development. Details of entryway and sign locations should be separately depicted with an elevation view.
- 10) Location, design and dimensions of existing and/or proposed curbing, barrier free access, carports, parking areas (including indication of all spaces and method of surfacing), fire lanes and all lighting thereof.
- 11) Location, size and characteristics of all loading and unloading areas.
- 12) Location and design of all sidewalks, walkways, bicycle paths and areas for public use.
- 13) Location, design and specifications of existing and proposed service facilities and structures, above and below ground, including:
 - a. Public and private groundwater supply wells on-site and related distribution systems including fire hydrants and shut off valves.
 - b. Septic systems and other waste water treatment systems
 - c. Areas to be used for the storage, use, loading/unloading, recycling, or disposal of hazardous substances and polluting materials, including interior and exterior areas as well as any containment structures or clear zones required by government regulation or designed to meet the standards of this Article.
 - d. Underground storage tank locations together with connected distribution and collection systems.
 - e. Location of exterior drains, dry wells, catch basins, retention/detention areas, sumps and other facilities designed to collect, store or transport wastewater or stormwater to the naturally occurring aquifer. The point of discharge for all drains and pipes shall be specified on the site plan.
- 14) Location of all other utilities on the site including, but not limited to natural gas, electric, cable TV, telephone and steam.
- 15) Proposed location, dimensions and details of common open spaces and common facilities such as community buildings or swimming pools if applicable.
- 16) Location, size and specifications of all signs, both temporary and permanent, and advertising features, with cross-sections, if applicable.
- 17) Exterior lighting locations with area of illumination illustrated as well as the type of fixtures and shielding to be used.
- 18) Location and specifications for all fences, walls, and other screening features with cross sections.
- 19) Location and specifications for all proposed perimeter and internal landscaping and other buffering features. For each new landscape material the proposed size at the time of planting must be indicated. All vegetation to be retained on the site must also be indicated,

- as well as its typical size by general location or range of sizes as appropriate.
- 20) Location, size and specifications for screening and fencing of all trash receptacles and other solid waste or liquid waste disposal facilities.
 - 21) Delineation of areas on the site which are known or suspected to be contaminated, together with a report on the status of site clean-up.
 - 22) Identification of any significant site amenities or unique natural features.
 - 23) Identification of any significant views onto or from the site to or from adjoining areas.
 - 24) A scale model of the proposed development may be required for all projects greater than 40 acres, with more than 200 dwelling units, more than 40,000 square feet of building space or a proposed height of a principal structure of greater than 35 feet.
 - 25) North arrow, scale and date of original submittal and last revision.
 - 26) Seal of the registered engineer, architect, landscape architect, surveyor, or planner who prepared the plan.

12.04 STANDARDS FOR DECISIONS:

Each site plan shall conform to all provisions of the Zoning Ordinance and the standards listed below (unless variances have been granted):

- A. All elements of the site plan shall be harmoniously and efficiently organized in relation to topography, the size and type of the lot or unit, the character of adjoining property and the type and size of buildings. The site shall be so developed as not to impede the normal and orderly development or improvement of the surrounding property for uses permitted in this Ordinance.
- B. The landscape shall be preserved in its natural state, insofar as practical, by minimizing tree and soil removal, and by topographic modifications which result in maximum harmony with adjacent areas and will not adversely affect adjacent properties.
- C. Special attention shall be given to proper site drainage so that removal of storm waters will not adversely affect neighboring properties.
- D. The site plan shall provide reasonable visual and sound privacy for all dwelling units located therein. Fences, walks, barriers and landscaping shall be used, as appropriate, for the protection and enhancement of property and for the privacy of its occupants.
- E. All buildings or groups of buildings shall be so arranged as to permit emergency vehicle access by some practical means to all sides.
- F. Every structure or dwelling unit shall have access to a public street, walkway or other area dedicated to common use.
- G. here shall be provided a pedestrian circulation system which is insulated as completely as reasonably possible from the vehicular circulation system.
- H. All loading and unloading areas and outside storage areas, including areas for the storage of trash, which face or are visible from residential districts or public thoroughfares, shall be screened, by a vertical screen consisting of structural or plant materials no less than six feet in height unless modified by the Planning Commission.
- I. Exterior lighting shall be designed and installed to conform with the standards required in [Article 11](#), Exterior Lighting Regulations.
- J. All signs and advertising features shall be designed and installed to conform with the standards and requirements of [Article 14](#), Sign Regulations.
- K. The arrangement of public or common ways for vehicular and pedestrian circulation shall respect the pattern of existing or planned streets and pedestrian or bicycle pathways in the area. Streets and drives which are part of an existing or planned street pattern which serves adjacent development shall be of a width appropriate to the traffic volume they will carry and shall have a dedicated right-of-way equal to that specified in the Master Plan.
- L. All streets including streets in condominium developments shall be developed in accordance with the Land Division Subdivision Control Ordinance and County Road Commission or Township Private Road Standard specifications.
- M. Site plans shall conform to all applicable requirements of state and federal statutes and approval may be conditioned on the applicant receiving necessary state and federal permits before final site plan approval or an occupancy permit is granted.

- N. All land use developments shall be consistent with and promote the intent and purpose of this ordinance and shall not be contrary to the public health, safety and welfare.
- O. All land uses and developments shall conform with the applicable goals, policies and objectives in the Township Master Plan.
- P. Standards for Groundwater Protection:
- 1) The project and related improvements shall be designed to protect the natural environment, including lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, floodplains, groundwater and steep slopes.
 - 2) Stormwater management and drainage facilities shall be designed to retain the natural retention and storage capacity of any wetland, water body or watercourse and shall not increase flooding or the potential for pollution of surface or groundwater, on-site or off-site.
 - 3) General purpose floor drains shall be allowed only if they are connected to a public sewer system, an on-site holding tank, or a system authorized through a state groundwater discharge permit.
 - 4) Sites at which hazardous substances or polluting materials are stored, used, or generated shall be designed to prevent spills and discharges to the air, surface of the ground, groundwater, lakes, streams, rivers or wetlands. In addition, an up-to-date contingency plan for the handling and clean-up of uncontained spills of hazardous substances and polluting materials shall be placed on file in the offices of the Zoning Administrator and the Fire Chief. The requirement to report all uncontained spills immediately to both the Zoning Administrator and the Fire Chief shall be required as a condition of Site Plan approval.
 - 5) Local, State and Federal agency requirements for storage, spill prevention, record keeping, emergency response, transport and disposal of hazardous substances and polluting materials shall be met. No discharges to groundwater, including direct and indirect discharges, shall be allowed without required permits and approvals.
 - 6) In determining conformance with the standards in this Zoning Ordinance, the municipality shall take into consideration the publication titled "Small Business Guide to Secondary Containment" and other references.
- Q. Standards for Aboveground Storage and Use Areas for Hazardous Substances and Polluting Materials:
- 1) Secondary containment, for above ground areas where hazardous and polluting materials are stored or used, shall be provided. Secondary containment shall be sufficient to store the substance for the maximum anticipated period of time necessary for the recovery of any released substance.
 - 2) Outdoor storage of hazardous substances and polluting materials shall be prohibited except in product-tight containers which are protected from weather, leakage, accidental damage and vandalism.
 - 3) Secondary containment structures such as out buildings, storage rooms, sheds and pole barns, shall not have floor drains which outlet to soils, groundwater, or nearby drains or rivers.
 - 4) Areas and facilities for loading and unloading of hazardous substances and polluting materials, as well as areas where such materials are handled and used, shall be designed and constructed to prevent discharge or runoff to floor drains, rivers, lakes, wetlands, groundwater and soils.
- R. Standards for Underground Storage Tanks when Permitted:
- 1) Existing and new underground storage tanks shall be registered with the authorized state agency in accordance with the requirements of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Police Fire Marshal Division.
 - 2) Installation, operation, maintenance, closure and removal of underground storage tanks shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Leak detection, corrosion protection, spill prevention and overflow protection requirements shall be met. Records of monthly monitoring or inventory control must be retained and available for review by government officials.
 - 3) Out-of-service abandoned underground tanks shall be emptied and removed from the ground in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

12.05 CONFORMITY TO APPROVED SITE PLANS

Following final approval of a site plan by the Zoning Administrator or the Planning Commission, the applicant shall construct the site plan improvements in complete conformity with the approved plan. Failure to do so is a violation of this ordinance and subject to the sanctions of [Article 22](#) Violations.

12.06 MODIFICATIONS TO APPROVED SITE PLANS

If the Zoning Administrator finds that a proposed amendment to an approved site plan does not qualify for administrative approval as defined in [Section 12.10](#), Zoning Administrative Approval, he or she shall forward the to the Planning Commission for consideration.

12.07 FAILURE TO INITIATE CONSTRUCTION

- A. Failure to initiate construction of an approved site plan within 365 days of approval shall require the applicant to appear before the Planning Commission and demonstrate why the approval should not be revoked. After a hearing the Planning Commission may revoke a previously approved site plan for property on which no physical development activity has occurred upon making written findings that one or more of the following circumstances exist:
 - 1) An error in the original approval is discovered either because of inaccurate information supplied by the applicant or administrative error by a staff member or other agency;
 - 2) Zoning regulations applicable to the project have been changed and the previously approved site plan does not comply with them;
 - 3) A change in state law, local charter, or other local ordinance affecting the previous approval has occurred;
 - 4) Pollution, impairment or destruction of the environment or to another legally protected public interest would occur if the project were to be constructed as previously approved.
- B. Thirty days prior to expiration of an approved site plan, an applicant may make application for a one-year extension of the site plan at no fee. The applicant shall explain in writing why the development has not proceeded, what the current time frame is and why an extension should be granted. If the original approval of the site plan was by the Planning Commission, the applicant shall present his/her case in person or by representative at the next meeting of the Planning Commission.
- C. Revocation of an approved site plan shall be communicated in writing by certified mail to the property owner.
- D. Any subsequent re-submittal shall be processed as a new request with new fees.

12.08 PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

In the interest of ensuring compliance with the Zoning Ordinance provisions, protecting the natural resources and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township and future users or inhabitants of an area for which a site plan for a proposed use has been submitted, the Planning Commission or Zoning Administrator may require the applicant to deposit a performance guarantee as set forth herein. In accordance with MCL 1125.3505, the purpose of the performance guarantee is to ensure the completion of improvements connected with the proposed use as required by this Ordinance, including, but not limited to, roadways, lighting, utilities, sidewalks, drainage, fences, screens, walls and landscaping.

- A. Performance guarantee as used herein shall mean a cash deposit, certified check or irrevocable bank letter of credit in the amount of 125% of the estimated cost of the improvements to be made as determined by the applicant and verified by the Zoning Administrator.
- B. Where the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission requires a performance guarantee, said performance guarantee shall be deposited with the Treasurer prior to the issuance of a Land Use Permit for the development and use of the land. Upon the deposit of the performance guarantee the Township shall deposit the performance guarantee, if in the form of cash deposit or certified check, in an interest bearing escrow account.
- C. An approved site plan shall also prescribe the period of time within which the improvements for which the performance guarantee has been required are to be completed. The period will begin from the date of the issuance of the Land Use Permit.

- D. In the event the performance guarantee deposited is a cash deposit or certified check, the township shall rebate to the applicant fifty (50) percent of the deposited funds when sixty (60) per cent of the required improvements are completed as confirmed by the Zoning Administrator, and the remaining fifty (50) percent of the deposited funds when one hundred (100) percent of the required improvements are completed as confirmed by the Zoning Administrator.
- E. In the event the applicant defaults in making the improvements for which the performance guarantee was required within the time period established by the Township, the Township shall have the right to use the performance guarantee deposited and any interest earned thereon to complete the improvements through contract or otherwise, including specifically the right to enter upon the subject property to make improvements. If the performance guarantee is not sufficient to allow the Township to complete the improvements for which it was posted, the applicant shall be required to pay the township the amounts by which the costs of completing the improvements exceeds the amount of the performance guarantee deposited. Should the Township use the performance guarantee or a portion thereof, to complete the required improvements, any amounts remaining after said completion shall be applied first to the Township administrative costs in completing the improvement with any balance remaining being refunded to the applicant. If the applicant has been required to post a performance guarantee or bond with another governmental agency other than the Township to ensure completion of an improvement associated with the proposed use before the Township's conditional approval, the applicant shall not be required to deposit with the township a performance guarantee for that specific improvement. At the time the performance guarantee is deposited with the township and before the issuance of a Land Use Permit, the applicant shall enter an agreement incorporating the provisions hereof with the township regarding the performance guarantee.

12.09 AS-BUILT SITE PLAN

Upon completion of the installation of required improvements as shown on the approved site plan, including changes and/or amendments, the property owner shall submit to the Zoning Administrator 3 copies of an "as built" site plan, certified by the engineer or surveyor, at least one week prior to the anticipated occupancy of any building. The Zoning Administrator shall circulate the "as built" plans among the appropriate departments for review to insure conformity with the approved site plan and other township requirements. Once each department has approved the "as built" plans the Zoning Administrator may make the final inspection and issue the Occupancy Permit.

12.10 ZONING ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

- A. The Zoning Administrator shall review and approve, approve with conditions or deny the following site plans without their submission to the Planning Commission except where the applicant so requests:
 - 1) Accessory uses or buildings not to exceed 400 square feet, incidental to a conforming existing use where said use does not require any variance and where said site plan conforms with all requirements of this Ordinance.
 - 2) Expansion and/or addition to an existing conforming use where said site plan conforms with all requirements of this Ordinance and does not increase the size of the existing or proposed structure by more than 1000 square feet or does not increase the existing or proposed use by more than ten (10) percent, whichever is less.
 - 3) A change in the internal floor plan which does not increase the intensity of use or parking requirements.
 - 4) Movement of a building, drive, road or parking by up to twenty (20) feet during construction due to unanticipated and documented constraint, to improve safety or to preserve natural features. The site plan shall still meet all required setbacks and other standards of this Ordinance.
 - 5) An existing building and site to be re-occupied by a use permitted in the subject zoning district where the new use will not require significant changes in the existing site facilities.
 - 6) Expansion and alterations of landscaping areas, sidewalks, bike paths and fences consistent with this Ordinance.
 - 7) Relocation of a trash receptacle and/or installation of screening.
 - 8) Relocation or replacement of a sign meeting the dimensional and locational standards.
 - 9) Modifications to upgrade a building to state barrier free design.
 - 10) Increases in off-street parking areas, parking buildings and/or structures, increases in loading/unloading spaces in commercial and industrial Zoning Districts, and landscape

- improvements as required by this Ordinance.
- 11) Alterations to the off-street parking layout or installation of pavement and curbing improvements provided that the total number of spaces remains constant and meets, or if necessary has been modified to meet, the ordinance requirements for the building and/or use.
 - 12) Changes to lighting consistent with this Ordinance.
 - 13) Situations similar to the above.
- B. The Zoning Administrator shall apply all applicable standards and procedures of this Ordinance in approving, conditionally approving or denying site plans and determine if the submittal shall comply with **Section 12.03 (F)**, Required Information, or Section 12.12, Plot Plans in Lieu of a Site Plan below.
- C. The applicant shall submit the Township application and established fee.
- D. The Zoning Administrator shall make a report of all administrative approvals to the Planning Commission.

12.11 APPEALS OF FINAL SITE PLANS

- A. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Planning Commission or Zoning Administrator in granting or denying approval of a final site plan may appeal the decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The appeal must be filed within seven (7) days of the decision and shall state the factual basis for the appeal. An appeal shall stay action on the issuance of any permit pursuant to an approved site plan.
- B. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall review the record of action taken on the final site plan and shall determine whether the record supports the action taken. No new evidence shall be presented. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall approve the final site plan if the requirements of this Section and other applicable ordinance requirements are met. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall make written findings in support of its opinion on the appeal.

