

8/2/23

Dear Ms. Cline and Zoning Board Members,

There is a variance request that absolutely should be supported consistent with hope of a more ethical, compassionate, and beautiful society.

I am writing to support the application for variance to improve a garage applied for by the Snider and Michel family at 31 Edgewood Road.

I own and live at the property across the street from the applicants, and next door to the applicants' son, his wife, and the adorable grandchildren. My living room window looks out at the Snider/Michel home, which they have consistently improved and beautified since moving in. Catherine is a retired professional artist, and would never design a structure that would not fit tastefully into the neighborhood.

Catherine Michel and David Snider are supportive parents and grandparents, helping their family through challenging times, supporting their grandson's well-timed lemonade stand business in their driveway, and basically doing all the good things we would hope every family and neighbor would have the moral fortitude to do.

This is a family that comes together to help each other and their help continues very much needed. Let's make their lives a little bit more comfortable and manageable by supporting a renovation to simply help them remove a dangerous old garage and create a new garage that can perform the basic function of sheltering two family vehicles.

I can say wholeheartedly that this family are people we want to help stay comfortably in town to be exemplary neighbors and friends. If we can't support excellent citizens to make basic functional property improvements, we need to re-examine our priorities.

If my opinions sound strong, that may be because I am a Clinical Psychologist, and those of us doing compassion-based work in the world hate to see bureaucratic systems miss an opportunity to do the compassionate thing.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris Chance, PhD

Owner and resident at 25 Meadow Road