

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES – Final
Public Health Emergency Response Update Virtual Meeting
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order
Suspending Certain Provisions of
Open Meeting Law.
Zoom Meeting ID# 918 3237 5325
Monday March 8, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

PARTICIPANTS: James Craig, Selectmen Chair
(Virtually) Jennifer Glass, Selectman
Jonathan Dwyer, Selectman
Tim Higgins – Town Administrator
Peggy Elder – Administrative Assistant

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

- Mr. Craig opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and noted that this meeting is being held remotely in a way that is consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020 in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 virus. The order suspends the requirement to hold meetings in a publicly accessible physical location and it allows bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as there is reasonable public access. Mr. Craig noted that this evening a public comment portion has been built into the meeting that will take place after they have gone through the discussion items on the agenda. He respectfully asked that the public participants keep their video and microphones off until that time. Mr. Craig reported that in addition to Zoom, this meeting is being broadcast on Comcast channel 8, Verizon channel 33, and is available through the Town website at www.lincolntown.org. He noted that this meeting is being recorded and that attendees are participating via video conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- None

APPOINTMENTS:

- Sudbury Select Board - Janie Dretler, Sudbury Select Board Chair opened their meeting with a Select Board roll call William Schineller: present; Dan Carty: present; Charles Russo: present; Jennifer Roberts: present; Janie Dretler: present; Town Manager Henry Hayes: present.

Ms. Dretler noted that this was the first time that the two Boards have met for a joint meeting in recent history. Mr. Craig (Chair, Lincoln Board of Selectmen) thanked Ms. Dretler for reaching out to him and said that he has enjoyed speaking with her and getting to know her better. He added that it is a great opportunity to start a dialogue on a few topics and look to continue the conversation going forward on topics of common interest. Mr. Craig said that one of the topics raised by the Sudbury Select Board is the status of the Lincoln-Sudbury High School Regional Agreement. He noted that it was important to help those who are watching the meeting understand why this has become an important topic for the Sudbury Select Board. He acknowledged that the Agreement is now over 40 years old and that it is good practice to

review and update such an important Agreement periodically. Mr. Craig then welcomed a discussion from the Sudbury Select Board as to why a review of the Agreement has become such an important issue for them. Ms. Dretler had Dan Carty (Select Board liaison to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School) begin the conversation.

Mr. Carty noted that it was about three years ago when this was last discussed between the Town Boards. He added that at that time the discussion consisted of some large structural administrative changes, noting the idea of setting up a K-12 program among the proposed changes. He stated that at the time, that was more of a conversation that the three school systems should be having. Mr. Carty agreed that as with most contracts, it is a good practice to review periodically and since the last time the contract was reviewed was 37 years ago. Since that time, he noted that not only has a new high school been built, but also that both Towns have pulled out of Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School. Mr. Carty reported that since that time, Sudbury has changed to a Town Manager structure and increased the number of Select Board members from of 3 to 5. He added that the Town has consulted a lawyer regarding several aspects of the Agreement and that the attorney underscored that this Agreement should be reviewed more frequently.

Ms. Glass (Lincoln Board of Selectmen) commented that the one advantage to virtual meetings is that it makes it easier to pull together a meeting like this, adding that she hopes that this becomes a more regular dialogue. She said that she is interested in finding out more the Sudbury Select Board's questions related to vocational education.

Mr. Dwyer (Lincoln Board of Selectmen) reported that he is a member of Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS) which is made up of a member of the Board of Selectmen from Lincoln, Lexington, Concord, and Bedford and that this affords an opportunity to share best practices about many things: How the towns manage police/fire fleets; partnering up with Hanscom and Massport, etc. This gives Lincoln an opportunity to work closely with these neighboring towns. Lincoln and Sudbury have a different connection. Our kids go to school together, so this type of dialogue is important.

Mr. Craig stated that he agrees that 37 years is too long to go without a review, noting that historically the Town relied on the L-S School Committee to advise the Board or bring up issues that needed to be addressed concerning the L-S partnership.

Mr. Higgins (Lincoln Town Administrator) explained that when Lincoln decided to withdraw from Minuteman, the preK-8 School Administration took primary responsibility for ensuring that eighth graders understand their vocational choices. He added that without exception, all Lincoln students who wish to pursue vocational education have done so at Minuteman, which makes the administrative and transportation parts easy for the Town. The primary responsibility for transportation is in the hands of the Lincoln Public Schools administration with the Administrator for Business and Finance, Buck Creel, heading the effort.

