



Let's Talk About Town Meeting!

- **KICK-OFF FORUMS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**
- **8:00 AM VIA ZOOM**
- **7:00 PM IN-PERSON @ LINCOLN SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS**

Agenda

Presenters:

Kim Bodnar, *Select Board Chair*

Jennifer Glass, *Select Board*

Jim Hutchinson, *Select Board*

Sarah Cannon Holden, *Town Moderator*

Joel Bard, *Town Counsel*

- **Welcome** – Select Board
- **Meeting Introduction & Overview** – Select Board (5 min)
- **Town Meeting Traditions & Practices** – Moderator (10 min)
- **Legal Considerations** – Town Counsel (10 min)
 - **Clarifying Q&A** – Moderator & Town Counsel (10 min)
- **Group Exercise** – ALL PARTICIPANTS (50 min)
 - Feedback w/Padlet ~ 20 min – All participants!
 - Emerging themes ~ 10 min – Select Board/Groups Report
 - Q&A ~ 20 min – All participants
- **Meeting Wrap-up/Next Steps/Timeline** – Select Board (5 min)

Forum Introduction & Overview

- **How did it go?** After every Town Meeting, Town officials and residents reflect and offer feedback.
- **Good practice** = periodic review of the preparation for and conduct of Town Meetings.
 - TODAY your input will inform the work of a Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC)
 - TMSC independently pursues ideas; makes recommendations to residents and Select Board
- **TODAY – What works, what could be improved? What are specific ideas to investigate?**
- **We are not the first community to explore such ideas!**
 - TMSC website has links to studies in other towns.
- **How are changes made? Town approval? State approval? What are the long-term impacts?**
- Democracy is messy, important work! **Let's work together and keep moving forward!**



Lincoln Town Meeting Traditions & Practices

- **Town Meeting is our Legislative branch of Town government**
 - Open (Lincoln) vs Representative (Lexington)
- **Town Meeting Warrant**
 - Articles sponsored by Boards & Committees
 - Citizens' Petitions – included in the Town Meeting Warrant
- **Role of Town Moderator**

How Town Meeting Unfolds

➤ **Balancing discussion vs efficiency**

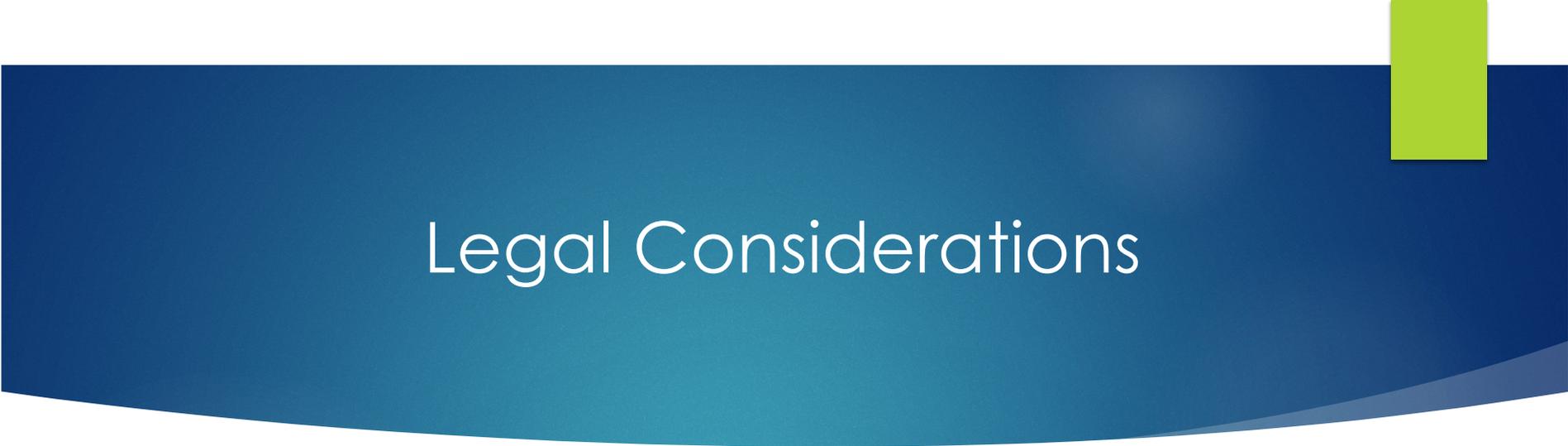
- **Consent Calendar**
- **Consolidated Presentations:** Budget, capital projects, Community Preservation Act Projects
- **Town Meeting web page:** meeting recordings, presentations, documents available for review

