

SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, March 25 @ 9:30am (sharp!)

Donaldson Auditorium/Todd Lecture Hall
& the Reed Gym @ the Lincoln School

Annual Town Election: Monday, March 27 @ 7:30am - 8:00pm

Voting in the Reed Gym @ the Lincoln School

From the Moderator

It's time again for our community to gather for our Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, March 25, 2023! Please arrive early - doors open at 8:30 am - the meeting will start promptly at 9:30 am in the Auditorium at the Lincoln Schools. Masks will be optional in the Auditorium but required in the Reed Gym. We are the Town's legislature, and I urge everyone to participate, ask questions, and vote on the budgets for fiscal 2024 as well as bylaw amendments and building maintenance expenditures, among other proposals.

Along with our Lincoln's professional team, many volunteers have worked for months to prepare and present proposals for your consideration and vote. Before we get to Town Meeting, town officials will again use virtual presentations and meetings to explain the proposed budgets and other warrant articles that will come before the voters. I urge you to visit www.lincolntownmeeting2023.com to learn more about the details of their

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presentations.

As per usual, 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.

I look forward to seeing you on March 25th. Also, remember to vote at the polls on Monday, March 27th. Let us never take for granted the rights and responsibilities we have as citizens of this country. In other parts of the world we watch as people fight and die to achieve such rights. May there be PEACE.

- Sarah Cannon Holden
Town Moderator

From the Select Board

As outlined in our January newsletter, we are currently focused on four major initiatives: The work of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee (IDEA); the Community Center Building Committee's (CCBC) process to create a set of proposals; the development of a Climate Action Plan; and the Housing Choice Act Working Group's analysis of possible ways to comply with the Act. These initiatives will not show up directly as articles on the Town Meeting Warrant, but there are links between them and several of the items on which we will vote at Town Meeting. As relevant, we will highlight some of those connections in the following information about major warrant articles. Finally, look for updates on each initiative later in the newsletter.

2022 - 2023 INITIATIVES

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee | Housing Choice Act Working Group | Climate Action Plan | Community Center Building Committee |

UPDATE ON THE COMMONS' PLANNED EXPANSION

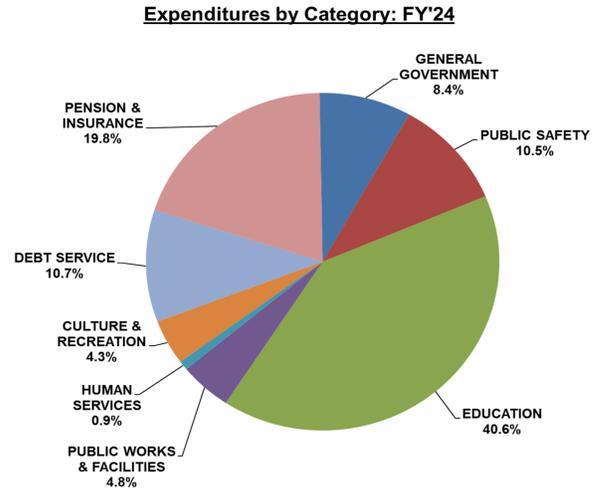
In early February, The Commons sent a notice to all residents of their intention to ask Town Meeting for permission to build additional units. On February 24, New England Life Plan Communities withdrew the warrant article with the intention of bringing a revised proposal to voters in Fall 2023. The withdrawal letter is here: <http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/78897/Commons-Project-Withdrawal-Letter-02242023?bidId=>

Article #7: FY 2024 Budget – SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

The Finance Committee (FinCom) held its annual budget hearing on February 28th, and will hold a Q&A session for residents on March 20. Zoom information and the recording of the February hearing is posted on the Town Meeting 2023 page of the town website: www.lincolntownmeeting2023.com. The table at the top of the next page gives a high level overview of the Town budget, not including the operating budgets for the Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, or tuition for vocational schools.

