

Cultural & Historic Resources

OVERVIEW

The Town's mission statement says: "Lincoln is a town that cherishes its rural, agricultural character, its small town heritage, its open space, and its historical legacy." While Lincoln has adopted a wide range of preservation tools and techniques, changing times and growing economic pressures make it increasingly difficult to ensure the continued preservation of town-owned historic assets. Lincoln is home to many cultural, educational, and historical institutions that embody and enhance the town's character and legacy while also contributing to its sense of community. Frequently, however, there are unfulfilled opportunities for collaboration between the community, the schools, and these cultural and historic organizations, together with, at times, a lack of coordination among the organizations themselves.



Key Findings

- ❖ Lincoln has documented more than 300 historic buildings, areas, structures, and objects and approximately forty archaeological sites that are included in the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth.
- ❖ Lincoln has adopted a local historic district bylaw, a neighborhood conservation district bylaw, a scenic roads bylaw, and a demolition delay bylaw. Under its local historic district bylaw, Lincoln has designated four local historic districts.
- ❖ Many of Lincoln's most iconic historic properties are open to the public for visitation. These well-preserved historic properties are owned and used by a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations.
- ❖ Lincoln's cadre of preservation and cultural organizations include non-profit as well as municipal and other governmental entities. Together, they oversee protection and advocacy for the town's historic resources.
- ❖ Lincoln has more than seventy-five organizations that serve the social, spiritual, economic, recreational, and cultural interests of the community.

Key Challenges

- ❖ Lincoln has done more than many communities to protect its historic resources. Still, its future efforts could be hampered by the lack of a town-wide, comprehensive historic resources inventory and a town-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey.

- ❖ Lincoln’s desirability has contributed to the rise in demolitions of moderately-sized houses and their replacement with significantly larger and more expensive homes. Although sections of the town are protected by a local historic district, many areas of historic significance remain unprotected by a local historic district or neighborhood conservation district. A gap in understanding the benefits of these designations and resistance from some property owners could make it difficult for Lincoln to do more to prevent the loss of historic buildings and structures.
- ❖ Lincoln’s historic town buildings are generally well-preserved, but it will be expensive to maintain them and preserve their historic character while also creating access for people with disabilities and providing adequate work space for staff. However, the town’s historic public buildings contribute significantly to the character of the town, and they should be appropriately preserved and reused.
- ❖ Increasing traffic is having significant negative impacts on the character of Lincoln, including its scenic roads. The Scenic Roads Bylaw provides only limited protection for stone walls and trees within the right-of-way. Beyond the right of way, historic stone walls which reflect Lincoln’s valued agricultural heritage remain unprotected.
- ❖ Lincoln is building a new Archives vault at the Library to replace a smaller vault there, but the town still needs more efficient and usable means for handling its public records. While many municipal archival materials will be transferred to the Library vault, other records will remain at the Town Offices, where inadequate vault and storage facilities continue to exist.
- ❖ Many local cultural organizations cite needs for improved communication with each other, the town, and the public. Increased communication and involvement between these organizations would result in stronger partnerships and likely help to meet some of the challenges they currently face.

EXISTING CONDITIONS & TRENDS

Lincoln displays a remarkable breadth of historic resources and cultural and historical institutions that protect, oversee, and promote awareness of the significance of these resources. The town also has adopted many of the most effective programs and laws to preserve a community’s historic character. However, Lincoln’s historic and archaeological resources remain at risk due to intense market pressure, mainly for housing. Further, Lincoln’s cultural institutions are stewards of some of the town’s most visible historic properties, but this stewardship is not the same as having legal mechanisms in place to protect the properties in perpetuity. Sometimes overlooked, though, is the critical, integral role performed by Lincoln’s institutions in supporting and advancing the broader core mission of the town both in education and in preserving Lincoln’s rural, agricultural character, its small-town heritage, its open space, and its historical legacy.

Lincoln’s range of historic and archaeological resources documents the history of the community and the region. These resources include archaeological sites dating from the Middle Archaic Period (8,000-6,000 B.P.); buildings and landscapes associated with the battle on April 19, 1775, which started the American Revolution; historic landscape features that helped to inspire Henry David Thoreau and America’s conservation movement; and one of the most significant collections of mid-20th-century modern houses in the state, including the internationally famed Gropius House. Whether a farmhouse, tavern, or outbuilding that predates Lincoln’s establishment as a town in 1754, a former summer home or country estate that once stood on substantial acreage, or one of the modern houses built between the 1930s and the 1960s, Lincoln’s predominantly residential collection of

historic buildings represents every period in its historic and architectural development. Historic institutional buildings are present as well, including the buildings that have served as town halls, the public library, and a small number of church structures and school buildings. The community's range of historic structures and objects varies widely, including stone walls, horse troughs, bridges and sculptures. All of these resources help to define Lincoln.

A notable concentration of historic buildings and other resource types, including cemeteries, can be found in the town center. Although a meeting house was constructed in this area in the 1740s, the area did not become fully developed until after the American Revolution, when houses on smaller village lots began to appear. Here and throughout Lincoln, historic residential properties are well preserved, and many retain their original outbuildings, including barns, stables, carriage houses, and greenhouses. Throughout the town, the stone walls that line the adjacent roads or extend back within the lots are a reminder of Lincoln's agricultural heritage. Reflecting both its farming heritage and the town's earlier estates, Lincoln's iconic open, natural, and designed landscapes complement many of these properties. Documented archaeological sites, both ancient Native American and those associated with the town's later development – including visible remnants such as dam and mill sites or a canal (ca. 1827) on Hobbs Brook – are also numbered among Lincoln's historic resources, although they may not always be well-known or understood in a larger context.

Historic Preservation

TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND DEPARTMENTS

Several town boards, commissions, and departments hold responsibilities that affect Lincoln's historic resources. They include:

- ❖ The **Lincoln Historical Commission (LHC)** is responsible for local survey efforts, National Register nominations, and reviewing Neighborhood Conservation District (NHD) proposals. The LHC also administers the demolition delay bylaw, serves as the contact in state and federal historic preservation review processes, and holds preservation restrictions.
- ❖ The **Lincoln Historic District Commission (LHDC)** is responsible reviewing proposed alterations to buildings and structures located within the town's four local historic districts. It also studies proposed modifications of the historic district bylaw.
- ❖ The **Planning Board** is responsible for administering Lincoln's Scenic Roads Bylaw. Other boards and commissions have an opportunity to comment on proposals affecting scenic roads and the LHC and LHDC can take related actions within local historic districts.
- ❖ The **Community Preservation Committee (CPC)** reviews and recommends requests for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds related to open space protection, historic preservation, and affordable housing.
- ❖ The **Cemetery Commission** controls and maintains the historic physical appearance and dignified atmosphere of Lincoln's four cemeteries.
- ❖ The **Trustees of the Lincoln Public Library**, the **Town Clerk**, and the **Lincoln Archives Advisory Committee** each have a role in the preservation of the town's municipal archives materials as well as with other donated collections.

