

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Final**

### **Hybrid Meeting**

#### **Donaldson Room – Town Offices**

**Monday, February 9, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Jennifer Glass, Select Board Chair  
Kimberly Bodnar, Select Board Member  
Jim Hutchinson, Select Board Member  
Tim Higgins, Town Administrator

**VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS:** Peggy Elder, Administrative Assistant

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Glass opened the meeting and noted that, pursuant to the extension of the remote meeting authorization of the Open Meeting Law through June 30, 2027 (Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025), the meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting, allowing the public to participate in person in the Donaldson Room or remotely via Zoom.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Save Lincoln Wildlife – Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

The meeting opened with a presentation from the resident group Save Lincoln Wildlife, which is seeking the board's support for a Home Rule Petition at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting to ban anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) in Lincoln. The group explained that ARs — found in up to 96% of bait boxes in Massachusetts — bioaccumulate in the food chain, killing raptors, foxes, coyotes, and pets through secondary poisoning. They noted the town has already adopted AR-free practices on municipal properties and emphasized that safer alternatives (snap traps, integrated pest management, exclusion) are effective and cost-comparable. Eighteen Massachusetts towns have already passed similar Home Rule Petitions. The Board encouraged the group to clarify upfront at Town Meeting that local regulation alone is insufficient, hence the need to petition the state.

#### **2026 Roadway and Water Department Project Schedule**

Representatives from the Water, Public Works, and Public Safety Departments presented the plan for Phase 2 of the water main replacement and related roadway/drainage work. To minimize disruption, the project has been stretched across two construction seasons: 2026 work will focus on the area near the school (starting after school lets out, with

contractors delayed until 8:15 AM during the school year), and 2027 will tackle the Lincoln Station area when traffic is lighter. At least one traffic lane will be kept open whenever possible, with traffic officers and flaggers managing alternating flow. Final paving is planned for 2028. A public information forum is planned for around February 24–25, and communications will be distributed via the town website, SelectConnect, Reverse 911, school emails, and local forums like Lincoln Talk. No temporary water service lines will be left in place over the winter.

### **Town Meeting Study Committee – Draft Report and Recommendations**

The Town Meeting Study Committee presented its draft recommendations for improving the structure and conduct of Annual Town Meeting. Key proposals include structured debate with separate pro and con microphones, time limits allocated fairly (but not necessarily equally) between proponents and opponents, a requirement that multiple groups on the same side of an issue combine their presentations, advance educational outreach so residents arrive better informed, and piloting some of these changes before full adoption. Discussion also touched on the challenge of communications — survey data showed that over 50% of residents rely on Lincoln Talk as their primary source, while the official town website was cited by only 9%. The Board acknowledged the difficulty of reaching residents through official channels alone. The Board suggested that the TMSC find a way to note which actions the town has already taken to improve transparency and efficiency, and which are new recommendations.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Annual Town Meeting Planning**

The Board discussed the sequencing of warrant articles. The current near-final draft warrant will be brought to a vote for signing on February 24th. The group agreed to organize articles in the following order: financial articles, Water Enterprise Fund, consent calendar, free cash article, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional Agreement, zoning articles, and citizen petitions. They also discussed how to handle two-thirds vote items within the consent calendar and agreed to seek legal clarification from Town Counsel.

### **FY27 Budget, Board/Committee Handbook, and Liaison Reports**

Town Administrator Tim Higgins noted the FY27 budget has been approved by FinCom and is in good shape. He and Ms. Glass introduced the idea of developing a board and committee handbook — drawing from examples in neighboring towns — to help onboard new members and create consistency over time. The Board was generally supportive, with some discussion about how to ensure people actually read it. On liaison matters, a public Zoom update on the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Agreement is scheduled for Thursday, with a potential Select Board vote to endorse the agreement planned for March 9th.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- **DeCordova**

Two updates were provided on the deCordova property: a routine legal process to change the trustee of the Department of Trust is underway, and renovation plans are moving forward. The museum expects to return to the Board after Town Meeting with an update.

- **Dark Skies By-law Update**

On the Dark Skies By-law, a productive working session with relevant town staff reached consensus on key issues: pursuing a zoning by-law change rather than a general by-law, removing a proposed five-year compliance deadline for the Town, removing the exception for single-family homes, and keeping the by-law compact with detailed requirements delegated to Planning Board regulations. A follow-up meeting will take place on the morning of the meeting, and the subcommittee will bring recommendations back to the Planning Board. The Board's discussion touched on whether the by-law is ready for this year's Town Meeting or would need to be carried over, with a general preference to keep it on track if it can be simplified sufficiently.

### **Action Items**

- Consent List of Action Items:
  - Approve Financial Warrants for February 3, 2026

Ms. Bodnar made a motion to approve the consent list of action items. Mr. Hutchinson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote: Bodnar, aye; Glass, aye; Hutchinson, aye.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- None

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

Ms. Bodnar made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hutchinson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote: Bodnar, aye; Glass, aye; Hutchinson, aye. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Elder, Administrative Assistant