

MELISSA & GLENN FORGER

715 MAIN STREET  
HINGHAM, MA 02043

September 11, 2025

Hingham Historic Districts Commission  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Dear Members of the Hingham Historic Districts Commission,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed development at 709 Main Street, an original 1748 Colonial home in the historic Glad Tidings Plain section of Hingham.

We have lived next door at 715 Main Street for the past fifteen years. Melissa is a lifelong Hingham resident—her first home in town was at 721 Main Street, just on the other side of our property. Over the years, she has actively supported numerous Hingham initiatives and volunteered for South Elementary, Wilder Memorial Nursery School, Old Colony Montessori School, Hingham Youth Football, and the Girl Scouts. Glenn has also contributed to the community by coaching multiple Hingham Youth Sports teams, including boys and girls soccer, basketball, and football. A major factor in our decision to raise our family here was the beauty, historic charm, and unique character of this neighborhood, and we hope you will use your authority to help preserve it.

The scope of the proposed project at 709 Main Street raises serious concerns about maintaining the historic integrity and character of both the property and the neighborhood. The significant expansion planned for this nearly 300-year-old home will alter its scale, proportions, and visual presence, overshadowing the original eighteenth-century form and diminishing its historical significance.

The house at 709 Main Street is not just another property along Main Street—it is one of the rare surviving examples of Colonial architecture that define this corridor and connect us directly to Hingham's earliest history. Alterations of this magnitude risk transforming a treasured historic resource into something unrecognizable and may set a precedent that could weaken protections for other historic homes in the area.

We respectfully urge the Commission to ensure that any changes to 709 Main Street are undertaken with the utmost respect for the home's original form, materials, and setting. While development and preservation can often be balanced, in this case, the balance appears to be tipping too far away from protecting the authenticity of the historic structure and streetscape. With that in mind, I noticed that the developer's application posted online was lacking a head-on photograph of the property from Main Street, so I have attached a couple. I think it is important for the Commission to see how much this proposal will alter what Elenore Roosevelt in 1942 called the "most beautiful Main Street in America".

Thank you for your careful review of this proposal and for your continued commitment to protecting Hingham's architectural and cultural heritage.

Respectfully,

Melissa & Glenn Forger  
Residents, 715 Main Street, Hingham