PRESERVATION BYLAWS AND PLANNING TOOLS

Lincoln has recognized and protected its historic properties through a variety of documentation and designation programs and by adopting preservation bylaws and education programs. A brief synopsis of the intent and function of each is presented below, arranged from the most protective to the least protective program.

Preservation Restrictions. The LHC, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), and Historic New England (HNE) individually or jointly hold preservation restrictions in perpetuity for five Lincoln properties. (See Table 4-1) Preservation restrictions, which run with the property, consist of a recorded legal agreement between the property owner and a qualified non-profit or governmental organization to maintain exterior features of a property, and it may include interior restrictions as well. The qualified organization is responsible for monitoring the property and approving any proposed changes to those portions of the building included in the restriction. Donating a preservation restriction to a qualified organization may allow the owner to take a federal charitable contribution deduction if the property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many of Lincoln's significant cultural landscapes are also permanently protected as conservation land owned by either the town or the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT). Both entities also hold conservation restrictions on properties that include restrictions on buildings. These properties include 155 Weston Road, 5 Sandy Pond Road, 145 Old Concord Road, and 8 Bedford Road.¹

Local Historic Districts. Today, Lincoln has four areas under the jurisdiction of its local Historic District Bylaw. Town Meeting adopted the historic district bylaw in 1981, creating a single district with three smaller historic districts: the Grange Complex/Codman Estate, Lincoln Center Historic District, and the Gropius/Wood's End Road Historic District. All three districts are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An addition to the boundaries of the Lincoln Center District was approved in 2001, and a fourth local district, the Cory-Brown-Hunt District, was approved in 2007. The bylaw provides the LHDC with authority to review and approve proposed alterations visible from a public way to buildings and structures located within these districts. Proposals for demolition and new construction are also subject to approval by the LHDC. The Commission reviews proposed alterations in a public hearing to determine if a certificate of appropriateness can be issued for the work.

- ❖ The **Grange Complex/Codman Estate** is a 34.5-acre complex that includes nine buildings and structures associated with the prominent Russell and Codman families. The complex features two houses, including an eighteenth-century mansion attributed in part to noted Boston architect Charles Bulfinch, several barns and other outbuildings, as well as an impressive designed landscape and fields. Much of the surrounding landscape is preserved as conservation land, contributing to an understanding of the properties within their historical context.
- ❖ The **Lincoln Center** district extends along portions of Bedford, Lincoln, Sandy Pond, Trapelo, and Weston Roads. The boundaries of the local district are slightly larger in size than its National Register counterpart. This local historic district contains seventy properties, including both institutional and residential buildings, although a majority of the buildings are residential. Containing houses dating from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries, the district reflects the development of the central village over time, with representative styles from all periods, but some periods and styles are represented more than others. For example, this village includes a particularly strong representation of the town's Greek Revival-style buildings. A number of historic fields within and adjoining the district are protected as conservation land or through conservation restrictions, again contributing to an understanding of the properties within their historical context.

¹ Angela Seaborg, Conservation Planner, to Community Opportunities Group, Inc, 11 March 2009.

Table 4-1
Properties Listed in the State Register of Historic Places

Name	Address	National Register of Historic Places	Local Historic District	Preservation Restriction	National Historic Landmark
Black Rabbit Archaeological Site	Restricted			X	
Brooks, Daniel House	19 Brooks Rd.	X (I)			
Cory-Brown-Hunt Historic District	Conant Rd.		X		
Flint Homestead (house and barn)	28 Lexington Rd.	X (I)		X	
Grange Complex-Codman Estate	Codman Rd.	X (I)	X		
Gropius House	68 Baker Bridge Rd.	X (D)	X	X	X
Higginson, Henry House	44 Baker Farm Rd.	X (I)			
Hoar Tavern	268 Concord Turnpike	X (I)			
Henry B. Hoover House	154 Trapelo Road			X	
Lincoln Center Historic District	Boundaries of NR and LHD differ	X (D)	X		
McCune Site	Restricted	X			
Minute Man National Historical Park	Rt. 2/2A, North Lincoln	X (D)			X
Walden Pond	Rt. 126, Walden Street & Concord Rd.	X (I)			X
Wheeler House and Outbuilding	61 Bedford Rd.			X	
Woods End Road Historic District	Baker Bridge and Woods End Rds.	X (D)	X		

Note: the Cory-Brown-Hunt District is not included in the State Register, which appears to be an error. I=Individual listing; D= district.

- ❖ The **Wood's End** district at the intersection of Baker Bridge and Wood's End roads contains five houses, all single-family residences built in 1938 and 1939, including the modernist houses designed by architects Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, and Walter Bogner for their personal residences. Established as a local historic district in 1981 when all of the contributing buildings were less than fifty years old, the presence of the Wood's End district represents Lincoln's foresight in recognizing the significance of the Modern movement and its contributions to the community.
- ❖ The **Cory-Brown-Hunt** district is located on Conant Road. It includes a Colonial house erected prior to 1739, an associated 1838 barn, and a 1919 gardener's cottage that was originally an accessory building on the same farmstead.²

Neighborhood Conservation Districts. Lincoln adopted a Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) Bylaw in 2005. The bylaw establishes the designation criteria, study and review procedures, and commission composition required for a NCD. Once Town Meeting establishes a district, a Neighborhood Conservation District Commission (NCDC) will be appointed to review alterations proposed within the district's boundaries. To date, no areas in Lincoln have been NCD-designated.³

² Information compiled from the Lincoln *Open Space and Recreation Plan* (2008), Lincoln Historic Properties and Study Areas database file, and the Preliminary Study Report, Cory-Brown-Hunt Historic District on file at the MHC.

³ See Chapter 5, Built Environment, for additional discussion of Neighborhood Conservation Districts.

