

Wentworth, Emily

From: Nes Correnti <nescorrenti@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2026 12:10 PM
To: Wentworth, Emily
Cc: Mayo, Thomas
Subject: Support for the CAL

Dear Members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am writing in support of the proposed Center for Active Living and to respectfully encourage your approval as this project moves through the planning and zoning review process.

I offer this letter not only as a resident, but as a daughter and caregiver who has come to understand, personally and up close, why this use, this location, and this moment matter.

I wrote my college essay about my mom. I'm writing about her again now.

Back then, I wrote about her resilience. She raised four children on her own after her divorce, working as a house cleaner and sacrificing quietly so her kids could have opportunities she never did. She put me through college. Today, I am grateful to be able to help give something back to her.

My mom is 77 - physically active, and full of life, and she is also living with early-onset Alzheimer's. She still lives independently with my stepfather nearby, and I am responsible for her major decisions and care. One of the most consistent messages from her neurologist has been the importance of social connection, routine, and purposeful activity. When my sister and I finally brought her to her local senior center, it changed everything. She now has structure, friendships, and a sense of belonging that no medication alone could provide.

I also want to acknowledge something relevant to public processes like this one. Many older adults, including my mom, are not the people submitting written comments, navigating online portals, or advocating digitally for projects that directly affect them. Their relative quiet should not be mistaken for lack of need or interest. Often, it reflects generational differences in how people engage, not whether they value what is being proposed.

From a planning and zoning perspective, the Center for Active Living represents a thoughtful, appropriate, and future-oriented use. Hingham's demographic trends are well documented and long-term. A growing share of our population is aging, and that shift will continue for decades. Planning for aging is not reactive, it is exactly the kind of foresight that land-use boards are charged with considering.

The proposed Center is designed to meet clearly identified needs, aligns with established planning goals around aging in place and community health, and is comparable in scale and function to facilities in peer communities across Massachusetts. Importantly, it is not an over-intensification of use, but rather a right-sized response to a population already here and growing.

Centers for Active Living are quiet, daytime-oriented uses that integrate well with surrounding areas. They support mobility, accessibility, and public health while reducing downstream impacts on emergency services and other municipal systems. In land-use terms, they are a stabilizing and beneficial civic use.

I understand and respect the responsibility you carry in evaluating siting, design, access, traffic, environmental considerations, and neighborhood compatibility. My hope is that this project is viewed through the lens of long-range community planning: not only how Hingham functions today, but how it will function as residents age and seek to remain active, connected, and independent within the town they call home.

This Center for Active Living is not simply a building. It is essential community infrastructure that supports dignity, health, and connection, and it reflects careful planning rather than deferred response.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully,

Nes Correnti
17 Ward Street