

BOS NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Board of Selectmen

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, March 23rd 9:30am, Donaldson (Brooks) Auditorium, Lincoln School

Welcome to BOS News: Annual Town Meeting edition!

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Marijuana Activities

Can we top this?...About 1000 people attended the December 1st

Special Town Meeting. We look forward to seeing you all again!

On the Agenda...

The business of Town Meeting falls into several general categories: operating budgets, capital expenditures, Community Preservation Act projects, by-law changes, and citizens' petitions. Together we will vote on:

- Town, Schools, & Library budgets
- Capital projects
- The proposed partnership between the deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum, and the Trustees of Reservations.
- Adding 2 additional Modern houses to the Brown's Wood Historic District
- An amendment of the Demolition Delay by-law
- Amendments to the Solar Energy Systems General Standards by-law
- Establishment of a Parking Benefits District at Lincoln Station
- A vote on whether the Town should pursue a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes
- A resolution in support of changing the state flag and seal of Massachusetts

An Invitation to Town Meeting

On Saturday, March 23, 2019 we will gather once again as a community for our Annual Town Meeting. *All residents are welcome!* There is some confusion, I have learned, about who is eligible to vote at Town Meeting. Anyone registered to vote in Lincoln can vote at Town Meeting! If you vote in Lincoln for state or national elections, you can vote at Town Meeting and in town elections. (NOTE: You must be present to vote at Town Meeting; absentee voting is allowed for the town election on Monday, March 25th).

As your Town Moderator I encourage you to mark your calendars for some lively debate on interesting issues. In the interest of some efficiency, the Selectmen do put several of the warrant articles onto a so-called "consent calendar." These usually routine issues will be voted on as a block, unless a voter asks for one of the articles to be held out for further discussion. This process leaves time for the more complex and non-routine matters. Sometime in mid-March you will receive the Warrant booklet that includes the Finance Report, the FY20 budget, and all the warrant articles on which we will be voting. As background to the proceedings, it is important to become familiar with this document.

For those not familiar with New England's Town Meeting tradition, I urge you to join others in the most direct democracy that this nation knows. We make decisions at the local level about education, public policy, land development, zoning, and how we will spend our local tax dollars. Each of us has the right to express an opinion publicly and to rally support for a position. This right, embedded in our Constitution and town charters, anticipates and depends upon robust participation from citizens.

As I have said before, I urge you to understand democracy as a verb! It requires action from each of us if we are to continue to be a healthy and vibrant community. Let us come together to exercise our rights and assume our responsibilities with an appreciation for the community in which we live. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 23rd at 9:30am in the Donaldson Auditorium in the Lincoln School. Check in will begin at 8:30 AM. Come early and avoid the line.

– Sarah Cannon Holden, Town Moderator

Partnership: deCordova & The Trustees of Reservations

Since April of last year, the deCordova Working Group (appointed by the BOS) has been working with deCordova leadership and The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Operating Agreement that will allow the deCordova to become integrated with TTOR. This partnership is considered mutually beneficial to both organizations. In order for those agreements to take effect, Town Meeting must approve changes to the bylaw that governs the structure of the deCordova Board. Some essential components of the MOU and Operating Agreement include:

- The Town will continue to own the property, and continues its legal rights as trustee of Julian deCordova's will.
- Lincoln residents will continue to have free access to the grounds and museum.

- Continued access to all walking trails.
- The Town will continue to have use of the parking lot for July 4th festivities.
- TTOR will provide \$10,000 for wayfinding signs on paths that connect the deCordova to Lincoln Station.
- deCordova/TTOR will comply with conservation rules needed to protect the Town's drinking water.
- Outdoor events must comply with Massachusetts noise laws.