Demolition Delay. Lincoln originally approved a six-month demolition delay bylaw in 2000 and extended the length of the demolition period to twelve months in 2007. Every building or structure proposed for demolition (defined as more than twenty-five percent of the volume of a building or structure or twenty-five percent of its roof area) is subject to review by the LHC. If the LHC determines that a building or structure is architecturally or historically significant and “preferably preserved,” a twelve-month demolition delay period ensues. While the delay is in effect, the LHC can work with the property owner to identify alternatives to demolition or appropriate mitigation. However, the property owner can demolish the building after the delay period expires.

Scenic Roads Bylaw. Lincoln has accepted the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, s. 15C, the Scenic Roads Act, and adopted a Scenic Road Bylaw that applies to twenty-one local roads designated by Town Meeting. The Planning Board has authority over the removal of trees or stone walls during repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving within the right-of-way of a designated scenic road. By state law, state-numbered routes and state highways cannot be designated as scenic roads.⁴

National Historic Landmarks.

Lincoln has three National Historic Landmarks (NHL): the 1938 Gropius House, Walden Pond, and Minute Man National Historical Park. The NHL program is administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior. NHLs are nationally significant historic places that “possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.” Fewer than 2,500 historic places in the United States have been honored with this distinction. NHL properties are afforded a limited level of protection from projects with federal involvement, requiring mitigation for any proposal that may have an adverse effect on a designated property. The National Park Service monitors NHLs annually for threats to their condition or appearance.



National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. Any development or construction project seeking federal funding, licenses, or permits must be reviewed by MHC in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Mitigation is required for any proposal that may have an adverse effect on a National Register property.

State Register of Historic Places. The State Register is the compendium of all Massachusetts properties within local or National Register historic districts, individually listed in the National Register or as a National Historic Landmark, protected by preservation restrictions under M.G.L. c. 184, ss. 31-32, or formally determined eligible for National Register designation by the National Park Service. Any project seeking funding, licenses,

⁴ See Chapter 5, Built Environment, for additional information about Lincoln’s scenic roads.

or permits from a state agency must be reviewed by MHC in compliance with M.G.L. c. 9, ss. 26-27C (also known as Chapter 254). This law requires state agencies to consider alternatives for projects that may have an adverse effect on properties listed in the State Register.

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Identifying and documenting a community's historic resources through a cultural resource inventory provides the basis of preservation planning at the local level. Lincoln has submitted over 300 inventory forms to MHC since the 1970s. Inventory forms include information on a property's appearance, history, and significance, and generally include photographs and a locus map. Once accepted by MHC, properties documented on inventory forms are added to the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth.

Historic Assets. The Lincoln Historical Society initiated the first inventory of historic buildings in the 1960s. After the LHC was established, the inventory was updated and expanded in the 1970s. This effort focused primarily on documenting residential buildings dating from the 1830s and earlier and buildings located within the town center and Wood's End Road areas. These older forms contain only minimal information about each resource's historical, architectural, and contextual significance, and they generally do not include information on secondary features such as outbuildings, stone walls, and landscape elements – information not required on forms completed thirty years ago. The National Park Service began a limited inventory of buildings in the Minute Man National Historical Park in the 1960s, and it has since prepared a number of studies, plans, and inventories for the Park.

In 1980, the Massachusetts Historical Commission completed a *Reconnaissance Survey Report* for Lincoln as part of a statewide effort to address documentation of the Commonwealth's historic built environment, and to standardize information about the development of its towns and cities.⁵ The report for Lincoln, outlined by chronological periods, ends at 1940, conspicuously omitting any mention of Lincoln's significant mid-twentieth century residences and neighborhoods.

Today, many of Lincoln's inventoried properties are part of a local or National Register historic district, or both, with the more recent inventories covering later periods and architectural styles. Map 4.1 shows the locations of properties in Lincoln's inventory. Copies of the inventory forms are kept at the Lincoln Public Library and MHC. A listing of Lincoln's historic resource inventory is also available from the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), which is regularly updated and maintained on MHC's website. However, it is important to note that while Lincoln has documented over 300 historic resources, it has not completed a town-wide comprehensive historic resource survey, which would identify all types of historic resources located throughout the community.

Archaeological Assets. Lincoln's documented archaeological resources include close to forty properties, with two archaeological sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places: Black Rabbit Archaeological Site, protected by a preservation restriction in perpetuity with the MHC, and the McCune Site, individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeological resources include both Ancient Native American sites and historic sites, with most of the recorded archaeological sites concentrated in two areas: the northern part of Lincoln and near the Sudbury River/Fairhaven Bay. They are associated with earlier amateur finds, development

⁵ Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Reconnaissance Report: Town of Lincoln, Massachusetts* (1980).

projects that required archaeological investigations, or sites within Minute Man National Historical Park. It is likely that some of these sites, especially those recorded earlier, may no longer be extant.

The potential for additional ancient and historic archaeological sites is fully recognized due to the presence of riverways, ponds, and well-drained settlement areas, and to the limited development and gentle use of the land over time. The town has not conducted a town-wide archaeological reconnaissance survey, which would map existing and predicted archaeological sites and provide a narrative report with descriptions of sites, their relation to historic patterns of land use, economic development, social and demographic history, and events that had an impact on the community. This type of survey would include recommended bylaws and other preservation tools to protect archaeological resources. In addition, a reconnaissance survey typically includes educational and informative presentations to the community to educate residents and encourage appreciation and protection of the town’s archaeologically sensitive areas.

Community Preservation Act. Lincoln has used CPA funds for several historic preservation projects, such as repairs to the Pierce House, the Lincoln Public Library, and cemetery monuments. CPA funds have also been allocated to preservation planning activities, including a preservation restriction easement, historic resource inventory work, and an assessment of the town’s historic buildings.⁶

Ownership of Lincoln’s Historic Resources

Lincoln is fortunate that many of its most significant historic properties are open to the public for visitation. These historic properties are owned and used by a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations.

TOWN-OWNED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The town owns several historic properties, some of which are used for municipal purposes while others are leased to non-profit organizations. Each of the historic buildings described below is located within local or National Register districts, although they are not protected by preservation restrictions. They include:

- ❖ **Lincoln Public Library** (1883-84), 3 Bedford Road. This prominent red brick Richardsonian Romanesque/Queen Anne building with its distinctive slate roof, turrets, and arched openings was donated to the town by Lincoln native George Grosvenor Tarbell and designed by architect William G. Preston. A 1958 addition designed by Lincoln’s Henry B. Hoover was removed during renovations in the late 1980s when the town added a larger addition, designed by Graham Gund. The Library has prepared a facilities survey of required maintenance issues and is steadily working through these, often with the help of CPA funding.



