

Dear Chilmark selectman,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of several concerned house holds in the Molly's lane and Middle Line road associations to bring to your attention our opposition to the proposed trail extension along the stone wall parallel to Middle Line road.

It may be in the best interest of our neighborhood and the public who uses the land bank to cancel the plan to install the walking path along the middle line Road for several reasons.

To begin, the wall is rather unstable and if people are walking along it would certainly compromise the integrity of this beautiful fragile aging dry stacked stone wall. As well, people could get hurt by rocks that fall and there are a lot of patches of lush vegetation and beautiful old trees that would be disrupted by making a pathway. Currently as is people can just walk on the road, as I do often with my son, neighbors and dogs.

The proposed location of the walk would drop walkers off the trail directly onto a dangerous curve in the intersection of Molly's lane and Middle line road. The idea of the land bank trail being extended is also unnecessary now that the land bank has created a wide connecting trail to the Hollman road deep in the woods from the new area they acquired way back off the Hollman road. This wonderful wide new trail is useful and safe for visitors parked in the middle line woods lot and neighbors out enjoying the trail system. Extending the land bank trail is unnecessary and would end in an unsafe location for walkers and bikers to merge onto Middle line road a bend which is a dangerous idea.

Several of the neighbors in the middle line neighborhood have cats and dogs as well as keep chickens, ducks and geese. For the safety of our pets and children it may be a better option that we avoid having people walking with dogs through this area. We have already had unfortunate experiences of dogs off leash wandering into our yards and finding cats and birds to chase, sadly deaths have occurred.

We also often see folks getting lost along the way searching for the next section of trail around the Hollman road crossing of Molly's lane. It's seems foolish to add more confusion to the area by adding the proposed trail extension leading the public onto middle line road so far from the Holman trail intersection.

This change would encourage folks to explore further down the trails closer to the homes of 3 toddlers in our first cluster of homes. The specific households of #1,2,3 & 4 Beech Grove as well as #3 & 4 Oak grove are residence of several children who are often found outside biking, walking, scooting and playing together with pets directly where the proposed trail would end.

A few of us had planned to discuss this on January 3 at the meeting being held at the Town hall of Chilmark but we had a snowstorm and that meeting was canceled and we were never notified of the rescheduling in order to have this discussion so we are sending our voices now with our opposition to this change.

The Molly's Lane and Middle Line road association Members;

Jennie Slossberg

Cameron and Allison Parry

Jen Jamgocian & Lev Wlodyka