

Dear Historic Districts Commission of Hingham,

We are writing to object to the proposed building of a condominium complex at 709 Main Street. Having lived in a historic home within the Historic District (Middle Street for 17 years), we respected the function of the Commission, worked diligently with the Commission, and took living in the District very seriously by being stewards of the home. We followed the rules by applying for renovations even for the smallest of projects, and abiding by the Commission's decisions. Sadly, there were others in the neighborhood who disregarded the Commission's authority, resulting in a lack of respect for the beauty and history of the area. It made the decision easy to leave the historic district and move to another part of town. It is frustrating to be negatively impacted by developers and individuals who just want to build the biggest and most thoughtless properties possible.

We do not pretend to know exactly how the proposed building project at 709 Main Street violates the rules, and we're sure that it must be challenging for the Commission to apply the rules uniformly to all building proposals, but this proposal seems way beyond the boundaries of appropriateness and is a prime example of why the Commission exists. It is clear that the answer to the builder's request should be "no."

Hingham is still a beautiful town, not because of the vastness of the homes, but because there are people living here who take seriously the need to protect and maintain these beautiful structures that can't speak for themselves. As residents we rely on the Historic Districts Commission to prevent overdevelopment by aggressive builders or individuals alike, who don't think that living in areas like our historic district should be cause for respecting the property that they have purchased and agreed to maintain.

We know that the Commission's job is difficult, and we feel that the proposal presented to you for 709 Main Street has already caused a sense of "bullying" and it may be difficult for you to do what is right, so please be strong and remember that your decisions could help other well-intentioned and historically-minded homeowners.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey and Susan Johnson
190 Downer Ave,
Hingham, MA