12.12 PLOT PLANS IN LIEU OF A SITE PLAN

- A. The Zoning Administrator may accept plot plan in specific instances upon determining a complete site plan is not considered essential to ensure compliance with the intent and standards of this Ordinance.
- B. A plot plan may be permitted for the following uses, when permitted in the zoning district:
- 1) Group Day Care Homes.
 - 2) Essential Services Buildings.
 - 3) Home Occupations.
 - 4) Two-family Dwellings.
 - 5) Accessory Open Air Businesses.
 - 6) Accessory Buildings and Structures.
 - 7) Outdoor Recreational Facilities.
 - 8) Temporary Uses and Seasonal Sales.
 - 9) Bed and Breakfast Establishments.
 - 10) Dog Kennels
- C. Plot plan submittals shall include the following:
- 1) Application form and fee.
 - 2) Name, address and phone number of the applicant.
 - 3) North arrow.
 - 4) Legal description of the property.
 - 5) A plan drawn to scale.
 - 6) Property lines and dimensions.
 - 7) Existing and proposed parking including the number of spaces provided and the number required according to **Article 9**, Off Street Paring and Loading. If changes are made to the parking area, a detail of the pavement, storm water runoff calculations and a description of detentions methods shall be provided.
 - 8) Details of any existing, new, or changes to driveways.

- 9) Location and details of existing or proposed signage.
- 10) General illustration of existing or proposed landscaping.
- 11) Layout of existing or proposed utilities.
- 12) Layout of existing or proposed drainage.
- 13) Floor plan of the building under consideration and building elevations if applicable.
- 14) Any other items as requested by the Zoning Administrator.

ARTICLE 13 - SPECIAL USES

13.01 PURPOSE

This Ordinance divides the Township into districts in which specific uses are permitted which are mutually compatible. In addition, there may be certain other uses which may be appropriate to include in a district due to the specific circumstances surrounding the use, the impact on neighboring uses and public facilities. Such uses, because of their particular location or the particular nature of the service offered, may be established in a district through a special use permit.

13.02 AUTHORITY TO GRANT PERMITS

The Planning Commission has the authority to approve, deny or approve with conditions special use permits in accordance with this Ordinance. If approved or conditionally approved by the Planning Commission, the Zoning Administrator shall issue special use permits.

13.03 APPLICATION AND FEE

Application for any special use permit permissible under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be made to the Zoning Administrator by filing a completed special use permit application form, including all required data, exhibits and information, and depositing the required minimum fee. Such application shall be accompanied by the minimum fee as established from time to time by the Township Board. No part of such fee shall be refundable to the Applicant.

If an application of a complex nature is received, the Zoning Administrator may determine that the application requires the assistance of expert(s) resulting in additional costs. Upon the Zoning Administrator's determination that expert review is required requiring additional fees, review of the application shall stop until the applicant has paid a minimum additional fee of up to two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars. The applicant shall deposit the additional fee with Whitewater Township which shall keep an accurate accounting of the funds in a separate account. If the applicant does not deposit the required amount, no further action on the application shall be taken and it will be deemed denied without prejudice. In consultation with the Township Board, the Zoning Administrator shall use the additional fee to contact and select necessary experts or consultants, receive a work proposal and estimate from the experts on their fees and costs for the application, and for the services of the expert(s) or consultant(s) (i.e., legal opinions or studies).

At the next meeting of the Planning Commission, or prior to the next meeting of the Planning Commission the Zoning Administrator in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Commission, shall: a) establish a budget for the services of the expert(s), meeting costs, zoning administration expenses; and b) send an invoice to the applicant for the amount of the budget established with a request the applicant notify the township within ten (10) days, in writing, that he will withdraw the application, or will proceed and pay the balance of the additional fees based on the budget.

The applicant shall deposit the additional fee with the Township which shall keep an accurate accounting of the funds in the same account. If the applicant does not deposit the required amount, no further action on the application shall be taken and it will be deemed denied without prejudice. The Planning Commission shall use the additional fee to pay the services of the expert(s), meeting costs, and zoning administration expenses.

During the application process, the Planning Commission may from time-to-time modify the budget for such costs. Any additional actual costs incurred in processing such application shall be paid before a permit is issued and may be required to be payable in increments as review of the application progresses. The additional costs shall be for no more than the actual costs incurred by the Township processing the application. No part of such actual cost shall be returnable to the applicant. If there are any remaining monies in the Township's account upon conclusion of the application, those monies shall be returned to the Applicant.

The deposit required by this section is in addition to any security required elsewhere in this Ordinance.

13.04 PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE

Applicant(s) may request a meeting with the Zoning Administrator and not more than two (2) members of the Planning Commission before submitting an application. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss special use permit processing procedures, explanation of this Zoning Ordinance, what has been required of similar applications in the past, and to assist the Applicant and Township with understanding of general concepts and design parameters prior to investment in preparation of a site plan or special use permit application. Township officials at this meeting shall not indicate or otherwise commit the Township to any particular action regarding the application.

13.05 INFORMATION REQUIRED IN APPLICATION

- A. The Applicant(s) name(s) and addresses).
- B. A signed affidavit identifying whether the Applicant(s) are the owner of the property, have an ownership interest in the property, or are acting on the behalf of owners of the property. If the Applicant(s) do not own the property, then the signed affidavit must also be approved and signed by the property's owner(s).
- C. The address and a legal description of the property.
- D. A project schedule and development plan.
- E. Land uses and existing structures on the subject parcel and adjoining parcels within 300 feet.
- F. A written statement regarding the project's effects on existing infrastructure, including but not limited to traffic, capacity of roads, schools, existing utilities, the natural environment, and water aquifer.
- G. A detailed site plan as specified in [Article 12](#) et seq. of this Ordinance, unless waived or otherwise determined to be unnecessary by the Planning Commission.

13.06 REVIEW FOR COMPLETENESS

Upon receipt of the special use permit application, the Zoning Administrator will review the application for administrative completeness. If the application is not administratively complete, the Zoning Administrator will return the application to the Applicant(s) with a letter that specifies the additional material(s) required. If the application is deemed administratively complete, the Zoning Administrator and Chair of the Planning Commission shall establish a date to hold a public hearing on the special use permit application.

13.07 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

- A. If the application is administratively complete, the Zoning Administrator shall notify the following persons of the application being considered. This notice must be sent not less than fifteen (15) days before the date of the public hearing. These notices shall be sent to:
 - 1) The Applicant(s).
 - 2) The owner of the property, if different.
 - 3) To all persons to whom real property is assessed within 300 feet of the property that is the subject of the request.
 - 4) To the occupants of all structures within 300 feet of the subject property regardless of whether the property or structure is located in the Township.
 - 5) The public by notification in a newspaper of general circulation in Whitewater Township.
 - 6) The members of the Planning Commission.
 - 7) Utility providers, when requested by a utility or otherwise deemed necessary.
 - 8) Michigan Department of Transportation, if within 300 feet of a state highway.
 - 9) Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) if the proposed Special Use is on property with surface water, wetlands, groundwater, or otherwise requires a permit from EGLE.
- B. Failure of the Zoning Administrator to notify those persons and entities listed in Subsection A above, shall not be grounds to challenge the validity of the proposed special use permit, provided notice has been given in accordance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The notice shall include:

- 1) A description of the nature of the special use permit being requested.
 - 2) The property(-ies) for which the request has been made. A listing of all existing street addresses within the property(-ies) subject of the Special Use (i.e., street addresses do not need to be created and listed if no such addresses currently exist and another means of identification may be used.)
 - 3) Where the application documents can be viewed prior to the date of its consideration.
 - 4) When and where written comments will be received concerning the request.
 - 5) The date, time and location of the public hearing where the request will be considered.
 - 6) The address at which written comments may be directed prior to Township consideration.
 - 7) For members of the Planning Commission only, a complete copy of the special use permit application and supporting documents in the record.
- C. Any person or entity that receives notice pursuant to this section of this Ordinance may choose to submit material to the Planning Commission. Such submissions shall be delivered to the Township at or before the hearing on the issue. Such submissions shall be considered advice to the Planning Commission. The applicant may wish to review an application with Grand Traverse County, Grand Traverse Band, public utilities, EGLE, road agencies, and other governing authorities having jurisdiction over the proposed special use prior to the hearing, or prior to submitting the application to the Commission.

13.08 HEARING AND DECISION

The Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the special use permit application to receive input from the general public. Anyone who receives notice pursuant to [Section 13.07](#) may choose to submit material to the Planning Commission. Such submissions shall be delivered to the Township at or before the public hearing. Such submissions shall be considered advice to the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission shall either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application. The decision shall be in writing and clearly state the reasons for the decision. At a minimum the record of the decision shall include:

- A. A summary of public comments made at the hearing;
- B. Formal finding of facts;
- C. The conclusions derived from the facts (reasons for the decision);
- D. The decision; and
- E. A listing of any conditions upon which issuing a permit is issued.

13.09 SPECIAL USE PERMIT STANDARDS

- A. In addition to the standards established for specific uses herein, an application for a special use permit shall be reviewed for compliance with site plan review standards in [Article 12](#) of this Ordinance. The Planning Commission may impose reasonable conditions upon a special use permit.
- B. No special use permit shall be approved unless all of the following standards are met. Each application shall be reviewed for the purpose of determining that the proposed Special Use shall:
 - 1) Be designed, constructed, operated and maintained so as to be harmonious and compatible with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity, and that the use will not change the essential character of the area in which it is proposed.
 - 2) Be adequately served by essential public facilities and services such as highways, streets, fire and safety, drainage, refuse disposal, water and sewage treatment, etc.
 - 3) Not create excessive additional public costs for essential public services or facilities.
 - 4) Not involve activities, processes, materials, equipment or conditions that will be detrimental to any persons, property, or the public from the traffic, noise, smoke, vibration, fumes, glare, odors, etc.
 - 5) Be sufficiently designed to maintain adequate provision for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of those proposing the special use, residents and adjoining landowners and the community as a whole.
 - 6) Be consistent with the intent of this Zoning Ordinance and the Master Plan.

- 7) Not create or substantially add to traffic hazards.
- 8) Not have significant adverse impacts to environmental, ecological, or natural resources.
- 9) Be in compliance with the requirements of the applicable local, county, state, and federal laws or regulations.
- 10) Not have significant adverse impacts on adjoining properties, or to allowed or established uses.

13.10 SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT CONDITIONS

Special Land Use Permits can be granted with conditions imposed by the Planning Commission consistent with MCL 125.3504 (4). Any conditions, limitations or requirements upon which approval is based shall be based upon findings of fact and be:

- A. Reasonable and designed to protect natural resources, the health, safety and welfare of the public;
- B. Relevant to the social and economic well-being of the owners and occupants of the lot in question, of the area adjacent thereto and of the community as a whole;
- C. Related to the purposes which are affected by the proposed use or activity;
- D. Consistent with the intent and purpose of this Ordinance, generally and specifically, for the respective zoning district;
- E. Designed to ensure compatibility with adjacent uses of land and the natural environment; and the proposed special use or activity will be designed to ensure compatibility with public services and facilities.

13.11 RECORD OF SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT

Following approval of a SUP the Zoning Administrator shall generate a report incorporating the approved findings, conditions, and any applicable restrictions. This report shall be signed by the applicant and the Chair or Secretary of the Planning Commission and the applicant. A copy of the signed report will be provided to the applicant and retained in the township's files.

A notice of the special use permit shall be recorded with a property description with the Grand Traverse County Register of Deeds. The applicant shall provide proof of recording to the Township. The application and all other information relating to the special use permit shall be filed with the Township by the Zoning Administrator.

13.12 SECURITY REQUIREMENT

To ensure compliance with relevant sections of the Zoning Ordinance, site plan, and any special use permit conditions, limitations or requirements imposed by the Planning Commission as necessary to protect natural resources or the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township and future users or inhabitants of the proposed project or project area, in addition to action 25.16 Site Plan Performance Guarantee the Planning Commission, may require a cash deposit, certified check, irrevocable bank letter of credit or surety bond in an amount and under the conditions permitted by law. Such security shall be deposited with the Township at the time of the issuance of the special use permit authorizing the commencement of such project. Where the project will take more than ninety (90) days to be completed, the Planning Commission may authorize a rebate of any cash deposit in reasonable proportion to the ratio of the work completed as the work progresses. Such security shall not exceed the estimated cost of the required conditions, limitations, requirements for which the security is designed to ensure compliance.

13.13 AMENDMENT OF SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Minor amendments are those which are determined by the Zoning Administrator to have no foreseeable effect beyond property receiving a special use permit such as minor changes in the location of buildings, the alignment of utilities, and the alignment of interior roadways. Minor amendments for good cause may be authorized by the Zoning Administrator provided that no such changes shall increase the size or height of structures, reduce the efficiency of public facilities serving the property, reduce usable open space, or encroach on natural features proposed by the plan to be protected.

Any amendment not qualifying as a minor amendment as determined by the Zoning Administrator shall be considered a major amendment and must be approved by the Planning Commission according to the procedures authorized by this Article for approval of a condominium development.

Major amendments to special use permits shall be handled in the same manner as the initial special use permit application. Minor special use permit amendments shall be reviewed by the Zoning Administrator. Major special use permit amendments, requests falling outside the scope of the Zoning Administrator's authority, or any item the Zoning Administrator deems necessary shall be presented to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

13.14 TRANSFER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A special use permit, with any and all associated benefits, conditions and required security shall run with the land and shall be binding on the landowner, and his or her successors, heirs and assigns. The responsibility for effecting the transfer of required security shall be the original landowner (or their heir(s) if the original landowner is deceased), who shall request a return of their required security, if any, from the Township Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall contact the new property owner to see if they wish to continue the authorized special use permit by providing the security requirement. Upon the new property owner providing the Township the required security or an affirmative statement they wish to rescind the special use permit, the Zoning Administrator shall return the required security provided by the original property owner to the original property owner.

13.15 CONSTRUCTION CODE PERMITS

A special use permit shall be required prior to the issuance of a building permit from the Grand Traverse County Building Department pursuant the then-applicable construction code pursuant to the State Construction Code Act.

A special use permit shall be valid for as long as the approved special use continues in accordance with the terms and conditions of the approved permit. The special use permit will expire on the occurrence of one or more of the following conditions:

- A. If replaced or superseded by a subsequent special use permit.
- B. If replaced or superseded by a permitted use.
- C. If the applicant requests the rescinding of the special use permit.
- D. If the use is discontinued, relocated, or vacated for a period of one (1) year. Notice of the expiration shall be given to the property owner in writing.
- E. If the construction or use has not commenced and proceeded meaningfully toward completion within one (1) year of issuance, the special use permit.

13.16 VIOLATION OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Any violation of the terms, conditions or limitations of a special use permit shall be cause for revocation or suspension of the special use permit. The Planning Commission may either revoke or suspend, pending correction of the violation, any special use permit. The act to revoke or suspend the special use permit shall occur after giving notice to the permit holder, specifying the violation(s) alleged to exist and when a hearing will be held on the matter. The notice shall be delivered by registered mail. Any interested party may appear in person or by attorney at the hearing. The act to revoke or suspend the special use permit shall occur after or at the hearing on the matter. Before revoking or suspending the permit the Zoning Administrator shall make a finding that a material violation of the special use permit exists and shall provide written notice to the applicant and the landowner of record, if different parties. The permit holder shall be given a reasonable opportunity to correct the violation(s).

13.17 ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF SPECIAL USES.

