

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Peter Braun, Chair  
Renel Fredriksen  
James Craig

Before reporting on the Board's principal activities and priorities for 2016, we recommit ourselves as a Board to a leadership and governance style that, trusting in the wisdom of Town Meeting and volunteer government, emphasizes transparency, engagement, and healthy and respectful debate. We believe that we do best by the Town, and by and for each other, when we adhere as best we can to these core Lincoln values. It is our privilege, in this spirit, to serve the Town and to report on our key activities for the past year.

### Celebrating Success

Route 2/Crosby's Corner – The construction of the Crosby's Corner flyover, ramps and reconfiguration of adjacent local roads, a project that was decades in the making, was completed this past fall. A limited number of punch list items do remain to be completed next spring, as called for in an extensive landscape enhancement plan that Town officials succeeded in negotiating with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. We will continue to monitor progress against the punch list items and will coordinate with MDOT to ensure that the project is completed in accordance with the design plans. Although the Town, and particularly the immediate abutters, was forced to endure four years of intensive construction, the finished product was, we believe, worth the inconvenience. The new local roadways that have been constructed provide safe access to properties whose driveways previously connected directly from Route 2. These new roadways have in effect created cul-de-sac neighborhoods in which residents can safely connect with one another and with the rest of the Town, and where cut through traffic has been eliminated. The new flyover has eliminated a major intersection hazard and is contributing to a more efficient flow of traffic through the Route 2 corridor. Although the project was funded, designed and managed by the federal and state governments, Lincoln was actively involved and influential at every step in the process. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the corps of Lincoln volunteers and staff who, for twenty plus years, worked to ensure that the project was designed not only to address state highway design criteria but also to satisfy local concerns. When project design or funding was in jeopardy, Lincoln responded, again and again, until design plans were completed to our satisfaction and until project funds were secure. Throughout the process, MDOT proved itself a competent and responsive project overseer. MDOT's willingness to support Town-proposed eleventh hour design enhancements, at considerable expense to the project, was further evidence of its desire to accommodate local concerns. So, thank you to all who helped shape the project vision, attended countless meetings, facilitated the extensive process of listening to all stakeholders and building consensus for the design plan, appeared before state transportation planners helping to build and sustain the case for the project and its funding, and who helped to monitor the project during its construction. We hope to announce a spring date for a project dedication ceremony. Well done Lincoln!

Cost Containment – Saving money is always a cause to celebrate! The Town's Administrative and Finance Team led an effort to further refine the Town's health insurance offerings. Effective January of 2017, our retiree health plan will include a fully qualified Medicare Part D prescription drug program which will result in a \$300,000 reduction in the Town's health insurance budget and lower premiums for our retirees. Once again, the Town's staff is to be commended for identifying and acting on this opportunity, and for doing so in a thoughtful and collaborative manner with our employees/retirees. The savings provide much needed immediate budget relief, while also helping to reduce the Town's long-term liability, addressed in some detail in the Finance Committee's report under the heading of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

## HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE

General Description of Base and Lincoln's Interaction - The Base is an 800+-acre military installation, of which about one-half sits in Lincoln, including all of the housing and schools and one of the two active gates. The other half of the Base sits within Lexington and Bedford. The real estate is exempt from taxation. The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over most on-Base activities. A private company owns and manages the 730 units of on-Base family housing, which is occupied by Air Force personnel, other active-duty uniformed service-personnel who commute to off-Base jobs, and full-time Defense Department employees (as well as some retiree-families, as described below). Tenants' children attend the on-Base K-8 schools, which were built by the federal government and are currently undergoing a total replacement, but are managed and operated by Lincoln under a nearly 60-year-old federal contract which is by all accounts a mutually satisfactory relationship. Our public safety departments are in close touch with the Base and provide services as required. The Base abuts and works closely with the legally separate MassPort-operated Hanscom Air Field, which occupies land in Lincoln, Concord, and Bedford. The Base is a major generator of jobs, federal contracts, academic research, and general economic activity for the metropolitan region, and thus it attracts the regular attention and support of the State government and State and federal legislators. This is a complex set of relationships of which the Board of Selectmen and Town staff need to maintain a thorough understanding, including regular communication and maintaining strong alliances with Base, municipal, State, and federal leaders. Our objectives include expressing and, to the extent possible, demonstrating, active support for State and federal officials' and legislators' efforts to maintain and enhance the Base as a thriving part of the State's economy. One focal point for our Base-related efforts is our active membership in the Hanscom Area Towns Committee ("HATS"), the multi-faceted activities of which are reviewable at [www.hanscomareatownscommittee.com](http://www.hanscomareatownscommittee.com). We also continue to participate in a Pentagon-led initiative through which we've worked with the Base, State, and other HATS towns to identify and implement mutually-beneficial partnership opportunities to assist the Base to operate more cost-effectively and with improved municipal-type services. We also attend many Base events and lose no opportunity to express our support for those who are serving our country. The current and future status of the Base appears to be healthy. The federal government is in the process of spending many hundreds of millions of dollars to enhance the Base's facilities (including complete replacements of the schools, a major replacement/renovation of Lincoln Lab, a new single-airmen dormitory, improvements of the Vandenberg Gate, security and energy enhancements, and other improvements in the works). A third operational mission was recently added, and movement to the Base of other regionally-located DOD-related activities is being planned. Considering these developments and informal insights received from senior Air Force personnel, our general impression continues to be that the Base, and its electronics and cybersecurity expertise centered within a unique ecosystem of businesses and academia, are recognized to be an essential part of the military's infrastructure.

