

TOWN OF HALFMOON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

**Virtual
Public Workshop #4**

March 18, 2024

6:00 – 7:30 PM



Thank you for
joining!

The meeting will
begin soon.





WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Members

- **Chair:** Richard M. Harris, AICP
- Jeremy Connors, *Town Board Liaison*
- Paul Hotaling, *Town Board Liaison*
- Lyn Murphy, *Town Attorney*
- Steven Kucskar
- Joseph Landy
- Michael D. Morand
- J. Daniel Wojcik
- William Herman
- Peter Bardunias
- Nancy Morris
- Deborah Curto
- Donald Roberts



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Consultant Team – Led by M.J. Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C.

- Jaclyn Hakes, *Project Manager*
- Jacob Landis, *Project Planner*
- Dan Madigan, *Planner & Webinar Host*



AGENDA



- Welcome
- Webinar “How To”
- Getting To Know You – Interactive Polls
- Project Overview & Update
- Introduction of Comprehensive Plan Update Draft Preliminary Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Q & A





WEBINAR “HOW TO”

Following the webinar, written comments can be submitted to:

www.PlanHalfmoon.com

A recording of this webinar will be posted on the project website at:

www.PlanHalfmoon.com

- There will be several interactive polls during the presentation – please participate!
- We will break to address questions/comments at the end of the presentation.
- To post a question/comment, utilize the “Q & A” function in your Zoom Webinar panel
- Use the “Raise Hand” feature
 - If on a telephone:
 - *9 to raise hand
 - *6 to mute/unmute





GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



Help us to get to know who is “in the Zoom room” this evening by answering interactive poll questions!





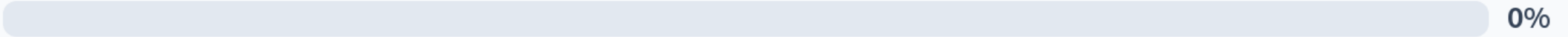
PARTICIPANT POLL

- Please go to pollev.com/mjplanning518
- Text **MJPlanning518** to **37607**
- Take photo of QR code below



Who is joining us this evening?

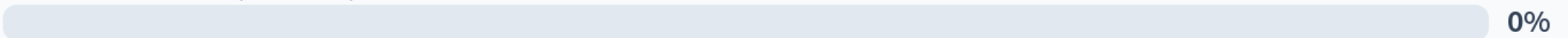
Town Resident



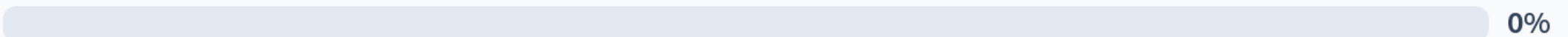
Property Owner (in Town)



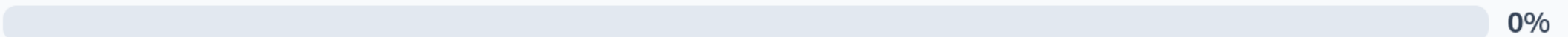
Business Owner (in Town)



Visitor



Work in Town

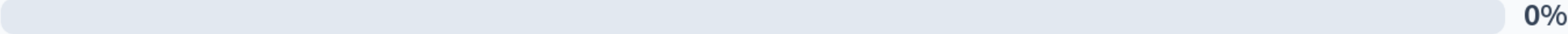


Other

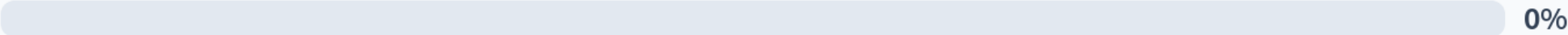


How did you hear about the meeting?

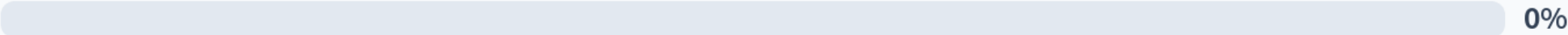
Social Media



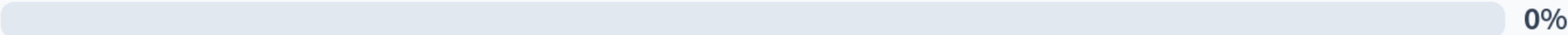
Flyer



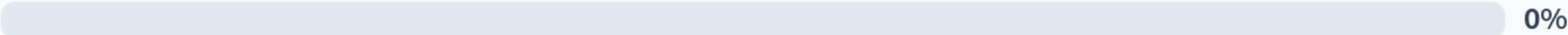
Town Website



Town Email



Word of Mouth

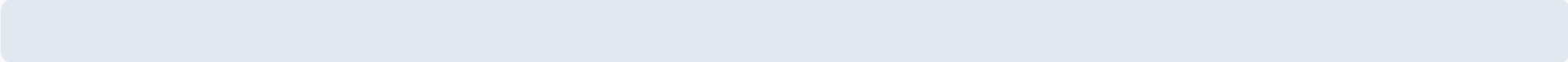


Other



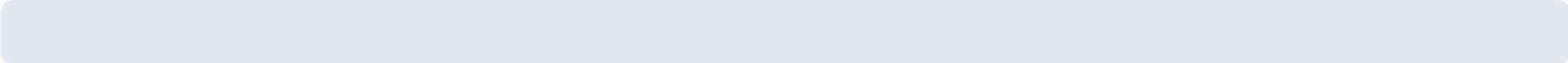
How familiar are you with Comprehensive Plans?

