

BOS NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Board of Selectmen



Thank you for your warm welcome!

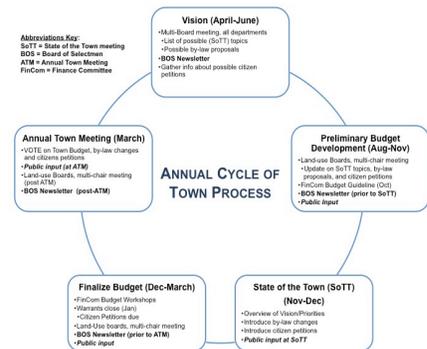
Although each of us is a veteran volunteer in Lincoln, together we are a new Board of Selectmen, one that is forging our relationship with each other and with the Town. We appreciate that you have reached out to us with your questions, expertise, and support – not to mention your kind indulgence of our 4th of July “dance” moves! We embrace the joys and challenges of our work, and look forward to our continued service to the Town.

The 4th of July was, as always, a festive and special day in Lincoln. We extend our gratitude to the Lincoln Police Department, the Lincoln Fire Department, the Parks & Recreation Department, the Celebrations Committee, the Department of Public Works, and to all the volunteers who made the day fun and safe!

- James Craig, Jonathan Dwyer, Jennifer Glass
(aka “The New Kids on the Block”)

The Way Things Work...

Whether you are brand new to Lincoln, or have lived here for the better part of a century, the process of Town governance can, at times, seem opaque. In an effort to better communicate the flow of Town business, we have created a graphic that captures the framework of the planning, budget, and Town Meeting cycle. See page 3 for a full-sized version of the graphic. On page 4, you’ll find additional information about each of the phases. Please let us know if you find the graphic and explanation helpful, or if you have suggestions for their improvement. The goal is to make what we do more transparent! Send your ideas and suggestions to selectmen@lincolntown.org.



Route 2 Ribbon-Cutting

From Left to Right: Patrick Murphy, Lincoln resident and abutter; Tim Higgins, Lincoln Town Administrator; Peter Braun, former BOS; Jonathan Gulliver, Mass DOT; Rep. Cory Atkins, 14th Middlesex; James Craig, BOS; State Sen. Mike Barrett, 3rd Middlesex; Patty Leavenworth, Chief Engineer, Mass DOT; Paul Stedman, District 4 Director, Mass DOT; Mass DOT representative.



