



TOWN OF GILFORD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

7:00PM

GILFORD TOWN HALL – 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The Gilford Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing pursuant to a citizen petition to restrict public parking on Bickford Road and Wood Road.

A copy of the proposed "no parking" regulation is available at the Selectmen's Office and on the Town's website (www.gilfordnh.org).

Any interested person may attend this public hearing to ask questions, present information, testimony and/or opinions related thereto.

To: Scott Dunn, Town Administrator, Gilford NH

From: Jack & Jennifer Kelley, 5 Wood Rd, Gilford
Shawn & Barbara Simoneau, 15 Wood Rd, Gilford

CC: Mark & Deborah Brewer, 19 Bickford Rd, Gilford
Jesse A. & Alison Thompson, 20 Bickford Rd, Gilford

Date: March 24, 2019

Subject: Unsafe and illegal parking on Wood and Bickford Road

Dear Mr. Dunn,

Please accept this letter as follow-up to the meeting in your office on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in which the above subject was discussed.

To recount, Wood Road is a small narrow dirt road that is unstable because of water and traffic, often resulting in run-off ditches on the sides and severe ruts due to motor vehicle traffic. In the summer it can be very dusty. These inconveniences of living on a dirt road affect both residents of Wood Road and Bickford Road. Over the past few years, the traffic on the road by those seeking to hike out of the trailhead at the end of the road has increased exponentially. This is a direct result of the explosive growth of social media type internet-based communications which identify for everyone (in-state and out-of-state) that there is parking¹ at the beginning of the trailhead.

The trailhead at the end of the eastern side of Wood Road is situated within conservation property owned by the Kelleys. Prior to the Kelley purchase of the 5 Wood Road property, the prior owner put the property into a conservation easement which included the provision for allowing up to 5 cars the ability to park on the property, accessing the parking area through the Simoneau (formerly Decato) property². The five-car parking area is defined by a series of large boulders and telephone pole logs. In the early years of the easement, the parking traffic was sparse and used by mostly local residents. However, in recent years, as mentioned above, the traffic attempting to secure one of the five parking spots has increased exponentially. Unfortunately, for the residents of Wood Road, this has resulted in several problems that continually compromise the livability and safety of the neighborhood. Among them are: strangers parking on both the Kelley's and the Simoneau's land where it is clearly delineated with signs as a no parking area; strangers vandalizing the no parking signs; strangers blocking the street such that passage by emergency equipment would be difficult, if not impossible; strangers blocking driveway access to 5 & 15 Wood Road; and being verbally abusive and threatening when confronted about the illegal parking by either the Kelleys or Simoneaus. For those on Bickford Road, speeding has been an increasing concern, and the high traffic volume has increased the dust and rut problems impacting their part of the neighborhood. Frankly, the entire Wood/Bickford Road neighborhood often looks more like the parking congestion at Mt. Major, with many of the vehicles from out-of-state, rather than the quaint dirt road neighborhood it was designed as.

The Simoneaus and Kelleys have both attempted to solicit assistance from the police in controlling the illegal private property parking, and driveway blocking. The police have not been inclined to help as there is no specific regulation on the public part of Wood Road prohibiting roadside parking, and the illegal parking on the resident's private land is seen as a private land owner problem.

Thus, it is requested by the Simoneaus and Kelleys (100% of the Wood Road residents), and supported by the Brewers (Bickford Road resident) that the town designates the area from the fire pond south on Wood Road, including the part of Bickford Road that encompasses the intersection fork of Wood and Bickford Roads, as a no public parking area. It is the view of all those supporting this proposal that the force of implied town signs would ensure compliance by the non-neighborhood parkers, and would convey more importance to the private property no parking signs placed by the Simoneaus and Kelleys. It would also ensure that the residents receive police support to remove cars blocking our driveways, since any parking – driveway blocking or otherwise – would be against town ordinance.

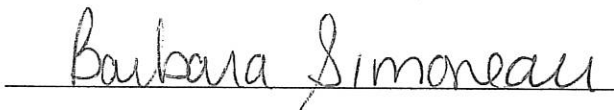
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the undersigned if you have any questions, or require additional information in order to evaluate our request.

