

Courtney & David Albert
471 Killlearn Road
Millbrook NY 12545
(914)466-8609 c

3/18/21

Town Board, Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the residents of Killlearn Road who support the road's renovation. We are not asking for our road to become a yellow lined paved road and do not believe that paving will cause our road to become a less desirable place to live. On the contrary, we believe it will increase its safety, appeal, beauty and the quality of life of its residents. We are interested in finding a permanent, feasible option that will create a safe, drivable and durable road. We believe that an engineer/or other objective and appropriate professional needs to be brought in to identify the best path forward. We believe that it is likely that the base of the road will need to be replaced and then paved either with oil & crushed stone, or if need be pavement.

The number of homes on Killlearn Road has increased substantially over the years. When the road was first designated scenic there were approximately 26 houses. Now, this number has increased to approximately 50. Such a large increase in the number of homes causes an even greater increase in the number of vehicles travelling on the road each day; the cars & trucks of residents, their friends and family as well as larger vehicles needed for delivery, oil, and sanitation. Our dirt road cannot support this type of traffic, wear and tear. Over the years there have been numerous complaints written and voiced about the drivability and safety of the road. Attempts at fixing the road are only temporary and costly. We need a safer long term solution.

One of the reasons for a scenic road, according to the law, is to increase **quality of life**. However, the dirt road decreases our quality of life in many ways. Many, if not all of us, have AWD or 4WD and still feel unsafe driving on Killlearn when it is wet, slippery, full of ruts and rocks. To help illustrate this, here are a few samples from letters written by separate residents in recent years about their concerns:

Hi Gary,

I just spoke to the Highway Superintendent about my concerns driving on Killlearn Rd and I want you to be aware of them as well. This morning, on the way to dropping my son off at school, my car, going 5-10 mph slid and almost collided with a truck with a horse trailer coming the opposite direction. I have had the breaks on my SUV fail several times after driving through deep mud ruts as well. The road is dangerous to drive on as the mud is so deep in some areas. My utmost concern is safety. At times, I think about emergency vehicles not being able to reach a home in a timely manner, or not at all on certain days, given the overall road condition. That really worries me.

I appreciate that a lot of work has gone into trying to make Killearn Rd. better; drainage, ditches and dirt. While this has improved the road in some parts, there are several long stretches that still does not hold up to traffic and weather -- even hours after the Highway Department has done maintenance it is back to where it was. Hence, a safer and more permanent solution needs to be considered whether its recycled asphalt or pavement.

Dear Mr Ciferri,

We are respectfully writing to you to inform you of our concerns of living on Killearn Rd, which you probably know is a dirt road.... During periods of heavy rain or when spring comes to melt the ice/snow, the road can become extremely treacherous. It turns into a virtual "mud pit", with very deep ruts scattered throughout all sections of the road bed; the sides often form deep gullies which vehicles can slide into, ending in being in a ditch; and the road can become so slippery that "one false move" of going a little too fast during these conditions (well under the 30 mph speed limit), or not navigating the ruts in time, can again lead to your vehicle going off the side of the road.

Having said that, we have small children and we become very nervous and anxious when, during these conditions, we have to travel on Killearn to and from our home. This past weekend was one of the worst, in our 16 years here, we've ever seen. It seemed in places, the road was literally being washed away. What happens when emergency vehicles need to get to and from homes on Killearn when there is a emergency situation? They must go so slowly even though time is of the essence.....

There have also been multiple occasions when the school bus has called to inform residents that our children could not be picked up due to the road conditions. In those instances, we have had to drive our children to school or down to the corner where Killearn Road is paved to meet the bus both for pick up and drop off. And, within the last two years (pre-pandemic), our children were told by their bus driver that only a small bus could drive on the road and so, even when a larger bus is needed given the number of students, a small bus is used forcing the children (with no available seat) to sit on the floor of the bus. Clearly this is another safety concern and certainly does not support the argument that this road increases the quality of our lives. We have also witnessed the bus trying to navigate the road, slipping and sliding on days when it is wet and muddy. Again, this is not safe and is a problem. Over the years, many other types of vehicles have not been able to reach our homes due to the road condition. Several years ago, a resident expressed concern at a board meeting that her son's insulin was not able to be delivered to her home by UPS because they could not drive on the road due to its poor condition citing safety concerns for their driver and their vehicle. A resident of our road was not able to get the insulin for her son delivered to her home because of the road.

