

**Bath Township Trustee Sean Gaffney**  
**1075 Ghent Road - Rezoning vote comments**  
**9-26-2022**

In my position as Bath Township Trustee I have listened, read the emails and letters, reviewed the Bath Township Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan regarding the request to rezone 1075 Ghent Road from R2 to B4. I have looked at the history of this re-zoning request, which began almost two years ago before I took office, and have taken time reviewing the proponent and opponent positions.

Three particular issues from my campaign last fall stand out. First, I am unhappy with the new intersection design at the corner of Ghent and Cleveland Massillon Roads. This is where 1075 Ghent Road is located. This intersection is not maintained by the Township and continues to be a common thread of discussion in Bath and the surrounding communities. While the new traffic design has helped alleviated some of the rush hour traffic, it hurt other times and problems persist. I remain committed to working with all County Officials to resolve this intersection issue.

Secondly, “I want to maintain the rural character of Bath while thriving as one of regions finest communities”. Bath is mainly a residential community, though we have many successful local businesses and business areas that our residents enjoy and support. Currently, we have an ample supply of vacant sites in existing commercially zoned areas of the Township. Not all, but some of this vacancy, I attribute to a “pandemic effect”. These existing commercially available vacant areas can be utilized, or repurposed, for the mutual benefit of all.

Finally, Bath Township is a wonderful place to live and work due to our caring people, good zoning and careful use of our planning tools. I am not convinced, nor see anything in the Bath Township Zoning Code or Comprehensive Plan to substantiate the rezoning of 1075 Ghent Road from residential to commercial. Therefore, I do not see a compelling reason for change.