

SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

Annual Town Meeting is Just Around the Corner! Saturday, March 25, 2023

January through March is the most intense period of activity in the Town’s budget and policy cycle. The town’s and schools’ recommended budgets are being finalized and boards and committees are preparing policy proposals. There will be numerous meetings, forums, and public hearings scheduled in the next three months. *Want to learn more? Sign up for alerts at <https://www.lincolntown.org/list.aspx> to get notifications from the boards of your choice.*

Elections for Town Boards and Committees Monday, March 27, 2023 Reed Gym, Lincoln School

Those wishing to run for office can “pull papers” in the Town Clerk’s office until 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 1st.

Candidates must then gather signatures so that their names can appear on the March 27th ballot. Papers are due back to the Clerk’s office by 5:00pm on Friday, February 3rd. The following positions are up for election:

- Board of Assessors - 1 seat for three years
- Board of Health - 1 seat for three years
- Cemetery Commission - 1 seat for three years
- Commissioners of Trust Funds - 1 seat for three years
- Housing Commission - 1 seat for three years
- Housing Commission - 1 seat for two years
- Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee - 2 seats for three years each
- Moderator - 1 seat for three years
- Parks & Recreation Committee - 1 seat for three years
- Planning Board - 2 seats for three years
- preK - 8 School Committee - 2 seats for three years
- Select Board - 1 seat for three years
- Bemis Trustee - 1 seat for three years
- Water Commissioner - 1 seat for three years
- Water Commissioner - 1 seat for two years
- Water Commissioner - 1 seat for one year

Contact Valerie Fox @

foxv@lincolntown.org if interested.

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2022 - 2023 INITIATIVES

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee

Housing Choice Act Working Group

Climate Action Plan

Community Center Building Committee

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee (IDEA)

The IDEA Committee is working with its consultants, Racial Equity Group (REG) and Elite Research, to review town policies and practices, and to gather input from town boards, committees, staff, and residents. During the course of this year, the IDEA team will share findings, solicit community feedback, and map out a plan for short and longer term actions. Here is what to expect over the next several months:

- **JANUARY:** A survey will be sent to town staff and all members of town boards and committees.
- **FEBRUARY 16, 2023: COMMUNITY FORUM!** Opportunity to meet the consultants, hear about the work to date, and help shape the conversation. This will either be a hybrid or all-virtual event. Stay tuned!
- **MARCH:** Launch of a community-wide survey; update at Town Meeting.
- **APRIL:** Community focus groups.
- **MAY:** Community forum!

Check out the IDEA page on the town website for more information:

<http://www.lincolntown.org/1221/IDEA>

Community Center Building Committee

At the November 30th Special Town Meeting, residents voted to spend up to \$325,000 to take the next steps in developing plans for a Community Center. The funds will be used to hire engineering and design professionals to help develop a range of project design and budget options. The CCBC is grateful for the excellent turnout at the weeknight Town Meeting, and for the engagement and collaboration that resulted in strong support for the funding.



- The two concepts that were presented to the community in 2018 are now estimated to cost about \$25 million.
- The final language of the vote specified that the Committee will develop design alternatives that are no more than 50% (~\$12.5M) and 75% (~\$18.75M) of the estimated cost of the 2018 alternatives.
- The vote also confirmed that the planning and design work will be for a renovated or new building located on the Ballfield Road campus (*see circled area*). At the same time, the CCBC will be expected to explore the feasibility of using existing programming spaces rather than replicating them in the renovated/new building.
- The CCBC will be reviewing and refining the 2018 plans, and developing the new alternatives beginning in early 2023.
- It is anticipated that concepts will be presented at a Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2023 for a vote on a preferred option, and that the vote to fund the project will then occur in March of 2024.
- Visit the CCBC's website for more information and to sign up for updates: <https://lincolncommunitycenter.com/>

- The multifamily district(s) must be of a "reasonable size" and must allow a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre. *In Lincoln, we need to create a zone or zones that add up to at least 42 acres.*
- The multifamily housing must have no age restrictions and must be suitable for families with children.
- In Lincoln, at least 20% of the 42 acres must be located within ½ mile of the commuter rail station.

How is Lincoln meeting the requirements needed to comply?

- To comply with the specific statutory requirements of the new legislation, Lincoln has established a Housing Choice Act Working Group (HCAWG) by vote of the Select Board. Its members are: *Michelle Barnes, Water Commission; Abigail Butt, Director, Council on Aging & Human Services; Bill Churchill, Zoning Board of Appeals; Rachel Drew, Housing Commission; Bob Domnitz, Planning Board; Andrew Glass, Historical Commission; Jennifer Glass, Select Board; Tim Higgins, Town Administrator; Darin LaFalam, Superintendent, Water Department; John MacLachlan, School Committee; Geoff McGean, Rural Land Foundation; Terry Perlmutter, Council on Aging & Human Services Board; Kathleen Shepard, Conservation Commission; Gary Taylor, Planning Board; Paula Vaughn MacKenzie, Director, Planning and Land Use.*
- The HCAWG is meeting monthly and will develop zoning proposals regarding possible locations, sizes, and density of new zoning districts, and the zoning amendments that would need to be made.
- The HCAWG is committed to robust and frequent engagement with the community and will use a variety of outreach methods to communicate with residents.

