

Conservation Commission
Site Visit Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2026

Members Present: Chair Carolyn Nielsen, Robert Mosher, Douglas Troyer, Philip Edmundson, Henry (Bob) Hidell
Members Absent: Thomas Roby and Nina Villanova

Staff Present: Shannon Palmer, Conservation Officer & Natasha Molina, Administrative Assistant

Chair Carolyn Nielsen opened the meeting at 11:00AM

25 Bare Cove Park Drive, Site Visit for a Notice of Intent application filed by the Town of Hingham Recreation Department

Jay Hall, PWS from CHA introduced the project, which consisted of the construction of eight (8) pickleball courts totaling approximately 8,700 sq.ft. Mr. Hall noted the following resource area adjacent to the proposed work Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), Inland Bank (Bank), Certified Vernal Pool (CVP), Riverfront Area and Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC). He also reviewed the proposed restoration area and seeding plan for disturbed areas and explained that runoff from the pickleball courts would be directed to a proposed retention basin located at the rear of the property.

Mike Moonan, Project Manager, CHA, reviewed the proposed new parking area, which consisted of 11 spaces. He indicated the locations where the pickleball courts and parking areas would be situated, both within the existing parking area and building. Mr. Moonan noted that test pits were scheduled for the next day to evaluate infiltration rates and groundwater.

Commissioner Hidell questioned if the testing would also assess for contaminants.

Mr. Moonan responded it would not but further analysis on the building contamination would be submitted through a report.

Anita Ryan, resident, questioned the location of the proposed parking areas and asked why the existing entrance was not being used.

Mr. Moonan stated due to setback requirements the entrance had to be relocated.

Mr. Hall then directed attendees to view the wetland flags at the side of the building.

Mr. Moonan then led attendees to the rear of the property to identify the proposed location of the stormwater basin.

Commissioner Edmundson question if any debris clean up would occur.

Mr. Hall noted that all debris from the building would be removed. However, removal of debris within the wetland was outside the scope of the current project. He noted that an environmental rehabilitation project could be pursued under a separate filing.

Ms. Palmer asked if Mr. Hall had observed any vernal pool activity.

Mr. Hall responded that the vernal pool had been certified in 2005 but that he was unsure whether it was active during the current year. He noted that no work was proposed within 100 feet of the Certified Vernal Pool, and that the existing infiltration basin within the VPPZ would not be connected to.

Hilary Tutko, resident, expressed her concerns with the noise generated from pickleball and asked whether there were any time restrictions that came with the site located being located within an ACEC.

Ms. Palmer explained there were no restrictive timeframes for ACECs but noted the Commission may consider time of year restrictions for any activity near a Certified Vernal Pool.

Ms. Ryan questioned whether snow plowing would occur during the winter season and whether mosquito spraying would be conducted.

Mr. Thorell stated he was unsure if plowing would take place in the parking area and no plowing would occur on the courts.

Chair Nielsen added that conditions related to mosquito spraying could be considered depending on proximity to sensitive areas.

The site visit was concluded.

Motion to adjourn made by Doug Troyer and seconded by Bob Hidell. The motion passed by a vote 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 11:46AM

Approved on: May 18, 2026