

Private Drive Safety Committee Report, July 9, 2008

Bill Easterling, Bill Cole and Gary Anderson walked an additional 18 private drives in May and will complete their planned walks during July. Completion of these will accomplish one of the Board objectives for 2008.

The output of the completed drive walks will be a report showing which drives have the potential of having emergency access improved, which don't, and which ones the residents need to take significant personal action on for mediating their risks. The report will also identify cost estimates for making the improvements practical so that the finance committee can include those costs within their budgeting for the next round of private drive repaving.

To tie the Private Drive Safety Initiative and the CWPP recommendations together, it is anticipated that a letter will go out to all residents of the Fire District. In the case of the Genesee Foundation, these letters will include information regarding the safety challenges in the area and some guidance for how risks can be mediated. It is also anticipated that Genesee Fire & Rescue will acquire the Red Zone Software within 2008 to enable them to plan for individual property evaluations in 2009.

Individual property evaluations will cost \$25 initially. Support of this front end evaluation may be available in a matching grant from either the State or the Federal Government. At my request, Bill Easterling and Rocco Snart have had conversations about the potential for winning a grant. Rocco has agreed to help us and support us in this effort.

The Foundation BOD should consider budgeting one half that amount per household for 2009 in anticipation of winning a supporting grant and to ensure that there is money available to pay for getting the data base set up. Genesee Fire & Rescue should budget an appropriate amount for maintenance of the data base and should develop a process for updating it on a regular, perhaps semi annual basis. This would allow residents to organize hazard reduction improvements to their property and get them logged into the data base.

I plan to request, our treasurer, the Finance Committee and Carla consider including one half of the anticipated expense, or \$11,000 to be prepared to accomplish this task. In the event that the Genesee Fire & Rescue did not obtain the software and hardware required to develop the data base, the budget would not be utilized.

Advantages to the Genesee Foundation of such a plan are that it gives a way for residents to see improvement noted in the Red Zone Software Maps after they have accomplished safety improvements on their private property. This should provide additional incentive for residents to accomplish needed work

on their property and may give them an additional tool for suggesting proper insurance valuation when dealing with their hazard insurance company.

A second board objective for 2008 in the Private Drive arena is the selection of a minimum of 3 drives to have hazards reduced on both open space and private space to demonstrate a model for Genesee hazard reduction. In light of the CWPP, this is perhaps more important than originally anticipated. Bill Easterling of Genesee Fire & Rescue, Rocco Snart of Jefferson County, and Ryan Babcock from Genesee Foundation have reviewed opportunities and selected two proposed drives. One is heavily forested, one has more meadow in the immediate vicinity. Discussions with a potential champion on each private drive are underway.

After Discussions regarding distribution of information to the entire community between Anne Sherwood, Bill Easterling, Fritz Ihrig, Scott Mefford, it was agreed that after completion of the private drive evaluations, we would draft up some proposed information letters and provide them to both the Foundation BOD and Genesee Fire & Rescue BOD for review and approval.

Reported by Gary Anderson, President, Genesee Foundation BOD