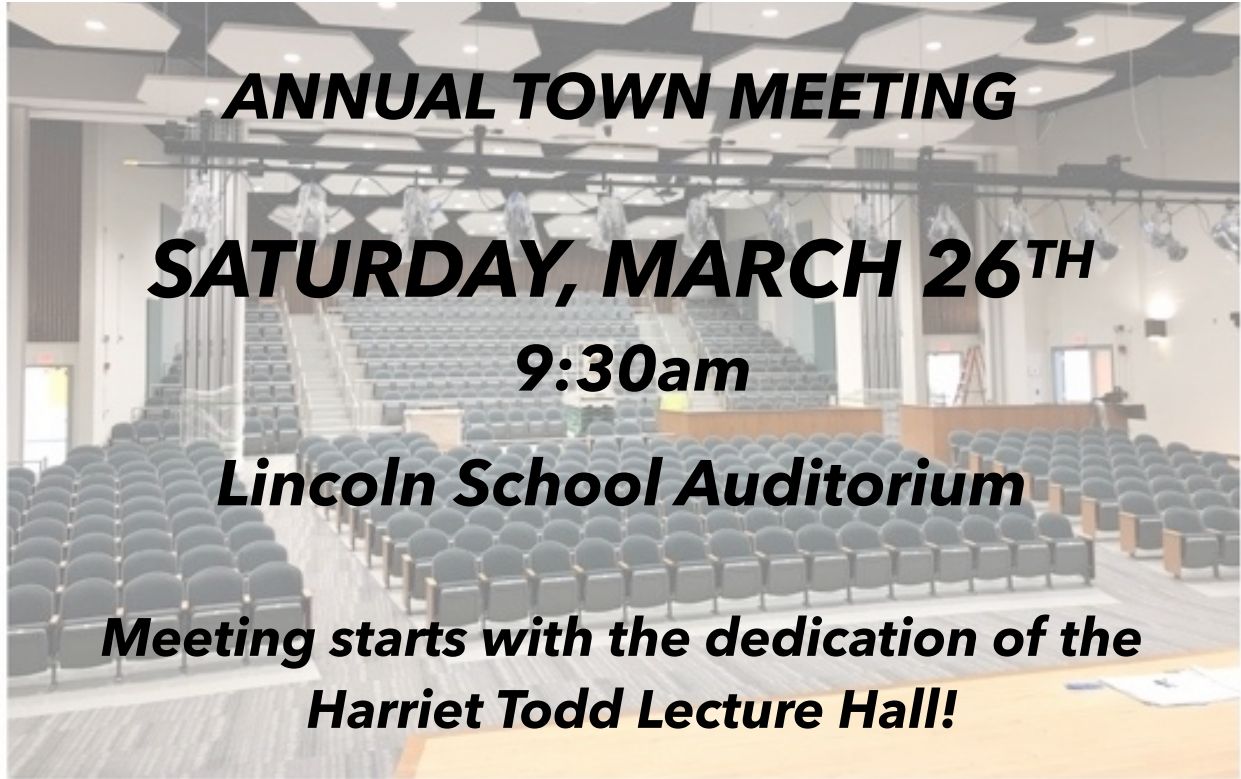


SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board



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From the Moderator

While there were COVID uncertainties a year ago as we planned for Town Meeting, this year world events cause us to reflect on the fragility and the privilege of democracy. As we move forward here in Lincoln to exercise our rights and responsibilities under our direct democracy, I urge everyone to participate in Town Meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2022, and to VOTE in town elections on Monday, March 28. We will meet in the renovated Auditorium at the Lincoln School and the meeting will begin promptly at 9:30am! Details regarding public health precautions will be forthcoming.

Before we get to Town Meeting, however, town officials will again use virtual presentations and meetings to explain the proposed budgets and other warrant articles that will come before the voters. Visit the Town Meeting 2022 page on the Lincoln website to find meeting dates, slide presentations, and meeting recordings. I urge you to watch them so you are familiar with the details of the articles on which we will vote. I plan to use the Consent Calendar to combine into one presentation and one vote some of the non-controversial articles on the Warrant. I will explain more about this at the meeting.