⁶ Town of Lincoln, *Annual Town Report* (2007), 83. Additional information about Lincoln’s use of CPA funds may be found in Chapter 6, Open Space, and Chapter 7, Housing.

- ❖ **Bemis Hall** (1892-93), 15 Bedford Road. This Georgian Revival-style building was constructed with a bequest from George F. Bemis, who also established the town's Bemis Lecture Series. The building served as Lincoln's Town Hall until the 1980s. Designed by architect H. Langdon Warren, it is now occupied by the Council on Aging and is used for various community meetings, lectures, and events. Recent work on the building focused on adding an elevator to provide handicap accessibility to the upper hall as well as an emergency staircase to meet code requirements.



- ❖ **Lincoln Town Office Building** (1908), 16 Lincoln Road. Originally constructed as the Center School, this brick Colonial Revival-style building designed by J. Harleston Parker was renovated to serve as Lincoln's Town Office Building in the late 1980s, when town offices relocated from Bemis Hall.
- ❖ **John H. Pierce House** (1900), 17 Weston Road. Built for Lincoln-native John H. Pierce, the design of this grand wood-framed Georgian Revival residence was based on the façade of the Vasell-Craigie-Longfellow House in Cambridge. The Pierce family donated the house and its extensive 30-acre grounds to the town in 1930, although a family member continued to live in the house until 1964. Today, the facility is leased for private and community events, but usage has declined in recent years, and a committee is examining ways to improve its financial stability and to increase the utilization of this historic property.
- ❖ The **Codman Farm** property, 58 Codman Road, is a 19-acre parcel that includes two connected barns (dating from 1820 and 1863), an eighteenth-century barn, and an 1867 farmhouse originally designed by architect John Hubbard Sturgis. While owned by the town, the farm is operated by the non-profit Codman Community Farms.

Other historic town-owned properties include two late-nineteenth-century horse troughs, one at Five Corners and the other at the intersection of Lincoln and Codman Roads (both now converted to flower pots); the 1929 War Memorial eagle on the grounds of the Lincoln Public Library; the 1900 Lincoln Pumping Station designed by Lincoln architect George F. Newton; the nineteenth-century Kelley-Lunt House on Tower Road, now used for affordable housing; and the town's four cemeteries. The cemeteries consist of the Precinct Burial Ground or Cemetery; the Meeting House Burial Ground or Cemetery by Bemis Hall; Arbor Vitae Cemetery; and Lincoln Cemetery (also known as the Lexington Road Cemetery). The original Smith, Brooks, and Hartwell buildings of Lincoln's K-8 school complex were designed by Lincoln modernist architects, and they are documented in the town's historic resources inventory. Significant additions and alterations were made to the school buildings in the mid 1990s, including joining together the Smith and Brooks schools. In addition, the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park property is legally owned by the town but operated by a separate non-profit organization.

Lincoln's municipal properties are well-preserved and actively used by residents and visitors. The Town Offices, Bemis Hall, Pierce House, Codman Farm, the two horse troughs, and the War Memorial and Dallin statues have been the subjects of recent studies. The *Town of Lincoln Building Needs Assessment* (2006) reviewed the condition of each of these buildings and included repair recommendations and cost estimates. Also in 2006, the

Lincoln Reconnaissance Report by the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program reviewed Lincoln's two horse troughs and two statues, and recommended strategies for their preservation and documentation.

NON-PROFIT AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED PROPERTIES

Many of Lincoln's most significant historic properties are owned by non-profit groups and by the state or federal governments.

- ❖ **Historic New England (HNE)**, a regional non-profit organization established in 1910, owns the 16-acre Codman Estate at 34 Codman Road and the 1938 Gropius House at 68 Baker Bridge Road. Both properties are located within local and National Register historic districts, and the latter is also protected by a preservation restriction held by MHC. Formerly known as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, HNE owns 34 other properties in New England.
 - ◆ The **Codman Estate** is composed of five buildings, including a three-story Federal-style mansion originally constructed in 1735-1741 as a two-story Georgian house. The building was enlarged in the Federal style in 1797-99, with the design attributed to Boston architect Charles Bulfinch. The Estate also includes a greenhouse and a smaller house, stable, and barn. The landscape features of the Codman Estate include a formal Italian garden, gravel walks, and tree-lined avenues. (The adjoining town-owned Codman Farm buildings were a former part of this estate, as were nearby fields and woods held by the town as conservation land.)
 - ◆ The 1938 **Gropius House**, a Bauhaus-inspired house designed by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer for the Gropius family home, is one of New England's earliest modern houses, and it is one of the most intensely visited properties of the organization's holdings. The National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently awarded HNE with a Save America's Treasures grant for repairs to the south and west elevations of the building and restoration of the orchard and meadow to its 1950s appearance. The property received National Historic Landmark status in 2000.
- ❖ **Walden Pond and Walden Woods.** Walden Pond sits at the heart of the 2,680-acre area known as Walden Woods, located in Lincoln and Concord. About seventy-seven percent of the land is permanently protected by various entities, including the towns of Lincoln and Concord, land trusts in Lincoln and Concord, state ownership, and the Walden Woods Project. Walden Pond State Reservation is a 462-acre state park surrounding Walden Pond, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a National Historic Landmark.⁷ While the pond lies primarily in Concord, approximately ninety-five acres of the reservation are located in Lincoln. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the property, dedicated to the preservation of the landscape and the literary heritage of Henry David Thoreau.
- ❖ **Walden Woods Project/Thoreau Institute,** Baker Farm Road. The Walden Woods Project is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln at the historic Henry Higginson House (1905-06), a Tudor Revival mansion. The Thoreau Institute's library and research collections are located in an adjoining 1998 research center. The Henry Higginson House, which is listed on the National Register, and the 1914 Higginson Stable were designed by Lincoln architect Julian Ingersoll Chamberlain.
- ❖ **DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum.** The DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum (historically known as the DeCordova and Dana Museum and Park) at 51 Sandy Pond Road is the former estate of the Dana

⁷ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, "Walden Pond State Reservation," www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/walden

and de Cordova families. Julian de Cordova donated the thirty-five acre property to the town in 1930 but retained use of it during his lifetime. In 1950, Lincoln established a charitable organization to open the property as a public park and museum of art. Today, installations at the museum include art galleries in the main building and an outdoor sculpture park featuring over eighty sculptures. The museum also operates a very active educational program.