Supplementary Funds for Hanscom Education Expense – As described in more detail in the September 13, 2016 FAQ Memo that we published along with the School Committee (see Town web site at <http://www.lincolntown.org/documentcenter/view/21029>), and with the dedicated help of Representative Tom Stanley, we successfully sought an FY'17 State Budget appropriation to begin to help the Town cover its costs resulting from being required to educate the children of military-retirees who have been, since about five years ago, able to live on Hanscom Air Force Base in housing units not currently occupied by active-duty military or DoD-employee families. The retiree-family children now constitute about 6% of the Hanscom Primary and Middle School enrollment, but they cannot be counted in the enrollment-based revenue we receive from the federal government to operate those schools. We cannot tax the on-Base housing, and we receive a very small amount of Chapter 70 State Aid for the retiree-family children. We also anticipate that Base-resident high school-age retiree-family children may soon begin to enroll at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, at Lincoln's expense, for which we would have no current source of covering revenue. Unfortunately, the Governor recently used his "9C" power to cut our FY'17 appropriation, but we remain hopeful that the funds will be restored by the Legislature for FY'17 and be included in the FY'18 State Budget. We continue to work closely with Representative Stanley, and have met with senior staff of the Governor's Office to advocate for our cause.

## **Important Works in Progress**

Roadway Planning & Traffic Management – In response to increasing traffic volumes throughout Lincoln and throughout our region, we devoted our September Newsletter and the majority of the November State of the Town Meeting (SOTT) agenda to the topic of Roadway Planning & Traffic Management. We noted in our Newsletter that “Traffic Management is an evolving challenge that requires constant monitoring and periodic reexamination.” In June, the Town’s staff secured grant funds under the Commonwealth’s Complete Streets program to assess existing roadway and path network conditions and to develop a plan including short and long-term improvements. Dozens of residents turned out for a series of discussions and workshops, and/or completed a Complete Streets survey. We are in the process of compiling and analyzing the feedback and will shortly receive a report and recommendations that will inform future decisions regarding grant applications and requests for town investments. The overarching goal of the planning effort is to improve and expand our road and path network to create safer opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and others to move about the Town, in and out of their vehicles.

Cycling Safety Advisory Committee – In the fall the Board announced plans to form a Cycling Safety Committee to evaluate our roads and paths from the perspective of the cycling community. The Board anticipates appointing and launching the Committee early in 2017.

South Lincoln Planning Implementation Committee/Economic Development Advisory Committee – In October, the Planning Board and Director of Planning and Land Use met with the Board of Selectmen and shared its thoughts about the benefits of two new and potentially complementary Committees that might be formed. The Planning Board anticipates appoint a South Lincoln Planning Implementation Committee (SLPIC) with a focus on implementing projects that might sustain and enhance the viability of the Town’s retail center, consistent with the vision expressed during previous South Lincoln/Lincoln Station planning exercises. The Planning Board will be appointing and convening the initial meeting of the SLPIC early in the new year. The Planning Board also urged the Selectmen to consider forming a Committee that would be focused on promoting the interests of the Town’s for-profit and not-for-profit businesses in a more general sense – a Lincoln “chamber of commerce,” so to speak. The Board of Selectmen hosted a well-attended business breakfast in December to solicit feedback on the concept and to assess the level of interest within the business community. The Board anticipates taking the matter back up early in 2017 and currently envisions the Selectmen as playing an incubator role leading to formation of a business-directed Committee.

