

TOWN OF CHILMARK CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OFFICES:

Beetlebung Corner Post Office Box 119 Chilmark, MA 02535 508-645-2100 508-645-2110 Fax

www.chilmarkma.gov

To:

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) District 5

Mary-Joe Perry, MassDOT District Highway Director Matthew Broderick, District 5 Maintenance Engineer

From: The Chilmark Planning Board

Re: Town of Chilmark State Road Flooding Issues

Date: April 7, 2017

During the past year, the Chilmark Planning Board has discussed its concerns about areas of flooding on Chilmark roads – in particular on South Road, also called State Road.

During the heavy rainstorms in the spring of 2016 and this spring so far, the Planning Board's Road Agent, Mitchell Posin, travelled the length of South Road in an effort to identify the areas of greatest concern. The following is a list of those areas where rain accumulation was significant. It appears that drainage at these areas is inadequate to keep the roads relatively free of pooling.

Specifically noted (with an asterisk) are those spots where the accumulation is at or immediately before a curve in the road or where the pooling was so great that it encroached over the dividing line of the road. The Board's concern is that the pooling results in dangerous driving conditions.

As you would appreciate, driving through the pooling at speed, if there is insufficient reaction time to slow down, sends a cascade of water onto the windshield, temporarily blocking the driver's view. This is particularly problematic at night when the pooling is difficult to see in advance. Furthermore, the natural tendency to skirt the pooling is especially dangerous both at a curve and where the pooling extends across the entire driving lane.

A map is attached to help identify the specific areas of flooding. The map identifies the following 6 areas of concern:

- #1: Approximately at 276 South Road on north side
- #2: West of Barton Way, between Blaut and Leaf properties on north side
- #3: On the curve west of Blue Barque Road and Leventritt property on north side
- #4: Approximately at 111 South Road on south side
- #5: West of Old Ridge Hill Road on north side
- #6: At junction of Ridge Hill Road on north side

The Planning Board respectfully requests the attention of the MASS DOT to the urgent safety conditions on South Road (State Road).

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Richard Osnoss, Planning Board



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