
From: Hilary Aborn Martin <sailemmom1@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 5:22 PM
To: Sjostedt, Paula
Subject: Pickleball courts at 25 Bare Cove Drive

Dear Members of the Hingham Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to construct eight outdoor pickleball courts at 25 Bare Cove Park Drive.

Eight courts is simply too large and intense a facility for this location. It is unprecedented in Hingham to build this many courts at any single location. There is no data nor justification for a complex of this size especially as the existing court facilities in Town are not operating at full capacity (i.e., many of the courts are not used). The size of this proposal is not appropriate and is not necessary.

The scale of a development project should match demonstrated demand and the character of the surrounding area. These 8 pickleball courts would demonstrably diminish the character of the area. I encourage each of you to visit the proposed site of these 8 pickleball courts on any weekday morning – it is quiet, serene and peaceful. Many people use the area for walking, reflection, and passive recreation. Nearby residents and park users enjoy this area for its quiet and solitude, all of which will be destroyed by 8 pickleball courts that plan to operate 13 hours a day, 7 days a week. The constant “pop-pop-pop” sound generated by pickleball travels long distances and would fundamentally alter the tranquility of this setting for nearby residents and park users alike.

The applicant has also provided insufficient information regarding any noise mitigation. Without detailed acoustic studies, operational restrictions, and enforceable protections, the burden of the noise nuisance will fall on the surrounding neighborhood and everyone who enjoys the park or lives in the area and that is not fair, especially as Town Meeting adopted a noise bylaw to protect inhabitants from just these sorts of noise nuisances and excessive noises. Our Town’s noise by-law which states “[a]ll town departments, board, and officials having responsibility for the review and approval of new projects or activities, or changes to existing projects that result, or may result, in the production of sound shall, to the extent reasonably feasible under the circumstances, require compliance with the provisions of this by-law [42] **as a condition of approval**” needs to be applied to this project.

I respectfully urge the Planning Board and the Zoning Board to reject this proposal in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hilary Aborn