

## Cathy Flynn

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**From:** Pat Catchpole <catchct@netscape.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 03, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** Cathy Flynn  
**Subject:** Madaket Advisory Board meeting January 4, 2021 re: 9 Maine Avenue application

To Cathy Flynn, Land Use Specialist, and the Madaket Advisory Board

Dear Ms. Flynn,

I am writing to address the agenda application item for a pool for 9 Maine Avenue, Madaket, scheduled for January 4, 2021.

My brother and I own the house *directly* across the street from 9 Maine Avenue, where the pool is proposed to be built. My parents, who originally visited Nantucket in 1950, bought 8 Maine Avenue (Brigadoon) in the early 70s and are the original owners. Our families have enjoyed the quiet, peaceful solitude of Smith's Point for 5 decades. Our children adore it as much as we do, and eventually will become the owners.

As we've seen the dune size and beach erode over the years, 2 homes moved right near us after the February 2016 storm, plus the more recent loss of the Emery stilt house, we understand how incredibly fragile the area is. It is delicate and precious, a last outpost on the western tip of our favorite place in the world.

The current owner of 9 Maine is new to the area, and can't have an understanding of the real terror that storm produced for many of us, especially those who had to move their homes. Smith's Point is fragile, delicate and small, and feels more or less the way it did when we were teenagers. The loss of the corner of Maine Avenue to the storm is still a shock every time we see it. We know mother nature will always win.

The concept of a pool, steps from the most pristine beach and ocean, is ludicrous. And if you don't want the surf beach, a few hundred steps away is the "quiet beach," shallow, safe and total bliss. Smith's Point is a very quiet part of the island. We all encourage lights off in the evenings, so we can enjoy the magical night sky. A hole in the ground with salt water directly across from our deck, a few hundred feet from the ocean, is an anathema to me. There are noisy filters, maintenance, lights, fencing, parties. To hear pool noise over the surf, the surf being one of the reasons we love the area so much, is insane. And how will the local deer and kids be protected from wandering in – a huge fence?! It's just not appropriate in any way to the area. Not to mention it practically abuts our very expensive septic system.

While I am writing as a direct neighbor, I feel I speak for the entire neighborhood. So many owners have been there for decades – it's a place you love for finding it the way you left it, it's a community with character. An incredibly special community at that. I trust you will walk the area, and see how unchanged and like old Nantucket it is. It's one of the last places that still feels like I remember the island did in the 1960s, which is the best part of its charm. Can you imagine what Millie Jewett would think?!

Thank you,

Pat Catchpole  
8 Maine Avenue  
Smith's Point