

## **Lincoln Board of Selectmen Annual Report for 2005**

2005 was a year of celebration, accomplishment, and of pulling together as a town to achieve our common goals. Thanks are in order to our town employees and the many volunteers who make managing this community and protecting its well being possible. Working side by side with these people is a privilege.

The Lincoln Public Library marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, and the State Library Trustees Association named our Library Director, Carol Riley, as the state's "Librarian of the Year." Carol's efforts, the work of the Board of Trustees, the support of the Friends of Lincoln Library, and the dedication of volunteers have made our small town library a treasure; a place of enjoyment, of learning and culture and a tranquil refuge for all ages. We may be small, but these good people have made us great. We are only bound by the constraints we place on ourselves. They have proved that to all of us.

Milestones were achieved this past summer with the purchase of the St. Joseph Parish Center on Pollard Road, its re-dedication as the Father Roger Bilodeau Community Center, and the groundbreaking for the first phase addition to provide separate space and bathroom facilities for both the Day Care Center and the Senior Center. The Community Building Committee that has worked so long and diligently on this project deserves our profound thanks, as does the Lincoln-Woodstock Rotary

for their generous financial support. This accomplishment will have a positive impact on our quality of life. And, not to be forgotten, we extend a heartfelt thank you to "Father Bill." Without you, this could not have happened.

The Impact Fee Ordinance that voters approved in 2004 has been put to good use and has been of great benefit to the town. Because a significant amount of new residential and commercial development is planned, it was essential that town officials analyze how this development will impact future demand on our water and sewer systems and what upgrades would be necessary. (Ted Sutton has provided more details on this analysis in the Town Manager's report.) Ted drew up an agreement between the Town and the four largest land developers in Lincoln, establishing a new impact fee of \$500 per bedroom that is assessed each time the Town issues a Building Permit for new construction. The funds will accrue until the estimated cost of \$420,000 for a 500,000 gallon water purification cell is attained. In the interim, any additional treated water needs will be provided by improvements and upgrades to the Cold Spring Well facility, at a cost of approximately \$125,000. The developers also paid for these improvements, which were completed this past summer. All of this has put the water-billing program on the back burner. A billing plan is a sensible long-term strategy for

managing these costs. The Board of Selectmen can now continue to investigate an equitable plan for water billing, but under no circumstances will we burden the taxpayer with additional fees that can be collected by other means. Developers voluntarily took on and completed two other projects in town: 1) As a result of Elliott Construction's expansion of Forest Ridge, there was increased water run-off near the new Community Center. They agreed to rebuild and enlarge the drainage system that runs under Pollard Road in that neighborhood. With this improvement, and the new Mansion Hill Road finished, we should have seen the last of the flooding at the west end of Pollard Road. 2) Saber Mountain Partners paid for the new Loon Booster Station that will increase water pressure to the height of the development in the upper Beechwood area.

The Route 3 replacement of the existing 8" water main with a new 12" main was completed. The project was postponed in 2004 due to higher costs than originally projected. Ted Sutton worked throughout the year with the engineers, state officials, and the contractor to reduce these costs. With the careful oversight of Bill Willey, our Public Works Superintendent, we came in within the budget.

The addition of aerator covers and an upgrade to the head works to keep debris out of the sewer lagoons put some of our sewer connection fee money and the Roland Dubois Settlement funds to good use,

without placing any additional burden onto the taxpayers.

We were gratified to see that the new Lincoln-Woodstock Community Ball Field has been just about completed and is expected to be in use this season.

Revaluation of all residential and commercial properties as required by law has been underway during this past year, and it will continue into the spring of 2006. At that time, the appraisal firm of Earls, Nieder, and Perkins, LLC will be available for any taxpayers who want to challenge their new assessment. The final values will be reflected on the November tax bill. This prompted the Board of Selectmen to propose Warrant Article No. 3, which, if approved, will increase the elderly tax exemption with the goal of protecting this vulnerable group from increased taxation.

Through the efforts of our Police Chief, Ted Smith, the Town received a Homeland Security grant of \$36,000 to pay for one-half of a radio transmission repeater to be installed on the summit of Loon Mountain. This will expand the radio coverage throughout the entire town and beyond to neighboring towns. It will also provide sorely needed coverage to the height of the land on the Kancamagus Highway and beyond. We thank Loon Mountain Recreation Corp. once again for stepping up to the plate as a responsible civic partner.

Another milestone was the clearing of land for the nine-lot Lincoln Small Business Park, off Bern Dibner

Road. Initial efforts on this project began in the 1980s in hopes of providing better jobs for our townspeople and a location where local businesses might expand. Building lots will be available this summer. This small business park will also benefit the town through the sale of the lots and by making the property taxable.

Upcoming projects include: 1) The resurfacing this summer of Pollard Road from the west end intersection to Church Street. This project is now possible because the drainage system has been repaired. 2) We anticipate that Loon Mountain will begin construction of potable water lines, sewer lines, and snowmaking lines for the development at the base of South Mountain. The Town will grant an easement across town property for these lines, in consideration of an \$80,000 payment. 3) The planning and engineering for the Pleasant Street upgrade will get underway in 2006 and the actual work will be completed in 2007, with funding from a combination of sources, including capital reserve accounts, grants, and Loon's payment for the easement referred to above. 4) This year we plan to purchase a new sidewalk plow with a mower attachment, and a 2-1/2 ton International dump truck body and sander. 5) The Town's electric utilities will be assessed by a professional in that field, in response to the NH Electric Cooperative's challenge of utility assessments throughout the state. 6) The Town website will receive a significant upgrade and *Town Talk* will again be

published to help keep our citizens informed of town business in these rapidly changing times. 7) We will look at the impact of anticipated growth on fire protection, traffic management, and affordable housing, and we will continue to schedule projects as defined in our CIP (Capital Improvement Program.)

Finally, to end where this report began, with a thank you, this time to Ruth Bossie who each year coordinates, edits, and designs the layout of the Annual Report. Her efforts have brought us three first place awards – in 2001, 2003, and 2004 - for "Best Town Report" for towns statewide in our population category by the Local Government Center.

Municipal officials and the Board of Selectmen are elected to serve and represent you. We need your questions, suggestions, constructive criticism, and your involvement. Please join us on Monday evenings, 6 p.m. at the Town Hall and let us know how you feel about the issues facing our town.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deanna L. Huot, Chair

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Peter E. Moore, Selectman

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R. Patricia McTeague, Selectman