Very Familiar



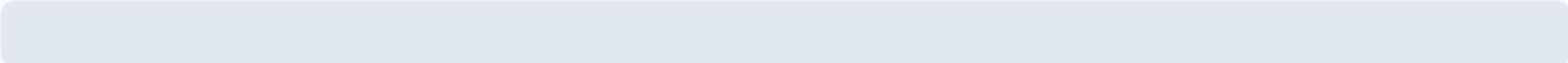
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Somewhat Familiar



0%

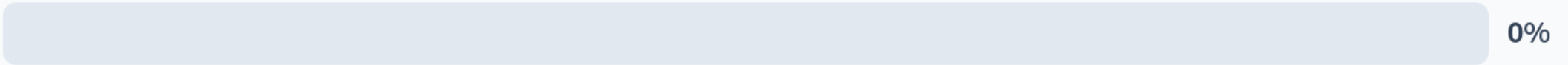
Not at all Familiar



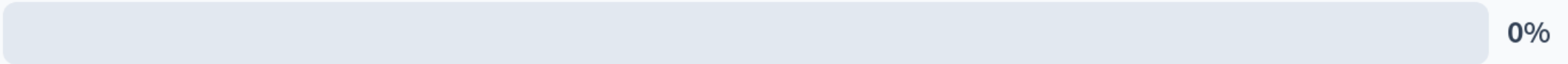
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Is this your first time attending a Halfmoon Comprehensive Plan Update public engagement session?

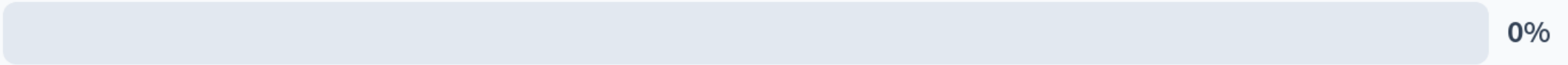
Yes



No



Unsure



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Schedule
- Public Engagement

1 WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

A Comprehensive Plan is both a vision for the future and a blueprint for how to get there. It creates a future framework for a range of topics such as land use, economic development, infrastructure, and housing. The Comprehensive Plan will identify a vision for the future and outline a series of recommendations and steps to implement the vision.

The planning process is being led by the Halfmoon Comprehensive Plan Update Committee and facilitated by Town staff, and the consultant team, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying.

To learn more visit planning.halfmoon.com

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE (CPUC)

- Richard M. Harris, AICP, Chair
- Jeremy Connor
- Joseph Lafferty
- Michael D. Morand
- Lyn Murphy
- J. Daniel Wojcik
- William Herman
- Peter Bardunias

Halfmoon Population: 25,662

Population Growth 2010-2020

Year	Population	Change	Percentage
2010	23,800	-	-
2015	24,500	700	2.9%
2020	25,662	1,162	4.7%

Age Groups in Halfmoon - Comparison

Age Group	Halfmoon	State	Change
0-14	1,200	1,100	+100
15-24	1,500	1,400	+100
25-34	2,000	1,900	+100
35-44	2,500	2,400	+100
45-54	3,000	2,900	+100
55-64	3,500	3,400	+100
65-74	4,000	3,900	+100
75+	4,500	4,400	+100



WHAT IS A COMP PLAN?

Town Law – Article 16 §272-A:

"town comprehensive plan" means the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the town located outside the limits of any incorporated village or city.





WHAT IS A COMP PLAN?



- A blueprint for the future of a community
- Broad in nature
- Addresses Community-wide topics
- A document, maps, illustrations that
 - Evaluate the **Current** State
 - Identify the Desired **Future** State
 - Determine **Recommendations**
 - Describe how to **Implement**





A COMP PLAN IS NOT...



- Zoning
 - Town has the authority to regulate land uses through zoning to implement Comprehensive Plan and for public health, safety & welfare
 - Zoning must be in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan
- Parcel Specific
- A venue to address individual projects under review or in the review pipeline





PROJECT APPROACH

Understanding
Where You Are

THE EXISTING STATE



Comprehensive Plan
Report Card



Where Do You
Want To Be?

THE DESIRED STATE



Identifying a Shared Vision
for the Town of Halfmoon

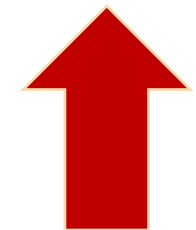


How Do You
Get There?

IMPLEMENTATION



Reality-Based Series of
Implementation Steps





SCHEDULE OF MILESTONES



*Committee Meetings – every other month



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Activities To Date:

- Project Website – www.planhalfmoon.com
 - Online comment form
- Farmer's Market Pop-Up (In-person)
- Online Community Survey completed
 - 400 responses
- Open House and Visioning Session (In-person)
 - March 2023
- Public Workshop #2 (In-person)
 - May 2023



- Public Workshop #3 (virtual)
 - December 2023
- Hard Copy Comment Forms
- Focus Group Meetings (virtual)
 - Multiple sessions (over 70 participants)



DRAFT VISION

Updated August 2023

The Town of Halfmoon envisions itself as a “lifelong” community, delivering a quality of life that highlights the charm and open space, as well as social, recreational, and economic opportunities, enabling residents to make the Town their home for this and future generations. Halfmoon aims to be a growing, fiscally balanced place, that values and celebrates its historic, cultural, business, and agricultural resources while remaining progressive in its efforts to conserve said resources and look to the future.

ADA
tracks.
Access!

Will a
locally
sourced
ingredient





DRAFT GOALS

What are Comprehensive Plan Goals?

- Goals assist in achieving the vision
- Developed by integrating Committee and public input
- Committee evaluation of current Comprehensive Plan



DRAFT GOALS

Categories

- Transportation and Mobility
- Infrastructure and Community Facilities
- Housing
- Quality of Life, Placemaking and People
- History and Culture
- Agriculture, Open Space, and Resiliency
- Recreation
- Economic Growth and Fiscal Sustainability

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Tip:

