

April 21, 2021

Dear Planning Board:

I am enclosing a letter we have written in opposition to opening the trail at the end of Orchard Road to bicycles and all wheeled vehicles.

I have also written a poem expressing my feelings and opposition to the bicycle plan.

I hope you will take these two statements under consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mel Goertz".

Mel Goertz

April 21, 2021

Dear Planning Board:

We live on Orchard Road and would like to add our voices to those who are pleading to keep the trail connecting our road to the O'Brien property closed to all wheeled vehicles.

Orchard Road has become a very popular hiking place. We often see walkers (in groups or alone), joggers, families with children and horseback riders using the road, enjoying the peace and quiet and the beautiful views. We also like watching deer, foxes, turkeys and mink crossing our road. Occasionally, a bicyclist can be seen going by. None of these activities detracts from the natural beauty of Orchard Road.

However, if the trail were opened to bicycles, thus creating a throughway for bikes, we fear that our road would be permanently changed, and not for the better. Groups of speeding bikers would constitute a danger to walkers and a disturbance for animals, both on Orchard Road and the continuing trail. Walking is already an endangered activity and we would hate to see it become even more so by making this peaceful area a thoroughfare for bicycles. We therefore respectfully urge you to preserve things the way they are: keep the trail open for walking and horseback riding but do not allow bicycles on it.

Sincerely,



Herbert A. Goertz



Mary Ellen Goertz

Orchard Road

April 21, 2021

How many haiku have come
into my mind as I walk this quiet road
and now they want to turn it
into a bicycle thoroughfare.

How many animals have I known
along the way
and now they will frighten them
all away.

The shy mink, the curious ermine,
the leaping deer, the wild turkeys.

Am I to sit silent and let this
all disappear
as they plan their bike trail
down the road and through the woods.

Unaware of the pause in the walk
to lift a red eft newt off the road,
or coax a young garter snake into the brush,
they will rush down the road
wheels grinding the woolly bear
into the dust.

Mel Goertz