

# SELECT BOARD NEWS

The newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

## Save the Dates!

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Meeting starts at 9:00AM in the

Donaldson Auditorium, Lincoln School

January through March is the most intense period of activity in the Town’s budget and policy cycle. The town’s and schools’ recommended budgets are being finalized and boards and committees are preparing policy proposals. There will be numerous meetings, forums, and public hearings scheduled in the next three months.

Want to learn more? Sign up for alerts at <https://www.lincolntown.org/list.aspx> to get notifications from the boards of your choice.

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## TOWN ELECTIONS

### for Town Boards and Committees

Monday, March 31, 2025

Reed Gym, Lincoln School

Those wishing to run for office can “pull papers” in the Town Clerk’s office until 5:00pm on Thursday, February 6th. Candidates must then gather signatures so that their names can appear on the March 31st ballot. Papers are due back to the Clerk’s office by 5:00pm on Monday, February 10th.

Please contact Town Clerk, Valerie Fox, at [foxv@lincolntown.org](mailto:foxv@lincolntown.org) for more information.

The following positions are up for election:

- Board of Assessors - 1 seat for three years
- Board of Health - 1 seat for three years
- Cemetery Commission - 1 seat for three years
- Commissioners of Trust Funds - 1 seat for three years
- Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee - 2 seats, each for three years
- Parks & Recreation Committee - 1 seat for three years
- Planning Board - 2 seats, each for three years
- preK - 8 School Committee - 1 seat for two years & 1 seat for three years
- Select Board - 1 seat for three years
- Town Clerk - 1 seat for three years
- Trustees of Bemis Fund - 1 seat for three years
- Trustees of Lincoln Library - 1 seat for three years
- Water Commissioner - 1 seat for three years

WANT TO WATCH VIDEOS OF LINCOLN BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS?

VISIT [HTTPS://CLOUD.CASTUS.TV/VOD/LINCOLN/?PAGE=HOME](https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/lincoln/?page=home)

## TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE

The Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC) has been reviewing the processes before and during Town Meeting to improve efficiency, transparency, fairness, and inclusivity. It is focusing its work based on suggestions and feedback from residents gathered after last year's Town Meeting, forums held in September, and at the State of the Town Meeting in December. The Committee will likely



recommend that the Select Board bring forward a bylaw amendment that would allow electronic voting ("clickers"). In addition, the TMSC is exploring issues such as a "shot clock" to enforce speaker time limits, and ways to document, improve clarity, and educate residents regarding typical Town Meeting procedures such as floor amendments and "calling the question."

Looking ahead, after Town Meeting the TMSC plans to hold forums and conduct a town-wide survey of residents, and to use that information to shape further recommendations to the Select Board. ***The Board will be careful to put decisions about significant changes in the hands of the voters.*** It has asked the Committee to issue its report and analysis in the Fall of 2025. All meetings of the TMSC are 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>.

## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT FAQs

### WETLANDS 101

#### ***Does my project need a permit from the Conservation Commission?***

The *Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over all projects (construction, new landscaping, vegetation clearing, etc.) proposed within 100 feet of wetlands and ponds, and 200 feet of a perennial stream* (the Riverfront Area). If you have any questions, please contact the Conservation Department at 781-259-2612.

### FARM ANIMALS 101

#### **What if I want to keep farm animals?**

Lincoln allows residents to keep farm animals (i.e. chickens, sheep, goats) and does not require a special permit. However, ***the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) requires that all residents who house farm animals have their premises inspected once a year.*** <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-animal-inspector-program>.

If you have recently started to own farm animals or are planning to do so, ***please notify Lincoln's state-licensed animal control officer:*** Jennifer Condon, 978-897-5596,

<https://www.boardmansanimalcontrol.com/>



## THE 250<sup>TH</sup> TRAIN ROLLS ON!



With fewer than 100 days until Patriots Day 2025, Lincoln250 is excited to kick off our commemorations of this historic milestone with our annual Lincoln Minute Men events:

➔ **SATURDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 2:45PM - PAUL REVERE CAPTURE DRAMA:** Meet at 2:45PM at the Minuteman National Historical Park Visitor (MMNHP) Center Parking Lot to join the march, or meet 3:00PM in the field next to the MMNHP Paul Revere Capture Parking Lot, on Route 2A.

