

SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 STATE OF THE TOWN MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

Morning event - details TBA

What is the Select Board?

If you are new to New England, new to Lincoln, or a newly enrolled voter, you may wonder what the Select Board is and how our work is relevant to you. Municipal governments in Massachusetts are structured differently depending on whether they are a city or town. Any municipality with fewer than 12,000 residents (Lincoln has ~7000) *must* use the "town" form of government, which means that a Select Board is elected as the Executive Branch of town government, and citizens come together at Town Meeting as the Legislative Branch. As written in Lincoln's bylaws:

"The Select Board shall have general direction and management of the property and affairs of the Town in all matters not otherwise provided by the General Laws [of Massachusetts] and these [Town of Lincoln] By-laws."

As your elected board, our goal, in the context of state law, is to listen to and understand your needs and to use the tools of policy and budget to provide Town services that support **all** who live, work, visit, and attend school in Lincoln. We encourage you to reach out to us at any time!

- Kim Bodnar, Chair, kbodnarselect@lincolntown.org
- Jennifer Glass, jglassselect@lincolntown.org
- Jim Hutchinson, jhutchinsonselect@lincolntown.org

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- PG 1 – 2024 - 2025 BOARD GOALS & PRIORITIES
- PG 2 – COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE
- PG 3 – TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE
- PG 3 – HOW TO VOLUNTEER!
- PG 4 – IDEA COMMITTEE UPDATE
- PG 5 – LINCOLN250TH CELEBRATION
- PG 6 – CLIMATE ACTION NEWS
- PG 7 – WELCOME!
- PG 7 – ELECTIONS & VOTING; TOWN WEBSITE
- PG 8 – SCRIFI

2024 - 2025: Goals & Priorities

After Town Meeting, the Select Board holds a "working session" meeting to talk about the priorities for the coming year, to plan how to share the work load, and to start thinking about the next Town Meeting. As we consider factors such as new state laws, regional issues, and the day to day needs of our residents, we use the **Town's Vision Statement** as a touchstone:

LINCOLN IS A TOWN THAT CHERISHES ITS RURAL, AGRICULTURAL CHARACTER, ITS SMALL-TOWN HERITAGE, ITS OPEN SPACE, AND ITS HISTORICAL LEGACY. THE TOWN IS COMMITTED TO:

- *ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN PRESERVING THESE VALUES WHILE MAKING REASONABLE PROVISION FOR CITIZENS' SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE;*
- *FOSTERING ECONOMIC, RACIAL/ETHNIC, AND AGE DIVERSITY AMONG ITS CITIZENRY THROUGH ITS EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING, AND OTHER PUBLIC POLICY;*
- *EXCELLENCE IN ITS PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM;*
- *THE TOWN MEETING FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE TRADITIONS OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER PUBLIC SERVICE.*

In the coming year, we are focused on several ongoing initiatives, including:

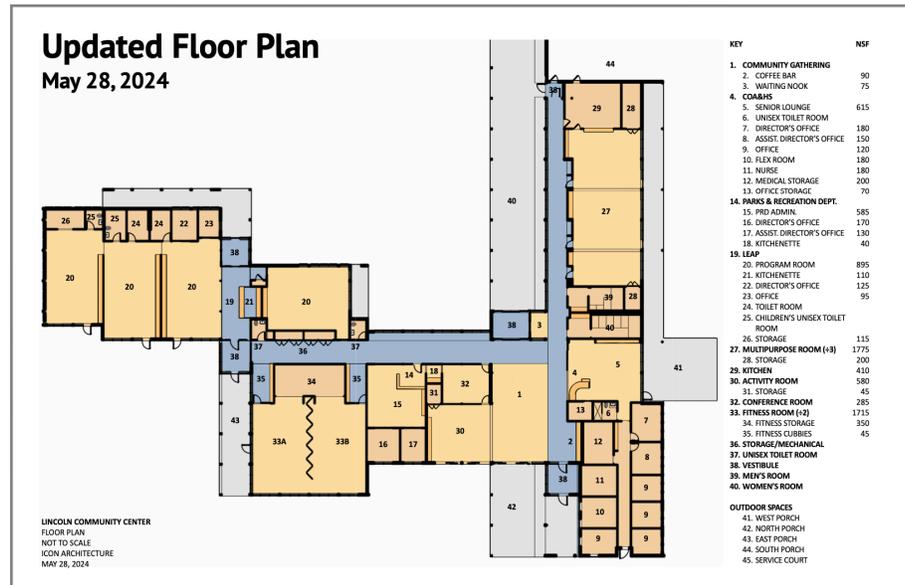
- Supporting the Community Center Building Committee to complete the design and construction of the new Community Center
- Celebrating the 250th anniversary of Lincoln's contributions to the early days of the American Revolution
- Creating more opportunities to build community and belonging, and to foster resident engagement
- Identifying and implementing next steps outlined in our Climate Action Plan and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Action Plan.



COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE (CCBC) UPDATE

The CCBC will continue to meet throughout the summer and will regularly update its website with all presentation materials and information.

After residents voted to approved the funding for the Community Center at both the March Annual Town Meeting and ballot, the committee wrapped up the Concept Development Phase by soliciting final feedback from all stakeholders. The project then moved into Schematic Design and the CCBC unanimously voted to extend the contract with ICON Architecture to take the project through construction.



In May, the CCBC worked with ICON to select the team of subcontractors needed for final design and construction document development. The committee is excited to move the project forward to its expected completion date in August 2026.

PROJECT MILESTONES:





The CCBC is currently in the process of selecting an Owner's Project Manager (OPM). The OPM is the final piece of the project team, acting on behalf of the Town to oversee planning, design, construction, commissioning, and closeout of the project. We hope to have them on board by mid-July!



There is a lot of information on the project website! Use the QR code or visit <https://lincolncommunitycenter.com/> to sign up to learn more and to sign up for project updates.

TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE

KICK-OFF COMMUNITY FORUMS!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

8:00AM VIA ZOOM

7:00PM IN THE

LINCOLN SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS!

Town Meeting is the Legislative branch of town government; the mechanism by which we come together to shape our community through our votes on town and school budgets, and our decisions about whether to create new or amend existing town bylaws. The Open Town Meeting structure (meaning that all voters registered in Lincoln are allowed to vote at Town Meeting) is unique to New England. In Massachusetts, about 260 of the Commonwealth's 351 municipalities operate with this model of governance.

The Town Moderator and the Select Board are excited to begin conversations with residents about possible ways we might continue to evolve our Open Town Meeting democratic tradition. To ground the discussion, we will provide documentation about the state laws that govern Town Meeting and about current practices in Lincoln. We expect the discussions to then move on to resident ideas and suggestions about the committee processes

and work leading up to Town Meeting, and how Town Meeting itself operates. Based on the interest already demonstrated by residents, and following what a number of other towns around Massachusetts have done in recent years, we propose forming a Study Committee to look into these suggestions and advise the Town.

To formally kick this process off, we will hold two public forums (one virtual and one in person) on Monday, September 16, 2024. Based on input gathered at the forums, the Select Board and Town Moderator will draft the Study Committee's charge and appoint members who represent the full range of opinions held by residents. We expect the Study Committee to elect its own Chair, operate independently of the Select Board to

SELECT BOARD COFFEES & CONVERSATION

THESE ARE ALL HYBRID EVENTS

10:30 - 11:30 AM

HELD AT BEMIS HALL AND VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID# 976 9052 2488; PASSCODE 998413

- TUESDAY, JUNE 25 – KIM
- TUESDAY, JULY 23 – JIM
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 – KIM
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – JENNIFER

evaluate, select, and refine the ideas, and to report its recommendations back to the Town.

Already interested?! You don't need to wait until the fall to participate! We need you, the residents who have ideas, to help flesh them out: How would your idea work? What have other towns done? What fits within current Town and State laws and what would require state action to implement the idea? As a starting point, we have gathered relevant background materials about our current Town Meeting and links to studies done by other towns on the Town website here, <https://www.lincolntown.org/1509/Town-Meeting-Study-Committee>, and we welcome documents or pointers to other background materials that residents think might be relevant and helpful to the Study Committee. We look forward to healthy, vibrant, and hopefully well-informed discussions!