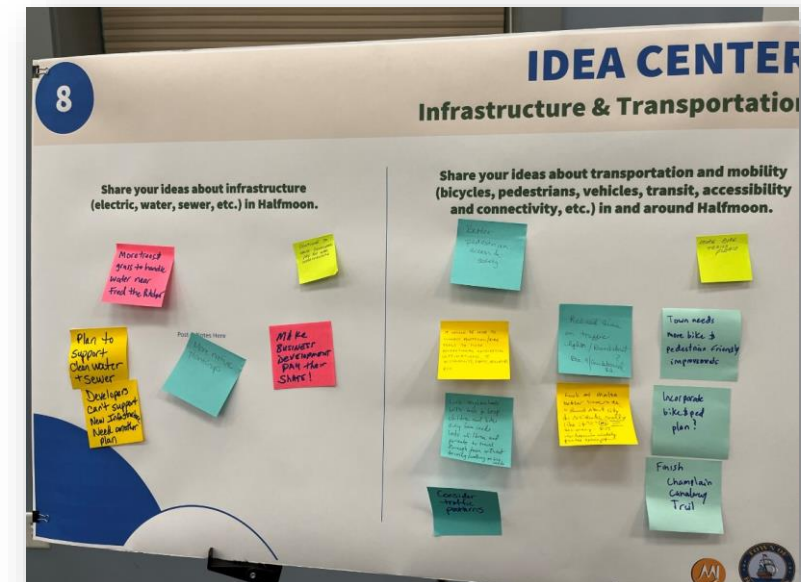
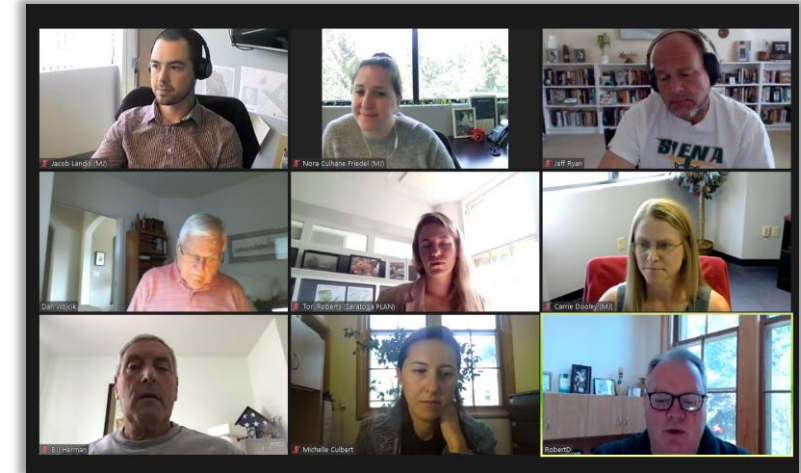
Recommendations are ***action items*** that help to **implement** the goals

- Topic-based aligned with goals
- Developed through initial Committee feedback on the current Comprehensive Plan, survey, public meetings, public comments etc.
- Goals and draft recommendations may overlap and be interrelated



PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION

- These recommendations have been developed through:
 - Public meetings and Survey
 - Stakeholder sessions
 - Committee meetings
 - Public Comments



QUALITY OF LIFE, PLACEMAKING, AND PEOPLE

GOALS:

Growth Management: Create a land use management system that mitigates the adverse impacts of sprawl, addresses concerns of conflicting land uses, responds to community needs, and protects and enhances Halfmoon's resources, unique features and quality of life.

Town Character: Preserve and enhance Halfmoon's identity, image, and quality of life in accordance with the vision for the future.

Civic Duty: Nurture and support the civic environment so that input from Town residents is considered a customary and integral component of the Town's ongoing planning and implementation process.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Update streetscape on main routes and important thoroughfares.
- Strengthen and promote access and connectivity between public spaces.
- Identify and market a location for a well-connected public space that supports gatherings, cultural performances, and events.
- Update waterway and trail maps and provide residents and visitors with resources promoting the gems of Halfmoon.
- Consider adopting new Zoning Ordinances or Overlay Districts that encourage or incentivize open space and access to recreation and places of interest through multi-modal access points.





PARTICIPANT POLL

- Please go to pollev.com/mjplanning518
- Text **MJPlanning518** to **37607**
- Take photo of QR code below



Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?

Update streetscape on main routes and important thoroughfares.

0%

Strengthen and promote access and connectivity between public spaces.

0%

Identify and market a location for a well-connected public space that supports gatherings, cultural performances, an...

0%

Update waterway and trail maps and provide residents and visitors with resources promoting the gems of Halfmoon.

0%

Consider adopting new Zoning Ordinances or Overlay Districts that encourage or incentivize open space and access to ...

0%

HISTORY AND CULTURE

GOAL:

Cultural Resources: Recognize, protect, and celebrate Halfmoon's historic and other cultural resources.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

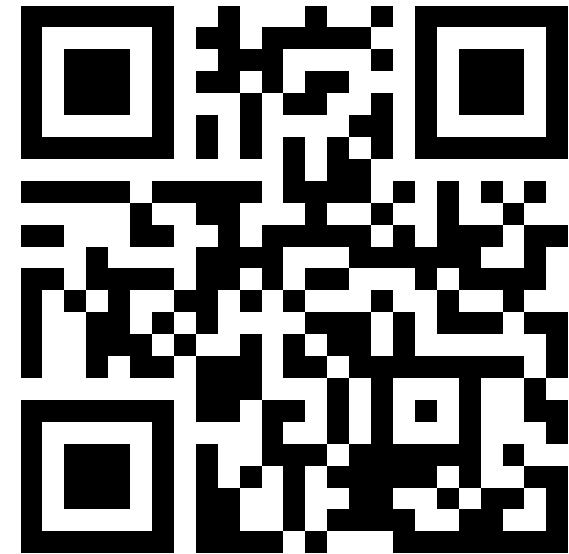
- Consider undertaking an inventory of historic sites within the Town in partnership with the Historic Society.
- Promote Halfmoon's historic places through preservation and marketing methods such as signage and markers.
- Develop a formal history trail that emphasizes the historic significance of notable locations in Halfmoon.
- Consider guidelines to protect historic structures and character of historic hamlets in the Town.





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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?

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0%

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0%

Develop a formal history trail that emphasizes the historic significance of notable locations in Halfmoon.

0%

Consider guidelines to protect historic structures and character of historic hamlets in the Town.

