

August 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

Thanks for all your careful consideration regarding the review of 22 Howe Street. The level of review is certainly extensive, and I appreciate that the Board and homeowners communicate with each other to develop plan revisions.

Howe Street is on my walking route, and I am very familiar with the previous home and the new construction and work on the lot. I followed the back and forth about the tree removal and the pending landscape proposal, listened to the zoom on August 10 th , and felt compelled to write to the Board.

I would simply encourage the board to follow the Hingham By-Laws. It was clear to me from the meeting that the homeowners have been responsive in hiring experts, responding to comments, and submitting plans that adhere to the Hingham By-Laws. It was also clear to me that there was a broad range of neighbor comments, from thoughtful requests to uncomfortable demands. It is important that neighbors communicate with each other with mutual respect, and that requests be based on By-Laws rather than personal demands.

I expect that the Board is experienced in looking beyond neighborhood personalities and politics to focus on the recommendations and conclusions of the professionals, including the Board's Professional Civil Engineer. This is important as the power of social media and ChatGPT are easily leveraged to discredit science and professional opinions. Listening to Mr. Brennan, I understood that he is tasked with applying his training and experience to ensure that the proposal complies with regulatory standards, and I trust that the Board relies upon his conclusions and recommendations.

In closing, I encourage the Board to move swiftly towards approval. It is clear that significant work needs to be completed before winter, including planting and construction of a safe walkway and drive. With all the work undertaken to date, it would be a sad disappointment if the project is left in unfinished condition through the winter months.

Sincerely,
Maureen Cox
16 Hayes Rd