In addition, many of us have had to replace multiple tires and car air filters due to the dirt and rocks. Here are some recent examples shared by different residents:

Heading out to a doctor's appointment I found a completely flat tire. Embedded was one of the large sharp grey stones the town have put down near my house. My 4WD has driven less than 5000 miles and the tires are virtually new. The size and sharpness of the stones are ridiculous. Cost: Almost \$400 to tow and replace tire. Lost Doctor appointment. The road is too dangerous to drive on. My tire could have blown out on the Taconic and who knows. I can no longer drive on the road I pay taxes for and have to drive off to Chestnut Hill to get out of my house.

Within the past year (a few times), the steering wheel on my car was shaking and the brakes were making a loud, clunking noise whenever I slowed down. I brought my car to get looked at and our repair man said there was so much mud stuck in the tires that it took him and another guy close to an hour to chip off the mud with a screwdriver and hammer. They said jokingly, give this bill to the Town Highway Department; they are familiar with Killlearn!!

In addition to this, we have friends and family who are not able to visit with us and at times cancel because of their inability to drive on the road without 4-Wheel drive. Just this past month, a grandmother was unable to drive her granddaughter home because of the road conditions. She did not have a 4-wheel drive vehicle and was terrified by our road. In addition, housekeepers, personal trainers, and other employees who do not have 4-wheel drive have needed to cancel because they can't drive on the road.

Another purpose of the scenic road designation is to **maintain the beauty and aesthetic appearance of the road**. We argue that the appearance of Killlearn road with its dirt, mud, tire ruts, rocks of varying sizes, as well as the 3 feet on each side of the road of sprayed rocks, silt, and dirt detract from the beauty of the road (See images below) The highway department is already having to put stones across large parts of the road – these rocks are of varying sizes, shapes and are very rough. Having the road brought to the proper grade, putting down a proper base, and then topping it with oil & crushed stone would enhance the appearance, safety, durability, and drivability of the road.

And, **Killlearn Rd. does not need to stay dirt to be a "scenic road"**. There are other roads in Millbrook, such as South Road and North Tower Hill Road, for example, that hold the scenic designation and are paved. And, Hammond Hill Road, also a designated scenic road, is part paved and part dirt. Given that these roads are paved and are scenic, we see no reason why Killlearn cannot be as well.

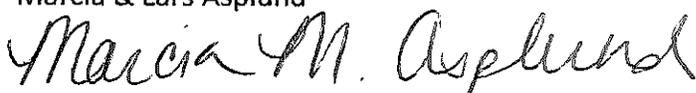
We understand that the renovation of the road will be costly, but we also believe that over the long term, the cost of maintaining a paved road will be much less costly and labor intensive. We believe the town should bring in professionals (such as an engineer) to determine the best path forward. We have also learned that some state funding may be available for paving (oil & stone or pavement) for those parts of the road that are 20 feet wide. Please let us know the next steps you plan to take to address Killlearn Road.

We are interested in hearing from you and moving forward on a plan. Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know the next steps you plan to take.

1. Courtney & David Albert



2. Marcia & Lars Asplund



3. Jacques Bernard

* Still need to connect to get signature

4. Charles G. Bilangino Jr.

JOSEPHINE M. BILANGINO

Josephine M. Bilangino

5. Chas & Carla Clarks

** were out of town so signed and sent a picture of their signatures - page included

6. Mark Hsiao & Howard Koeppel

Mark Hsiao

7. Sara McGregor & Geoff Howard

Sara McGregor Geoff Howard

8. Dafna Mizrahi

Dafna Mizrahi

9. Frank Orlando

* Still need to connect for signature

10. Melinda & Chas Pisculli

Melinda Pisculli Chas Pisculli

11. Johanna Rosse

Johanna Rosse

12. Kristy & Peter Rosse

Kristy Rosse

13. Angela Senkbeil

Angela Senkbeil

14. Kim & Niles Wheeler

Kim Wheeler - Niles Wheeler

15. Tony & Joanne Wright

** Signature on next page. Due to covid signed separately + dropped off

16. Cullen & Carmine Casucci

Cullen Casucci Carmine Casucci

*Attached and included are pictures of the road taken this year 2021

3. Jacques Bernard

4. Charles G. Bilangino Jr.

JOSEPHINE M. BILANGINO

Josephine M. Bilangino

5. Chas & Carla Clarke

Chas & Carla Clarke

6. Mark Hsiao & Howard Koeppel

Mark Hsiao

7. Sara McGregor & Geoff Howard

Sara & Geoff Howard

8. Dafna Mizrahi

Dafna Mizrahi

9. Frank Oriando

10. Melinda & Chas Pisculli

Melinda Pisculli Chas Pisculli

11. Johanna Rosse

Johanna Rosse

12. Kristy & Peter Rosse

Kristy & Peter Rosse

13. Angela Senkbeil

Angela Senkbeil

14. Kim & Niles Wheeler

Kim Wheeler Niles Wheeler

15. Tony & Joanne Wright

Signatures on next page.