- A. Bed and Breakfast Establishments.
 - 1) **Statement of Intent.** It is the intent of this Section to establish reasonable standards for Bed and Breakfast Establishments to assure that:

- a. The property is suitable for transient lodging facilities.
 - b. The use is compatible with other uses in the residential and agricultural districts.
 - c. Residential and agricultural lands shall not be subject to increased trespass.
 - d. The impact of the establishment is no greater than that of a private home with house guests.
- 2) **Minimum Requirements.** The following requirements for Bed and Breakfast Establishments together with any other applicable requirements of this Ordinance shall be complied with:
- a. The minimum lot size shall be one (1) acre.
 - b. Off-street parking shall be provided (one space per room). Vehicle parking is prohibited between the front of the building and public right-of-way.
 - c. One non-illuminated sign, identifying the establishment, not to exceed four (4) square feet in area and not closer to the street line than fifteen (15) feet shall be allowed.
 - d. Such Bed and Breakfast Establishments shall not be located less than fifteen hundred (1500) feet apart.
 - e. The residence shall be the principal dwelling unit on the property and shall be owner-occupied at all times.
 - f. The residence shall have at least two (2) exits to the outdoors.
 - g. Not more than three (3) sleeping rooms in the residence may be used for rental purposes.
 - h. Not more than eight (8) overnight guests may be accommodated at any time.
 - i. The rooms utilized for sleeping shall be a part of the primary residential use and not specifically constructed for rental purposes.
 - j. The rental sleeping rooms shall have a minimum size of one hundred (100) square feet for each two occupants with an additional thirty (30) square feet for each occupant to a maximum of four (4) occupants per room.
 - k. Proof of evaluation of the well and septic system by the Health Department and conformance to the agency's requirements shall be supplied by the owner/occupant.
 - l. The Planning Commission shall require that a floor plan drawn to an architectural scale of not less than 1/8 inch = 1 foot be on file with the Fire Department.
 - m. Each owner/operator of a Bed and Breakfast Establishment shall keep a guest registry which shall be available for inspection by the Zoning Administrator, police and fire officials during normal business hours.
 - n. The length of stay for each guest shall not exceed seven (7) days within any thirty (30) day period.
 - o. In the event that the Planning Commission determines that noise generation may be disturbing to neighbors, or that the location of the establishment is in an area where trespass onto adjacent properties is likely to occur, then the Planning Commission may require that fencing and/or a planting buffer be constructed and maintained.
 - p. Rental of snowmobiles, ATVs or similar vehicles, boats and other marine equipment, in conjunction with the operation of the establishment shall be prohibited.
 - q. A special use permit shall not be granted if the essential character of a lot or structure within a residential or agricultural district, in terms of use, traffic generation or appearance will be changed substantially by the occurrence of the bed and breakfast use.

B. Sexually Oriented Businesses.

- 1) **Intent:** Sexually oriented businesses require special supervision in order to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the patrons of such business as well as the citizens of the communities where they are located.

There is convincing documented evidence that sexually oriented businesses, because of their nature, have a deleterious effect on both the existing businesses around them and the surrounding residential areas adjacent to them, causing increased crime and downgrading of property values.

It is recognized that sexually oriented businesses, due to their nature, have serious objectionable characteristics, particularly when they are located in close proximity to each other, thereby contributing to urban blight and downgrading the quality of life in the adjacent area.

The Township of Whitewater desires to prevent these adverse affects and thereby protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizenry, preserve the property values and character of surrounding neighborhoods and deter the spread of urban blight.

It is not the intent of this Ordinance to suppress any activity protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or the Michigan Constitution, but to enact a content neutral Ordinance which addresses the adverse secondary effects of sexually oriented businesses.

It is not the intent of the Township of Whitewater to condone or legitimize the distribution of the obscene materials, and the Township of Whitewater recognizes that state and federal law prohibits the distribution of obscene materials and expects and encourages state enforcement officials to enforce state and federal obscenity statutes against any such illegal activities within the Township of Whitewater.

- 2) **Purpose:** It is the purpose of this ordinance to regulate sexually oriented businesses and related activities to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Township, and to establish reasonable and uniform regulations to prevent the deleterious location and concentration of sexually oriented businesses within the Township. The provisions of this Ordinance do not have the purpose of imposing a limitation or restriction on the content of any communicative material, including sexually oriented materials. Similarly, it is not the intent of this Ordinance to restrict or deny access by adults to sexually oriented materials protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, or to deny access by the distributors and exhibitors of sexually oriented entertainment to their intended market. Neither is it the intent of this Ordinance to condone or legitimize the distribution of obscene materials.

Note -

- 3) **SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:** In addition to the requirement for Site Plan Review **Article 12.**
- It shall be unlawful for a person to operate a sexually oriented business without a valid Special Use Permit issued by the Planning Commission.
 - An application for a permit must be made on a form provided by the Township of Whitewater. The Township of Whitewater must provide the application. A sketch or diagram showing the configuration of the premises, including a statement of display area occupied by the business, must accompany the application. This sketch or diagram need not be professionally prepared if the building is already established in the township, but it must be drawn to a designated scale or drawn with marked dimensions of the interior of the premises to an accuracy of plus or minus six (6) inches.
 - Applications for a permit shall be made and delivered to the Zoning Administrator. The applicant shall be required to give the following information on the application form:
 - The name, street address, and mailing address, if different, and driver's license number of the applicant if he/she has such a driver's license.
 - The name, street address, and mailing address, if different, of the owner(s), if different.
 - The name under which the establishment is to be operated and a general description of the services to be provided.
 - The telephone number of the establishment or, if unavailable, the applicant's.
 - The address and legal description of the tract of land on which the establishment is to be located.
 - All information necessary to answer the requirements in subsection 4 below.
 - The fact that a person possesses other types of state or county permits and/or licenses does not exempt him/her from the requirement of obtaining a Special Land Use Permit to run a sexually oriented business from the Township of Whitewater.
 - The application shall be accompanied by the following:
 - Payment of the application fee in full;
 - Proof of current fee simple ownership of the tract of land on which the establishment is to be situated in the form of a copy of the recorded deed, land contract, or other instrument of conveyance;
 - The lease, purchase contract, purchase option contract, lease option contract or other document(s) evidencing the legally enforceable right of the ownership or proposed by owners of the establishment to have or obtain the use and possession of the tract or portion thereof that is to be used for the

establishment for the purpose of the operation of the establishment, if the persons identified as the fee simple owners(s) of the subject tract of land are not also the owners of the establishment.

- A letter from the owner acknowledging the building is to be used for a Sexually Oriented Business, if the applicant is not in fact the owner of the building or tract of land.
- Proof of application to Grand Traverse County Health Department, Construction Code, Drain Commission or Department of Environmental Quality or other agency for the required permits, if applicable.
- The application shall contain a notarized statement under oath that:
 - The applicant has personal knowledge of the information contained in the application and that the information contained therein and furnished therewith is true and correct; and
 - The applicant has read the provisions of **Article 12** (Site Plan Review).

4) ISSUANCE OF PERMIT:

- The Planning Commission shall approve the issuance of a Special Land Use Permit so long as the applicant conforms to all the terms and conditions of this Zoning Ordinance specifically **Article 12** (Site Plan Review). The Planning Commission shall issue a permit within Ninety (90) days after receipt of a complete application unless they find one or more of the following to be true:
 - An applicant is under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - An applicant is overdue in his payment of taxes, fines, or penalties assessed against him or imposed upon him in relation to a sexually oriented business.
 - An applicant has failed to provide information required by this Ordinance or has falsely answered a question or request for information on the application form.
 - An applicant who has been denied a permit by the township to operate a sexually oriented business within the preceding twenty-four (24) months, or whose permit to operate a sexually oriented business has been revoked within the preceding twenty-four (24) months.
 - The permit fee required by this Ordinance has not been paid.
 - The proposed establishment is in violation of or is not in compliance with any of the provisions of the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance.
 - An applicant has been convicted of any of the following criminal offenses in any jurisdiction:
 - prostitution, procuring a prostitute, or solicitation of a prostitute;
 - sale, distribution or display of obscene material;
 - soliciting, procuring or aiding and abetting an unlawful sexual performance by a minor;
 - possession, sale or distribution of child pornography;
 - public lewdness;
 - indecent exposure;
 - indecent conduct with a child;
 - sexual assault or rape;
 - incest;
 - sexual solicitation of a child.

The applicant shall certify, as a part of the application, that he/she has not been convicted of any one or more of the foregoing criminal offenses.

- The permit, if granted, shall state on its face the name of the person or persons to whom it is granted, and the address of the sexually oriented business. The permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place at or near the entrance to the sexually oriented business so that it may be easily read at any time.
- In the event that the Planning Commission determines that an applicant is not eligible for a permit, the applicant shall be given notice in writing of the reasons for the denial within sixty (60) days of the receipt of a complete application to the Zoning Administrator. The applicant shall have 10 days from the date of the notice to correct the grounds for denial. If the corrections are not made and notice of the corrections are not received in writing to the Township within the 10 days then the denial shall be deemed to be in effect.
- An applicant may appeal the decision of the Planning Commission regarding a denial to the Whitewater Township Zoning Board of Appeals by filing a written

- notice of appeal within twenty-one (21) days after the applicant is provided with notice of the Planning Commission's decision.
- The Zoning Administrator may also take all steps necessary to revoke a permit if he/she determines that a permittee gave false or misleading information in the material submitted during the application process.
- 5) **Inspection:** An applicant or permittee shall allow the Township Zoning Administrator or his appointed representative to inspect the premises of a sexually oriented business for the purpose of insuring compliance with the law at any time it is occupied or open for business.
 - 6) **Fees:** An annual fee for a sexually oriented business permit will be assessed. This fee is to be used to pay for the cost of the administration and enforcement of this ordinance. The Township Board will determine this annual fee.
 - 7) **Action To Revoke Permit:** The Whitewater Township Board shall take enforcement action, including the commencement of suit seeking revocation of a permit, if any of the following occurs:
 - a. A permittee gave false or materially misleading information in the application process.
 - b. A permittee has been convicted of using and/or allowing the use of controlled substances within the establishment.
 - c. A permittee has been convicted of prostitution or other activity fostering, promoting or otherwise facilitation prostitution, within the establishment or elsewhere.
 - d. A permittee or employee of the sexually oriented business has been convicted of any crime of a sexual nature or involving sexual conduct or the solicitation thereof within the establishment or elsewhere.
 - e. A permittee has been convicted of knowingly allowing a person under eighteen (18) years of age to enter the establishment.
 - f. There has been a transfer of ownership or control of an establishment without the prior consent of the Planning Commission, as required herein.
 - 8) **Transfer Of Permit:** A permittee shall not transfer his permit to another without prior approval of the Planning Commission, nor shall a permittee operate a sexually oriented business under the authority of a permit at any place other than the address designated in the application. An application must be completed by the proposed permittee prior to the transfer and reviewed by the Planning Commission for continued compliance with this Article.
 - 9) **Location Restrictions:**
 - a. A sexually oriented business may not be operated within 750 feet of:
 1. a church, synagogue or regular place of religious worship;
 2. a public or private elementary or secondary school;
 3. a boundary of any residential zoned district or any residential structure within or without a zoned area;
 4. a boundary of a public park;
 5. a boundary of a licensed day-care center; and/or
 6. another sexually oriented business.
 - b. A sexually oriented business may not be operated in the same building, structure, or portion thereof, containing another sexually oriented business.
 - c. For the purpose of this Ordinance, measurement shall be made in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures or objects, from the nearest portion of the building or structure used as a part of the premises where a sexually oriented business is conducted to the nearest property line of the premises of a church, synagogue, regular place of worship, or public or private elementary or secondary school, or to the nearest boundary of an affected public park, residential district, or licensed day-care center or residential structure in a non-residential district.
 - d. For purposes of this Subsection, the distance between any two sexually oriented businesses shall be made from the closest roofline of the structure in which each business is located.
 - 10) **Regulations Pertaining to Adult Entertainment Establishments:**
 - a. A person who operates or causes to be operated an adult entertainment establishment which presents live entertainment for the enjoyment of an audience which has paid or promised to pay an admission fee and which depicts specified sexual activities or

displays specified anatomical areas, shall comply with the following requirements.

- Upon application for a sexually oriented business permit, the application shall be accompanied by a diagram of the premises showing a plan thereof specifying the location of one or more manager's stations and the location of all overhead lighting fixtures (indicating the type of illumination intensity of each such fixture) and designating any portion of the premises in excess of thirty (30) square feet of floor area. The diagram shall also designate the place at which the permit will be conspicuously posted, if granted. A professionally prepared diagram in the nature of an engineer's or architect's blueprint shall not be required, however, each diagram shall be oriented to the north or to some designated street or object and shall be drawn to a designated scale or with marked dimensions sufficient to show the various internal dimensions of all areas of the interior of the premises.
- The application shall be sworn to be true and correct by the applicant.
- No alteration in the configuration or location of a manager's station may be made without the prior approval of the Township Zoning Administrator.
- It is the duty of the owners and operator of the premises to ensure that at least one employee is on duty and situated in each manager's station at all times that any patron is present inside the premises.
- The interior of the premises shall be configured in such a manner that there is an unobstructed view from a manager's station of every area of the premises to which any patron is permitted access for any purpose excluding restrooms. Restrooms may not contain video reproduction equipment. If the premises has two or more manager's stations designated, then the interior of the premises shall be configured in such a manner that there is an unobstructed view of each area of the premises to which any patron is permitted access for any purpose from at least one of the manager's stations. The view required in this subsection must be by direct line of sight from the manager's station.
- It shall be the duty of the owners and operator, and it shall also be the duty of any agents and employees present in the premises to ensure that the view area specified in this Subsection remains unobstructed by any doors, walls, merchandise, display racks or other materials at all times, and to ensure that no patron is permitted access to any area of the premises which has been designated as an area in which patrons will not be permitted in the application filed pursuant to this Subsection.
- The premises shall be equipped with overhead lighting fixtures of sufficient intensity to illuminate every place to which patrons are permitted access at an illumination of not less than one (1.) foot-candle as measured at the floor level.
- It shall be the duty of the owners and operator and it shall also be the duty of any agents and employees present in the premises to ensure that the illumination described above is maintained at all times that any patron is present in the premises.
- The premises shall meet all barrier free requirements and building code requirements imposed by the County Building and Inspections Department.

11) Exterior Portions of Sexually Oriented Businesses:

- a. It shall be unlawful for an owner or operator of a sexually oriented business to allow the merchandise or activities of the establishment to be visible from a point that is outside the establishment.
- b. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of a sexually oriented business to allow the exterior portion of the sexually oriented business to have any words, lettering, photographs, silhouettes, drawing, or pictorial representations of a sexual or explicit manner except to the extent otherwise permitted by the provisions of this Ordinance.
- c. Proposed signage shall not include animated or flashing illumination of any type and otherwise conforms to the requirements of Township Zoning Ordinance **Article 14** (Signs). Proposed signage may contain only the name of the sexually oriented business and shall not include photographs, silhouettes, drawings, or pictorial representations of any type.
- d. All off-street parking areas shall be illuminated during all hours of operation in accordance with **Article 11** (Exterior Lighting Regulations) of the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance and shall otherwise be open to view from the adjacent roadway.
- e. A sexually oriented business may not have outside speakers on the exterior of any buildings or anywhere on the outside of their property.

