

Select Board and Commissioner of Roads. (1)

First, I wanted to say on behalf of the concerned citizens of So Hero gathered here tonight, that your time and work is very appreciated. We think you all have a tough job, and contribute in powerful and positive ways in our community.

*a lifelong resident + Farm owner of 50 years of sum mers*  
John Lalumiere and Dan and I are landowners and tax payers who became aware of the intent to pave Kibbe Point Rd and the first part of Kibbe Farm Rd, when our neighbor Jenny Bunker went for a run and found drainage ditches being built on the other side of Kibbe Point near Idlewild.

After checking in with Sandy and Peter Gregg~who represent So Hero on many committees, we found that

1. There is a plan to pave Kibbe Point Rd and the first part of Kibbe Farm Rd. Perhaps by next summer. They said it had been on the books for years! We knew nothing of this.
2. Kibbe Point Rd is a town road and under the jurisdiction of the Road Commissioner and the Select Board, which has the authority to pave dirt roads.

After some research by our neighbor Jenny Bunker, we found that

- ① There is a Town Plan, (dated 2015) <sup>and it</sup> ~~which~~ considers Kibbe Point Rd a Local Road
- ② As such the conversion of gravel to pavement is currently a **"balance" between a desire to maintain a rural aesthetic and the convenience of blacktop**
- ③ As well as the availability of funds
- ④ **And public willingness to change.**

*we looked*  
When looking into State Guidelines, which indicated that

**1. Scenic Beauty**

2. And **Safety** were the most important two delineating factors.

*for the State.*

*With this information, we decided to move forward after the town clerk told John we could present it at the next select board meeting. (1)*

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are here to

We the people of So Hero respectfully request the Selectboard and Road Commissioner ~~to~~ reconsider the paving of Kibbe Farm Rd for the following reasons:

**People:** Kibbe Point Rd and Kibbe Farm Rd are used by hundreds of pople in the community as a place to come and walk under the arbors of trees and to enjoy the peace, safety and tranquility the dirt road provides. Families, children and adults use this as a recreational area daily from April through November for biking, walking, running and meeting up with others socially to exercise.

**Wildlife:** The roads is a cross way and by way for wildlife, including deer, bobcat, rabbit, squirrel and. Birds. The residents of Kibbe Point and Kibbe Farm encounter wildlife regularly, particularly the large family of deer who lay claim to the fields on either side of the road and who gather each evening to rest.

**Environmental Impact:**

**Warming Temperature:** Roads paved with asphalt trap 90% of the sun's hear. In an article submitted by MIT News, researchers at MIT find that "due to wha is called the urban heat island effect, densely built, impermeable surfaces, like pavement, can absorb solar radiation and warm up their surroundings by re-emitting radiation as heat. It increases air temperatures by as much as 7 degrees Fahrenheit and contribute to health and environment risks -that climate change will magnify." As we all know one of the many negative side effects of warming temperatures is the bloom of Cyanobacteria. One can argue the effects of the heat island effect will have an impact on the increase of future blooms.

**Air Pollution:** Asphalt, also known as bitumen, is a major source of air pollution. According to research published in the journal Science Advances, Asphalt is releasing hazardous air pollutants into communities, especially when hit with extreme heat and sunlight." Drew Genter of Yale University reports "many of these compounds are conducive to condensing to form secondary organic aerosol after reacting in the atmosphere. This can, in

turn, go on to form tiny particles called PM2.5 which are one of the most dangerous types of air pollution for human health.”

Vermont has approximately 8,000 miles of unpaved roads and only 6,000 miles of paved roads. It is widely believed that dirt roads are more in character with the scenic, rural beauty of Vermont. Kibbe Point and Kibbe Farm Roads are currently two of the scenic 8,000 miles. Maintaining these as a dirt roads will allow So Hero to save money and redirect the overflow funds to additional roads in need of gravel or use To help with drainage on these roads themselves.

For the reasons above, we encourage and request that the So Hero Selectboard and the Road Commissioner stop the plan to pave Kibbe Point and Kibbe Farm Roads, thereby preserving the character of the landscape, thus providing a healthful, attractive, and safe outdoor environment for its citizens.

We have petitions, representing people, who are either So Hero Tax Payers or Registered Voters, to present to you.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Ruth Donkley McJowan  
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