What is the timeline for creating a bylaw to establish a new zoning district?

- **January 2023:** Deadline for submitting an Action Plan and Action Plan Timeline to the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD).
✓ *Lincoln submitted the Action Plan in December 2022.*
- **February 2023 - March 2024:**
 - HCAWG and Planning Board develop zoning proposal(s)
 - Public engagement
 - Planning Board and multi-board hearings
- **March 2024: Vote on Zoning proposal at Annual Town Meeting.** The decision to adopt a bylaw rests with voters! The new zoning requires a simple majority of those present at Town Meeting.
- **December 2024:** Submit Town Meeting-approved zoning bylaw to DHCD for final compliance.

To assist with developing the zoning district(s), Lincoln has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Mass Housing Partnership for a 3 - 4 month project to be completed no later than June 30, 2023. The money will be used for technical assistance to do the modeling of the various proposed district areas that will be brought to the community for consideration.

Why comply?

- **Community Goals:** Residents have repeatedly expressed support for ensuring a range of housing options in Lincoln. The Housing Choice Act can be a tool to shape future housing development around mass transit in ways that balance housing with other

stated community values such as environmental and land stewardship, and support for our local businesses.

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Compliance ensures that the town remains eligible for multiple state funding opportunities such as the MassWorks program and the Housing Choice Grant program. For example, MassWorks offers grants of up to several million dollars for projects focused on: drinking water and wastewater; bicycle, pedestrian, and roadway infrastructure; and housing and economic development. (Visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/community-one-stop-for-growth>, <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massworks>, and <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/housing-choice-grant-program> for more information.)

What's Next?

- Update to the community at the March 25, 2023, Annual Town Meeting
- Stay informed by visiting the Housing Choice page of the Town website:
- Visit the State website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-choice-initiative>
- Stay tuned for public forum dates after Town Meeting!

Climate Action Plan Update

Lincoln was awarded a \$100,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the state to work with consultants from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to develop a Climate Action Plan for the town. Members of Climate Action Lincoln (a subcommittee of Lincoln's Green Energy Committee), Jennifer

A Climate Action Plan Will Help Lincoln:

- Develop strategies and actions to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
- Address climate impacts on public health
- Address water quality and quantity issues
- Reduce climate impacts on agriculture
- Develop contingencies for infrastructure failures
- Address climate equity and impacts on vulnerable populations

Curtin, Assistant Director of Planning and Land Use, and MAPC have spent the past several months identifying key stakeholders and gathering input. From this, a Climate Action Plan Working Group was appointed representing multiple town departments and boards. *In addition to Ms. Curtin, members of the working group are: Michelle Barnes, Water Commission; Jennifer Glass, Select Board; Michele Grzenda, Director of Conservation; Roy Harvey, Green Energy Committee/Climate Action Lincoln; Sue Klem, Green Energy Committee/Climate Action Lincoln; John MacLachlan, School Committee; Rachel Neurath, Lincoln Common Ground; Trish O'Hagan, Mothers Out Front; Margaret Olson, Planning Board; Jena Salon, WIDE (Welcome, Inclusion, Diversity, & Equity).*

This work will require broad community input. Stay tuned!

Questions? Write to climateaction@lincolntown.org

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A NEW WEBSITE FOR TOWN VIDEOS?
VISIT [HTTPS://CLOUD.CASTUS.TV/VOD/LINCOLN/?PAGE=HOME](https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/lincoln/?page=home)

Town Meeting Preview

The Select Board officially opened the Town Warrant at its January 5th meeting. The Warrant contains all the articles on which residents will vote at the Annual Town Meeting. Boards, committees, departments, and citizens have the opportunity to submit items for the warrant before noon on Monday, January 30th. The Select Board will close the warrant at its meeting that evening. Want to submit a citizens’ petition? Citizens who may be considering sponsoring a Town Meeting petition are strongly urged to contact the Town Clerk’s Office (781-259-2607 or foxv@lincolntown.org) for guidance about the process. The Town Administrator’s office will contact the people identified as lead petitioners to ensure coordination as the Select Board prepares for the discussions and presentations that will be occurring in advance of Town Meeting.