To learn more about the integration of the deCordova with TTOR, residents are invited to a community forum on Wednesday March 13th, 7:00pm, Donaldson Room, Town Offices



Regulation of Leaf Blowers



At the Annual Town Meeting, residents will consider the adoption of a by-law to regulate the use of leaf blowers. The Leaf Blower By-law proposes modest restrictions on the use of leaf blowers in Lincoln. The proposed By-law follows on efforts by the Leaf Blower Study Committee, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, that have already resulted in the town and the Rural Land Foundation (owner of the Mall) limiting their use of leaf blowers. **Under the By-law, leaf blowers may be used during spring and fall clean-up periods (April 15th – May 31st and October 1st – December 15th), subject only to time of day limitations (7:00am – 6:00pm, Mondays - Fridays ; 9:00am – 5:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays). Only residents may use leaf blowers on their properties on Sundays. From June 1st – September 30th, when leaf litter is minimal, only one electric or battery powered leaf-blower may be used per property. From December 16th – April 14th, leaf blowers may not be used.** A copy of the actual By-law, as well as other information on the adverse health effects (e.g., noise, fumes and particulates) of leaf blowers is available at www.lincolnleaves.org. You can also find more information on the committee's page at www.facebook.com/LincolnLBSC.

– Leaf Blower Committee

Cast Your Vote! Town Elections are on Monday, March 25th

- ✓ Vote for candidates for Lincoln boards & committees
- ✓ Ballot vote on the Ban on Commercial Recreational Marijuana Activities (sales, commercial agriculture, refinement, testing)

Historic District By-law Amendment:

Last March, Town Meeting approved the establishment of the Brown's Wood Historic District. Since then, several more homeowners have asked to make their homes part of the district. Once again, the Historic District Commission and Friends of Modern Architecture (FoMA) are working with the property owners and are coming before the town to seek permission to add these additional properties to the Brown's Wood Historic District.

Demolition Delay By law Amendment:

The Lincoln Historical Commission is proposing an amendment to clarify that the definition of "demolition" includes encasing a substantial portion of a building within another structure, and to ensure that routine maintenance (e.g., replacement of roof shingles or siding) is not considered demolition.

Planning Board By-law Proposals:

- 1) **Solar Energy Systems General Standard By-law** amendments: The By-law needs to be amended to recognize the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) structure used to fund residential, municipal, and commercial projects. Additional amendments clarify guidelines for rooftop and ground mounted solar panels.
- 2) **Creation of a Parking Benefits District at Lincoln Station:** The proposal would define a Parking Benefits District and establish a fund to allow some of the proceeds from commuter parking to be used to improve safety and amenities in the Benefits District.
- 3) **Non-conforming Lots** amendment. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that lots that are currently considered "non-conforming" do not lose that status if there is an action by the state or the town that alters the lot.

Sense of the Town Vote on Whether to Ban Sales of E Cigarettes

This year the 8th-grade Warrant Article group is proposing a ban of e-cigarettes in Lincoln. We had hoped to ban all cigarettes but after speaking with Donelan's and hearing back from our LincolnTalk survey, we realized that we did not have the needed support. In Lincoln, there are currently no stores that sell e-cigarettes, but in the future, if a store wants to start selling e-cigarettes we hope they will not have that option. There are many reports that say that high school students are using e-cigarettes. We are asking for your support at Town Meeting on March 23rd where we will be presenting our Citizens' Petition.

– David Christenfeld
8th Grade Warrant Article Group

Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts

A group of citizens is asking the Town to encourage state officials to support HD2968 and SD1495, which would establish a commission to examine, and propose changes to, the Massachusetts flag and seal. With the upcoming 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, the group believes the symbols on the state flag and the state seal reflect a culture of oppression towards Native Americans. For more information, visit <https://changethemassflag.com>.

Lincoln School Project Update...

After the vote in December, the Lincoln School project entered the Design Development (DD) phase of the project. DD lasts about 4 months, during which work is progressing rapidly on many fronts: Refinement of the exterior and interior design; decisions about mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems; refinement of the site plan; permitting processes with the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, and Planning Board; and negotiation of a Power Purchase Agreement for photovoltaic arrays. There will be another round of cost estimates at the end of this phase (mid April).



