

**From:** gail kelley [mailto:gailkelleyo@yanoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 5:55 PM

**To:** Michael Behrendt

**Subject:** Re: Gerrish Drive - traffic safety - question from James Bubar

Hello, Michael,

I will be more specific about the matter of traffic accidents on the Gerrish-Ambler curve.

There were four incidents of a single car failing to negotiate that curve while approaching it from Gerrish Dr. The first three times, our mailbox, which used to be on that curve, was smashed and its post broken, necessitating replacement. Twice a car had to be pulled by a tow truck up the embankment of the stream that flows there. As a result of these two incidents, the culvert at this corner is crushed and broken, with part of the top of its rim folded backward by the vehicle being dragged back onto the road.

My husband, Andrew Merton, discovered the occurrence of the fourth accident -- about 10 years ago -- when he went out to the end of our driveway in the morning to get the newspaper and saw our mailbox and the newspaper box and their posts were missing. We later found the mailbox, smashed in beyond any possibility of repair, on Ambler Way approximately between Lots 6-8 and 6-

7. We finally moved the mailbox onto the Lewis's property, where it has remained unscathed ever since.

I don't know if the police were called for three of these incidents, but a fire truck and a police cruiser appeared on the scene for the accident described in the following paragraph.

The last head-on-into-the stream accident occurred on a late spring afternoon. Because our house sits back from the road and is hidden by trees, we weren't immediately aware of this accident. However, a neighbor on Ambler Way later told us she encountered a woman and her young (8-10 years old, maybe) daughter walking up the road. The neighbor told us the woman was quite shaken and said she was on her way to get help. She turned down the neighbor's offer of assistance.

One of the earlier incidents, involving just the destruction of our mailbox, turned out to have been the doing of a young driver who had just gotten his driver's license. We learned this a couple days after the incident when his mother showed up, with him in tow, to have him apologize and offer to pay for the replacement of the mailbox. We were touched by this moment of responsible parenting.

When our kids and those next door at 20 Ambler Way were in elementary school and transported to school by a bus, they were initially supposed to wait on the concave section of the curve so the bus moving down Gerrish could pick them up

there. This meant the children had to cross from the ends of their driveways to the other side of a blind curve. Visibility to Ambler Way for vehicles travelling down Gerrish is obscured and having children waiting on the inside of the curve and crossing the road there is treacherous. We lobbied the school district for some time before succeeding, with Oyster River Principal Jean Robinson's intervention, in changing the bus route so that the bus would approach the curve from Ambler rather than Gerrish, and children would not have to cross the road.

I hope this clarifies our position that the Gerrish-Ambler curve is already hazardous and will be made more so by adding another road entrance to it.

Best,

Gail Kelley

On Monday, April 26, 2021, 04:10:53 PM EDT, Michael Behrendt

<mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us> wrote:

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**Hello Rene, Rich, and April,**