

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive • State College, Pennsylvania 16801
Telephone: 814-238-4651 • Fax: 814-238-3454
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

March 5, 2008

Mr. Darryl Slimak
Teaberry Ridge Homeowners Association
821 Teaberry Lane
State College, PA 16803

Dear Mr. Slimak:

On behalf of the Ferguson Township Public Works Department I am writing to you in your capacity as manager or president of your homeowner's association particular concern about mailboxes in your development. Please share this letter with your homeowners and bring this matter to the attention of your board for future action if necessary.

The Township's requirement for mailbox location is consistent with written requirements received by the Township from the United States Postal Service. The Township does not prohibit property owners from placing mailboxes within the limits of the Township's legal right-of-way, as it is recognized that the United States Postal Service has certain placement requirements. However, since the mailboxes are not placed under permit from the Township, they are technically deemed to be encroachments which are placed and remain at the sole risk of the property owner.

It is unfortunate that some mailboxes are damaged while the Township road crew does its best to make roads clear and safe during winter storms. If a public works department driver does not get close enough to mailboxes, residents may complain that the postal service will not deliver mail, snowpiles accumulate in the roadway from one storm to another because it is not pushed back far enough, and roadway inlets may not be cleared adequately which may cause water to pond and freeze on the roadway if it cannot drain away. If a driver gets too close, or a mailbox is too close to the curb or there is not adequate clear zone below the box, a mailbox may be damaged. Therefore proper mail box placement on a sturdy support with adequate clear zone beneath the box is imperative.

In some developments the developer and/or homeowner's association has developed and/or adopted certain requirements regarding the aesthetics of mailboxes in the development. I request that the homeowner's association consider reviewing and revising these requirements if they are inconsistent with Township standards and limit our ability to efficiently and safely clear snow without damaging mailboxes.

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For many years, Township staff has tried to conduct some type of public education on this topic through articles in the Township's spring and fall newsletter, direct mailings to residents, phone conversations, and face to face discussions.

While the Township is not at all responsible for damage to mailboxes for the reasons cited above, I have made it a policy that if the mailbox was constructed to Township standards, and a Township plow actually hit the mailbox, the Township would replace the mailbox with a standard 4X4 wooden post and metal box.

Please understand that we are trying to be considerate of the homeowner's property, however the Township cannot be responsible for damage to ornate or extra ordinary mailbox structures in the Township's right-of-way. Some neighboring municipalities and PaDOT do not replace or repair damaged mailboxes at all.

I believe the best course of action is for residents and homeowner associations to relocate or modify mailboxes in such a manner as to suit the homeowner, and comply with U.S. Postal Service and Township standards. This can be done by constructing mailboxes in accordance with the attached standard drawing.

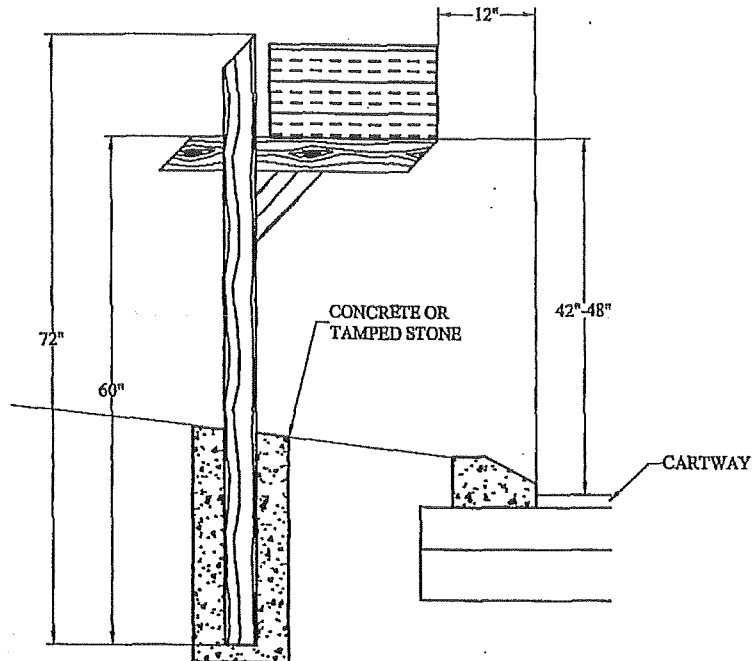
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Modricker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David J. Modricker, PE
Public Works Director

Copy: Steve McDonald, Road Superintendent


File: Teaberry Ridge Subdivision



NOTE: Maintain minimum 36 inches clear zone below mailbox, measured from road surface.

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	SCALE
4				N.T.S.
3				DRAWING NO.
2				RC4-0
1				SHEET

DRAWN BY: <u>RMP</u> DATE: <u>2/18/03</u> CHECKED BY: <u>RGS</u> DATE: <u>2/18/03</u> APPROVED BY: <u>[Signature]</u> DATE: <u>2/18/03</u>	PROJECT MAILBOX STANDARD FOR STREETS WITH CURB FERGUSON TOWNSHIP STANDARDS DRAWINGS
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 TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS / ENGINEERING 3147 Research Drive State College, Pennsylvania 16801 Telephone: 814-238-4651 Fax: 814-238-3454	1 OF 1
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