



Dear Lincoln Community:

After much deliberation, we have decided to move ahead with plans for a June 13th Annual Town Meeting and June 15th Town Election. This is not an easy decision, and even as we write we know that changes in public health metrics may require us to change our plans yet again. This letter is an effort to outline the decision-making process and explain our procedural plans for Town Meeting and the Town Election.

Why are we proceeding on June 13th?

- The Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator have previously said that public health considerations, and the advice of our public health team, would govern the decision about when to hold Town Meeting.
- At the moment, the public health indicators are trending in the right direction.
- There is concern that as businesses begin to open up throughout the summer, there could be an increase in COVID-19 cases. This, in combination with the onset of the regular flu season in the fall could have an even greater impact on residents' health.
- Warmer weather allows us to plan for an outdoor Town Meeting and Town Election.
- The Lincoln Board of Health and our public health nurse support this decision.

Is it legal?

- Although there is a general prohibition against gatherings of 10+ people, under Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 COVID-19 Order #13, municipalities are exempted and may convene Town Meeting. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-23-2020-essential-services-and-revised-gatherings-order/download>
- The same order states that "The Order does not apply to public gatherings of more than 10 people in an unenclosed, outdoor space such as a park, athletic field, or parking lot."
- Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020 governs municipal elections and states that any municipality that would have had an election between March 23 and May 30 may postpone elections to a date prior to June 30, 2020. <https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlevii/chapter45>

What precautions are being taken?

- Town Meeting will be held in the Hartwell parking lot on the Lincoln School campus allowing for social distancing and handicapped accessibility. A large tent will provide shade for those who need it.
- The Meeting warrant has been reduced to budget and capital items only. (NOTE: Because a new warrant was signed, there is no need for a Special Town Meeting. The Lincoln School project article is now part of the regular warrant.)
- Presenting committees will provide virtual presentations, including opportunities for community questions, in advance of the Meeting. All presentations are available on the Town website, <http://lincolntown.org/1116/2020-Annual-Town-Meeting>
- The Town Election will also be held outdoors at the same location.
- Early voting and absentee voting are both allowed and encouraged!
- In-person voting is limited to the hours of Noon – 4:00pm.

What can voters expect when they arrive at Town Meeting?

- Check-in will begin at 8:15am.
- Masks are mandatory for all workers and attendees; gloves strongly encouraged; social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

- We'll be implementing a voting card system.
- To reduce meeting time, 19 of the 22 Articles are part of the Consent Calendar. The exceptions are:
 - Article 8: Supplemental funding for the Lincoln School Building project.
 - Article 21: Free Cash allocation
 - Article 22: Water Department capital projects
- Residents are respectfully asked to participate in the virtual presentations prior to Town Meeting. Boards and Committee will work to summarize and answer questions prior to Town Meeting.
- Please stay tuned for more detailed information which will be publicized via LincolnTalk and the Lincoln Squirrel.

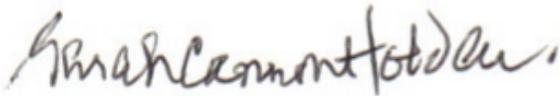
What documents are enclosed in this mailing packet?

- New and Revised Warrant
- Memo from the Finance Committee
- Article List
- Consent Calendar
- Financial Section and Warrant for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting
- Memo from the School Building Committee
- Annual Report

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

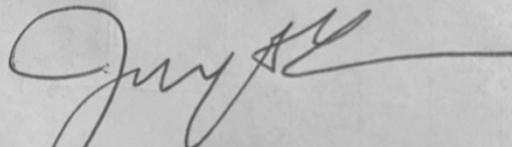
Be well,

Sarah Cannon Holden



Town Moderator

Jennifer Glass



Board of Selectmen