Annual Town Meeting 2024

P.S. If you want to explore forms of government in other cities and towns, check out this interactive map on the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) website:

<https://www.mma.org/local-government-101/>



In addition to our Town staff, there are about 200 volunteers who participate in town government by serving on a board or committee. Some positions are elected, but most are appointed. Committees are involved in topics such as town finances, diversity and equity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, affordable housing, land conservation, agriculture, traffic and transportation, human services, and library

services. If you are interested in becoming involved, visit the updated volunteer page on the town website: <https://www.lincolntown.org/542/Volunteers-Needed>. The page includes links to the volunteer form and to the Annual Town Report which lists boards and committees and describes their work.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & ANTI-RACISM (IDEA) UPDATE

After last year's work with our consultant, including surveys of and focus groups with residents and employees, the IDEA Committee is focusing on how to take what was learned and fold it into town government. One goal is to revive the tradition of holding events that highlight volunteer opportunities in the town and that welcome and connect new residents to the town. IDEA also plans to continue outreach to town boards and committees to think about ways to embed equity work into board recruitment, onboarding, and the work they do.

In addition to the work of the IDEA Committee, the Staff Diversity & Inclusion Committee (SDIC) has been actively working on: Employee supports and appreciation (see page 8); recruitment, hiring, and retention practices; purchasing practices, and; improving the website.



On May 29th, many of our town staff and volunteers took part in the **Pride Month kickoff** event that was organized by Lincoln Public Schools students and families, and supported by numerous town organizations. The LPS Step Team performed, there was live music, an ice cream truck, and a variety of fun activities. The SDIC hosted a table that handed out temporary tattoos and popsicles, and Jennifer and Kim read the Select Board's 2024 Pride Proclamation: <https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/85934/2024-Pride-Proclamation-Signed?bidId=>

[View/85934/2024-Pride-Proclamation-Signed?bidId=](https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/85934/2024-Pride-Proclamation-Signed?bidId=)

The Select Board also contributed a square to the quilt on display in the Lincoln Dog Trainers' window.



Juneteenth Proclamation – Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865 when word of both the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (signed by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863) and the end of the Civil War finally reached Galveston, Texas. *To mark the occasion in Lincoln, we are once again collaborating with local churches to have about a minute of bell-ringing at 4:00pm on June 19th.* To read the Select Board's Juneteenth Proclamation, visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/85933/2024-Juneteenth-Proclamation-Signed?bidId=>

LINCOLN 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD"



In April 2025, Lincoln, the neighboring Battle Road Communities, and the Minuteman National Historical Park will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, marking the start of the American Revolution in 1775. In early June, the Lincoln250 Committee hosted a Historical Home Reception in collaboration with the Lincoln Historical Society and the Historical Commission. It was an honor to welcome approximately 30 homeowners of Lincoln's private historical properties (homes built in 1776 or earlier) and representatives of public Lincoln

properties owned by Minuteman National Historical Park, Farrington NatureLinc, and Historic New England (Codman Estate). We celebrated their collective stewardship, and are eager to explore opportunities to share the history of these homes with Lincoln residents in celebration of the 250th anniversary.

For more information on upcoming activities or events, visit www.lincolntown.org or scan the QR code. To support our fundraising efforts, Lincoln250 has an e-store featuring t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other officially branded items, available on our town website! Direct link to the shop: https://stores.inksoft.com/lincoln_250/shop/home; QR code will bring you to the Lincoln250 web page and the link to the store is on the left sidebar.





If you would like a Lincoln250 4" x 6" bumper sticker for \$5, please contact Peggy Elder at elderp@lincolntown.org. Show your Lincoln250 pride today! For questions, email Kim Bodnar at bodnark@lincolntown.org.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

There are multiple town projects going on that tie into Lincoln’s Climate Action Plan! In addition to the new pollinator garden behind Town Offices, (see below) there are a number of initiatives that are underway!

<p>Solar @ Lincoln Transfer Station HESP, the project developer, will join the Planning Board on July 23rd to review the proposed solar design, including the interconnection plan at Mill Street. A project update will be mailed to the neighborhood in advance of the meeting. The current schedule anticipates that all necessary permits and approvals will be in place this summer, so that construction can begin this fall. The developer expects to have the system on-line by June of 2025.</p>	<p>Chargers @ Town Offices The town got a \$300K grant from Eversource to install two Level 3 chargers (each with two ports) behind Town Offices. We have just received notice that construction will begin in June!</p>
<p>Lincoln’s Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) 2.0 The Planning Department is working on updating the Town’s MVP Plan (“MVP 2.0”). This, along with Lincoln’s vote to approve Housing Choice zoning, will keep the town eligible for climate resiliency project grants. A \$100K MVP grant paid for the development of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee is working on a multi-year implementation plan that will prioritize safety improvements to our roads and pathways. Learn more about the plan here: http://lincolntown.org/1083/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee</p>
<p>Lincoln Green Energy Choice Opting up to the 100% Green plan through Lincoln Green Energy Choice (the Town’s electricity aggregation program) is one way to support the development of solar and wind electric generation. Check your electric bill to see if “Lincoln Green Energy Choice” is your electric supplier. There are no penalties for opting into or out of the program; learn more at https://www.masspowerchoice.com/lincoln</p>	<p>Green Energy Coaches Program The Town is in the process of developing a program to help residents navigate issues such as converting from oil/gas heat to ground- or air-sourced heat pumps, solar installation, and energy efficiency improvements. Stay tuned for more information as the program develops!</p>

