

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you in person. I'm out of my comfort zone but it's important to express how I feel about this situation. My name is Jyll Strothmann, I live at 5291 Cold Springs Road.

1. I've had numerous changes in my life recently, I was so taken back, off guard and then angry that nothing was ever mentioned by Pritts until my neighbor, Beth Veca told me about this issue regarding the land donation.
2. Living on Main Street in the Village of Trumansburg throughout my childhood, when I returned to my hometown, I specifically looked for a country atmosphere 24 years ago where it's peaceful and quiet to build my home. I work daily in the City of Ithaca with all its negatives so when I get home, I sit on my porch to relax and unwind listening and watching and being among our wildlife (enjoying the birds, turkeys, and deer especially during springtime with their babies). Having less traffic is a huge plus so we can walk on the side of the road for our health and socialize with neighbors without being concerned about our safety if the traffic increases due to this park.
3. This is happening in the congested area of residential homes, when I make a list of pros and cons it's overwhelming with negatives affecting many of my neighbors including myself. People come to our area for a get-away opportunity like "The Sherman family" vacation home where generations of family can come together, creating good times and memories. For Beth and Mark Veca's vacation home who come to this location to relax with their dogs. For both places who are so close to the situation would hurt their needs and privacy. You state the park is open until dusk, which is around 9:30 pm during summer months, which doesn't give us as resistances a break from noisy crowds. Our feelings should be addressed and considered since this situation is causing disturbances to our home life and maybe to many it's more important than Pritts generous offer.
4. With farmland, will the tilling be needed to help eliminate excess water from soil by aerating it, allowing better drainage and reducing water retention among those wet areas? Will chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides affect residents and their wells/and possible unforeseen health issues? Rezone the areas and cost? I know there must be 100 ft from any homeowners well to this park. Will the water levels affect these wells due to the disturbance? If there is, homeowners will be responsible for those issues and it's an added cost that many can't afford.
5. I worry about crime, safety and thief - possible issues in an empty park near our homes when they're not occupied.
6. Occasionally we have trash and other items in the ditches, I believe there will be an increase among trash being thrown in our lawns coming and leaving the park. Causing possible more issues to the highway department when mowing.
7. Who is paying for the renovation and the maintenance of this park? Taxpayers? If this is associated with school, does this mean our School Taxes will go up? Town & County taxes? Water bills going up on Cold Springs Rd? Our taxes are high enough for families, especially retirees on Cold Springs Rd who I spoke to and who are struggling enough. This opportunity isn't necessary, it's a luxury which I feel we do a lot already for our school kids. I would rather see our money go to existing ball fields being upgraded if really necessary, or use local parks that don't disturb any homeowners.
8. This is a congested area of homeowners, I feel this is not an appropriate location for this land donation for a park even if Pritts had the best intentions, I see more negatives and angry neighbors due to issues that were mentioned than a few positives.

Please take to heart what is mentioned and don't take the benefits of what we love about the countryside away from us.

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**opposition to the new so-called "park"**

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**From** Spencer Schaffner <[REDACTED]>

**Date** Wed 2/26/2025 3:42 PM

**To** Carissa Parlato <clerk@townofulyssesny.gov>

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the development of a public park that would be dedicated to sporting fields. I have seen no indication that members of our community have agreed to or planned for any expansion of competitive athletics in our community. In fact, the previous attempt by town leaders to establish a park focused on competitive athletics was soundly voted down by the citizens.

If the town were to have a democratic discussion about the expansion of our park system and broad input about what kinds of parks we want (parks for walking? parks for bird watching? parks for competitive athletics? parks for children to study climate change?), I would be interested to see the outcome of those talks.