Mr. Craig noted that the Sudbury Select Board shared some best practice materials concerning how to form a Regional Agreement review committee along with materials explaining how to amend a regional agreement.

Mr. Russo (Sudbury Select Board) reported that he shared a power point presentation that he found on the Massachusetts Association of Regional School Systems website. He added that there are several Towns that have done this in the last few years noting that there are a

number of different types of amendments that have been made. The typical committee would be made up of a member of each town's Select Board, a member of the School Committee from each town, and a Finance Committee member from each town, along with a strong recommendation of a general member from each town.

Ms. Roberts (Sudbury Select Board) emphasized that she felt that who appoints the committee members is not as important as the make up of the committee itself.

Mr. Craig asked if any of the members of the School Committee in attendance would like to comment. Carole Kasper (Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee) introduced herself and reported that she had seen the MARS presentation, adding that it might make sense for the LS School Committee to appoint a subcommittee. She said she thought that the Regional School Committee should be the body appointing the members to the subcommittee and developing the charge for the committee. Ms. Kasper noted that the priority item for the past year has been delivering academic rigor and reimagining teaching and learning during the COVID pandemic, and that that has been the main focus of the faculty and. Ellen Joachim (Chair, Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee) noted that it was her understanding that the Regional School Committee would be responsible for this for all of the reasons stated by Ms. Kasper because the LSSC includes members from both Towns. She noted that any amendments would need to be approved by the School Committee, both Select Boards, and then be approved by a majority at each town's Town Meetings. It is quite a process. She underscored that the School Committee's main concern this year has been trying to educate students during this pandemic. She added that the Regional Agreement has not been a priority for the School Committee because they simply do not currently have the band width to take it on.

Ms. Dretler reported that the agreement is a high priority for the Sudbury Select Board. She added that she would like to see some sort of timeline developed that shows some progress being made in the next year or so, and some sort of commitment that this would happen. Mr. Carty noted that starting the discussion is important and hopes that this will be a collaborative effort.

Mr. Dwyer would not like to go forward with discussions concerning the Regional Agreement without representation from the L-S School Committee. If the School Committee can't do this at this time, he would rather address non-school related issues.

Ms. Roberts commented that hopefully by the Fall things will have slowed down a bit and LSSC can address some of these issues. One approach would be for the two Town Select Boards come together. Another would be to ask the School Committee to put this on their agenda and then report back to the Select Boards. She added that it should be led by the School Committee, but there should be Select Board representation as well, especially regarding budgets. Also, vocational education questions definitely go beyond transportation, and there are fundamental questions as to where the vocational education budget should live.

Mr. Schineller echoed the thoughts of Ms. Roberts adding that the Select Boards can drive this for the most part between now and the Fall. He didn't feel they needed to wait to continue the conversation.

Mr. Russo stated that he agreed with his colleagues on the Sudbury Select Board, noting that he got most of his information from the April 2019 meeting that is recorded on Sudburytv.org. It was a joint meeting and a representative from MARS, members of the Lincoln-Sudbury School

committee, and members of the Finance Committee from both towns, as well as members from both Select Boards were there. He wondered if a post July meeting date would be better than the Fall.

Mr. Carty understands the lack of time right now but does not want to lose sight of this. He suggested quarterly check-ins.

Ms. Glass suggested a group meeting in the Fall which would include both Select Boards as well as the School Committee since they do not have a quorum at this meeting. It would be good to have all three boards be able to deliberate together.

- Ms. Dretler moved to adjourn the Sudbury Select Board meeting. Mr. Schineller seconded the motion to adjourn. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Dan Carty: Aye; Charles Russo: Aye; Jennifer Roberts: Aye; William Schineller: Aye; Janie Dretler: Aye.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Public Health Update - Mr. Higgins reported that most of the activity for the past few months has focused on two fronts. One is making appropriate adjustments to our staffing plan and the status on our ability to provide service to the public. The second is vaccination clinics. He added that they had the first Town of Lincoln sponsored vaccination clinic on February 11th. They hoped to have a booster clinic on March 11th. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the State supply of vaccines it looks as if the booster clinic will need to be postponed until March 18th contingent on receiving the vaccines early next week. Mr. Higgins reported that they were surprised when the Town applied for another 100 doses of the vaccine which allowed vaccination of residents 75 years of age and older at a clinic held on March 4th. The hope is to have the booster clinic for those people on April 1st. Mr. Higgins reported that Lincoln has joined with 7 other Towns in our area and hope to hold regional vaccination clinics. This comes as the state focuses on larger sites to vaccinate the public. He added that they are working on a concept plan to bring this together.