FY 24 Base Budget Proposal

| Function | FY 23 Budget | FY 24 Proposed Base | \$ Change | % Change |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| General Govt. | \$3,000,661 | \$3,138,266 | \$137,604 | 4.6% |
| Public Safety | \$4,538,920 | \$4,661,991 | \$123,071 | 2.7% |
| Public Works | \$1,993,482 | \$2,000,071 | \$ 6,589 | 0.3% |
| Human Services | \$352,828 | \$ 389,730 | \$36,902 | 10.5% |
| Culture & Recreation | \$742,192 | \$ 770,304 | \$28,112 | 3.8% |
| Total | \$10,628,083 | \$10,960,362 | \$332,279 | 3.13% |



Article #8: Capital Committee Recommendations – SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

The Capital Committee (CapCom) is recommending 19 “cash capital” projects totaling \$661,376. These projects are financed within the annual budget; none require a bond vote.

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|---|--------|
| Conceptual design work for biking & walking roadway improvements | \$36K |
| Conservation Department: 1) F350 pick up truck w/plow, \$72K; 2) rock rake, \$11K | \$83K |
| DPW: 1) pick-up truck, \$66K; 2) Superintendent’s car, \$35K; 3) hook truck parts, \$26K | \$127K |
| Transfer Station: Replace Compactor #1 | \$47K |
| Fire Department: Quint Truck Repairs | \$30K |
| Town: Server upgrades | \$50K |
| Library: Replace bluestone terrace | \$47K |
| Lincoln Public Schools: 1) Genie vertical lift, \$30K; 2) AC unit for Hartwell, \$37K; 3) replace emergency radios, \$52K | \$119K |
| L-S High School: 1) masonry design for exterior stairs, \$3.3K; 2) replace camera system, \$30K; 3) replace 15-person van, \$2.4K | \$36K |
| Codman Pool: Replace slide | \$19K |
| Police Department: 1) replace 1 vehicle, \$59K; 2) replace 5 electronic control devices, \$9K | \$68K |

Article #10: Community Preservation Act Projects – SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

CPA funds are raised through a 3% surcharge on real estate bills and are partially matched by the state from a dedicated fund. Thirteen projects totaling \$856,353 are recommended:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Debt Service: 1) Town Offices Renovation, \$296K; 2) Wang Field, \$108K | \$404K |
| Housing: 1) Rental assistance program, \$97K; 2) Housing support , \$31K; 3) new electric HVAC systems for and repairs to Town-owned rental units, \$246K | \$374K |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Historic Preservation: 1) Library chimney repair, \$36K; 2) MA Historical Commission surveys of significant buildings, \$5K; 3) Archives - Flint Family historical documents, \$28K | \$69K |
| Administrative expenses | \$3.5K |
| Conservation: Trailhead and way finding signage | \$7K |

Article #29: Specialized Opt In Stretch Code & Article #30: Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw (10 Town Pilot) – SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTES

The Lincoln Green Energy Committee (GEC) and the Select Board are sponsoring two related warrant articles. Their combined effect would be to require that, after a phase-in period, all new buildings in Lincoln and certain major additions and renovations be all-electric and highly energy-efficient. "All-electric" would include heating/cooling via air-source or ground-source heat pumps, electric water heating, and cooking via induction or other electric options. "Highly energy-efficient" includes high levels of insulation and smart air exchange. Emergency generators would still be allowed. For more information, links to materials are collected here: www.bit.ly/3ZI5guo.

Supporting Lincoln's Climate Action Plan: Home heating and cooling is a substantial percentage of the town's carbon footprint. This pilot program will make Lincoln a leader in transitioning away from gas and oil.

Note from the DPW – Transfer Station Stickers

Thank you for your participation in the various waste reduction and recycling programs available at the Transfer Station. We have enjoyed a terrific partnership with Mothers Out Front and a strong group of volunteers who have helped us reinvigorate the swap shed program. In addition, the compost program and mattress recycling programs have really taken hold and are well utilized. Together, we are all doing our part to help the Town achieve its zero waste and climate action goals.

We also appreciate the cooperation of the vast majority of residents who have obtained transfer station stickers, which helps ensure that the facility is being used exclusively by our residents. *If you have not obtained a sticker, please do so as soon as possible! After Friday, April 28, the sticker program will be strictly enforced. Anyone without a sticker will not be allowed access to the facility.*

We have worked to make the process for obtaining stickers as convenient as possible. They may be obtained online at epay.cityhallsystems.com, or in-person at the DPW building (30 Lewis Street), Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 2:00 pm. Additionally, our staff will be present at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 22, and Wednesday, April 26 to issue stickers to those who have not taken advantage of other opportunities. Proof of residence and vehicle registration is required. Contact Susan Donaldson at the DPW (781 259-8999) if you have questions.