*Sarah Cannon Holden
Town Moderator*

Town Meeting Overview

What is Town Meeting? *Town Meeting is Lincoln's local legislative body responsible for approving the town budget and enacting local bylaws. Lincoln has an "open" Town Meeting, which means that every resident registered to vote in Lincoln is a voting member. You have a direct voice in town decisions!*

Although we return to the Auditorium for Town Meeting, we are again focused on public health and are taking steps to streamline the meeting. In the two weeks before Town Meeting, presenting Boards and Committees will host Zoom meetings to present warrant articles and answer questions from the public. Videos of the meetings and slide decks will be posted to the Town Meeting 2022 page of the Town website.

On the day of Town Meeting:

- Check-in will begin at 8:15am.
 - Public health procedures are being finalized in collaboration with the Board of Health, Town Clerk, Public Safety the Town Administrator's office.
 - Household members may sit together and are asked to keep two empty seats between themselves and other attendees.
- Many budget and finance articles will be part of the Consent Calendar; presentations will be kept to a minimum.
- Goal is to be finished before 1:00pm.

FOR PRESENTATIONS, VIDEOS, AND INFORMATION, VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.LINCOLNTOWN.ORG/1307/2022-ANNUAL-TOWN-MEETING](https://www.lincolntown.org/1307/2022-ANNUAL-TOWN-MEETING)

FY23 Budget

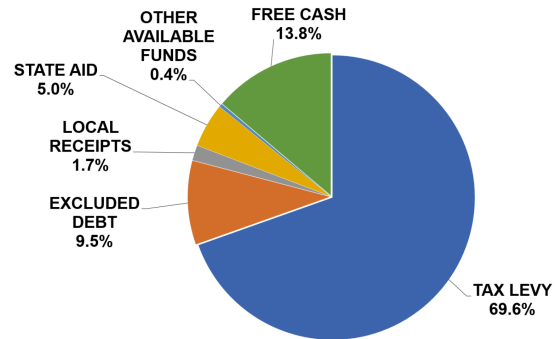
The proposed FY23 budget of almost \$46 million (about a 3% increase over FY22) will enable the Town to maintain the current level of services, and to make a few targeted program enhancements:

- New part-time position in the Finance & Accounting Department
- Operational support for the Police Department’s new body-camera program
- Stipend to support climate action planning
- New Building Systems & Energy Manager position to support town and schools

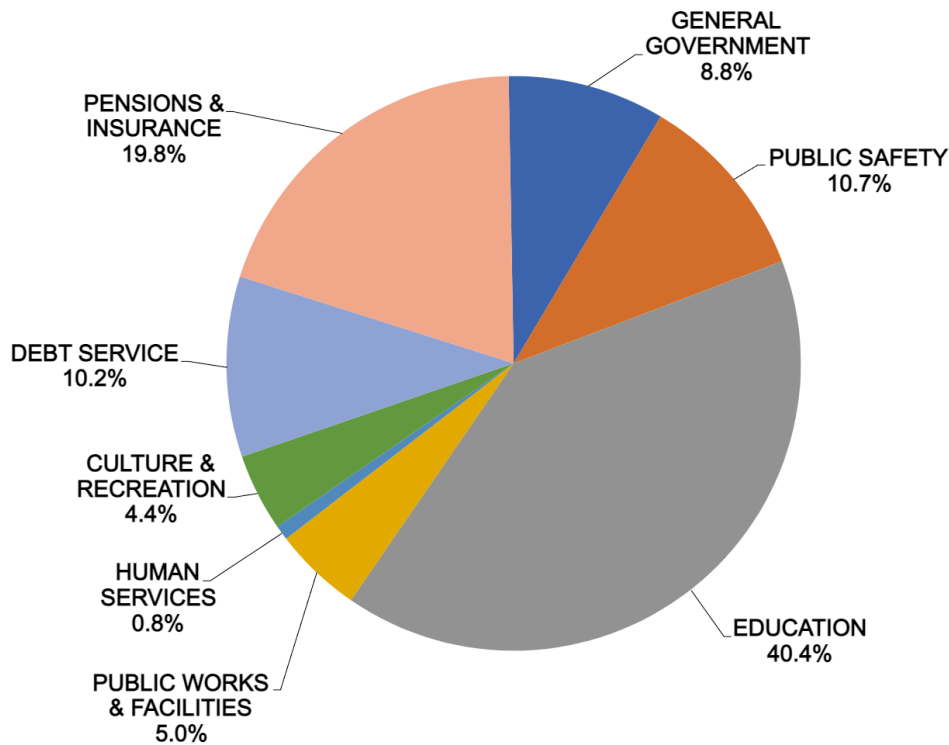
Otherwise, the proposed budget is routine, including customary investment levels for capital equipment, facilities maintenance, appropriations against long-term liabilities, and maintenance of prudent reserves. The Finance Committee’s detailed review and analysis will be mailed, along with the warrant, to every household, or find them now on the Town Meeting 2022 page of the website.