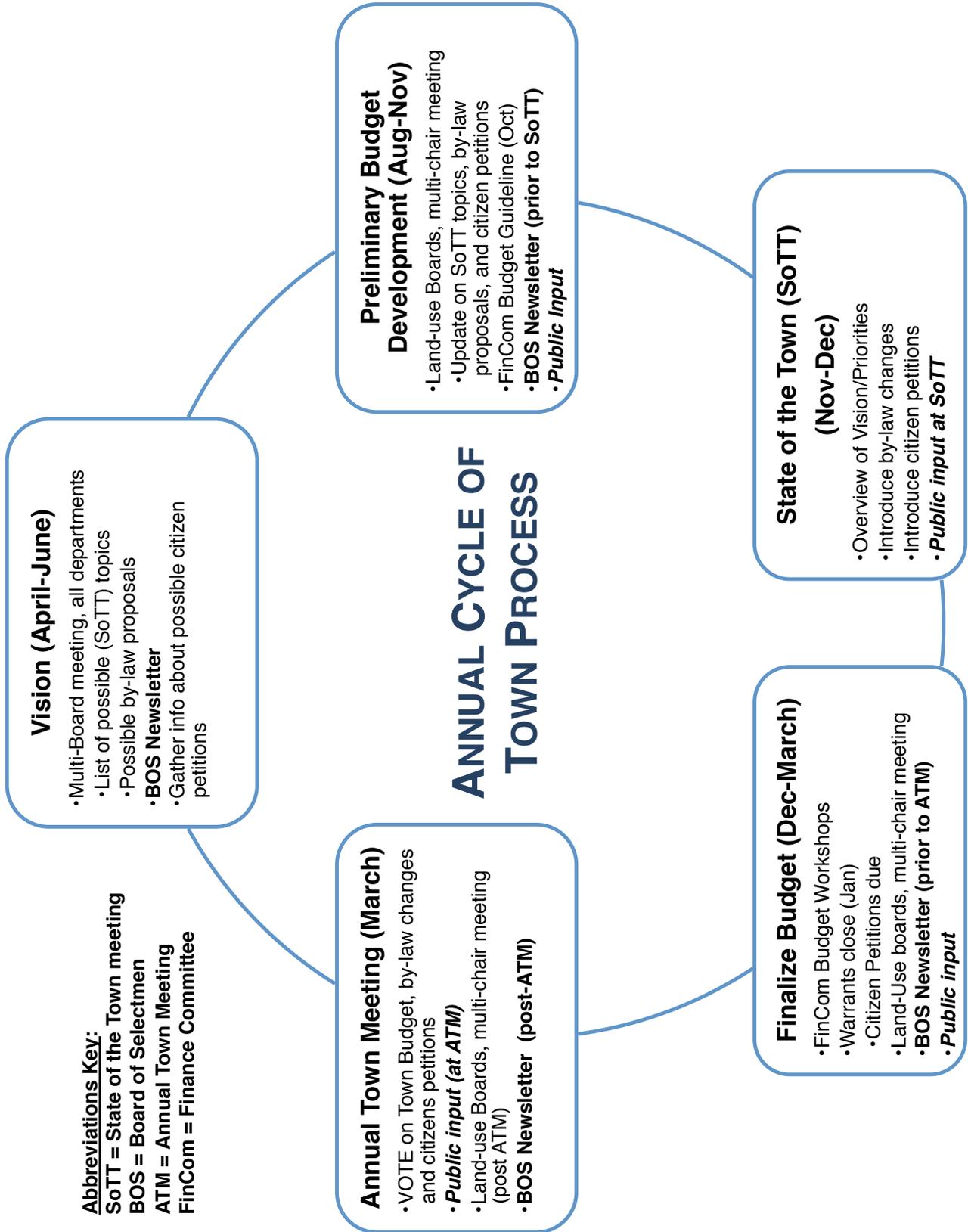
On June 16th, the BOS was honored to acknowledge the remarkable efforts of local residents, past and present town colleagues, and state and local officials, at a celebration to mark the official completion of the Route 2/Crosby's Corner project. This project began approximately 30 years ago, when local and state transportation planners recognized that the previous Route 2/Route 2A intersection was unsafe, that increasing commuter volume along the Route 2 corridor needed to be facilitated differently, and that direct driveway access to the highway should be eliminated. The success of the project is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when local communities and state government work together in real partnership, and when the citizens who are most affected are directly and genuinely involved in the planning.

A special thank you to Mass DOT for coordinating and to The Commons of Lincoln for hosting this celebration.

K.Y.A. (Know Your Acronyms)...

Dozens of Town boards and committees, run by hundreds of residents, dedicate thousands of volunteer hours each year to the governance of our community. The business of the Town would not get done without this collective commitment to life in Lincoln! It is also true that the ever-evolving list of committees and subcommittees results in a bewildering array of acronyms in our public sphere. Here is an introduction to some new ones:

Acronym	Committee Name	Mission	Governing Body
PPDC	Community Center Planning and Preliminary Design Committee	Develop a set of choices for a creating a new community center on the Ballfield Road (Lincoln School) campus; collaborate with the School Building Committee.	Board of Selectmen <i>Jonathan Dwyer, BOS Liaison</i>
SBC	School Building Committee	Develop & execute a Town-supported Lincoln School building project. Also referred to as the "Lincoln School Project."	School Committee <i>Jennifer Glass, BOS Liaison</i>
SLPIC	South Lincoln Planning and Implementation Committee	Ensure a vibrant commercial area around the train station and Lincoln Mall; plan and implement improvements to infrastructure & consider possibilities for further development.	Board of Selectmen (led by Planning Director) <i>James Craig, BOS Liaison</i>
CSAC	Cycling Safety Advisory Committee	Public Safety, cyclists and officials are focused on ways to make the roadways safer for cyclists.	Board of Selectmen <i>James Craig, BOS Liaison</i>



Annual Cycle of Town Planning & Budget Process

The following is an outline of key activities that mark the five phases of Town business leading up to the March Annual Town Meeting.

Visioning (April - June)

In May or June, after the March Annual Town Meeting, there is a window of time before the planning and budget cycle for the next year begins. This is an opportunity for the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to meet with the community to share ongoing goals, and to gather input from residents about their views about Town vision and priorities. We are proposing the addition of a Community Forum in May or June.

- Multi-Chair Meeting/Community Forum (**all** Town boards and committees are invited):
 - BOS updates the community on ongoing priorities.
 - Town boards introduce topics they want to highlight at the fall State of the Town (SoTT) meeting; i.e. major projects, community decisions, or by-law change proposals from land-use boards that must be approved by voters at Town Meeting.
 - Gather input from the community about Town vision, priorities, and any new topics.
- Individuals or groups that are considering bringing a citizen's petition to Town Meeting should start to provide the BOS with information as soon as possible.
- Publish a BOS newsletter to recap Town Meeting and the Public Forum.