Sincerely,  
Spencer Schaffner  
4296 Krums Corners Rd  
Trumansburg

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**Rec Park donated land**

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**From** Nancy Cusumano <[REDACTED]>

**Date** Sun 3/2/2025 1:36 PM

**To** Katelin Olson <supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov>

**Cc** Michael Boggs <boggs@townofulyssesny.gov>; Mary Bouchard <bouchard@townofulyssesny.gov>; Elizabeth Weatherby <weatherby@townofulyssesny.gov>; Rich Goldman <goldman@townofulyssesny.gov>; Carissa Parlato <clerk@townofulyssesny.gov>

Dear Supervisor Olson and Town of Ulysses Board,

Congratulations on the generous potential donation of 15 acres from Dr. and Mrs. Pritts.

Here are my thoughts on this issue.

I would strongly request that you roll the development of this donation (if accepted) into the Comprehensive Review that is concurrently ongoing. It seems like the perfect opportunity to remedy the missing recreation plan portion that was not included in the last comprehensive plan in 2009.

Why not take the time to do this correctly? Roll the development of the rec park into the comprehensive planning. Specifically, please do a **survey** on what the townspeople of Ulysses want to see in a recreation park. Do they want one at all? Do they want ball fields as the supervisor insists is the case? Do the townspeople want walking trails? ASK all these questions, please. NOW while you have the chance. I just don't see what the all-fired rush to get this done is. Take the time NOW to do it correctly, please. I am asking this in the strongest way possible. If you do not want to take the time to do this correctly and comprehensively, why not? Can you give some good reasons as to why this has to be rushed into?

Additionally, I would like to ask why the flag lot driveway has to be shoved all the way over to one side of the parcel? Why can't that access driveway be in the center of that lot in order to be as far away from the impacted homes as possible?

I once again ask you to take the time to do the planning on this that needs to happen. Please.

Thank you,

Nancy Cusumano



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**Fw: Proposed land donation Cold Springs Road**

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**From** Katelin Olson <supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov>

**Date** Wed 3/12/2025 2:43 PM

**To** Carissa Parlato <clerk@townofulyssesny.gov>

Fyi i acknowledged receipt.

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**From:** Beth McAllen <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 2:39:43 PM

**To:** Katelin Olson <supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov>; Niels Tygesen <planner@townofulyssesny.gov>

**Subject:** Proposed land donation -Cold Springs Road

My property is at 5270 Coldsprings and is on the west side of the proposed land donation. I have attended a town meeting in person and online but I believe it is necessary for me to write to you to let you know what I would like to say about the proposed donation.

I have been walking these back fields since 1992 on a fairly regular basis. My first thought when I heard about this was- what about the wildlife habitat? This area is home to several species of animals and birds. There is a creek on two sides of this field where animals of all sorts stop to drink all through the year. There used to be a large concern for destroying natural habitats but I can tell that this is not a concern for the town. Interestingly though, I know that there have been problems with the deer population coming into the town of Trumansburg so much so that this past hunting season bow hunters were permitted to put bait out to attract the deer. This land behind my house is teeming with deer. If this is changed to recreation space the deer and other animals will lose this land and will likely end up closer to Trumansburg. I guess this will be good news for the bow hunters. There are also coyote on this land. Many nights around dusk we hear them start their howling which signifies that they have their prey. We have seen plenty of animal bones scattered on our property as a sign of the coyote's success at hunting. The coyote will move closer to town too to prey upon the deer.

As I mentioned at the town meeting in February- there are months out of the year that we have to avoid walking back into our property altogether because the ticks are so plentiful. I generally take ten to fifteen ticks off of my dog whenever we do walk to the creek. The worst months are April and May and part of June and then the end of September through to December. It will be nearly impossible to control the ticks in any part of that area not to mention the fact that the kids will end up hiking down to the streams that surround this land and end up covered in ticks. It is a rural environment that should be left alone.

Coldsprings is a dangerous road to be out walking around on as the cars travel at around 60 miles an hour. There are no sidewalks and plenty of blind spots. The only way to get to this land is on this road. The map shows that you will make a path way to the field but I am sure that is something that will happen way down the road and come at a very high cost. Plus a bridge will need to be put over the creek which I believe will cause a huge impact to the wildlife habitat that no one seems to care about all

of a sudden.

