

BOS NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Board of Selectmen

Saturday, November 2nd ***Special Town Meeting – 9:00am*** ***State of the Town Meeting – (~9:30am)***

November 2nd Agenda:

Special Town Meeting – 9:00am

- Water Commission request to transfer or raise funds for improvements to the water treatment plant.

State of the Town Meeting (*start time approximate*)

- 9:30am – Welcome (*Board of Selectmen*)
 - 9:35am – School Project Update (*School Building Committee*)
 - 9:45am – Setting the Context (*Board of Selectmen*)
 - 10:00am – South Lincoln Zoning Proposals (*Planning Board*)
 - 11:15am – Community Electricity Aggregation (*Green Energy*)
 - 11:30am – Property Tax Study Committee Update
 - 12:15pm – Open Forum (*facilitated by Board of Selectmen*)
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An invitation from the Selectmen...

As part of our work on behalf of the town, each of us serves as a liaison to a variety of town boards. These interactions drive home how important it is to draw on the knowledge of multiple committees when developing policy – the cross-pollination of ideas gives us a more complete understanding of the town and helps us to understand the impacts and tradeoffs of our decisions. At this year's State of the Town Meeting (SOTT), we will be discussing a number of specific policy proposals. We believe that it is important to think about the connections between these seemingly disparate topics and to understand how they contribute to our collective town vision.

In addition, as we consider zoning changes, electricity aggregation, and tax policy in Lincoln, our choices shape, and are shaped by, decisions that are being made in neighboring towns and the

greater Boston area. At the SOTT we will share information about some of the projects and initiatives happening in our peer towns. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about the regional context, take a look at the following reports from The Boston Foundation:

- *The Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2019*: <https://www.tbf.org/news-and-insights/reports/2019/june/greater-boston-housing-report-card-2019>
- *Changing Faces of Greater Boston*: <https://www.bostonindicators.org/reports/report-website-pages/changing-faces-of-greater-boston>

Our decisions are a reflection of who we are now and our aspirations for the future – a reflection that is clearer when many voices are engaged in the process.

Please join us on Saturday, November 2nd for the State of the Town Meeting. We look forward to robust and thoughtful conversations!

–James Craig
 –Jonathan Dwyer
 –Jennifer Glass, Chair

Did you know?...

In Lincoln’s governance structure (and in all Massachusetts towns), Town Meeting is at the top of the organizational chart. All budgets, zoning changes, and by-law changes need to be approved by residents at a Town Meeting. Many may be surprised to learn that within this structure there are five independent governing bodies, as prescribed by Massachusetts General Law. Each has its own charge and makes its own decisions.

	Board of Selectmen – generally responsibility for public services, e.g. public safety, roads, social services; execution of town’s bylaws, and recommending a budget to Town Meeting. MGL Chapter 41
	School Committee - Lincoln Public Schools – responsible for hiring and evaluating the superintendent; establishing education goals and policies, and recommending a budget to Town Meeting. MGL Chapter 71
	School Committee - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School – same as above
	Water Commission – responsible for establishing, managing, and independently financing the town’s water supply and distribution systems. MGL Chapter 41
	Library Trustees – responsible for the custody and management of town’s free public library and reading room, and for recommending a budget to Town Meeting. MGL Chapter 78

To learn more about the Water Department’s Warrant Article...

Please read the insert that is part of this mailing! The warrant requires Special Town Meeting approval. Check-in begins at 8:00am.

To learn more about SOTT topics...

Property Tax Study Committee

The Study Committee held its 2nd public forum on October 15th. The video of the forum can be found here: <https://lincolntv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=1mU2u5beDnv6>, and the slide deck is available on the Committee's web page: www.lincolntown.org/1084/Property-Tax-Study-Committee.

The Committee was tasked with investigating possible tax programs that could help mitigate the impact of the school bond on financially vulnerable residents. There are two legally-viable options for the town's consideration:

1. Residential Exemption

- A local-option program (available to all cities and towns) that exempts a portion of a property's assessed value from taxation.
- The resulting tax shift reduces the tax bill for all owner-occupied residential properties with valuations below a break-even point, and raises the tax bill on properties above the break-even point.
- *There are no age or income requirements.*

2. A local extension of the Massachusetts Circuit Breaker Program

- A targeted program that aims to keep real estate taxes to no more than 10% of income for residents who have lived in town more than 10 years and are over 65.
- Currently requires special legislation.
- *Residents must meet income, asset, and property value limits.*

The Committee will present more information at SOTT, and is seeking input from the town!

South Lincoln Zoning

The South Lincoln Planning & Implementation Committee (SLPIC), a subcommittee of the Planning Board, will outline proposed zoning changes for the area around Lincoln Station. The goal is to support a more vibrant, walkable residential and retail area near the train station. To learn more, please visit the SLPIC page of the town website: www.lincolntown.org/507/South-Lincoln-SLPIC.

Electricity Aggregation

The Green Energy Committee is leading the effort to develop a plan for an electricity aggregation program called Lincoln Green Energy Choice. The program could provide an opportunity to make Lincoln's energy supply completely renewable. More than 125 communities in MA already have an aggregation plan. For more information, please visit <https://masspowerchoice.com/lincoln>.

Lincoln School Building Project

The 90% Construction Drawings phase is nearly complete! Come to SOTT to learn more about the project's progress and timeline. To get updates directly from the School Building Committee, visit the website at lincolnsbc.org and click on "subscribe."



Save these 2020 Dates:

March 28th – Annual Town Meeting

March 30th – Town Elections

Lincoln Board of Selectmen
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James Craig
Jennifer Glass, Chair
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