



May 13, 2026

Dear Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Members,

I am writing because I am against the proposed construction of eight outdoor pickleball courts at 25 Bare Cove Park Drive.

The proposed area at times can be quiet and a tranquil public space in town. Residents and visitors come to the area specifically to enjoy nature, walk peacefully, and escape noise and congestion. Athletes come to play baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, basketball, running and skate boarding. When all of these activities are in use the congestion in the area is intense. There are long wait times to exit and enter the area. By building a large 8 court pickleball complex in this location would permanently change the character of the area in terms of people, noise and traffic congestion. With more traffic I implore the Board to also do traffic studies during peak use. Let us not forget the pool that will be built across the way which will add to the increased traffic during the warmer weather.

Unlike tennis or many other recreational activities, pickleball produces a repetitive sharp popping sound that carries widely and continuously. Subjecting nearby residents, park users and Town employees to this noise for potentially 13 hours a day, seven days a week, would create a significant and ongoing excessive noise nuisance. This noise nuisance will also impact the nesting schedules of the animal population in this area.

I am also troubled that there has been little meaningful information provided regarding noise mitigation. Before approving a project of this scale, the Town should require comprehensive sound studies and clear evidence that nearby neighborhoods, the wildlife and passive recreation areas will be protected. It is not fair that any nearby residents, many of whom have invested heavily in their homes and outdoor spaces, should suddenly be told by the Town that they are no longer entitled to enjoy their outdoor spaces as they have for the past 50+ years and must tolerate the excessive noise of continuous pop-pop-pop from pickleball or go inside and close your doors and windows to escape the noise. Really? How neighborly is that?

Additionally, eight courts are excessive. Hingham does not currently have any court facility of this size, and it is unclear why such a large concentration of courts is necessary when existing facilities are not consistently at capacity. Could it be because they are not well maintained? What assurance will there be that this new facility will be maintained? As it is now the field area and skate park are littered with trash. This trash then gets mowed over by the DPW which makes more trash that flies all around in this area. Will the DPW be able to maintain another recreational facility?

If the Town moves forward with this project, I hope there will be strict limits enforced on operating hours and court usage to preserve some measure of peace for residents, park visitors and nearby workers. This would ensure that you are be considerate to not only the pickleball users but the neighbors who have to endure the popping annoying sounds of this game. Remember users can play for an hour or so and then retreat to their homes to enjoy peace and quiet. Neighbors and wildlife have no choice but to endure the popping noise everyday all day.

I respectfully ask the Boards to carefully consider the long-term impacts this proposal would have on the surrounding community, its unique character, the wildlife and the working conditions of Town employees. I also would like to ask the Boards to stop building in this one area of Hingham. Let Hingham keep some green space for residents and wildlife to enjoy. Let us keep the integrity of the Town and its By-Laws. Let Hingham's reputation remain attractive to the old residents who grew up here and the new residents that are attracted to the quaintness of our Town.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hoffses

*21 Hillside Terrace*