Preliminary Budget Development (August - November)

- Land-use boards multi-chair meeting:
 - Updates on current activities, SoTT topics, by-law proposals.
- Finance Committee develops the Budget Guideline for the Town, Schools, and Library Budgets.
- Get updates on citizen petitions.
- BOS newsletter (publish before SoTT)

State of the Town (November - December)

- Update the Town on the BOS's understanding of Vision and Priorities
- Introduce major topics that will be brought forward at Town Meeting.
- Introduce by-law changes that will be voted on at Town Meeting.
- Introduce citizen petitions that will be voted on at Town Meeting.
- Gather public input.

Finalize Budget (December - March)

- Finance Committee holds Budget Workshops in December and January.
- Town Meeting Warrants close: late January
 - Citizen's petitions due at the same time.
- Land-use boards hold multi-chair meeting to prepare for Town Meeting.
- BOS newsletter to preview Town Meeting.
- Public Budget Hearings (Town and Schools) and information/input sessions to prepare for Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting (Saturday before the last Monday in March)

- VOTE on the Town Budget, by-law changes and citizen petitions.
- BOS Newsletter: wrap-up of Town Meeting.

Town Elections are always the last Monday in March!!!

Update: Community Center

Preliminary Planning & Design Committee (PPDC)

At the March Annual Town Meeting, Lincoln voters approved funds to conduct a feasibility study that will result in preliminary design concepts for a Community Center to be located on the Lincoln School (Ballfield Road) campus. The proposed Community Center would house both the Parks & Recreation Department (PRD) and the Council on Aging (COA). In mid-June, the Selectmen appointed the members of the PPDC, and the committee held its first meeting on June 26th. Among the committee's members are architects and designers, people connected to Council on Aging, Parks & Recreation, and other Town boards and committees, and Town administration. We thank the following members for their service:

Owen Beenhouwer, at large member; Carolyn Bottum, Director, Council on Aging; Sarah Chester, at large; Doug Crosby, at large; Jonathan Dwyer, Board of Selectmen; Steve Gladstone, Planning Board; Margit Griffith (Vice-Chair), Parks & Rec. Committee; Eric Harris, Finance Committee; Tim Higgins, Town Administrator; Ellen Meyer Shorb (Chair), at large; Dilla Tingley (Secretary), Council on Aging, and Tim Christenfeld, liaison from the School Building Committee.

The PPDC will work with the School Building Committee (SBC) to facilitate Town decisions about the scope, design, timing, and cost for the Ballfield Road projects. The Board of Selectmen and Lincoln School Committee jointly approved the formation of a 6-member Campus Coordinating Group to focus on the communication and collaboration between the two Ballfield Road projects. The group includes 2 members each from the PPDC and the SBC, plus Tim Higgins, Town Administrator, and Becky McFall, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools. At its July 24th meeting, the PPDC finalized the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design consultants, and expects to hire a consultant in September. All meetings are open to the public! Visit: <http://www.lincolntown.org/918/Planning-Preliminary-Design-Committee-PP>

Update: Lincoln School Project

Honoring our History, Building Our Future

The School Building Committee, which is tasked with finding a community-supported solution that will revitalize the Lincoln School building and campus, has been at work since the beginning of May. To date, the SBC has:

- Appointed Chris Fasciano as Chair, and Kim Bodnar as Vice-Chair of the SBC.
- Hired Daedalus to be the Owner's Project Manager (OPM). The OPM serves as the Town's advocate, and helps to communicate the planning process to the community and keep the project on schedule and on budget.
- Established an Outreach Committee focused on frequent, transparent, two-way communication with the Lincoln Community.
- Selected 5 design firm (architect) finalists to interview.
- **Next Steps:** The finalist design firms will be interviewed on the evenings of August 15th & 16th, starting at 6:00pm in the Hartwell multipurpose room. The interviews are open to the public.

Please visit www.lincnet.org and click on "School Building Committee" (left of the page) for more information. Questions? sbc@lincnet.org

How Do I...Find Out About Meetings of Boards & Committees?

If you would like to get email or text notices about town news, meeting times, and agendas:

1. Go to www.lincolntown.org
2. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Notify Me."
3. Type in your email address and/or cell phone number.
4. Click on the Town organizations, boards, and committees about which you would like to stay informed.
5. You will be sent an email or text asking you to confirm your selections.

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