12) Persons Younger Than Eighteen Prohibited from Entry- Attendant Required:

- a. It shall be unlawful to allow a person who is younger than eighteen (18) years of age to enter the premises of a sexually oriented business at any time that the sexually oriented business is open for business.
- b. It shall be the duty of the operator of each sexually oriented business to ensure that an attendant is stationed at each public entrance to the sexually oriented business at all times during such sexually oriented business's regular business hours. It shall be the duty of the attendant to not allow any person under the age of eighteen (18) years to enter the sexually oriented business. It shall be presumed that an attendant knew a person was under the age of eighteen (18) unless such attendant asked for and was furnished:
 - o a valid operator's commercial operator's or chauffeur's license; or
 - o a valid personal identification certificate reflecting that such person is eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- c. Entrances to the proposed Sexually Oriented Business will be posted on both the exterior and interior walls, clearly visible to the public, indicating in lettering no less than one and one-half inches in height that (a) "No one under the age of eighteen is permitted to enter the premises" and (b) "No alcoholic beverages of any type are permitted within the premises" unless specifically allowed pursuant to a license duly issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

13) General And Specific Requirements:

- a. General requirements: In reviewing an application for special use permit for a sexually oriented business, the Planning Commission shall determine whether the following general standards have been met:
 - o that the applicant has met all the requirements for **Article 12** (Site Plan Review) which pertain to one's application.
 - o that all required information has been provided.
 - o That the proposed use conforms to all specific density and setback regulations, etc. of the zoning district and this Article.
 - o That the plan for the proposed use meets all applicable written and duly promulgated requirements of Whitewater Township for fire and enforcement protection, water supply, sewage disposal or treatment, storm drainage and other public facilities and services.
 - o That the submitted Landscape Plan complies with this Ordinance.
 - o That parking layout will not adversely affect the flow of traffic within the site, or to and from the adjacent streets.
 - o That the outdoor storage of garbage and refuse is contained, screened from view and located so as not to be visible from neighboring properties or the adjacent roadways.
- b. Specific requirements: To operate a sexually oriented business within the boundary of Whitewater Township the following specific requirements must be met and agreed upon by the owner (s), applicant and operators of the sexually oriented business:
 - o Hours of operation shall be limited to 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 - o The proposed business will not have a detrimental impact upon the property values of properties located within 750 feet of such a proposed sexually oriented business.
 - o The proposed sexually oriented business applicant shall have provided an exterior maintenance program to the Township Zoning Administrator, together with its special use permit. The Applicant shall provide for the routine clearing of trash and rubbish from all parking areas and other portions of the premises not less than once-per-week. Continued adherence to such exterior maintenance program shall be a condition to the issuance of any special use permit pursuant to this section.
 - o Persons may not reside in a sexually oriented business establishment. It may be allowed by permit only and based on the issuance of a permit on inspection of living arrangements.
 - o The Planning Commission may impose such additional conditions and safeguards deemed necessary to mitigate negative secondary effect reasonably documented to emanate from sexually oriented businesses for the protection of the general welfare and individual property rights of affected property owners, and for insuring that the intent and objectives of this Ordinance will be observed. The breach of any condition, safeguard or requirement shall serve as grounds for revocation of the permit, after written notice and an opportunity to be heard.

- 14) **Exemption:** It is a defense to prosecution under this Ordinance that a person appearing in a state of nudity did so in a modeling class operated:
- a. by a proprietary school, licensed by the State of Michigan, a college, junior college, or university supported entirely or partly by taxation;
 - b. by a private college or university that maintains and operates educational programs in which credits are transferable to a college, junior college, or university supported entirely or partly by taxation.
- 15) **NOTICES:**
- a. Any notice required or permitted to be given by the Township or other agency under this Ordinance to any applicant, operator or owner of an establishment may be given either by prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the most recent
 - b. address as specified in the application for the permit, or transfer Application that has been received by the Township, or any notice of address change that has been received by the Township. Notices mailed as above shall be deemed given upon their deposit in the United States Mail. In the event that any notice given by mail is returned by the postal service, the Township shall cause it to be posted at the principal entrance to the establishment.
 - c. Any notice required or permitted to be given to the Township by any person under this Ordinance shall not be deemed given until and unless it is received in the principal office of the Township.
 - d. It shall be the duty of each owner who is designated on the permit application and each operator to furnish notice to the Township in writing of any change of a residence or mailing address.
- 16) **INJUNCTION:** A person who operates or causes to be operated a sexually oriented business without a valid permit or otherwise violates this Ordinance shall be subject to a suit for injunctive relief and/or revocation of the sexually oriented business permit, as well as fines or other penalties as provided by the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance.

C. Special Use provisions for Major Home Occupations: Minimum Requirements:

- 1) At no time shall the number of vehicles on site impose a negative impact on adjacent uses. Frequent shipments or deliveries by vehicles having more than two drive axles are prohibited.
- 2) The occupation may offer for sale any article or service provided that the sale of any articles or services shall not have a negative impact on the surrounding areas with regard to noise, light, odors, etc.
- 3) Hours of operation shall be stipulated by the Planning Commission.
- 4) Signage size and number(s) shall be determined by the Planning Commission.
- 5) Home Occupations shall only be permitted when endorsed by the property owner (if applicant is not the property owner). All application materials, site/plot plans and final conditions shall be authorized by the property owner.
- 6) Such other conditions as may be determined by the Planning Commission.
- 7) The occupation shall be required to submit an annual permit for administrative review. All annual permits shall be received by the Zoning Administrator by January 15.

In the event the Zoning Administrator determines that the occupation no longer complies with the original approval by the Planning Commission, the applicant will be required to submit a revised application for special use approval to the Planning Commission.

D. Commercial Campgrounds.

- 1) Commercial campgrounds shall only be allowed on parcels of 40 acres or greater.
- 2) All requirements of Public Act 368 of 1978 regulating Campgrounds shall be met.
- 3) Permanent cabins.
- 4) Each dwelling or pad shall be provided water and sanitary service approved by the Grand Traverse County Health Department or have convenient access to approved service building(s).
- 5) The campground shall have access to an all season road, either public or private.
- 6) All campgrounds shall be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment to the greatest possible extent. Buffers or screening may be required.
- 7) Internal road systems shall be a minimum of 20' travel width.
- 8) Permanent residency is prohibited on the property with the exception of one residential home/office to be used and occupied by the campground owner or manager and his/her

- immediate family.
- 9) Campsites or structures may be rented by the day, week or an indefinite period of time.
 - 10) No structures or campsites shall be located within 100 feet of a property line.
 - 11) Accessory/service buildings such as storage facilities, restrooms, kitchens, pavilions, etc. shall be allowed.
 - 12) Recreational elements shall not have a negative impact on the surrounding areas with regard to noise, light, odors, etc.
 - 13) As part of the submittal, the applicant shall present a detailed management plan for the campground. The plan shall include continued compliance with the terms of the management plan and the following information:
 - The total number of campsites, cabins and accessory buildings proposed.
 - The maximum permitted duration of residency.
 - Policies and enforcement procedures to deal with noise, rowdy behavior and similar nuisance activities.
 - The hours and seasons the campground will operate.
 - Disclosure of all recreational elements.
 - 14) Campground cabins shall not exceed 650 square feet of floor area, including covered porches.

ARTICLE 14 - SIGN REGULATION

14.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. Safety. Promote the safety of persons and property by providing that signs:
- 1) Do not create traffic hazards by distracting or confusing motorists, impairing motorists' ability to see pedestrians, other vehicles, obstacles, or to read traffic signs.
 - 2) Do not create a hazard due to collapse, fire, collision, decay or abandonment.
 - 3) Do promote the aesthetics, safety, health, and general welfare and the assurance of protection of adequate light and air within said township by regulation of the posting, displaying, erection, use and maintenance of signs.
- B. Public welfare. Protect the public welfare and enhance the overall appearance and economic value to the landscape and preserve the unique natural environment that distinguishes the township. It is also acknowledged that the township economic well being is heavily dependent upon the resort and tourism industry. This dependence makes the preservation of the environment from unreasonable signage a matter of critical importance to the township.

14.02 APPLICABILITY

This Article shall apply to all persons, firms, partnerships, associations, and corporations owning, occupying or having control or management of any premises located within the Township of Whitewater.

14.03 CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS

In any case where a provision of this Article is found to be in conflict with a provision of any Zoning, Building, Housing, Fire, Safety or Health Article or Ordinance or Code of Whitewater Township existing on the effective date of this Article, the provision which establishes the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people shall prevail. In any case where a provision of any other Article, Ordinance or Code of Whitewater Township existing on the effective date of this Article establishes a lower standard for the promotion and protection of the people, the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to prevail, and such other Articles, Ordinances or Codes are hereby declared to be repealed to the extent that they may be found in conflict with this Article.

Notes

14.04 SIGNS PERMITTED - SINGLE-FAMILY AND TWO-FAMILY STRUCTURES

- A. On premises used or occupied as a single-family or two-family residence there shall be permitted one (1) indirectly illuminated wall sign not to exceed four (4) square foot in surface display area.
- B. On single-family or two-family development premises (subdivisions, condominiums, or apartment developments) there shall be permitted one (1) indirectly illuminated development entry wall sign or free standing sign at each entrance of a subdivision. Free standing signs shall be set back so that the face of the sign is not less than fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way and shall not exceed five (5) feet in height. The surface display area of such sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.

14.05 SIGNS PERMITTED - MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES

On multiple-family residence premises there shall be permitted indirectly illuminated on-premise wall sign(s) or on-premise free standing development entry signs(s). The aggregate area of such sign(s) shall not exceed thirty-six (36) square feet of surface display area. Free standing signs shall not exceed five (5) feet in height and shall be set back at least fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way.

14.06 SIGNS PERMITTED - COMMERCIAL PREMISES; OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL PREMISES

A. Individual Development Signs allowed:

- 1) Wall signs. One or more on-premise wall sign(s) with an aggregate surface display area not to exceed one (1) square foot per two (2) foot of building frontage.
- 2) Free standing signs. One (1) on-premises free standing sign, directly or indirectly illuminated, shall be permitted. Corner premises shall be permitted one (1) free-standing on-premises sign on each major street frontage. Such signs may be multi-faced but shall not exceed forty-five (45) square feet in surface display area per face and shall be set back fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way. Pole signs shall have a maximum height of twenty (20) feet.
- 3) Directional signs. Each premise shall be permitted one (1) directional sign located immediately adjacent to each exit, entrance or change of direction of vehicular or pedestrian travel. The sign shall not exceed five (5) feet in height and shall not exceed four (4) square feet per side. The sign may be directly or indirectly illuminated.

B. Multi-Tenant Identification Signs

- 1) One (1) on-premise free-standing sign. The sign may not exceed ten (10) feet in height measured from the grade at the property line or the predominant grade of the property area including berms, and must be set back fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way. Such signs may be multi-faced and may not exceed sixty (60) square feet in surface display area per face.
- 2) One (1) on-premise wall sign per each individual user with an aggregate surface display area not to exceed twenty (20) square feet of surface display area.

14.07 SIGNS PERMITTED - AGRICULTURAL; RECREATIONAL; INSTITUTIONAL PREMISES

- A. **Agricultural Premises:** On agricultural premises there shall be permitted wall or free standing on-premises signs not to exceed sixty (60) square feet in surface display area in the aggregate and no one sign to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area. Such signs shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height. The signs shall be located at the entranceway of a structure or facility on the premises and shall not be placed in the right of way. Temporary signs shall be removed immediately following the end of the appropriate season.
- B. **Recreational and Institutional Premises:** On recreational or institutional premises there shall be permitted a total of five (5) indirectly illuminated wall or free standing on-premises signs not to exceed fifty (50) square feet in surface display area in the aggregate and no one sign to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of surface display area. Such signs shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height. The signs shall be located at the entranceway of a structure or facility on the premises and shall be set back at least twelve (12) feet from the nearest existing right of way.

14.08 TEMPORARY SIGNS

The following temporary signs shall be permitted in accordance with the regulations herein.

- A. Grand Opening Sign: A new business, as part of its start-up phase, may use a temporary sign for up to forty-five (45) days, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
- B. Portable Sign/Banner Sign: One (1) portable sign/banner sign is permitted in the C-1 district per premise at any given time, but in no case shall it remain in place for six (6) non-consecutive fourteen (14) day periods per calendar year, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
- C. Civic and Charity Signs: Permission for civic and charity events may be permitted by the Whitewater Zoning Administrator.

14.09 TEMPORARY OFF-SITE SIGN(S) FOR ADVERTISING THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING AGRITOURISM

- A. Up to four (4) temporary, off-premise, way-finding signs shall be permitted that direct travelers to seasonal sales of agricultural products and related activities. Said signs shall conform with all state

and county regulations and shall be placed on private property with permission from the property owner(s).

- B. Signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet each. Signs shall be removed immediately following the end of the appropriate season.
- C. Temporary Off-Premise Agricultural Signage shall not be counted against the hosting property owners.
- D. All signs shall bear the name, address and telephone number of the sign owner.

14.10 SIGNS NOT REGULATED.

The following signs, except as in this Article expressly included, shall be excluded from the requirements of this Article except as otherwise noted and shall not require permits for construction.

- A. A. One (1) wall sign or one (1) ground sign not exceeding four (4) square foot in surface display area to designate an assigned house number or building name. Such signs shall not be counted in the total sign area permitted on the premises. Such signs in excess of one (1) square foot in surface display area may be permitted as part of the total sign display area otherwise permitted under this Article.
- B. Any sign, traffic signal or warning device erected or displayed by any public agency, such signs shall not be counted against the number of signs or against the total sign area permitted on the premises in which they are located.
- C. Free standing signs or wall signs indicating "No Parking", "Fire Lane", "Entrance" and similar wording when such signs are required to be erected by a public agency. Such signs shall not be counted against the number of signs or against the total sign area permitted on such premises, provided they do not exceed three (3) square feet per sign. No license shall be required for such sign if approved by the Zoning Administrator.
- D. Signs existing on the effective date of the adoption of this Article which are maintained by a church, school, community center or other public entity.
- E. Vehicle mounted signs which are either painted or permanently attached and denote only the products, business or services offered by the owner of the vehicle.
- F. Memorial signs or tablets denoting the name or date of erection of a building when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material.
- G. Flags bearing the official design of a unit of government, educational institution or civic league or organization, fraternal benefit societies, order or association or any organization operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes.
- H. Signs not exceeding two (2) square feet which contain only non-commercial messages including designation of restrooms, telephone location or direction of door openings.
- I. Seasonal decorations and community event signs which advertise public entertainment or events of public interest, providing the placing of the signs shall be approved and the locations designated by the Zoning Administrator. These signs shall remain in place for not more than twenty-one (21) days before and seven (7) days after the event and may not exceed ten (10) square feet in area.
- J. Parking information signs containing only directional information or pedestrian or vehicular warning and control material. Such signs shall have a surface display area not more than three (3) square feet and shall not exceed five (5) feet in height.
- K. Parking reservation signs not exceeding one (1) square foot in surface display area and not exceeding three (3) feet in height.
- L. One double-faced free standing or wall construction sign with a maximum limit of two (2) signs per premises subject to the height and clearance limitation applicable to said premises for a permanent sign and subject to the following restrictions:
 - 1) Construction signs in a residential district shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in surface display area per face and shall be set back at least fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way.
 - 2) Construction signs in all other districts shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in surface

- display area and shall be set back at least one (1) foot from the nearest property line.
- 3) Construction signs shall not be permitted in any district for more than thirty (30) days after issuance of the occupancy permit.
- M. Political signs not exceeding three (3) in number per premises and not exceeding six (6) square feet in surface display area or three and one-half (3 1/2) feet in height per sign if not displayed for a period in excess of thirty (30) days prior to, and if removed within two (2) days after the election for which they are erected. All signs shall bear the name, address and telephone number of the person(s) responsible for the sign(s).
 - N. One (1) wall or free standing real estate sign provided that such signs are removed ten (10) days after the sale, lease, or rental of the property upon which erected, subject to the following further conditions:
 - 1) Real estate signs in residential areas shall not exceed six (6) square feet in surface display area per face and shall not exceed three and one-half (3 1/2) feet in height, and if free standing shall be set back at least fifteen (15) feet from the nearest property line.
 - 2) Real estate signs in commercial areas shall not exceed fifteen (15) square feet in surface display area per face or exceed ten (10) feet in height and if they are free standing shall be set back at least fifteen (15) feet from the nearest existing right of way.
 - O. Signs maintained by a political subdivision of the State of Michigan.
 - P. Signs which do not contain any illustration or communicate any message other than time, temperature, barber poles or market quotations.
 - Q. Development entry signs identifying the name of single and two family residential developments and any development entry sign located adjacent to the public right of way which is located and maintained pursuant to a valid permit authorized by the Township Planning Commission.
 - R. One wall or free-standing sign identifying a home occupation where permitted which shall not exceed four (4) square feet in surface display area or five (5) feet in height and be of a character in keeping with the neighborhood.