The Finance Committee will set aside time for questions from residents at its meeting on March 15.

Revenues by Category: FY'23



Expenditures by Category: FY'23



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Lincoln was allocated just over \$2 million in federal ARPA funds. An ARPA working group worked with Town departments to review proposed uses for grant funds, and the Select Board approved the following projects at its February 28 meeting.

PROJECT	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Restore Parks & Trails	Conservation	\$6,823
Water Storage Tank – Bedford Road	Water	\$500,000
Water Distribution Repairs	Water	\$200,000
Water Well Replacement – Tower Road	Water	\$600,000
School Retention & Incentive Pay – Food Service Employees	School	\$21,441
School Faculty Residency – Antiracism Inclusion Diversity & Equity (AIDE) & Deeper Learning Coach	School	\$71,999
Emergency Assistance – Housing Grants	COA&HS	\$43,500
Mental Health Clinics (covers 3 years)	COA&HS	\$12,000
Social Worker (covers 3 years)	COA&HS	\$106,228
IDEA Consultant	Select Board	\$100,000
LSRHS Ventilation System Improvement	LSRHS	\$15,000
Subtotal		\$1,676,991
ARPA Unallocated/Covid Response Contingency	All	\$386,420
Total Requests		\$2,063,411

Capital Planning

The Capital Planning Committee (CapCom) reviews capital improvement requests from all town departments and makes a slate of recommended projects to be voted on at Town Meeting. The process starts with a recommended capital budget from the Finance Committee (FinCom). If the total cost of projects identified as priorities exceeds the original guidance, CapCom will refer the additional project(s) to FinCom for further discussion and a determination as to whether funds are available and whether the project(s) should be recommended to Town Meeting.

This year, the total original guidance for both capital projects and regular maintenance was \$766K. CapCom received requests totaling just over \$1.5 million. After deliberation,

CapCom recommended \$972K in capital requests and \$155K for regular maintenance. FinCom voted to support the recommendations.

Some of the major items we will vote on at Town Meeting include:

- Conservation Department equipment – \$64.5K
- Department of Public Works truck & compactors – \$270K
- Lincoln School project lighting control system change – \$200K
- Lincoln School project modular classroom removal & field restoration – \$350K
- Hartwell roof replacement – \$60K
- Lincoln-Sudbury High School items – \$38K (Lincoln portion)
- 2 Police Department cars – \$92K

CapCom held a public meeting to review the projects on March 9. Information can be found on the Town Meeting page. The School Building will review the two school project requests at its March 16 meeting. Visit www.lincolnsbc.org for more information.

Are we ready to plan for a Community Center?

