

A2011-61

September 17, 2011

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Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave, NW; Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

2011 SEP 27 A 11: 52

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: PRC Docket Number: A2011-61

I believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed on the following grounds:

On 3/25/11, a letter was sent to the Etna Post Office by Nadine Trembley asking the Postmaster/OIC to make a listing of all area business, civic organization, etc (See Attachment). Upon reviewing the official Docket information, there was no listing made. How can there be nothing listed when the following businesses are either located in Etna or use the Etna Post Office on a regular basis.

Gary Rith Pottery	Crackerman of Etna
Bo's Organic Bones	Hawkseye Herbs
FSM Sharpening	Nash Construction
Tompkins Weekly	Ithaca Child
Etna Community Church	C. Mark Enterprises
Creekwood Apartments	Marquis Apartments
Tabby Bookkeeping	CNY Landscaping
National Audubon Society	Etna Fire Department
J. Lowery	Etna Community Association
Peruville Cemetery Association	Etna Cemetery Association
Phoenix Books	Academic Book Source
Wernicks	Recycled Electronics
Stinky's Septic	Richard's Fiber Care
Ithaca Produce	Cornell University

All of these business frequent Etna Post office on a regular basis because of the location, convenience and the service that they receive. It has to say something that an Ivy League University chooses to use the small Etna Post Office over the Ithaca Post Office on a regular basis.

The Etna Post Office offers a convenient location for our patrons that do not or can not drive. For example, a 90 year old box holder WALKS daily to the Etna Post Office to obtain his mail. He walks daily for exercise that he wouldn't get if he had to drive elsewhere.

The Etna Post Office provides safety for the Postal patrons by providing box services instead of having to have mail boxes on the edges of busy streets. Route 366 that a lot of our patrons live on, is not a very safe road to be having anyone stand at the edge of the road to get mail, let alone asking a rural driver to stop at these boxes. Part of the road is in a flood area, there are blind curves that people do not follow the speed limits around. Why put your patrons and employees in danger by closing the Post Office to have dangerous boxes where there is a potential to get injured or worse.

Has the Postal Service truly thought of what it would cost the postal customers to change everything to accommodate the closing of the post office? The expense of putting up and maintaining a street side mailbox, which continually gets taken down by a County Snowplow, or having to hire someone to clean snow away from a mailbox if you are elderly or disabled. The hassle of address changes with all the billers that they have. The hassle of having to stand in line to have your drivers' license changed.

Closing the Post Office to save money when there are only 2 part time employees (1 OIC and 1 PMR) to pay, a very reasonable rent, and limited expenses, could not truly justify the added expenses of adding hours to a rural driver, adding additional fuel expenses at the tune of Tompkins Counties generous \$3.85-\$3.95 per gallon gas prices, plus the benefits that the rural carriers receive if you have to add rural carriers to cover the routes and the increasing expenses of vehicle maintenance of the rural trucks from the harsh New York roads and weather.

The Etna Post Office NEEDS to stay open. It is the heart and soul of this community. I strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to close the Etna Post Office on the grounds of false documentation received in the initial studies.

Thank you for reviewing my recent appeal and I urge you to make the right decision for your postal patrons who have continually stuck by you instead of going "paper-less" like the rest of the world. You couldn't ask for more loyal patrons than the Etna community.

Sincerely,



Heather Marshall
Lifetime Resident/Postal Customer

Enclosed: Attachment

* Attachment 1 *



03/25/2011

OIC/POSTMASTER

SUBJECT: ETNA Post Office

Please provide the names and addresses of businesses, religious institutions, civic organizations, and local government offices, and schools that are served by the ETNA Post Office. The list of businesses should include small, part-time and in-home businesses, as well as public institutions, such as schools, police departments, etc; religious institutions and businesses physically located outside the community that use retail services on a routine basis at the ETNA Post Office. Also, please provide the total number of permit mailers and postage meter customers. Indicate in the space below the total number of Post Office box, general, and street delivery customers served by the office. Return all documents to NADINE TREMBLAY by 04/08/2011. This information will be entered into the official record for public viewing.

Post Office Box	<u>156</u>
General Delivery	<u>0</u>
Rural Route (RR)	<u>0</u>
Highway Contract Route (HCR)	<u>0</u>
Intermediate RR	<u>0</u>
Intermediate HCR	<u>0</u>
City Delivery	<u>0</u>
Total Customers	<u>156</u>

If you have any comments on alternate means of providing services to the ETNA customers, please provide them below:

Move operation to Freeville. Add delivery to Freeville routes

NADINE TREMBLAY
Post Office Review Coordinator

Comments:

cc: Official Record