

Molina, Natashja

From: Hilary Aborn Martin <sailemmom1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 6:27 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Subject: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

While recreational opportunities are important, they must be balanced with the responsibility to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations.

This proposal to build 8 pickleball courts raises concerns due to its location near wetlands that feed the already stressed Back River, as well as its proximity to an [Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#). Notably, the ACEC boundary is not clearly identified in the proposal materials, making it difficult to assess impacts.

The site also supports many migratory bird species [identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#), many of which nest nearby. The noise from pickleball could disrupt these habitats, and seasonal restrictions should be required.

Encroachment into buffer zones, including within the 50-foot buffer (no matter how small) and the 200-foot Riverfront, wastes an opportunity to provide these sensitive natural resources with the space to recover, flourish and avoid long-term environmental harm. While the reduction in impervious area is helpful, the Town should lead by adhering strictly and demonstrating commitment to its bylaws.

The ongoing and continuously encroaching developments in the area has already impacted these wetlands. Adding further pressure, especially at the scale of eight courts—exceeding Hingham's typical maximum of six—raises serious concerns.

If this project proceeds, it should include strong safeguards: no salt, fertilizer, or chemical use, and landscaping that restores natural vegetation rather than introducing grass areas.

The decisions made today will shape the health of these ecosystems for years to come. I urge the Commission to act with caution and prioritize environmental preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hilary Aborn

Susan Braus
40 Pioneer Road
Hingham, MA 02043

Subject: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

While recreational opportunities are important, they must be balanced with the responsibility to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations.

This proposal to build 8 pickleball courts raises concerns due to its location near wetlands that feed the already stressed Back River, as well as its proximity to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Notably, the ACEC boundary is not clearly identified in the proposal materials, making it difficult to assess impacts.

The site also supports many migratory bird species identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, many of which nest nearby. The noise from pickleball could disrupt these habitats, and seasonal restrictions should be required.

Encroachment into buffer zones, including within the 50-foot buffer (no matter how small) and the 200-foot Riverfront, wastes an opportunity to provide these sensitive natural resources with the space to recover, flourish and avoid long-term environmental harm. While the reduction in impervious area is helpful, the Town should lead by adhering strictly and demonstrating commitment to its bylaws.

The ongoing and continuously encroaching developments in the area has already impacted these wetlands. Adding further pressure, especially at the scale of eight courts—exceeding Hingham's typical maximum of six—raises serious concerns.

If this project proceeds, it should include strong safeguards: no salt, fertilizer, or chemical use, and landscaping that restores natural vegetation rather than introducing grass areas.

The decisions made today will shape the health of these ecosystems for years to come. I urge the Commission to act with caution and prioritize environmental preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.



Regards,
Susan Braus,

o: (781)962-2372
f: (781)-875-1509
susanbraus@gmail.com

From: Steve Cobble <cobblestv@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 7:30 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Proposed Pickleball courts on Back River

Subject: Request to Modify Proposed Pickleball Courts Near Sensitive Wetlands

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to significantly modify the Recreation Department's proposal to construct eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area.

The proposal relies on a reduction in impervious surface from demolition of a former naval ammunition structure to justify encroachment into wetland buffer zones. This tradeoff should not come at the expense of established protections. The Town should demonstrate environmental stewardship by fully honoring its own wetland bylaws.

The plan for 8 pickleball courts includes development within the 50-foot buffer in contravention of Bylaw 23.2 (irrespective of how small; it still occurs), and does not adequately respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary. This is particularly concerning given that the river is an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

These wetlands support the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. Additional encroachment will only hinder recovery. The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#), whose boundary does not seem to be clearly or accurately demarcated in the NOI materials, underscores the ecological sensitivity of this site.

The [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball raises serious concerns, and play should be prohibited during nesting seasons.

I also urge the Commission to prohibit the use of salt, fertilizers, and chemical treatments such as mosquito spraying, as a condition to any order due to the proximity to sensitive natural resources. Landscaping should favor natural vegetation rather than maintained grass areas, particularly to the north and west.