0%

RECREATION

GOAL:

Recreation: Provide sufficient, well-located, and fully accessible, active and passive recreational opportunities for all Halfmoon residents.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

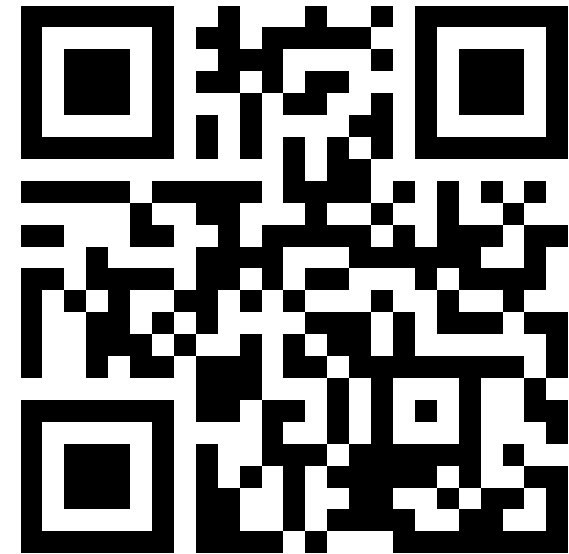
- Continue to maintain and expand opportunities at the Town Park and other Town-owned recreation spaces such as but not limited to a public swimming facility.
- Ensure accessibility to all Town-owned locations that offer recreation space.
- Maintain and promote inclusion and equity efforts in Town sports and recreation programs.
- Update and promote resource-access mapping that assists residents in learning about recreation opportunities in the Town.





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Continue to maintain and expand opportunities at the Town Park and other Town-owned recreation spaces such as b...

0%

Ensure accessibility to all Town-owned locations that offer recreation space.

0%

Maintain and promote inclusion and equity efforts in Town sports and recreation programs.

0%

Update and promote resource-access mapping that assists residents in learning about recreation opportunities in th...

0%

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL:

Fiscal and Economic Health: Promote diverse economic development that provides goods and services, employment opportunities, and tax revenues in commercial, office, and industrial districts, compatible with the community character, residential neighborhoods, and vision for the future.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

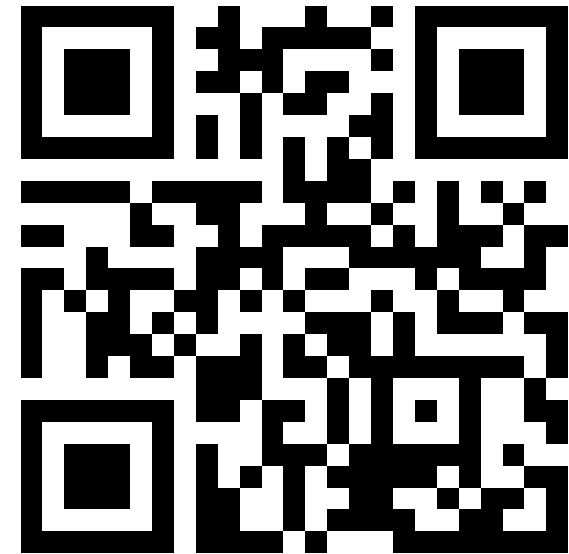
- Continue to encourage and support all manners of businesses, small and large, to establish, stay, and expand in Halfmoon.
- Survey existing business owners about challenges and opportunities.
- Emphasize clean light-industrial/21st Century Industry and locally-owned businesses as staples of the local economy in appropriate areas.





PARTICIPANT POLL

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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?

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0%

Survey existing business owners about challenges and opportunities.

0%

Emphasize clean light-industrial/21st Century Industry and locally-owned businesses as staples of the local economy i...

0%

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GOAL:

Community Facilities and Services: Continue to provide and/or support adequate community facilities and services - including fire protection, police protection, emergency services, solid waste collection, education facilities, healthcare services, libraries, services for youths through seniors, and social services - that are responsive to the community's expected level of service and safety and that continue to enhance the quality of life.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Map/Inventory future demands on electricity to help plan for sustainability and resiliency in the future.
- Build partnerships with the Halfmoon-Clifton Park Library to increase access to services and resources.
- Continue to foster a relationship with Town and County Emergency Services during the site development plan review process, building and construction and post-construction processes.
- Construct a Community Center that provides an accessible, common meeting space for community events and meetings.
- Consider incentivizing the undergrounding of private and public utilities lines where appropriate.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES (cont.)



GOAL:

Utilities: Provide a utility infrastructure system that meets the demands of current residents and businesses and that will support future development in carefully planned areas of the Town.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Prepare water infrastructure replacement plan to replace and upgrade outdated water infrastructure to maintain adequate and reliable service.
- Coordinate with Saratoga County to maintain and upgrade wastewater systems as needed.
- Maintain high standards for required development driven infrastructure improvements.
- Support Green Initiatives where possible.