Community Center Planning – In October, the Board submitted a request for \$150,000 to the Capital Planning Committee for the purpose of undertaking the next phase of feasibility planning and preliminary design of a community center that is contemplated for the Hartwell Complex on the Ballfield Road school campus. The Board believes that there are advantages to be gained by having the planning for a school building project and community center being undertaken in parallel. Our request for funds to move forward with this next level of Community Center planning will be included as an article for the March 25, 2017 Annual Town Meeting. In the event that the Town elects not to move forward with next phase of school building project planning, for whatever reason, the Board will urge Town Meeting to pass the Community Center planning/design article and thus not to proceed at this time with planning for the Community Center; again, consistent with our commitment to advancing the planning for both important town projects in parallel.

Landfill Solar Initiative – Late in 2015, the Board voted to form a Solar Working Group to assess the solar development potential of various publicly and privately owned sites and to help create a framework to guide future Town investments in solar technology. In December of 2015, the Working Group presented its Report and Recommendations, which included a recommendation to make the town-owned landfill site and public safety site available for solar development. The Board will be proceeding to Town Meeting with a warrant article, the purpose of which will be to secure the necessary authorizations to enable solar development at the landfill site. The Town’s Green Energy Committee projects that a one-megawatt development at the landfill would be sufficient to offset approximately 50% of the energy consumed by our municipal buildings. Preliminary discussions during previous Town Meetings and State of the Town Meetings confirmed strong interest within the community for this project specifically, and for alternative energy initiatives more generally.

## Professional Staff

The partnership between our citizen volunteers and our professional staff is critical to our ability to sustain Lincoln's tradition of civic-leadership. This year, once again, we had the opportunity to add a number of highly qualified new employees to our team, and to promote several of our existing staff members.

In December of 2015, the Board accepted the recommendation of its Search Committee for a Director of Planning & Land Use and voted to appoint Jennifer Burney to the position. Jennifer comes to Lincoln having served previously as the Director of Planning in two Massachusetts communities and with extensive and diverse local and regional planning experience. In short order Jennifer has helped reinvigorate the efforts of our Land Use boards and staff, and has helped us launch a number of new planning initiatives. We look forward to participating in and supporting the South Lincoln Planning Implementation Committee process, to remaining involved in the Complete Streets planning program, to exploring the benefits of a potential Economic Development Advisory Committee, and to lending our support to the Planning Board and Jennifer in whatever additional important planning initiatives may come forward.

Richard Silver retired as of the end of 2016, after twenty-three years of devoted service as the Pierce House Manager. Richard and his wife Susan have cared for the House as if it were their own, and for its visitors as if we had been friends and family. Their generosity of spirit helped to create many lasting memories for hundreds of Lincoln families and organizations. On behalf of many grateful Lincoln families, we extend our best wishes for a healthy and full retirement. With the assistance of the Pierce House Committee, we were pleased to receive and evaluate a strong pool of applicants to replace Richard, from which Nancy Beach emerged as a very strong preferred choice. We were pleased to appoint Nancy effective as of January 1, 2017. Nancy has an extensive background in the hospitality industry, strong organizational and accounting skills, an appreciation of our culture – having grown up in a neighboring town -- and a warm and accommodating manner. Welcome Nancy! With the close support of the Pierce House Committee and Town's staff, we look forward to great things at the Pierce House.

Other notable staff additions and promotions included:

02/16	Peggy Bozak	Appointed to the Position of Zoning Administrative Assistant
05/16	Steven Frias	Appointed to the position of DPW Crew Member
07/16	Karen DeCaprio	Promoted to the Position of Revenue/Benefits Coordinator
07/16	Paula Vaughn	Promoted to the Position of Planning and Land Use Administrator
11/07	Joseph Pellegrini	Promoted to the Position of Police Officer
11/07	Matthew Armata	Appointed to the Position of Police Officer
12/16	Anthony Clemente	Appointed to the position of E911 Dispatcher