- ➔ **SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 7:00PM - LINCOLN ALARM AND MUSTER:** Lincoln Public Library Lawn, 3 Bedford Road.
- ➔ **MONDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> 6:45AM - DAWN TRIBUTE AND MARCH TO CONCORD:** Next to Bemis Hall, 15 Bedford Road. At 7:00AM join in the march down Sandy Pond Road, stop for the tribute at Dakins Field, and march on to Concord!
- ➔ **SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 1:00 - 3:00PM - FIFE AND DRUM FESTIVAL:** Pierce Park, 17 Weston Road (Rain location: Lincoln School auditorium, Ballfield Road)
- ➔ **SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 3:30PM - OLD BURYING GROUND TRIBUTE:** Pierce House, 17 Weston Road. 3:30PM March to Old Precinct Burying Ground or meet at 4pm in the Lexington Cemetery on Lexington Road (rain location: Pierce House)



Also, there are many events, programs and activities happening in Lincoln hosted by our esteemed partners of the Lincoln Historical Society, the Lincoln Library and many others. These events can be found under **"Lincoln250 Events"** on the **Lincoln250 page:** <https://www.lincolntown.org/1474/Lincoln250-Planning-Committee>.

**PATRIOTS DAY EVENTS IN THE BATTLE ROAD COMMUNITIES:**

In collaboration with Arlington, Concord, Lexington and Minute Man National Historical Park, there are a number of events scheduled on and around Patriots Day. *Most activities in Concord and Lexington will take place on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> including the 6am Dawn Salute and the 8:30am Concord parade.* There will be a Concord250 drone show later that evening. *Lexington's parade will begin at 2pm and their Bicentennial Band Concert will begin at 7pm on the 19<sup>th</sup>.* *Arlington will host their reenactment of the Battle of Menotomy on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM 2025* (note: April 20<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday). Please see the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Event Schedule.



Click on the "Calendar of Events" on the Lincoln250 page; <https://www.lincolntown.org/1474/Lincoln250-Planning-Committee>.

**TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS**

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the MBTA has committed to a *Special Event Schedule which will bring extra Commuter Rail trains into Concord hourly from North Station, and from*

*South Acton.* Residents are encouraged to use this service to attend the events in Concord. We are also in communication with the Town of Concord to provide limited bus service to their events. This bus service would pick up at the Lincoln Station Commuter lot and drop residents off at the Concord Museum.



***On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Route 2A and Hanscom Drive will be closed to all vehicular traffic beginning at 5:00AM until 5:00PM for the Tactical Battle Reenactment in the Minuteman National Park.*** Route 2A will be used as a transportation corridor for an inter-community bus service between Concord and Lexington with two stops along Route 2A in the Minuteman National Park.

The police department is finalizing the credentialing process for residents who reside contiguous to Route 2A and Hanscom Drive due to the road closures. Please stay posted for more information and details.

**LINCOLN250 FAIR AND FEAST  
JUNE 14, 2025 AT THE PIERCE HOUSE**

**Mark your calendars for a community gathering on the Pierce House grounds: the Lincoln250 Fair and Feast on June 14, 2025, celebrating 250 years of history!**

The Lincoln250 Celebration Committee is excited to invite you to our historic community celebration on Saturday, June 14, 2025, commemorating 250 years of Lincoln’s history from the dawn of the American Revolution!

Join us for a vibrant day of festivities featuring over 50 town boards, committees, and organizations sharing their history and contributions to Lincoln at a beautiful Town Fair on the Pierce House grounds. In addition to the

fair, the Lincoln250 Committee will host a feast under the tent, children’s games on the lawns, and a variety of historic remembrances and activities for all ages.

Celebrate Lincoln’s rich history by joining us on Saturday, June 14th (rain date: June 15th) from 11:00AM to 3:00PM for this special gathering!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! THIS HISTORIC GATHERING WILL NEED AMAZING VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!**

*If you’re available to help with set up, food/meal organization, decorating, music, communications/outreach, Town Fair set-up, or kids’ games, please fill out the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/rfDivFp8svstgncY7>*

*Questions? Email Kim Bodnar at [bodnark@lincolntown.org](mailto:bodnark@lincolntown.org).*

**COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE (CCBC)**

The Community Center Building Committee (CCBC) has been busy! The CCBC provided a full update at the December State of the Town (SOTT), including an overview of the project by ICON Architecture and a multi-page a handout, which is now posted on the CCBC web site. The recording of the overview can be found on the Town’s video website.



At the CCBC’s December 18, 2024 meeting, the town’s Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) presented a budget plan including the hard and soft costs, estimated cash flow, and a very detailed budget. The take home message was that the project is on budget and on time.

One of the first phases of the project will be to create the new school maintenance shop in the



Hartwell Administration Building, a move from its current location in Hartwell Pod B. The maintenance shop and Strats playground rehabilitation are both expected to be completed before other construction is started in mid 2025. At the December meeting, ICON Architecture presented the construction documents for the renovation of the maintenance shop.