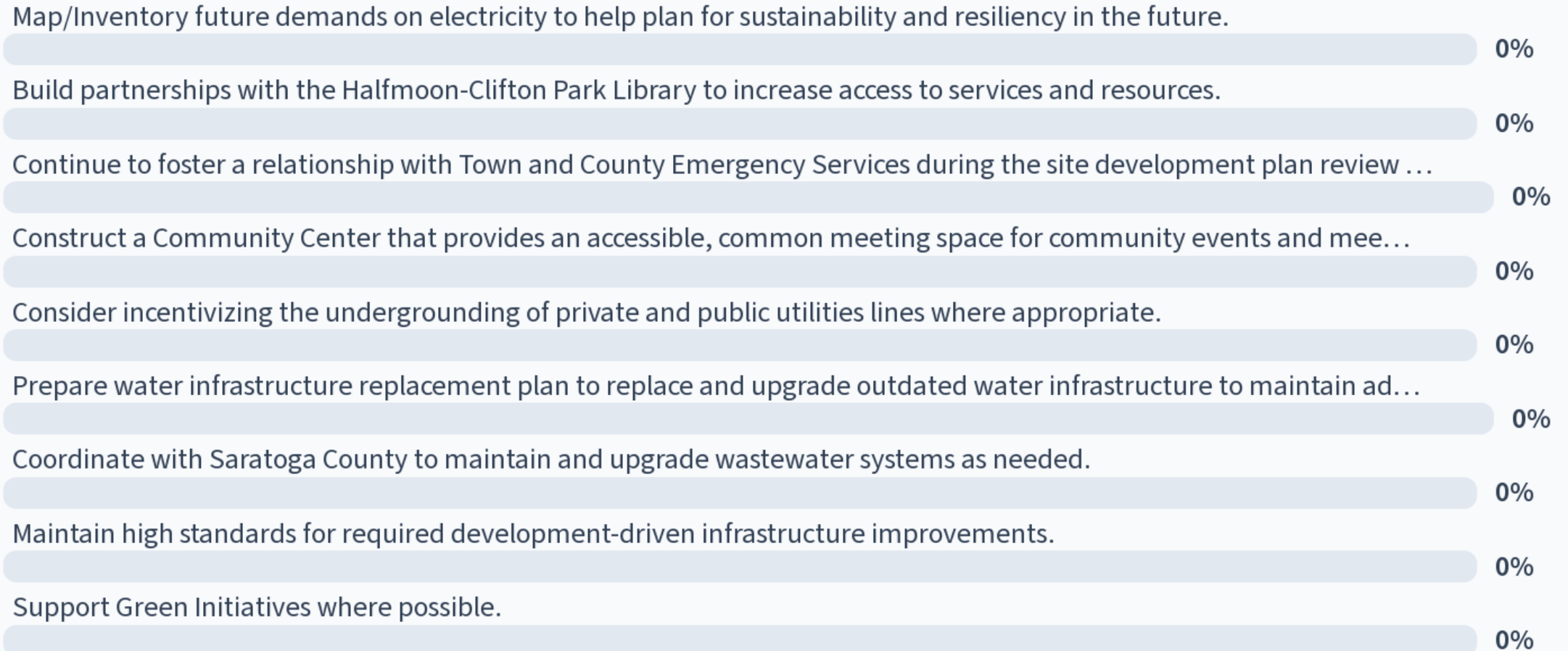


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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?



HOUSING

GOAL:

Housing: Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities, including price ranges that are affordable for all income levels and housing types that consider the needs of older residents, young families (first time homeowners) and those with disabilities. Properly plan for and locate housing based on density and purpose to take full advantage of existing and future community services, alternative transportation opportunities, and recreational facilities.



PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

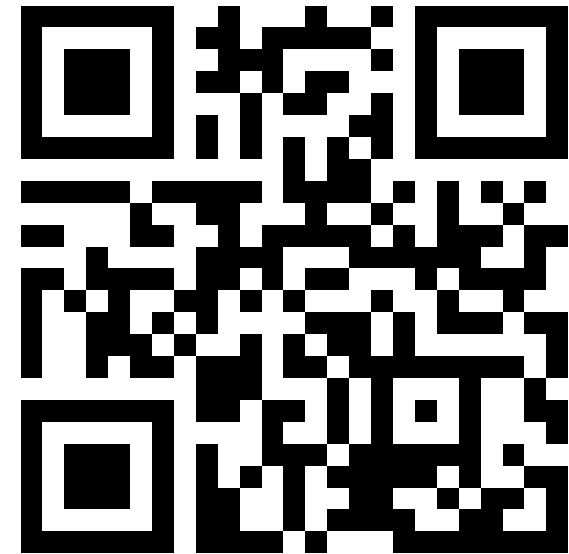
- Continue to support new construction and redevelopment of housing town-wide to support growing demand while balancing environmental concerns and growth management efforts.
- Provide optional incentives to builders to provide a mix of housing types (single-family, multi-family, senior, etc.) serving a range of income levels and age groups in areas of Town where infrastructure exists.
- Consider undertaking a housing study of the Town to better understand the community-supported types of housing.





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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?

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Provide optional incentives to builders to provide a mix of housing types (single-family, multi-family, senior, etc.) servi...

0%

Consider undertaking a housing study of the Town to better understand the community-supported types of housing.

0%

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

GOAL:

Transportation and Mobility: Provide safe, convenient, and efficient transportation options for people and goods within, through, and around the Town of Halfmoon, which minimize the impact of traffic on the Town's character and quality of life.



PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

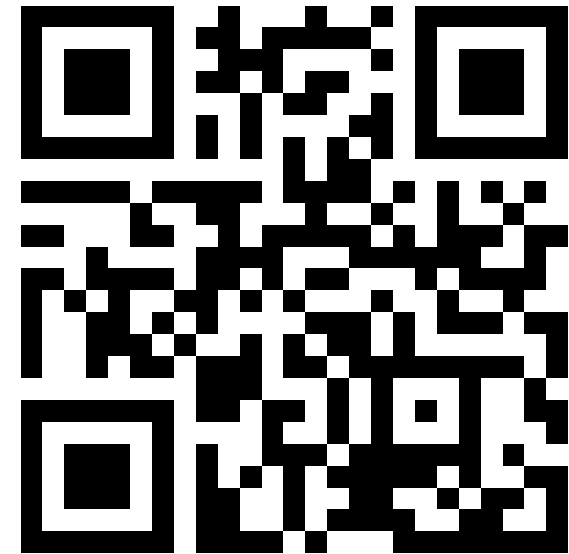
- Establish and/or maintain pedestrian and bicycle (multi-modal) connections between neighborhoods, open spaces, and recreation spaces through sustainable building practices.
- Continue to support vehicular circulation improvements throughout the Town.
- Prepare a study evaluating major intersections within the Town through collaboration with neighboring municipalities, Saratoga County, and the New York State Department of Transportation.
- Incorporate public transportation elements specifically within the Town Plan.
- Continue coordination with local/state/and regional transportation such as but not limited to Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) and Capital Regional Transportation Council (CRTC) to promote existing public transportation options.