The 1882 Shingle Style house on the estate was remodeled in 1910 by de Cordova as a brick castle

with Romanesque features, and remodeled again in 1949-50 by the Lincoln architect John Quincy Adams when it became a museum. The Boston architectural firm of Kallman McKinnell & Wood, which won the design competition for Boston City Hall, designed the museum's 1998 addition. Other buildings on the property include the original caretaker's house as well as a series of studio buildings and a museum store added during the past thirty years. While the property is documented on a historic resource inventory form, it is not listed on the National Register or included within a local historic district.

- ❖ **Drumlin Farm.** Owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS), the Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary includes a nature center and a working educational farm. Entered from South Great Road (Route 117), the property is composed of parcels owned by MAS on both the north and south sides of Route 117 near the intersection with Lincoln Road. It includes the Society's headquarters in the 1913-14 Gordon Hall, designed by Frank Chouteau Brown for Louise (Ayer) Gordon Hatheway, who donated the property to MAS. Drumlin Farm also includes four older houses that were part of the former Hatheway Estate, several barns, and the more recently built Nature Center. Portions of the land are under permanent conservation restrictions, but sections along Lincoln Road are not protected. Only two pre-1830 buildings on the property have been documented on inventory forms.
- ❖ **Minute Man National Historical Park.** Some of Lincoln's most evocative historic landscapes, buildings, and structures are located within the Minute Man National Historical Park (MMNHP). The 971-acre Park, located in Lincoln, Concord, and Lexington, includes original unpaved sections of the Battle Road (former sections of Old Bedford, Virginia, and Nelson roads in Lincoln) and portions of North Great Road (Route 2A) in Lincoln. The Battle Road was designated a State Scenic Byway in 2007. The Minute Man Battle Road trail and other ancillary trails within the park provide an unparalleled way to experience the landscape that hosted the events of April 19, 1775. The park's historic buildings and structures include the Noah Brooks Tavern (1798), the Hartwell Tavern (1732-33), the Captain William Smith House (ca. 1693), period stone walls, and restored landscapes. A Visitor Center is located in Lexington near the Lincoln line. The entire park is a National Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ❖ **Old Town Hall Corporation.** The Old Town Hall Corporation was originally established in the 1960s by a group of Lincoln citizens to acquire and preserve Lincoln's original Greek Revival-style Town Hall (1848)

at 25 Lincoln Road. Used not only as a town hall but also as a high school and library, the building originally stood where Bemis Hall is today. Moved twice after it was sold to make room for Bemis Hall, the building was preserved through the efforts of members of the Ropes, Chapin, and Smith families. The building ultimately served as a store and post office before it was acquired by the Old Town Hall Corporation. A post office, exchange, and office space are now located in the building. Also on the grounds of the Old Town Hall Corporation's property is a third Lincoln horse trough, originally located at the intersections of Concord and South Great Roads. The Old Town Hall property is located in the Lincoln Center local and National Register historic districts.



- ❖ **Farrington Memorial Education Center.** The Farrington Memorial, located off the Cambridge Turnpike, provides rural learning and recreation opportunities for inner-city children. Established in 1911, the Center's main brick Georgian Revival building was built shortly thereafter by Lincoln contractor R. D. Donaldson. Before it became the Farrington Memorial, the 71.4-acre property had been an important part of Lincoln's agricultural history. It was farmed for over two centuries by many generations of the Stone family, one of the earliest families to settle in the area. The property still includes a large barn and one of the town's oldest Colonial houses. Only the house has been documented on an inventory form.

Archival Resources

Lincoln is rich in archival artifacts that document its past. These resources include holdings at the Town Office Building, the Lincoln Public Library, and the Thoreau Institute of the Walden Woods Project.

The **Archives and Special Collections** at the Lincoln Public Library serves as the primary repository for Lincoln's historical records. These include architectural and site plans, photographs, drawings, maps, personal records, and manuscripts. The library's website contains a listing of all of contents of the collection, which is invaluable for researchers and others interested in Lincoln's history. Lincoln's early municipal records, such as tax, voting, and financial records, are also archived at the library, as are the records, inventory forms, and National Register nominations that are the purview of the LHC. The facility serves as a repository for some Lincoln organizations, including the Lincoln Historical Society, the First Parish Church, and the Lincoln Garden Club. In 2008, Town Meeting voted to build a new, larger archive facility at the Library to comply with state standards for the storage of town records.

The **Lincoln Historical Society** offers a number of books on Lincoln's history and architecture for purchase, many of them written by Lincoln authors. As part of its mission of collecting items of local historical interest, the Historic Society has a limited number of artifacts at the Pierce House and its manuscripts are at the Library's Archives. In addition, the Thoreau Institute of the Walden Woods Project has one of the best secondary collections of documents and other archival materials related to Henry David Thoreau and his writings. The Institute is preparing a digital version of its archives, which could serve as a model for other Lincoln groups.

Cultural Resources

MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Lincoln has over seventy-five organizations that serve the social, spiritual, economic, recreational, and cultural interests of the community. By far the largest number of these organizations focus on Lincoln's youth and programs geared to children and families, followed by conservation and historic preservation organizations. The impressive number of organizations dedicated to preserving the town's historic built environment and heritage include local non-profit organizations such as the Lincoln Historical Society, Friends of Modern Architecture (FoMA/Lincoln), and the Lincoln Minute Men, as well as the regional non-profit organization, HNE. The National Park Service has a prominent presence in Lincoln as well as in the adjacent towns of Concord and Lexington. All of these institutions have an educational and advocacy emphasis, manifested in appearances before town boards and commissions, lectures, school classroom presentations and programs, partnerships with other local and regional cultural organizations, tours, and demonstrations.

