



EVESHAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

Fire Prevention Division

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RECEIVED

MAR 24 2025

To: Ms. Jennifer Newton – Administrative Officer
From: Deputy Chief Scott Freedman, Fire Marshal/Fire Subcode Official
Date: March 24, 2025
Subject: Z25-02: 530 Hopewell Road (116 Clearfield Avenue)

In reference to the potential construction of additional single-family homes along Clearfield Avenue, I want to bring to light the “paper” road which connects the current dead ended Clearfield Avenue to Hopewell Road and the ordinance in place to turn this “paper” road to an approved road and connect it with Hopewell Road.

The completion of this road provides the fire department with the ability to provide an enhanced service to ALL the residents along Clearfield Avenue. Connecting this road will provide a second means of access to Clearfield Avenue, which currently doesn't exist. The second access point provides the residents and the fire department with access to an additional fire hydrant near what would be the newly created intersection of Clearfield Avenue and Hopewell Road. Furthermore, the connection of the road will enhance our ability to better access the homes along Clearfield by providing the fire department with a second means onto the street and eliminate the “bottlenecking” of fire and emergency equipment along the current dead-end street. This provides more of a strategic advantage which allows us to move equipment and personnel into the area more efficiently to address fires and other emergencies.

As you are aware, this residential street is located within the Wharton State Forest which provides unique challenges to the fire department when engaging with forest fires in what we would call the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The current one-way in/one-way out configuration of Clearfield Avenue provides a unique challenge for the fire department in situations where the evacuation of residents becomes a priority. If a forest fire were to occur in this area and cut off the lone evacuation route for residents living along this dead-end road, the results could be tragic. The continuation/connection of this road with Hopewell Road provides a second means for residents to evacuate under wildfire conditions where evacuation is warranted.

We recently experienced a wildfire which threatened homes along Sycamore Avenue. Those homes required extensive engagement by the fire department in order to protect those structures from threatening wildfires. The homes along Sycamore Avenue were positioned in a manner where access did not present a challenge for firefighters and evacuating residents. The situation would have been completely different had the fire reached the Clearfield Avenue area.

I understand that completing this road and connecting it with Hopewell may not be popular amongst residents as it will likely bring more traffic to Clearfield Avenue. I do, however, see a value in completing the road from a fire and emergency services perspective. I am willing to discuss/explore other options that would provide access by way of a fire access road designed to withstand the weight of fire apparatus and accessible during emergency situations only. We typically offer this option as a means to provide additional access to fire equipment. An example of this is the fire access lane which leads from Left Bank Lane (Normandy Road) into the cul-de-sac at Tuxedo Court.

I would be interested in further discussing the options with the township and/or applicants in greater detail.