Finally, the scale of this proposal is excessive. Nowhere else in Hingham are eight courts constructed—six courts has been the maximum and should remain the standard.

Given cumulative environmental impacts already observed in the area, including harm to wetlands and vernal pools, this proposal warrants strong reconsideration.

Sincerely,
Steve Cobble

Steve Cobble
781.254.8796
Call me, it's still better

Molina, Natashja

From: LJD <lucyblue@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Subject: Concerns Regarding Compliance with Wetland and ACEC Protections

Dear Conservation Commission,

I am writing to raise concerns regarding the 8 proposed pickleball courts and their compliance with the spirit of Hingham's wetland bylaws and environmental protections.

The proposal, irrespective of how small, includes development within the 50-foot buffer, which conflicts with Bylaw 23.2, and does not appear to fully respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary associated with an Outstanding Resource Water.

The rationale of reduced impervious surface does not justify these encroachments. Upholding bylaw requirements is essential to maintaining regulatory integrity.

The wetlands feed and support the Back River, an impaired system undergoing restoration. Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. That fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

Furthermore, the project area lies adjacent to an [Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#), yet its boundary is not clearly demarcated in the application materials. This lack of clarity raises concerns about whether impacts have been fully assessed. The ACEC nomination, which was unanimously brought by the Town's Select Board, Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and the Bare Cove Park Committee, referred to the many migratory birds in the area and that this habitat was worthy of the utmost protection for wildlife. Noise impacts from pickleball are completely out of character with that protection and should be addressed, including prohibiting play during nesting seasons.

I also advocate strict prohibitions on salt, fertilizer, and chemical use, and a requirement for naturalized landscaping, as a condition of any development in the area.

Finally, the proposed scale of eight courts exceeds Hingham's norm of six courts and should be reduced accordingly.

Our founder, Mary F. Toomey, with the support of Dr. Mary Sears of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution worked tirelessly in the sixties and seventies to preserve the Back River and the surrounding land. It's time for Hingham to embrace their legacy and work to protect this valuable resource rather than destroy it.

I urge the Commission to ensure full compliance and appropriate protections.

Respectfully,

Linda DiAngelo

President, Back River Watershed Association

781-799-9300

Molina, Natashja

From: Sara Gordon <segordon21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 9:25 AM
To: Conservation
Cc: Palmer, Shannon; Schuler, Sylvia; 'Sara Gordon'
Subject: Concerns Regarding Compliance with Wetland and ACEC Protections - Please Follow The By Laws

Dear Conservation Commission,

I am writing to raise concerns regarding the 8 proposed pickleball courts and their compliance with the spirit of Hingham's wetland bylaws and environmental protections. The proposal, irrespective of how small, includes development within the 50-foot buffer, which conflicts with Bylaw 23.2, and does not appear to fully respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary associated with an Outstanding Resource Water. The rationale of reduced impervious surface does not justify these encroachments. Upholding bylaw requirements is essential to maintaining regulatory integrity.

These wetlands support the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. Additional encroachment will only hinder recovery. The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#), whose boundary does not seem to be clearly or accurately demarcated in the NOI materials, underscores the ecological sensitivity of this site. This lack of clarity raises concerns about whether impacts have been fully assessed. The ACEC nomination, which was unanimously brought by the Town's Select Board, Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and the Bare Cove Park Committee, referred to the many migratory birds in the area and that this habitat was worthy of the utmost protection for wildlife. Noise impacts from pickleball are completely out of character with that protection and should be addressed, including prohibiting play during nesting seasons.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk to that harm. While the reduction in impervious area for this development is a positive, the missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

I also advocate strict prohibitions on salt, fertilizer, and chemical use, and a requirement for naturalized landscaping, as a condition of any development in the area.

I urge the Commission to ensure full compliance and appropriate protections.

Respectfully,
Sara & Adam Gordon

sara e. gordon
203 570 5546

Molina, Natashja

From: Grace Griffiths <grace.griffiths@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Regarding: Pickleball courts

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

I respectfully request that the Recreation Department complies fully to the Town's environmental standards and bylaws. The proposed courts must adhere to the 50-foot buffer (Bylaw23.2) and totally comply to the Rivers Act. The Town standard of six courts should be adhered to and advised.