As was discussed at November's State of the Town meeting, multiple studies have been completed that explore the space needs of the Council on Aging & Human Services and the Parks & Recreation Department. Now, with the Lincoln School building project headed towards completion, the Select Board wants to gauge the Town's interest in moving forward with the next level of planning and design for a new community center. Article #12 is a "sense of the Town" vote on whether a building committee should be appointed to take the next step in the process – no funds are being requested at this time. A "yes" vote will prompt the Select Board to appoint a building committee to review earlier studies and develop a budget for planning and design services that would be presented for funding no sooner than this fall. *To see the State of the Town presentation, go to <https://lincolntv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=8lIF5L2eNJeH>. The Community Center discussion starts at about minute 57 (see meeting index on the right side of the page).*

Addressing the Climate Crisis – 3 Town Meeting Actions

1. **\$5000 Stipend to Support a Climate Action Plan:** *Massachusetts is legally committed to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and a 50% reduction from 1990 levels by 2030.* Climate Action Lincoln, a subcommittee of the Green Energy Committee, is working with our Assistant Town Planner, Jennifer Curtin, to secure a substantial grant of up to \$100K to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The Plan will address the built environment, transportation, energy production, waste, and land use in Lincoln, while focusing on environmental equity and vulnerable populations. The requested stipend will support Ms. Curtin's work to write the grant, and to collaborate with the subcommittee, Town departments and organizations, and residents on the Plan's development.
2. **100% Locally Generated Green Electricity for Town Buildings:** One way Lincoln can reduce its carbon footprint is by greening up its electricity supply. Just as residents can "opt up" to 100% local RECs (renewable energy credits) through the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program*, the Town is asking residents to approve amendments to the Town and Water Department electricity contracts so that Town-owned buildings are run

on 100% locally-generated green electricity. This would add \$25,000 to the FY23 Town budget and \$25,000 to the FY23 Water Department budget.

- 3. **Citizens’ Petition – Restrict Fossil Fuel Systems in New Buildings:** A group of residents is asking Town Meeting to support a petition to the State Legislature that would result in new construction being all-electric for heating, cooling, and indoor cooking. Lincoln would thus join with other towns who have similarly petitioned the state, to help achieve the statewide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions needed to meet the deadlines in the climate act signed in March 2021. Learn more at one of two upcoming Zoom meetings on Monday, March 14 at 7:00pm and Thursday, March 17 at 3:00pm. Zoom IDs are shown below. Additional information will be posted at www.lincolngreenenergy.org.

Monday, 3/14/22 7:00 pm: Zoom Meeting ID: 820 7243 3671

Thursday, 3/17/22 3:00 pm: Zoom Meeting ID: 810 9531 5671

*Lincoln’s electricity purchasing program, Lincoln Green Energy Choice, (www.lincolngreenenergychoice.com) went into effect in March 2021. On January 1 of this year, Eversource’s electricity supply price for residential customers rose to 15.764¢/kWh. This price will be in place until June 30, 2022. All three options in Lincoln Green Energy Choice are lower. If you enroll in the program, you remain an Eversource customer, but Eversource will calculate the supply charge portion of your electricity bill using the Lincoln option of your choice. The prices will not change until January 2023. *Not sure if you’re enrolled? Want to know how to enroll? Visit <https://masspowerchoice.com/lincoln/winter-prices-landing-page>*



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

The IDEA Committee will provide a report about its work and an outline of next steps at Town Meeting. For an opportunity to learn more and to ask questions, tune in to the March 21 Select Board meeting at 6:30pm. Meeting ID: 918 3237 5325; Passcode: 378902

Water Department News

Residents can view a presentation of the Water Department status, and the FY23 operating and capital budget requests by viewing the recording of the Finance Committee meeting on February 15, (<https://youtu.be/eOITt5cY1ac>) starting at the 2:49 mark.

- 1. The Water Department is back to being fully staffed – and last fall our Superintendent, Darin LaFalam, was

voted MA State Director of the New England Water Works Association!

- 2. The Water Commission and Department are mindful of resident budget pressures and are proposing a restrained 2.4% increase in operating budget.
- 3. Three high-priority capital projects are being funded with money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which reduces our FY23 capital request to \$142,500. This should allow us, at next year’s Town Meeting, to recommend rescinding \$519,000 in FY22 appropriations previously approved by residents.

