

SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

It's time for the Lincoln STATE of the TOWN meeting!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

9:30AM - 12:30PM

★ Join us at 8:00AM for a Community Breakfast! ★

For more details and updates, visit

<https://www.lincolntown.org/1546/2024-State-of-the-Town>

Greetings Lincoln residents, we hope this message finds everyone well!

As we enter the busy fall season when calendars fill up, we want to strongly encourage you to set time aside for our State of the Town Meeting (SOTT) on Saturday, December 7th. Doors will open at 8:00am and we invite you to share breakfast with your friends and neighbors. The State of the Town Meeting will run from 9:30am - 12:30pm.

What is State of the Town? SOTT is an annual fall event that focuses on current issues in town government, offers a preview of topics we'll be voting on at the Annual Town Meeting on March 29, 2025, and gives residents an opportunity to raise issues and provide important input. *Whether you are new to Lincoln or a long-time resident, your participation and engagement in our Town's matters are vital to shaping the future of our beautiful community.*



MEETING FORMAT:

- 8:00am - 9:15am: Community breakfast!
- 9:30am - 10:45am: Whole group session - Auditorium
 - Financial Overview
 - Updates from Committees
 - Open Forum/Public Input
- 11:00am - 12:30pm: 2 identical, interactive breakout sessions, each lasting 45 minutes.

The format of this year's SOTT will feature both a whole group session in the Lincoln School Auditorium and two interactive smaller-group break-out sessions.

NOTE! WE WILL ALL HAVE A CHANCE TO TRY OUT THE NEW "CLICKER" TECHNOLOGY AT STATE OF THE TOWN!

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State of the Town Schedule & Agenda

8:00AM - 9:15AM: Community Breakfast, Lincoln School Dining Commons

- Meet and eat with friends, neighbors, old and new!
- Town Boards/Community Groups Fair! Learn more about their work and how to get involved!

9:30AM - 10:45AM: Whole Group Session, Auditorium

- Financial Overview
- Community Center Update
- Other Board & Committee Updates
- *Open Forum: What's on your mind?*

11:00am - 12:30pm: Two, identical 45-minute breakout sessions - rotate through both!

- 11:00AM – 11:45AM
- 11:45AM – 12:30PM

Stay tuned! Topics and room locations to be announced!

Enter at the Entrance near the Reed Gym; see entrance and parking locations below:

SAVE THE DATES!

- ➔ **NEWCOMER'S EVENT: SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 - LINCOLN SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS**
- ➔ **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 - LINCOLN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**
- ➔ **LINCOLN250 CELEBRATES! SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 - PIERCE PARK**



Key Dates Leading up to Town Meeting 2025:

- ★ December 7, 2024 – State of the Town meeting
- ★ December 17, 2024 – 1st Finance Committee Budget Workshop
- ★ January 6, 2025 – Select Board votes to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
 - Town boards submit warrants
 - Residents may propose and get signatures to place a "citizens' petition" on the warrant.
- For more information: <https://www.lincolntown.org/961/How-to-Make-a-Citizens-Petitions>
- ★ January 2025 (Date TBA) – 2nd Finance Committee Budget Workshop
- ★ January 20, 2025 – Select Board votes to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- ★ January - March 2025 – Boards do outreach to the community, answer questions, prepare the final motions that will be voted on by residents at Town Meeting
- ★ March 29, 2025 – Annual Town Meeting
- ★ March 31, 2025 – Annual Town Election to elect members of certain boards/committees

Select Board Appoints Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC)

Contact Us

How to Contact the Committee:
TMSC@lincolntown.org

On October 21st, the Select Board appointed the nine members of the new Town Meeting Study Committee. The Board is very appreciative of all the community members who expressed interest in serving on this committee. We are so fortunate to have deeply knowledgeable, caring residents who are willing to devote their time to serving in Lincoln's volunteer town government. The TMSC will be working hard to engage all our residents in discussions about the role of Town Meeting, what works well, and the pros and cons of changes we might consider. *We invite all residents to be part of the conversation!*

All meetings of the TMSC will be open to the public and information about its charge, members, meetings, and work can be found at <https://www.lincolntown.org/1509/Town-Meeting-Study-Committee>.

Community Center Building Project Update

The Community Center Building Committee (CCBC) has been very active, working through Schematic Design and into the Design Development phase to ensure that the building fully meets the programming needs of stakeholders, while keeping within the approved budget and on schedule for a Fall 2026 opening.

