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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Pine Beach needs to act on land deal

There's been a lot of fiddling around in Pine Beach about what use to make of part of the site of the old Pine Beach Inn, which later became Admiral Farragut Academy.

The naval training academy failed for lack of students, and the borough bought the property in 1985.

At a meeting Monday night, a lot of people said they want the academy site to look a lot like the rest of picturesque Pine Beach, with one-family homes, 16 or 20 of them, built there.

There was no support for the kind of project that nearly was built there, an age-restricted apartment complex.

That deal fell through earlier this year.

The land could be saved as open space, but that's already been done.

An adjoining five-acre piece of the site is being used for recreation.

So residents opted to take between \$2.7 and \$3 million from a developer for the property, and get some new neighbors.

That deal will wipe out the borough's remaining debt from the original purchase, and put the property, plus improvements, on the tax rolls.

It is still a seller's market in real estate in Ocean County, so the prospective developer should have no trouble selling homes on the site.

We hope officials in Pine Beach move quickly to close the deal, now that the borough has gotten its bearings from the folks who pay the bills.

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