

**LINCOLN LONG-RANGE PLAN  
PUBLIC MEETING – 9 FEB 2008  
Large Group Discussion Notes**

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LINCOLN?

- People are interesting to talk with – have good points and not hesitant to talk
- Lincoln is an oasis compared to other areas; dark, quiet, different feel
- Small town instead of bedroom suburb
- Looks very much like it did years ago; rural character and sense of place
- Economic and ethnic/racial diversity
- Land, trees, and open space; there has been good work done and land planning; hope that in the future “human planning” will also be done well
- Woods, space to walk dogs – off-leash
- Lincoln is a place where you truly can make a difference
- MBTA provides access to other places
- Open Town Meeting; gives understanding of purpose of democracy and how it works
- Lincoln looks beyond itself – housing, METCO, things that happen on regional basis
- Swap table – importance of recycling and reuse
- Lincoln’s welcoming nature – farming and trails
- Many places to get involved for many interests
- Lincoln wrestles with property rights vs. community responsibility
- Lincoln opened itself in 70’s to affordable housing before other communities and diversity that goes with that
- Long-range planning committee is forward thinking rather than looking to the past
- Efforts to preserve historical elements/character
- Lincoln tries not to take itself too seriously at times
- Natural resources, Gropius house, Lincoln Guide Service (no longer here)
- Public services – fire and police, Council on Aging, medical facilities
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Community is geared toward welcoming families; important to invest in schools; community events are important
- Environmental diversity of land use; diversity of housing stock – many architectural styles
- People in town gov’t are close to those who are not in gov’t
- Farming – access to local produce, meat, etc.
- Ability to get to “yes” – diversity of ideas, but can get to yes
- Low population density and large-lot zoning – at the foundation/core of what Lincoln is
- Lincoln provides a model for civic engagement

- Smart Growth – areas of dense growth that are located near transportation and facilities
- Town officials and town gov't work well
- De Cordova museum
- Geologically amazing place; prevents some areas from being built; provides wildlife habitat
- Institutional land is protected by non-profit status; provides cultural richness and protects land

WHAT DO YOU *NOT* LIKE ABOUT LINCOLN?

- Traffic – safety issue; there are more cars and they move faster and more carelessly; not many roads, so all of traffic is placed on few roads
  - o Bike paths could be improved
- Things that attract people to Lincoln are what they see and not what they feel; less emphasis on shared community values than before
- Loss of trees, increased light pollution, noise from Rt 128
- Fear of isolation
- Mansionization – new homes are enormous; potential to change character of Town of Lincoln
- People who grew up here cannot afford to live here
- Utility poles/facilities; increasingly conspicuous
- Lincoln tends to think of itself as somewhat isolated; Town is part of a region, needs to reach out/integrate with large environment
- Lack of effective community communication; have not had a local newspaper in years, other forms of communication not as effective
- Concern that there are fewer volunteers in the community; less discussion/contention surrounding elections, for instance; may be due to increased workloads
- People putting up stockade fences; efforts to protect property values detract from views; threatens visual openness of community
- People have to drive a lot due to scattered land uses; more of a center would help
- Average age of people involved in town gov't
- Non-profits are attracted to Lincoln; can “use” heritage but not necessarily contribute to Town of Lincoln
- Do not carefully evaluate consequences of development choices
- Land use decisions and town finance decisions are starting to co-mingle; need to keep them separate
- Difficulty in engaging in public debate; difficulty in engaging in mature public discussion/debate
- Loss of the Clark Gallery

IF YOU LEFT LINCOLN AND CAME BACK IN 10 YEARS, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO FIND?

- Permitting for smaller houses, oriented for solar heating, use of alternative energy, generally take a stand on global warming/environmental issues
- Everyone's children would be able to live in Town, could afford to live in Town of Lincoln (2 comments)
- More land in agricultural production; community farm stand, co-op
- Still see narrow winding roads, would look the same as they do now
- More effective means of public review of development
- More energy development in Lincoln in light of global warming
- Hope it looks much like it does today, hope that development continues to be thoughtfully done
- Hope to see programs that promote economic and ethnic diversity
- Resources in place for aging population to enable people to live at home as long as possible
- Continuing respect for historical, architectural, and cultural diversity of the built environment
- Access to public transportation
- Have way to finance municipal needs
- Level of civic engagement that feeds open town meeting form of gov't
- Celebration of newcomers and kindness toward them; effort to invite in those who are new
- Would like to see more people at meetings like these
- Landscape would look the same as it does now; need to look for specific places to accommodate new growth to balance places to preserve/save
- Newcomers/old-timers party re-established
- Better grip on what is happening at Hanscom Field and what to do about it
- Better connection between North and South Lincoln
- Quieter Lincoln, less traffic
- Every house roof to have solar panels and every backyard to have wind turbine
- Would not like to see everyone as a billionaire
- Re-establishment of a Town nurse; could combine function of public health and visiting nurse
- Thriving commercial center in Town of Lincoln
- Peoples' names back on their mailboxes
- Completion of Rt 2 upgrade
- Successful intergenerational meeting place