

From: [Priya Howell](#)
To: [Wentworth, Emily](#); [Silveira, Michael](#)
Subject: 16 & 0 Bishops
Date: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:26:48 AM

Dear Planning Board,

We felt compelled to respond to the letter "Response to P. Howell" submitted by Mr. Young. Instead of addressing our serious concerns (i.e., the loss of privacy, the drainage pond directly next to our house, the undefined construction schedule, etc.) in any meaningful way, Mr. Young attempts to draw attention to landscaping we did to our own yard eight years ago, which is in no way relevant to the proposed project. While we don't want to waste more of the Board's time discussing our own landscaping, we do not want to leave the record as if we accept Mr. Young's statements, particularly in light of any future litigation between the abutters and Mr. Young, which we still hope will be unnecessary.

Not so subtly implied in Mr. Young's letter is that because we once cut down some trees (which were damaged by the severe winter storms we had in 2015 and were in an area where our then very small children played), and live in a home that was created by a subdivision, we are not entitled to object to whatever he wants to do no matter how negative the impact. I doubt this is what the Board had in mind when they asked Mr. Young to try to respond to the concerns raised by abutters. What would actually be helpful would be if he would inform the Board of ways he could mitigate the damage that his profit making endeavor will have on everyone around him, if that is even possible. Mr. Young has indicated that he is a local builder who cares about his community. We do not see that represented in his plans or in his response to the abutters' legitimate concerns.

We are including one of the many photos we inherited from the original owners to provide a more accurate representation of our yard going all the way back to the 80s to show the tree line did not change in a significant way. Mr. Young has chosen to use summer photos for the "before" pictures (showing full leaf coverage and shadows over the yard) and Spring photos when the trees were bare for the "after" photos, which I suppose is meant to make you think we are hypocrites for objecting to removal of trees, but we never cut down an entire forest to put new homes in anyone's backyard.

We also dispute that we ever attempted to eject his surveyors or told them they were trespassing. Mr. Young informed us that surveyors would be staking the property line in early 2022 and we gave them free access to do so without any objection whatsoever. His surveyors put bright pink stakes across our yard, including one directly in our fire pit, which we left standing until it fell over during the winter. One stake remains in the corner of our yard to this day. Again, we are dismayed that Mr. Young's "response" to our concerns is largely based on misleading or downright false information.

We want to emphasize that if this project gets approved, we will be living with construction immediately behind our home for what could end up being any number of years. At the end of it, Mr. Young will have built (if he's able to finish the project) three very large homes on three very small (20,000 ft) lots, completely out of keeping with the historic charm of Bishop's Lane, or even the lot sizes of Bishops and Del Prete Drive. This will be to the extreme detriment of the abutters and will only benefit Mr. Young.

Lastly, I will conclude by saying, Mr. Young is free to attribute whatever motives he wishes to my advocacy over the last many years. As a mother raising four children in this town, I have used my legal background to advocate for things that I firmly believe make Hingham a better place for them, including environmental matters, diversity initiatives, and our schools. I have done this since before I knew about this project, and I will continue to be vocal long after this project is in the rearview mirror, whatever the outcome. The fact that certain of my initiatives would have negatively impacted this project, and other similar projects, is entirely consistent with my beliefs that these types of projects should be restrained.

We thank you sincerely for your time,

Priya and Peter Howell
26 Del Prete Dr.