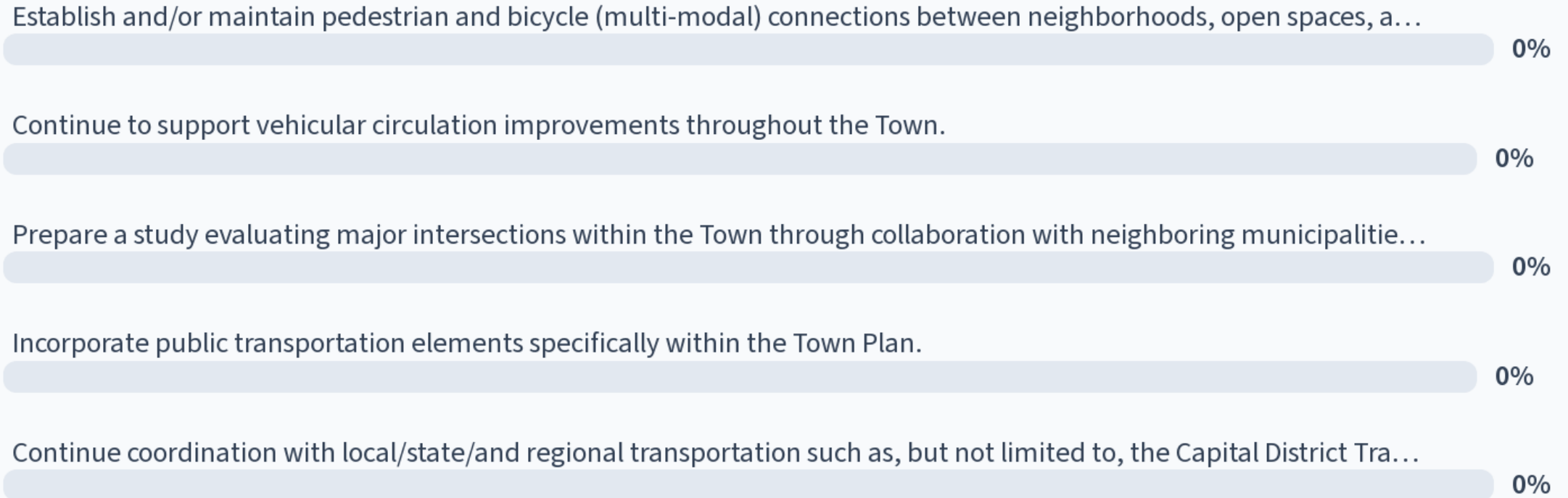


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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?



AGRICULTURE, OPEN SPACE, AND RESILIENCY

GOAL:

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Open Spaces: Maintain the viability of existing agricultural operations and preserve important natural and open space resources that contribute to the diversity, character, aesthetics, economy, and general health, safety, and welfare of the community. Resources such as the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and their watersheds, viable farmland, mineral resources, ravines, woodlots, streams, aquifers, wetlands, floodplains, the escarpment, and viewsheds are recognized for their role in drainage, water supply, agriculture, aesthetics, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

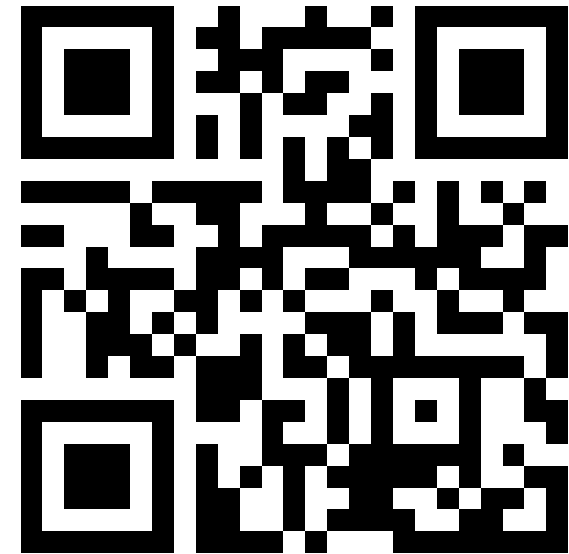
- Offer optional incentive programs to encourage new farm enterprises and support active farms through efforts to maintain operations and lower costs.
- Provide optional incentive programs to conserve open space and habitat.
- Protect and maintain viewsheds of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and surrounding ranges.
- Complete a Natural Resource Inventory that identifies natural resources and open spaces within the Town.
- Increase awareness surrounding open spaces, trails, preserves, motorized and non-motorized boat access, etc.
- Develop a working relationship with Saratoga PLAN and other regional organizations/groups to promote practical and creative open space/agricultural uses i.e. agritourism etc.
- Review zoning to ensure consistency with regulations that are compatible with agricultural activities under the Agriculture and Markets Law (AML).





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Of the recommendations discussed, which is most important to you?





FUTURE LAND USE DISCUSSION

- A future land use map is a critical component of the Comprehensive Plan.
- It is not parcel specific but identifies where general types of land uses may occur over the next 10-20 years.
- It helps support the Comprehensive Plan thus supporting future zoning updates but is NOT zoning.
- Example land uses: residential, commercial, industrial, agriculture, etc.





FUTURE LAND USE DISCUSSION

How is the future land use map developed?

- Community input
- Focus group input
- CPUC discussions
- Review of previous planning documents
- Existing conditions evaluation

