

## Why We Need Rules and Regulations (Public comment to the Leelanau Board of Commissioners)

Most of us realize we require rules and regulations to protect the common good. That is why we have speed limits/seat belt laws etc. They are more than a suggestion and they are set to keep us safe from ourselves and others.

As a retired kindergarten teacher I had the privilege each September to help the children determine our room constitution. On these magical Constitution days I was always instructed by the depth of caring of my kindergarteners. My main objective was to empower the children to realize that kindness and learning and playing with intention was our main mission. I always began with the question, "Why are we in school?" The answers began with, "My mom drove me or I got on the bus". I was taught to ask that question at least 5 times. After the 5th time the children thought deeper and said things like, "I want to learn how to read, make new friends, be the next president, write books, be a doctor", etc.

Some children were really pleased with global rules such as, let's treat everyone with kindness and, "you can't say you can't play". Other kids were more pragmatic and wanted each rule spelled out in a list. "You can't bite, You can't tease, You can't push, No wet willies," etc. Many kids are never satisfied with just being kind. They wanted a recipe for school behavior. And they dictated these rules which we posted in our classroom, signed by all of the children and copies were sent home.

I feel the same is true with our current situation concerning septic regulations. Let's ask at least 5 times, why do we require a septic ordinance. Many will say it is too expensive. I would argue that it is too expensive not to have one. Water is life.

1. We presently have 16,162 unregulated septic systems in our county. Failure rates are estimated to be 10 to 23 %.
2. Septic Systems have an average life span of 25-30 years and must be pumped every 5 years to maintain septic system health, safety and their affect on ground water.
3. All of our 64 rivers have been found to have human waste (enteric bacteria) and there is more waste found when there are large numbers of septic systems nearby.
4. Ground water does not stand still, it does not adhere to property lines and your neighbors waste can end up in your well.
5. Safeguarding our water for future generations is essential.

When we pass this very needed regulation let's make sure the rules are specific, detailed guides that all of our citizens can follow. We also will need a fund to help with these transitions.

Let's make sure we leave clean water for future generations.

Thank you,  
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