➤ **Meeting Protocols**

- **Presentations at the Podium:** by boards, committees, and sponsors of Citizens' Petitions
- **Comments at Microphones:** by residents; 2 minutes each
- **Amendments:** any resident may suggest an amendment to a warrant article – must be within the scope

➤ **Role of Residents**

- **Before Town Meeting:** attend board/committee presentations that lead up to meeting; make use of the Town Meeting web page; read Warrant book & Financial report; **bring your neighbors!**
- **During Town Meeting:** ask questions, express your opinion, and vote!!!

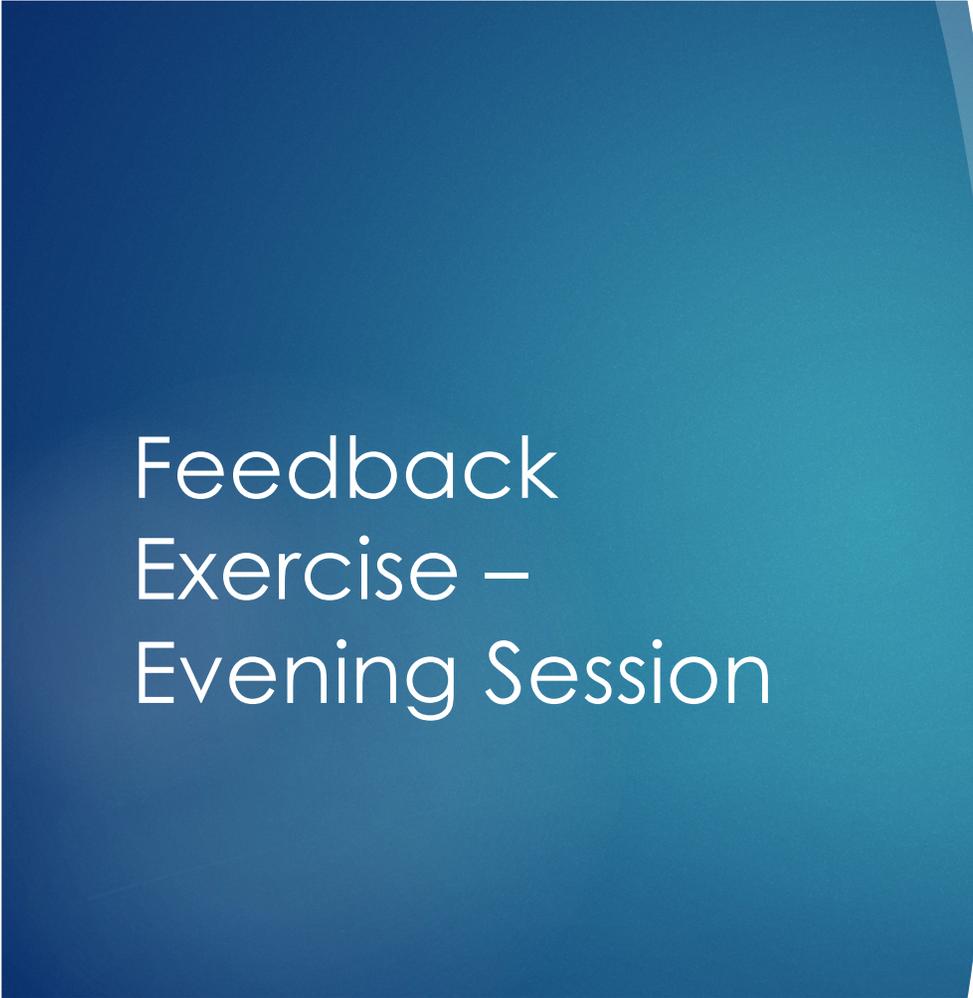


Legal Considerations

➤ **General background**

➤ **Potential changes:**

- Split sessions – allowed under current state law
- Fully remote participation – requires a change in state law
- Remote/off-site overflow location – allowed; logistical considerations



Feedback Exercise – Evening Session



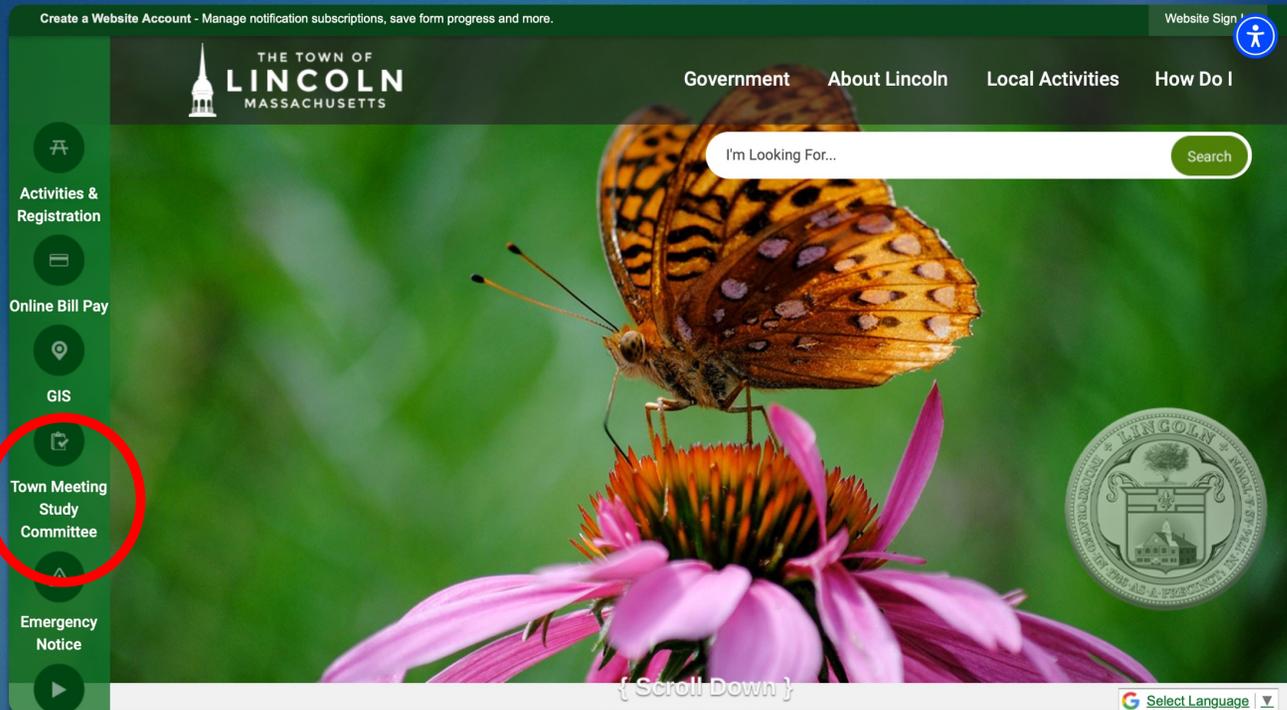
HELP INFORM THE WORK OF THE TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE!

1. **Each table needs a notetaker & a reporter!**
2. **3 questions – there is a sheet for each question on each table.**
3. **Spend 5 – 7 minutes on each question.**
4. **After ~20 minutes, each table will be asked to report out 1-2 themes**
5. **These ideas will be added to the Padlet from the virtual session.**

