

**TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 1997

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRESCRIBING UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; REQUIRING DRIVEWAY PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Rockland, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the authority of the same as follows:

**SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE.**

This Ordinance is to provide uniform standards for construction of private driveways in the Township of Rockland, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**SECTION 2.0 APPLICABILITY.**

This Ordinance shall apply to all new private driveways constructed after the effective date of this Ordinance. This Ordinance shall also apply to existing driveways that are improved after the effective date of this Ordinance. Driveway improvements subject to this Ordinance include paving, repaving, widening for purposes of adding another lane, changing or modifying a driveway entrance. Driveway improvements shall not include normal maintenance. This Ordinance shall apply to proposed and existing driveways intersecting State roadways, except for the portion within the State right-of-way. All driveways, new and existing, shall be maintained in accordance with the maintenance standards of this Ordinance, Section 9.

**SECTION 3.0 ADOPTION OF PENNDOT STANDARDS.**

Except for the minimum use driveway standards found in Section 7 of this Ordinance, and other driveway specifications that may be found herein, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation driveway standards (Pa. Code, Title 67, Chapter 441), are hereby adopted by reference. In these standards it shall be implied that references to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Department of Transportation, or similar terms, shall mean Rockland Township.

The following specific chapters are adopted:

Chapter 441.1	Definitions
Chapter 441.6	General Conditions
Chapter 441.7	General Driveway Requirements.
Chapter 441.8	Driveway Design Requirements.
Chapter 441.9	Driveway Layout Illustrations.

#### **SECTION 4.0 DEFINITIONS.**

- 4.1 Driveway - Every entrance or exit and way used by vehicular traffic to or from properties abutting a Township or State roadway. The term includes existing and proposed streets, lanes, alleys, courts and ways. The term driveway does not include field access entrances for agricultural purposes.
- 4.2 Minimum Use driveway - A residential or the other driveway which generates or is expected to generate 25 or fewer trips per day. Includes, but is not limited to, single family dwellings, duplex houses, apartments with five units or less, and access drives serving up to three single family dwellings.
- 4.3 Trip - A single or one-direction vehicle movement with either the origin or the destination (exiting or entering) inside a site.
- 4.5 Other definitions - Where questions regarding definitions of other terms may arise, the definitions found in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation standard (Title 67, Chapter 441.1) shall apply.

In these definitions it shall be implied that references to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Department of Transportation, or similar terms, shall mean Rockland Township.

#### **SECTION 5. PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR.**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be administered by a Permit Administrator appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Rockland.

#### **SECTION 6.0 PROCEDURE.**

Prior to commencing the construction or improvement of any driveway regulated by this Ordinance, the procedure below shall be followed:

- 6.1 The Applicant or his agent shall complete a driveway permit application and pay the applicable fee to the Permit Administrator. Fees shall be set by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, and may be revised from time to time.
- 6.2 In the case of a driveway of higher volume than a minimum use driveway, the Applicant shall submit engineered plans in accordance with the PennDOT standards referenced in Section 3.0, and the standards in Section 8 of this Ordinance. The Permit Administrator may obtain comments from the Township Engineer, prior to the issuance or denial of a permit.
- 6.3 The Permit Administrator shall review the application and discuss any comments with the Applicant.
- 6.4 The Permit Administrator may require additional information such as drainage calculations, a stormwater management plan, survey information, traffic impact studies, a traffic control plan, or other engineering or legal documentation in order to evaluate the application.
- 6.5 The Permit Administrator may require improvements to existing driveways that are necessary to abate an existing nuisance, or when the maintenance standards of Section 9 of this Ordinance are not being met. Such improvements may include, but are not limited to replacement or installation of a driveway pipe.
- 6.6 The Permit Administrator shall either issue or deny the Permit within thirty (30) days of the receipt of a complete application with the required fee.
- 6.7 During the construction or improvement of any driveway for which a Permit has been issued, the Permit Administrator shall, on one or more occasion, inspect the driveway and verify that it conforms to this Ordinance, and the submitted application.
- 6.8 Upon completion of any driveway construction or improvement for which a Permit has been issued, the Applicant shall immediately contact the Permit Administrator to schedule a final inspection. After the final inspection, which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the Applicant has notified the Permit Administrator of the completion of the permitted construction or improvement, the Permit Administrator shall sign the Permit a second time to signify approval of the driveway as constructed.

## SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS FOR MINIMUM USE DRIVEWAYS

The following specifications shall apply to minimum use driveways:

### 7.1 Clear Sight Triangles and Sight Distances

7.1.1 Minimum and safe stopping sight distances shall be established in accordance with the Appendix of this ordinance.

### 7.2 Locations

7.2.1 Driveway entrances shall be located to provide the required safe stopping sight distances established by the methods found in the Appendix.

7.2.2 The centerline of driveway entrances shall be located at least 40 feet from the point of intersection of the nearest street curb lines or cartway edges, as the case may be.

7.2.3 All driveways shall be designed in a manner so that vehicles leaving the property do not have to back onto any street.

7.2.4 Common driveways serving more than one lot are prohibited.

7.2.5 Driveways shall be located and designed with consideration given to access by emergency vehicles.

7.2.6 Whenever feasible, driveways providing access to corner properties shall be located on the street with the least traffic volume.

### 7.3 Entrance Construction

7.3.1 Entrances to driveways serving single family residences shall be rounded at the minimum radii shown on Figure 1.

7.3.2 Driveways shall intersect streets as nearly as possible at right angles, and in no case at an angle of less than sixty (60) or more than one hundred twenty (120) degrees.

7.3.3 Each lot serving single family residences shall have only one (1) entrance unless the Permit Administrator approves additional entrances upon demonstration of a need for such by the applicant.

### 7.4 Grades

7.4.1 No driveway for a one or two family dwelling may exceed 14 percent grade, as measured over any 100 foot section of the driveway.

7.4.2 The maximum permissible grade shall be ten (10) percent for driveways other than one and two family residential driveways (as measured over any 100 foot section).

7.4.3 Within 20 feet of the edge of the street curb line (cartway edge), the maximum grade of any driveway shall be five (5) percent.

7.4.4 Driveways shall be paved within 20 feet of an existing or proposed street cartway, and within 100 feet of the existing or proposed street cartway if the driveway grade is equal to or greater than 10% (as measured over any 50 foot section within the first 100 feet of the driveway).

## 7.5 Widths

7.5.1 Driveways shall meet the minimum widths and radii shown in Figure 1.

## 7.6 Construction Materials

7.6.1 A minimum of 6 inches of crushed stone shall be used on all driveways, unless the driveway is paved or other hard surface satisfactory to the Permit Administrator.

7.6.2 Driveways shall be paved within 20 feet of an existing or proposed street cartway, and within 100 feet of the existing or proposed street cartway if the driveway grade is equal to or greater than 10% (as measured over any 50 foot section within the first 100 feet of the driveway).

## 7.7 Drainage Requirements

7.7.1 Driveways shall not impede the natural flow of storm water drainage along any street, nor may a driveway impede the natural flow of stormwater in a road gutter.

7.7.2 Provisions shall be made at all intersections of driveways with the street to ensure adequate storm water drainage. Driveway entrances shall use either a swale or a pipe as depicted on Figure 2.

7.7.3 If a drainage pipe is used under the driveway entrance, it shall be a minimum diameter of twelve (12) inches. Drainage calculations may be required to justify the use of any pipe.

7.7.4 Driveways shall be designed, constructed and maintained such that stone and mud do not wash onto the roadway.

## 7.8 Setback Requirement

- 7.8.1 Driveways shall be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from any side property line (excluding radii, which shall be at least 5 feet from a side property line).

