

## Savage-Dunham, Mary

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Master Plan Comments

### Master Plan Comments

*The Planning Board initiated the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan to help our town identify needs and priorities as we prepare for the next decade. The guidance from our fellow citizens is essential to the Planning Board as we address current and future challenges that come before us. The last time our town adopted a Master Plan was in 2001. Much has changed over the past seventeen plus years, and the pace of change seems only to accelerate. Town Meeting 2019 voted to authorize the funds for the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan and to establish a Master Plan Committee with the approval of Article 36.*

*The Master Plan Committee (MPC) will play an advisory role to the Planning Board in the development of the Plan, and welcomes your thoughts and comments during the process. The MPC encourages your participation at the many public meetings and events that will be scheduled and also offers this on-line form for you to share your thoughts as well.*

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*Note: Any comments made are public and will be provided to the Master Plan Committee (MPC) and may be posted on the website with other public comments. The MPC will not be responding directly to comments submitted here but will read them all.*

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Comments or Questions	It is imperative that the next Master Plan reflects a green vision for the town. As is, the town encourages a car culture. We need a safer and expanded network of walking and cycling paths/lanes to and from downtown, Hingham Center, sports fields, the library, schools, and other popular destinations. Popular destinations should have easily accessible bike racks, recycling bins, electric car charging facilities and signage that discourages idling. State idling laws should be enforced, or at a minimum, communicated to promote safe air quality and climate-friendly behavior. Allow for more public transportation

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within Hingham to reduce vehicle dependency. The town needs to expand and promote existing incentive programs for electric vehicles, solar panel installation, green construction, etc. Town buildings and facilities should be models for energy efficiency and waste minimization (ie no plastic water bottles or single-use plastics). All new vehicle purchases should be electric or hybrid when possible. Existing greenspace needs to be protected from further development. The town should conduct an assessment of risks associated with climate change, specifically flooding, severe storms, excessive heat/energy demands and water shortages. Finally, the town should have an overarching environmental ctte that considers environmental opportunities, issues and concerns associated with town policies, programs, facilities and operations.

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