



# City of Malden

## Massachusetts



Amanda Linehan  
Councillor-Ward Three  
[alinehan@cityofmalden.org](mailto:alinehan@cityofmalden.org)

Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Malden, Massachusetts 02148

Phone 781-397-7130

September 12, 2023

### **Esteemed members of the Malden Community Preservation Committee,**

I write today in strong support of the Malden Hospital open space acquisition proposal, which has the potential to transform our city and increase access to passive green space for many future generations.

Acquiring 6.7 acres of open space adjacent to the soon-to-be-built behavioral health facility at Hospital Hill will fulfill the goals of countless advocates, residents, neighborhood groups and visionaries who have long sought to honor the site's historical contributions to our city. In fact, the movement to bring the Community Preservation Act to our city was first birthed among a core group of residents seeking a path toward preservation for this very site, and I know that so many of their original members stand ready to see this acquisition through to fruition.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed so many of us that when open space is safe, clean, close to where we live, and accessible to all users, it has the potential to become a haven in times of trouble, and a very real resource for keeping community members healthy and connected. I believe this acquisition proposal possesses that same potential. As the City Councillor representing this neighborhood, I am committed to working with community partners to oversee an inclusive community engagement process for the site's future. While I and countless others have worked tirelessly to identify a land steward or other non-profit organization that might purchase and program this land as passive open space on our behalf, ultimately those exhaustive efforts have not met with success, and as such I believe this proposal makes an appropriate proposal for our CPA dollars. Should additional grant funds emerge in the future, I am confident they can be utilized to help realize the vision we create when we start our robust and welcoming resident input process for this land.

In closing, I strongly urge and humbly request your support for the City of Malden's funding application to acquire and preserve 6.7 acres of open space at the site of the former Malden Hospital, and would be thrilled at the prospect of partnering with you to see this project to completion for the benefit of not only Ward 3 but the greater city and region as well.

Respectfully,

**Amanda M. Linehan**  
Ward 3 City Councillor  
83 Blomerth Street  
Malden, MA 02148



**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

September 12, 2023

Community Preservation Committee  
Eric Henry and Rachael Running, Co-Chairs  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

SUBJ: Application CPC\_FY24\_0010

Dear Mr. Henry, Ms. Running and Members of the Malden Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

I am writing to urge your favorable support of the City's application for a grant in the amount of \$750,000 to subsidize the acquisition of 6.7 acres of open space as part of the private redevelopment of this longtime, abandoned site on Hospital Road. This site has been the subject of intense community discussion since Malden Hospital closed more than 20 years ago with proposals for redevelopment including a range of housing and land preservation uses. The proposal by Tufts Medicine in partnership with Acadia Health to construct a \$65 Million behavioral health hospital at this location and dedicate a substantial amount of acreage to open space is the most widely supported and most financially viable proposal.

One of the most exciting aspects of the proposed redevelopment of the former Malden Hospital site is the inclusion of public open space. Tufts Medicine proposes to construct a 144-bed behavioral health hospital on the site and dedicate 9.5 acres of property as open space, 6.7 acres of which are located in Malden. These 6.7 acres will become Malden property, to own, use and maintain like all other open space in the City. The property is made up of about two thirds wooded, hilly land that might be most appropriate to provide walking trails and connectivity to Fellsmere Pond. The other approximately one third is sufficiently flat to allow for the creation of additional passive recreation space that fits the community's needs. This will be a community led effort. Tufts Medicine and the proposed new hospital will retain ownership of the remaining 2.9 acres of undeveloped land filled with mature trees in the City of Medford but are committing this land to conservation.

I am an enthusiastic supporter of this plan under which Malden would acquire a significant amount of additional open space, a goal contained in the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan adopted in 2017. Malden through its Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

Community Preservation Committee  
September 12, 2023  
Page Two

is actively pursuing state, federal and private foundation grants to cover the open space acquisition. Originally, the hope was that a third party, The Trust for Public Land, would secure the funding for the acquisition but that didn't materialize.

This project is a great opportunity for Malden. I therefore urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



**Gary Christenson**  
Mayor, City of Malden



September 11, 2023

Community Preservation Committee  
Eric Henry and Rachael Running, Co-Chairs  
215 Pleasant Street  
3rd Floor, Room 320  
Malden, MA 02148

Re: Application CPC\_FY23\_0010

Dear Mr. Henry, Ms. Running, and Members of the Malden Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Friends of Fellsmere Heights (FoFH) supports the City of Malden's funding application to acquire and preserve 6.7 acres of open space at the site of the former Malden Hospital. Acquiring and preserving this land has been a longstanding priority for FoFH, and we are eager to seize this rare opportunity and achieve this goal with the support of the CPC.

Malden, an environmental justice community as well as a Gateway Community, is sorely in need of additional open space. This property is one of the most significant open space acquisition opportunities in our community, and is a goal of the City's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Once acquired, FoFH expects to continue to partner with the City of Malden and the community at large to help guide the use of this land. The result of this acquisition will be a transformative project that permanently expands residents' access to passive recreation space and bolsters the City's resilience to climate change by protecting this natural resource in perpetuity.

The possibility of using CPA funds for this specific acquisition was part of the public discussion when Malden's citizens voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2015. In fact, many FoFH members were key organizers and supporters of the CPA, in part due to the opportunity to acquire this land using CPA funds. That year, Malden voters supported the adoption of both the CPA (55%) and a resolution to acquire a portion of the Malden Hospital land for open space (70%). The funding application before you represents the best opportunity to fulfill this community need, and to demonstrate the generational impact of the Community Preservation Act.



267 Hawthorne Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Thank you for considering this application. We look forward to working with you, the City of Malden, and all our residents to respond to your questions and facilitate a successful acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Keleti, President

/s/ Lauren McGillicuddy, Clerk

Friends of Fellsmere Heights