14.11 SIGNS PROHIBITED

Unless otherwise permitted by any other provision of this Article no sign shall be constructed, erected, or maintained:

- A. Which purports to be, is an imitation of, resembles an official traffic sign or signal which bears the words "Stop", "Go Slow", "Caution", "Danger", "Warning", or similar words used in traffic control.
- B. Which by reason of its size, location, context, coloring or manner of illumination may be confused with or construed as a traffic control sign which hides from view any approved traffic or street sign or signal, confuses or misleads traffic, obstructs vision necessary for traffic safety or distracts from visibility of traffic signs.
- C. Which consists of posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of light bulbs, spinners, and elements creating sound except seasonal decorations and community event signs.
- D. Which has any visible moving part, visible revolving parts, visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical, electronic or mechanical means, including intermittent electrical pulsations.
- E. Signs, other than those described in [Section 14.10](#), which incorporate in any manner any flashing or moving lights.
- F. Which is structurally unsafe, constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or abandonment, is not kept in good repair, and is capable of causing electrical shocks to persons likely to come in contact with it or vehicles colliding with it.
- G. Which obstructs the ingress to or egress from a required door, window, fire escape or other required exit way.
- H. Which is unlawfully installed, erected or maintained.
- I. Which consists or is part of an outdoor merchandise display not screened from public streets or adjacent residential property.

- J. Which is a projecting sign.
- K. Which is a roof sign.
- L. Which is not expressly permitted by this Article or which violates any provision thereof.
- M. Which is mounted on a vehicle parked on private property or within a public right-of-way, when such vehicle is parked for the purpose of display.
- N. Which is an off premise sign unless otherwise allowed within this Article.
- O. Which is an off premise sign unless otherwise allowed within this Article. Amendment No. 57 to Zoning Ordinance No. 6 is effective seven (7) days after publication.

14.12 EXISTING SIGNS

Any existing sign on the effective date of this Article or any amendment thereto, which does not at that time comply with all of the provisions thereof including any amendment:

- A. Shall not be changed to another type of sign which is not in compliance with this Article.
- B. Shall not have any changes made in the words or symbols used or the message displayed on the sign unless the sign is designed for periodic change of message.
- C. Shall not be structurally altered so as to prolong the life of the sign, change the shape, size, type or design of the sign.
- D. Shall not have its face or faces changed unless the sign is brought into conformance with the requirements of this Article or unless the sign is an off-premises sign or billboard constructed to permit a change of face.
- E. Shall not be re-established after the activity, business or usage to which it relates has been discontinued for a period of ninety (90) days or longer, unless the business is of a seasonal nature.
- F. Shall not be re-established after damage or destruction if the estimated expense of reconstruction exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the appraised replacement cost as determined by the Zoning Administrator.
- G. Shall not be placed, maintained or displayed by anyone other than the person who owned the premises on the date of adoption of this Article.
- H. Shall not be placed, maintained or displayed by any person on or after December 31, 1999.

14.13 ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE BY SPECIAL USE

In order to permit creativity in development throughout the Township, the Planning Commission shall have the authority to permit additional signage, including additional square footage, and in general, alternatives to the standard sign permit requirements, by special use under **Article 13** when an applicant and/or owner submits an application containing a complete sign scheme, addressing all signage proposed on the site and structure(s). Applications for special uses under this section shall also contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- A. A detailed color elevation or such images that show the proposed sign or signs.
- B. A written statement that describes how the sign or signs meets or exceeds the criteria for approval, specifically:
 - 1) The sign or signs are consistent with the building and the surrounding uses in terms of architectural compatibility, mass, bulk, quality of materials and overall appearance, with an emphasis on maintaining or improving the existing fabric of the streets and/or neighborhood.
 - 2) Signs shall be constructed in such a manner as to ensure the longevity of the sign and the safety of the general public.

The Planning Commission shall decide applications under this section in accordance with the following procedures and criteria:

- A. Signage shall be reviewed for consistency with the building and the surrounding uses in terms of

architectural compatibility, mass, bulk, quality of materials and overall appearance, with an emphasis on maintaining or improving the existing fabric of the streets and/or neighborhood.

- B. Signs shall otherwise meet the requirements of this Ordinance.
- C. Signs shall be constructed in such a manner as to ensure the longevity of the sign and the safety of the general public.
- D. The Planning Commission shall have the ability to approve the sign or signs as presented, to deny the application in whole or in part, or to approve the application the conditions relative to the sign or signs.
- E. Owners or applicants who are aggrieved by the Planning Commission's decision on special uses under this section may appeal the decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

14.14 CONFLICTS

There any provision of the statutes, codes or laws of the United States of America or the State of Michigan or the County of Grand Traverse conflict with any provision of this Article, the most restrictive shall apply unless otherwise required by law.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this Article.
- B. Any person who shall violate any provision of this Article shall be subject to the penalties specified under Article XXI of this Ordinance.
- C. The Zoning Administrator or his agent is hereby empowered to enforce this Article.
- D. The Zoning Administrator or his agent shall notify each applicant for a Land Use Permit that compliance with the regulations of this Article is a condition of such Land Use Permit.
- E. The Zoning Administrator or his agent shall remove improperly placed signs, contact the listed owner, and store said sign(s) at Whitewater Township Hall for a period of 7 days, after which they will be disposed of.

ARTICLE 15 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS

15.01 INTENT & PURPOSE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish general guidelines for the siting of wireless communications towers and antennas. The goals of this ordinance are to: (1) protect residential areas and land uses from potential adverse impacts of towers and antennas; (2) encourage the location of towers in non-residential areas; (3) minimize the total number of towers throughout the community; (4) strongly encourage the joint use of new and existing tower sites as a primary option rather than construction of additional single-use towers; (5) encourage users of towers and antennas to locate them, to the extent possible, in areas where the adverse impact on the community is minimal; (6) encourage users of towers and antennas to configure them in a way that minimizes the adverse visual impact of the towers and antennas through careful design, siting, landscape screening, and innovative camouflaging techniques; (7) enhance the ability of the providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community quickly, effectively, and efficiently; (8) consider the public health and safety of communication towers; and (9) avoid potential damage to adjacent properties from tower failure through engineering and careful siting of tower structures. In furtherance of these goals, Whitewater Township shall give due consideration to the Whitewater Township master plan, zoning map, existing land uses, and environmentally sensitive areas in approving sites for the location of towers and antennas.

Note -

15.02 APPLICABILITY.

- A. **New Towers and Antennas.** All new towers or antennas in Whitewater Township shall be subject to these regulations, except as provided in subsections (B) through (D) below.
- B. **Amateur Radio Station Operators/Receive Only Antennas.** This ordinance shall not govern any tower, or the installation of any antenna, that is under thirty five (35) feet in height and is owned and operated by a federally-licensed amateur radio station operator or is used exclusively for receive only antennas.
- C. **Preexisting Towers or Antennas.** Preexisting towers and preexisting antennas shall not be required to meet the requirements of this ordinance, other than the requirements of Section 15.03 (F) and 15.13(G) below.
- D. **AM Array.** For purposes of implementing this ordinance, an AM array, consisting of one or more tower units and supporting ground system which functions as one AM broadcasting antenna, shall be considered one tower. Measurements for setbacks and separation distances shall be measured from the outer perimeter of the towers included in the AM array. Additional tower units may be added within the perimeter of the AM array by right.

15.03 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Principal or Accessory Use.** Antennas and towers may be considered either principal or accessory uses. A different existing use of an existing structure on the same lot shall not preclude the installation of an antenna or tower on such lot.
- B. **Lot Size.** For purposes of determining whether the installation of a tower or antenna complies with district development regulations, including but not limited to setback requirements, lot-coverage requirements, and other such requirements, the dimensions of the entire lot shall control, even though the antennas or towers may be located on leased parcels within such lot.
- C. **Inventory of Existing Sites.** Each applicant for an antenna and/or tower shall provide to the Zoning Administrator an inventory of its existing towers, antennas, or sites approved for towers or antennas, that are either within the jurisdiction of Whitewater Township or within one mile of the border thereof, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each tower. The Zoning Administrator may share such information with other applicants applying for administrative approvals or special use permits under this ordinance or other organizations

seeking to locate antennas within the jurisdiction of Whitewater Township provided, however that the Zoning Administrator is not, by sharing such information, in any way representing or warranting that such sites are available or suitable.

- D. **Aesthetics.** Towers and antennas shall meet the following requirements:
- 1) Towers shall either maintain a galvanized steel finish or, subject to any applicable standards of the FAA, be painted a neutral color so as to reduce visual obtrusiveness.
 - 2) At a tower site, the design of the buildings and related structures shall, to the extent possible, use materials, colors, textures, screening, and landscaping that will blend them into the natural setting and surrounding buildings.
 - 3) If an antenna is installed on a structure other than a tower, the antenna and supporting electrical and mechanical equipment must be of a neutral color that is identical to, or closely compatible with, the color of the supporting structure so as to make the antenna and related equipment as visually unobtrusive as possible.
- E. **Lighting.** Towers shall not be artificially lighted, unless required by the FAA or other applicable authority. If lighting is required, the lighting alternatives and design chosen must cause the least disturbance to the surrounding views.
- F. **State or Federal Requirements.** All towers must meet or exceed current standards and regulations of the FAA, the FCC, and any other agency of the state or federal government with the authority to regulate towers and antennas. If such standards and regulations are changed, then the owners of the towers and antennas governed by this ordinance shall bring such towers and antennas into compliance with such revised standards and regulations within six (6) months of the effective date of such standards and regulations, unless a different compliance schedule is mandated by the controlling state or federal agency. Failure to bring towers and antennas into compliance with such revised standards and regulations shall constitute grounds for the removal of the tower or antenna at the owner's expense.
- G. **Building Codes; Safety Standards.** To ensure the structural integrity of towers, the owner of a tower shall ensure that it is maintained in compliance with standards contained in applicable state or local building codes and the applicable standards for towers that are published by the Electronic Industries Association, as amended from time to time. If, upon inspection, the Township of Whitewater concludes that a tower fails to comply with such codes and standards and constitutes a danger to persons or property, then upon notice being provided to the owner of the tower, the owner shall have thirty (30) days to bring such tower into compliance with such standards. Failure to bring such tower into compliance within said thirty (30) days shall constitute grounds for the removal of the tower or antenna at the owner's expense.
- H. **Measurement.** For purposes of measurement, tower setbacks and separation distances shall be calculated and applied to facilities located in Whitewater Township irrespective of municipal and county jurisdictional boundaries.
- I. **Not Essential Services.** Towers and antennas shall be regulated and permitted pursuant to this ordinance and shall not be regulated or permitted as essential services, public utilities, or private utilities.
- J. **Franchises.** Owners and/or operators of towers or antennas shall certify that all franchises required by law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communication system in Whitewater Township have been obtained and shall file a copy of all required franchises with the Zoning Administrator.
- K. **Public Notice.** For purposes of this ordinance, any special use request, variance request, or appeal of an administratively approved use or special use shall require public notice to all abutting property owners and all property owners of properties that are located within the corresponding separation distance listed in [Section 15.05 Table 2](#), in addition to any notice otherwise required by the Zoning Ordinance.
- L. **Signs.** No signs shall be allowed on an antenna or tower.
- M. **Buildings and Support Equipment.** Buildings and support equipment associated with antennas or towers shall comply with the requirements of [Section 15.06](#).
- N. **Multiple Antenna/Tower Plan.** Whitewater Township encourages the users of towers and antennas to submit a single application for approval of multiple towers and/or antenna sites. Applications for approval of multiple sites shall be given priority in the review process.

15.04 PERMITTED USES.

- A. **General.** The uses listed in this Section are deemed to be permitted uses and shall not require a special use permit.
- B. **Permitted Uses.** The following uses are specifically permitted:
- 1) Antennas or towers located on property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by Whitewater Township provided a license or lease authorizing such antenna or tower has been approved by Whitewater Township.

15.05 SPECIAL USE PERMITS.

- A. **General.** The following provisions shall govern the issuance of special use permits for towers or antennas by the Planning Commission:
- 1) If the tower or antenna is not a permitted use under Section 15.04 (above) of this ordinance, then a special use permit shall be required for the construction of a tower or the placement of an antenna in all zoning districts.
 - 2) Applications for special use permits under this Section shall be subject to the procedures and requirements of **Article 13** of the Zoning Ordinance, except as modified in this Section.
 - 3) In granting a special use permit, the Planning Commission may impose conditions to the extent the Planning Commission concludes such conditions are necessary to minimize any adverse effect of the proposed tower on adjoining properties.
 - 4) Any information of an engineering nature that the applicant submits, whether civil, mechanical, or electrical, shall be certified by a licensed professional engineer.
 - 5) An applicant for a special use permit shall submit the information described in this Section and a non-refundable fee as established by the Whitewater Township Board, as well as any additional fees which may be required should outside professional assistance be required in the review of the application, to reimburse Whitewater Township for the costs of reviewing the application.
- B. **Towers.**
- 1) **Information required.** In addition to any information required for applications for special use permits pursuant to **Article 13** of the Zoning Ordinance, applicants for a special use permit for a tower shall submit the following information:
 - a. A scaled site plan clearly indicating the location, type and height of the proposed tower, on-site land uses and zoning, adjacent land uses and zoning (including when adjacent to other municipalities), Master Plan classification of the site and all properties within the applicable separation distances set forth in this Section, adjacent roadways, proposed means of access, setbacks from property lines, elevation drawings of the proposed tower and any other structures, topography, parking, and other information deemed by the Zoning Administrator to be necessary to assess compliance with this ordinance.
 - b. Legal description of the parent tract and leased parcel (if applicable).
 - c. The setback distance between the proposed tower and the nearest residential unit, platted residentially zoned properties, and unplatted residentially zoned properties.
 - d. The separation distance from other towers described in the inventory of existing sites submitted pursuant to this Section shall be shown on an updated site plan or map. The applicant shall also identify the type of construction of the existing tower(s) and the owner/operator of the existing tower(s), if known.
 - e. A landscape plan showing specific landscape materials.
 - f. Method of fencing, and finished color and, if applicable, the method of camouflage and illumination.
 - g. A description of compliance with all Sections of this Article and all applicable federal, state, or local laws.
 - h. A notarized statement by the applicant as to whether construction of the tower will accommodate collocation of additional antennas for future users.
 - i. Identification of the entities providing the backhaul network for the tower(s) described in the application and other cellular sites owned or operated by the applicant in the municipality.
 - j. A description of the suitability of the use of existing towers, other structures or alternative technology not requiring the use of towers or structures to provide the services to be provided through the use of the proposed new tower.

