

TOWN PLAN FOR LINCOLN, VERMONT

Adopted by the Lincoln Select Board June 1st, 2010



Mount Abraham, Lincoln Vermont

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HISTORY OF LINCOLN

The Founding of Lincoln, Vermont

Lincoln was chartered to Colonel Benjamin Simonds and 64 associates on November 9, 1780. The Colonel was well thought of in Vermont because of the assistance he and the Massachusetts militia had rendered at the Battle of Bennington three years earlier. Colonel Simonds' new town was named in honor of his commanding officer, Major General Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810), who had played a vital role in getting the militia to Vermont. General Lincoln is also credited with having prepared the way for the American victory at Saratoga by cutting Burgoyne's lines of communication with Canada. Vermont seems to have made an especially nice gesture when it honored General Lincoln in the autumn of 1780. The tide of the Revolution had moved south; the General's troops had failed to retake Savannah, and they had lost Charleston in the spring of 1779. General Lincoln was captured and exchanged, and in 1780 he was serving under General Washington in the New York area.

Although relatively little known today, Lincoln was respected and liked by his contemporaries. Like George Washington, he was a farmer, and after the war he returned to farming at his home in Hingham, Massachusetts, though he was called into service several more times before his death. He was Secretary of War from 1781 to 1783; he led the Massachusetts militia in putting down Shays' Rebellion; he was asked to, and did, run in opposition to General Washington in the first Presidential election; he was lieutenant governor of Massachusetts in 1788, and was collector of the port of Boston from 1789 until just before he died at the age of seventy-seven.

Lincoln, like Ferrisburgh and several other Addison County towns, was settled by members of the Society of Friends, or Quakers. The first Quakers settled in an area known as Mud Flat around 1795. As time went by and other Quakers joined the original group, the area became known as Quaker Stand. The meeting house is gone and the Society has dispersed, but one part

of Lincoln village is still called Quaker Street. For a full history of Lincoln, see *Lincoln Vermont History: 1780-2007*, written by the Lincoln Historical Society.

THE TOWN PLANNING PROCESS

The Town of Lincoln is a small, rural community in the northeastern part of Addison County, nestled against the western slope of the Green Mountains of Vermont. The land is hilly and heavily forested, gradually sloping down toward the New Haven River, which flows through the center of town. In the 1850's Lincoln was a thriving town with over 1,500 residents, where farming, lumber and grist mills, blacksmith shops, and mercantile stores flourished.

The Town Plan of Lincoln provides a blueprint for the future, addressing issues of population and housing, economic development, natural resources, land use, public resources, and the impact of these on the quality of life. The Plan's purpose is to maintain the best elements – rural, diverse, close-knit community – of Lincoln's past while providing for the needs and desires of the Town's residents in the future. The Plan identifies existing conditions, including significant challenges facing the town. Based upon the existing infrastructure and conditions, it establishes clear goals and objectives. Lastly, it recommends strategies and policies that, if carefully followed, should help ensure the town will achieve its goals and objectives. Municipalities need plans to guide their future. Just as individuals must develop plans in order to secure an education, find a job or build a home, municipalities must prepare plans to protect and enhance the interests of their citizens. Failure to plan may allow important natural, economic and human resources to be destroyed or squandered.

Town facilities and services directly impact the town's capacity for economic and population growth. The scale of Town services and the physical characteristics of the area discourage large-scale commercial, industrial and agricultural development. For example, the Town lacks public septic and sewer systems, and most roads are not paved. Therefore, the Plan encourages smaller-scale cottage industries as the most realistic option for economic growth. Hand in hand with

moderate economic growth, the Plan encourages moderation in the growth rate of housing, with consideration of the optimum use of any parcel of land prior to development. Clustering of houses in a Planned Unit Development, which involves grouping houses in such a fashion as to maintain open land and blending them into the natural surroundings, is greatly encouraged. A diverse range of housing stock that meets the needs of all residents is desired, with considerable effort and emphasis placed on maintaining and creating housing opportunities in all price ranges. While growth is expected, the Plan recognizes Lincoln's considerable natural resources and seeks to preserve them. The Plan calls for the protection of wetlands and other wildlife habitat, as well as responsible forest and agricultural uses. Any growth and development that occurs should, to the extent possible, protect the quality and continued supply of fresh air, water, soil, natural resources, and protection from excessive noise and light pollution, and encourage energy conservation. Recreational uses must balance residents' needs and the needs of the natural environment appropriately. Finally, the Town Plan of Lincoln seeks to preserve residents' long term relationship with the land, which historically has shaped Lincoln as a community. The Plan supports and encourages the tradition of families creating opportunities for future generations to reside in Lincoln. Through agricultural and forestry uses, by maintaining open land and preserving scenic views, by creating compact population centers separated by rural countryside, the Plan seeks to preserve and sustain a community that is healthy, safe, enjoyable and economically viable.

The Town Plan of Lincoln is intended to guide Lincoln's future growth and development. The Town Plan is predicated on Lincoln's recent development and intended to guide Lincoln's future growth and development.

Table 1: DEVELOPMENT	
Number of lots created by Subdivision 2002-2008	
5 Lots Created	< 2 Acres
42 Lots Created	2-5 Acres
20 Lots Created	5-10 Acres
9 Lots Created	10 Acres
27 Lots Created	10+ Acres

It is intended both to protect the Town's most important community assets and to assure an individual's freedom to control his or her own property in ways that do not infringe on the rights of his or her neighbors. The Plan attempts to preserve and improve the Town's desirable characteristics, recognizing that change is inevitable in any community that is to remain vital and alive. The Plan also provides a basis for dialogue and action with adjoining towns, addressing common objectives and goals relating to transportation, the New Haven River and other natural resources, housing, and economic development, critical to the health of our community and the region.

From a legal perspective, the Plan is the foundation upon which the Town's development Bylaws, ordinances and capital plan are based, and it represents the Town's viewpoint on development before State Environmental Board in Act 250 hearings. Public discussions are held to discuss the Town Plan so that it and the resulting Bylaws and ordinances reflect the vision of the Town's citizens, grounded on Lincoln's recent growth and development history. The legal authority enabling municipalities to prepare, adopt and update comprehensive plans is found in Title 24, Chapter 117, Section §4381 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated (24 V.S.A. §4381). Town Plans allow towns to adopt regulatory Bylaws. Eligible Bylaws include Zoning Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, Official Maps, and Flood Hazard Bylaws.

Additionally, Town Plans are used as evidence in the Act 250 process. Vermont's Land Use and Development Law (Act 250, 10 VSA §6001 et. seq.) requires that developments be in conformance with any duly adopted municipal plan. Before a permit for a project subject to Act 250 review can be issued, the District Environmental Commission must find that the project conforms to both local and regional plans. Accordingly, our Town Plan contains specific, enforceable goals and objectives.

This Plan amends the Lincoln Town Plan adopted in 2002. It updates statistics, supports the intentions of the recently revised Zoning Bylaws, adds detail, incorporates new ideas, and follows the goals and objectives laid out by citizen participation in this planning process. The Plan must be readopted every five years, although it may be amended at any time by due process.

In the development of this Plan, every effort has been made to insure that exclusionary or discriminatory language was not included, and that the Plan is compatible with the plans of adjacent communities and regional planning efforts. The objectives outlined herein shall guide the further amendment of the Zoning Regulations and amendment or adoption of other Bylaws as deemed appropriate by the Town Planning Commission and adopted by the Town's citizens.

LAND USE

Overview

The issue of land use is very important to the townspeople of Lincoln. The Town of Lincoln is located in the northeastern corner of Addison County. Roughly 29,312 acres or 45.8 square miles in size, the Town is bordered on the south by Ripton, on the west by Bristol, on the north by Starksboro, and on the east by Warren and Granville. It stands at an average altitude of 971 feet in elevation. Most of the land in Lincoln is included in one of three main land use types: agriculture, housing or forest land. There are roughly 12,000 acres of Green Mountain National Forest and conserved land, 9,000 acres protected by the current use program, and 8,000 acres remaining unprotected lands. The distribution of the town's land uses, known as its settlement pattern, is comprised of four traditional settlement areas in Lincoln: Lincoln Village, South Lincoln, West Lincoln and Downingsville.