Supporting Lincoln's Climate Action Plan:

Later this month, the Select Board will vote to award a contract to build an approximately 1MW solar array at the Transfer Station.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

– Chris Bibbo, Superintendent, Department of Public Works

Article #24 Addition of a Property to the Historic District – 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE:

The Historic District Commission and Friends of Modern Architecture (FoMA) are working with property owners who are interested in adding their Modern houses to Lincoln's Historic Districts. The Districts currently consist of 108 properties located throughout Lincoln. At Town Meeting, residents will vote on the owners' request to add 58 Bedford Road to the District. The District's purpose 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 District does 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.

– *Historic District Commission*

Article #25 Cluster Zoning Bylaw Amendment – 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE:

The amendment to the bylaw will bring the town into compliance with State law by removing the specific mandates requiring that a proponent of a cluster development give the Town and/or the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) interest in land including easements for access to the public as part of the special permit approval process. To have the Zoning Bylaw comply with current language of M.G.L. c.40A, s. 1A, the language will be revised to allow a proponent to choose between conveying land to the Town for park, recreation, or open space purposes OR having the land subject to a recorded use restriction enforceable by the Town, the LLCT, or a non profit organization whose principal purpose is the conservation of open space.

Visit www.lincolntownmeeting2023.com for more information

– *Planning Board*

Article #26 Accessory Apartment Bylaw Amendment – 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE:

This year the Planning Board is proposing revisions to *Section 14.3 Accessory Apartments in an R-1 District* to allow accessory apartments "by right" within the principal dwelling unit. It will also streamline the permitting process for an accessory apartment in an accessory structure by deleting the requirement of a Planning Board recommendation to the Board of Appeals. To review the full text, please visit <http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/78856/KP-Law-Accessory-Apt-zoning-Bylaw-Revision-DRAFT-03012023?bidId=>

– *Planning Board*

Article # 28 Wireless Communication Overlay Amendment – 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE:

The amendment will bring the Town's requirements in line with Federal Law by allowing modifications or additions of wireless equipment that qualify as "Eligible Facilities Requests" pursuant to the Spectrum Act by administrative review rather than a modification of a special permit. To review the full text, please visit [http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/78900/KP-Law-LINCOLN_ZBA -](http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/78900/KP-Law-LINCOLN_ZBA_-_SECTION_12_6_WIRELESS--FINAL-02272023)

[_SECTION_12_6_WIRELESS--FINAL-02272023](http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/78900/KP-Law-LINCOLN_ZBA_-_SECTION_12_6_WIRELESS--FINAL-02272023)
This change will codify the Planning Board's current practice of administrative review of these requests. The current process can be found via the links on the main Planning page under Forms and Eligible Facilities Request submittal requirements.

– *Planning Board*

Article #31: Composition of Housing Commission – SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

The Housing Commission (HC) is sponsoring a warrant article requesting that the Select Board petition the Massachusetts General Court to allow for a change in the structure and membership of the Commission. Currently, the HC has 5 members: 3 are elected for 3-year terms, and 2 are appointed by the Select Board for 5-year terms. The Commission also has two non-voting liaison positions that are filled 1) by a representative appointed by the Council on Aging & Human Services, and 2) by a resident of income-restricted housing in Lincoln. The volunteers in these liaison positions provide valuable insights into the HC's discussions, although they are not able to fully participate in the work of the Commission. The five full members of the HC, meanwhile, conduct considerable amounts of work on behalf of the Commission, including serving as liaisons on other town boards and committees, working with the Town on the recertification of residents in Town-owned affordable housing, coordinating maintenance for Town-owned affordable housing, and exploring policy and programmatic options for supporting the Town's vision for housing. The Commission would therefore like to change its structure to allow for up to 7 members, which would include the two appointed liaison positions described above, and better allow us to distribute the work of the Commission over more people. Moreover, we would like to make all positions on the HC 3-year appointed terms, which the Commission believes will facilitate participation for more residents. Because the HC was created by an act of the state legislature, the Town must petition the state General Court to enact these changes.

Supporting Affordable Housing & Lincoln's Climate Action Plan: At Town Meeting, we will vote to use Community Preservation Act funds to provide new all-electric HVAC systems for the 7 income-restricted housing units that are owned by the Town.

