

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *February 5, 2010*

ITEM 1. With the arrival of spring a mere six weeks away, the Maine Department of Transportation is gearing up for the road construction project along West Broadway and north on Route 2. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, and I met with representatives from MDOT this week to discuss their project and how the town could help facilitate the process. Since I last reported on this subject, the MDOT plans have changed a bit to accommodate the cost of fixing West Broadway. The original plan was to pave Route 2 from the River Road intersection north to the tracks in North Lincoln. The new plan calls for a shim coat from just south of the intersection at the River Road to Hannaford's. The pavement from Hannaford to the bridge will be ground and replaced. There will be a 1,000' section beginning in the area of the Family Dollar store heading north where the base will also be reconstructed. The Main Street area from the bridge to Evergreen Drive will not be paved. Route 2 from Evergreen Drive to the railroad crossing in North Lincoln will be paved. Also along this route any gaps in the 4' shoulder will be fixed as well as installation of some new catch basins.

The MDOT will be asking the Town Council to suspend the town's noise ordinance to allow work on West Broadway to occur at night. There are two reasons for this. The first is that there are approximately 12,000 cars that travel over West Broadway during the day. Trying to control the flow of traffic to accommodate the roadwork will snarl traffic all over town. The second reason is that there are many businesses along the West Broadway corridor that would be affected if traffic could not flow freely during the day time. The night construction may be disruptive to the people who have homes along this stretch of road but it is the most effective way to get the job done while affecting the least amount of people and businesses. The northern part of the project starting at Evergreen Drive will be done during the day time.

During the meeting we learned that the railroad did not have the Lincoln crossings on their maintenance schedule for this year. After meeting with the MDOT I contacted John Steiniger, Asst. Vice President of Engineering for Pan Am Railways, to see if they could rearrange their projects so that the two Lincoln crossings could be fixed at the same time that the paving project was occurring. Mr. Steiniger agreed that we should work cooperatively and that it would be more cost effective to do the projects together. I am currently waiting to hear from the Senior Project Manager of Pan Am who will be setting up a meeting with the town and MDOT.

ITEM 2. Congratulations to our employees who are celebrating another year of service to the Town of Lincoln! The following table lists those employees along with their anniversary date and years of service.

Name & Department	Anniversary Date	Years of Service
Patricia McLaughlin, Police	February 11	2 Years
Tracie York, Administration	February 13	4 Years

ITEM 3. Each month the Department Managers submit a monthly report which highlights the management of their respective departments for that month. Information in these reports includes services provided, training, equipment maintenance, problems that have arisen and achievements. Beginning this month I am including this information on our website so that residents also have an opportunity to read the reports and learn what is going on in each department. To view the reports log on to www.lincolmaine.org.

ITEM 4. The Children's Fishing Pond Park is nearing completion! When traveling on the River Road you can now easily see the pond. Assessor, Ruth Birtz, completed an onsite inspection with Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, to review the work that had been completed. Mr. Davis had been working with contractor Glenn Brawn on this project over the past few weeks. As with any construction project, there are always unforeseen problems and last minute changes. This project is not different. The following are a few areas where adjustments need to be made:

- Unseasonably warm weather made equipment accessibility to the pond difficult. Mr. Brawn solved this problem by renting matting to allow equipment to cross the soupy soils.
- It was discovered that the overflow culvert was not completed to specifications. Mr. Davis was able to get American Concrete to provide a new culvert that met the proper specifications.
- The soil Mr. Brawn removed from the pond was heavy clay. He was concerned that this would substantially increase his cost to construct the pond. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, found an area adjacent to the airport that needed fill which was several hundred feet from the pond.
- The cost of the piping connecting to the overflow culvert was more than anticipated. The quote for this piping was \$2,800. The Water District was able to procure this piping for the Town and donated it to the project!
- The top of the overflow culvert calls for galvanized grating. Mr. Davis will be fabricating and welding this component of the project in another effort to reduce costs.
- Project Engineer, Ted Ocana, has overseen the construction of the pond. Some of the design elements were modified with his approval to save cost on the overall project.

Every construction project has cost overruns for unforeseen issues that arise during construction. A contingency fund is usually built into a project. Being a grant funded project there was no contingency fund. To be able to build this project with limited funds took the collaborative effort of many people. The result is a wonderful addition to the recreation opportunities the Town offers to children. Look for the dedication of the pond this spring. Special thanks are extended to the Edwards Family who donated the land to make this a possibility!