Development trends occurring in recent years include the creation of lots and construction of new housing on land previously used for agriculture, and the rehabilitation and occupation of older housing in outlying areas. There has been some development and an increase in land sales during the past 15 years. Since 2002, 113 lots were added through the subdivision process. Development in Lincoln has been influenced by several physical development constraints that exist in some areas, including steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock, and flood hazards. These constraints restrict the siting of safe and effective sewage disposal facilities (septic systems) and make the building of foundations and basements more difficult and costly. They can also

increase the cost of development by requiring extra drainage, filling, stabilization and reinforcement. Buildings constructed in areas with natural development constraints are often more expensive to occupy and maintain than buildings located in more suitable areas. Land prices in Lincoln have risen over the last seven years, discouraging both commercial endeavors and diverse housing opportunities. The Town supports the policy of allowing non-conforming adjacent lots under common ownership to remain non-merged.

Designated Districts

The Town supports Land Use Regulations which designate three districts within the town:

1. Village District – encompasses the area immediately surrounding within ¼ mile of each of the four traditional settlement areas in Lincoln: Lincoln Village, South Lincoln, West Lincoln and Downingsville. It provides for one-acre zoning, with a small density bonus for Planned Unit Developments. This District is based on and continues an existing density that is greater than the surrounding areas, in order to create a sense of community and public safety, continue the existing development pattern of a compact village center containing higher levels of commercial activity, and promote a variety of housing types that are within walking distance to present and future shops and public facilities. The Village District comprises the traditional settlement areas of Lincoln, which provide for most of the cultural, economic and community exchanges important in establishing a community's vitality. Permitted uses include single and two-family dwellings, mobile homes, home occupation, accessory dwellings and uses, group and daycare homes, and PUDs. Multi-family dwellings, commercial, industrial and developed recreational uses are Conditional. Significant areas of the Village District are at risk for flood and river bank erosion. Concern must also be given to the potential for increased pollution of the New Haven River.
2. Transitional District – generally extends an additional mile from the edge of the Village District up the Class 4, 2 and 3 roads, extending 750 feet from the centerline of the road to both sides of the road. It provides for two-acre zoning. This District encourages the siting of development so as to maintain open land and to blend structures into the natural surroundings, maintain scenic views, reserve agricultural and forestland for production, enhance ease of access by encouraging development to cluster near existing roads, and

protect wetland, water resources and wildlife habitat areas. Permitted uses include are the same as in the Village District. Conditional uses include multi-family dwellings, home industry, developed recreational use, and extraction of soil, sand and gravel.

3. Outlying District – encompasses the remaining lands in town (minus National Forest lands). It provides for five-acre zoning. This District maintains the Town’s present settlement pattern of a compact population center surrounded by a rural countryside, open land, scenic views, and protection of wetlands, water resources, and wildlife habitat areas. Permitted uses are the same as the other two districts. Conditional uses include two-family dwellings, commercial, industrial and developed recreational use, home industry, and extraction of soil, sand and gravel.

Special Protection Areas

Three Special Protection Areas overlay the districts named above:

1. FEMA Floodplain Overlay Area – limits development within the river corridor to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, prevent increases in flooding caused by the uncontrolled development of lands in the floodplain, and minimize losses due to floods.
2. Viewshed Overlay Area – encompassing the entire Town, will help preserve the communal views of Lincoln and encourage the thoughtful siting of homes, businesses, and other structures to blend in with the landscape wherever practical and safe.
3. Riverine Habitat and River Corridor Overlay Area – will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lincoln by allowing the river to move within its corridor; mitigate increases in downstream river erosion resulting from development; minimize property loss and damage due to river erosion; and limit land uses and development that may pose a danger to health and safety. The Area will also protect water quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and maintain riverine wetlands.

Goals:

- Promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Lincoln.
- Preserve historic traditions and values that give the town its rural character and make it a special place to live.

- Preserve the town’s cultural resources, historic buildings, and other structures and sites of cultural or historical significance, and historic settlement patterns as significant resources that create a special sense of place and community well being.
- Maintain the qualities of “working landscape” and “rural character” valued by Lincoln residents.
- Inasmuch as the Town intends to encourage development in its village centers, the Town also intends to protect the river-side village areas from excessive development which would create potentially dangerous impacts on the river or its water quality.
- Protect the Town’s viewshed, including, but not limited to: a rural landscape, views of forested ridgelines, and dark skies at night.

Implementation Strategies:

- Maintain the traditional settlement pattern of Lincoln: compact population centers in Lincoln Village, the hamlets of South Lincoln, West Lincoln and Downingsville; and a transitional landscape out to the rural countryside.
- Encourage Planned Unit Developments (PUD’s) and cluster housing with conservation easements for subdivisions; and offer density bonuses and accelerated build-outs in exchange for other concessions consistent with the Goals of the Plan.
- Discourage large scale tract housing development.
- Limit development within the river corridor to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, and to minimize losses caused by the lesser floods.
- Review alternatives for relocation of particular public resources, and conservation, to preserve the ecological functions and minimize erosion of the Riverine Habitat and River Corridor Overlay Area, as noted in the New Haven River (Lincoln) Corridor Plan (LCP).
- Encourage all development to use the natural attributes of the land and to blend into the landscape as best as possible.
- Encourage the National Forest Service to acquire properties on Mount Abraham over two thousand feet above sea level, to protect the viewshed of the mountain.

- Design standards which minimize to the greatest extent feasible the visibility of all development above eighteen hundred feet. These standards may relate to, but are not limited to, the size, color, location and extent of reflective surfaces and paved areas.
- Prohibit stereotypical commercial franchise enterprise type architecture.
- Review all commercial and industrial enterprises from the standpoint of protecting ecological and human health.
- Eliminate obstacles/fees for boundary adjustments, which currently qualify as subdivisions. Charge a small fee and hold a single meeting to review boundary adjustments.
- Limit the total number of housing development permits to 3% of the existing stock per year to allow for infrastructure improvements to be within the Town Municipal Budget projections.
- Explore the use of density bonuses to promote appropriate businesses, and affordable and clustered housing development on larger lots.
- Support the listing of historic sites and buildings on both the National and Vermont Register of Historic Place. There are sixty-two buildings in Lincoln listed in the Vermont Historic Register.
- Continue historical preservation activities. Increase the education of residents about the town's historic structures and sites of cultural or historical significance.
- Discourage costly infrastructure improvements such as new paved roads, water and sewer improvements to currently inaccessible areas, to maintain the current low-density, rural character of outlying areas.
- Encourage the restoration and adaptive reuse of historical structures.
- Keep Lincoln Gap Road and Natural Turnpike closed during the winter months.
- Protect the quality and availability of clean air, water, soil, native plants, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources, by prohibiting land uses which in any way harm, or make susceptible to harm, the natural resources, and/or agricultural lands of the Town of Lincoln.
- Protect the quality of life for the residents of Lincoln by prohibiting excessive decibel levels and excessive artificial lighting.

- Prohibit the discharging of pollutants or overheated materials into the air, water, or soil, and the discharge of any toxic wastes of any kind in any manner.
- Encourage public access to private land for recreational purposes, as per Vermont’s tradition and with the awareness that Vermont laws preclude land owners from being sued by the public, except in cases of gross negligence.
- Study the effects of designating more specific districts, such as commercial, industrial/manufacturing, village center, single family, and multifamily, in future Land Use Regulations.
- Maintain an annual summary of subdivision lot sizes, building permits, changes of property value by type through sales of houses, conserved lands, and acres enrolled as well as removed from the current use program. Categorize this data by each Village, Transitional and Outlying District. Use this history for future planning purposes.
- Require that all new non-residential development be considered a “conditional use.”

POPULATION AND HOUSING

Population Summary

Lincoln’s population dropped to a low of 481 residents by 1960, but the ensuing decades have seen significant growth – approximately 250 persons per decade, and by 2000 the population was 1,214 residents. In the year 2000, there were 462 households in Lincoln, and the average family size was 3.02 people. However, the estimated population in 2007 was 1,270, an increase of 56 residents, indicating that Lincoln’s recent growth rate has slowed. This indicates a significant decrease in the town’s growth rate. Future growth in Addison County is expected to exceed the growth rate of the state as a whole with estimates for Lincoln’s population in the year 2025 ranging between 1,589 and 1,829 people. However, the estimates are based on the growth rates from the 2000 data. In light of Lincoln’s recent growth rate of 4.61%, this estimate of a 44% increase in population may be excessive.