## SECTION 8. SPECIFICATIONS FOR DRIVEWAYS THAT GENERATE MORE THAN 25 TRIPS PER DAY.

- 8.1 Where driveway traffic volume exceeds 25 or is expected to exceed 25 trips per day, the driveway entrance shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the PennDOT driveway standards found in the Pennsylvania Code Title 67, Chapter 441 (Access to Occupancy of Highways by Driveways and Local Roads) and any associated engineering standards referenced therein. The standards listed below are additional requirements for such driveways.
- 8.2 Driveway grades shall not exceed 10 percent (as measured over any 100 feet).
- 8.3 All driveways shall be paved.
- 8.4 A leveling area shall be provided in the first 30 feet of the driveway (measured from the edge of cartway), where the slope shall not exceed 5%.
- 8.5 Driveways shall not be closer than 10 feet from any side property line, except for radii which shall not be closer than 5 feet from a side property line.

## SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE.

- 9.9.1 All driveways shall be maintained by the property owner in such a manner as not to interfere with the maintenance or drainage of streets; nor the safe and convenient passage of traffic upon the street.
- 9.9.2 Repairs to driveways, driveway entrances, drains or culverts, shall be performed in such a manner that the repairs shall not change the approved design and specifications unless a new design and specifications are submitted to the Permit Administrator for approval.

9.9.3 Maintenance of all new and existing private driveways is the responsibility of the property owner. The cost of such maintenance shall be borne by the property owner, including the cost of replacement of driveway pipes or culverts.

9.9.4 All driveways shall be maintained such that stone and mud do not wash onto the roadway.

9.9.5 No shrubs or trees shall be planted in such a way as to reduce the sight distance required for any driveway.

#### **SECTION 10. TRAFFIC CONTROL.**

The property owner is required to provide proper traffic control on adjacent roadways while construction or improvements to a driveway are in progress.

#### **SECTION 11. PERMIT FEE.**

A fee shall be established for a driveway permit from time to time by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Rockland.

#### **SECTION 12. EXCEPTIONS.**

12.1 Exceptions to the requirements of this Ordinance may be granted by the Permit Administrator, in his sole discretion, where compliance is infeasible or will cause a hardship.

12.2 Requests for exceptions shall be submitted in writing to the Permit Administrator. The Permit Administrator's decision shall be issued in writing within thirty (30) days of his receipt of a written request. Any appeal from the Permit Administrator's rejection of an exception request shall be filed in writing with the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors within twenty (20) days of the Applicant's receipt of the Permit Administrator's decision, and shall be acted upon by the Board of Supervisors within forty-five (45) days thereafter.

#### **SECTION 13. EXPIRATION.**

A permit issued under this Ordinance shall expire one year from date of issuance, unless the driveway is installed according to this ordinance and the permit conditions. A permit may, at the Permit Administrator's discretion, be extended for six months, after which a new application and fee is required.

#### **SECTION 14. PENALTIES.**

Any person who shall construct or improve any private driveway in the Township of Rockland, Berks County, Pennsylvania, without complying with all of the requirements of this Ordinance shall, upon being found guilty of such offense in a civil proceeding, be sentenced to pay a penalty not exceeding \$600 for each such violation, together with costs thereof. Each day during which such person continues to be in violation of the requirements of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense and be punishable as such.

#### **SECTION 15. SEVERABILITY.**

In the event that any provision or part of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Rockland that the remaining provisions of the Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect, notwithstanding the fact that such provision or part thereof shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional.

#### **SECTION 16. REPEAL.**

All Ordinances or portions of Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed effective as of the effective date of this Ordinance; provided, however, that such repeal shall not affect or invalidate any prosecution for any violation of any such Ordinance or portion of an Ordinance occurring prior thereto.



