

August 2, 2016

Dear Selectmen,

Dan and I are excited and happy to be in the old homestead. Everyone has been so welcoming to us. I believe that Louis and Mary would be overjoyed to see their great grandchildren playing out on the corner as their children once did.

It is because of these children, and indeed, all of the children in the town, that I write. We live within walking distance of all the major businesses in Chilmark. The library, the Community Center, the Chilmark Store, the school and the US Post Office. But because of the condition of the side of the roads, and the nonexistent sidewalk, it is much too dangerous to allow children to walk without the supervision of an adult.

I invite all of you to come over some Tuesday, when I have my grandchildren, to walk to the Chilmark Store or the library with us. The side of the road to the store is angled, so a fall means gravity puts you in the street; the asphalt is crumbling, so you have to pick your way carefully; the cars fly by. Once I gave a woman a hand signal to slow down as I was walking with five kids, 11 and under, and she pulled up next to me and flipped me the bird. The crosswalk that leads (I think) to the library, crosses the road and leads to stone steps on a hill in an area that isn't mowed and a stone wall that I guess you are expected to climb over after making your way through the ticks and poison ivy.

In this day and age, when we should be encouraging greener modes of transportation, please make it safer. I did my part by installing my fence back from the road to give people ample walking space. And please don't recommend that I call Mass DOT. To me, this is a town problem. Let's fix Beetlebung Corner before someone gets hurt.

Thank you for your time,



Marie Larsen