Lincoln's citizens are diverse in terms of age, occupation, and economic status. In 2000 about 20 % of the population was school age, while 11% were over 65. The baby-boom generation (ages 45-64) is still the largest segment of the population at 27.1% and, along with the majority of other residents in the workforce, they work out of town, traveling 30-60 minutes to their place of employment. Lincoln's average household size was 2.63 people in 2000, slightly lower than 1990 and slightly higher than the county average of 2.55. In 2000, the median family income for the Town was \$45,750, slightly higher than the equivalent measure for the county of \$43,142. Lincoln citizens value and actively support through various community organizations the needs of its diverse population.

Goals:

- Nurture the town's distinct sense of community and community-mindedness, and maintain a wholesome rural environment conducive to the growth and development of all the citizens of Lincoln.
- Encourage and maintain the economic and multi-generational diversity of the community.

Implementation Strategies:

- Encourage cluster housing and the concept of the "family compound."
- Support elder residents and their assisting organizations in efforts to maintain the independence of our senior citizens.
- Encourage child daycare and after-school programs for youth. Use our natural resources to enrich such programs.
- Encourage public facilities and spaces that support social interaction among all Lincoln residents.

Housing Summary

Housing is a basic need. Lincoln and the entire county face a housing shortage as the population increases, housing size decreases, and land prices escalate. This shortage is impacting the affordability of housing, particularly for low and moderate-income households. Based on recent data, an affordable house in Lincoln would cost \$125,000 (30% of income for a household earning 80% of median income), while in 2000 the Median Housing Unit Value in Lincoln was \$113,000. However, the average cost of a house in Lincoln in 2005 was \$222,573; and the

median cost was \$245,000 (based on 15 sales in 2005). As the town’s population ages, strains on maintenance and costs associated with homeownership can be expected. Rental prices have also increased in recent years and supply of rental units remains short. Young families and the elderly are impacted the greatest by these high housing costs and socio-economic diversity is jeopardized.

Lincoln’s high property tax rate has recently significantly impacted the affordability of housing and the ability of descendants to remain on family-owned property. The 11,000 acres of forest land contributes \$1 per acre to the tax receipts; 9,000 acres of protected by the current use program, is taxed as a reduced rate, and the 8,000 acres of unprotected land is taxed at full market rate.

Table 2: POPULATION DATA		
	LINCOLN	REGION
1960 Population	481	--
1970 Population	599	23,728
1980 Population	870	28,784
1990 Population	974	32,304
2000 Population	1,214	35,974
2007 Population	1,270	36,760
Average annual growth:		
1970-1980	3.8%	2.1%
1980-1990	1.14%	1.2%
1990-2000	2.23%	1.1%

Table 3: AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
(Persons per household)

CENSUS YEAR	1970	1980	1990	2000
Lincoln	3.57	2.92	2.65	2.63
Addison County	3.40	2.91	2.68	2.55

Table 4: AGE DISTRIBUTION

CENSUS YEAR	0-4	5-19	20-64	65+	TOTAL
1960	54	117	239	71	481
1970	60	183	283	73	599
1980	73	218	484	95	870
1990	74	208	590	102	974
2000	84	263	736	131	1214

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

According to the 2000 Census, there are 566 housing units in Lincoln. Of the total, 384 are owner-occupied and 78 are rental properties, 88 are used seasonally, and 104 are vacant.

Lincoln’s tax base is heavily reliant on residential property. The most recent grand list, effective April 1, 2008, indicated that there were 710 parcels in the Town of Lincoln, with taxable property values broken down as follows:

Table 5: PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION

Residential.....	77.3%
Vacation.....	15.3%
Farm.....	0.2%
Forest.....	1.1%
Industrial/Utility.....	0.1%
Commercial.....	3.0%
Other.....	4.7%

(Numbers rounded up)

SOURCE: Lincoln Grand List (2008)

Table 6: AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (Per annum)

TOWN	2000
Lincoln	\$45,750
Bristol	43,250
Ripton	39,583
Starksboro	44,559
Warren	47,438
Granville	32,679
Addison County	43,142

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

Housing Affordability

Clearly, at the lower end of the income range, the need for less expensive housing such as mobile or modular homes, or for rental units, seems apparent. But these alternatives have not been insulated from the run-up in prices in Vermont's housing market. A major factor driving up prices has been Vermont's tight homeownership market. In 2007, Vermont's homeownership vacancy rate was 1.0%, the lowest in the nation, according to a U.S. Census Bureau 2007 study. Vermont has the highest rate of homelessness in New England, according to a University of Massachusetts study. Community input has indicated a need for more rental units. Currently, over one-half of households have less income than necessary, using standard guidelines, to purchase the median priced home today. The vacancy rate in Lincoln of nearly 12%, together with reasonable market rate rental rates, further indicates that there is not currently a housing shortage in Lincoln, though there may be a shortage of affordable housing. That is, people who may wish to live in Lincoln may not be able to do so due to the cost of housing. Affordability is defined by two factors: the cost of housing and the ability of people to pay that cost. With home prices and rents rising at a faster rate than the increase in Vermonters' wages, housing becomes less affordable to more people, according to *Between a Rock and Hard Place*, 2007. Affordability of buying a home in Addison County is 76%, the lowest % in Vermont. That is, home buyers in Addison County are likely to be able to afford a home priced at 76% of the median priced home, or little more than \$150,000.

Travel Time to Work

In 2000, 76% of the 668 workers in Lincoln age 16 years and older drove their own vehicles to work, 12% commuted in carpools, 4% walked to work, and 8% worked at home. 552 were employed in Addison County; 231 worked outside the County, but within Vermont; and 8 worked out of state. The average travel time to work for Lincoln residents in 2000 was 30.46 minutes. The average number of vehicles per household was 1.99 in the year 2000. 132 households owned one vehicle, 206 households owned two vehicles, 113 households owned three or more vehicles, and 14 households owned none.

TOWN	One-way travel time, minutes				
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-60	60+
Lincoln	15.3	13.6	12.9	53.6	4.7
Bristol	27.6	25.3	16.0	26.4	4.7
Middlebury	44.3	33.5	13.7	4.4	4.1
Addison County	31.8	29.9	15.6	18.8	3.8

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

Educational Attainment

Level of education is an increasingly important factor in employability. Some education beyond high school is becoming more necessary in order to be employed at a living wage. According to the 2000 Census, out of 887 people age 18 or older residing in Lincoln, 665 (75%) graduated from high school. Of those who graduated high school, 165 had some college education, but no college degree; 51 had an Associates' degree; 194 had a Bachelor's degree; and 117 had a Graduate or Professional degree.

Goals:

- Ensure that the rate of housing growth does not exceed the community's ability to provide adequate public facilities and services, nor adversely affect the irreplaceable natural features and resources of the Town.
- Promote a balance of housing across the full price range and variety of construction types in order to maintain socio-economic diversity of the population.

Implementation Strategies:

- Encourage residential development that is compatible with community character and land use concerns.
- Support affordable housing of all types by ensuring that mobile/modular/manufactured homes are given the same consideration as other single family homes, and subdivisions.
- Encourage new housing developments to offer affordable housing, in order to maintain sufficient affordable housing stock to meet the needs of Lincoln residents.
- The appropriate municipal board shall consider the impact of regulations on the cost of housing.
- The appropriate municipal board may give special consideration to developments showing sensitivity to affordable housing.
- Develop standards to allow conversion of larger homes to multifamily dwellings, accessory apartments, and residential group care homes, by permitting them in all districts allowing single family homes, subject to certain requirements.
- Permit PUDs as the preferable alternative to the standard, major subdivision to minimize the loss of forested and agricultural land and other natural resources.
- Support a density bonus for housing in planned unit developments to encourage clustering of homes to preserve open space.
- Collaborate with existing regional and state non-profit organizations, such as community land trusts and revolving loan funds to maintain and create affordable housing.
- Encourage donations and the sale of conserved land to community land trusts for the purpose of developing affordable housing. .

