

**From:** [contact@pinehurstbusinesspartners.com](mailto:contact@pinehurstbusinesspartners.com)

**Date:** October 7, 2021 at 9:13:33 PM EDT

**To:** John Strickland <[jstrickland@vopnc.org](mailto:jstrickland@vopnc.org)>

**Cc:** Jane Hogeman <[jhogeman@vopnc.org](mailto:jhogeman@vopnc.org)>, Judy Davis <[jdavis@vopnc.org](mailto:jdavis@vopnc.org)>, Lydia Boesch <[lboesch@vopnc.org](mailto:lboesch@vopnc.org)>, [abbymgibson@gmail.com](mailto:abbymgibson@gmail.com), [amanda@pinehurstlivingmagazine.com](mailto:amanda@pinehurstlivingmagazine.com), [greg@pinehurstlivingmagazine.com](mailto:greg@pinehurstlivingmagazine.com), Holly Kirk <[holly@kirktoours.com](mailto:holly@kirktoours.com)>, [Info@thebumpandbaby.com](mailto:Info@thebumpandbaby.com), [josephb@spoton.com](mailto:josephb@spoton.com), [mldavis8@ncsu.edu](mailto:mldavis8@ncsu.edu), [pinehurst@discoverymap.com](mailto:pinehurst@discoverymap.com), [raekinney99@gmail.com](mailto:raekinney99@gmail.com), [sbharrison@earthlink.net](mailto:sbharrison@earthlink.net)

**Subject:** Pinehurst Business Partners: A Request for Support

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Mr. Newman,

I hope this email serves as a small glimpse into the past few weeks for the Pinehurst Business Partners board and I.

As you may know, it is within our policy to share any member emails and newsletters, to which I did on Thursday, September 16th, when I shared a member business's email regarding a Meet and Greet for Village Council candidate, Patrick Pizzella. The responses rolled in, in either interest or appreciation. It has always been a value of Pinehurst Business Partners to share and support Village Center ongoings, and we are especially proud of our growing relationship and partnership with the Village of Pinehurst. Most Village Council candidates and elected members have spent time chatting with the board and members, speaking at public meetings, etc. It is not uncommon for community members to announce and discuss their candidacy at our meetings and it is important to us that our member businesses and residents have access to these types of relationships within their community, demystifying the gap between town government and its constituents.

Less than one hour after sending the email blast, I was berated by business owner and Village Council member and candidate, Kevin Drum. Over the next few weeks, the emails intensified, with name calling and language in unparalleled unprofessionalism. Kevin Drum threatened to "expose lies", "tell The Pilot", "tell everyone", "force a resignation", on and on. You will see the volatile nature of these emails in the copies that I have provided to the Village Council. When Kevin Drum did not receive a response from me that was to his liking, despite my time and effort to be kind and informative, he emailed or phoned other members of the board or neighboring member businesses, often late at night, to question and harass them, seemingly in hopes of escalating the issue to reflect his mission to "take over" the board.

Most of Kevin Drum's questions, or rather, intimidating accusations, could be answered by regular attendance to meetings and membership, which he does not historically participate in. Averaging 1-2 meetings a year, which are held monthly, and having never attended a board meeting (even when he was the Village of Pinehurst Council Member liaison for the Pinehurst Business Partners organization) or voting session, I can see why he understands so little about

our organization and its Mission Vision Values. Despite my lengthy replies, Kevin Drum remained irate and inconsolable, and instructed me to cancel his 2021 Membership application and check (which had been remitted in mid September, instead of January/February like the rest of our paying and participating members.) A few days later, he called an event committee member and left her a voicemail instructing her to cash his check. The following day, he made an appearance at our September monthly mixer held at a member business, and was friendly, interested, and engaged in conversation. Caring less about formality, and with the positive feedback at the meeting, the board approved to accept this apparent change of heart. We were hopeful this was behind us, and I emailed him with "welcome" information about our website, events, and initiatives, and a thank-you for stepping into more of a participative role. That email was, however, once again, met with total disdain and disrespect, as if he had no recollection of the previous directives to cancel his membership or his friendly demeanor at the meeting just a few nights previous. Seeing that this vicious cycle was likely to continue, I chose not to respond to him and spoke directly with John Strickland, Jane Hogeman, and Jeff Batton, instead.

It is here that I leave you with this letter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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