I have great concerns about the future encroachment into and on an Area of Critical Environmental Concerns. Living adjacent to the Home Meadows for almost six decades I am more than aware of the lack of monitoring of pollutants and impacts of all manner of runoffs. Please consider the amount of hard surfaces areas, roads, pickleball courts, and parking that will be created.

For centuries, Hingham has been unique because of its abundance of farmland and natural resources areas. They are difficult and hardly ever replaced. We, as a community, have been blessed to be able to take back open space/land, once used to wage war on mankind. How amazing to be able to allow nature and natural habitats to come back and flourish, in such a peaceful manner, for future generations to enjoy. Please be as protective and critical in administering compliance with existing State and Town environmental laws and regulations as possible.

AND.....

There is an alternative option for a new HCAL. Since, February 2025, at 225 Beale Street, that could accommodate the needs of seniors and those wishing to recreate at the water end of Bare Cove Park. The Hitchcock Shoe building offers proximity, potential, and price.... \$6,000,000. for ALL ages to benefit from with no new environment impact.

Please consider how you approach ALL these issues.

Sincerely,

Grace M. Rizzotto-Griffiths
1&9 Irving Street
Hingham

Sent from my iPhone

Molina, Natashja

From: Marisa Carnevale Ronan <tmcronan@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:28 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Protecting the Back River Watershed and Surrounding Habitat

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to respectfully express concern about the proposed pickleball courts and their impact on the wetlands and the Back River watershed.

These wetlands directly feed the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. This eight-pickleball court proposal encroaches into buffer zones—particularly within the 50-foot buffer and near the 200-foot Riverfront—and risks further degrading this fragile system.

The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern](#), though not clearly delineated in the Notice of Intent, highlights the ecological importance of this area and stresses the need to fully respect the riverfront and wetland buffers. This area is also home to many migratory bird species, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball could significantly disrupt these populations, warranting seasonal restrictions for the noise, not to mention disturbing nearby human residents.

Cumulative development has already negatively impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. It needs to stop. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk to that harm. While the reduction in impervious area for this development is a positive, the missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would sadly be lost forever. For pickleball?

Additionally, and notably, nowhere has Town built eight courts for anything and this number exceeds local precedent. This development should be reduced to six courts at most in line with other public courts built in Hingham. Pickleball is a fad that will fade in due time, leaving us with more unsightly unused hardscape that requires upkeep.

I urge you to consider that the health of the watershed should take priority over and be appropriately balanced against expanded recreation. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Marisa C. Ronan

Marisa C. Ronan
781-888-1253

Molina, Natashja

From: Mona Nagib Tanguler <contactmona@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:08 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Protecting the Back River Watershed and Surrounding Habitat

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed pickleball courts and their impact on the wetlands and the Back River watershed.

These wetlands directly feed the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. This 8 pickleball court proposal encroaches into buffer zones—particularly within the 50-foot buffer and near the 200-foot Riverfront—risks further degrading this fragile system.

The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern](#), though not clearly delineated in the Notice of Intent, highlights the ecological importance of this area and stresses the need to fully respect the riverfront and wetland buffers. There area is also home to many migratory bird species, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball could significantly disrupt these populations, warranting seasonal restrictions for the noise.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk to that harm. While the reduction in impervious area for this development is a positive, the missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, no where has Town built 8 courts and this number exceeds local precedent. This development should be reduced to six courts at most in line with other public courts built in Hingham.

The health of the watershed should take priority over and be appropriately balanced against expanded recreation.

Sincerely,

Mona Tanguler

Molina, Natashja

From: J FT <jft4129@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Proposed Pickleball Courts in Bare Cove Park

Dear Conservation Commission,

I am writing to raise concerns regarding the 8 proposed pickleball courts and their compliance with the spirit of Hingham's wetland bylaws and environmental protections.

The proposal, irrespective of how small, includes development within the 50-foot buffer, which conflicts with Bylaw 23.2, and does not appear to fully respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary associated with an Outstanding Resource Water.