- Encourage and support Habitat for Humanity projects in the Town of Lincoln.
- Carefully plan the location and rate of future residential and commercial growth.
- Limit the number of housing permits granted to a particular development or subdivision in a given calendar year.
- Explore the creation of a Capital Plan to better plan for development.
- Encourage innovative planning, design and construction of housing that minimizes costs, energy consumption and environmental impact.
- Review possibilities for build-out of the “village district” lots (less than one-acre zoning).
- Institute inclusionary Land Use Regulations for major subdivisions.
- Encourage housing that will allow the town’s elderly to continue to live in the community.
- Review all housing developments through Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.
- Regulate the siting, size, usage and facilities provided at campgrounds in order to prevent overdevelopment, preserve viewsheds and natural resources, and protect the health and safety of the citizens and visitors to Lincoln. Set minimum requirements for water supply, sewage disposal, minimum campsite size, minimum natural landscaped areas retained, and prohibit continuous, year-round use of campgrounds.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview

Lincoln is graced with a variety of natural features including beautiful landscapes, diverse wildlife habitat, healthy soils, abundant waterways, and clean air. Lincoln’s natural resource base and working landscape are best understood and cared for when citizens consider that no person, in fact nothing, can exist without influencing the biodiversity and ecosystems present at any given point. This part of the Plan is intended to help our citizens continue to be and become

aware of their role as stewards of our natural resources. This section addresses these aspects of natural resources: landscape, wildlife and fisheries, water resources, wetlands, floodplains, soils and slopes, agricultural and forest lands, and energy.

The Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) was appointed by the Select Board in 2001 to advise the Town on the conservation and management of the Town's natural resources, with a specific initial charge to make recommendations on management direction for the town-owned forests. By obtaining grants and using volunteers, the LCC held town-wide forums to gather comments from residents on conservation issues and concerns, marked the boundaries of the Town Forests, conducted wildlife habitat enhancement activities on the Colby Hill Town Forest, led nature walks, conducted a demonstration control project on Japanese knotweed (an invasive plant species), and coordinated development of a Forest Management Plan for the "Ripton Lot" Town Forest off Bristol Notch.

Goals

- Encourage the conservation and protection of the Town's natural resources.
- Protect and enhance the natural, recreational, and wildlife habitat areas of the Town to ensure the health, safety, well-being, and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Implementation Strategies:

- Manage and utilize the town-owned properties in a manner that is sustainable, protects the natural and cultural resources, and benefits the Town and its residents.
- Study how best to maintain, protect, and utilize the Town's natural resources. Consider selling certain parcels, and build trails throughout others.
- Encourage the recreational and educational use of the Town lands by residents and the Lincoln Community School.
- Work with landowners, land trusts, and state and federal agencies to enable protection, conservation, and restoration of important natural communities.
- Ensure that the uses of the Town forests and other public land are consistent with the needs of recreational users, wildlife, and the healthy and safety of the citizens of Lincoln.

Agriculture and Forest Lands

While the Town of Lincoln can be described as a growing rural community of single-family dwellings, its character is most dramatically shaped by its agricultural history and the large tracts of Green Mountain National Forest land and designated Wilderness Area that lie along its western, southern and eastern boundaries. The current agricultural landscape consists of a few vegetable, fruit, and livestock farms, hay fields, and family gardens. Current residential and commercial forest uses include maple-sugaring, wood lots managed for firewood and timber, and Christmas tree farms. The Town of Lincoln owns three large parcels, 104, 170 and 89 acres in size. New England is one of two small places in the world which have the mixture of hardwood species necessary to create spectacular fall foliage. As a source of year-round recreation, wildlife cover, drinking water, and scenic reward, the importance of Lincoln's forests cannot be overstated.

Goals:

- Promote land use that maintains and improves the health of the land.
- Protect unique and fragile natural areas.
- Enhance citizen connection to public lands.

Implementation Strategies:

- Encourage responsible use of national and town lands by citizens.
- Protect and encourage agricultural enterprises, and support Vermont's right-to-farm statute.
- Develop value-adding enterprises for agriculture and forest products in a way that supports Lincoln's workforce and economy.
- Evaluate each proposed land sale to the National Forest on a case-by-case basis.
- Educate landowners about land conservation options.
- Adopt land use ordinances that discourage fragmentation in forested areas.
- Develop Management Plans for all Town Forests that are long-term and sustainable and do not threaten the non-timber resources of forestland, such as its biological integrity, wildlife habitat, water quality, and its benefits to humans, such as education and wildness.

- Encourage forest landowners to adopt and adhere to Forest Management Plans using sound principles of stewardship.

National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) owns and administers the protection, maintenance, and operation of approximately 11,000 acres of Lincoln's forested land, which comprises 40% of the Town of Lincoln. These 11,000 acres of Green Mountain National Forest land bring in \$1 per acre to the Town of Lincoln. This fund is derived from revenue of USFS activity nationwide including campground receipts, mineral royalties, timber sales and special use permits. Recreational uses of USFS lands in the Lincoln area consist of hunting, hiking, camping, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, and four-wheeler use, with the last being carefully restricted to certain areas. The people of Lincoln are concerned with the future development and management of National Forest land within the Town. There is a ~~resounding~~ interest from citizens to be more involved in forestry management on the National Forest lands, and any efforts should be encouraged and supported.

Forty percent of the land is public, so Lincoln has ready access to this resource. Periodically, small sections of private land become available for sale to the Forest Service, and these are evaluated for their ability to consolidate a ragged boundary or provide a unique or desirable asset to the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). Any short-term loss of revenue to the Town may be offset by the benefits provided to the residents of the Town by an improved public resource.

The enclosed "Important Resources Areas and Wildlife Habitat" map identifies the location of important natural resources and wildlife in the Town of Lincoln. Many of the sites labeled "natural heritage sites" refer to locations within the GMNF where threatened and endangered species exist. Ecosystems above 2500 feet are significant and may be fragile. These areas are vulnerable to human-made hazards ranging from hikers and mountain bikers to higher concentrations of acid rains. The Green Mountain Club places restrictions on the use of the Long Trail during the spring months.

Goals

- Encourage responsible use of National Forest lands by citizens.

- Balance the public good with the recreational use of natural resources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Evaluate each proposed land sale to the National Forest on a case-by-case basis.
- Encourage the National Forest Service to acquire properties on Mount Abraham over two thousand feet above sea level to protect the viewshed of the mountain.
- Discourage development above eighteen hundred feet elevation.

Landscapes

Citizens and visitors value Lincoln's many scenic vistas and ridgelines. The Town wishes to protect and enhance all viewsheds, not only those of particular significance. Areas that offer views from one side of the valley across the river to the other side are particularly enjoyable, such as Ripton Road from Bristol Notch going southeast to West Hill, Elder Hill Road looking south, York Hill Road looking northeast, West Hill Road looking northeast, Quaker Street looking east, and Lincoln Gap looking west. Other areas of particular scenic significance are the "tunnels" at the north end of Quaker Street and stream and river riparian areas throughout town.

Goals:

- Protect and enhance the town's viewsheds.

Implementation Strategies:

- Require all utilities to share utility poles and rights-of-way, to limit the number of poles installed.
- Require all high voltage public utility lines and structures over 50 feet in height to be placed underground.
- Provide roadside clearing and encourage the maintenance of open meadows to insure mountain and valley views.
- Site homes and driveways to blend in with the landscape whenever practical and safe. Limit their impact on viewsheds and prominent ridgelines.
- Protect 'dark skies' at night by minimizing obtrusive glare on exterior night-lights, and encouraging the use of downward-directed lighting.

- Limit development above eighteen hundred feet elevation; and require review by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Develop regulations which ensure that higher elevation buildings do not adversely affect the forested viewsheds.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Lincoln contains a variety of ecosystems, including wetlands, meadows, coniferous, mixed, and hardwood forests, riparian corridors, and streams. These support a diversity of critical and non-critical wildlife habitats - from deer wintering areas to bear and moose habitat and spring bear feeding areas, to fisheries and bird nesting sites. This environmental diversity is crucial to Lincoln's character and economy.

