

**Board of Selectmen  
2007 Annual Report**

**Municipalities, as with everyone, deal with new situations on a regular basis. The responsibility of the Board of Selectmen is, very simply, to protect and improve our beloved town. Town meeting is a time of reflecting on accomplishments of the past and their evolution into the challenges ahead.**

**Ted Sutton is moving from his position as Town Manager into the next phase of his life. We want to thank Ted Sutton for his exemplary service to the Town of Lincoln. So very much has been accomplished to protect and improve our community under his management. He was the right man at the right time and has guided us through almost 6 years of significant change and growth in Lincoln. Ted set himself a standard that was always “above and beyond the call of duty”. The results of his unceasing effort we see all around us. We are financially healthier, better prepared for change, more organized and better planned for the future than before he took office. His legacy will help shape this town for many years and we are profoundly thankful. Ted, all the best to you in retirement and keep an eye out for your town, as we know you will. Your “open door” policy kept many issues from getting out of hand and made people feel they were being heard. That door will always be open to you.**

**As we review this past year we reflect on many issues:**

- The dedication of the new Lincoln-Woodstock Community Ball Field and improvements to the community center including added programs for all ages. Our challenge is to monitor these programs and needed resources to more effectively serve the citizens of our community.**
- Our industrial park is being advertised and we must continue to work to promote sales of lots to help increase our tax base and provide jobs.**
- The removal of the solid waste incinerator shows us moving from the past. Lincoln, working together with the town of Woodstock, is completing a town wide survey and professional review to determine the most cost effective and environmentally conscious means for handling the increasing demands of solid waste removal.**
- The water system review and establishment of an Energy and Water Conservation Committee to insure we keep pace with the increasing demands of new growth.**
- The completion of the Pleasant Street project as we work on the ever-constant needs of our highways and streets listed in our Capital Improvement Plan.**
- Moving from the past to the future is reflected in the coming removal of the old paper mill wastewater treatment plant and the 2007 approved land transfer to North Country Center for the Arts for development of a new facility.**
- Establishment of the Village Core Committee of dedicated volunteers working to develop a Capital Improvement Plan project of a Riverside Park with extending pathways to connect the town center with the town’s boundaries.**

- **After many years of cooperation between the Town (providing permitting) and Loon Mountain, this past year’s snowmaking line installation to Connector Pond led to the opening of the South Peak ski trails and a new era in Loon’s and Lincoln’s future as a resort community.**
- **Early meetings of the Lincoln Green Committee will lead to investigating the future housing needs for senior citizens and others.**
- **Agreements between the Town and the State will result in the repaving and restriping of the traffic lanes on Main Street this coming summer to better manage traffic flow. This change is part of a new traffic management plan worked out between the Planning Board and the developers during their Site Plan approvals at no cost to the Town.**

**Undoubtedly, one of the greatest ongoing challenges to our community is the issue of the Statewide Property Tax. This tax is exacted by the State to pay for education throughout the State but it has been very poorly managed in the past. We went through 6 years of a donor and receiver town system that cost Lincoln millions in tax dollars for which we received almost no benefit. This money was distributed by a formula that allowed a number of wealthy New Hampshire towns to receive a windfall in tax dollars and then spend the money on anything they pleased, and they did, often on anything but education! For the last two years the State has been operating under temporary legislation that has ended our donor town status and this has allowed us to achieve our current tax rate. We have worked and sacrificed as a town to keep our tax burden reasonable. The solution to help modify the impact of this dilemma is a constitutional amendment that is supported by Governor Lynch and will allow the legislature to distribute education funding to the most needy towns. This is called “targeted aid” and we believe this will be a fair and equitable system that will give all New Hampshire children an equal opportunity for education. The present legislation requires the same amount of money be distributed for every child regardless of how income wealthy a town may be and only widens the gap between the rich and the poor. This is our money and this is not how we want it spent. Through an organization of likeminded towns, former “donor towns,” called the Coalition Communities we have been fighting to have the constitutional amendment placed on the ballot in November. We need your help. If we, the people of this State, make ourselves heard, loudly, the legislature will have to act on our wishes. They are supposed to represent us but often they find reasons not to. Let’s make the message loud and clear and then hold them responsible for their actions.**

**As you can see, your Town Government is very active in pursuing issues and as Ted Sutton has said, “managing for the lows and the highs”. This means working to spend our hard earned tax money wisely.**

**We appreciate and thank all town employees and all volunteers for your part in making Lincoln such a great place to live.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

---

**Chairman Deanna Huot**

---

**Selectman Peter E. Moore**

---

**Selectman R. Patricia McTeague**