

June 12, 2023

Malden Community Preservation Committee
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden MA, 02148

Dear Malden Community Preservation Committee,

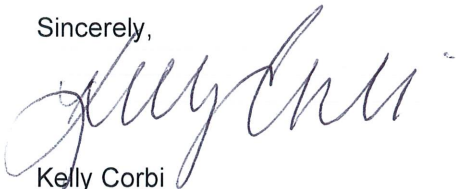
I write today in strong support of the City of Malden's application for funding to acquire a portion of the former Malden Hospital Site to use and preserve as open space.

Tufts Medicine/MelroseWakefield Hospital plans to construct a new 144-bed inpatient behavioral health hospital, which will create 86 new behavioral health beds for the state and transition another 58 beds from our nearby facilities to the new Malden Hospital. Our region's behavioral health infrastructure was overtaxed even before the COVID-19 pandemic increased both the scale and awareness of the need. Hundreds of behavioral health patients are waiting in emergency departments or medical-surgical beds across the state for appropriate behavioral health beds daily. The challenge we face is significant, and the scale of our response must match it; that is why we feel strongly that this new facility is needed, and why we have put forth a plan that has engaged the community and represents its key interests.

In addition to bolstering our regional behavioral healthcare network, our plan will also revitalize a site that has been vacant for over twenty years. A key component of the redevelopment plan is to make available more than nine acres for use of conservation and open space, the majority of which – more than six acres – within the City of Malden. It is a unique opportunity in a traditionally dense urban greater Boston city to be able to set aside such acreage as open space and reconnect aspects of Fellsmere Park in alignment with the land's original intended use. The community benefits of this land for community open space along with the hospital development are significant and will include helping Malden to reach important climate goals; enabling residents to spend more time outdoors, which carries numerous health benefits; and bringing a new workforce to Malden who will have the opportunity to patronize local businesses.

We have received strong support from the City of Malden, the community and from the State for this plan, including selling portions of the parcel in Malden to the City to be used as passive open space for its residents. Your support will enable Malden to purchase this open space and play an important role in financing this project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Kelly Corbi
President, MelroseWakefield Hospital and Lawrence Memorial Hospital
Executive VP, Tufts Medicine