Updates on Town Priorities

Following are updates on the four priorities outlined at State of the Town. We encourage all residents to visit the web pages, attend workshops and forums, and to sign up for updates.



IDEA COMMITTEE UPDATE

The IDEA Committee held a public forum on February 16 in the Lincoln School Learning Commons. The forum featured a presentation from the Town's consultants, Racial Equity Group/Elite Research, conversations in break-out groups, and a Q&A session.



After Town Meeting, IDEA will launch a town-wide survey that is open to all

www.lincolntown.org

residents, employees, students, and visitors. Please be on the lookout - we really want to hear from everyone! Visit <http://www.lincolntown.org/1221/IDEA> to see the slide deck and watch the recording.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE (CCBC) UPDATE

On March 6th, the Select Board approved the CCBC's recommendation to hire ICON Architects (<https://www.iconarch.com/>) to develop at least three Community Center design options according to the guidelines

approved by voters at the November 2022 Special Town Meeting.

Work with ICON will begin immediately, and the CCBC will bring the options to voters at a Fall 2023 Special Town Meeting. Visit <https://lincolncommunitycenter.com/> for information and to sign up for updates.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Lincoln is continuing efforts in the development of the Lincoln Climate Action Plan. Working with residents, this plan will develop goals and strategies to make the community more sustainable, climate resilient, and environmentally just. The Town, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and key stakeholders have been reaching out to community members and convened a Working Group to help consider next steps related to increased electrification, reduced fossil fuel use, increased pedestrian and cycling access, green infrastructure, and more.



For more information and to join the list serve, scan the QR code or type the link below into a web browser. <http://www.lincolntown.org/1411/>

Climate-Action-Plan

We want to hear from you! Take our survey to share your experiences and recommendations. Your feedback will directly inform the development of goals and strategies that guide the Town’s future climate action work.

Scan the QR code or type the link below into a web browser. The survey will close on March 27th! tinyurl.com/LincolnClimateActionSurvey



Next Public Workshops:

- Wednesday, April 12 @ 7:00pm
- Friday, April 14 @ 8:30am

HOUSING CHOICE ACT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Housing Choice Act Working Group (HCAWG) continues to meet on a monthly basis and to provide community updates that are posted on the Town website and published on LincolnTalk. Currently, the group is working with a consultant that is helping us understand the technical requirements of the Housing Choice Act legislation and the kind of zoning required to comply. After Town Meeting, HCAWG will begin extensive outreach with residents to understand our choices. In the meantime, please visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/1327/Housing-Choice-Act-Working-Group> for meeting updates and FAQs.

“Passing Over” Articles

It is likely that several articles that are printed on the Warrant will be “passed over.” This means that the sponsoring committee has withdrawn the article will ask Town Meeting to vote to skip the article. Two notable examples that appear on this year’s warrant:

Article #27: Mixed-Use Village District Zoning Bylaw Amendment. The Planning Board has decided to pass over this article pending the work of the Housing Choice Act Working Group.

Article #32: Acceptance of Local Property Tax Circuit Breaker Program. The Town is still waiting for the state legislature to approve our petition to create a property tax relief program for eligible seniors. It is unlikely we will have that authorization before Town Meeting.

Town Meeting Logistics

- ☑ Check-in begins at 8:30 am
- ☑ TOWN MEETING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:30 AM!
- ☑ MASKING PROTOCOL:
 - ◆ Donaldson Auditorium/ Todd Lecture Hall – **masks optional**
 - ◆ Reed Gym – **masks required; attendees may ask questions and vote from the Reed Gym!**
- ☑ Lunches prepared by Twisted Tree will be available for purchase in the Dining Commons



Thank you, JD!

After serving for 6 years on the Select Board, Jonathan Dwyer has decided to step down and we will miss him! Jonathan has brought thoughtful analysis, creative problem-solving, and a sense of fun to the Board. Together with his deep commitment to Lincoln, these qualities have served the town well and made it a pleasure to be his colleague as we've worked together on issues both big and small. We look forward to drawing on his experience for future endeavors - and maybe using his truck for the 4th of July?! Thank you for everything, JD!

– Jennifer, Jim, and Tim

Lincoln Select Board
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 Jennifer Glass, Chair
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