ITEM 5. Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, has completed the FY 2008 foreclosure notices. There were 46 taxpayers who received these notices and another 27 copies of these notices were mailed to mortgage holders or unassessed owners. Taxpayers will have until March 19, 2010, to pay the

FY 2008 tax liens in full. As you can see from the chart below, the foreclosures notices have increased just slightly over last year, but still are not as high as they were in 2005 and 2006.

FORECLOSURE NOTICES		
YEAR	NUMBER TAXPAYER NOTICES	NUMBER OTHER NOTICES
2008	46	27
2007	44	24
2006	51	31
2005	51	26
2004	41	23

ITEM 6. This week has been an exciting week for those organizing the 2010 Homecoming festival scheduled for July 15th-18th. Community Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that the committee's "secret entertainment" is taking shape. One particular act that has been finalized after months of negotiating is the ***Rise Above Extreme BMX/Skateboarding Pro Show***. This exciting ensemble of characters is known nationally for stunt work and professional gigs such as: *X-Games, The Mt. Dew Action Sports Tour, MTV, MTV2, CBS, NBC, ABC, Camp Woodward, The CBS Early Show, Great American Fundraising, QSP Fundraising, Levis, CVS, Pepsi, Ball Park Beef Franks, The Wasserman Media Group, Clear Channel, Live Nation, NBA, NFL, Time-Warner, Ohio State University, University of Michigan, United Fundraising, TLC Fundraising, USA Fundraising Network, World of Wheels* and numerous other venues. Owner Ron Thomas said, "We are very, very excited that you invited us, *The Rise Above BMX Team*, to come perform up there in Lincoln this July! Though I have driven through Maine, in all the 1000⁺ events I have put on, I have never had the pleasure of performing there. My crews and I love to meet and perform for new people and we are very excited to come to Maine this July!!"

Their performances for the festival include participation in the July 17th grand parade and 2 shows in the afternoon at the Veteran's Memorial Square. Mrs. Crosby said, "This is the first time that this nationally known group has performed in the State of Maine, and it is exciting that Lincoln has the opportunity to share this dynamic group during our festival. I'm sure that the kids and older folks too, will get a kick out of their performances!"

Many of the performances that are enjoyed throughout the festival are made possible through sponsorship and the Committee's fundraising efforts throughout the year. This particular event will be paid for through the Committee's annual "Calendar Raffle" which will occur this spring. Mrs. Crosby is also working with a couple of potential corporate sponsors who may contribute funds towards the cost of the show. U. S. Cellular is one of our corporate sponsors. The Roaming Railroad that was enjoyed by kids and adults alike last year was sponsored by U.S. Cellular and plans are being made for the same sponsorship this year! If you are interested in sponsoring a portion of the *Rise Above Extreme BMX/Skateboarding Pro Show* contact Mrs. Crosby at 794-6548.

Mrs. Crosby said there is still much more to be revealed so be sure to check back regularly in the *Weekly News* for exciting updates!

ITEM 7. Recently the Town has received complaints regarding vehicles parked along School Street and that these vehicles impede the flow of traffic in both directions. Currently parking is prohibited on the westerly side of School Street between Burton Street and Academy Street. After reviewing the area, Chief Phillip Dawson recommends that parking be prohibited on the easterly side of the street also to allow for the free flow of traffic in both directions. He is also concerned with getting fire apparatus in position at the Junior High School in the event of an emergency. Chief Dawson spoke with MJHS Principal, Larry Malone, and reports that Mr. Malone is also in favor of no parking along School Street. The school now has a larger parking lot to the north of the school.

Chief Dawson will prepare a proposed ordinance change for Town Council consideration. Notices of the public hearing will be mailed to residents on School Street.

ITEM 8. Things will soon be brighter at the Lincoln Memorial Library! Library Director, Linda Morrill, met with Electrician, Joe Brown, and a representative from Efficiency Maine to review the current lighting at the library. Efficiency Maine is developing plans to provide the library with energy efficient lighting. Once the plans are received, Mrs. Morrill will work with Mr. Brown to replace the existing lights. The FY2010 budget contains funding for this lighting upgrade. There are currently 10 fluorescent light sections not working, resulting in insufficient lighting for the patrons and staff. The existing lights were installed with the new addition in 1966.