Respectfully,

Jack & Jennifer Kelley



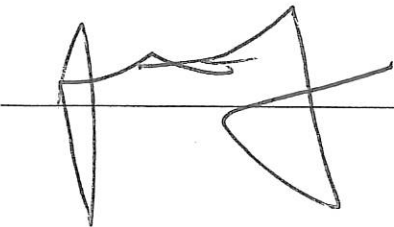
Shawn & Barbara Simoneau



Mark & Deborah Brewer

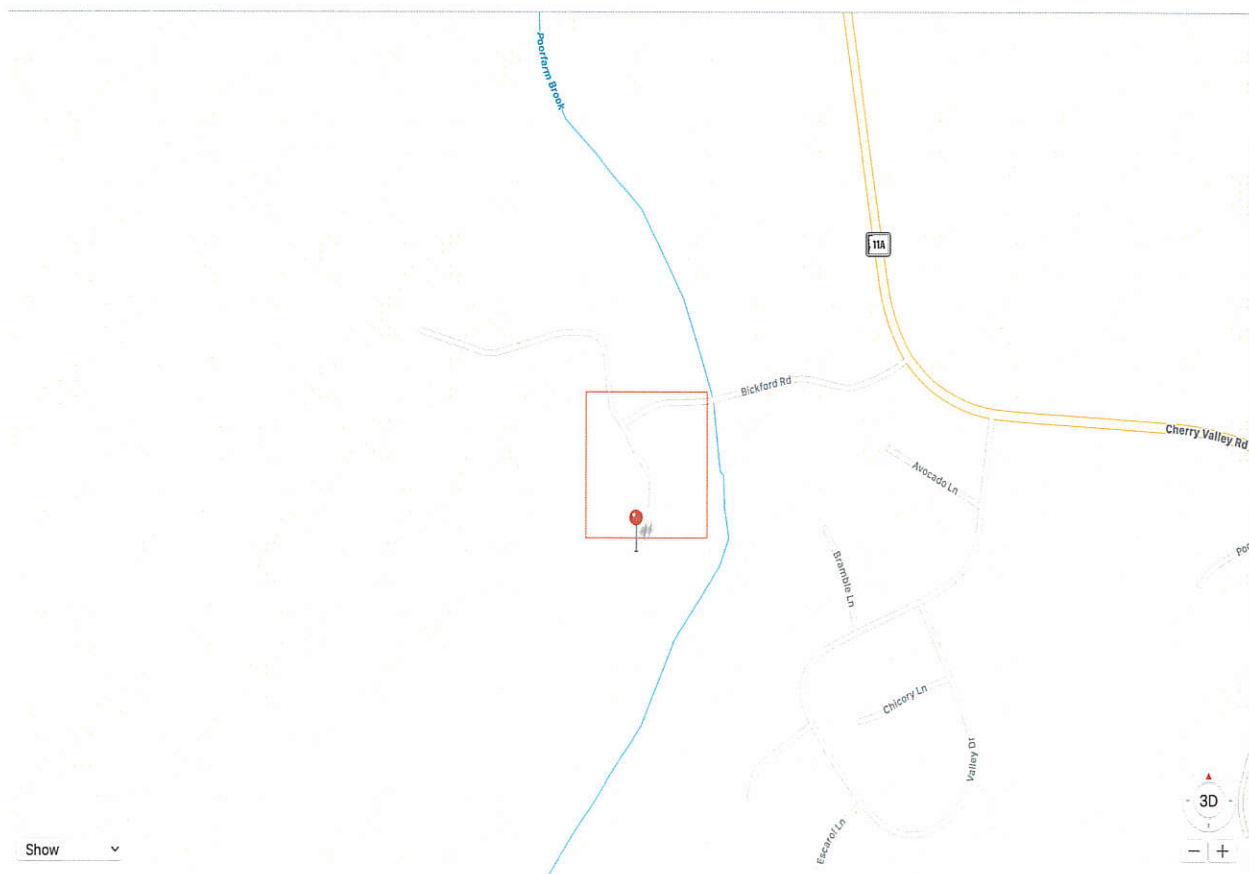


Jesse A. & Alison Thompson



1. The trailhead parking is roughly 45 yards through the Simoneau's property, and 125 yards into the Kelley property. There is signage upon entering the Kelley property that the parking area is only for 5 cars, at most. The entire drive in and parking areas is cordoned off by large boulders, telephone pole logs and planted pine trees. The 170 yards of dirt road access to the parking area is clearly marked with several no parking signs.
2. The Simoneau property and town portion of Wood road are not clearly delineated because Wood Road and the first 50 yards of the Simoneau's driveway are the same width all the way to the right-of-way through the Simoneau's property. The town portion of Wood Road runs about 65 yards from the junction of Wood & Bickford Roads, and the Simoneau's property runs about 50 yards to the right-of-way and another 45 yards along the right of way to the parking area. To note, if there are no parking spots available when cars enter the Simoneau's to access the Kelley property it frequently results in intrusive use of the Simoneau's driveway up close to the house to turn around.

MAP OF REQUESTED NO PARKING AREA: The suggested "no parking" area would keep the junction of Wood & Bickford Roads clear of parked cars to ensure emergency vehicles can navigate the turns safely, and keep the public from illegally parking on the Simoneau's property. Further, Wood Road is not wide enough to ensure safe passage of emergency vehicles when there are cars parked on the sides.





TOWN OF GILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PARKING REGULATIONS
(CHAPTER 24)

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, the Gilford Board of Selectmen hereby ordains to amend the Parking Regulations as previously adopted on May 12, 2010, as follows:

24.4.3 Special Parking Regulations

A. The following areas are specifically designated as no parking zones, to include the entire width of the travel lanes and road shoulders:

(13) Wood Road, both sides in its entirety.

(14) Bickford Road, both sides in its entirety.

24.7 EFFECTIVE DATE

24.7.1 These **amended** regulations shall take effect as of ~~June 1, 2010~~ **April 25, 2019.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this amendment to the Parking Regulations is adopted and approved on the 24th day of April, 2019 by the Gilford Board of Selectmen, following a public hearing held on the same date which was duly posted and published. ATTEST:

Richard Grenier, Selectman

Dale Channing Eddy, Selectman

Gus Benavides, Selectman

UNDER SEAL OF THE TOWN, RECEIVED AND RECORDED ON THIS ____ DAY
OF _____, 20____, BY:

Denise M. Gonyer, Town Clerk-Tax Collector