Town Cultural Services. In addition to community organizations that provide cultural services to the town, Lincoln's schools and associated groups sponsor a range of activities for children. Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School and Minuteman Career & Technical High School also offer some adult education classes on a range of subjects. Other town committees and boards that provide cultural services include:

- ❖ The Bemis Free Lecture Series was established under an 1890 bequest from Lincoln-native George F. Bemis to provide an "annual course of public lectures" that would be "of an instructive and elevating character." That initial fund was later supplemented by a bequest from John Todd. Three appointed Trustees arrange for the annual programs, which have historically included lectures by such luminaries as Isaac Asimov, Lowell Thomas, David McCord, and Robert Frost, as well as many musical programs. In recent years, however, the Trustees have expressed a concern that their available funds are inadequate in the context of today's typical lecture-fee schedule. In a number of recent instances, the Trustees have been able to collaborate with other sponsoring groups.
- ❖ The Council on Aging (COA) offers trips, lectures, games, exercise, and other programs. In 2008 they initiated the successful Lincoln Academy program of talks by residents on their careers or experiences. A monthly newsletter sent to all Lincoln households includes not only the COA's programs, but also offerings by other groups.
- ❖ The Lincoln Cultural Council, which receives state Arts Council funding, annually provides grants to support cultural programs that benefit the community.
- ❖ The Lincoln Public Library maintains a regular series of programming for children, as well as lectures, a book group, jazz music group, and other cultural programming. Many of its events are supported through the Friends of the Lincoln Library.
- ❖ The Pierce House Committee sponsors a First Day Open House for the community each New Years Day at the John H. Pierce House. The house and park are also used for other community events.
- ❖ The Recreation Commission has taken over responsibilities formerly held by the Celebrations Committee in sponsoring the town's April 19th, Memorial Day and July 4th celebrations as well as an annual Summer Concert Series.

Survey of Organizations. The Comprehensive Long-Range Plan Committee's Cultural, Historic, and Governance subcommittee conducted a survey of twelve local organizations for this Comprehensive Plan. The survey

revealed that while some of these groups regularly collaborate with each other, additional opportunities could be explored. Some organizations lease town facilities or land, and several receive partial funding from the town. Many of the groups have paid staff assisted by dedicated volunteers, paid membership programs, and operating budgets that range from modest to impressive. Many own or lease older buildings, which are maintained to the extent allowed by their budgets. Highlights of the survey include:

- ❖ Many of the organizations want to continue to improve communication with the town.
- ❖ These organizations play an enormous, sometimes under-acknowledged, role in the life of the town.
- ❖ Increased cooperation and appreciation by town boards and commissions, residents, and others served by these organizations is desired. Examples of cooperation between these groups include:
 - ◆ CCF's release of a hayfield for use by the Food Project;
 - ◆ Jointly sponsored programs on modern architecture between FoMA/Lincoln and HNE;
 - ◆ Walden Woods Project's interactions with LLCT, the LHS, Friends of the Lincoln Library, and other groups;
 - ◆ Lincoln Garden Club's assistance with the gardens/flower arrangements at the town-owned Pierce House and plantings in the horse trough-cum-flower pot at Five Corners;
 - ◆ Use of each other's buildings and equipment for special events, and participation in these events.
- ❖ Several organizations have identified and prioritized necessary repairs and improvements to their historic properties:
 - ◆ CCF identified needed repairs to three of its barns, including the 1794 Barn A, the early-nineteenth-century Barn B, and the 1876 Barn C. In 2008, the Town and CCF jointly submitted an application to the CPC and received CPA funds for the repair work;
 - ◆ HNE is currently restoring the south and west elevations of the Gropius House and restoring the adjacent meadow and orchard with a Save America's Treasures grant;
 - ◆ The National Park Service continues to maintain its collection of historic buildings, some of which may be open in the future for interpretive or commercial use, and it is planning to restore landscapes in certain areas to their 1775 appearance by removing trees;
 - ◆ First Parish Church is planning repairs and alterations to its buildings.
- ❖ Lincoln's cultural organizations provide invaluable education and advocacy programs related to the community's historic and cultural resources. Their efforts include:
 - ◆ FoMA/Lincoln's presentations before Town boards and commissions on the fate of several modern buildings, and their organization of very popular modern house tours;
 - ◆ DeCordova Museum's outreach to MetroWest schools;

- ◆ The Council on Aging's services to both seniors and all Lincoln residents who may need assistance with elderly parents and relatives.
- ❖ Parking and accessibility are issues at First Parish, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, the Lincoln Public Library, Town Offices and Bemis Hall, although the churches' parking concerns are only on Sundays and at certain events.
- ❖ Several Lincoln-based organizations – CCF, The Food Project, and Drumlin Farm – support farming activities as an essential way of maintaining Lincoln's rural character and promoting local food production. These activities include community garden plots, land leases to farmers, educational programs, and farming activities which produce income for the organization.
- ❖ The future plans of many of these organizations will substantially benefit the entire Lincoln community:
 - ◆ The Lincoln Garden Club expects to publish roadside maintenance guidelines in October 2009, for use by both private owners and the town;
 - ◆ The NPS plans to add and improve trail systems within the Minute Man National Historical Park.

NEEDS, ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Lincoln is contending with several issues that directly affect its historic and cultural resources. The most prominent threat to historic resources is the loss of buildings and their associated settings due to development pressure, and in Lincoln's case, redevelopment pressure.

Obstacles to Historic Preservation

While significant areas in Lincoln are protected by the local historic district bylaw, areas that lie outside of the historic districts remain subject to alterations that are not reviewed and may adversely affect the historic character of the buildings and their surroundings. The LHC/LHDC and individual residents have sought to create more local historic districts and establish Neighborhood Conservation Districts, but resistance from property owners and a gap in understanding the benefits of these designations remains an impediment. Development adversely affects archaeological sites, too. They remain largely unidentified and unprotected in Lincoln, and they may be lost without much awareness that they ever existed.

Lincoln's desirability as a place to live has contributed to the rise in demolitions of moderately-sized houses and their replacement with significantly larger ones. This trend not only removes historic properties, but it also affects the larger historical landscape of which Lincoln is justly proud and has worked diligently to protect. Despite demolition delay, buildings are being demolished in Lincoln. Demolition of historic buildings and structures results in a change to the surrounding cultural landscape and viewsheds, either due to the presence of a new building or the gap caused by the removal of a building from its historic setting. Like Lincoln, a growing number of communities just outside of Boston, including Cambridge, Newton, Wellesley, Concord, North Andover, and Salem, have explored and, in some cases, passed NCD bylaws and ordinances. Wellesley designated its first district in 2008.