The rationale of reduced impervious surface does not justify these encroachments. Upholding bylaw requirements is essential to maintaining regulatory integrity.

The wetlands feed and support the Back River, an impaired system undergoing restoration. Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. That fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

Furthermore, the project area lies adjacent to an [Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#), yet its boundary is not clearly demarcated in the application materials. This lack of clarity raises concerns about whether impacts have been fully assessed. The ACEC nomination, which was unanimously brought by the Town's Select Board, Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and the Bare Cove Park Committee, referred to the many migratory birds in the area and that this habitat was worthy of the utmost protection for wildlife. Noise impacts from pickleball are completely out of character with that protection and should be addressed, including prohibiting play during nesting seasons.

I also advocate strict prohibitions on salt, fertilizer, and chemical use, and a requirement for naturalized landscaping, as a condition of any development in the area.

Finally, the proposed scale of eight courts exceeds Hingham's norm of six courts and should be reduced accordingly.

I urge the Commission to ensure full compliance and appropriate protections.

Respectfully,
Julianne Taylor

Molina, Natashja

From: Schuler, Sylvia
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 2:49 PM
To: Molina, Natashja
Subject: FW: Conservation Commission NOI Public Hearing Monday, April 13th to take place in person and on zoom?

From: Hillary Tutko <hillary.tutko@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 2:29 PM
To: Palmer, Shannon <palmers@hingham-ma.gov>
Cc: Schuler, Sylvia <schulers@hingham-ma.gov>
Subject: Conservation Commission NOI Public Hearing Monday, April 13th to take place in person and on zoom?

Hi Shannon,

Hope you are well.

Is the Conservation Commission planning on meeting in person on Monday, April 13th to discuss the NOI application for the 8 proposed PB courts?

If they are not, I am requesting that the Conservation Commission meet in person, perhaps hybrid.

Since sound disturbance is considered in a Notice of Intent, particularly when assessing impacts on wildlife habitat, and there is a certified vernal pool 100ft from the proposed courts, it's imperative that the Conservation Commission actually listen to live and hear the sounds of a pickleball hitting the paddle.

While I understand physical alteration is the primary focus, noise and light pollution during construction and post-construction are recognized as human disturbances that can impair the functions and values of the wetlands and the certified vernal pool. High noise levels interfere with species nesting, feeding, and cause abandonment of breeding habits.

Due to zoom's built in noise cancelling suppression, the conservation commission will not be able to hear it over the call. (For a good chuckle watch my demonstration to the Select Board back in February). Additionally, recordings do not represent the noise impact accurately.

The Conservation Commission must listen to the sound the pickleball courts will make post construction to understand the whole scope of the project and make an informed decision on the impact this project will have on the wetlands. Sound being the major impact.

PB noise will have a significant negative effect on the wetlands and wildlife that lives and nests in Bare Cove Park. Listening to (1) PB paddle hit and (1) PB ball live for 30 seconds is not a huge ask considering this project proposal currently will have 8 courts hitting pickleballs 8-12 hours a day April thru November right in time for nesting and breeding seasons.

Thank you,

Hillary Tutko
22 Hillside Terrace

Molina, Natashja

From: Gerry Waters <gerrywaters57@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 5:07 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Bare Cove Park pickleball courts

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to significantly modify the Recreation Department's proposal to construct eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area.

The proposal relies on a reduction in impervious surface from demolition of a former naval ammunition structure to justify encroachment into wetland buffer zones. This tradeoff should not come at the expense of established protections. The Town should demonstrate environmental stewardship by fully honoring its own wetland bylaws.

The plan for 8 pickleball courts includes development within the 50-foot buffer in contravention of Bylaw 23.2 (irrespective of how small; it still occurs), and does not adequately respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary. This is particularly concerning given that the river is an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

These wetlands support the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. Additional encroachment will only hinder recovery. The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#), whose boundary does not seem to be clearly or accurately demarcated in the NOI materials, underscores the ecological sensitivity of this site.

The [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball raises serious concerns, and play should be prohibited during nesting seasons.