Tax Impact Update

On February 15th, the Town's "AAA Stable" bond rating was reconfirmed by Standard & Poors. This was excellent news for Lincoln, and reflects the decades of hard work and sound financial policy practiced by our professional and volunteer financial team. With the best possible rating in hand, an initial \$80M bond was put out to bid and eight offers were received. Citibank Global Markets offered the lowest interest rate, an average of 3.38% over the 30 year life of the bond, which is significantly lower than the percentage rates used in the tax impact models shown at the December 1st Town Meeting. On the following pages, there is: 1) a chart that shows the projected tax impact for FY20. It takes into account the proposed FY20 Budget (on which we will vote at the March Town Meeting), and; 2) a graph that compares the impact of the school building project bonding for the current scenario (\$80M just borrowed @ 3.38% + an expected \$8.5M bond @ 4% in 2021) to two prior estimates on a calendar year basis, and for the current scenario only, includes the impact from the proposed FY20 budget..

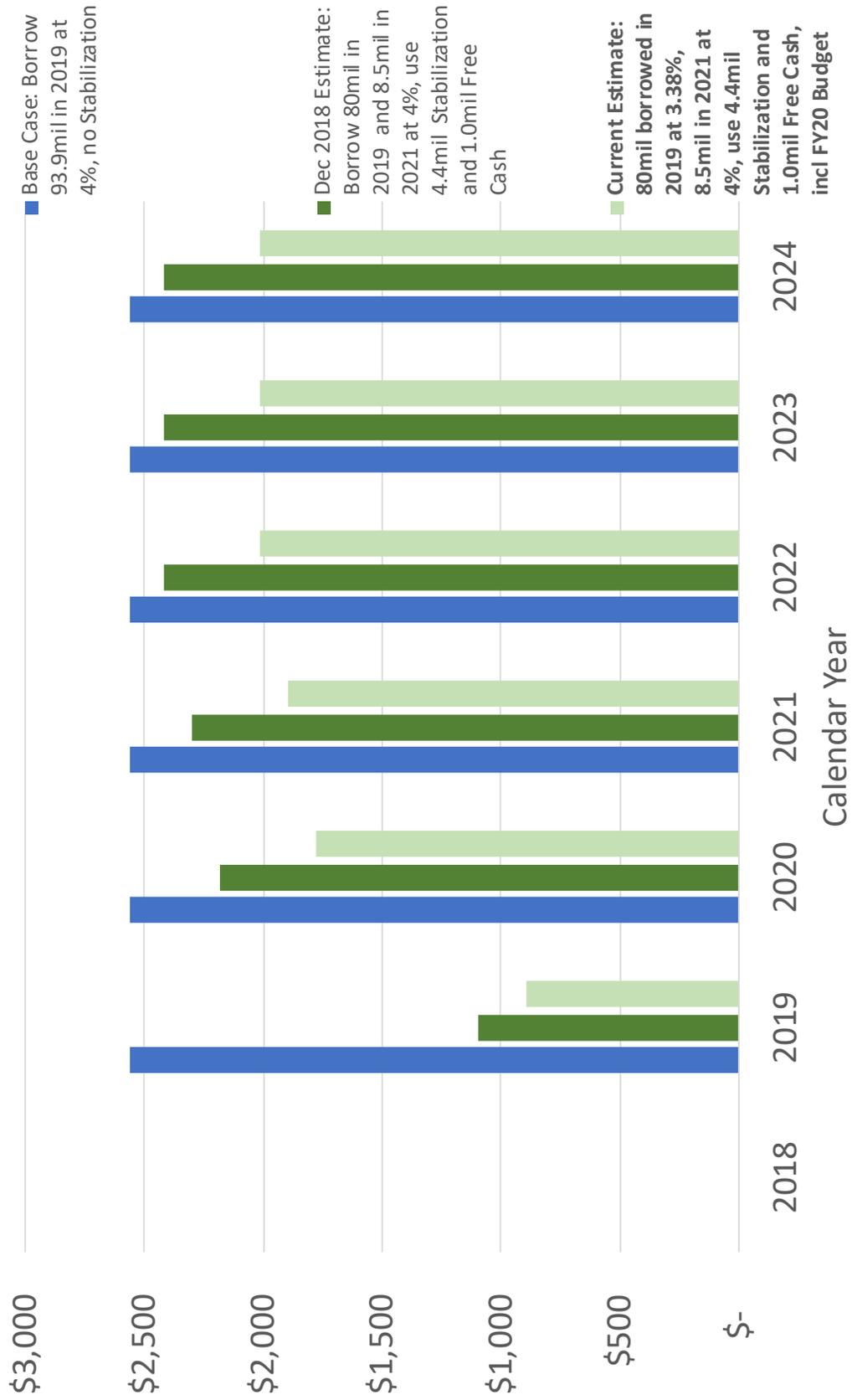
Annual Residential Tax Bill Increase for School Building Project