Will there be sidewalks put in on Coldsprings road to make it safer?

It may help to ask yourself- if this property was for sale would the town of Ulysses consider buying it? It is well below the 20-30 acres that were being considered. The cost to put in a bathroom facility, a road and a parking lot will be about the same as it would be for the bigger field and there will not be the desired space.

Of course there is also the question of what will you be using this space for? Why do you need lights if the park closes at dusk? Who is going to make sure that people leave the park when they are supposed to? Are you going to let the grassroots festival use the property? How are you going to pay for all of the maintenance and installation?

I think it makes sense for the town to look for something larger in a more urban setting. Perhaps there is a reason that nothing has been done since the 1700's.

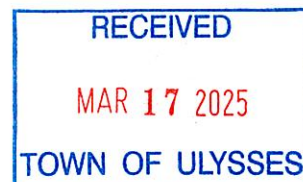
Beth McAllen

5270 Coldsprings Rd.



Thank you for this opportunity. It's vitally important to bring our concerns to your attention about this situation throughout this process. My name is Jyll Harrington Strothmann, I live at 5291 Cold Springs Road. These are my concerns regarding this park donation on Cold Springs Road.

1. I was so taken back, off guard and then angry that nothing was ever mentioned by Mr. and Mrs. Pritts until my neighbor, Beth Veca told me about this issue regarding the land donation. Why the huge secret? Did they know their neighbors would not be happy and overlooked it. Or was there a plan to keep it low key to gain support from the Town of Ulysses Board and prevent any repetitive issues that were voted down regarding the Krums Corners Land? It makes me question and wonder.
2. Living on Main Street in the Village of Trumansburg throughout my childhood, which was very noisy. When I returned to my hometown 24 years ago, I specifically looked for a country atmosphere where it was peaceful and quiet to build my home. I work daily in the City of Ithaca with all its negatives so when I come home, I sit on my porch to relax and unwind listening and watching and being among our wildlife (enjoying the birds, turkeys, and deer especially during springtime with their babies). Having less traffic is a huge plus so we can walk on the side of the road for our health and socialize with neighbors without being concerned about our safety.
3. This is happening in the congested area of residential homes, when I make a list of pros and cons it's overwhelming with negatives affecting many of my neighbors including myself. People come to our area for a get-away opportunity like "The Sherman family" vacation home where their generations of family can come together, creating good times and memories. For Beth and Mark Veca's vacation home who come to this location to relax with their dogs from New Jersey. For both places, those who are so close to the situation would lose the countryside atmosphere and most of all their privacy. It was mentioned within the stipulations of Mr. & Mrs. Pritts requirements that the park would be open from sunrise to dusk, so regarding dusk, which is around 9:30 pm during summer months, doesn't give us as resistances a break from noisy crowds within those 7 days/per week and the uproar of school buses and loud cars. How do you keep people out after dusk? Will there be full fencing throughout the park and a gate with a lock? Who is monitoring it?
4. I would appreciate it, and I feel it's beneficial for the planning board to see the location in person where the road would be. It would give you a better perspective. My concern for Shermans and others is the width of this road that needs to be completed with a sidewalk. The possible road has survey (pink ribbon) stakes available, which shows how much valuable land is taken away and the lack of privacy between Sherman's and the rental property on the other side of the potential road. For example, my question is there enough room for school buses to pull out and turn onto Cold Spring Road safely? Especially with fast cars/motorcycles speeding up through. I foresee a huge accident.
5. I worry about crime, safety and thieves, these are possible issues in an empty park if there aren't any restrictions near our homes when they're not occupied. Will there be more police security around to protect us (there are older people and people who live alone on Cold Springs Rd.) since there is more public awareness about this park donation if it goes through.
6. Since its farmland, will chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides affect residents and their wells/and possible unforeseen health issues? Will the water levels affect these wells due to the disturbances after the ground settles? If there is, homeowners will be responsible for those issues and it's an added cost that many can't afford. Beth Veca mentioned that her dogs get numerous ticks walking in that area. We have a lot of deer and coyotes that carry ticks in our area too. In fact, I've seen a coyote running across my yard. In the past, we have had a fisher cat in the area too.