Here are some of the items that will appear on the Warrant:

Warrant Article	Sponsor
FY 24 Town and Schools Budgets	Finance Committee
Capital Expenditures	Capital Planning Committee
Community Preservation Act Projects	Community Preservation Act Committee
Accessory Apartment Bylaw Amendment	Planning Board
Mixed Use Village Zoning Bylaw Amendment	Planning Board
Adopt New Opt-In Specialized Energy Code	Select Board & Green Energy Committee
Adopt New Fossil Fuel Free Construction Bylaw (10-town state pilot program)	Select Board & Green Energy Committee
Submit Special Legislation Authorizing Changes to Housing Commission Composition	Housing Commission
Owners’ Request to Join Lincoln Historic District	Historic District Commission

Fiscal Year 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets

The town budget cycle began at the end of the summer and will culminate in votes at the March Town Meeting. The Finance Committee (FinCom) and Capital Planning Committee (CapCom) are integral to shaping this process:

- ➔ **SUMMER - EARLY FALL:** Town departments fleshed out the details of their capital and operating budget requests for the next fiscal year (FY24).
- ➔ **OCTOBER - DECEMBER:** FinCom issued guidance for the upcoming fiscal year (an increase of 2.5% for FY24); Departments discussed and refined proposals.
- ➔ **DECEMBER - JANUARY:** The Town Administrator, Lincoln and Lincoln-Sudbury School Departments, Lincoln Library, and CapCom present operating and capital projects to FinCom in budget hearings. Funding sources for budgets and projects are discussed, particularly for items that are outside of FinCom’s guidance.
- ➔ **MARCH:** ***Lincoln residents vote*** on capital projects at the Annual Town Meeting.

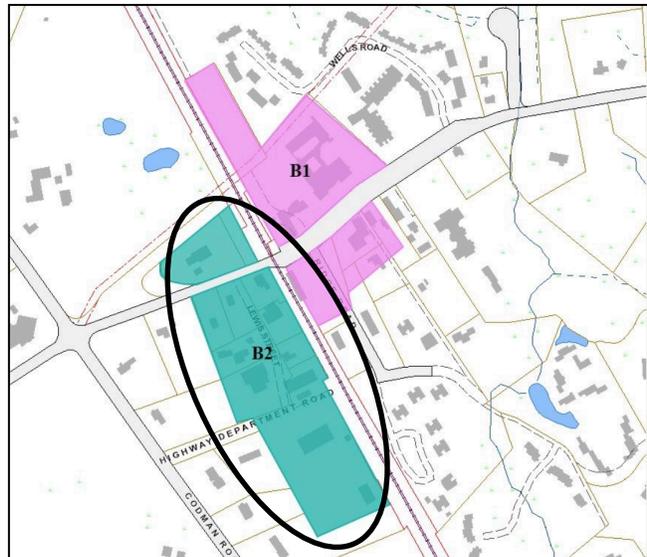
Zoning Bylaws

Accessory Apartment Bylaw Amendment: The Planning Board is recommending two changes to the bylaw:

- All accessory apartments *located in the principal structure* be allowed by right.
- Accessory apartments *located in accessory structures* be subject to the existing special permit process by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) without the additional requirement of a Planning Board recommendation.

Multi-use Village District Amendment: The Planning Board is recommending changes to the B-2 Business District to simplify regulations, streamline the permitting process, and to update regulations to better reflect town priorities:

- Promote a range of housing options.
- Encourage a mix of residential and non-residential uses in the village center.
- Promote an active and connected pedestrian environment.
- Maintain a high level of quality and design that respects and enhances the visual character of Lincoln.



Revisions include allowing multi-family housing up to a certain density by right and allowing business uses by right as currently allowed in the B-1 District.

New Opt-In Specialized Energy Code & 10-Town Fossil Fuel Free Pilot

As was previewed by the Green Energy Committee at the November State of the Town Meeting, the 2023 Annual Town Meeting will vote on two significant steps Lincoln can take to reduce the carbon footprint of the built environment:

1. Vote to adopt the state's new *Specialized Energy Code*, which increases the requirements for energy efficiency in buildings.

2. Vote to participate in a pilot program that would allow Lincoln to ban fossil fuels for new construction and major renovations. This second vote will put into action the vote residents took at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting that asked the state for the ability to limit gas/oil hookups in new construction and major renovations.

More information from the state is here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/stretch-code-regulation-overview-presentation-nov-2-2022/download>

Stay tuned for public meetings and forums!



Thank you! The Winter Coat Drive sponsored by the Town Staff Diversity and Inclusion Committee was a huge success! Over 170 winter coats were collected, and Lapels Cleaners of Concord generously offered to clean them at no charge. We were able to make large donations to Rise Up (<https://riseuptogether.org/>) and Reach MA (<https://reachma.org/>), both of which were so thankful for the generosity of everyone who donated to the drive.

Congratulations to our Police Department!

After several years of work, the Lincoln Police Department was awarded full accreditation



by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) in October 2022. The process included a rigorous review of the Department's policies and procedures by an independent audit team to ensure consistency with industry best practices. Of particular note, the accreditation recognizes the Department's adoption and implementation of policies that have been at the center of the police reform movement such as probable cause, use of force, de-escalation, racial profiling, and community-oriented police culture.

Congratulations to Chief Kennedy and his team for taking this initiative and for holding himself and his Department to the highest professional standard!

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