Using FY2019 Valuations and Including Stabilization and Free Cash

	Borrowing Amount	Interest Rate	Property Value					Percentage Increase	
			\$500,000	\$750,000	\$998,400	\$1,250,000	\$1,500,000		\$2,000,000
Scenarios presented at Dec 1, 2018 Special Town Meeting									
	\$ 88,500,000	4%	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,814	\$ 2,415	\$ 3,024	\$ 3,629	\$ 4,838	17.2%
		5%	\$ 1,361	\$ 2,041	\$ 2,717	\$ 3,402	\$ 4,082	\$ 5,442	19.4%
School Bond Issuance on Feb 20, 2019	\$ 80,000,000	3.38%	\$ 1,015	\$ 1,522	\$ 2,026	\$ 2,537	\$ 3,044	\$ 4,058	14.5%
FY20 Proposed Budget excl Bonding			\$ (123)	\$ (184)	\$ (245)	\$ (307)	\$ (368)	\$ (491)	-1.7%
Total Estimated FY20 Tax Bill Increase			\$ 892	\$ 1,338	\$ 1,781	\$ 2,230	\$ 2,676	\$ 3,568	12.7%
2nd School Bond Issuance, maximum amount, target 2021	\$ 8,500,000	4%	\$ 116	\$ 174	\$ 232	\$ 290	\$ 349	\$ 465	1.7%
		5%	\$ 131	\$ 196	\$ 261	\$ 327	\$ 392	\$ 523	1.9%
Ultimate Total Tax Bill Increase		4%	\$ 1,008	\$ 1,512	\$ 2,013	\$ 2,520	\$ 3,024	\$ 4,032	14.4%
		5%	\$ 1,023	\$ 1,534	\$ 2,042	\$ 2,557	\$ 3,068	\$ 4,090	14.6%

Median Taxpayer: 2019 Tax Bill of \$14,008

\$ Impact of School Project Debt on Median Tax Bill



Lincoln Board of Selectmen
 Jonathan Dwyer, Chair
 James Craig
 Jennifer Glass
 16 Lincoln Road
 Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773

Pre-Sorted Standard
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Lincoln, MA
 Permit #11

ECR-WSS
 Postal Patron
 Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773

TOWN BUDGET FY20	FY19 Budget	FY20 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Government	\$2,614,951	\$2,681,859	\$66,908	2.6%
Public Safety	\$4,020,614	\$4,119,983	\$99,369	2.5%
Public Works	\$1,791,117	\$1,817,968	\$26,851	1.5%
Human Services	\$257,515	\$283,650	\$26,135	10.1%
Culture & Recreation	\$681,738	\$695,166	\$13,428	2.0%
TOTAL	\$9,365,935	\$9,598,626	\$232,691	2.5%