



Pine Point Residents Association

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The "Pine Point Residents Association" formed six years ago as an informal group of citizens who get involved in

local issues and present position statements to local and state government officials. Its primary purpose is to keep people informed of issues in the neighborhood. The group is open to anyone with an interest in Pine Point. Contributions are accepted to offset expenses.

In the last six years the group has worked on these and other issues:

- Worked to defeat a plan to permanently close the end of the Pine Point Rd. (known as Depot St.) and advocated for a fair land swap with the motel. Unfortunately, that effort lost by one vote by one Town Councilor who was not reelected months later.
- Worked to urge the developer of the Beachwalk subdivision to deed open space to the Town to prevent another large home on that parcel in that view corridor.
- Had representatives on the Pine Point Rd. reconstruction project to provide input on the redesign of the road.
- Participated in the design of the new "park" next to the former Depot St., which was developed from the land leftover from the disproportionate land swap (the Town lost 1/8 acre of shorefront and vehicle access to the beach.)
- Promoted an ordinance to regulate so-called "condotels" which can negatively affect the character of a neighborhood if no rules are in place for these non-conforming enterprises.
- Exposed private legal agreements made between the Town and the Beachwalk Homeowners which revealed the taxpayers of the Town ended up paving their private road, making settlement payments from town funds, and permitting other prohibited activities such as summer construction.
- Worked politically to elect Town Councilors who supported the residents of Pine Point, while working to unseat the one Council member who switched his vote at the last minute and was the swing vote which closed Depot Street. Association-backed candidates won both seats.
- Monitored other issues which the Town has not kept residents informed about, including the surprise sale of part of Hurd Park's green space to a developer, the design and issues related to the new commercial pier, parking and traffic problems on King Street at the parking lot, motorcycle noise, an idea promoted to make Pine Point have one way streets, beach rights-of-way issues, crosswalks, beach cleaning, property tax discrepancies and others.
- The Town is revising our Town Charter and the Association has advocated changes which would have allowed a referendum on the road closing. It also urged the inclusion of a recall provision so Town Council members could be removed by the voters. Currently it has urged the Council's ordinance committee to regulate fencing (wooden or vegetation) which would block scenic views by the public.
- Promoted involvement by residents of all parts of Town to become involved and informed in Pine Point and town-wide issues.

Annual Meeting Wednesday, August 11th

Membership Drive

There are many other issues which are likely to confront Pine Point. The neighborhood has no representative on the Town Council. But this informal association has developed a strong voice because there are people willing to work together hold the Town accountable for its decisions. Until this group formed, policies affecting the neighborhood were rarely, if ever, made public or people brought into the process. There will likely be more redevelopment efforts, a revaluation of property taxes, parking, traffic and other infrastructure problems, and a major issue unfolding: **Floodplain Re-mapping** which will affect many property owners here. If the past six years have been any indication, there will always be issues to confront.

Right now members of the group need a team of people to investigate what appear to be significant discrepancies in property tax assessments.

Please consider joining the group. We use e-mail alerts and also a web site as a record of issues. You can visit it to browse the last six years of the group's efforts - www.pinepointbeach.com -

If you don't use e-mail, you can be part of a **Phone Call List** for information.

To Join, send an e-mail to

jshirk@maine.rr.com or **Call Judy at 883-9400 with your phone numbers to be added to the Phone Call List.**

Current members may also want to send an e-mail to update or confirm their e-mail address, and everyone can suggest others to add if you believe they would be interested.

THERE WILL BE DINNER SOCIAL, HISTORICAL SLIDE SHOW and ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GROUP ON AUGUST 11th. Marilyn Pena is coordinating this event and she can be reached at marilyn.pena@yahoo.com. Please contact Marilyn if you can help.

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010
6:00 - 8:30 at Engine 4 Fire Station**

6:00 Pot Luck Supper
6:45 Pine Point History Slide Show
7:30 Association Annual Meeting
Update on Issues

Please come to all or part of this event