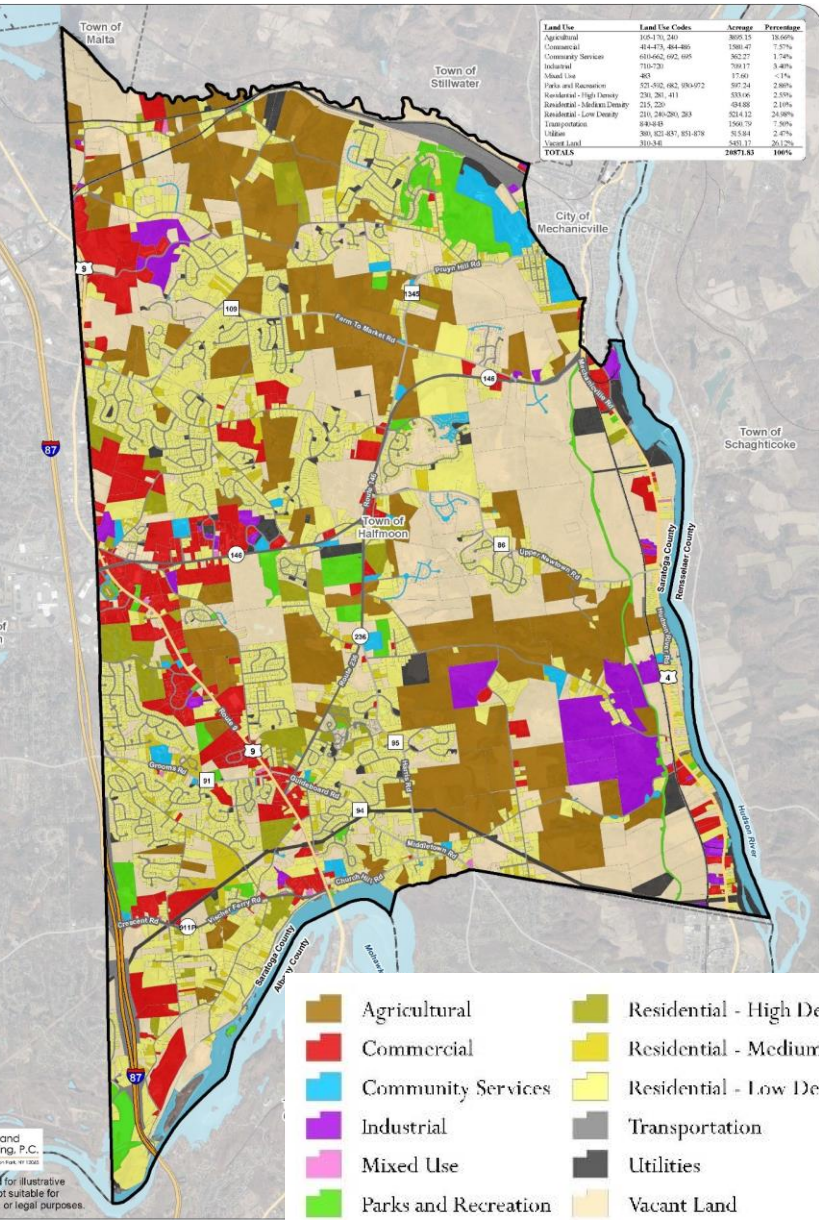


Tip: A Comprehensive Plan provides a direction for future land uses while the zoning regulates what is allowed on a parcel of land.





FUTURE LAND USE DISCUSSION



Current Land Use Map

- ~25% of land is classified as Residential – Low Density
- ~26% is Vacant
- ~18% is Agricultural
- ~8% is Commercial

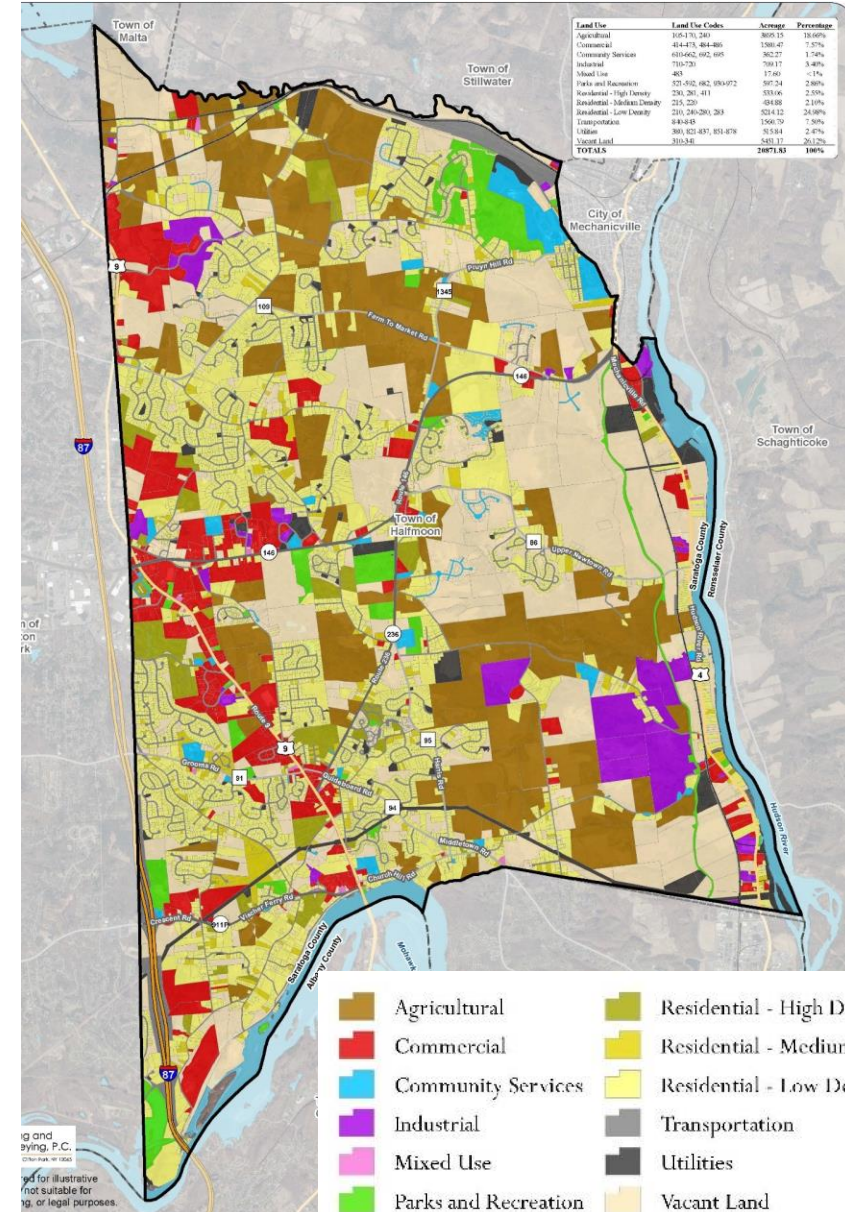
Land Use	Land Use Codes	Acreage	Percentage
Agricultural	105-170, 240	3895.15	18.66%
Commercial	414-473, 484-486	1580.47	7.57%
Community Services	610-662, 692, 695	362.27	1.74%
Industrial	710-720	709.17	3.40%
Mixed Use	483	17.60	< 1%
Parks and Recreation	521-592, 682, 930-972	597.24	2.86%
Residential - High Density	230, 281, 411	533.06	2.55%
Residential - Medium Density	215, 220	434.88	2.10%
Residential - Low Density	210, 240-280, 283	5214.12	24.98%
Transportation	840-843	1560.79	7.50%
Utilities	380, 821-837, 851-878	515.84	2.47%
Vacant Land	310-341	5451.17	26.12%
TOTALS		20871.83	100%