ITEM 9. For many years the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been pursuing a public boat launch on the Big Narrows. DIF&W was concerned that the trout and salmon population was being depleted at an accelerated rate due to the introduction of bass into the lake. In order to stock the lake, a public boat launch must exist. Two years ago DIF&W purchased property on the Big Narrows to develop a public boat launch. This boat launch will be of constructed off Furrough Lane. Construction is planned to commence in the spring and is anticipated to be complete by mid-summer. DIF&W has already begun stocking the Big Narrows.

ITEM 10. Last fall the Town Council created a committee of individuals interested in trying to revitalize the use of the Ballard Hill Community Center. With the departure of Head Start, the building was left without a full time tenant. The Town Council opted to have the committee attempt to bring activities to the center that would warrant keeping the doors open. For the month of February, the following activities have been planned:

- Music/Wii Game Nights will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 PM.
- The EAAA Lincoln Café serves lunch on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:30 AM. The suggested donation for this program is \$3.00 per plate and the public is welcome.

- Starting on February 24th, EAAA will begin *A Matter of Balance* exercise class on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.
- Indoor Flea Market on Saturday, February 13th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Tables will be available for \$5.00 each. Please call Kathleen Britton at 794-3219 and leave a message.

ITEM 11. The Code Enforcement Department has worked hard to encourage citizens to work with the Code Officer on Shoreland Zoning projects to avoid potential violations and problems with the Department of Environmental Protection. Not only does this benefit our residential property owners, it also is beneficial to our largest employer, Lincoln Paper and Tissue. This past summer Mr. Davis met with Dennis McComb, Environmental Engineer, and Jim Beyer, Environmental Specialist from the Department of Environmental Protection, on site at the Folsom Pond dam. Lincoln Paper and Tissue maintains the water level in the mill pond through a series of dams located on Upper Pond, Folsom Pond and Mattanawcook Lake. A berm adjacent to the dam on Folsom Pond had eroded. Water flowing through this failed berm was making it very difficult to control the water at an acceptable level for the mill and also represented a potential erosion problem for properties on Mattanawcook Lake. Mr. Davis, Mr. McComb and Mr. Beyer worked out a plan to rebuild the berm this winter. Mr. Davis met with the mill's contractor this week and reports that soil disturbance was minimized due to the frozen ground, and equipment was brought to the site by crossing the frozen lake, again minimizing impact on the site.

Mr. Davis was pleased with the erosion control measures the contractor had on site. This project should be completed by next week and Mr. Davis will report to the DEP that this project was completed in compliance with the permit by rule.

ITEM 12. Each year, the Maine State Housing Authority requests all general assistance agents in Penobscot and Piscataquis County to complete a survey on how many **homeless people** there are on a certain night. The survey is called the **Point in Time Survey (PIT)** and the specific date for recording the actual number of homeless this year was January 27, 2010. This report helps to generate a snap shot picture of how many people are without shelter and are in need of some type of emergency housing. The first report generated in 2007 showed that Lincoln had 10 people who were considered homeless and in 2008 that number doubled to 20! In 2009 the number of homeless people dropped slightly to 16 and this year the homeless population has increased to 22. This data may generate grant money or more shelter assistance through Section 8 vouchers. General Assistance Director, Gilberte Mayo, sees the PIT survey as the first step in identifying and understanding the dynamics of homelessness and that it does exist in Lincoln.

For 2010, the data indicates that Lincoln's homelessness increase is due to single, unaccompanied youth. *What does this mean?* It could be as simple as the fact that we now have a way to track this group of people or there are more juveniles who are left on their own without parental guidance or shelter than in the past.

For the Town of Lincoln the following chart is a breakdown of what this number depicts:

January 27, 2010	Households w/dependent children under the age of 18	Total number of adults & children in those families				Households w/out dependent children:			Number of single <u>unaccompanied youth under 18</u> (without adult present)	
		Adults		Children		Households	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Male	Female	Male	Female					
“Doubled up” or “couch surfing” temporarily with family or friends	3	1	2	2	3	5	3	2	4	1
Stayed temporarily in motel or hotel										
Slept in vehicle, abandoned building, public park or tent						2	2	2		
How many people have been continuously homeless for 1 yr or longer or had 4 or more episodes of homeless in 3 yrs										
TOTAL	3	1	2	2	3	7	5	4	4	1

ITEM 13. To use the Town’s Transfer Station, an individual needs to have a Trash Pass. These passes can be obtained at the Town Office. In the month of January the ladies in the front office issued 800 trash passes! In 2009 2,735 passes were issued. The total passes for this year is 1,613 which indicate that there are a lot more people who need to get a pass to use the facility.

