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Q-and-A with Carole Kasper on campus planning project

Questions and Answers about the Lincoln Campus Master Planning Project

Lincoln Campus Master Planning Chair Carole Kasper answers questions about the Town's Ballfield Road Master Planning effort. The project, approved by voters at the March 2015 Town Meeting, was launched in June and will be the primary topic of discussion at the Nov. 14 State of the Town meeting.

What is the Campus Master Planning Committee, and why should people know about it?

Carole Kasper: The Campus Master Planning Committee is composed of a group of representatives from various town boards plus three at-large members, all jointly appointed by the Lincoln Board of Selectmen and the Lincoln School Committee. We have been asked to study the overall layout of the Ballfield Road campus, including buildings, fields, traffic and parking, surrounding environment, as well as how the campus is currently used and will need to be used. With public input, we are creating a long-range vision for the campus that identifies suitable locations for buildings, fields and parking. The goal is to ensure the campus best addresses the needs of our residents and future generations, while also safeguarding and maximizing the land.

Where are you in this process?

CK: The committee was convened this past June, and our final recommendations will be submitted by Dec. 31, so we are working intensively. We have hired LLB Architects to serve as the study's consultant. Traffic flow, pedestrian movement, wetlands, campus-use and related data are being examined. We are currently preparing for a public forum that is set for 7-9 p.m. Oct. 15 in the Brooks Gymnasium. The forum will bring residents into the work of the committee so far and give Lincoln residents an opportunity to provide input about the campus. This public input will then enhance the committee's perspective and further progress our work as we move forward.

What do you hope to accomplish at the Oct. 15 Public Forum?

CK: The Oct. 15 Public Forum is an opportunity to pick up on the very productive and positive work last year of the School Building Advisory Committee and the Community Center Study Committee. Our Lincoln community has expressed a strong desire to co-locate a K-8 school and community center on the Ballfield Road campus, and it's exciting that the collective efforts of so many people in town both past and present have led to this first in the history of Lincoln — a campus master planning effort.

The CMPC's aim is to balance the community's wish to maintain the look and feel of the campus, while at the same time prioritizing a campus configuration that is functional, safe and forward-thinking. We believe that the public forum attendees can help us do that.

How do you ensure that you can garner support for the committee's recommendations?

CK: Because this campus is loved by so many across the community, we have reached out to various demographic and interest groups, such as the Council on Aging, the Lincoln Historic Commission, the Lincoln PTO, the Green Energy Technology Committee, Lincoln Youth Soccer, the Lincoln Family Association and encouraged people to attend any of our committee meetings as well as the Oct. 15 public forum. We will join public forums with the PTO at the school and the COA at Bemis Hall on Oct. 30 to ensure community outreach prior to the Nov. 14 State of the Town Meeting.

Our committee's best recommendations will grow out of the active participation of our Lincoln community. We hope that everyone will attend the Oct. 15 public forum and the State of the Town meeting on Nov. 14. Many thanks.



Lincoln Campus Master Planning Chair
Carole Kasper. Courtesy Photo