In terms of active cases, Mr. Higgins reported that Lincoln is holding steady. Last week's count was 159 cases, and it is up to 161 cases this week.

- Town Meeting – Mr. Higgins said that there was not much new to report on the Warrant, the Articles, and the Motions. He added that they are in good shape and that after this meeting they would be publicly advertising that the Warrant is open. The notice will let the public know that while the Warrant is open, they will be going forward with the petitions from last year that had to be removed from the 2020 warrant. He said that they have reached out to all of last year's petition sponsors. Ms. Glass commented that last year warrant article sponsors held public meetings to make presentations about a week before Town Meeting and suggested that we do the same this year. Mr. Higgins noted that the Board will be inviting sponsors of warrant articles to meet with them prior to Town Meeting.
- South Lincoln Planning Advisory Committee (SLPAC) – Mr. Higgins reported that the Planning Board and SLPAC will hold a joint meeting on the recently announced Housing Choice Legislation. It will be held on March 16th at 7:00PM.

- Board of Assessors Opening – Mr. Higgins reported that Laura Sander has stepped down from the Board of Assessors. He acknowledged Ms. Sander’s long history of volunteering in Lincoln and noted that the family is moving out of Lincoln

DISCUSSION:

- Diversity – Mr. Craig reported that the Town has started to receive volunteer applications for the committee that is being formed. His hope is by next meeting the Board can start reviewing applicant submissions and get this committee formed. Ms. Glass suggested sending out reminders since the deadline for applicants is March 31st. She added that she reached out to the School Administration and they agreed that a liaison position for a middle school student is more appropriate. A discussion followed addressing the obstacles of forming a diverse committee when we are not asking applicants their ethnic backgrounds and other applicable questions. Mr. Higgins offered to follow up with Town Counsel on this topic.
- BOS Annual Report – Mr. Craig thanked everyone for their contributions in helping to make this a true group effort and lightening the load on all. Ms. Glass made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen’s annual report. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

- Liaison Reports:

Battle Road 250th – Mr. Dwyer reported that he is looking for support as part of the council to celebrate the events of April 10, 1775. He noted that Concord, Lexington and Lincoln are petitioning the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee, which is a committee that was formed by the Postmaster General and the group selects subjects for future stamp issues. Mr. Dwyer added that there is a long letter that describes the events that went on in Lincoln, Lexington & Concord and petitions the committee for stamps commemorating the April 1775 events, specifically the Revere capture, the battle on Lexington Green, and the shot heard round the world at the Old North Bridge along with descriptions of the events and explanations as to why they are important and fitting for the time in 2025. Ms. Glass made a motion to approve Mr. Craig signing the letter of support to the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

School Building Committee (SBC) – Ms. Glass reported that the SBC is meeting this week.

Mass Municipal Association (MMA) – Ms. Glass reported that she attended a meeting that was put on by MMA and members of Governor Baker’s administration which was a briefing on the Housing Choice Act. The part of the act that is specific to towns with MBTA stations sets out a basic framework, but there is much that still needs to be developed.

Outdoor Spaces – Ms. Glass reported that this Wednesday night several of Lincoln’s institutions including deCordova, The Food Project, Drumlin Farm, Farrington NaturLinc, Lincoln Land Conservation, and Friends of Walden have gotten together to co-sponsor a speaking series called “On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces.” It is a four-part speaker series that looks at diversity and equity issues in outdoor spaces. She added that there was financial support from the Lincoln Garden Club, the Bemis Lecture Series, and from the Ogden Codman Trust. It is a great partnership and she encouraged people to sign up for it.

OPEN FORUM:

- None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Open Town Meeting Warrant - Mr. Dwyer made a motion to open the Warrant for the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.
- Sign March 29, 2021 Election Warrant - Ms. Glass made a motion to open the Warrant for the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

WARRANTS:

- Mr. Dwyer made a motion to approve the warrants dated March 8, 2021. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

MINUTES:

- February 8, 2021 Minutes - Ms. Glass made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 8, 2021. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

Ms. Glass made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

Submitted by Peggy Elder

Approved 05/10/21