

LINCOLN COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

We are pleased that the Town of Lincoln is taking a pro-active look at our facilities and infrastructure, and giving appropriate thought to what changes need to be made to meet our community's future needs. As the Town enters this analysis-and-planning period it is important to remember that any planning must involve consideration of the needs of people with all levels of ability and varying accessibility needs. The leaders of these planning efforts should seek the input of the Lincoln Commission on Disabilities to ensure that issues of accessibility are fully vetted for any projects involving town buildings, affordable housing or infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks or commuter rail stations. We wish to remind people that we all face issues of accessibility needs at the various stages of our lives – be it the young mother juggling toddlers and strollers while attempting to enter the doorway of a public facility, or an adult experiencing a recent knee replacement, or an individual who lives with a physical or mental handicap on a daily basis. It is our sincere hope that any planning for future facility and infrastructure projects should take the needs of all levels of accessibility into consideration, and should, whenever possible, include design features that offer the highest level of ease of accessibility.

The Lincoln Commission on Disabilities is actively working in collaboration with our town departments to conduct the mandated accessibility "Self Evaluation". This evaluation requires that we analyze all town facilities, and all programs or services we provide to the public to identify areas where we lack true accessibility. We hope to have this task completed later this year or early in 2008. The results of this study will then inform the Town as to areas of structural or programmatic improvement that are needed in the future. This information will be shared with all town officials, and is intended to be considered in the comprehensive long range planning work that is currently underway.

Much of the work of the Lincoln Commission on Disabilities is that of raising the consciousness level of the public as to accessibility issues. We are available to assist townspeople regarding any issue related to disability. We encourage people to contact us to provide insight or to seek information in confidence.

We may be reached through our Ex Officio member Asst. Town Administrator Anita Scheipers at 781-259-2603, or at scheipers@lincolntown.org, or by mailing to Ms. Scheipers attention at Town Offices, 16 Lincoln RD., Lincoln MA 01773. All communications will be kept in confidence.