

Lincoln Board of Selectmen Annual Report for 2004

2004 was a year of progress for the Town of Lincoln. We are pleased to report that projects that have been in the planning stages for a number of years were accomplished.

The sewer lagoons were cleaned of debris and sludge, and new aerators and new electrical cables were installed. The area was landscaped and new fencing was erected. This was the first major cleanup of the lagoons since their construction 30 years ago. In the future, maintenance will occur on a regularly scheduled basis.

After 10 years of planning, the roads in the Mansion Hill neighborhood were upgraded. This project included installation of new water and sewer lines, drainage, and road resurfacing. Despite the challenge of keeping traffic flowing while work was underway, everything was completed on time, thanks in large measure to the wonderful level of cooperation between residents, workers, and town officials.

Debate and deliberation spanned eight town meetings, and finally, in 2004 construction of the Lincoln-Woodstock Community Ball Field began on school property. This was made possible through an agreement between Lin-Wood Public School and the towns of Lincoln and Woodstock, and with the support and participation of community-oriented contractors. In the coming year the field will be seeded, and dugouts and a concession stand will be built. The

target date for play on the field is the spring of 2006.

A group of local citizens who serve on the Community Building Committee have devoted the past decade to working on the creation of a building that would be used for a variety of purposes by citizens of all ages. The Committee relied upon a grant-funded feasibility study to reach some of its conclusions regarding the best location and type of facility needed. The years of patience and persistence have paid off. At Town Meeting this year an article will go before voters that will authorize the Town to purchase the St. Joseph's Parish Center on Pollard Road.

This facility will ultimately house a gathering place for our senior citizens; new space for the Lincoln Woodstock Community Childcare Center; a refurbished kitchen; and offices for different community groups such as ADAPT and DARE. Future plans also call for new bathrooms and the addition of a computer room and a gymnasium.

Funding for the acquisition of the property and future renovations will come from a variety of sources. These include the Community Building Capital Reserve Account and proceeds from the anticipated sale of undeveloped land, not needed by the town, which surrounds the Parish Center. Other funding sources include state and federal grants and donations from community agencies and individuals.

Another project that will be addressed by voters at this year's Town Meeting involves plans to replace the water line along Route 3. Since the costs for the Route 3 project are higher than originally projected, we are requesting that funds be reallocated from the Water Treatment Filter Unit #3 Capital Reserve. We are also asking that the funds that are left over from the sewer lagoon project be transferred to the Water System Rehabilitation Capital Reserve for this purpose.

We are looking at plans to upgrade other roads throughout town. One area we focused on this past year has been Pollard Road, where drainage has been a problem in the vicinity of the Parish Center property.

Many of these projects have been accomplished as a result of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP.) Through the CIP, the Town sets aside money over a period of years so that major expenses for infrastructure work, equipment, or facilities can be met as needed. When you vote at Town Meeting to set aside monies in various Capital Reserve accounts, you are participating in this important process.

Another CIP project now underway is the town wide revaluation. The company that we've hired to do this revaluation has already begun home inspections. The project will be completed in 2006.

We are increasingly optimistic about efforts to eliminate the Statewide Property Tax. Our state legislators are developing a plan to fund education through targeted aid to communities, and there is growing sentiment to do

away with the "donor" and "receiver" town designations. We encourage our citizens to give this topic careful attention and to become involved by writing letters on this issue to our state representatives.

Proper oversight and coordination of all of these projects is critical, and for that we rely on our Town Manager, Ted Sutton. Ted is now working with local developers to plan for the increasing demand for water as new development progresses in our town. Ted is also working with a Planning Board sub-committee on the development of our industrial park – a project that has been under consideration for many years.

It has been a productive year, thanks in large part to the level of cooperation that exists between school and town officials of Lincoln and Woodstock, contractors, town employees, and the caring citizens of both towns. We look forward to continuing the momentum in the next 12 months as we undertake some new and exciting projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Deanna L. Huot

Selectman Peter Moore

Selectman Patricia McTeague