Goals:

- Protect the health and habitat of native plants, fish and wildlife.

Implementation Strategies:

- Improve and protect the fish habitat of the New Haven River and its tributaries.
- Use riparian buffers and erosion control measures along all streams where necessary.
- Support the efforts of the Lincoln Conservation Commission to enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation.
- Encourage development of a wildlife habitat assessment.
- Protect significant wildlife habitat including, but not limited to, deer wintering areas, and bear, moose, and bobcat habitat within and outside of the Green Mountain National Forest, as identified on the ground or on Vermont State Fish and Wildlife Habitat maps.
- Discourage development that results in fragmentation of forest blocks and encourage connectivity between blocks for land management of larger tracts of land.
- Educate citizens about the impact of land development on natural resources.

Water Resources

Water is an essential resource and its quality is critical. Through town surveys and meetings, citizens have identified water quality as one of the most important issue for town planning.

Surface Water

Many people value and enjoy the New Haven River and its tributaries for fishing and swimming. The surface waters of Lincoln are classified as Class B, with the exception of a Class A watershed area that once served as a source for the Bristol municipal water system. Current Town policy is to maintain a primary water quality level of Class B. Risks and potential hazards concerning water quality include soil erosion, septic and wastewater leachate, agricultural runoff, road salt, solid waste, chemical and toxic pollution and onsite dumps. Additional threats to the surface waters of Lincoln include stream bank destabilization, removal of riparian vegetation, and flow modification.

Since 1993, water samples have been collected along the New Haven River and analyzed. Data results indicate a high concentration of E-coli bacteria during some summer tests at locations below Lincoln Center and West Lincoln. This poses serious health problems for recreational users of the river. Lincoln recognizes a special responsibility to maintain the quality of the New Haven River for the benefit of its citizens and the citizens of the communities downstream. All communities through which it flows must share the stewardship of the New Haven River.

2008 marked the fourth consecutive year of work in relation to the New Haven River (Lincoln) Corridor Plan (LCP). This LCP evolved from a FEMA funded geomorphic study conducted in 2004 that was initiated in response to the massive amount of damage resulting from the 1998 flood and the lesser floods of 2000 and 2004. Basically the plan is an evolving guide for allowing the river to regain its natural bends and eddies. These meanders reduce the river's energy and, during lesser flood events, this means a reduction in its power to do damage. In 2009, funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's River Corridor grant was used to continue efforts to coordinate conservation easements along specific reaches of the New Haven River. These particular stretches were identified in the geomorphic study as ideal places for the river to regain some of its sinuosity upstream of Lincoln Center. These areas are not where the river is fast flowing and channeled by bedrock, but rather where the flow rates are slower and banks are soft substrate.

There is relatively little riprap protecting private property and thereby impacting the natural changes of the river. However, miles of riprap protecting Lincoln's roads are the major barrier to the creation of natural bends and eddies in the river. 2009 will see the completion of Lincoln's first Riparian Conservation Easement, the Ron Rood Memorial Nature Preserve on Peg Rood's property; and two more Riparian Conservation Easements are currently under way. The LCP and the conservation easement process is also serving as a model for other neighboring towns that are interested in creating river corridor plans. The New Haven River is an integral part of our community and these conservation easements will help guarantee its health for generations to come.

Goals:

- Improve Lincoln's water quality so that the New Haven River can be consistently utilized for fishing, swimming and other recreational uses.

Implementation Strategies:

- Utilize the New Haven River (Lincoln) Corridor Plan (LCP) as a planning and educational tool to protect public health and safety.
- Conduct stream geomorphic assessments and prepare fluvial erosion hazard area maps and river corridor management plans for all major rivers, streams, and tributaries.
- Protect and restore riparian areas critical to the overall health of the New Haven River ecosystem.
- Gather information about the River's current status and encourage all citizens to support regulations that will maintain or improve its riparian habitat and recreational value.
- Explore and establish educational and monetary resources for remedying poor water quality.
- Ensure water quality monitoring and analysis efforts of volunteer citizens' groups such as River Watch, Inc. and the New Haven River Anglers.
- Support parking areas and public access to ensure both stream bank preservation and public safety.
- Coordinate and share information with communities in the watershed to maintain the integrity of this resource.

- Encourage ecologically sound road maintenance.

Floodplains

Federal Flood Hazard Areas overlay portions of Lincoln. (See FEMA Floodplain Overlay on the Future Land Use Map.) For the benefit of landowners in the floodplain, Lincoln requires development in those areas to meet Federal floodplain guidelines. Since the Town's regulations require compliance, landowners are eligible to participate in the Federal flood insurance program. The Federal guidelines assure that development does not adversely affect the flow of floodwater and that development and construction be done in a way that minimizes potential hazards.

Ground Water

The State has adopted groundwater protection rules and strategies. The rules address, among other things, classification, management, and mapping.

Some residences have drilled wells. The State has specific standards for drilling and construction adopted pursuant to 10 VSA Chapter 48 which reference ground water protection. Residences relying on shallow dug wells for water are more prone to contamination from surface waters.

Goals:

- Maintain groundwater quality to allow for continued development of clean, untreated drinking water sources.

Implementation Strategies:

- Gather information on the locations, sources, and quality of groundwater and the methods and regulations for protecting and, if necessary, restoring groundwater quality to acceptable levels.
- Gather information from the Agency of Natural Resources on private wells.

Wetlands

Wetlands are a critical part of the environment. They cleanse water of pollutants and sediments, supply streams and rivers with water, and serve as habitat for many species of wildlife - from great blue herons, to bullfrogs, to moose and bear. Wetland areas are identified on the Generalized Land Cover\Land Use Map.

Goals:

- Protect Lincoln's wetlands.

Implementation Strategies:

- Discourage negative impacts to wetlands, such as disruption of natural hydrology and soils, alteration of natural nutrient, chemical and sediment regimes, and degradation of natural community quality.
- Support State regulations that aim to protect wetlands and assure development is done in a responsible manner.

Soils and Slopes

Lincoln's soils and topography are quite varied. Low areas along the river are primarily gravel and many plateaus and hills that rise above the river are sandy; both types drain well. Hillside soils used for agriculture vary by site. Given Lincoln's mountainous nature, topography is a major factor in the way land is used or developed. Most steep areas are now forested. Soils and slope are critical factors when considering wastewater disposal and gravel extraction. (See Soil Map.)

Sand and Gravel extraction is defined as a "conditional use", and as such its development is controlled by Lincoln's Zoning Regulations (See Sections 580, 730 and 734.3). Lincoln will require sand and gravel resources for the foreseeable future. Using these resources may decrease the cost of road maintenance and other projects by reducing hauling distances. Town maps indicate locations of currently known gravel resources.

Goals:

- Match soils with compatible land uses. (See Soil Map.)

Implementation Strategies:

- Avoid steep driveways and design accesses for emergency vehicle accessibility.
- Stabilize exposed soils once site work is complete or prior to permanent snow cover by seeding and mulching where necessary.

- Limit sand and gravel extraction to small scale enterprises. Adopt specific criteria for the review of gravel pits that require the restoration of abandoned sites, the prevention of erosion, reasonable operating hours, and any additional conditions necessary to protect the safety and general welfare of the public.

ENERGY

Overview

Energy conservation is essential for the protection of the broader environment in which Lincoln is located. Conservation can play an important role in the local economy while protecting the environment. The Plan supports the development, installation, and utilization of renewable energy technologies, including, but not limited to, active and passive solar energy and photovoltaics, community-scale hydroelectric power, and geothermal energy.

Energy used in the home represents a significant percentage of total statewide energy consumption. State energy officials estimate that simple conservation measures incorporated in new housing construction can result in a 20 to 30 percent reduction in energy used for space and water heating. In addition, improved energy efficiency would make homes more affordable and marketable. Where possible, buildings should be sited so as to take advantage of southeast, southern or southwest orientations for passive solar gain. No newly constructed building can cast shadows that would preclude the proposed or potential use of solar energy collectors that are located upon or within the most southerly facing wall or roof of any other dwelling unit within the development, except where topographical conditions make compliance unreasonable. The people of Lincoln have voted to exempt from property taxes structures whose sole purpose is the utilization of renewable energy resources. Several private projects harnessing solar, hydro, and/or wind energy have been established in recent years.