As noted in the *Lincoln Reconnaissance Report* (2006) and MHC's *Massachusetts Preservation Plan 2006-2018*, additional identification and designation efforts are crucial steps in protecting historic properties. Communi-

ties have lost historic resources because the public was unaware of a property's significance. Recent and ongoing surveys include work by the LHC to record new properties and augment old forms, and by the Friends of Modern Architecture (FoMA/Lincoln), which has documented over sixty-six mid-twentieth century buildings. The LHC has made completing the inventory of historic buildings a high priority. In addition, the LHC and LHDC are currently working with the Town Assessors and Conservation Commission to incorporate the location and other data for all inventoried and National Register listed historic properties into the town's Geographic Information System (GIS). Lincoln currently maintains a record of its local historic districts within the GIS database and makes the information available on the town's website. Keeping the information current will be an ongoing need.

Finally, Lincoln is a good steward of its own historic properties, but the town faces expensive repairs to maintain public buildings and provide capital improvements to retain their functionality. The LHC and LHDC may need to provide assistance on fundraising and sympathetic ways to preserve the historic physical character of town-owned properties as required improvements are proposed.

Scenic Roads and Stone Walls

Traffic volume and congestion on Lincoln's narrow, winding roads and measures to address traffic concerns and roadway conditions are a significant issue for Lincoln. Communities throughout the Boston area have experienced similar growth in vehicular traffic and they are trying to address traffic issues while preserving the rural nature of their roads. Lincoln's Scenic Roads Bylaw attempts to retain stone walls and mature trees, but it is only invoked with road-related work and it applies only to areas within the public right-of-way. Stone walls, trees, and other elements that contribute to the scenic character of the roads and town are vulnerable to removal or alteration if outside of this limited boundary. A regional focus is needed to address concerns related to traffic, historic landscapes and open space preservation, and other issues that transcend town borders.

Archives

Safe storage and efficient retrieval of records, especially town records, is an issue for many communities throughout the state. In 2007, Town Meeting approved the use of CPA funds to catalogue and preserve historical public records at the Town Offices. While many of Lincoln's archival materials will be transferred to the new Library vault, which will meet current state standards for town records archives, other records will remain at the Town Offices, where inadequate vault and storage facilities continue to exist. These include records in daily use and other records legally required to remain there. Needs remain for a more efficient and usable means of storing, cataloging, accessing, and exchanging these troves of information. Identifying and implementing a cost-effective and manageable database that can be accessed on the internet is a desired means for improving retrieval capabilities. Planning for public facility improvements will need to consider both the general and archival storage of materials at the Town Offices and the steps that should be taken to ensure the preservation of these materials.

Communication and Public Education

Lincoln's historic and cultural organizations cite needs for better communication with each other, the town, and the general public. Increased communication and involvement between these organizations would result in stronger partnerships and likely help to meet some of the challenges they currently face. More formal channels of communication with town government are also needed. The survey of cultural organizations notes a desire for more integration with the public schools. One of the public meetings for this Comprehensive Plan revealed that residents would like more introductory programs on historic and cultural assets.

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal CH-1. Strengthen collaboration with Lincoln's cultural and historic organizations.

- CH-1.1. Establish a Council for Cultural and Historic Organizations that would be the forum for exploring mutual opportunities for town government and cultural, historical, educational, and other non-profit organizations to share resources and expertise.
- CH-1.2. Provide information about activities sponsored by cultural and historic organizations on the town's website.
- CH-1.3. Encourage partnerships between the town's cultural institutions and the Lincoln Public Schools to identify opportunities for integrating cultural programs into the existing curriculum.

DISCUSSION

A Council for Cultural and Historic Organizations, with representatives from local institutions and town boards and committees, could help to address the cooperation and communication needs identified in the survey of cultural organizations. It would provide predictable opportunities for sharing ideas, resources, and expertise among all of the participants involved in protecting and promoting Lincoln's cultural resources. Further, the proposed Council could serve as a pathway for expanding coordination beyond the town's borders and into adjoining communities.

The survey of cultural institutions highlighted several areas that would benefit from improved cooperation, including:

- ❖ Identifying opportunities for regular annual or biannual meetings with specific organizations, beginning with institutionalizing Town-Park meetings with MMNHP to develop joint management plans and to deal with shared issues and external challenges.
- ❖ Identifying and helping to implement neighborhood meetings with institutions.
- ❖ Working with the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park to reestablish public understanding of the unique relationship between the museum and the town and strengthen a sense of ownership and stewardship within the community. Toward these ends, the town could begin by reestablishing a report from DeCordova in the Annual Town Report.
- ❖ Developing further mechanisms for protecting the vital viewshed surrounding MMNHP, and working to abate the impact of traffic and noise on the Park experience.
- ❖ Identifying Walden Woods as a priority for documenting and preserving Lincoln's natural resources and historic assets, including working with Concord and the Thoreau Institute toward enlarging the Walden Pond National Historic Landmark designation to include surrounding areas of Walden Woods, an objective Concord has also embraced in its Long-Range Plan.

Once a Council for Cultural and Historic Organizations is established, it will be easier to develop and maintain a cultural calendar on the town's website. However, there should be a point of contact at the Town Offices with responsibility for maintaining this resource. The town's website already provides links to these organizations. Reviewing the websites of these organizations to determine whether cross-links are provided between the groups is a task that should be assigned to a collaborative group, while space could be made available through the town's

website for institutions that do not have their own websites or for organizations to post Lincoln-specific materials and information.

Federal and state mandates make it difficult for school districts to stray beyond the established curricula and fit creative, local learning options within the regular school day. Working with parent-teacher groups, encouraging use of Lincoln School Foundation and Cultural Council grants for teachers to coordinate with local organizations, and creating after-school enrichment programs are potential ways to integrate local cultural opportunities into the schools. Many cultural organizations have existing educational programs for children. For example, DeCordova works with school systems throughout the region, and Historic New England has a children’s page in its newsletter and offers children’s activities at many of its historic properties. Some organizations in Lincoln, including the Lincoln Minute Men, already participate in local school programs, although this type of partnership could be expanded. Establishing a coalition with representatives from the Lincoln School Committee and PTA, principals and teachers, and representatives from Lincoln’s cultural institutions and town boards such as the Library Trustees under the aegis of a new Council for Cultural & Historic Organization, will be essential for effective collaboration. Further, meeting with school officials to understand the existing curriculum on local history and culture would be an important first step in identifying future opportunities.

Goal CH-2. Identify, evaluate, and protect Lincoln’s cultural and historic assets.

