

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES – Final
Public Health Emergency Response Update Virtual Meeting
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order
Suspending Certain Provisions of
Open Meeting Law.
Zoom Meeting ID# 918 3237 5325
Monday May 10, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

PARTICIPANTS: James Craig, Selectmen Chair
(Virtually) Jennifer Glass, Selectman
Jonathan Dwyer, Selectman
Tim Higgins – Town Administrator
Peggy Elder – Administrative Assistant

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

- Mr. Craig opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and noted that this meeting is being held remotely in a way that is consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020 in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 virus. The order suspends the requirement to hold meetings in a publicly accessible physical location and it allows bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as there is reasonable public access. Mr. Craig noted that this evening a public comment portion has been built into the meeting that will take place after they have gone through the discussion items on the agenda. He respectfully asked that the public participants keep their video and microphones off until that time. Mr. Craig reported that in addition to Zoom, this meeting is being broadcast on Comcast channel 8, Verizon channel 33, and is available through the Town website at www.lincolntown.org. He noted that this meeting is being recorded and that attendees are participating via video conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- None

APPOINTMENTS:

- Kord Jablonski, Business Director at deCordova – Mr. Jablonski presented a plan for better organizing the landscaping, walking paths and upper parking lot, and to improve the visual appeal and visitor experience with a focus on the pond side of the property. deCordova is required to get Board of Selectmen's approval to proceed with such property improvements under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was negotiated as part of the integration with The Trustees of Reservations. Mr. Jablonski noted that the since the park has reopened, admissions have essentially doubled, which is remarkable. He added that the most dramatic increase in visitors was among children. With so many families visiting the park now it has led them to consider making changes to the area adjacent to the pond which is currently being used as staff parking which is not the best use for it. He also noted that the repair and

extension of the conservation fence was part of the project. If approved, deCordova would then follow-up and submit whatever formal applications are required by Conservation, Water and Planning. Ms. Glass made a motion to endorse deCordova's concept plan subject to review by the relevant town boards and to any conditions and restrictions they may impose. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

- IDEA Candidates - Mr. Craig thanked everyone who raised their hand to volunteer for this committee, adding that he was very excited to get things started. Each of the six candidates introduced themselves and spoke briefly, sharing their reasons for volunteering and what they were hoping to accomplish with the committee. The Board thanked everyone for volunteering. Ms. Glass made a motion to appoint Gray Birchby, Russell Kramp, Margaret McLaughlin, Jennifer James, Abbey Salon, Deb Wallace, and Margit Griffith. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.
- Citizen Petitioner – Community Center Update - Bob Domnitz joined the meeting and stated that he was representing a group of residents that is looking for an update on the Community Center Project. Mr. Dwyer noted that anyone interested in where things left off can review the committee's report on the website. He reported that the 2018 Community Center Preliminary Planning & Design Committee (CCPPDC) continued with the work of the previous committees: 2016 Campus Master Planning Committee (CMPC); 2015 Community Center Study Committee (CCSC); and the 2012 Community Center Feasibility Committee (CCFC). Various surveys showed a strong support for this project with preference for a Ballfield Road Campus location. Mr. Dwyer reported that they left off with two viable designs which would meet the Town's needs. They are: 1. Secondary Central Green with a cost of 16.2 million (in 2018 dollars) and 2. Infill of pods with a cost of \$15.3 million (in 2018 dollars). Their recommended timeline gave the school the priority but looked to have a Community Center Building Committee 1) formed by November of 2020; 2) ready to present a plan and specific site and budget request for March 2021 Town Meeting; and 3) after the school building is complete, begin building in 2023. Mr. Dwyer noted that the school project is coming along really well and is both on budget and on time. He added that the Middle School is scheduled for opening in Fall 2021 and that the Primary School is scheduled for opening Fall 2022. The Finance Committee reports that the Town has the capability to take on debt up to \$27 million for any and all projects the Town is contemplating. The Board of Selectmen sees that a discussion as on how to proceed would be a good topic for the State of the Town Meeting in the Fall of 2021.
- Citizen Petitioner – Climate Action - Paul Shorb joined the meeting. He is the lead petitioner for the Climate Action petition under Article #36. The petition is in the form of a resolution which requires a simple majority vote. This petition is comprised of four sections: 1) Paris Climate Accords; 2) Urging state legislature to enact legislation to advance environmental justice, accelerate the growth of clean energy technologies, and carbon pricing to speed transition away from carbon-based fuels; 3) Convey these votes to federal and state representatives; 4) Direct Town agencies and officials to collaborate and implement measures to reduce carbon footprint in Lincoln, subject to necessary town meeting approvals. Mr. Shorb reported that Lincoln Green Energy and the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust both endorsed this Article, but they are not the sponsors of it. Mr. Dwyer made a motion to abstain from taking a position on this Article. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Nay.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- COVID Vaccination Planning – Mr. Higgins reported that Lincoln's data/trends are positive. The current total of cases stands at 194 which is only 2 additional cases since the last reporting period and there are currently 3 active cases. He added that there has been no response yet from Massachusetts Department of Public Health to the regional clinic proposal that the Town submitted. He also shared the great news on the regional public health grant - \$300,000 was awarded to six-town collaborative.
- Annual Town Meeting – Mr. Higgins reported that The Town Meeting page is now well-populated with taped presentations, slides, town meeting documents, and supporting materials. Special thanks to Jennifer who organized and coordinated our Town Meeting overview done in partnership with the Town Moderator.
- Swap Shed – Mr. Higgins reported that because of collaboration between Mothers Out Front and the DPW, the Swap Shed will be reopened.
- Collective Bargaining – Mr. Higgins reported that the contracts for all three of our unions expire in June. He noted that the process is underway with DPW, Police and Fire.
- Pierce House – Mr. Higgins reported that the work continues with the sound testing at the property and updated sound measurements will be taken to determine whether additional mitigation is required. Mr. Higgins noted that staff is working with the Pierce House Committee to confirm current financial/budgetary conditions and put necessary protocols in place to resume weddings.
- American Rescue Plan Act – Mr. Higgins reported that there has been some initial planning around anticipated receipt of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. He noted that as of today Lincoln will be receiving two million dollars. Guidelines for spending are not due for another month.
- Congratulations to Michele Grzenda – Mr. Higgins reported that Ms. Grzenda has been awarded the "Outstanding Public Service Award" by the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions.
- Memorial Day Planning – Mr. Higgins reported that the plans for Memorial Day are taking shape. This year there will be a two-part celebration. One part will be the Town's standard Memorial Day celebration. The second part will be a Massachusetts Medal of Freedom ceremony which is being organized by the Town's Veteran's Agent. He has identified sixteen deceased Lincoln and Sudbury residents now deceased who are eligible to receive the medal posthumously and to have it presented to their families. The Veteran's Officer and the Council on Aging have been working together to contact all the families and most of them will be in attendance on Memorial Day to receive the medal. Mr. Higgins added that the Congresswoman Katherine Clark has been invited as well as State Sen. Mike Barrett and State Rep. Tom Stanley. He noted that the Board members are all invited as well and one will participate in the opening remarks.