Transportation currently accounts for 45% of the total end-use energy demand in Vermont and is expected to account for one third of the projected increase in Vermont energy demand by 2010. Nonrenewable petroleum supplies 99.9% of the energy used for transportation, all of it supplied

from outside our region, and transportation consumes 60% of all petroleum used in Vermont. Therefore, effective transportation policy has great potential to affect Vermont's petroleum usage and overall energy demand, as well as reducing our energy expenses and dependence on foreign oil. Commuters, shoppers, recreationists and other non-commercial users traveling in private automobiles consume almost half of all the energy used in Vermont for transportation. Concentrating development in village districts near major roads, encouraging job development in Town, and supporting local businesses are some of the ways this Plan supports reductions in energy used for transportation.

The Lincoln Energy Committee was formed in 2006 to help the Town and its residents find and use sources of energy that are reliable, sustainable, and affordable; encourage efficiency to lower demands on increasingly expensive energy supplies; and learn about environmental and economic consequences of energy use. The Committee has conducted a town-wide survey to determine our community's current energy use, to assess interest in energy education and weatherization programs, and to solicit suggestions for projects. It offers educational programs on energy technologies and conservation strategies, maintains a wood bank to provide a supply of cut, split, and seasoned wood to residents in temporary need, and hosts annual "Button Up Vermont" weatherization workshops in Burnham Hall. It also manages a volunteer weatherization program sponsored by Efficiency Vermont, and collaborates with the Town to review potential energy saving strategies and potential local energy generation projects.

Goals:

- Promote economical and sustainable energy decisions by Lincoln citizens.

Implementation Strategies:

- Support education concerning energy issues.
- Encourage the production of renewable energy and the reduction of energy consumption.
- Encourage the incorporation of clean, renewable energy technologies for heating and electrical generation and conservation measures in the design of public and private projects for the specific size, scale, location, orientation and operation of renewable energy technologies, suitable to Lincoln's rural character and that promotes the visions for Lincoln set forth in this Plan.

- Support building codes which increase energy efficiency to the Vermont Energy Star Homes program standard.
- Encourage innovative planning, design and construction of housing that minimizes costs, energy consumption and environmental impact.
- Encourage citizens to take advantage of utility programs offering design assistance and/or financial incentives for the use of alternative and energy-efficient technologies.
- Educate homeowners about energy ratings before construction begins, in order to maximize cost-effective efficiency measures and reduce long-term energy costs.
- Provide information about energy efficient products in conjunction with Efficiency Vermont, CVPS, and other energy providers.
- Prohibit new electrical and cable distribution and transmission lines from being built on Lincoln's ridge lines.
- Commercial large scale wind towers and farms shall be reviewed as conditional uses in all districts.
- Participate in programs providing energy audits and weatherization assistance.
- Support the efforts of the Town Energy Coordinator and Committee to develop energy saving initiatives, educational programs, fuel assistance efforts, and renewable energy projects.
- Support the creation of well paying jobs in and nearby Lincoln to decrease citizens' commutes.

PUBLIC RESOURCES

Overview

Public resources include transportation, utilities, facilities, and community services. These are provided to meet the needs and desires of present and future Lincoln residents and visitors. Well-planned and designed use of public resources can improve the efficiency and economics of providing public services while maintaining and enhancing Lincoln's sense of community.

Utilities

Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) provides electricity to the Town of Lincoln. As utility deregulation evolves, CVPS may not be the only player in our electric market. Champlain Valley Telecom provides telephone service. Several private oil and propane dealers serve residential heating needs. Firewood provided by dealers or cut by owners is another source of heating, and several homeowners in town use solar and/or wind for their power. Both CVPS and Champlain Valley Telecom perform routine maintenance and some upgrading of service capacity within the town. The Town adopted a Wireless Telecommunication Facility Ordinance which protects the interests of Lincoln's residents. (See Ordinance in Appendix.)

Goals:

- Encourage high-speed Internet access while balancing the aesthetic impact on the landscape.

Implementation Strategies:

- Work cooperatively and proactively with utility providers to maintain Lincoln's rural character while improving access to desired technology.
- Ensure compliance with the Town's Wireless Telecommunication Facility Ordinance.
- Explore and implement policies resulting in buried utility lines.
- Require public utilities share utility poles and rights of way, to limit the number of poles installed.
- Restrict the number of utility poles over fifty feet in height.

Town Owned Facilities

The Town owns the following facilities:

1. 170 acre Municipal Forest off of Bristol Notch Road
2. 100 acre woodland parcel off Colby Hill Road
3. Old Town garage and land
4. New Town garage and 89 acres on South Lincoln Road
5. The Town office building and land
6. 17 acre town landfill, including a capped and monitored site, transfer station and recycling center,
7. A one-acre parcel where the sand pile is located
8. Under a different branch of Town government (School Board of Directors), the Lincoln Community School and playground

A list of the Town's equipment can be found in the Annual Report.

Enlargement of the Lincoln Community School was completed in the fall of 1991. The addition allows for the building to accommodate 150 K-6 students under one roof. Lincoln's student population has been stable over the last four years. There is sufficient enrollment and funding to support continuation of the Lincoln Community School. Junior and senior high school students may attend Mount Abraham Union High School, located in Bristol. Additions and improvements to the Mount Abraham facility have been a regular discussion.

Lincoln's landfill was closed and capped by State law in the fall of 1993. It continues to be monitored by a procedure for which the Town must budget annually. The remaining landfill area is still used as a transfer station and recycling center. Garbage and recyclable material is removed by a private hauler and sent to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District, of which Lincoln is a member.

The Lincoln Town offices are used heavily both during the business day and at night for meetings by various Town boards and commissions. This is a small, single level building with inadequate space for current needs. The old Town garage is in disrepair. The new Town garage is located on 89 acres on South Lincoln Road (the old Urz property). The remaining acreage on

this property is open to the public for recreation use. The seller has a life-long lease on the existing house. The land is managed with direction from the Lincoln Conservation Commission.

Goals:

- Ensure the design, expansion, construction and maintenance of public facilities and services are consistent with the goals of the Town.

Implementation Strategies:

- Consider the best potential use for the old Town garage.
- With public participation, plan for the changing and growing needs of the Town Office.
- Investigate the feasibility of building a municipal center for a combined Fire Department and Town Office facility.
- Encourage Town residents to reduce their generation of waste, recycle and reuse the waste they do generate.

Local Government

The Town of Lincoln encourages its citizens to participate in local government and build a stronger sense of community.

Emergency Management

Lincoln recently completed a major overhaul and update of the Lincoln Emergency Operations Plan. It also updated the Rapid Response Plan. Overhauling the Emergency Plan involved considerable time and effort to bring it up to date and to add an Annex on the Pandemic. It has been adopted by the Selectboard and a copy has been given to Vermont Emergency Management and other response organizations. VEM has been giving copies of the disk to other Vermont Towns to use as an example. In 2002, Addison County adopted the 911 Emergency Communications System, wherein every building was given an address, and emergency calls are handling through the Sheriff's Department for dispatch of emergency services of all kinds. The State has been involved in ongoing planning for any major disaster and/or health emergency, and have been part of the process in developing appropriate coping mechanisms through involvement with the American Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Vermont Emergency Management (as Emergency Managers.) We have also continued our education in disaster preparedness and response, to insure that our town has the latest and most updated

information to keep us safe. Lincoln will, as always, strive to maintain the highest standards in our field of response and our efforts to insure the safety of us all.

Community Services: Municipal

Addison County Sheriff's Department and Vermont State Police provide security services to Lincoln.

Conservation Commission was appointed in late 2001, and has completed many important projects since its inception. LCC has facilitated the development of a Town Forest Management Plan for the Ripton Lot, marked the boundaries and conducted seasonal walks of the Town Forest, coordinated wildlife habitat enhancement activities on the Colby Hill Town Forest, held town-wide conservation forums, and engaged Lincoln residents in conversation on issues such as conserving Lincoln's natural heritage, and river corridor flood mitigation and planning.

