

# SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

## Public Health Update

In response to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Lincoln and throughout Middlesex County, including break-through cases among those who have been fully vaccinated, the Lincoln Board of Health voted in August, in accordance with its authority under M.G.L. chapter 111, sections 31 and 104, to adopt an indoor mask mandate in the Town of Lincoln.



Effective as of August 20, 2021, face coverings are required for all individuals aged two years and above in all indoor public spaces, or private spaces open to the public except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability.

A complete list of organizations and establishments that are subject to the mandate is available on the Town’s website at [www.lincolntown.org](http://www.lincolntown.org).

This mandate will be in effect whenever the Level of Community Transmission data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Middlesex County is categorized as either “Substantial” or “High” over a consecutive two-week period.

With regard to the Lincoln Schools, the Board of Health voted to implement a mandatory indoor face mask order that went into effect with the resumption of school this fall. The details of the School Department’s masking plan are outlined by the School Superintendent. Visit [www.linchnet.org](http://www.linchnet.org) to learn more.

We are grateful for the comparably high vaccination rate and strong adherence to public health best practices among our residents.

## FY 2022 Select Board Priorities

It is no accident that the first item in the newsletter is about public health. The safety and health of our residents, workers, and visitors is always the first priority of the Select Board, and the continued COVID pandemic keeps this responsibility in the foreground of all we do. There are many ways, though, to think about the wellbeing of our community, and the FY 2022 budget and the Board’s priorities address much more than COVID. The topics in this newsletter highlight some of our focus areas for the coming year and set the stage for FY 2023 budget planning.

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Questions? Ideas? Please contact us at [selectboard@lincolntown.org](mailto:selectboard@lincolntown.org)



## IDEA Initiative: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism

Sparked by community actions in the wake of George Floyd's murder, the Select Board held a series of public forums in the Fall of 2020 to start conversations about: 1) local policing, and; 2) the roles of town government and community groups in advancing anti-racist, equitable policies and in fostering a diverse, inclusive community. As a result, the IDEA Initiative was established by the Select Board in May 2021.

*Using the Lincoln vision statement as a touchstone, the IDEA Initiative's core mission is to prioritize the many issues and questions that have been raised by the community, to develop a roadmap for gathering information, to recommend actions, and to identify the resources needed to do this work.*

As part of the process, IDEA knows it is necessary to:

- Understand the historical context and current status of Lincoln's attitudes and policy decisions.
- Ask ourselves, "What problem(s) are we trying to solve?"
- Consider how we define and measure our growth as an anti-racist, diverse, inclusive and equitable place to live, learn, work, and visit.

IDEA looks forward to sharing its work and gathering feedback from the community during the November State of the Town meeting. Please visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/1221/IDEA> to learn more.

### **Town of Lincoln Vision Statement**

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.*



### MAKING IT OFFICIAL!

At Annual Town Meeting last May, the (then) Board of Selectmen and a group of citizens co-sponsored a warrant article to change the name of the board to the Select Board, and to make sure gender-neutral language is used throughout the Town's documents and policies.

Recently, the signage in Town Offices was replaced to reflect the new name. Also, the email address for the Board is now [selectboard@lincolntown.org](mailto:selectboard@lincolntown.org)!

## South Lincoln Planning Update

Starting last spring, the South Lincoln Planning & Advisory Committee (SLPAC) engaged in both outreach and technical work to inform the town's discussion about how best to plan for the future of the area around Lincoln Station.

- **Septic System Analysis:** The engineering firm Wright Pierce is conducting an extensive analysis of the system which services Lincoln Woods and the Lincoln Station area. An initial report to SLPAC and the Planning Board is scheduled for early October, and the study is targeted for completion by the end of this year. Visit <http://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65733/LincolnWoods-Kickoff-20210713-v2--presentation> to learn about the specifications.
- **Village Center Survey:** Results from the survey conducted this past spring and summer can be found here: [www.lincolntown.org/1274/Village-Center-Survey](http://www.lincolntown.org/1274/Village-Center-Survey)
- **SAVE THE DATE:** *The Planning Board will hold a discussion of the Survey Results on September 28, 2021, at 7:00pm.* The agenda and zoom information will be available on the Town Calendar two days prior to the meeting ([www.lincolntown.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.lincolntown.org/calendar.aspx))

