

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals,

I am writing in my capacity as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Ulysses to address the driveway surface condition associated with the variance under consideration for the flag lot parcel recently donated to the Town for the creation of a public park. I appreciate the Board's commitment to responsible stormwater management, and I want to offer my professional perspective on how that goal can best be achieved in a way that also serves the Town's interests as steward of this new public asset.

As the Board may be aware, the parcel in question has been generously donated to the Town of Ulysses specifically for the development of a public park. The access driveway subject to this variance will serve as the primary entry point to that park, and the surface treatment chosen will need to hold up to the demands of public use while remaining within the constraints of the Town's capital budget. With that context in mind, I respectfully request that the Board not impose permeable pavement as a mandatory condition of variance approval for the driveway access.

Permeable pavement systems, while valuable in the right applications, carry substantially higher installation costs than conventional paved surfaces. For a municipality working within a defined budget for park development, this added expense could meaningfully delay or reduce the scope of improvements available to the public. Beyond cost, the driveway corridor may not be the most suitable location for permeable pavement given the specific grading, soil conditions, and use patterns anticipated for that portion of the property. Permeable systems also require specialized ongoing maintenance — including periodic cleaning to prevent sediment clogging — that would place an additional operational burden on Highway Department resources.

I want to be equally clear that the Town takes seriously its responsibility to manage stormwater appropriately. I support requiring a paved surface with sufficient drainage to make sure that dust and water to ensure that any new park driveway does not adversely affect adjacent properties

It is also worth noting that as the park develops over time, permeable pavement may in fact be an excellent choice for future parking areas on the site, where sheet flow management across a larger impervious surface is a more pressing concern and where the material's benefits would be most effectively realized.

I respectfully ask that the Board approve the variance with a condition requiring a paved driveway surface, rather than mandating permeable pavement specifically for this access corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Stewart