Due to covid signed separately + dropped off

16. Cullen & Carmine Casucci

Cullen Casucci Carmine Casucci

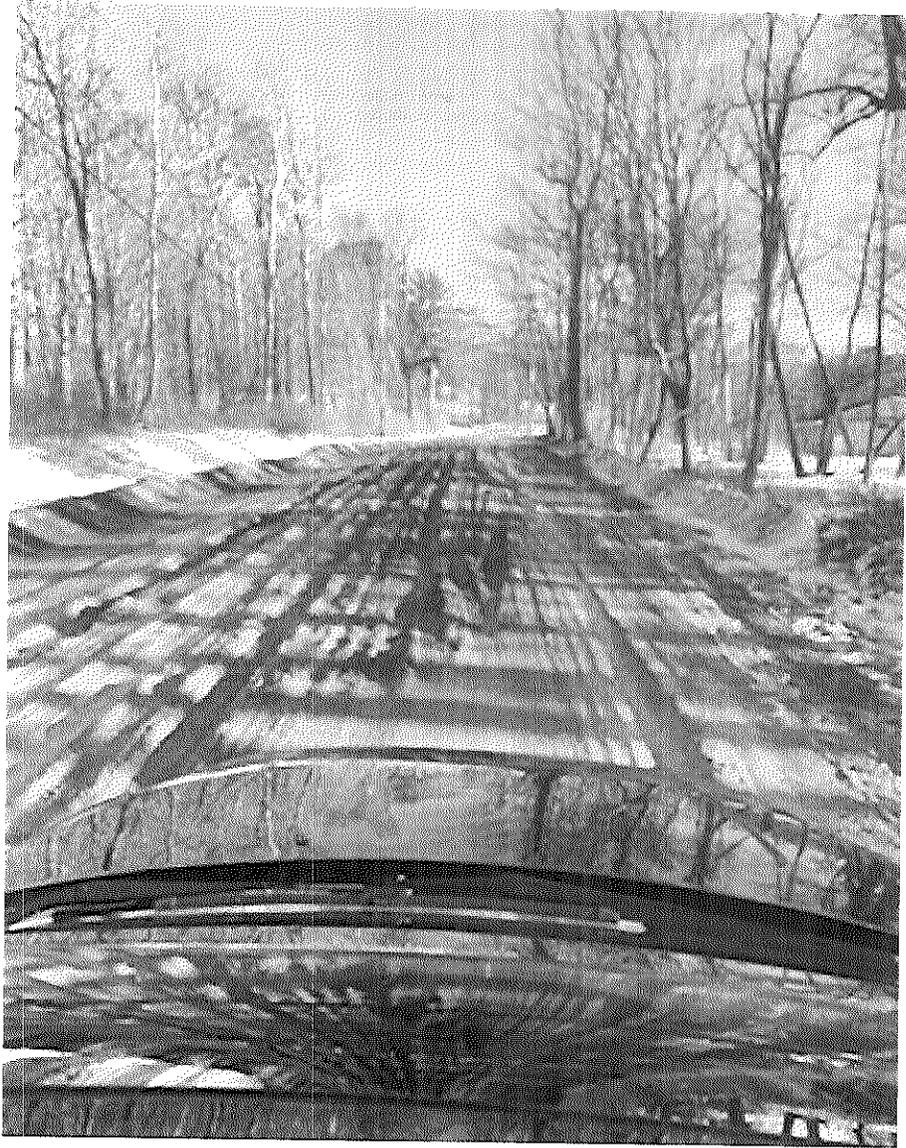
*Attached and included are pictures of the road taken this year 2021

3. Jacques Bernard
4. Charles G. Bilangino Jr.
5. Chas & Carla Clarks
6. Mark Hsiao & Howard Koeppel
7. Sara McGregor & Geoff Howard
8. Dafna Mizrahi
9. Frank Orlando
10. Melinda & Chas Pisculli
11. Johanna Rosse
12. Kristy & Peter Rosse
13. Angela Senkbeil
14. Kim & Niles Wheeler

^{**}
15. Tony & Joanne Wright

Tony & Joanne Wright

16. Casucci



Picture
on
Back of
Well
→