7. Occasionally we have trash and other items in the ditches, I believe there will be an increase in trash being thrown in our lawns coming and leaving the park. Causing possible more issues to the highway department when mowing. How much time can the Highway Department truly put towards mowing the so-called park or sporting fields whatever the plan might develop. They're busy doing road repair and other duties because I know just mowing the sides is just a few times during the summer.

8. Who is paying for the renovation and the maintenance of this park? Taxpayers? If this is associated with school, does this mean our School Taxes will go up? Town & County taxes? Water bills going up on Cold Springs Rd? All improvements cost the taxpayers one way or another. Many taxpayers don't even know about this project. Our taxes are high enough for many average families and especially our retirees. Where do you draw the line on improvements and progress within Trumansburg/Town of Ulysses that the taxpayers will be paying for? You are pushing people out of their hometown where generations have lived and enjoyed what Trumansburg stood for. Working within all taxpayers means and not adding more stress.

9. This is a rural area of homeowners; this could hurt our property value with noise pollution (traffic noise, any lights, cars spinning out and all the concerns to homeowners that are in close proximity to the location. I truly feel this is not an appropriate location even if Mr. & Mrs. Pritts had the best intentions.

10. A trail from school to this location would involve a bridge possibly going in. It was said at the Town of Ulysses meeting, if it goes through it would not be a cost to us (taxpayers) it would be State Park construction/maintenance like the Black Diamond trail. Again, see how much the area is used before adding more. You're talking about 1/2 a year of use.

11. There must be some discussion or visual outline design discussed with the Mr. & Mrs. Pritts before the Town of Ulysses accepts the donation. Mr. & Mrs. Pritts describe this land donation as sporting fields and others have no idea what it might be.

12. Since this farmland is donated land and privately owned who is responsible to any property damages during construction up to completion?

13. Who is thinking about the expenses you are putting on our taxpayers? It is a concern because our School Taxes, Town and County Taxes, and cost of living keep going up every year. We have families with different income levels within Trumansburg and Town of Ulysses. The way the world is today, we may need to be cautious for the unexpected.

14. It was upsetting at the Town of Ulysses Board meeting's when our taxpayers provide questions and concerns. In return, visual responds of disrespect and attitudes are uncalled for. It shows that our concerns and questions are not taken seriously and adds to the frustration which is not professional. This is my main reason for sending this letter to Town of Ulysses Planning Board.

I'm hoping the planning board will consider these issues moving forward since this situation is causing disturbances to our future home life. We as taxpayers don't have any leverage in the final vote because it's donated land and that is causing me concern.

Thank you for your time!



## Outlook

**Fw: Use of new park land.**

From Katelin Olson <supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov>

**Date** Tue 3/11/2025 5:25 PM

**To** Carissa Parlato <clerk@townofulyssesny.gov>

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**From:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025 5:21:39 PM

**To:** Katelin Olson <supervisor@townofulyssesny.gov>

**Subject:** Use of new park land.

Hi Neighbor,

We missed a golden opportunity to get Camp Barton into capable commerce by giving it to President Trump so he could build a beautiful hotel on it and get it on The Tax Rolls!!! We of modest means are being taxed out of Ulysses. My family has been in Tompkins County for four generations and I am being squeezed to the limit. I know you don't care. Even the Finger Lakes Regional Park manager said it should go to the private sector.

We have more than enough parks in Ulysses and must donate the idle land to our Commander in Chief Donald Trump in order to make Ulysses great again!

Too, that land would be perfect as a hydraulic fracturing pad. "Drill Baby Drill"

I can't make tonight's meeting; so please read my flawless rational revenue generating aloud. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,  
Eric Slocum

"Trump 2028 and beyond!"