I also urge the Commission to prohibit the use of salt, fertilizers, and chemical treatments such as mosquito spraying, as a condition to any order due to the proximity to sensitive natural resources. Landscaping should favor natural vegetation rather than maintained grass areas, particularly to the north and west.

Finally, the scale of this proposal is excessive. Nowhere else in Hingham are eight courts constructed—six courts has been the maximum and should remain the standard.

Given cumulative environmental impacts already observed in the area, including harm to wetlands and vernal pools, this proposal warrants strong reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Gerry Waters

22 Backriver Road

Hingham

April 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Select Board and Conservation Commission,

I am writing in response to the letters and in-person concerns raised at your recent meetings regarding the Pickleball Project approved at the 2025 Town Meeting.

Some critics have suggested that the late Mary Toomey—former Chair of the Back River Committee of Weymouth and Hingham and a respected environmental advocate—would have opposed this project. While Mary was deeply committed to protecting natural resources, her vision centered on preserving the river and estuary from contamination, providing safe habitat for wildlife, and creating parkland that is accessible to the public.

I had the privilege of knowing Mary and working alongside her in advocating for the cleanup of Jay Cashman's property on Route 3A in North Weymouth. At the time, the rear of that property had become an illegal dumping ground, as documented in a Patriot Ledger article dated April 1994. Our efforts, along with those of others, ultimately contributed to the creation of Abigail Adams State Park, which was dedicated in 2003. Mary was later honored with a plaque at the site—a ceremony I was proud to attend as her friend and supporter.

In that spirit, I believe Mary would recognize the value of the approved pickleball project. The Recreation Commission is taking the lead in removing the Tracers Building, a condemned building. We will be cleaning up the site which currently has pipes, cement blocks and other debris strewn aside it.

Importantly, the project has been designed to avoid impacts to the wetlands and the nearby vernal pool. The engineering plans clearly outline measures to meet all environmental requirements.

This project represents a meaningful opportunity to remove a condemned building and protect the natural resources Mary Toomey worked so hard to preserve.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to our community.

Sincerely,
Vicki Donlan
Chair, Hingham Recreation Commission

Molina, Natashja

From: ELLEN AYERS <ega11@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 8:00 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Protecting the Back River Watershed and Surrounding Habitat

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed pickleball courts and their impact on the wetlands and the Back River watershed.

These wetlands directly feed the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. This 8 pickleball court proposal encroaches into buffer zones—particularly within the 50-foot buffer and near the 200-foot Riverfront—risks further degrading this fragile system.

The adjacent [Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern](#), though not clearly delineated in the Notice of Intent, highlights the ecological importance of this area and stresses the need to fully respect the riverfront and wetland buffers. There area is also home to many migratory bird species, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball could significantly disrupt these populations, warranting seasonal restrictions for the noise.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk to that harm. While the reduction in impervious area for this development is a positive, the missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, no where has Town built 8 courts and this number exceeds local precedent. This development should be reduced to six courts at most in line with other public courts built in Hingham.

The health of the watershed should take priority over and be appropriately balanced against expanded recreation.

Sincerely,
Ellen Ayers
5-G Beals Cove Rd
Hingham, MA

Molina, Natashja

From: Maria Andrews <mariaandrewss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 5:46 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Protecting the Back River Watershed and Surrounding Habitat

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed pickleball courts and their impact on the wetlands and the Back River watershed.

These wetlands directly feed the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. This 8 pickleball court proposal encroaches into buffer zones—particularly within the 50-foot buffer and near the 200-foot Riverfront—risks further degrading this fragile system.

The adjacent Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern, though not clearly delineated in the Notice of Intent, highlights the ecological importance of this area and stresses the need to fully respect the riverfront and wetland buffers. There area is also home to many migratory bird species, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball could significantly disrupt these populations, warranting seasonal restrictions for the noise.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk to that harm. While the reduction in impervious area for this development is a positive, the missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, no where has Town built 8 courts and this number exceeds local precedent. This development should be reduced to six courts at most in line with other public courts built in Hingham.

The health of the watershed should take priority over and be appropriately balanced against expanded recreation.