## American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Funding

The Town anticipates receiving \$2 million under ARPA, which was signed into law by President Biden on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The funds directed to municipalities are intended to help us respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts on the community. The Act identifies five major permissible use categories and places strong emphasis on equity-focused support and services. Those categories are:

1. Reimbursement to the Town for COVID-related expenses
2. Reimbursement to the Town for COVID-related lost revenue
3. Economic stabilization to vulnerable populations
4. Premium pay for front-line workers
5. Narrowly defined infrastructure projects, primarily water and sewer.

On the recommendation of the Town Administrator, the Select Board confirmed a process for developing the Town's ARPA spending plan. The process will provide the opportunity for

input from town boards and staff, and from the public. Early brainstorming among town and school staff has begun. The Select Board will be appointing an ARPA working group in September to further develop the initial list of potential projects, to seek input from town boards and from the community at large, and to recommend a prioritized spending plan to the Select Board. We anticipate multiple public discussions and meetings this fall, including an update during the November State of the Town Meeting. A final report and recommendations will be made to the Board in December.

## Roadway Improvements

### *New Roadside Path Will Connect Lincoln Station to Codman Farm*

The State awarded Lincoln a "Complete Streets" grant in 2019 in support of our multi-year effort to connect the train station and shopping area to other points of interest and neighborhoods. Construction has started on the path that will run from the train station, in front of the gas station, along the farm side of the stone wall, to improved crosswalks at the intersection of Codman and Lincoln Roads. The project will eliminate the need for path users to cross Lincoln Road twice. Detailed plans are posted at: [https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65343/01-27-2021\\_PLANS\\_HMA-RECREATION-PATH](https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65343/01-27-2021_PLANS_HMA-RECREATION-PATH).



Detailed plans are posted at: [https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65343/01-27-2021\\_PLANS\\_HMA-RECREATION-PATH](https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/65343/01-27-2021_PLANS_HMA-RECREATION-PATH).

We are grateful to the Roadway & Traffic Committee (RTC) and Department of Public Works (DPW) for leading this effort, and to the Codman Farm Board, the Murphy's (owners of the gas station), and the Conservation Commission for feedback and collaboration.

### *Advisory Shoulders on Farrar Road*

Advisory shoulders are a road striping design that marks a narrow lane along each of the road's edges for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users. This solution, implemented in many other states and countries, increases safety and reduces vehicular speeds while increasing roadway usage by pedestrians and bicyclists. Since January, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has engaged various neighborhoods looking to pilot advisory shoulders in town. Working with the RTC, Lincoln Police, and DPW, this coalition selected Farrar Road as the location for a pilot, with support from the Select Board.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is reviewing the town's proposed designs for signage and for striping the road and a crosswalk across Concord Road. We are hoping for FHWA approval soon and to implement the pilot this coming fall or spring after further community communication and involvement.

### *Planning for Repaving on Route 2A:*

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) project to resurface Route 2A between the Route 128 exit ramps and Crosby's Corner is scheduled to begin in Spring

2022. MassDOT has engaged municipalities and abutting institutions for comments since 2019, with consistent participation from Lincoln town staff and relevant board and committee members. The Select Board, Planning Board, BPAC, RTC, Historical Commission, Lincoln Police, and DPW reviewed MassDOT’s 25-75% designs in June, and have been in frequent communication with MassDOT to communicate recommendations, including:

- Reduced travel lane widths
- Shoulders with consistent widths for pedestrians and cyclists
- Crosswalks with refuge islands

Details are described in a comprehensive memo found on the town’s website at: <http://www.lincolntown.org/1270/MassDOT-Route-2A-Project-2021>. We now await MassDOT’s decisions on all the requests submitted.

