



# TOWN OF LINCOLN

WATER DEPARTMENT

MIDDLESEX COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF LINCOLN  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
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## Board of Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order, as extended on March 29, 2023, with the Governor's signing of a supplemental budget bill suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format with both in-person and remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Lincoln website, at [www.lincolntown.org](http://www.lincolntown.org).

### **Topic: Board of Water Commissioners Zoom Meeting**

Time: February 28, 2023 08:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9697074605?pwd=U3ZvcnJlbVFDbTFjNEVRWm0yejJQZz09>

Meeting ID: 969 707 4605

Passcode: 8VEVyA

One tap mobile

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### **Attendees:**

SG: Steve Gladstone, Commissioner, Chair

PL: Packy Lawler, Commissioner

MB: Matthew Bio, Commissioner

DL: Darin LaFalam, Water Superintendent

JH: Jim Hutchinson, Liaison Board of Select Liaison

Cindy Sheriff

Vicki Diadulik

**SG called the meeting to order at 08:02 am.**

1. Review of past minutes with corrections and additions. Review process was reviewed due to input from Town Hall on the use of BOX and sequential reviewing by commissioners as this may incur public meeting requirements. JH indicated that review in the meeting would be very time consuming and the use of a repository is used by all. It was agreed that the use of BOX and sequential review would continue. SG indicated he would review current minutes and place them in BOX for review.
2. Discussion on communication strategy: SG thought verbal communication strategy might help from overloading documents in the public record. JH indicated that verbal communications were fine for indicating agenda topics and not for discussing agenda topics. Topics would need to be discussed in the meetings.
3. Board and Committee Liaisons: SG proposed that rather than having formal liaison assignments that the heads of boards and committees be contacted requesting they notify the head of the Water Commission when topics concerning water will come up. JH said that formal liaisons are not required. It was proposed that formal liaisons be made for the Conservation Commission due to issues relating to Farrar Pond. PL indicated he would be the formal liaison. Monitoring and responses to Lincolntalk will be handled by SG and DL. DL indicated a Water Department Facebook page has been created and postings are sent to the Lincoln Squirrel. DL stated that the Consumer Confidence Report was in the works and would go out at the end of June. Vicki Diadulec said the Housing Choice Working Group would be a good place for a formal liaison. SG indicated he held that position and attended its meetings.
4. **Operations report (DL)** PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) Flint Pond are under 1 ppt and the Well is between 13-14 ppt. These numbers are well under the 20 ppt MCL. Need to begin relaying information to the Town at some point relating to potential EPA reductions in PFOS and its effects on costs. SG mentioned that he and DL attended the Massachusetts Water Works Association seminar on PFOS indicating that the Water Department and Commission is engaged on this topic. MB asked about blended averages of PFOS. DL responded that our sources enter and different locations, blending unpredictably. Averages are not practical and the DEP has already mentioned they would not consider the two sources blended in regards to PFAS. DL indicated the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds have been allocated for a replacement / satellite well and these should still be used for this as the well will always be a part of a resiliency plan. Engineering contract has been signed for this.

The use of the Farrar Pond well was discussed. DL said that past testing many years (10?) ago showed the well had high levels of Iron and Manganese. This would require extensive treatment. PL indicated there was fecal coliform contamination also.

Chemical handling upgrade at the Tower Rd. well has been put on hold pending changes in PFOS regulation that would require extensive changes there.

Unidirectional water main flushing is being implemented using in-house staff. The cost is much less than contracting this out. This should improve water quality throughout the system. Finish zone 2 in the spring/summer and move onto zones 3 and 4 in the fall.

Drought restrictions were confused due to receiving a Charles River Shed Registration and Permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) being received. Our Water Permit supersedes our Water Registration.

A general discussion on water saving devices being required for new construction and sizable renovations and the use of soil moisture sensor for irrigation systems. DL said that we will be initiating smart meters that give real time water usage that can assist in leak detection and indicating irrigation during drought conditions.

DL stated that the engineering design relating to the water main replacement from Bedford Rd. storage tank down Lincoln Rd. to Rt. 117 has been begun. The engineering will break the project down into more “affordable” segments. JH mentioned that the project bonding could over a longer time period.

MB brought up the Reservoir Management Plan and indicated that the Commission could assist with this. PL stated he could assist and stated Weston and Sampson created a report when the reservoir dam was renovated.

MB brought up the Wayland interconnect and DL said he would investigate it. It would only be on an emergency use. Both Weston and Wayland emergency interconnects would be going from hydrant to hydrant with a pump in the middle

5. **Emergency Plan:** MB placed and updated plan in the BOX (central document repository) and a discussion regarding accessory document locations.
6. **State of the Town presentation:** A discussion was had regarding presentations at the meeting in the fall. JH indicated that any presentation would be brief.
7. **Commons Expansion:** Was on hold however will come up again. Need to talk with them on potential restrictions. Any changes in population can be brought to the DEP for a change in our water permit. Change would be about 70 units with about 2 persons per unit.

The general meeting was closed at 8:55 AM.

The Water Committee voted unanimously to go into executive session.