



Attentive listeners at a MARA conference

**MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Website Resources page with many road- relevant documents, including sample forms and a Leadership Manual updated by qualified attorneys.
- Full access to MARA's searchable forum (only members may post and reply).
- "Mud Season," our annual newsletter, mailed to your inbox (usually in March) and which you may forward to your members if you choose.
- Enhanced MARA outreach and advocacy during the Maine legislative season.
- Email alerts on topics of immediate interest to road associations (infrequent but important.)
- Annual conference featuring speakers on topics of interest to the membership.
- NEW: MARA Member Details are now encrypted for security using "Let's Encrypt" technology.



**TO BECOME A MEMBER**

Go to [www.maineroads.org](http://www.maineroads.org), click on the MEMBERSHIP page and complete the application form.

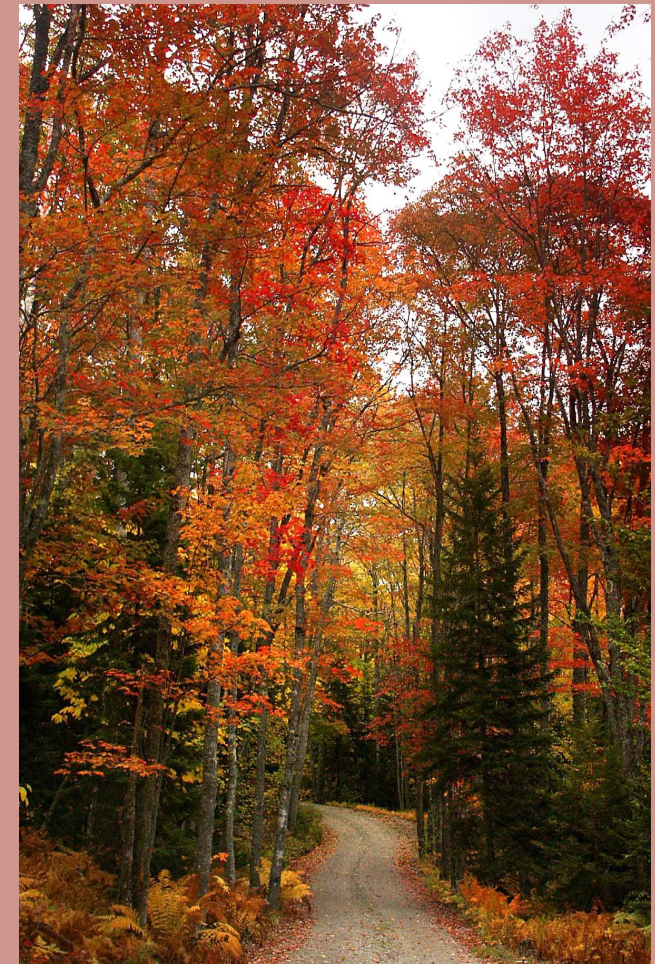
Membership is payable by Wild Apricot/ Affinipay or by check mailed to:

Peter E. Dunn, Treasurer  
Maine Alliance for Road Associations  
84 Whittemore Cove Road  
Raymond, ME 04071

MARA is a domestic non-profit organization



1915 Road repair, Rt 1







## PRIVATE ROADS IN MAINE

In Maine's early days, building a road meant little more than cutting down trees and leveling rough spots. Town and county governments built town and county roads; private citizens built private roads to access those larger roads.

Evolving over two centuries, Maine road law largely left the matter of private roads to whatever informal agreements existed (or did not exist) among the road's abutters. However, in the last few decades, it became clear that change was needed.

Many private roads were "camp roads" that led to lakes, where poor maintenance often led to water quality degradation.

Already burdened with the growing costs of road maintenance, towns resisted using public funds to address this environmental issue.

In 2007, the Maine legislature undertook a major revision of the road association statutes. They addressed the formation and administration of private road associations and strengthened the power of road associations to collect unpaid assessments.



## WHY MARA?

The Maine Alliance for Road Associations was formed to assist those undertaking the creation and administration of road associations, and to aid in implementing a flexible structure for determining and collecting each landowner's fair share of the costs.

MARA's members and directors support road associations through website resources, a searchable forum, conferences, and an annual newsletter.

## HOW HAS MARA GROWN?

Created in 2007, by 2010 MARA's membership had grown to 66, and it had a website, [www.maineroads.org](http://www.maineroads.org). As of 2020, MARA members current and past total 470. The website reach extends to 12,000 visits, 85% from the U.S. and the rest from countries around the globe.

On the MARA message board, the contributions of many past and present members have built an invaluable trove of knowledge on road maintenance and the creation and administration of road associations. Searching "plowing" today, for example, yields 64 results.