## The Future of Meetings

In June, Governor Baker signed legislation that extended the ability of public boards and committees to meet remotely through April 2022. Pre-pandemic, individual members of a board or committee were allowed to participate remotely, but only if a quorum of the board was physically together in a public location. COVID forced all local government boards to learn new technologies for remote participation, and in many cases it has encouraged more public engagement and greater transparency. There are, though, advantages to being together in the same room. Many towns have been experimenting with hybrid meetings that allow for both remote and in-person participation. Subject to public health recommendations, the Select Board is planning to experiment with technology that will hopefully make the hybrid format easy to both administer and attend.



***What do you think about remote vs. in-person meetings? Advantages? Disadvantages? How do you like to engage with town government? Scan the QR code to post your thoughts!***

## Keeping Town Government Connected

Lincoln town government is run by a core group of professional staff (the Town, not including the schools, has 85 employees) and over 150 elected and appointed volunteers who serve on dozens of boards and committees. Primarily, it is Lincoln’s administrative team that keeps all of this work flowing. In addition, to help ensure communication and coordination of efforts, each Select Board member serves as a liaison to other town boards and committees and reports information back to the Board during each meeting. Assignments include:

SELECT BOARD MEMBER	LIAISON ASSIGNMENT
James	Planning Board; South Lincoln Planning & Advisory (SLPAC); Chair, Housing Trust; Historical Commission
Jennifer	IDEA; School Building Committee; Finance Committee; Green Energy Committee; Library; Conservation Commission; Pierce House; Water Commission; regional organizations MAPC/MAGIC
Jonathan	Capital Planning Committee; Parks & Recreation; Roadways & Traffic; Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Comm.; Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS); Battle Road 250 & Scenic Byway; Council on Aging & Human Services.



## Lincoln School Project Update:

Phase 1 of the Lincoln School Project is complete and our students in grades 5 - 8 began the year in the renovated middle school! Now work has begun on Phase 2, which is the renovation of the primary school. When it is complete next fall, grades preK - 4 will move in to their renovated spaces. Stay up to date by subscribing to the School Building Committee's website at [www.lincolnsbc.org](http://www.lincolnsbc.org)

## FY 2023 Budget Planning Begins:

Almost as soon as the Annual Town Meeting is over, planning begins for the following fiscal year. The graphic below is an outline of the town's annual planning and budget cycle.

**New to Lincoln? New to Town Meeting?** Whether you're new to town or a long-time resident who's skipped a few Town Meetings, you are welcome (and encouraged) to attend Town Meeting! Lincoln is an "open town meeting" town, which means that every resident registered to vote in Lincoln is automatically a member of Town Meeting! Each year at Town meeting, we gather together to vote on the Town's budget, capital expenditures, and town by-laws. **Save the date: The next Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday, March 26, 2022. (Hopefully in the renovated Lincoln School Auditorium!)**