Energy Committee promotes energy conservation and renewable energy projects, organizes a shared firewood bank, and offers educational programs on a variety of energy-related topics.

First Response has merged with the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company to respond to emergency calls. These highly trained volunteers capably provide emergency services to our community. Fire departments in the area, primarily Bristol, Starksboro and Ripton, provide backup services as needed. A small group of people (who formerly were known as a medical response group) have become a scholarship committee, awarding an annual monetary scholarship to a deserving high school graduate who lives in Lincoln and graduates from Mount Abraham Union High School.

Friends of the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company offer fundraising activities throughout the year and financially support the efforts of the firefighters.

Health Officer makes sure dogs are licensed and up to date with their rabies shots, supplies water kits for testing home water supplies, and handles any issue related to health problems.

Lincoln Library serves as a thriving community center for the town of Lincoln with materials and programs for all ages. They offer Pilates, bone builders exercise, Tai Chi, a knitting group,

senior programs, a reduced rate pass to the Echo Museum, travel programs, displays and exhibits, story hours, inter-library loans, after school groups, a home-school group, teen movie nights, as well as an annual holiday workshop, and collaboration with the other five-town libraries. In 2008, they automated the collection, allowing people to search for books and other materials either in the Library or at home via the Library website.

Planning Commission reviews and approves subdivision and property line adjustments. They draft the Town Plan and Zoning Regulations for the review and approval of Lincoln's residents. The Town Plan is updated and adopted every five years. It expresses the values and vision of the townspeople of Lincoln. The Town Plan provides guidance for Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

Zoning Board of Adjustment has nine members, who work with landowners to help them execute their objectives within the boundaries of the Zoning Regulations, and who work diligently throughout hearings and the deliberation process to be informed and to make decisions that are fair and well-balanced. They take the opportunity to expand their knowledge of other parts of town concerns that may not have an immediate impact on Zoning, but can help guide future decisions and regulations, such as storm water runoff, sewage, land use and ancient roads, and they participate in statewide workshops and seminars.

Community Services: Private Organizations

Ladies Aid – Industria is a women's organization of the United Church of Lincoln which holds suppers, rummage sales, and other events to support the library, Christian camps, and other missions.

Lincoln Cemetery Association maintains two large cemeteries in the village: the Lee Cemetery on Quaker Street and the Maple Cemetery on West River Road. The Town of Lincoln is responsible for the other, smaller cemeteries in Lincoln.

Lincoln Cooperative Preschool, located across the road from the Lincoln Community School, provides quality early education Monday through Friday, in a morning and an afternoon session.

Lincoln Historical Society is located on Quaker Street. The society has a collection of local artifacts in a restored 18th-century farmhouse and a 19th-century barn in a meticulously

landscaped setting. Exhibits change annually. They offer a well-written book, *Lincoln Vermont History: 1780-2007*, which is available at the Lincoln General Store, Town Clerk's Office and the Museum. Activities include opening day festivities in May, a harvest festival in late September, and a pumpkin-carving contest in October. The Museum exterior was refreshed in the summer of 2008 with several coats of paint, but volunteers are always appreciated to help with the maintenance and operations of the interior and exterior of the property. The recycle cart is a major fund supplier and they appreciate that the community keeps it filled.

Lincoln Sports, Inc. is a non-profit organization that owns and manages a beautiful piece of property in the heart of Lincoln, incorporating a variety of recreational facilities for the benefit of the Lincoln townspeople. These include a ball field/soccer field, tennis court, basketball court, and nature trails. The Lincoln Sports property was acquired for the use of all Lincoln residents. A small board of seven oversees property maintenance and programs. Volunteers assist in many areas, including mowing, clearing trails, maintaining the tennis court, overseeing events for the semi-annual Hill Country Holidays, and fundraising.

Porter Medical Center in Middlebury provides emergency and medical services and nursing home care to Lincoln residents.

Neighborhood Watch, a citizen volunteer organization, formed in 1993 to augment the security of the community. The group receives reports of potential problems, randomly patrols roads, provides traffic control, distributes crime protection information, and encourages all residents to be aware of and report any suspicious activity in their area. All members are trained in first aid and CPR.

Sunray Peace Village is a global home and central place of worship of the Sunray Meditation Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to planetary peace. Modeled after places of sanctuary traditional to the Cherokee and other Native American nations of the Southeast, the Peace Village offers teachings and educational programs in an open dialogue of religious diversity and inclusiveness.

United Church of Lincoln holds regular worship services, offers Sunday school for youth, sponsors community projects, and supports small study, prayer and fellowship groups. The

building is well used for these activities as well as health clinics, community concerts, funerals and weddings.

Walter Burnham Foundation maintains Burnham Hall, and has rebuilt its front steps, constructed new bathroom facilities, enlarged the dining area, and provided handicap accessibility. This private foundation offers The Burnham Series programs, featuring various cultural groups.

Weathervane Senior Housing provides quality, affordable housing and residential continuity in a secure, caring environment for our community's senior citizens. The apartments are conveniently located in the center of town. They provide health clinics, transportation, and social events for all of Lincoln's elders.

Other organizations that provide services to Lincoln residents include: Addison County Community Action, the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Services Inc., Counseling Service of Addison County in Middlebury, Hospice Volunteer Services, Champlain Valley Agency on Aging Elderly Services, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Parent/Child Center, Community Health Services of Addison County, Vermont Adult Learning, the Bristol Family Center, and Addison County Regional Planning Commission. A full listing can be found in the Annual Report.

Goals:

- Support existing and new services and facilities provided by public and private organizations.
- Promote the use of outdoor recreation areas, showing respect and care for the natural environment.

Implementation Strategies:

- Support the Burnham Foundation initiatives to solidify the Foundation for future generations.
- Support the Lincoln Cemetery Association.
- Maintain the Community School, Burnham Hall, Library and United Church as the hub of community life.
- Encourage volunteerism in the provision of services such as fire and rescue.

- Encourage public access to private land for recreational purposes, as per Vermont's tradition and with the awareness that Vermont laws preclude landowners from being sued by the public, except in cases of gross negligence.
- Remind the public to extend common courtesy to private landowners by asking permission to use their land for recreational uses prior to entering the property.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview

Balanced economic development is important to the well being of any town. Some of the attributes that give Lincoln its rural mountain character also limit its potential for commercial and industrial development. No State highway or paved roads go through town, effectively making Lincoln a dead-end for commercial transportation, and the mountainous nature of the terrain does not easily accommodate large-scale facilities. In addition, Lincoln lacks Town water and sewer services. Most of Lincoln's industry consists of smaller homegrown businesses. While many of Lincoln's residents commute to larger towns and cities for work every day, Lincoln does have a general store, repair shops, contractors, and other professionals that provide goods and services to the population. The Lincoln Pallet Mill is the last of many mills along the New Haven River. Tourism is also an important part of the economy in Lincoln. With quick and easy access to neighboring ski areas, a pastoral setting, striking foliage, and local bed and breakfast hotels, Lincoln can support a modest tourist industry.

Goals:

- Support business opportunities that complement the quality of life and values of the Town's residents.

Implementation Strategies:

- Seek new, well-compensated economic opportunities that utilize the skills of local residents (traditional crafts to new technologies), while supporting the Town's goals related to preservation of rural character, agriculture and forested landscape.

- Encourage small, home-based businesses appropriate to the character and scale of the Town.
- Encourage of use of locally grown agricultural and forest products and the exchange of locally grown and produced goods and services.
- Manage forests for lumber, firewood, maple sugar, other wood and non-wood forest products.
- Protect and encourage agricultural enterprises, and support Vermont’s right-to-farm statute.
- Develop value-adding enterprises for agriculture and forest products in a way that supports Lincoln’s workforce and economy.
- Support agricultural enterprises such as dairy, sheep, poultry, and horse farms, as well as diversified vegetable and fruit farms, and small-scale sugaring operations.
- Develop an organization to assist existing and potential businesses with resources and marketing.
- Support continued small-scale commercial activity in the Town’s village centers.
- Encourage the development of light, clean, small-scale industry.
- Develop “performance-based” zoning as criteria for commercial development.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Enlargement of the Lincoln Community School was completed in the fall of 1991. The addition allows for the building to accommodate K-6 students under one roof with a capacity of 150 students. As of the 2008-2009 school year, there are 118-120 students enrolled at the Lincoln Community School. Junior and senior high school students may attend Mount Abraham Union High School, located in Bristol. Additions and improvements to the Mount Abraham facility have been a regular discussion, as these have increased the taxes paid by Lincoln landowners. The Lincoln Community School built a greenhouse to grow fresh foods, which they serve at community dinners for fundraising and community social gatherings. They also hold a spring plant sale. The Community holds School Board Meetings, basketball games, and annual theatrical plays at the Community School.