Next Steps – Fall 2024



**** First TMS meeting, early November; final report & recommendations expected in Fall 2025 ****



Find the Town Meeting Study Committee web page by going to www.lincolntown.org

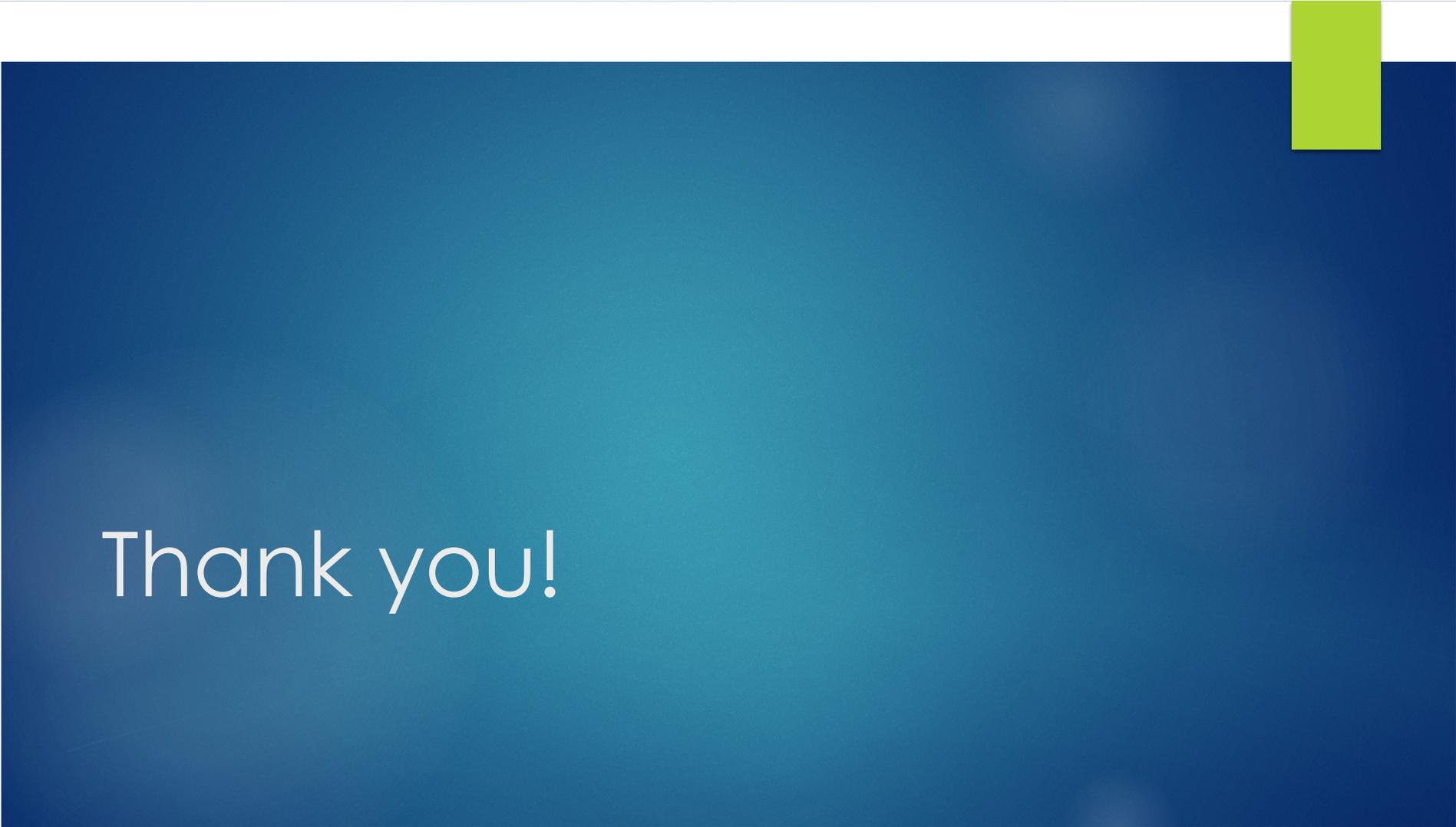
Email comments & questions to TMSC@lincolntown.org

Padlet Instructions



HELP INFORM THE WORK OF THE TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE!

1. Go directly to <https://padlet.com/jlrg/TMSC> OR find the link on the TMSC web page: <https://www.lincolntown.org/1509/Town-Meeting-Study-Committee>
2. Click the “+” at the top of a column to add a comment (green circles).
3. Add as many thoughts in each of the columns as you wish!
4. If you agree with someone else’s idea, click the 👍 icon. If you disagree you can click the 👎 icon.
5. Padlet will be open to the public until NOON on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024..



Thank you!

Feedback Exercise - Zoom



HELP INFORM THE WORK OF THE TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE!

1. Click the link in the “Zoom chat” to access the Padlet – it should look like the picture on the left!
2. Click the “+” at the top of a column to add a comment to that question (green circles).
3. Add as many thoughts in each of the columns as you wish!
4. If you agree with someone else’s idea, click the 👍 icon. If you disagree you can click the 👎 icon.
5. Recording will be stopped, we have ~20 minutes. Padlet will be open to the public until NOON on Friday.