Sincerely,
Maria Andrews

Molina, Natashja

From: john teahan <johndteahan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 8:30 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Pickleball

As an “abutter” I hope we preserve all setbacks and wetland covenants. I do not support this project at the current time and think further study on the effects of building at this site is needed.

John Teahan
28 Franklin Rodgers Road

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Molina, Natashja

From: Karen Myrick <rmyrick@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 11:33 AM
To: Conservation
Subject: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

While recreational opportunities are important, they must be balanced with the responsibility to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations.

This proposal to build 8 pickleball courts raises concerns due to its location near wetlands that feed the already stressed Back River, as well as its proximity to an [Area of Critical Environmental Concern \(ACEC\)](#). Notably, the ACEC boundary is not clearly identified in the proposal materials, making it difficult to assess impacts.

The site also supports many migratory bird species [identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#), many of which nest nearby. The noise from pickleball could disrupt these habitats, and seasonal restrictions should be required.

Encroachment into buffer zones, including within the 50-foot buffer (no matter how small) and the 200-foot Riverfront, wastes an opportunity to provide these sensitive natural resources with the space to recover, flourish and avoid long-term environmental harm. While the reduction in impervious area is helpful, the Town should lead by adhering strictly and demonstrating commitment to its bylaws.

The ongoing and continuously encroaching developments in the area has already impacted these wetlands. Adding further pressure, especially at the scale of eight courts—exceeding Hingham's typical maximum of six—raises serious concerns.

If this project proceeds, it should include strong safeguards: no salt, fertilizer, or chemical use, and landscaping that restores natural vegetation rather than introducing grass areas.

The decisions made today will shape the health of these ecosystems for years to come. I urge the Commission to act with caution and prioritize environmental preservation.

I was quite surprised to learn that these pickleball courts are in the vicinity of the proposed HCAL. I'm opposed to that construction project as well. Bare Cove and the surrounding area will be irreparably changed if we, as town citizens, allow these construction projects to take place near conservation land which is to remain so in perpetuity. These projects are expensive and not completely necessary; wants more than needs.

I appreciate the time you spend serving on the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Myrick

From: Ali Daniell <alidaniell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Request to Modify Proposed Pickleball Courts Near Sensitive Wetlands

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to significantly modify the Recreation Department's proposal to construct eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area.

The proposal relies on a reduction in impervious surface from demolition of a former naval ammunition structure to justify encroachment into wetland buffer zones. This tradeoff should not come at the expense of established protections. The Town should demonstrate environmental stewardship by fully honoring its own wetland bylaws.

The plan for 8 pickleball courts includes development within the 50-foot buffer in contravention of Bylaw 23.2 (irrespective of how small, encroachment still occurs), and does not adequately respect the 200-foot Riverfront boundary. This is particularly concerning given that the river is an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

These wetlands support the Back River, which is already polluted and undergoing rehabilitation. Additional encroachment will only hinder recovery. The adjacent Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), whose boundary does not seem to be clearly or accurately demarcated in the NOI materials, underscores the ecological sensitivity of this site.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby. The noise associated with pickleball raises serious concerns, and play should be prohibited during nesting seasons.

I also urge the Commission to prohibit the use of salt, fertilizers, and chemical treatments such as mosquito spraying, as a condition to any order due to the proximity to sensitive natural resources. Landscaping should favor natural vegetation rather than maintained grass areas, particularly to the north and west.

As an aside, I do not personally know of any type of mosquito spraying, no matter how friendly-sounding the company name, that is not harmful to water life (if you do know of any, please pass it along).

Finally, the scale of this proposal is excessive. Nowhere else in Hingham are eight courts constructed—six courts has been the maximum and should remain the standard.

Given cumulative environmental impacts already observed in the area, including harm to wetlands and vernal pools, this proposal warrants strong reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Daniell

From: Mary Anne Jackson <majackson02043@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 1:21 PM
To: Conservation
Subject: Meeting tonight, April 13, 2026

To the Hingham Conservation Commission:

I have several comments to make for the public comments part of tonight's agenda re: the pickleball courts.

