

Lincoln Budget Board

3/18/25 @ 7:00pm Carl Brunetti

Carl Brunetti, Bob Turner, Bruce Whitehead, Nicholas Rodrigues, Andrew Esposito, Sandra Ackerman, Dave Hart, Mike Ferry, Aidan Carey, **Jennifer Stadnik, Marc Beaulieu.**

Also in attendance: None

*If marked **red** this denotes absent

Town Council, Boards and Commissions:

Friends of Hearthsides, discussed the concluded projects that were approved of from the prior budget. Outlines future planning for FY26, including interior painting, replastering and wallpapering the parlor due to water damage, gazebo repairs and handicap ramp installation, with an estimated cost of \$35,000.00 with additional project including flagpole and tree replacement, with an additional \$5,000.00 budget allocation. An engineering study and stone mason work at Moffett Mill are planned for FY27-28, with a potential new roof costing \$40,000.00 to 50,000.00. Noted the importance of following Secretary of interior standards for preservation, especially for buildings funded by federal grants.

Parks and Recreation represented by John Sharkey discusses the need for proper maintenance and equipment for local sports fields. Mention that Manville park's infield requires significant repairs, with low spots and lips causing water accumulation. Highlighted the town spends \$11,000.00 annually on field repairs but lacks proper laser-grading equipment, which costs over \$50,000.00. Outline the need to add lights to the fields, allowing for two practices at night.

The Conservation Commission presented their annual review, highlighting key achievements and initiatives:

1-Marketing and outreach

Active on Facebook, Website, and Email, increase community engagement through social media and events.

2-Major Accomplishments

Annual Breakneck Hill Road cleanup (75 bags of trash), school recycling and compost program (reduced school lunches waste from 100 pounds to less than a bag).

3-Butterfly Garden Project

Cleared area using goats, launched "Adopt-a-Plot" program with 20 applications, planning to create a wildflower field as a backdrop for Chase Farm events.

4-Environmental Initiatives

Installed a trash boom in the Blackstone River, working on trail maintenance and mapping, collaborating with local historical society, focusing on pollinator conservation.

5-Future Goals

Expand recycling education, continue school recycling education, restore waterfall in butterfly garden.

The group operates on a \$6,000.00 budget and seeks to make their environmental efforts sustainable and community driven.

The Library Board of Trustees, discussed the need to hire a part-time custodian to assist with maintenance and upkeep.

The Board of Canvassers, proposed a pay increase of \$25.00 for wardens and clerks, stating that this adjustment would bring their total compensation to \$250.00, plus an additional \$25.00 for meals.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes 03/11/25

Motion by Michael Ferry to approve and second by Bruce Whitehead unanimous.

Minutes 03/13/25

Motion by Bruce Whitehead to approve and second by Aidan Carey unanimous.

Correspondence:

3/14 – Emailed the superintendent of school saying that we are available on 3/27 and requested that they prioritize their capital.

3/14 – Emailed list of question that hadn't been answered to the Town Administrator, and requested he prioritize the requested municipal capital.

3/17 – Received an email from the school business administrator, he supplied the information that we had previously requested, and he sent over the prioritization of the education capital.

Public Comment:

Kevin Simpson acknowledges how impressed he is with the Budget Board members and expresses his gratitude for their hard work.

New Business:

FY25 Budget:

FY25 tax collections are on target. Quarterly payments received to date have been posted. The third quarter payments were due January 31st, and fourth quarter payments are due April 30th. For casino commissions through the week ending February 28, the table game receipts for the town are 98% with convertible weeks

from FY2024 and 73% of theconvertible weeks in FY2018 the last full year of table game operation.
Expenditures for FY25 is in progress.

FY26 Municipal Budget:

No update.

FY25 Education Department budget:

No update

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by MichaelFerry and second Bruce Whitehead @9:30pm

Next Meetingdate:

3/20/25 @7PM