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To: Hingham Planning Board

From: Vicki Donlan, Chair, Hingham Recreation Commission

Date: May 15, 2026 **Subject:** Support for Pickleball Court Construction – Bare Cove Drive (May 18 Hearing)

To the Members of the Planning Board,

I am writing today to express my firm support for the construction of pickleball courts at the Bare Cove Drive location, across from Carlson Fields.

As Chair of the Recreation Commission, my primary focus is ensuring that Hingham's facilities evolve to meet the actual needs of our residents. While I am not a pickleball player myself, the data clearly indicates that this is no longer a niche interest; it is a global phenomenon. It has transitioned from a "senior market" activity to a mainstream sport adopted by high schools, youth camps, and families.

It is important to clarify a few operational points regarding this project:

- **Infrastructure Requirements:** While Hingham currently utilizes painted lines on existing tennis courts, a shared surface is not a dedicated pickleball court. The sport's rapid growth and unique organizational requirements—usually involving four players per game—necessitate purpose-built facilities.
- **Due Diligence:** This site was not chosen at random. The Recreation Commission used Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds to conduct an exhaustive study of eight potential locations across town. The Bare Cove Drive site was identified as the most viable and appropriate location.
- **Voter Mandate and Mitigation:** The 2025 Town Meeting approved this project. That approval included a commitment to a 15-foot mitigation screen on the sides facing residential properties to address the concerns of neighbors.

Pickleball is now a year-round staple of our community programming, including Hingham Recreation summer camps and adult classes. It is a sport that is here to stay.

I respectfully ask the Planning Board to honor the Town Meeting's decision and move forward with the plans as presented during your May 18 meeting.

Sincerely,

Vicki Donlan Chair, Hingham Recreation Commission