- CH-2.1. Building on the Lincoln Historical Commission’s previous efforts, prepare a comprehensive inventory of Lincoln’s cultural and historic resources, including areas, structures, buildings, objects, and historic landscapes.
- CH-2.2. Upon completion of the comprehensive inventory, identify eligible buildings and districts for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- CH-2.3. Work with residents to create additional local historic districts where appropriate.
- CH-2.4. Promote the use of preservation restrictions to protect public and privately owned buildings and structures.
- CH-2.5. Explore opportunities for preserving archaeological sites.
- CH-2.6. Re-establish funding for consultant and administrative expenses in the town’s annual operating budget, as appropriate, to support historic preservation.

DISCUSSION

Lincoln has a significant number of undocumented historic resources. The town cannot plan adequately to protect them without a comprehensive town-wide historic resource inventory. For example, limited or incomplete documentation can hinder effective use of a demolition delay bylaw. Updating and completing a comprehensive town-wide inventory should be the first step in protecting Lincoln’s historic assets. Thereafter, the town should institutionalize a process for routine updates. Completing the inventory and incorporating it into the town’s GIS mapping system would help the LHC and LHDC in future local historic district and NCD designations, and also help other town boards with a role in historic preservation.

Once this inventory is complete, Lincoln will have a better understanding of its historic resources and can plan for their protection. A comprehensive historic resources inventory will provide Lincoln with the framework to identify its historic buildings and determine those worthy of designation, either through the National Register of Historic Places or through local historic districts. The inventory can also serve as a vital tool for a public

awareness campaign to encourage residents to consider historic designations. This is particularly important in Lincoln if the town continues its current policy of designating properties only with owner consent. While National Register listings are important for fostering public awareness and appreciation of a town's historic resources, designation within a local historic district provides legal authority to protect a building from inappropriate alterations or demolition. A concerted effort by the LHC, with assistance from the Lincoln Historical Society, the LHDC, and MHC, will be critical for garnering support for new historic districts. Lincoln also lacks a comprehensive archaeological inventory and has only limited knowledge of its archaeological resources. Undertaking an archaeological reconnaissance survey should be another preservation priority for the town.

Lincoln has already contributed CPA funds to draft a preservation restriction and the town holds preservation restrictions on two properties. However, a mechanism for funding the maintenance and enforcement of these restrictions and for future preservation restrictions should be sought. In addition, Lincoln should place preservation easements on its own historically significant buildings. By displaying a commitment to preserving its own historic assets, the town could serve as a model for other institutions to protect their historic buildings, too. Engaging in community outreach activities such as lectures, articles in the local newspaper, and distribution of literature on the financial and social benefits of preservation restrictions would also encourage homeowners to consider protecting their historic residences. The LHC should continue to identify some of the town's most significant buildings and meet personally with the owners to discuss preservation options.

In the past, Lincoln's annual operating budget included a small line item for the LHC's administrative and other costs. While the LHC and LHDC receive some administrative support from staff at the Town Offices, they operate without a dependable source of funds. This diminishes their ability to undertake and oversee preservation planning projects. Using CPA funds is an option, but there are competing interests for CPA revenue. There is no guarantee that any particular CPA requests will be approved from year to year. Through the Survey and Planning Grants Program, MHC provides resources for communities to undertake planning studies. These grants have funded historic resource inventories throughout the Commonwealth. Since the Survey and Planning Grants Program requires a local match, however, Lincoln would still need to invest local resources in preservation planning.

Goal CH-3. Promote stewardship of Lincoln's cultural and historic resources.

- CH-3.1. Make information on Lincoln's cultural and historic character, buildings, districts, cemeteries, and other heritage treasures widely available to residents and visitors in formats that are attractive, accurate, and easily understood.
- CH-3.2. Expand the collections and finding aids for the newly integrated archives and records management initiative spearheaded by the Lincoln Public Library and the Town Clerk's Office.
- CH-3.3. Support stewardship by collaborating with existing local organizations and providing funding from local and non-local sources.

DISCUSSION

A comprehensive cultural resources inventory could be an excellent source for public education programs. The LHC is already planning to place its existing historic resource inventory on the town's website. Once a comprehensive inventory is completed, the website will be even more informative. Many communities have developed interactive websites for the public to learn more about local history and resources. For example, the Marlborough Historical Society recently instituted an excellent interactive website, www.historicmarlborough.org. Scanning and photographing documents and fragile or valuable artifacts for online exhibits is another way

that communities provide outreach. Other forms of literature, such as walking tour brochures and neighborhood guides, interpretive displays at historic sites, historic plaque programs, and historic district signage are all means to inform the public about Lincoln’s rich heritage.

Lincoln recognizes how important it is to improve its archival storage capacity. The town is building a new archives vault at the Library to replace a smaller vault, but the town still needs to implement a more efficient and usable means of storing, cataloging, accessing, and exchanging archival information. Developing and implementing a cost-effective and manageable database that can be accessed on the internet would be an important means for improving retrieval capabilities.

Minute Man National Historical Park, Walden Woods, the Gropius House, the Codman Estate, Drumlin Farm, the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, the Flint Homestead and farm, and the extraordinary legacy of conservation land demonstrate that Lincoln is a historic community situated within a most historic region of America. With this comes responsibilities, but while Lincoln appreciates historic preservation, its preservation efforts have not matched its conservation land efforts. These should be seen as complementary objectives. Approaches for educating the public and promoting stewardship should include:

- ❖ Using the town’s website to provide inventories, National Register documents, and information about the town’s buildings and their interrelationships to each other and the land;
- ❖ Providing accessible, documented records of historic cemetery stones with inscriptions and photographs;
- ❖ Publishing studies that provide an understanding of land use and historically significant landscapes, including conservation lands, Walden Woods, and Minute Man National Historical Park;
- ❖ Adding studies such as the *Know Your Town* and historic *Coming Together* booklets to the town’s website;
- ❖ Providing handouts and other materials for current and new residents and visitors to inform them about the cultural and historic character, districts, and heritage treasures of Lincoln;
- ❖ Actively promoting preservation and educational opportunities for learning more about the town’s history and agricultural heritage through historic house and farming sites;
- ❖ Funding expansion of the collections and finding aids for the newly integrated Town/Library Archives initiative, and developing ways to highlight and make available those collections through the internet; and
- ❖ Securing funding to support an annual program on stewardship, potentially operated under the auspices of the existing Bemis Lecture Series.