

Lincoln Housing Commission

Town Meeting 2023

Article #31





Lincoln Housing Commission Mission Statement

The Lincoln Housing Commission is a welcoming and inclusive group that works to fulfill the town's mission and ensure a range of diverse housing options are available in town to meet the current and future needs of Lincoln's residents. We fulfill this mission by:

- developing and promoting policies, programs, and regulations that preserve and/or increase housing that addresses such needs;**
- maintaining Lincoln's inventory of housing affordable for low- and moderate-income households in compliance with state policy;**
- and supporting town, regional, and state housing goals**

The Housing Commission also administers Lincoln's town-owned rental housing units.



What We Do

- Serve as property managers for town-owned affordable rental units:
 - Address maintenance and repair issues
 - Annual certification and lease renewals
 - Provide support for residents as needed
- Monitor affordable housing supply in town to ensure compliance with state 40B requirements and alignment with town vision statement
- Work with and advise other town boards and organizations in support of affordable housing needs in town
 - e.g. Council on Aging & Human Services, Lincoln Foundation, Select Board, Housing Choice Act Working Group, Green Energy Committee, Community Center Building Committee, SLPAC, IDEA

What we **DON'T** do: Unilaterally make housing policy for the Town!

Current LHC Composition

- Three elected members, serving non-concurrent 3-year terms
- Two members appointed by the Select Board for 5-year terms

Any changes to the above structure require Town Meeting & State approval

We also currently have two non-voting liaisons representing:

- a) The Council on Aging and Human Services (COA&HS)
- b) Town residents living in affordable housing

Warrant Article #31

- Request approval from the town for the Select Board to petition the State to change the structure of the Housing Commission
 - To convert current liaison positions to full members (while retaining representative status for COA&HS and residents of affordable housing)
 - To make all positions on the Commission appointed by the Select Board (with input from COA&HS and the Commission regarding the two representative positions) for 3-year terms
 - To retain option to adjust membership to either 5 or 7 members in the future

Why These Changes?

- Liaisons positions can only advise, not vote. This limits their effectiveness as representatives for their respective constituents
- Commission members carry multiple responsibilities that are often more than five people can manage
- The Commission benefits from having members with specific skills/expertise, which are easier to source with appointed positions
 - *Same as other Boards, e.g. Finance, ZBA, Conservation, Historic, Green Energy
- 5-year appointments can be a barrier to participation; 3-year appointments allow more residents to participate on the Commission



Next Steps

- After Town Meeting approval, Town will work with our state reps to develop the petition for General Court
- Town will negotiate with the State re: State-requested changes
- Once legislation is finalized and passed, Town will implement changes and (as needed) adjust terms of current members
- Future changes will continue to require Town Meeting approval