



# Malta Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Report

MARCH 2, 2020

**Malta Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Report**



# Report Outline

1. Mission Statement
2. SWOT Analysis
3. Community Input
  - A. Survey Results
  - B. Community Meetings
  - C. Other
4. Overriding Themes Important to the Committee
5. Recommendations
6. Next Steps



# 1. Mission Statement

The mission of the Committee is: to update the 2005 Comprehensive Plan by surveying changes in property development and land use regulation since 2005; obtaining input from appropriate town committees (i.e. Economic Development Committee, Open Space Committee and Historic Preservation Review Commission); analyzing community resources and potential opportunities; and considering the views of community members. As the 2005 committee recognized, "A town will never be greater than the vision that guides it."



## 2. SWOT Analysis

**Strengths:** Location, Educational Institutions, Art/Cultural/Historical Resources, STEM, Quality Town Services, Parks/Trails/Lakes, Low Crime

**Weaknesses:** Infrastructure, Service Oriented Businesses, Public Transportation an increase in traffic

**Opportunities:** Preserve Remaining Rural Areas, Rt. 9 Commercial Opportunities, Continue Connections (complete streets, trails), Develop Parks, Support LFTC, Work with SEDC and SCPP, Encourage Niche Farms and Agri-tourism

**Threats:** Taxes, Lack of Housing Diversity, Outdated Open Space Plan, New Stormwater Regulations



# 3. Community Input

## A. Survey Results

- 873 Responses
- Questions covered residential issues, municipal issues and commercial issues
- Preferred Development types:  
Small scale neighborhoods  
retail,  
mixed use
- Preferred Commercial Development locations:  
Downtown Area  
Route 9 South  
Route 9 North



# 3. Community Input

## A. Survey Results

- Commercial Development Preferences:
  - Restaurants
  - Retail
- Town should encourage housing diversity
- Residents Value:
  - Public Access to Lakes
  - Open Space
  - Land Preservation
  - Parks and Trails



# 3. Community Input (cont.)

## B. Community Meetings February 23 and 28, 2019

- The complete streets project, lowering the speed limit and parking on Route 9 all received strong support
- Residents concerns:
  - Building more commercial buildings when there appears to be excess inventory
  - Route 67 and lack of bus routes
  - Lack of architectural standards
  - Lack of senior housing and transitional living-  
Round Lake Road is a preferred location



# 3. Community Input (cont.)

## B. Community Meetings

February 23, 2019 and February 28, 2019

Resident Preferences:

- A walkable community
- Build out downtown, encourage greater density

## C. Other

- Received input from Fire, Ambulance, Historic Preservation Review Commission and Open Space, Agriculture and Trails Committee
- Considered the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee Report

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## 4. Overriding Themes Important to the Committee

- Sustainability, both economic and environmental
- Public Transportation
- Workforce Housing
- Connectivity- streets, pathways, neighborhoods(complete streets)
- Infrastructure
- Buffers
- Seniors and Housing Communities
- Development layouts that provide buffers along roadways (e.g. Luther Forest)
- Continuance of excellent Fire and Emergency Services throughout the town
- Open Space and Agriculture and Trails



# 5. Recommendations

## Built Environment: Land Use, Design, Transportation, Housing and Neighborhoods, Infrastructure

- Update the Townwide GEIS to reflect growth and revise mitigation fees as needed
- Utilize the mitigation monies to begin undertaking mitigation measures in Townwide GEIS.
- Explore tax credits to support the Town's remaining historic properties
- Add auto oriented uses to Neighborhood #1, Exit 11 to encourage redevelopment in areas in close proximity of the Northway



# 5. Recommendations

## Built Environment: Land Use, Design, Transportation, Housing and Neighborhoods, Infrastructure

- Pursue grant opportunities to extend water and sewer to underserved areas, but make efforts to protect the rural areas of town from adverse development
- Develop workforce housing through reduced bulk area requirements
  - provide businesses access to a workforce that lives and recreates in Malta
- Create a framework to address renewable energy
- Complete feasibility study for sewer and water infrastructure in Malta



# 5. Recommendations (cont.)

## Social Environment: Quality of Life, Sense of Community Cultural Community Services

- Provide economic and legislative support for local emergency service companies allowing them to continue to serve and protect residents
- Continue to support HPRC committee with the placing of markers promoting Malta's history
- Encourage Continual Care Residential Communities for seniors(CCRC)
- Support the establishment of public transportation within Malta, and surrounding communities that supports residents and businesses



# 5. Recommendations (cont.)

Natural Environment: Environmental Quality (Viewsheds, Water Quality, and Agriculture/Open Space Preservation, Recreation)

- Enhance Town Park facilities including trail improvements, sidewalks and bike lanes to increase use and safety
- Update Town's Open Space plan
- Work with Saratoga PLAN and the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation program to preserve and protect open space and agriculture



# 5. Recommendations (cont.)

Natural Environment: Environmental Quality (Viewsheds, Water Quality, and Agriculture/Open Space Preservation, Recreation)

- Promote water quality and recreational opportunities in and around Saratoga Lake
- Gain and develop public access to Saratoga Lake
- Require Erosion and Sediment control plans in conjunction with Site Plan approval for all development activity greater than 1,000 SF of soil disturbance in the R-4 Zoning District (Neighborhood 8)



# 5. Recommendations (cont.)

## Economic Development: Development, Employment, Workforce Housing, Resilient and Sustainable Community

- Provide legislative support for long standing local businesses to include zoning flexibility where appropriate with respect to the environment, traffic and infrastructure
- Work with SEDC and SCPP to attract and promote continued development of educational institutions connected to nanotechnology and STEM
- Continue to work with and support LFTC through a streamlined application process, fee structure and flexible zoning



# 5. Recommendations (cont.)

Economic Development: Development, Employment, Workforce Housing, Resilient and Sustainable Community

- Support the Malta Works program to brand Malta's local businesses and encourage new business opportunities
- Consider creating economic incentives for local businesses to locate in Malta





# 6. Next Steps

- Recommendations from the Town Board
- Host another round of community meetings
- Finalize the Committee's recommendations



# Questions?

- [compplan@malta-town.org](mailto:compplan@malta-town.org)
- [www.malta-town.org-meeting](http://www.malta-town.org-meeting) notes and hand outs are posted
- Survey results from residents are posted