FUTURE LAND USE DISCUSSION

Current Land Uses

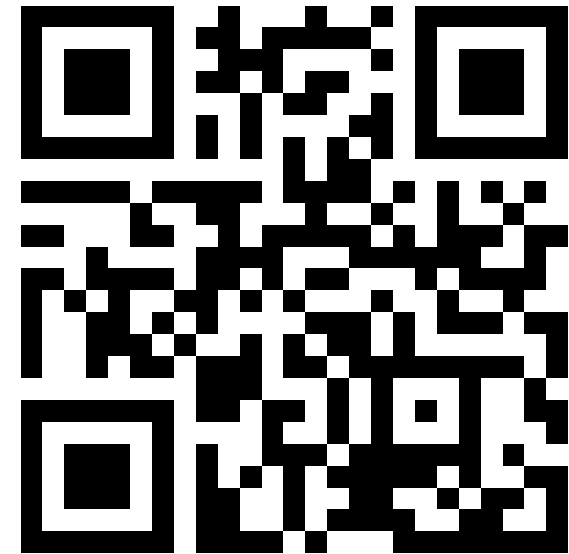
- **Commercial uses:**
 - focused on Route 9 and Route 146 (west of Route 9)
- **Industrial uses:**
 - focused Northwest area and Southeast area of Town
- **Residential** generally throughout Town
- **Agricultural** generally throughout Town





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What Land Uses do you want to see in Halfmoon in the future?

(A) Residential

0%

(B) Commercial / Retail

0%

(C) Technology / Light Industrial

0%

(D) Industrial

0%

(E) Agricultural

0%

(F) Recreational

0%

(G) Open Space

0%



NEXT STEPS



- Town Wide Business Survey
 - Online format
 - Paper copies available at Town Hall
 - Live March 22nd – April 12th
- Next Committee Meeting
 - April 18, 2024 @ 6 pm

Submit comments on project website: www.PlanHalfmoon.com



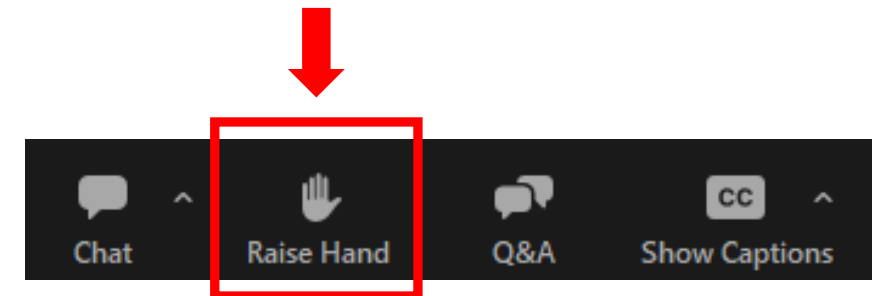
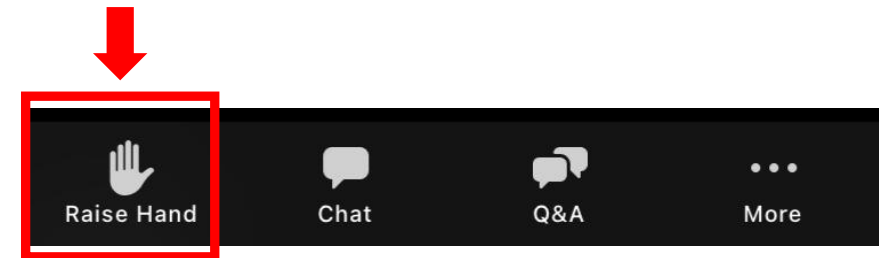
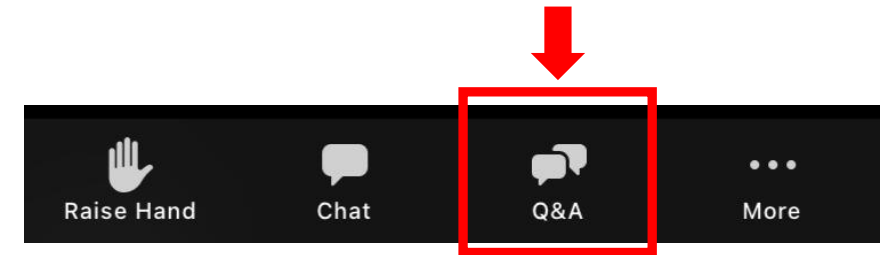


Q & A

- To pose a question, utilize the “Q & A” function in your Zoom Webinar Panel

OR

- “Raise Hand” by mobile device
 - On the left side of your Zoom pane, click on “Raise Hand”
- “Raise Hand” by Computer
 - In the middle of your zoom panel, click “Raise Hand”
 - Or press Alt + Y on your keyboard



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Q & A

- “Raise Hand” by phone
 - Dial *9 to raise hand
 - Dial *6 mute/unmute
- Participants will be allowed to speak in order of raised hand
 - Limit 3 minutes per participant
- Submit additional comments through website: www.PlanHalfmoon.com
- Comments will be shared with the Committee