- k. A description of the feasible location(s) of future towers or antennas within the Township of Whitewater based upon existing physical, engineering, technological or geographical limitations in the event the proposed tower is erected.
- 2) **Factors Considered in Granting Special Use Permits for Towers.** In addition to any standards for consideration of special use permit applications pursuant to **Article 13** of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission shall consider the following factors in determining whether to issue a special use permit, although the Planning Commission may waive or reduce the burden on the applicant of one or more of these criteria if the Planning Commission concludes that the goals of this ordinance are better served thereby:
- a. Height of the proposed tower;
 - b. Proximity of the tower to residential structures and residential district boundaries;
 - c. Nature of uses on adjacent and nearby properties;
 - d. Surrounding topography;
 - e. Surrounding tree coverage and foliage;
 - f. Design of the tower, with particular reference to design characteristics that have the effect of reducing or eliminating visual obtrusiveness;
 - g. Proposed ingress and egress; and
 - h. Availability of suitable existing towers, other structures, or alternative technologies not requiring the use of towers or structures, as discussed in Section 15.15(B)(3) (below) of this ordinance.
- 3) **Availability of Suitable Existing Towers, Other Structures, or Alternative Technology.** No new tower shall be permitted unless the applicant demonstrates to the reasonable satisfaction of the Planning Commission that no existing tower, structure or alternative technology that does not require the use of towers or structures can accommodate the applicant's a proposed antenna. An applicant shall submit information requested by the Planning Commission related to the availability of suitable existing towers, other structures or alternative technology. Evidence submitted to demonstrate that no existing tower, structure or alternative technology can accommodate the applicant's proposed antenna may consist of any of the following:
- a. No existing towers or structures are located within the geographic area which meet applicant's engineering requirements.
 - b. Existing towers or structures are not of sufficient height to meet applicant's engineering requirements.
 - c. Existing towers or structures do not have sufficient structural strength to support applicant's proposed antenna and related equipment.
 - d. The applicant's proposed antenna would cause electromagnetic interference with the antenna on the existing towers or structures, or the antenna on the existing towers or structures would cause interference with the applicant's proposed antenna.
 - e. The fees, costs, or contractual provisions required by the owner in order to share an existing tower or structure or to adapt an existing tower or structure for sharing are unreasonable.
 - f. Costs exceeding new tower development are presumed to be unreasonable.
 - g. The applicant demonstrates that there are other limiting factors that render existing towers and structures unsuitable.
 - h. The applicant demonstrates that an alternative technology that does not require the use of towers or structures, such as a cable microcell network using multiple low-powered transmitters/receivers attached to a wireline system, is unsuitable. Costs of alternative technology that exceed new tower or antenna development shall not be presumed to render the technology unsuitable.
- 4) **Setbacks.** The following setback requirements shall apply to all towers for which a special use permit is required; provided, however, that the Planning Commission may reduce the standard setback requirements if the goals of this ordinance would be better served thereby:
- a. Towers must be set back a distance equal to at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the height of the tower from any adjoining lot line.
 - b. Guys and accessory buildings must satisfy the minimum zoning district setback requirements.
 - c. **Separation.** The following separation requirements shall apply to all towers and antennas for which a special use permit is required; provided, however, that the Planning Commission may reduce the standard separation requirements if the goals of this ordinance would be better served thereby.
 - a. **Separation from off-site uses/designated areas.** Tower separation shall be measured from the base of the tower to the lot line of the off-site uses and/or designated areas as

specified in Table 1, except as otherwise provided in Table 1. Separation requirements for towers shall comply with the minimum standards established in Table 1.

Off-site Use/Designated Area	Separation Distance
Single-family or duplex residential units ¹	200 feet or 300% height of tower whichever is greater
Vacant single-family or duplex residentially zoned land which is either platted or has preliminary subdivision plan approval which is not expired	200 feet or 300% height of tower ² whichever is greater
Vacant unplatted residentially zoned lands ³	100 feet or 100% height of tower whichever is greater
Existing multi-family residential units greater than duplex units	100 feet or 100% height of tower whichever is greater
Non-residentially zoned lands or non-residential uses	None; only setbacks apply

¹Includes modular homes and mobile homes used for living purposes.

²Separation measured from base of tower to closest building setback line.

³Includes any unplatted residential use properties without a valid preliminary subdivision plan or valid development plan approval and any multi-family residentially zoned land greater than duplex.

- b. Separation distances between towers.** Separation distances between towers shall be applicable for and measured between the proposed tower and preexisting towers. The separation distances shall be measured by drawing or following a straight line between the base of the existing tower and the proposed base, pursuant to a site plan, of the proposed tower. The separation distances (listed in linear feet) shall be as shown in Table 2.

Existing Towers - Types	Lattice	Guyed	Monopole 75 Ft in Height or Greater	Monopole Less Than 75 Ft in Height
Lattice	5000	5000	1,500	750
Guyed	5000	5000	1,500	750
Monopole 75 Ft in Height or Greater	1,500	1,500	1,500	750
Monopole Less Than 75 Ft in Height	750	750	750	750

- 5) **Security fencing.** Towers shall be enclosed by security fencing not less than six feet in height and shall also be equipped with an appropriate anti-climbing device; provided however, that the Planning Commission may waive such requirements, as it deems appropriate.
- 6) **Landscaping.** The following requirements shall govern the landscaping surrounding towers for which a special use permit is required; provided, however, that the Planning Commission may waive such requirements if the goals of this ordinance would be better served thereby.
- In locations where the visual impact of the tower would be minimal, the landscaping requirement may be reduced or waived.
 - Existing mature tree growth and natural land forms on the site shall be preserved to the maximum extent possible. In some cases, such as towers sited on large, wooded lots, natural growth around the property perimeter may be sufficient buffer.

15.06 BUILDINGS OR OTHER EQUIPMENT STORAGE.

- A. **Antennas Mounted on Structures or Rooftops.** The equipment cabinet or structure used in

association with antennas shall comply with the following:

- 1) The cabinet or structure shall not contain more than one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area or be more than thirty five (35) feet in height. In addition, for buildings and structures which are less than thirty five (35) feet in height, the related unmanned equipment structure, if over one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area or thirty five (35) feet in height, shall be located on the ground and shall not be located on the roof of the structure.
 - 2) If the equipment structure is located on the roof of a building, the area of the equipment structure and other equipment and structures shall not occupy more than ten (10) percent of the roof area.
 - 3) Equipment storage buildings or cabinets shall comply with all applicable building codes.
- B. **Antennas Mounted on Utility Poles or Light Poles.** The equipment cabinet or structure used in association with antennas shall be located in accordance with the following:
- 1) In residential districts, the equipment cabinet or structure may be located:
 - a. In a front or side yard provided the cabinet or structure is no greater than ten (10) feet in height and one hundred seventy six (176) square feet of gross floor area and the cabinet/structure shall comply with all setback requirements within the specific zone. The cabinet/structure shall be screened by an evergreen hedge with an ultimate height of at least 42-48 inches and a planted height of at least 36 inches.
 - b. In a rear yard, provided the cabinet or structure is no greater than ten (10) feet in height and one hundred seventy six (176) square feet in gross floor area. The cabinet/structure shall comply with all setback requirements within the specific zone and be screened by an evergreen hedge with an ultimate height of eight (8) feet and a planted height of at least 36 inches.
 - 2) In commercial or industrial districts the equipment cabinet or structure shall be no greater than ten (10) feet in height and one hundred seventy six (176) square feet in gross floor area. The structure or cabinet shall comply with all setback requirements within the specific zone and be screened by an evergreen hedge with an ultimate height of eight (8) feet and a planted height of at least 36 inches. In all other instances, structures or cabinets shall be screened from view of all residential properties which abut or are directly across the street from the structure or cabinet by a solid fence six (6) feet in height or an evergreen hedge with an ultimate height of eight (8) feet and a planted height of at least 36 inches.
- C. **Antennas Located on Towers.** The related unmanned equipment structure shall not contain more than one hundred seventy six (176) square feet of gross floor area and be more than ten (10) feet in height, and shall be located in accordance with the minimum yard requirements of the zoning district in which located.
- D. **Modification of Building Size Requirements.** The requirements of this Article may be modified by the Planning Commission in the case of uses permitted by special use to encourage collocation.

15.07 REMOVAL OF ABANDONED ANTENNAS AND TOWERS.

Any antenna or tower that is not operated for a continuous period of twelve (12) months shall be considered abandoned, and the owner of such antenna or tower shall remove the same within ninety (90) days of receipt of notice from the Township of Whitewater notifying the owner of such abandonment. Failure to remove an abandoned antenna or tower within said ninety (90) day shall be grounds to remove the tower or antenna at the owner's expense. If there are two or more users of a single tower, then this provision shall not become effective until all users cease using the tower. A performance guarantee may be required in order to effectuate the terms and conditions of this ordinance.

15.08 NONCONFORMING USES.

- A. **Not Expansion of Nonconforming Use.** Towers that are constructed, and antennas that are installed, in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance shall not be deemed to constitute the expansion of a nonconforming use or structure.
- B. **Preexisting Towers.** Preexisting towers shall be allowed to continue their usage as they presently exist. Routine maintenance (including replacement with a new tower of like construction and height) shall be permitted on such preexisting towers. New construction other than routine

maintenance on a preexisting tower shall comply with the requirements of this ordinance.

- C. **Rebuilding Damaged or Destroyed Nonconforming Towers or Antennas.** Bona fide nonconforming towers or antennas that are damaged or destroyed may be rebuilt without having to first obtain administrative approval or a special use permit and without having to meet the separation requirements specified in this Article. The type, height, and location of the tower onsite shall be of the same type and intensity as the original facility approval. Building permits to rebuild the facility shall comply with the then applicable building codes and shall be obtained within 180 days from the date the facility is damaged or destroyed. If no permit is obtained or if said permit expires, the tower or antenna shall be deemed abandoned as specified in [Section 15.07](#).

ARTICLE 16 - MOBILE HOME STANDARDS

16.01 INTENT

The purpose of the Mobile Home standards is to establish guidelines for persons and families who choose to live in a mobile home, HUD, or similar approved structure rather than a conventional single-family structure that conforms to the Michigan Residential Code (MRC).

16.02 MOBILE HOME REGULATIONS:

A mobile home may be permanently located on a lot as a single-family dwelling provided the following qualifying conditions are met:

- A. Each mobile home shall require a land use permit and shall be subject to the inspection standards of the Grand Traverse Construction Code Division.
- B. Each mobile home shall bear a label required by section 3282.362(c)(2) of the Federal Mobile Home Procedural and Enforcement Regulations.
- C. Each mobile home shall be installed pursuant to the manufacturer's setup instructions and shall be secured to the premises by an anchoring system or device complying with the rules and regulations of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Commission.
- D. Within ten (10) working days following installation, all towing mechanism shall be removed from each mobile home. No mobile home shall have any exposed undercarriage or chassis.
- E. All legally anchored mobile homes shall be exempt from foundation requirements.
- F. All mobile homes shall be located within the Agricultural and RC districts, and are subject to all existing regulations.
- G. All construction, plumbing, electrical apparatus and insulation within and connected to each home shall be of a type and quality conforming to the "Mobile Home Construction and Safety Standards" as promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, being 24 CFR Section 3280, as is from time to time amended.
- H. To the extent that any of these provisions conflict with any provision of the Mobile Home Commission Act or its administrative rules as applied to a mobile home in a residential neighborhood, the Mobile Home Commission Act provision will control.

16.03 BUILDING SIZES, LOT SIZES AND YARD REQUIREMENTS:

All structures, lots, and structure setbacks from property lines shall comply with the regulations established in [Article 4](#) of this Ordinance.

16.04 MOBILE HOME CONDOMINIUM:

Multiple mobile homes may be placed on a common property under the provisions of [Article 8](#), specifically [Section 8.02 \(E\)](#). Mobile home condominium projects shall conform to the requirements for mobile home parks established under the regulations of the Michigan Mobile Home Commission and the Schedule of Regulations in [Article 4](#).

ARTICLE 17 - SANITARY LANDFILL FACILITIES

17.01 SANITARY LANDFILL FACILITIES

Prior to approval of the Planning Commission of a special exception use for a sanitary landfill facility, as herein defined, in any area of the Township, said board shall be certain that the following limitations and conditions are or shall be strictly complied with, in addition to any other requirements contained in the Township Zoning Ordinance, or in any other Township ordinance controlling such operations. The following rules and regulations shall apply specifically to each landfill area, unless county or state regulations on any particular requirement are more restrictive, and then such more restrictive regulation shall apply. Further provided, that no such sanitary landfill facilities shall be allowed within any areas zoned R-1, R-2, R-3, or within any platted subdivisions.

A. Location

- 1) All such operations shall be located on a state highway or county primary road, as defined by the County Road Commission of Grand Traverse, for ingress and egress thereto, and on a road which does not create traffic through an area developed primarily for residential purposes. Where necessary, the Planning Commission may require the applicant to construct and/or improve a road to accommodate the truck travel necessitated by the operations, as a condition of such operation, and for the purpose of routing traffic around residential areas. A stop sign shall be erected and maintained by the owner/operator at all egress roads of the disposal area. Under no circumstances shall trucks use private drives or private access routes from the applicants property which are within 150 feet of any residence.
- 2) Sufficient setback shall be provided from all property lines and public highways to assure adequate lateral support for adjacent public and private property. No such disposal area shall be permitted closer than 200 feet from the interior boundary lines. In addition, no disposal areas shall be permitted closer than 1000 feet to any domicile, or within 1000 feet of any residential district. No such disposal areas shall be permitted closer than 200 feet to adjacent public right-of-ways, property lines, lakes and streams. Such disposal areas shall at no time be permitted where adjoining lateral support for the maintenance of adjoining land is not maintained.
- 3) Any permanent processing plant and its accessory structures shall not be located closer than 300 feet from the interior boundary lines. In addition, if located within 1,300 feet of a residence, it shall be obscured by a suitable barrier, not less than 10 feet high, with screening of a type to be decided on an individual basis by the Planning Commission at the time of application. Where practicable, the processing plant shall be as close to the center of the subject property as possible, and at a lower level than the surrounding terrain to lessen visual and noise impact. The foregoing shall not apply to the digging or excavating apparatus, nor to the stockpiling or loading and transportation equipment.
- 4) No such disposal area shall interfere with the established natural flow of surface waters, to the detriment or damage to adjoining public or private properties. The Planning Commission shall have the right to require an applicant to construct adequate sediment basins if it appears that substantial sediment may be carried into any nearby watercourse.
- 5) Any sanitary landfill area, located within the boundaries of the Township, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be open to Township residents, property owners and businesses, during established business hours, at a rate competitive with other disposal areas in Northwestern Michigan. Other persons or parties may also be granted access to a public facility by the Township, subject to paying the charges established by the public body having jurisdiction. Special handling fees may be charged for bulky or difficult to process items. Hazardous materials, as defined in Public Act 64 of 1979 for the State of Michigan and defined by the Department of Natural Resources in its Hazardous Waste Management Rules, Sections R299.630 through R299.6317 inclusive, containing Rules 301-317 exclusively, and dated February 5, 1981, are prohibited.

- 6) Greater isolation distances may be required by the Planning Commission if the sanitary landfill area being proposed, is adjacent to special quiet zones, as designed by local or state government.

B. Sight Barriers and Fencing.

- 1) Sight barriers shall be provided along all setback lines of the sites which lack natural screening conditions through existing contours or evergreen growth. Such barriers shall consist of the following: A berm of at least 10 feet in height and plantings of evergreen trees, not more than 10 feet apart, or shrubbery not more than 5 feet apart, in staggered rows, on the berm, parallel to the boundaries of the property. Evergreens shall be at least 2-year transplants at the time of planting, and shall grow to not less than 10 feet in height; and shall be sufficiently spaced to provide effective sight barriers when 10 feet in height. Trees or shrubs which die must be replaced.

