

.March 27, 2016

To: The Mayor and Board of Trustees  
The Village of Cooperstown  
Cooperstown, New York 13326

The Village of Cooperstown's proposed law #3 of 2016, "Regulations for Temporary Parking Permit for Construction Vehicles in the Village of Cooperstown," seems to be designed to maintain the village's revenue from paid parking. And that is no doubt seen as worthy goal if it were not for the fact that the village suspends paid parking when it deems something to be beneficial to the village. Can it then be assumed that the maintenance and improvement of properties within the paid parking areas are not beneficial to the village? It would not be difficult to think that the proposed law would certainly seem to indicate that might be the case.

The proposed law also seems to suggest that the village is not concerned with treating all property owners equally. With the proposed law, those property owners within the paid parking areas will no doubt pay more for maintenance and improvement to their properties if parking fees are, as one might assume, passed on to the property owners.

An even worse case scenario would be if property owners were not able to find contractors willing to have to charge more for work being done. The idea that comparable work within the village would become more expensive in some areas because of government regulation is, given the size of the village, difficult to understand or justify.

At the same time, it should be noted, the village seems willing, in non-paid parking areas, to allow contractors to ignore parking time limits entirely. Thus it would seem the village is not concerned with whether or not it treats all of its property owners equally. In some areas property owners will face higher costs when it comes to hiring a contractor while in other areas property owners will receive a benefit when hiring a contractor with the waiving any on street parking time limits. It is sad to think that the village would discriminate against some of its property owners in this manner.

While it is laudable to pursue avenues of revenue for the village, it is not laudable to do it in what seems to be such an arbitrary and discriminatory manner.

Sincerely,

Catherine Lake Ellsworth  
Cooperstown