Pollinator Garden @ Town Offices

Welcome to the Conservation Department’s seasonal assistants, Joseph Pariser and Robert Killam! They will be working with Lincoln’s land management team over the summer months to take care of our trails, fields, and other outdoor duties. Joseph and Robert have already been hard at work helping to plant a pollinator garden next to the Town Hall patio. On June 6th, the Stacy Carter, Conservation Planner, described the design and planting process during a



Conservation Coffee. Hopefully, the garden will provide food and shelter for pollinators and a beautiful backdrop for patio users. If you get a moment, stop by Town Offices to check it out, and say hi to Joseph and Robert when you see them around town!



Welcome!

Welcome to **Matthew Lincoln**, who was recently hired as our Town Archivist. He is also the archivist for the Worcester Historical Museum, so Matthew will split his time between Lincoln and Worcester. He will be on hand at Town Offices on Mondays and at the Lincoln Library on Tuesdays. Visit the Library's page for more information <https://lincolnpl.org/>

We are also pleased to welcome **Stacey Carroll** as Lincoln's new Assistant Town Clerk!

Fall Election Dates

STATE PRIMARY: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 (THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY!!!)

STATE/PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

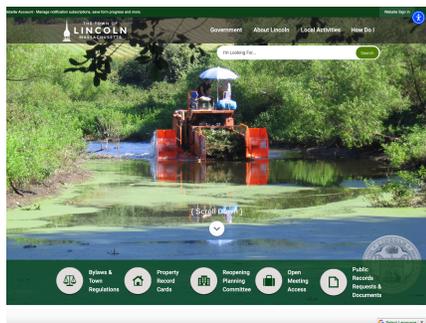


Not sure if you're registered to vote? First time voter? Want to get a mail-in ballot? Visit the Town Clerk's voter registration information web page:

➔ <https://www.lincolntown.org/1376/Voter-Registration-Information>.

➔ Additional information is here: <https://www.lincolntown.org/162/Town-Clerk>.

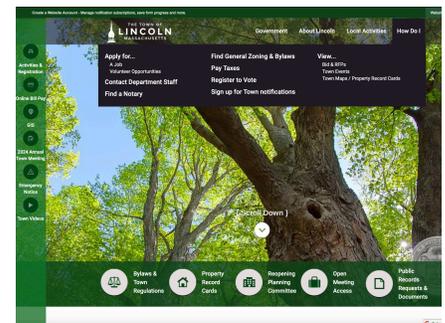
Navigating the Town Website



Town Website Homepage
www.lincolntown.org



Hover your cursor over "Government" to see a list of town boards, committees, and departments.



Hover your cursor over "How do I" to sign up for notices, get voting information, pay bills, volunteer, apply for a job, contact town staff, and more!

"SCRUFI" at Work

SCRUFI, the Town Staff's Culture, Recognition, Unity, and Fun Initiative, is made up of members of the staff diversity committee. Among other things, the group tries to come up with creative ideas to give back to the greater community.

This year the group initiated a grocery store gift card drive to benefit the Lincoln Food Pantry. The timing was specifically targeted to collecting cards before the summer months when food insecurity increases, especially for families who rely on school-based breakfast and lunch programs (now free to all in Massachusetts). Learn more about the food pantry, which is run by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Lincoln & Weston at: <https://www.svdplincolnweston.org/>

Over \$1000 worth of gift cards were donated!!! Thank you to all who planned and contributed to this effort, and be on the lookout for future activities!

Lincoln Select Board
Kim Bodnar, Chair
Jennifer Glass
Jim Hutchinson
16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773

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Standard
US POSTAGE PAID
Lincoln, MA

ECR-WSS
Postal Patron
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