The requirements for screening by means of a berm and plantings may be reduced or eliminated by the Planning Commission if the particular site and terrain of the subject property (with screening of a reduced height) will afford adequate sight barriers for adjoining property owners, residents or passers-by.

The sanitary landfill area is to be fenced with an 8 foot high chain link fence with .3 strands of barbed wire angled 45 degrees toward the outside of the premises on the top. Such fence shall be located inside of any berms or screening following the exterior boundaries. The entrance to the sanitary landfill area shall have a gate which shall be closed and locked at all times that the landfill is not open.

C. Nuisance Abatement

- 1) Air pollution, noise and vibration, and their effect upon adjacent properties shall be minimized by the utilization of adequate sound-proofed equipment and buildings designed to accomplish such minimization, and by the proper use of berms, walls and natural planting screens. Interior and adjoining roads used in the solid waste disposal operations, shall have their surfaces treated to minimize any condition.
- 2) Rodent traps, if needed, shall be placed every 100 yards, around the perimeter of the sanitary landfill area, inside the fence, and shall be regularly inspected and cleaned, not less frequently than once each week.
- 3) Any security lighting deemed necessary by the owner/operator shall be the sodium vapor type and shall be aligned so that no part of the illuminated field shall fall on any adjoining residential property.
- 4) Every sanitary landfill facility, which accepts refuse, shall have adequate water supply and facilities for quick delivery of water to any part of the property, for the purpose of extinguishing fires. Capacity shall be such that at least 50 gallons of water per minute can be applied to any fire, continuously, for at least 10 hours. The source of the water supply and the facilities to provide for the delivery of the water shall be indicated on the plans submitted for approval by the Planning Commission.
- 5) All litter shall be collected from the sanitary landfill site by the end of each working day and either placed in the fill, compacted and covered that day, or stored in a covered container.
- 6) In winter operations, snow and ice shall be removed before any material, either refuse or earth cover, is placed on the fill. A supply of unfrozen earth cover material shall be maintained and available, either in protected stockpiles or in a natural bank protected from, or not subject to freezing. Frozen cover materials shall not be placed on the fill.
- 7) Prior to the commencement of the construction of any landfill within the Township, the owner/operator of the proposed landfill shall obtain from each lake, stream, creek, watercourse and private, residential, agricultural and commercial waterwell, a water sample for complete chemical analysis. These water samples shall be taken from each of the aforementioned water sources within a mile radius of the exterior boundaries of the property acquired for the construction of the landfill. These samples shall contain the exact location from which they were obtained, the name and address of the property owner who owns the land from which the water sample was taken, and the name and address of the

principal user of the waterwell, if different from the owner of the property upon which the well is located. The owner/operator of the proposed landfill shall turn these samples over to a properly accredited laboratory for complete analysis. The results of the individual analysis shall be certified by the laboratory, and then filed with the Township Clerk, for the purpose of future reference, should there at some later date be suspected groundwater contamination. In addition, copies of the quarterly monitoring test well results shall be delivered to the Township promptly upon receipt by the owner/operator.

D. Time Limits.

All operations, other than the maintenance of equipment within a fully-enclosed building, shall be conducted only between the hours of 7:00 a .m. and 6: 00 p. m. Monday through Friday, and 7: 00 a . m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and legal holidays. A sign stating the hours and prohibiting dumping of other items shall be placed in a conspicuous location at the entrance. Keys for admittance to the disposal area shall be given to the Township Clerk. Disposal facilities shall have qualified personnel on duty at all times to direct the dumping, spreading, compaction and covering of materials.

E. Liability Insurance.

All applicants shall be required to carry personal injury and property damage insurance, in addition to any and all bonds required by the state statute, while any open or unrehabilitated area exists. Such insurance shall be in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 for -each person injured or property damaged, or for any injury or damage to more than one person or one person's property, arising out of one occurrence. Such insurance shall cover injury or damage occurring upon the site of the operation, as well as upon properties adjoining thereto, as the result of conditions or activities existing upon the site. Such policies shall be filed with the Township Clerk, and shall be maintained in effect for a period of not less than 20 years following final closure and termination of sanitary landfill activities. The deductible written into the insurance policy shall not exceed 5% of the per incident limit of the liability of the policy. The coverage obtained by the owner/operator to fulfill the requirements of this section shall include the provisions that the insurer shall notify the Township 30 days prior to the cancellation of the insurance for any reason.

F. Closure of Disposal Areas.

Reclamation or rehabilitation of sanitary landfill areas shall be accomplished as soon as practical following the completion of an area. Where possible, such reclamation or rehabilitation shall be accomplished concurrently with the facility's operations. Substantial completion of reclamation and rehabilitation shall be effected within 2 years after the termination of the waste disposal facility. Inactivity for 12 consecutive months shall constitute, for this purpose, termination of disposal activities. Technical standards which shall control the final reclamation and rehabilitation of the site, and the post-closure monitoring of the site shall be the rules and regulations written by the department of Natural Resources, Resource Recovery Division. Solid Waste Management for the State of Michigan pursuant to Public Act 641 of 1978, as amended, being Section 299.401 et seq, of the Michigan Compiled Laws and known as the Solid Waste Management Act, or other similar acts which may provide such regulation hereafter.

G. Submission of Operation and Closure Plans.

No sanitary landfill activities shall be allowed or commenced until a plan has been submitted to the Township Planning Commission, disclosing compliance with all of the provisions within this ordinance, or the manner in which compliance will be secured by the applicant. Such plans shall include, among other things, the following:

- 1) A contour map of the tract of land involved in the operations, including dimensions of the same, access thereto, abutting public streets, and whether or not the same are on state or county primary roads, additional roads, if any, to be constructed and the location and nature of abutting improvements of adjoining properties.
- 2) The number of acres and the location of the same, proposed to be operated upon within the following 12-month period after commencement of operations.
- 3) The type of sanitary landfill proposed to be constructed, the nature of the equipment to be used and the materials to be accepted.

- 4) A survey by a registered surveyor, showing the location of the principal disposal site and the distance of any proposed operations, and the boundaries of the site.
- 5) A map disclosing the approximate final grade and the levels to be established following completion of the disposal areas, including the proposed uses being contemplated for the future use of the land, and other such matters as may evidence the bona fide nature of the rehabilitation plans and the fact that the land will not be devastated and rendered unusable by the proposed waste disposal area.
- 6) A map disclosing the location of all lakes streams, creeks, water-courses and public, private, residential, agricultural and commercial waterwells from which the samples will be taken for analysis, as stipulated in C (7) of this section.
- 7) A written agreement, signed by the owner/operator of the proposed disposal area, agreeing to abide by the following plan for solutions to groundwater contamination, should such contamination occur as a result, or suspected result of his disposal operations.

H. A Trust Fund for the Mitigation of Landfill Problems.

- 1) A trust fund shall be established at a convenient bank, within the County, chosen by the Township Board. The operator shall agree to pay \$.10 per cubic yard of waste disposed of into this trust fund for the life of the sanitary landfill. Expenditures from the trust fund are to be approved by a committee consisting of one citizen appointed by the Township Board, the Township Supervisor, and one representative of the owner/operator. Funds may be used but are not limited to off-site litter control, groundwater and surface water monitoring and payments to adjacent property owners, and others, at the discretion of the committee, for damages that have been caused as a result of the sanitary landfill or its operations. The trust fund shall exist and earn interest for 20 years following closure, and at that time the funds remaining shall be paid to the owner/operator or its successors or assigns.
- 2) The mitigation of environmental degradation shall be accomplished by limiting the amount of new leachate produced; steps shall be taken which restrict the movement of existing pollutants in the water. When domestic, agricultural or commercial wells lie in the path of a contaminated plume, one of the following possible solutions to the problems of public health, hazard and environmental degradation shall, at the discretion of the Township be required of the owner/operator of the landfill:
 - Immediate purging of the groundwater. Studies must be conducted, at the expense of the owner/operator of the waste disposal area, to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination, cleanup required, and the timetable by which the cleanup will proceed.
 - Provision of an alternate water supply. This shall include but not be limited to:
 - Locating uncontaminated groundwater.
 - Providing bottled water. This shall be a temporary measure, designed to prevent health hazards until another system can be prepared. This service shall be terminated once a permanent water supply system becomes operational.
 - Hooking into a existing municipal water supply system.

The owner/operator of a sanitary landfill reasonably suspected of contamination of the groundwater for residence, farms or businesses, shall guarantee the cost of the construction of the extension of a municipal waterline to the affected area, and the cost of the hookup to this water supply. The Township shall pay for any oversizing of the line to permit the extension of service to areas not affected by the leachate. The owner/operator of the sanitary landfill may make an unrestricted cash payment to the Township to carry out its responsibility to the residents in obtaining for them uncontaminated water. This option shall be at the discretion of the proper authority. If the water is available to the residents of the affected area, it will assume sole responsibility for establishing water rates, assessments and connection charges, and for the granting of waivers of any of these charges to residents whose water supply is endangered by the leachate and for policies governing the system operation and waiver policy.

If the Township does not agree to make water available to its residents, the entire issue shall revert back to the landfill owner/operator's responsibility. The Township shall assume no responsibility or liability for any injuries or property damage resulting from the sanitary landfill operations.

I. Financial Guarantee - Closure and Rehabilitation.

Financial Guarantee shall be given the Township, insuring the proper closure and rehabilitation of

the solid waste disposal area. The amount of the guarantee shall not be less than \$5,000 per acre of disposal area, but not less than \$20,000 nor more than \$200,000 for the area proposed to be licensed by the State or which has previously been operated upon during any preceding period and which has not been reclaimed or rehabilitated. All such financial guarantees shall be reviewed annually on or about the anniversary date of the sanitary landfill construction permit, for adjustment in compliance of the foregoing requirements by the Zoning Inspector of the Township or other such official as may be designated by the Township Board. In this regard, the amount of the financial guarantee may be increased or decreased, based upon the cost of living index, promulgated by the U.S. Department of labor, using the effective date of this ordinance amendment as the base period for the \$5,000 per acre amount. Such financial guarantee shall be in the form of cash, certified check, irrevocable bank letter of credit or a corporate bond of a licensed insurance company, eligible to insure disposal facilities in Michigan. The corporate bond, if it is used, shall be a performance bond which shall be filed with the Township Clerk governing all portions of the sanitary landfill operation required to be maintained in accordance with these regulations, guaranteeing the satisfactory performance of these regulations. The bond shall not be cancellable for nonpayment of premium on disposal areas already worked, and shall continue in force for 1 year after closure and reclamation of the sanitary landfill facility.

For all sanitary landfill areas, the minimum financial guarantee shall be at least \$20,000, provided to the Township, if less than 5 acres are required to be covered by the financial guarantee at any time. The bond shall be filed with the Township before the permit is issued, and on or before the first of each year thereafter. A recommendation by the Planning Commission and approval by the Township Board shall be based upon the criteria set forth within said ordinance and shall be based, in addition, on a consideration of the following:

- 1) The most advantageous use of the land, resources and property.
- 2) The character of the area in question and its particular suitability, if any, for the particular use.
- 3) Conservation of property values as well as natural resources and the general appropriate trend and character of development in the subject area.
- 4) The protection and preservation of the general health, safety and welfare of the Township.
- 5) The scarcity or value of waste disposal areas as compared with the effect upon adjacent communities near the proposed operation.

The Planning Commission may provide for a periodic review of the proposed operations to ascertain compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed upon the same.

J. Existing Sanitary Landfill Operations.

All licensed sanitary landfill operations existing on the effective date of this ordinance shall be subject to the within regulations with regard to future operations; however, such pre-existing disposal area shall be allowed to continue in operation on its then existing land. A special Exception Use shall not be required therefor.

ARTICLE 18 - NONCONFORMING USES AND BUILDINGS

18.01 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND USES

Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to prevent the erection or maintenance of accessory buildings and uses excepting limitations pertaining to nonconforming uses.

18.02 CONTINUING EXISTING USES

At the discretion of the owner, the lawful use of any building, structure, land or premises existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, although the use does not conform to the provisions of this Ordinance, may be continued; and such use of any building may be extended throughout said building, provided no structural changes be made therein except those required for safety and sanitation.

18.03 CHANGE OF USE

Whenever the nonconforming use of any structure or land is changed in whole or in part to a conforming use, such use shall not thereafter be reverted to any nonconforming use. If the nonconforming use of any building, structure or land is discontinued through vacancy, lack of operation or otherwise for a continuous period of twelve (12) months, then any future use of said building, structure or land shall conform, in its entirety, to the provisions of this Ordinance; provided, however, that the Board of Appeals may, upon application within six (6) months of the termination of said period, permit the resumption of such nonconforming use.

18.04 RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE

Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent the reconstruction, repair or restoration and the continued use of any nonconforming building or structure damaged by fire, collapse, explosion, acts of God or acts of the public enemy, subsequent to the effective date of this Ordinance, wherein the nonconforming user has first obtained the approval of the Board of Appeals, wherein the Board of Appeals has first determined that the continued use will be substantially the same as the previous nonconforming use and that such continued use will not be detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of surrounding property owners.

18.05 REPAIR AND ALTERATION OF NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES

Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent the repair, alteration, reinforcement, improvement or rehabilitation of a nonconforming building or structure or part thereof existing at the effective date of this Ordinance that may be necessary to secure or insure the continued advantageous use of the building or structure during its natural life; provided, however, that such repair, alteration, reinforcement, improvement or rehabilitation purposes no change in the use of said building or structure or any part thereof.

18.06 EXTENSION OF NONCONFORMING USE OR STRUCTURE

The extension of any nonconforming use or addition to any nonconforming structure for the purpose of extending such nonconforming use or structure throughout all or a portion of a given lot or parcel of land may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals if it shall first be determined that such extension shall not be inimical to public health, safety, or welfare, particularly with regard to surrounding property owners.

ARTICLE 19 - ADMINISTRATION

19.01 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR; APPOINTMENT; DUTIES.

A Zoning Administrator shall be appointed by and on such terms as shall be determined by the Township Board; provided that the Zoning Administrator shall not be a member of the Township Board, the Planning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals. He/she shall perform such duties as the Township Board may prescribe in addition to any duties prescribed in this Ordinance.

19.02 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ELIGIBILITY.

To be eligible for appointment, the Zoning Administrator shall be generally informed on good building construction, on good practice in fire prevention and the proper installation of safety, health and sanitary facilities. He/she shall be in good health and physically capable of fulfilling his duties. In case he/she is personally interested in the construction of any building subject to the provisions of this code, the Township Board shall designate some other person to examine the plans, to inspect such building and to issue the necessary permits, approvals and certificates.

19.03 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR; DUTIES.

The Zoning Administrator shall:

- A. Receive and review all applications for land use permits and certificates of occupancy and approve or disapprove such applications based on compliance or non-compliance with the provisions of the Whitewater Township General and Zoning Ordinances.
- B. Receive all applications for site plan review and special use permits which the Planning Commission is required to decide under this Ordinance.
- C. Receive all applications for appeals, variances or other matters which the Zoning Board of Appeals is required to decide under this Ordinance.
- D. Receive applications for amendments to this Ordinance.
- E. Conduct field inspections and investigations, prepare maps, charts and other pictorial materials when necessary or desirable, and process applications so as to assist the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Township Board in formulating recommendations and/or approvals.
- F. Notify applicants in writing of any decision of the Planning Commission and implement the decisions of the Planning Commission.
- G. Maintain a map or maps showing current zoning classifications of all land in the Township.
- H. Maintain written records of all actions taken by the Zoning Administrator.
- I. Meet with the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and related committees as requested.
- J. Be responsible for providing forms necessary of the various applications to this Ordinance and any other forms as directed by the Township Board.
- K. Any additional responsibilities outlined in the Whitewater Township Zoning Administrator Job Description, as revised.