### Key Terms/Abbreviations:

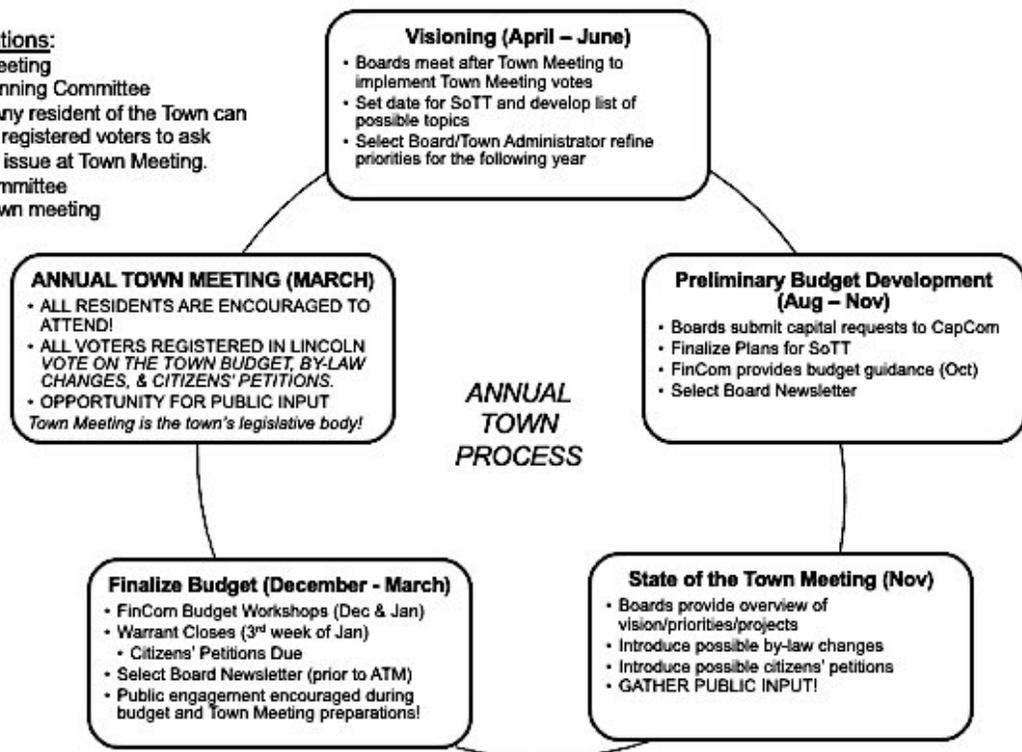
**ATM** = Annual Town Meeting

**CapCom** = Capital Planning Committee

**Citizens' Petitions** = Any resident of the Town can gather signatures from registered voters to ask residents to vote on an issue at Town Meeting.

**FinCom** = Finance Committee

**SoTT** = State of the Town meeting



## Lincoln Police Awarded "Certification" by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission

Lincoln Police Chief, Kevin Kennedy, was recently informed that the Department was awarded "Certification" by the MA Police Accreditation Commission, step one in a two-step process for securing full "Accreditation." This is a significant accomplishment for the Department that was several years in the making. To earn Certification, the Department was required to complete a comprehensive review and update of all policies and training programs. The Commission then conducted a peer review by an independent assessment team. *The policies at the center of the current law enforcement reform movements (e.g. those around use of force, racial profiling, and internal affairs and investigation procedures) were all examined and found to be in accordance with best practices.* Chief Kennedy and his team will now organize an effort to pursue full Accreditation. To learn more about the program, visit <https://masspoliceaccred.net>.

## Regional Planning

Lincoln is part of a regional planning organization called the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), which is made up of 101 communities in the greater Boston area. MAPC is broken down into 8 subregions, and Lincoln is a member of the "MAGIC" (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination) subregion along with Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, and Sudbury.

This year, MAGIC's regional projects include:

- Racial Justice and Municipal Governance – Two special sessions on examining housing, transportation, governance, and finance through a racial justice lens.
- EV Infrastructure – Produce a low cost, regional network of EV chargers
- Housing diversity and downtown revitalization
- Build a climate resiliency coalition in the SuAsCo (Sudbury, Assabet, & Concord Rivers) Watershed region.

MAGIC meetings are open to the public. Upcoming dates and topics include:

DATE	TOPIC
October 5, 2021	Transportation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization
November 16, 2021	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) for Towns: Housing and Transportation
December 7, 2021	DEI for Towns: Municipal Finance and Governance
February 1, 2022	Economic Development: Starting Business Improvement Districts and Revitalization after COVID
March 8, 2022	Housing Diversification
May 3, 2022	Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV Infrastructure Planning & Climate Bill Implementation Updates

Learn more & sign up for updates at <https://www.mapc.org/get-involved/subregions/magic/>

## State of the Town – 1<sup>st</sup> Week of November!

Exact dates and plans are in flux, but given the continued public health risks of COVID, it is likely that State of the Town will again be a virtual event this year. We ask for your flexibility and understanding as we finalize the details.

The agenda will likely include topics such as:

- Update from the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism) Initiative
- South Lincoln Planning update
- Introduction to the Climate Action Planning group – a sub-committee of the Green Energy Committee
- Lincoln School building project update – info always available at [www.lincolnsbc.org](http://www.lincolnsbc.org)
- Community Center planning – visit <http://www.lincolntown.org/918/Community-Center-PPDC> to see work done to date.
- Open forum – time for community members to raise questions or ideas!

*Stay tuned!*

### Lincoln Select Board

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