Changes that have been made through the process include:

- The floor plan has been made more compact to save construction costs and energy usage
- The location has been shifted slightly to save site costs while meeting Conservation Commission and stakeholder requirements
- Site planning is ongoing to ensure that pedestrian, bicycle, and parking needs are fully met.

The rehabilitation of Strats Place (the area on the Lincoln Road side of the main Hartwell building which one had a play structure) and moving of the School Maintenance Workshop from B Pod to Hartwell will begin shortly to enable those spaces to be available once construction begins. Both of these items are part of the CCBC budget.

Check out the CCBC website for more information and to add your name to the email list, and join the CCBC at its monthly meetings: <https://lincolncommunitycenter.com/>



BE SURE TO ATTEND THE CCBC PRESENTATION AT THE STATE OF THE TOWN ON DECEMBER 7TH TO HEAR ABOUT, SEE, AND DISCUSS THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS!

Lincoln Transportation Coalition

The Lincoln Transportation Coalition was created in 2023 as a collaboration between the Roadway and Traffic Committee (RTC) and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The coalition meets monthly to discuss and assess road based project priorities for the Town. On September 9th, representatives from the coalition presented their 5-year project plan to the Select Board. The plan establishes project priorities based on criteria such as project complexity, cost, and available funding sources. There are a few ways these projects can be funded and the Transportation Coalition will look to state Chapter 90 roadway funds (for relatively low-cost projects) and grant sources (for more expensive projects) before requesting funds from the Town. At this time the coalition will not be asking for any Town capital funding for FY26. Although the top priority for the five-year project plan is the entrance to the Ballfield Road/Lincoln Road intersection, the coalition has advised the Select Board that the project plan is subject to change based on resident concerns, funding availability and other variables. To learn more about the Transportation Coalition, the plan and other discussions, please see our minutes or attend our monthly public meetings.

Planning Department News

Lincoln's Housing Choice Zoning Gets Final Approval

We are pleased to announce that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) has determined that the zoning passed at Lincoln's 2024 Annual Town Meeting is compliant with, and meets the requirements of, the MBTA Communities Act (Section 3A of Massachusetts General Law chapter 40A) and the guidelines promulgated by EOHLC. On October 1st, at the invitation of Governor Healey, Tim Higgins (Town Administrator), Paula Vaughn MacKenzie (Director of Planning) and Jennifer Glass (Select Board) joined colleagues from more than 30 municipalities who also recently achieved full compliance with the law, to celebrate this important milestone. The Governor emphasized that all municipalities share responsibility for addressing the state's housing crisis, and she announced that compliant communities are eligible for the newly established MBTA Communities Catalyst Fund created to support housing production. More information about the fund can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/mbta-communities-catalyst-fund>, and the Governor's press release is here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-healey-ag-campbell-celebrate-mbta-communities-momentum-to-lower-housing-costs>



We are gratified that the Lincoln community's work to take this important step forward has been recognized the state. We are especially grateful for the thoughtful engagement of our residents that allowed us to develop and vigorously debate the merits of alternative bylaws.

What the new state Accessory Dwelling Unit law means for Lincoln

Governor Healey signed the Affordable Homes Act (Section 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024) into law on August 6, 2024. The new law takes effect on February 2, 2025, and it allows Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) of <900 square feet (SF) to be built as-of-right in Single Family Zoning districts. Our town bylaws already allow ADUs up to 1200 SF as-of-right if they are part of the main dwelling unit, although approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) must be granted for an ADU that is located in a separate structure from the main house. There is more information about

the new state law at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/accessory-dwelling-units>, and the chart below compares the state law to our current town bylaw. If you have questions about building an ADU, please reach out to the Lincoln Building Department or Planning Department.

	Current Lincoln Bylaw	New State Law	Notes
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If in separate building, up to 1200 square feet (SF) If in main dwelling, up to 1200SF or 35% of combined floor area of dwelling + ADU, whichever is smaller 	Up to 900 SF or up to 1/2 the gross floor area of existing primary dwelling unit, whichever is smaller	
Occupancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main dwelling unit or ADU must be occupied by property owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No owner-occupancy requirement 	Only 1 property owner allowed - no condo conversion
Parking	At least 1 parking space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No parking required for a unit within 1/2 mile of public transportation > 1/2 mile, no more than 1 space can be required 	
Special Permit Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No – if unit is part of the main building <i>Zoning Board</i> – must get ZBA approval if unit is in a separate building 	No – ADU can be part of the main building on the lot OR located in a separate building	
Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADU must conform with current height & setback rules Subject to Site Plan Review Subject to Wetlands Protection & Stormwater bylaws. Subject to Demolition Delay Bylaw Subject to Title V Septic Bylaw Can regulate short-term rentals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADU must conform with current height & setback rules Subject to Site Plan Review Subject to Wetlands Protection & Stormwater bylaws. Subject to Demolition Delay Bylaw Subject to Title V Septic Bylaw Can regulate short-term rentals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current bylaw has a cap on the # of ADUs allowed (5% of Lincoln’s housing units per Federal census) No cap in the state bylaw