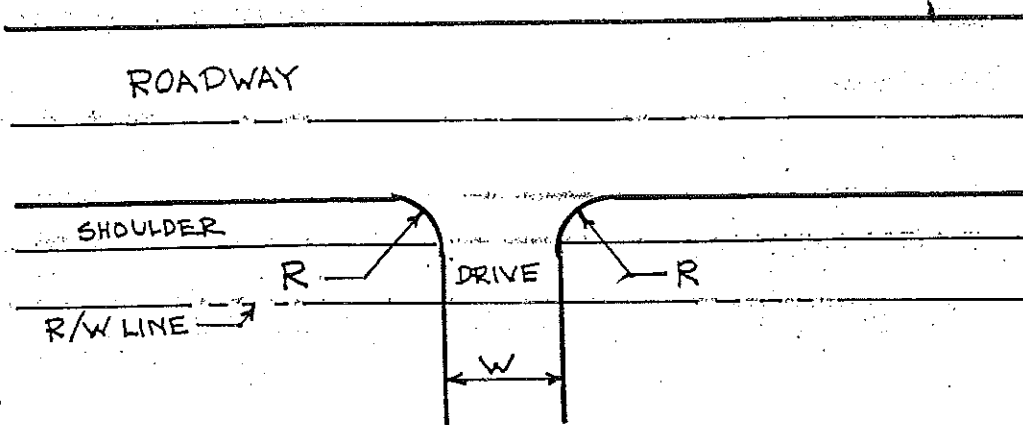
**SECTION 17. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 1997.

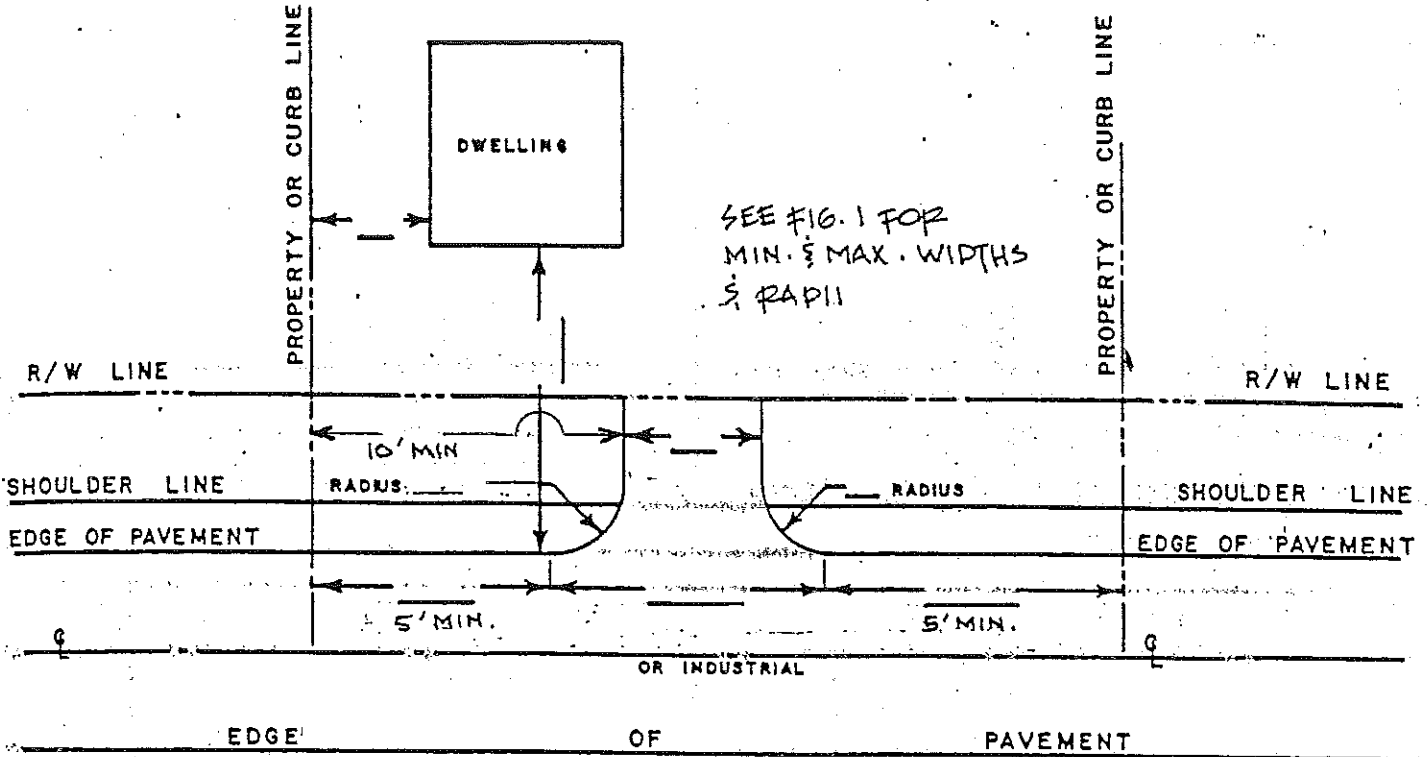
ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**MINIMUM USE DRIVEWAY  
FIGURE 1**