1. I was shocked to learn from an October 4, 2021, evaluation for the Hingham Public Schools by Hareeb & Associates Architects, that hazardous waste materials were being casually stored (not contained) in Bldg.12. Building 12, they found, was so badly deteriorated that water was leaking in and hazardous waste materials possibly leaking out. This cavalier treatment of town property is irresponsible and possibly harmful to humans who might be in the vicinity and, almost certainly, to one of the town's environmental treasures, Tucker's Swamp, that is adjacent to and directly below this decaying building.

2. In this location, Tucker's Swamp, today, is greatly diminished by drought, development and water diversion from its hey-day of supplying water for the Naval ammo depot. Nonetheless, the swamp is still vital as the headwaters of an ecosystem (spring water runoff from Conservatory Park and Baker's Hill, many wetlands, and Hockley Run) that form an essential tributary to the food-producing (alewives/river herring, a keystone species in the marine food chain) Back River estuary, a nourishing mix of fresh and salt water, and its river herring run, one of the largest in the state.

3. Unfortunately, a perfect storm of development projects are now proposed for this area —8 pickleball courts and parking, the Housing Authority's 68 apartments building plus parking at 100 Beal St., and the new CAL senior center and parking lot that now threaten to diminish, and possibly even destroy forever this important ecosystem, one of only three in the whole watershed, by altering the supply and quality of its water supply. Even if all environmental regulations are strictly adhered to, the damage, especially to the wetland's underground water supply system of forests and wetlands that will be covered over with impervious material, will be tremendous and irreparable. Everything in nature is connected. Death by a thousand cuts.

4. Starting in the late 1900s, for 30 years, Mary Toomey, Weymouth educator and local activist, who was awarded the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award award for her environmental work, worked with her mentor, Dr. Mary Sears, pioneering oceanographer of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, to save the Back River and its watershed from development and pollution and to increase its food production (shellfish and fish). Mary T. fiercely fought against placing the new DPW building adjacent to Bldg.12 because of the possibility of runoff from the facility's salt, oil and grease storage and use.

5. Today Mary would be very much against eight pickleball courts with their noise and disturbance to wildlife and the possibility of contaminated runoff from the courts' impervious surfaces running into the adjacent swamp. I find it extraordinary that a member of the pickleball committee would presume to speak for Mary (d. 2029) and use her name to promote a project that she surely would have fought against.

Mary was a friend of mine. As co-chair of the Back River Watershed Assoc. (that she founded,) I worked with her for many

years on numerous endeavors including her mid 2020s boat tour, on the DCR's *Abigail* and the Hingham and Weymouth harbormasters' boats, of the Back River for all state environmental officials and members of the UMass/Dartmouth Marine Science Dept. [*The Ecology of the Weymouth Back River*, 2017] to celebrate the finish of the 10-year cleanup of the contaminated Agrico Fertilizer Plant site on Weymouth Neck. Mary sent me the last chapters of her book, *Two Women and a River* (2017), just before she died in 2009.

5. Therefore, I hope that drainage plans for the pickleball court and parking lot will be planned, in the spirit of the two Marys, to send treated storm water back into the swamp instead of diverting it elsewhere. And that all hazardous waste will be cleaned up scrupulously according to all regulations to avoid even more damage to the shrinking Tucker's Swamp fresh water ecosystem, Hingham's Everglades!

Thank you,

Mary Anne Jackson
3101 Hockley Dr.
781-556-5243

April 8, 2026

Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

RE: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations when considering the construction of eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area. The Town should lead by example by adhering to Hingham's environmental bylaws and standards. Passing this proposal sets a disappointing and concerning precedent that undermines the integrity of our wetland protections.

The proposal appears inconsistent with Bylaw 23.2 due to development within the 50 foot buffer (regardless of how small) and insufficient adherence to the 200 foot Riverfront boundary. This is especially significant given the river's designation as an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. That fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk. The missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby have noted that the noise associated with pickleball may disrupt or harm the nesting season.

So I implore this Commission to please do your due diligence and protect this area and do not disrupt nature's natural nesting periods or destroy the wetlands by constructing pickleball courts at this site and vote this project down.