19.04 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR; COMPENSATION.

Compensation for the Zoning Administrator shall be established by the Township Board.

19.05 LAND USE PERMIT REVIEW.

- A. The Zoning Administrator shall verify that all applications for land use permits shall be accompanied by a clearly drawn plot plan which contains the following:
 - 1) Owner Information

- 2) Parcel ID Number
 - 3) Property Address
 - 4) North Arrow
 - 5) Scale
 - 6) Existing and/or Proposed Structures (including fencing)
 - 7) Existing and/or Proposed Driveways
 - 8) Road Right of Way and/or Utility Easements
 - 9) Sanitary Facilities and Well
 - 10) Water Bodies on the Site
 - 11) Wetlands
- B. The Zoning Administrator shall request that the applicant submit with the application such additional materials as may be needed to determine whether or not a permit should be issued, such as surveys, soil suitability tests, surface water disposal surveys, erosion control surveys and excavation disposal plans, abstracts, building plans, and permits from other government agencies.
 - C. Evidence of Ownership. The Zoning Administrator shall review evidence of ownership for all property affected by the permit application.
 - D. Voiding of Permit. The Zoning Administrator may suspend or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this Ordinance whenever the permit is issued erroneously on the basis of incorrect information supplied by the applicant or his agent and is in violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance or of any other Ordinances or regulations of the Township.
 - E. The Zoning Administrator shall require submission of an application for Site Plan Review in accord with the provisions of [Article 12](#) as required.

19.06 LAND USE PERMITS INSPECTIONS

- A. The construction or usage covered by any land use permit shall be subject to the inspection by the Zoning Administrator to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance and the approved plot or site plan.
- B. The Zoning Administrator shall clearly communicate the inspections schedule to the applicant. It shall be the duty of the holder of every permit to notify the Zoning Administrator when the construction or usage is ready for inspection.
- C. Inspections shall be made by the Zoning Administrator at the following intervals:
 - 1) At the time of staking out lot corners and proposed structures.
 - 2) When the building foundation forms are in place and/or poles are set, if required and noted on the permit.
 - 3) Upon completion of the work authorized by the permit.

19.07 LAND USE PERMITS; DENIAL.

The Zoning Administrator shall promptly inform the applicant, in writing, of the denial of a Land Use Permit if such planned building or structure or land use does not comply with the provisions of this Ordinance. Applicants that have been denied a land use permit may appeal Zoning Ordinance decisions in accordance with [Section 20.06](#), duties and powers of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

19.08 LAND USE PERMITS; FEES.

The fees for land use permits shall be established by the Township Board.

ARTICLE 20 - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

20.01 PURPOSE OF BOARD

The Zoning Board of Appeals is established to ensure that the objectives of this Ordinance may be more fully and equitably achieved, that a means be provided for competent interpretation of this Ordinance, that reasonable flexibility be provided in the application of this Ordinance, and that the public health, safety and welfare is protected.

20.02 MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF OFFICE

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Township Supervisor and confirmed by the Township Board. The first member of the Board of Appeals shall be a member of the Planning Commission. The second member shall be a member of the Township Board. The remaining three (3) members shall be selected from the electors of the Township and shall be representative of the population distribution and interests of the Township. An elected officer of the Township shall not serve as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. An employee or contractor of the Township Board may not serve as a member.

Terms shall be for three years except for members serving because of their membership on the Planning Commission or Township Board, whose terms shall be limited to the time they are members of the Planning Commission or the Township Board respectively, and the period stated in the resolution appointing them.

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be removable by the Township Board for nonperformance of duty or misconduct in office upon written charges and after public hearing. A member shall disqualify him or herself from a vote in which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure of a member to disqualify himself or herself from a vote in which the member has a conflict of interest shall constitute misconduct of office.

A vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

20.03 ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

- A. **Rules of Procedure.** The Zoning Board of Appeals shall adopt its own rules of procedure as may be necessary to conduct its meetings properly.
- B. **Vote.**
 - 1) The concurring vote of a majority of members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission and to decide non-use variances. Use variances shall require a vote of 2/3 of the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - 2) A member of the Zoning Board of Appeals who also is a member of the Planning Commission or Township Board shall not participate in a public hearing on or vote on the same matter that the member voted on as a member of the Planning Commission or Township Board. However, the member may consider and vote on other unrelated matters involving the same property.
- C. **Meetings.** Meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and at such other times as the Zoning Board of Appeals shall specify in its rules of procedure. The Board shall choose its own Chairperson, and in his/her absence, an acting Chairperson.
- D. **Records.** Minutes shall be recorded of all proceedings which shall contain evidence and data relevant to every case considered together with votes of the members and the final disposition of each case. The ground of every determination shall be stated and such determination from which the appeal is taken. Such minutes shall accompany and be attached to the standard forms

required of persons appealing as part of the Zoning Board of Appeals permanent records. Such minutes shall be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and shall be public record. A copy of the decision shall be sent promptly to the applicant or appellant and to the Zoning Administrator.

- E. **Secretary and Counsel.** The Township Clerk shall be responsible for providing secretarial services for the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Township Attorney may give legal counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals upon its request.
- F. **Hearings.** When a notice of appeal has been filed in proper form with the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Zoning Administrator shall immediately place the request for appeal upon the calendar for hearing, and shall cause notices stating the time, place and object of the hearing to be served personally or by mail addressed to the parties making the request for appeal.

20.04 STAY

An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the Zoning Administrator certifies to the Zoning Board of Appeals after the notice of appeal has been filed that, for reason of facts stated in the certificate, a stay would, in his/her opinion, cause immediate peril to life or property, in which case the proceedings shall not be stayed otherwise than by restraining order, which may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals, or on application, by the Circuit Court, on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken, when due cause can be shown.

20.05 FEE FOR APPEAL

A fee in accordance with the duly adopted schedule of fees shall be paid at the timing of filing an application with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The purpose of the fee is to cover all necessary notification and investigation expenses incurred by the Zoning Board of Appeals in connection with said appeal.

20.06 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have all powers and duties granted by State law, by this Ordinance and the Township Board including the following specified duties and powers:

- A. **Review.** Shall hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirement, decision or determination made in the administration of this Ordinance by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission.
- B. **Interpretation.** Shall have the power to:
 - 1) Hear and decide upon appeals for the interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance.
 - 2) Determine the precise location of the boundary lines between zoning districts when there is dissatisfaction with a decision made by the Zoning Administrator.
 - 3) Classify a use which is not specifically mentioned in the Zoning Ordinance.
 - 4) Consider use variances.
 - 5) Consider non-use variances.

20.07 APPLICATION OF THE VARIANCE POWER

- A. **Use Variance.** The Zoning Board of Appeals may grant a use variance only upon finding that an unnecessary hardship exists. A use variance is a variance that permits a use that is otherwise prohibited in a zoning district. A finding of an unnecessary hardship shall require demonstration by the applicant of the following:
 - 1) The property cannot be reasonably used for any purpose permitted in the zoning district without the variance.
 - 2) The need for the variance is due to unique circumstances particular to the property and not generally applicable in the area or to others properties in the same zoning district.
 - 3) The problem and resulting need for the variance has not been self-created by the applicant and/or the applicant's predecessors.
 - 4) The variance will not alter the essential character of the area. In determining whether the effect the variance will have on the character of the area, the established type and pattern of land uses in the area and the natural characteristic of the site and the surrounding area will be considered.

- B. **Non-Use Variance.** The Zoning Board of Appeals may grant a non-use variance only upon finding that practical difficulty exists. A non-use variance is variance from any standard or requirement of the Ordinance, such as, but not limited to, a deviation from density, bulk, setback, parking landscaping and sign standard requirements. A finding of practical difficulty shall require demonstration by the applicant of the following:
- 1) Granting the variance will not be contrary to the public interest and will not be contrary to the spirit and intent of this Ordinance.
 - 2) Granting the variance shall not permit the establishment within a zoning district of any use, which is not permitted by right within the district.
 - 3) Granting the variance will not cause any significant adverse effect to property in the vicinity or in the zoning district or the Township.
 - 4) There are practical difficulties on the site which unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permitted purpose without presenting an excessive burden and the practical difficulty not resulting from any act of the applicant.
 - 5) The variance will do substantial justice to the applicant, but the decision shall not bestow the property special development rights not enjoyed by other properties in the same district, or which might result in substantial adverse impacts on properties in the vicinity which may endanger the public health, safety or welfare.
 - 6) The requested variance is the minimum necessary to permit reasonable use of the land.
 - 7) The practical difficulty is not self-created.

20.08 RULES

In addition to the foregoing conditions the following rules shall be applied in the granting of variances:

- A. The Zoning Board of Appeals may specify, in writing, to the applicant such conditions in connection with the granting that will, in its judgment, secure substantially the objectives of the regulations or provisions to which such variance applies including the requirement of a bond. The breach of any such condition shall automatically invalidate the permit granted.
- B. No more than the minimum variance from the terms of this Ordinance shall be granted which is necessary to relieve the practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship.
- C. Each variance granted shall become null and void unless the provisions of the variance have been utilized by the applicant within one (1) year after the granting of the variance. An extension, not to exceed one year may be granted upon request of the applicant.
- D. Prior to granting a variance, all other existing infractions related to this Ordinance or other Township Ordinances have been resolved.
- E. The applicant shall, in writing, receive the decision upon completion of the hearing.

20.09 APPEAL TO CIRCUIT COURT

The decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals rendered pursuant to this Article shall be final. However, a person having an interest affected by the decision may appeal to Circuit Court within 30 days of the decision. Upon appeal, the Circuit Court shall review the record and decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals to insure that the decision:

- A. Complies with the Constitution and Laws of the State.
- B. Is based upon proper procedure.
- C. Is supported by competent, material and substantial evidence on the record.
- D. Represents the reasonable exercise of discretion granted by law to the Zoning board of Appeals.

If the court finds the record of the Zoning Board of Appeals inadequate to make the review required by this section, or that there is additional evidence which is material and with good reason was not presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the court shall order further proceedings before the Zoning Board of Appeals on conditions which the court considers proper. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify its findings and decision as a result of the new proceedings, or may affirm its original decision. The supplementary record and decision shall be filed with the court.

ARTICLE 21 - AMENDMENT

21.01 INTENT

It is the intent of this Article is to describe how this Ordinance may be changed, updated, or otherwise edited.

21.02 INITIATION OF AMENDMENTS

The Township Board may amend, supplement, or change the regulations or the district boundaries of this ordinance pursuant to the authority and according to the procedure set forth in Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006 as amended. Text amendments may be proposed by the Township Board, Planning Commission, or any interested person or organization. Changes in zoning district boundaries may be proposed by the Township Board, Planning Commission, any person having a freehold interest in the premises concerned, or by the designated agent of a person having a freehold interest in the property.

21.03 PROCEDURES

- A. **Application:** When an amendment is proposed by an interested person or organization, an application shall be filed with the Zoning Administrator on forms provided by the township and accompanied by the fees specified. The application shall describe the proposed amendment and shall be signed by the applicant. Applications for rezoning of a specific site shall be accompanied by a survey that specifies the boundaries and legal description of the site. The township may request additional information with the application.
- B. **Public Hearing.** A public hearing shall be held for all proposed amendments in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 of 2006 as amended and summarized in writing filed with clerk and with applicable fees paid.
- C. **Planning Commission Consideration of the Proposed Amendment.** The Planning Commission shall review the proposed amendment, together with any reports and recommendations from staff, consultants, other reviewing agencies, and any public comments. The Planning Commission shall identify and evaluate all factors relevant to the petition, including the appropriate criteria listed in this section, and shall report its findings and recommendation to the Township Board.
- D. **Township Board Action on the Proposed Amendment.** Upon receipt of the report and recommendation from the planning commission, the Township Board may approve or deny the proposed amendment. If determined to be necessary, the Township Board may refer the amendment back to the Planning Commission for further consideration. In the case of an amendment to the official zoning map, the Township Board shall approve or deny the amendment based upon its consideration of the criteria contained in this section.

21.04 COST

Any party proposing or recommending a change in the zoning district regulations or zoning district boundaries shall be responsible for payment of all costs and expense incurred by the Township in considering said proposal or recommendation, including but not limited to costs of special meetings, legal fees, costs of notices and publications as follows:

- A. Petitioner shall deposit with the Township Clerk or Zoning Administrator the initial fee as stated on the Whitewater Township Planning and Zoning Fees Schedule toward payment of said costs. **(21.04A - Amendment effective October 23, 2025.)**
- B. The Township Board may require the petitioner to deposit such additional sums with the Township Clerk as it determines to be necessary to cover any additional costs beyond said deposit before it considers any proposal or recommendation.
- C. In the event the amount of said costs incurred by the Township shall be less than the amount of funds deposited by the petitioner, the difference shall be refunded.
- D. It shall be understood, that under no circumstances shall said sum or any part thereof be refunded

for failure of said change recommended or proposed by the petitioner to be adopted by the Township Board.

21.05 STANDARDS OF REVIEW FOR AMENDMENTS

In considering any petition for an amendment to the text of this ordinance or to the zoning map, the Planning Commission and Township Board shall consider the following criteria that apply to the application in making findings, recommendations, and a decision. The Planning Commission and Township Board may also take into account other factors or considerations that are applicable to the application but are not listed below.

- A. Consistency with the goals, policies and objectives of the township's master plan and any sub-area plans. If conditions have changed since the master plan was adopted, consistency with recent development trends in the area shall be considered.
- B. Consistency with the basic intent and purpose of this Zoning Ordinance.
- C. The capability of the road system to safely and efficiently accommodate the expected traffic generated by uses permitted in the requested zoning district.
- D. The capacity of the township's utilities and services sufficient to accommodate the uses permitted in the requested district without compromising the health, safety and welfare of the township.
- E. That conditions have changed since the Zoning Ordinance was adopted or there was an error in the Zoning Ordinance that justifies the amendment.
- F. That the amendment will not be expected to result in exclusionary zoning.
- G. If a rezoning is requested, compatibility of the site's physical, geological, hydrological, and other environmental features with the uses permitted in the proposed zoning district.
- H. If a rezoning is requested, compatibility of all the potential uses allowed in the proposed zoning district with surrounding uses and zoning in terms of land suitability, impacts on the environment, density, nature of use, traffic impacts, aesthetics, infrastructure, and potential influence on property values.

21.06 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Following adoption of an amendment by the Township Board, a notice of adoption shall be filed with the township clerk and 1 notice of adoption shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the township within 15 days after adoption in accordance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006 as amended. A record of all amendments shall be maintained by the township clerk. A zoning map shall be maintained by the township clerk that identifies all map amendments.

21.07 REFERENDUM

Within 30 days following the passage of the Zoning Ordinance, a petition signed by a number of registered electors may be filed with the township clerk requesting submission of this ordinance or part of this ordinance to the electors for their approval in accordance with Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 of 2006 as amended.

ARTICLE 22 - VIOLATIONS

22.01 PENALTIES

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance in any particular, or who fails to comply with any of the regulatory measures or conditions of the Board of Appeals adopted pursuant hereto, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not to exceed \$100.00 or may be imprisoned not to exceed ninety (90) days, or may be both fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court, and each day such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

22.02 NUISANCE PER SE

Uses of land, dwellings, buildings or structures, including tents and trailer coaches used, erected, altered, razed or converted in violation of any provision of this Ordinance or the regulatory measures or conditions of the Board of Appeals adopted pursuant hereto are hereby declared to be nuisances per se.