During the month of January the attendants at the Transfer Station were reminding residents to pick up their pass. This week the attendants started turning away individuals without a pass. According to Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, some of the people who were turned away were very unhappy and expressed their anger by swearing at the attendants. Upon return to the Transfer Station with their passes, many were apologetic to the attendants for taking out their anger on the employee. Mr. Lloyd said over the weekend the attendants will not be turning residents away as the Town Office will not be open. However, the attendants will be recording plate numbers and instructing the residents to get a pass before they return to the facility.

ITEM 14. Seventy-seven adults have signed up for the library's our first 2010 adult reading program "Warming up with Books". Library Director, Linda Morrill, said "Patrons love the Reader's Advisory List 2009!" Several have commented on how much they like seeing what other readers have read. The readers have already read 310 books since the beginning of the program on January 18th. New patrons have been very pleased with the program also. One woman stated *"I have never heard of such a program at any of the libraries I have belonged to over the years! I am thrilled to see such an innovative program at this library."* This program continues until March 11th. Another addition to this program is a display of books read in 2009 featuring a blue bookmark indicating it was one of the favorites. The book cart is replenished every few days. Mrs. Morrill enjoys watching people look over the display and choosing a new author to read. It provides focus on older books so patrons are gently reminded we have a library filled with great books.

ITEM 15. As was reported earlier, State law no longer requires the Town Council to sign a warrant for prosecution of unlicensed dog owners/keepers. In the past, once the warrant was signed, certified letters were sent to those individuals who had not licensed their dog giving them an opportunity to license the dog before being summons to court. After this process was followed last year there were 16 owners of unlicensed dogs to whom Animal Control Officer Chas Meeker had to hand deliver notices. This year is a different story. When Town Clerk, Diana Hill, prepared the list of unlicensed dog owners/keepers, the list totaled 113 unlicensed dogs! To reduce the travel and time that the Animal Control Officer would need to issue summons to all of these owners, Ms. Hill sent out postcards to the owners giving them until February 16th to license their dogs. After that time, the ACO will begin issuing summons. Since sending the notices, 10 dogs have been licensed with numerous calls from people indicating their dog is now deceased, they no longer have the dog or they have moved from town

ITEM 16. In last week's Weekly News I reported that Assessor, Ruth Birtz, was looking for residents who are interested in learning to be a watershed steward. Mrs. Birtz is pleased with the response she has received since then. She has gotten many calls from the residents on Cold Stream Pond and the Big Narrows. Mrs. Birtz would like to see residents on the other ponds in town also become involved as data is needed from all the ponds. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer water quality tester for your lake or pond, please call Mrs. Birtz at 794-3372 or email her at assessor@lincolnmaine.org.

ITEM 17. In an effort to have a more comprehensive record of the Fire Engineers' apparatus training, Fire Chief, Phillip Dawson, has implemented an Apparatus Driving Log for all fire department vehicles. This log will track each Engineer's training on each piece of equipment. In addition to tracking the Engineers' individual driving time, the log will track time and mileage for each truck, and pump and aerial operation time. Chief Dawson will be able to quickly determine whether or not each Engineer is receiving sufficient and consistent experience on each vehicle.

ITEM 18. In a busy work environment it is sometimes very difficult for a supervisor to find time to address concerns that arise each week. Library Director, Linda Morrill, has implemented a new system called "Staff Notes" to help her with managing the library. Staff Notes is a weekly

handout she prepares for her staff. It is a reminder of procedures, policy and other staff related items that she observes during the week. She uses the document to highlight what worked well the week before and sometimes what did not go well. It updates everyone on programs and other activities and provides her staff with a consistent plan of what is happening at the library each week. Mrs. Morrill commented that the Staff Notes has actually worked well as a team builder and ensures everyone is on the same page. She said her staff looks forward to their Staff Notes each week.

ITEM 19. The weekly street light report is enclosed in the Council packet.

ITEM 20. Enjoy the weekend!