	Single Unit Trucks and Passenger Cars				Busses and Combination Trucks			
	ROADWAY SPEED				ROADWAY SPEED			
	< 45 mph		45 mph & greater		< 45 mph		45 mph & greater	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
W	10'	20'	10'	20'	12'	15'	12'	20'
R	5'	15'	10'	25'	35'	50'	40'	55'

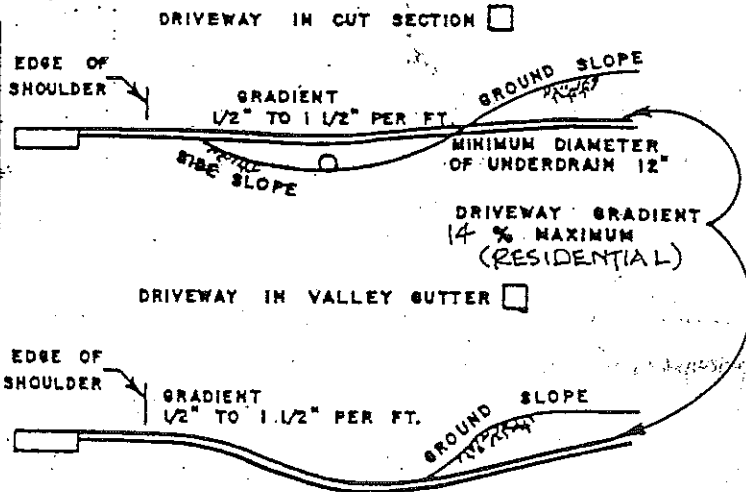
# DRIVEWAY SKETCH



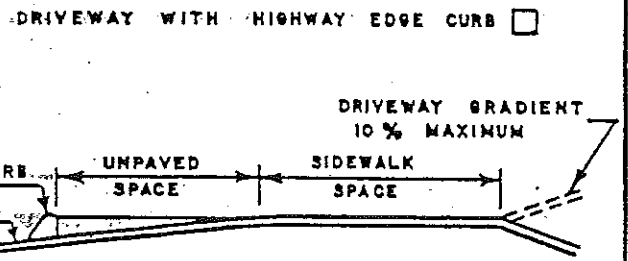
# DRIVEWAY PROFILE

WITHOUT HIGHWAY CURB

CHECK APPLICABLE SECTION BELOW

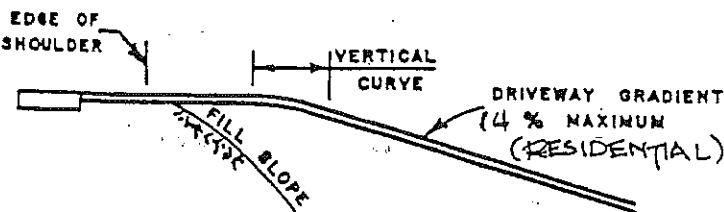


WITH HIGHWAY CURB



CURBING & SIDEWALK SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PENNDOT PC STANDARDS

DRIVEWAY IN FILL SECTION



TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND  
MINIMUM USE  
DRIVEWAY SPECIFICATION

FIGURE 2

BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**Table 1** Minimum Safe Stopping Sight Distance (SSSD) for Vehicles Approaching Down Hill (Descending) Towards Intersection

SSSD'S FOR DOWN HILL GRADES APPROACHING INTERSECTION  
(feet)