The Town has an obligation to uphold its own standards. I urge you to protect the voiceless animals and their habitat and enforce your environmental bylaws and standards here.

Best,



Madeline Hoffses
21 Hillside Terrace

April 9, 2026

Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

RE: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations when considering the construction of eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area. The Town should lead by example by adhering to Hingham's environmental bylaws and standards. Passing this proposal sets a disappointing and concerning precedent that undermines the integrity of our wetland protections.

The proposal appears inconsistent with Bylaw 23.2 due to development within the 50 foot buffer (regardless of how small) and insufficient adherence to the 200 foot Riverfront boundary. This is especially significant given the river's designation as an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back Estuary.

Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. Those fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk. The missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded then in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby have noted that the noise associated with pickleball may disrupt or harm the nesting season.

I implore this Commission to please do your due diligence and protect this area and do not disrupt nature's natural nesting periods or destroy the wetlands by constructing pickleball courts at this site and vote this project down.

The Town has an obligation to uphold its own standards. I urge you to protect the voiceless animals and their habitat by enforcing Hingham's bylaws and standards when considering this project.

Thank you.

Ellen M. M. Allen
26 Winthrop Road

April 8, 2026

Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

RE: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations when considering the construction of eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area. The Town should lead by example by adhering to Hingham's environmental bylaws and standards. Passing this proposal sets a disappointing and concerning precedent that undermines the integrity of our wetland protections.

The proposal appears inconsistent with Bylaw 23.2 due to development within the 50 foot buffer (regardless of how small) and insufficient adherence to the 200 foot Riverfront boundary. This is especially significant given the river's designation as an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. That fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk. The missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby have noted that the noise associated with pickleball may disrupt or harm the nesting season.

So I implore this Commission to please do your due diligence and protect this area and do not disrupt nature's natural nesting periods or destroy the wetlands by constructing pickleball courts at this site and vote this project down.

The Town has an obligation to uphold its own standards. I urge you to protect the voiceless animals and their habitat and enforce your environmental bylaws and standards here.

Best,



Stephen Hoffses
21 Hillside Terrace

April 8, 2026

Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

RE: Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Hingham's Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Hingham Conservation Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to protect Hingham's natural environment for stewardship and for future generations when considering the construction of eight pickleball courts in an environmentally sensitive area. The Town should lead by example by adhering to Hingham's environmental bylaws and standards. Passing this proposal sets a disappointing and concerning precedent that undermines the integrity of our wetland protections.

The proposal appears inconsistent with Bylaw 23.2 due to development within the 50 foot buffer (regardless of how small) and insufficient adherence to the 200 foot Riverfront boundary. This is especially significant given the river's designation as an Outstanding Resource Water feeding the Back River Estuary.

Additional encroachment could undermine these efforts. The riverfront in the vicinity of the development is associated with Hockley Run, which is an essential part of the ecosystem and feeds the fish run associated with the Back River. That fish in turn are food for the many fish further out to sea on which we depend for food.

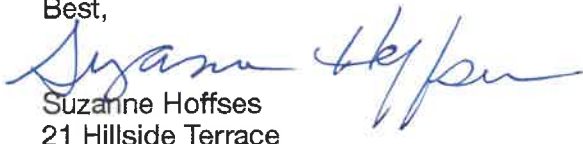
Cumulative development has already impacted these wetlands and nearby vernal pool. This project's encroachment into buffer zones, adds further risk. The missed opportunity to honor these wetlands and the protections this Town afforded them in creating wetland and riverfront buffer areas would be lost forever.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies 23 migratory bird species in this area, many of which nest nearby have noted that the noise associated with pickleball may disrupt or harm the nesting season.

So I implore this Commission to please do your due diligence and protect this area and do not disrupt nature's natural nesting periods or destroy the wetlands by constructing pickleball courts at this site and vote this project down.

The Town has an obligation to uphold its own standards. I urge you to protect the voiceless animals and their habitat and enforce your environmental bylaws and standards here.

Best,



Suzanne Hoffses
21 Hillside Terrace