Any residents who have questions about the presentation, or the Water Department in general, are welcome to attend the Water Commissioner’s regularly scheduled Zoom meeting starting at 8:00am on Thursday, March 17. The first agenda item will be to take questions from the public.

Meeting ID: 933 9332 7939

Password: 770882

Historic District Additions: The Lincoln Historic District Commission is working with a property owner who is interested in adding their house to the Historic District. Also, two homeowners on Twin Pond Lane seek to create a Twin Pond Lane Historic District for their two properties. The purpose of historic districts is to preserve and protect the distinctive architectural characteristics of buildings in places significant to the history of the Town through the encouragement of sensitive and innovative design. The districts do not seek to establish an architectural museum but to inform the historical process of architectural growth and adaptation with a sense of architectural pride in Lincoln’s heritage.

Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Change of Fees: The proposed amendment to Section 19.3 of the Town of Lincoln Zoning By-law, would increase the fine for Zoning By-law violations to \$300 per offense each day. The current fee is \$100 per offense each day. The Zoning Board of Appeals is suggesting this change to bring the Lincoln fine amount in-line with what is permitted under state statute.

Notice of Right to Farm Bylaw: The Agricultural Commission and the Conservation Commission are asking residents to approve a bylaw that would require property owners to inform potential buyers that Lincoln has a *Right to Farm* bylaw. The Agricultural Commission is recommending this bylaw to ensure that Lincoln property buyers are aware of the community's agricultural heritage and ongoing support for farming in its many forms. To learn more, visit <http://lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/9/Right-To-Farm-Bylaw-corrected-?bidId=>

Cell Tower Lease: It is time to renew the lease of the cell tower at the Public Safety site. Town Meeting will be asked to approve the new 30 year lease which will bring \$100,000 in annual revenue to the town.

Honoring Harriet Todd

We will start this year’s Town Meeting by officially dedicating the Harriet Todd Lecture Hall. Harriet was an active participant in Lincoln’s civic life for many years, including a 6-year stint on the (then) Board of Selectmen from 1989 – 1995. After she passed away in 2018, we learned that Harriet had bequeathed a gift of \$500,000 to the Town to be used as the Board saw fit. In 2019, after consultation with her family members, the Board of Selectmen voted to use \$275,000 to support the renovation of the Auditorium and \$225,000 to establish the Harriet Todd Scholarship Fund. The Lecture Hall (upper portion of the Lincoln School Auditorium)

will now bear her name in remembrance of her dedication to the town and steadfast participation in Town Meeting.

Thank you!

It’s hard to believe that six years have flown by! Thank you, James, for your time and dedication to the Board of Selectmen/ Select Board. We have benefited from your legal mind, probing questions, creative thinking, and sense of humor. Whether navigating tough decisions or planning July 4th parade floats, we’ve been lucky to work with you!



Getting Ready for Spring? Call the Conservation Department!

As the snow melts and the days begin to warm, thoughts turn to cleaning up the yard. Lincoln has a strong wetlands protection bylaw designed to keep our town and regional wetlands and waterways healthy. Before raking leaves, removing invasive plants, trimming branches, or planting new beds:

- **Know your property!** Access the town’s GIS maps to see where your property is impacted by wetlands setbacks and conservation land boundaries: <https://www.axisgis.com/LincolnMA/>. Laws prohibit the cutting of vegetation and dumping of any kind, even yard waste, in wetland setbacks or on town conservation land.
- **Want to remove invasive plants in a protected zone?** www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65535/Notice-to-Perform-Invasives-Clearing
- **Want to remove a tree near a wetland?** Even dead or dying trees need Conservation Department approval. Review the Conservation Commission’s tree removal policy here: www.lincolntown.org/1275/Tree-Removal-Near-Wetlands
- **Lincoln’s Leaf Blower Bylaw:** <http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/44839/leaf-blower-bylaw>

When in doubt, please reach out to our Conservation staff. They are here to help!

Email: Conservation@lincolntown.org

Phone: 781-259-2612



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 Jonathan Dwyer, Chair
 Jennifer Glass
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