Lincoln Cooperative Preschool, located across the road from the Lincoln Community School, provides quality early education Monday through Friday, in a morning and an afternoon session. Parent volunteers assist the teacher during the sessions. Small daycare or family childcare homes or facilities constitute a single-family residential use and shall be allowed in all districts on the same basis as a single-family residential use.

Goals:

- Support quality education for Lincoln’s children as well as opportunities for adult educational programs.

Implementation Strategies:

- Support an educational system that fosters development of individuals who are competent, caring, responsible and productive.
- Support and encourage efforts by parents to be involved in their children’s education.
- Encourage small daycare and family childcare homes and facilities in order to provide affordable, local, convenient and safe childcare to the families in Lincoln.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation

Lincoln has a total of 58.32 miles of Class 2, 3, and 4 roads. There are 17.04 miles of Class 2, 35.22 miles of Class 3, and 6.06 miles of Class 4 roads in Town. There are no State or Federal highways, nor Class 1 roads. There are no designated Scenic Highways in Lincoln. Enactment of the statewide 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System program has significantly improved the ability to navigate Lincoln roads. Lincoln accesses Routes 116 and 17 (major arteries in and out to most job markets and commerce) by way of West River Road (paved), Downingsville Road (first mile paved, remainder gravel), and Quaker Street (first mile paved, remainder gravel).

The severe flooding of Lincoln in 1998 provided the side benefit of improving and upgrading many of Lincoln’s roads through replacement and addition of railings, resurfacing of gravel and

paved roads, and replacement and upgrading of most culverts and road drainage. Upgrades and replacement continue on many of the bridges and roads in Lincoln. Residents would like to maintain the roads for safety, but not increase the amount of paved roads. Their intention is to maintain roads in good condition without increasing the speed at which vehicles travel on them. Safety and maintenance are especially difficult on steep hills, such as Gove Hill. There are seasonal variations in accessibility and safety of the roads in Lincoln; emergency services may not always be available. The safety of school buses on steep roads is a major concern. Culverts, ditches and building up roads in preparation for paving cost taxpayer dollars, which is another concern. Lincoln residents rely primarily on private means of transportation. However, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is frequent within the village district. There are narrow sidewalks in the Village Center and West Lincoln.

The total mileage of each class of road is shown in the table below.

Table 8: MILEAGE BY CLASS	
Class	Mileage
Class 1 Town Roads	0
Class 2 Town Roads	17.04
Class 3 Town Roads	35.22
Class 4 Town Roads	6.06

SOURCE: VT Agency of Transportation General Highway Map

Bridges

Highway bridges are also rated by the State. State listings of deficient bridges include the deficiency rating for all bridges 20 feet or greater in length. There is great concern that fire trucks cannot carry full loads of water due to the reduced capacity of Lincoln’s bridges. This is a serious safety issue for half the town, located on the other side of the bridge. The Town’s bridges are in need of repair, and it is hoped that funding may be available to repair them soon.

Undersized or improperly sited bridge and culvert crossing structures were identified as contributing to localized channel instabilities in the New Haven River watershed, during the river corridor planning process. The geomorphic context should be considered in the design and construction of these structures when they are scheduled for rehabilitation or replacement.

Town Roads

The condition of town roads is typical of rural towns in Vermont, where planning, maintenance, widening, and culvert construction comprises the road program and budget. The Selectboard has put together a projection for town building and equipment replacement, which is available in the Annual Town Report. This should ensure that replacements are made as needed, provided that coordination with the school and fire district is such that capital expenditures do not all come in the same year. The Town wishes to maintain the rural character of Lincoln, and therefore does not plan to pave additional roads in the foreseeable future. The Town intends to avoid costly infrastructure improvements and maintain the community character of its towns through its inherent isolation from neighboring commercial ski resorts and their associated activity.

Ancient Roads

A committee is identifying all ancient roads within the town of Lincoln.

Other Transportation

Carriers outside Lincoln provide rail and air services. Bicycles are not a commonly used transportation mode for Lincoln residents. Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) services are available through a ride-match/ride-share program coordinated from the ACTR office in Middlebury. The Town Clerk's office can provide information on this service.

Goals:

- Increase pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Implementation Strategies:

- Base road improvements on protecting public safety, not increasing capacity.
- Do not pave Lincoln's dirt roads.
- Minimize impacts on our roads through public and private initiatives, e.g. The Vermont Transportation Van Sharing Program, Addison County Transit Resources, and carpooling.
- Establish additional parking for village commerce and carpooling where feasible.
- Study the feasibility of expanding village sidewalks/bike paths to connect the library, ball fields, school, Town Clerk's office and Village Districts.
- Limit accesses and driveways when possible, sharing with existing access points when feasible.
- Incorporate sidewalks and/or bikeways into road and right-of-way improvements.
- Apply for State and Federal funds available for these road, sidewalk, and bike path improvements.
- Continue to provide for a town building and equipment replacement fund to anticipate costs and spread them over a longer period of time.
- Continue to participate with other Addison Region towns in the transportation planning program under the umbrella of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.
- Add culverts, ditches and build up pavement on steep roads - to permit safe travel, sufficient drainage, and facility snow plowing - to protect the health and safety of the residents of Lincoln and its neighbor towns.
- Maintain and improve the roads in Lincoln according to the Vermont Road Standards available from the local DOT district transportation administrator.
- Require new and replacement bridges and culverts to have openings which pass the bank full width without constriction, and be designed to cross the river without creating channel approaches at an angle to structures, to avoid undermining of fill materials and structural components.
- Consider the historic channel migration pattern of the river when installing new or replacement crossing structures, and when constructing new roads, driveways, and buildings.

- Implement corridor protection strategies that prevent or limit placement of infrastructure within the corridor to protect structures from erosion and flood losses.

**RELATIONSHIP TO
SURROUNDING TOWNS
& THE REGION**

Lincoln borders the Towns of Starksboro, Bristol, Ripton and Granville in Addison County and the Towns of Fayston and Warren in Washington County. Virtually Lincoln's entire border with Ripton, Granville, Warren and Fayston is within the Green Mountain National Forest, thus the forested land use is compatible along the boundaries of those towns. The southernmost edge of Starksboro along Lincoln's northern border is a combination of forest and conservation, agricultural, residential, commercial and heavy industrial land uses. Quaker Street and Jerusalem Road are commercial and heavy industrial, but the area east and west of, and between these streets is forest and conservation. Thus, Lincoln's forested landscape enhances Starksboro's landscape, and in no way imposes unwanted land uses at Starksboro's border. Lincoln's western border, which abuts Bristol's eastern border, is largely an outlying district with 5 acre zoning, but also contains a village and transitional district along West River Road. Since the road leads to Bristol's densely developed core area along Routes 17/118, this is a consistent land use. This major route links Bristol's downtown with West Lincoln village center, creating a strong economic connection and access to the high school and many cultural amenities. This is the most highly traveled transportation corridor in Lincoln, with an average of 2,100 vehicles traveling this way daily (in both directions).

In total, Lincoln is a very desirable neighbor. It is a densely forested mountaintop town with an awe inspiring view of Mount Abraham. Lincoln enhances the peacefulness, desirability, natural views, and ecological health of all of the towns surrounding it. Its residents contribute to the vitality of Bristol's downtown, and the economy and culture of the region. Lincoln provides an oasis within its borders where one can find contentment in its rich natural habitat, densely forested landscape, beautiful rushing river, historic village centers, quiet dirt roads, and enduring, beloved community.

The Lincoln Town Plan was revised with the assistance of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, supported by a Municipal Planning Grant from the State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs.