

Wentworth, Emily

From: Yvette Spirito <Yvette.Spirito@PAConsulting.com>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 7:12 PM
To: Wentworth, Emily
Subject: Support for the current proposed CAL

Dear Hingham Planning Board and Zoning Board,

I have been advised that you will be reviewing the plans for the proposed Center for Active Living on Bare Cove Drive and I want to formally request your support of this project.

My advocacy of this project is as a resident but also as a person who has cared for an elderly person in this town and has seen first-hand the positive impact the Center has on those who are elderly and becoming less mobile, able and engaged in their older age.

My mother (also a Hingham resident) lived with our family for 12 years. She passed away at 89 two years ago and I credit the Center as a major factor in her longevity. While she lived with us, we were not at home during the day and without the Center she would not have been motivated to be out or engaging with others. The Center gave her a place to go where there was a friendly face, they knew her name, they encouraged her to engage and join in. They kept her mind and spirit engaged when loneliness and isolation could have reined. There were times I had to push her to go but within a short time of arriving she would be calling to say she was going to stay the day, play something or do a craft, this one or that one was there that she was “sitting” with. You cannot underestimate the value of having a space for this population to gather, engage and find community.

I share this because I believe this is where our focus should be. Caring for and providing for our Seniors who cared and provided for us. They have earned their place of respect and support even more so in Hingham as they have supported so many other priorities while patiently waiting for it to be “their turn”. Many currently drive to other Centers because the Hingham Center cannot accommodate them. How is that appropriate and respectful for their contributions and support over the years? Our focus needs to be on a fit for purpose center for community, engagement and socialization. We talk about this but never really look at it in the light of day and how really important this is for our aging population. While some seem to think the center is “too big” I implore you to look at the research and listen to the experts rather than focusing so much just on the square feet or dollars. I have been intimately involved in the process for the last two years and they have built it from the programming needs up. Every space has purpose, intent and need. I have more than challenged them with regard to many of the rooms to ensure they have really thought it through. I have seen that they have, they link it to the research, the state recommendations and the requests of the seniors and community itself.

There has been years and years of work, rework, information gathering, research and more to get to this point. Nothing is without justification in the building. The team have worked hard to ensure they are protective of the environment around it and work to get the costs to the best possible.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yvette Kanter