*Please visit <https://lincolncommunitycenter.com/> and sign up for email updates!*

**INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE (IDEA)**

The IDEA Committee hosted about 150 - 200 people at its Newcomer’s Party on Sunday, January 26th! This was an opportunity for those who are newer to Lincoln to learn more about town government and organizations, meet friends and neighbors, enjoy some food, and connect with the community. Attendees were able to meet our state *Legislative team: State Senator, Mike Barrett, Precinct 1 Representative, Carmine*





*Gentile, and Precinct 2 Representative, Alice Peisch.* We thank them for spending the afternoon with us! It was a festive event and the IDEA team hopes it helped demystify town government and organizations! Thank you to the *many* individuals and community groups that attended and organized the event!



Over the next several months, members of IDEA will meet with other town boards to talk about a framework for recruiting and welcoming new members. The goal is to have a process that is transparent, user-friendly, and as consistent as possible!



### **FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The town budget cycle began at the end of the summer and will culminate in votes at the March Town Meeting. The Finance Committee (FinCom) and Capital Planning Committee (CapCom) are integral to shaping this process:

- ➔ **SUMMER - EARLY FALL:** Town departments provided further details about their capital and operating budget requests for the next fiscal year (FY26).
- ➔ **OCTOBER - DECEMBER:** FinCom issued guidance for the upcoming fiscal year (an increase of 2.5% for FY25); Departments discussed and refined proposals.
- ➔ **DECEMBER - JANUARY:** The Town Administrator, Lincoln and Lincoln-Sudbury School Departments, Lincoln Library, and CapCom present operating and capital projects to FinCom in budget hearings. Funding sources for budgets and projects are discussed, particularly for items that are outside of FinCom's recommended budget guidance.
- ➔ **JANUARY - MARCH:** Boards and Committees hold hearings and public information sessions to share information about warrant articles and to gather community feedback and questions.
- ➔ **MARCH 29, 2025: Lincoln residents vote on all budgets at the Annual Town Meeting.**
- ➔ Please check the **Town Meeting 2025 webpage** frequently for updates and information!  
<https://www.lincolntown.org/1538/2025-Annual-Town-Meeting>

### **Recent State Grants to Lincoln Total over \$675K!**

In January, Lincoln was awarded three grants:

- ✓ A **\$430,000 MBTA Communities Catalyst Fund Grant** to help defray the cost of phase 2 of a water main replacement on Lincoln Road. Lincoln was eligible for this grant because we are compliant with the MBTA Communities Act (Housing Choice Act).
- ✓ A **\$232,000 Complete Streets Grant** to install a crosswalk at Old Sudbury Road/Route 117
- ✓ A **\$15,000 grant for fire safety equipment.**

**TOWN MEETING PREVIEW**

As a small town, Lincoln has an Open Town Meeting form of government, which means that **all voters registered in Lincoln have the right and responsibility to vote on the Town’s budget, capital expenditures, and bylaws at Town Meetings.** The slate of items on which we vote is known as the Warrant.

Here are some of the items that will appear on the March 29, 2025 Warrant:

Warrant Article	Sponsor
FY 26 Town and Schools Budgets	Finance Committee
Capital Expenditures	Capital Planning Committee
Community Preservation Act Projects	Community Preservation Act Committee
<b>250th Celebration!</b>	Lincoln250 Committee
Floodplain Bylaw Amendment	Planning Board
Water Department Capital Projects	Board of Water Commissioners

**Green Communities Recognition**

In November, at the *Green Communities Summit* hosted by the MA Department of Energy Resources, Lincoln was recognized for *reducing our municipal energy consumption by more than 20% over the past five years.* Thank you to all the staff members and volunteers who have worked hard to make that happen!

**Technical Assistance Grant**

In December, the Green Energy Committee (GEC) got the Select Board’s support to pursue “Climate Leader Community” status. Over the years, Lincoln has done much of the work required for this designation, including establishing a Green Committee, adopting the most stringent building code, and developing a Climate Action Plan.

One of the remaining tasks is to create a *Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap.* Members of the GEC, along with Assistant Town Administrator, Dan Pereira, submitted a grant application for technical assistance to create the Roadmap. *In December, Lincoln was awarded the grant,* and will work with

Power Options (<https://poweroptions.org/>) an energy consultant for non-profits and the public sector, to complete work.

**Lincoln School Solar Array**

Thanks to the outstanding work of current and past School Administrators, School Committee members, School Building Committee members, and volunteers, *the Lincoln School’s 1.2 MW solar array is up and running!*



The School participated in an energy incentive program that required monitoring the energy use of the building after it was occupied. After 12 months of monitoring, the overall annual energy use intensity (EUI) was measured at 22.7 kBtu/SF/yr, outperforming both the 23.9 EUI goal set by



the School Building Committee, and the 25.0 EUI threshold of the Eversource Post-Occupancy Verification Incentive Program.

*This performance earned the Town an incentive of \$128,974!*

### DARK SKIES SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE



The introduction of artificial light at night seriously threatens Lincoln’s wildlife and agriculture, and negatively impacts human health. Experts indicate that excessive lighting does not necessarily contribute to safety and security.

The Dark Skies Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board, is actively considering updates to Lincoln’s lighting guidelines in order to address the shortcomings of the original bylaw as well as keep up with technological advances, creating benefits for all Lincoln’s leadership, institutions, and residents.

We encourage residents to review the current guidelines established by the Lincoln Planning Board in 2014 (2024 Zoning Bylaws, page 64), which can be found on the home page of the town website. And, please consider using light only when needed, where needed, and in the amount necessary.



Please visit our page on the town website:

<https://lincolntown.org/1550/Dark-Skies-Subcommittee>

Contact us: Craig Nicholson, [NicholsonC@lincolntown.org](mailto:NicholsonC@lincolntown.org)

#### RESPONSIBLE LIGHT

1. **USEFUL:** all light should have a clear purpose
2. **TARGETED:** direct light so it falls only where and when needed
3. **LOW:** use the lowest lighting required
4. **CONTROLLED:** use timers and motion detectors
5. **WARM:** limit short wavelength blue-violet lights

### LINCOLN TRANSPORTATION COALITION

The Town’s roadway and transportation planning program benefited significantly last year from the formation of the Transportation Coalition, which is comprised of members of the Roadway & Traffic Committee (RTC), the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), staff representation from Public Safety, Public Works, and the Planning Department, and consulting support from a traffic engineering firm. This year, the Coalition developed a 5-Year Capital Plan which includes a prioritized list of roadway and roadside projects designed to improve and expand pedestrian and cyclist safety and connectivity. The 5-Year Plan relies heavily on the potential availability of state grants, anticipating requests for Town funding only after grant possibilities have been exhausted. The Plan is available on the Town’s website at: <https://www.lincolntown.org/1552/Transportation-Coalition>.



### Police Sergeant, Jennifer McNaught

Sergeant McNaught has a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration-Management, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

She began her law enforcement career as a Reserve Police Officer with the Fife Police Department in Washington, and was then hired by the Auburn Police Department and worked in the Patrol Division and the Criminal Investigations Division.

[www.lincolntown.org](http://www.lincolntown.org)

Before coming to Lincoln, Sgt. McNaught was a Detective in the Major Crime Unit handling Domestic Violence Cases. She has significant patrol experience and is considered, nationally, a Drug Recognition Expert as well as being a licensed drone pilot.

Sgt. McNaught has been a member of the United States Army for the past sixteen years, and is currently a member of the United States Army Reserve's Criminal Investigation Division.

**Thank you, Chris Bibbo!**

On behalf of our residents, the Select Board thanks Chris for his 20 years of leadership of the Department of Public Works! Lincoln was well-served by Chris' professional background as an engineer and his ability to work collaboratively with a range of town boards and committees. Under his leadership, we enhanced town recycling programs, have more efficient snow and ice removal, and safer road conditions. Chris' collaborative approach, careful fiscal management, consensus-oriented leadership, responsiveness to community needs, and commitment to improving town infrastructure were hallmarks of his time in Lincoln and we wish him all the best!

**Superintendent, Department of Public Works, Stephen (Steve) Olson**

We are pleased to welcome Superintendent Olson back to Lincoln! Steve gained over 13 years of experience in the Weymouth Water Department before coming to Lincoln as a Primary Operator in the Lincoln Water Department in early 2020.

While in Lincoln, Steve was promoted to Distribution Foreman. He was then hired to be the Water and Sewer Superintendent in the Town of Wellesley where he oversaw 150 miles of water mains and 135 miles of sewer mains. He brings his experience overseeing that department's budget, personnel, equipment management, regulatory requirements, safety protocols, and collaborative skills to his new role

as the Superintendent of the Lincoln Department of Public Works.

**We also welcome:**

- **Alison Armstrong, Assistant Director, Lincoln Library**
- **Christine Conrad, Public Safety Dispatcher**
- **Sheila Riley, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation**
- **David Rollins, Crew Member, Department of Public Works**

**We extend a warm welcome to each of our new Town of Lincoln team members!**

*P.S. Thank you to Andrew Glass, Jennifer Glass, and Karen Neurath for the photos in this edition of the newsletter.*

Lincoln Select Board  
Kim Bodnar, Chair  
Jennifer Glass  
Jim Hutchinson  
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