Dark Skies Committee

The mission of the Dark Skies Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board, is to encourage Lincoln to adopt best practices for exterior lighting to amplify the Town’s commitment to maintaining a more natural, sustainable environment in which all inhabitants, including flora and fauna, may thrive. The committee wishes to address light pollution through three pillars: education, bylaws, and town policies. It is in the early stages of gathering support and talking with various organizations and Town departments to share goals, discuss possible options, and listen to concerns, ideas, and interests. To learn more about Lincoln’s existing lighting guidelines, visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/183/Lighting-guidelines---120308?bidId=>

For meeting times, minutes, and agendas, visit <http://www.lincolntown.org/AgendaCenter>
www.lincolntown.org



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee (IDEA)

The IDEA Committee is moving forward with foundational work to support volunteer boards and committees in recruiting and training members, and in embedding equity into decision-making and policy development. Here are a few highlights:

- **Newcomer's Event - January 26, 2025:** IDEA is reviving an event that invites those newer to town to meet other residents, learn about volunteer opportunities, and get an overview of how the town works. This is planned as a fun social event with a side benefit of demystifying town government!
- **Recruiting/Retaining Diverse Committees:** Which committees are looking for volunteers? How much time do they require? How do you join? IDEA has drafted a framework for town boards and committees to use to ensure clear and consistent information about how to be involved. IDEA will be meeting with other boards in the coming months to get feedback on the draft and to continue discussions about what it means to make sure town government is inclusive, represents diverse viewpoints, and centers equity in its decision-making.
- **Resources for Board & Committee Members:** In collaboration with the Select Board, there is now a "Boards/Committees Resource Page" on the town website. It has a wealth of information about state laws, best practices, and community engagement. All are invited to visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/1541/BOARDCOMMITTEE-RESOURCES>, and if you have feedback about something that should be added, please contact Jennifer at jglassselect@lincolntown.org
- **Want to join us?** IDEA will be recruiting additional voting members! Residents are always welcome to join our meetings and we will also, in the near future, be sending out an official notice inviting people to join as a voting member. Please stay tuned to the web page (<http://www.lincolntown.org/1221/IDEA>) or sign up for board/committee notifications at <http://www.lincolntown.org/list.aspx>

The Countdown is on! The 250th Anniversary is less than 200 days away!



As Patriots' Day 2025 approaches, event and logistical coordination continues among the Battle Road communities of Arlington, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, and Minute Man National Historical Park. The Lincoln Minute Men will kick off their traditional events on April 12th with the *Paul Revere Capture Drama* at Minute Man National Historical Park, continuing through to the *Old Burying Ground Tribute* on Sunday, April 27th. Additionally, numerous other events are happening in town both leading up to and following the historic 250th anniversary. *Mark your calendars for a Lincoln250 community day at the Pierce House on June 14, 2025.* This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history and come together as a community. More details to come! Join us at the State of the Town on December 7th, where Lincoln250 will provide an update on upcoming events and transportation options to help Lincoln residents access events in neighboring communities. A public safety update will also be shared, as there will be road closures in the area that may affect residents. To stay up-to-date on 250th plans, follow Lincoln250 on Facebook/Meta or [lincolnma_250](https://www.lincolntown.org/1474/Lincoln250-Planning-Committee) on Instagram. You can also find Lincoln250 on the Town's website: <https://www.lincolntown.org/1474/Lincoln250-Planning-Committee>.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of community members who collectively donated \$30,000 in year one of this five-year program, the **Lincoln Resident-Sponsored Tax Relief Program** was established for residents under 65 years of age. This year, the program is able to provide meaningful assistance to nine qualifying residents and the average assistance for each semi-annual real estate tax bill is \$1,750. The willingness of our residents to help their neighbors during challenging times is truly commendable. We extend our deepest gratitude to all donors who made this program possible! To learn more, contact Abigail Butt at butta@lincolntown.org or go to <https://www.lincolntown.org/1001/Property-Tax-Relief-Programs>.

Climate Resiliency, Mitigation, & Adaptation Updates

Green Energy Committee (GEC): The GEC will be meeting with the Select Board on November 4th to talk about the requirements needed for the Lincoln to become a *Climate Leader Community*. The Climate Leader program is overseen by the state's Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and its goal is to help cities and towns reduce carbon emissions and maximize the efficiency of buildings and transportation. Municipalities with this designation are given access to grant programs that help them meet these goals. Learn more at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/climate-leader-communities>.

Landfill Solar Update: The project has received all local approvals and the developer plans to have the array on line by June 2025.

School Solar Update: Waiting for the "PTO" The photovoltaic array at the Lincoln School is waiting for the "Permission to Operate." This involves a multiple-step checklist of tests. In the past few days, Eversource witnessed the functioning of the storage batteries, which is one of the final milestones before they can issue the PTO. Stay tuned for further details!

Charging Stations @ Town Offices: The Level 3 stations are close to being online and an announcement with cost information will be sent out as soon as they are ready to go! There will be two more Level 3 stations installed at the gravel lot at Lincoln Station in the coming months as well.

Municipal Vulnerability Plan 2.0: The outreach team has been holding listening tour conversations with the community at the Transfer Station and food pantry to learn about people's needs and concerns regarding climate impacts. We are looking forward to more opportunities for connecting with people where they already congregate and are always looking for input on ways we can engage with a diverse variety of stakeholders and community members.

Proposed Jet Expansion: Want to find out the latest? Check out the multi-town Hanscom Field Advisory Committee at <https://www.lincolntown.org/1117/Hanscom-Field-Advisory-Commission-HFAC>. You can also learn more about the advocacy campaign at <https://www.stopprivatejetexpansion.org/>

Welcome to Lincoln!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to these new members of our professional team:

Cameron Arena - Dept. of Public Works
Thomas Blair - Full Time Firefighter
Stacey Carroll - Assistant Town Clerk
Samuel Cullinan - Police Dispatcher
Kelsey Francher - Police Officer
Anthony Kim - Information Technology
Gregory Lamb - Police Officer
Anne Nason - Accounting Clerk
Vincent Oliveri - Police Officer
David Rollins - Dept. of Public Works

League of Women Voters 2.0?

Although it has been over 20 years since the Lincoln League of Women Voters (LWV) was active, it was a vibrant, inter-generational group of non-partisan residents committed to civic engagement. They played a leading role in educating the community on various issues and organizing candidate forums that fostered thoughtful dialogue and a sense of community. In case you are wondering, the LWV is not just for women – ALL are welcome! If you are interested in exploring re-opening a Lincoln chapter of the League, please email Kim Bodnar at bodnark@lincolntown.org.

If you care about... WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR VOLUNTEER TOWN GOVERNMENT!
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED,
 VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.LINCOLNTOWN.ORG/542/VOLUNTEERS-NEEDED](https://www.lincolntown.org/542/VOLUNTEERS-NEEDED)






COMMUNITY WELLBEING

- ❖ School Committee
- ❖ Council on Aging & Human Services Board
- ❖ Library Board
- ❖ Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee
- ❖ Parks & Recreation Committee
- ❖ Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- ❖ Board of Health
- ❖ Finance Committee
- ❖ Select Board

ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ Green Energy Committee
- ❖ Conservation Commission
- ❖ Capital Planning Committee
- ❖ Community Preservation Committee
- ❖ Roadside & Traffic Committee
- ❖ Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- ❖ Agricultural Commission
- ❖ Water Commission
- ❖ Select Board

HOUSING

- ❖ Housing Commission
- ❖ Planning Board
- ❖ Affordable Housing Trust
- ❖ Historical Commission
- ❖ Community Preservation Committee
- ❖ Zoning Board
- ❖ Council on Aging & Human Services Board
- ❖ Board of Health
- ❖ Select Board

FINANCES

- ❖ Finance Committee
- ❖ Capital Planning Committee
- ❖ Community Preservation Committee
- ❖ School Committee
- ❖ Water Commission
- ❖ Select Board

...consider one of these boards!

<p>Select Board Kim Bodnar, Chair Jennifer Glass Jim Hutchinson 16 Lincoln Road Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773</p>	<p>Pre-Sorted Standard US POSTAGE PAID Lincoln, MA</p>
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