DISCUSSION:

- Liaison Reports

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) – Mr. Dwyer reported that members of the committee went to Farrar Road to take a baseline count of the type of traffic they are seeing there. They visited on Tuesday and Saturday of last week. On Tuesday there was more traffic in the evening while on Saturday it was spread throughout the day. He added that when they add advisory shoulders/edge lanes to that road, they will be able to see the impact on pedestrians and cyclists.

Roadway Traffic Committee (RTC) – Mr. Dwyer reported on the Complete Streets project of a roadside path from the commuter lot up to Codman Road. He added that they had gone out to bid last month and that they received a bid, but it was not from a qualified contractor. The job needed to go out for bid again. He noted that Paula Vaughn, Director of Planning and Land Use, contacted the State, explained the situation, and the Town was granted an extension to the end of the year.

Conservation Coffee – Ms. Glass reported that she attended Conservation Director Michelle Grzenda's first virtual Conservation Coffee that was done in conjunction with Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) and she introduced herself and the new roles of her staff and the projects that they will be working on.

Water Commission – Ms. Glass reported that tomorrow night the Water Commission will be giving its pre-Town Meeting presentation at 6:30PM.

Finance Committee – Ms. Glass reported that the Finance Committee will be holding their FY22 Budget Q&A at 7:30PM.

School Building Committee – Ms. Glass reported that on Wednesday the School Building Committee will be hosting a public forum at 6:30PM to give an update on the project. This will be followed by the SBC's regular meeting at 7:00PM.

South Lincoln Planning Advisory Committee (SLPAC) – Mr. Craig reported that they had to postpone the planned SLPAC meeting. This will be rescheduled soon.

Affordable Housing Trust – Mr. Craig reported that there was a meeting of the Affordable Housing Trust. The Trust was asked to vote as to whether they would provide financial support to the Affordable Accessory Apartment Grant Program. He noted that the Affordable Accessory Apartment program has been approved by the State legislature and that they had also had a discussion with the Housing Commission a couple years ago regarding their financial support. The Grant Program provides homeowners with a loan up to \$25,000 to create an affordable accessory apartment. If they keep the apartment affordable for ten years, the loan is forgiven. The Housing Trust authorized up to \$75,000 for the program and the funds will be available up until June 30, 2023. At that point, the program will be revisited and a decision made as to whether to extend the program or have the remaining funds go back to being uncommitted.

OPEN FORUM:

- None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Pierce House Committee Member Appointment - Ms. Glass made a motion to appoint Gus Browne to the Pierce House Committee. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ms. Glass thanked Rep. Tom Stanley for his continued efforts to secure funding for the children of retirees on Hanscom Air Force Base. She noted that it's been a multi-year process and over several years he has gotten this funding secured in the State budget.

WARRANTS:

- None

MINUTES:

- March 8, 2021 – Mr. Dwyer made a motion to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes as amended. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.
- March 22, 2021 – Ms. Glass made a motion to approve the March 22, 2021 minutes. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.
- April 15, 2021 - Mr. Dwyer made a motion to approve the April 15, 2021 minutes. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

Ms. Glass made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Craig: Aye; Dwyer: Aye; Glass: Aye.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:54 P.M.

Submitted by Peggy Elder
Approved 09/13/21