Speed MPH	Level	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%
25	161	163	166	169	172	175	178	181	186	191	196	202	207	214	222
35	265	270	275	280	286	292	299	306	315	323	333	344	356	369	384
45	390	398	406	415	425	435	446	458	472	486	502	521	540	562	587
55	538	550	562	575	590	605	622	640	660	682	706	733	762	795	832
65	708	724	742	760	780	802	825	851	879	909	943	980	1021	1067	1119

**Table 2** Minimum Safe Stopping Sight Distance (SSSD) for Vehicles Approaching Up Hill (Ascending) Towards Intersection

SSSD'S FOR UP HILL GRADES APPROACHING INTERSECTION  
(feet)

Speed MPH	Level	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%
25	161	159	157	155	153	151	150	148	147	145	144	143	141	140	139
35	265	260	256	252	249	245	242	239	236	233	231	228	226	224	221
45	390	383	376	370	363	358	353	348	343	338	334	330	326	322	319
55	538	527	517	507	499	490	482	475	467	461	454	448	442	436	431
65	708	693	679	666	653	641	630	620	610	600	591	582	574	566	559

### Sample Using Formula

A new driveway will be created along an existing road with an 8 percent grade on which the dominant vehicle speed is 45 miles per hour. Determine the SSSD for vehicles approaching from both directions towards the new intersection.

For vehicles ascending (approaching uphill) towards the intersection, use  $g = +8$ . (Note that  $g$  is positive).

$$\text{SSSD} = 1.47 \times 45 \times 2.5 + \frac{(45)^2}{30[.30 + .01(8)]} = 343 \text{ feet}$$

For vehicles descending (approaching downhill) towards the intersection, use  $g = -8$ . (Note that  $g$  is negative and the stopping distance is considerably longer).

$$\text{SSSD} = 1.47 \times 45 \times 2.5 + \frac{(45)^2}{30[.30 + .01(-8)]} = 472 \text{ feet}$$

### Tables 1 and 2

Tables 1 and 2 give minimum safe stopping sight distances calculated using the above SSSD formula for vehicles approaching downhill (descending) and uphill (ascending) respectively towards intersections for various vehicle speeds and road grades. For any circumstances not covered adequately by the tables, the formula shown above should be used to determine SSSD's.

TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 1997 PRESCRIBING UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; REQUIRING DRIVEWAY PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, the Township of Rockland adopted Ordinance No. 6 of 1997 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCKLAND, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRESCRIBING UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OR IMPROVEMENT OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; REQUIRING DRIVEWAY PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS"; and

WHEREAS, it is the Township's desire to amend certain provisions therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, Ordinance No. 6 of 1997 shall be amended as follows:

1. Paragraph 7.6.1 shall be amended to read as follows: **"A minimum of 6 inches of crushed stone shall be used on all driveways."**
2. Paragraph 7.6.2 shall be amended to read as follows: **"Driveways shall be paved within 20 feet of an existing or proposed street cartway, and within 100 feet of the existing or proposed street cartway if the driveway grade is equal to or greater than 10% (as measured over any portion of the first 100 feet of the driveway."**

3. There shall be a paragraph added, numbered 7.6.3, which shall read as follows: **"A minimum of 2 inches of bituminous base shall be used on all driveways."**

4. Paragraph 7.7.3 shall be amended to read as follows: **"If a drainage pipe is used under the driveway entrance, it shall be a minimum diameter of 15 inches and a minimum of 20 feet in length. Drainage calculations may be required to justify the use of any other pipe."**

5. Paragraph 9.9.1 shall be amended to read as follows: **"All driveways shall be maintained by the property owner in such a manner as not to interfere with the maintenance or drainage of streets, nor the safe and convenient passage of traffic upon the street."**

6. Paragraph 9.9.5 shall be amended to read as follows: **"The area between the right-of-way line adjacent to and on both sides of a driveway shall be used as a clear zone to provide a physical barrier between the traveled way and activity on private property. This area shall remain free of any obstructions which may interfere with a clear line of vision for entering or exiting vehicles."**

7. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1997 shall remain in full force and effect.

8. This Amendment is effective March 11, 2003.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003.

ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS