

# Lincoln Board of Selectmen 2003 Annual Report

The voters' approval of the budget at the March, 2003 Town Meeting allowed the Town to move towards making major improvements in Lincoln's infrastructure. The No. 2 sewer lagoon has already been cleaned, and the No. 1 lagoon will be cleaned in 2004. Engineers are now working on plans in preparation for the Route 3 water line replacement and Mansion Hill infrastructure work. We are studying methods to resolve problems with drainage along Pollard Road. These projects have been on the Capital Improvement Plan and under discussion for years and are finally being addressed. Good job, voters of Lincoln!

Your Town Manager has met the challenges of a busy year. It has been vitally important to have such a conscientious individual providing daily oversight on projects as well as on unanticipated events that occurred this past year. The vote of Town Meeting last year paved the way so that we could proceed with issuance of bonds for the water and sewer projects and begin the first phase of the sludge removal at the sewer lagoons. The coordination of day-to-day municipal operations as part of your Town Manager's daily duties provided an environment of proficiency and efficiency with an emphasis on cost savings. Reduction in the contract cost of the operation of the sewer facility and the use of grant monies to purchase a Cascades System for the Fire Department's ladder truck are just two examples of ways in which Mr. Sutton realized substantial savings for the taxpayers. A major project that Mr.

Sutton has been working on is creating a viable approach to water billing. The seasonal use of water poses a unique challenge in developing a fair and equitable plan to encourage citizens and businesses to conserve. A billing plan will also help the community better manage our water production process and plan for the future. We will be addressing this issue in 2004 with public hearings. Mr. Sutton also participated in the extraordinary effort put forth in multiple search and rescue incidents during the past year. Good job, Ted!

After many years, it appears that we may be attaining a goal of building an additional ball field. The perseverance of supporters of recreation over a period of seven years has resulted in funds raised by both Woodstock and Lincoln, a three-way agreement between the two towns and the school, and the approval of grant money. The Capital portion of this year's budget includes an additional request for funds to bring this project to fruition. Good job, recreation supporters!

The recent change of ownership of the Mill property, a major component of the Village Center, will result in some improvements in terms of safety and aesthetics. The much-needed removal of the dilapidated bleach plant will mark the end of the industrialized period of Lincoln's history. We honor all of those hard workers who built our town and were a part of that era, and we look forward to an exciting period of growth and development that is on the horizon. Good luck, new owners and Planning Board members!

The services and talents of our police, fire and ambulance personnel

have been greatly challenged during 2003. Lessons learned in regular training as well as the Critical Incident Training held last spring were put to the test on more than one occasion. Good job, public safety personnel!

Staff for the Town of Lincoln remained stable this year. This continuity allows for a thorough understanding of job responsibilities and it means we are better able to prepare for the coming challenges. These include: major construction projects in 2004, completion of the 911 numbering process, dealing with anticipated growth, maintaining budgets, preparing for the property revaluation in 2005. The teamwork approach by all employees is to be commended. Good job, all Town employees!

The Town portion of the 2003 Tax Rate remained unchanged from 2002. The goal of the Board of Selectmen is to work with employees to meet the challenges of the community while maintaining a stable tax rate.

One of the highlights of the year for the Selectmen came last May, when we presented the Boston Post Cane to our most senior citizen, Mr. Wendell Tetley. We had a delightful visit with Mr. Tetley that spring day. We were saddened to learn of his death on February 1, 2004, at age 95. He was a gentleman who touched many lives in this community.

The successful operation of our town is facilitated in great part by the good will of many volunteers, whether it is the Budget Committee, Planning Boards, Library, Historical Society, Recreation Department, or Public Safety agencies. The year 2003 saw a tremendous response from people – in this community and beyond – who were willing to make a difference. This spirit was exemplified during the search and rescue effort for Patric McCarthy. To all who make a contribution, in whatever way, please know your commitment to the community is invaluable. Good job, volunteers!

Thank you all! We truly do live in a wonderful place.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Huot  
Peter Moore  
Patricia McTeague

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Chairman Deanna Huot

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Selectman Peter Moore

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Selectman Patricia McTeague