

# Press Release

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## Contacts:

Ruth Birtz, Lincoln Assistant Economic Development Director, 794-3372;

Gwen Hilton, Consultant, 696-3820 [ghilton1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:ghilton1@myfairpoint.net)

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## Lincoln Public Opinion Survey

A Public Opinion Survey will be mailed to year-round and summer residents of Lincoln within the next week. The survey can also be downloaded at [www.lincolnmaine.org](http://www.lincolnmaine.org). “The survey is a unique opportunity for citizens to tell the Town what they would like to see happen in the future, including how they would like to see their tax dollars spent” according to Ruth Birtz, Lincoln’s Assistant Economic Development Director and the staff person overseeing the project. The questions cover topics such as, the adequacy of public facilities, future capital needs, affordable housing, economic development, protection for natural resources, and land use regulation.

The survey results will be used to update Lincoln’s Comprehensive Plan, which is 14 years old. The updated plan will provide direction for the next ten years based on an analysis of recent trends and the desires of the community. “The town will also be seeking state approval of the updated plan to improve access to grant funds and provide a better legal foundation for our land use regulations” says Birtz.

Some of the findings of the Comprehensive Plan to date include:

- ✓ Lincoln’s year-round population is projected to increase very little between 2010 and 2020. Most population growth will be the result of people moving into town from away, as opposed to natural increase (births versus deaths) in the local population.
- ✓ Penobscot County and the greater Lincoln region will experience overall losses in year-round population over the next 10 years.
- ✓ Lincoln and the region will have an overall older population in the future, which means lower birth rates, and has implications for housing, health care, social, and other needs particular to an older population.

- ✓ Seniors, young families, and low and middle income households may have a harder time finding affordable housing in the future. Lincoln needs more decent, affordable housing; particularly housing for the needs of an older population.
- ✓ Lincoln is growing as a service center community offering goods, services and employment for the region.
- ✓ Lincoln is becoming stronger and more resilient to economic downturns as a result of an increasingly diverse commercial and industrial tax base. Lincoln's tax base is also stronger due to the value of second homes on its lakes and ponds.
- ✓ Year-round tourism, such as snowmobiling in the winter and summer vacations, contributes significantly to Lincoln's economy.
- ✓ Lincoln has outstanding natural resources including: 13 lakes and ponds, the Penobscot River, extensive industrial scale forests, prime agricultural soils suitable for small-medium scale farming, and a beautiful rural landscape.
- ✓ Major town improvements identified for the next 10 years may include:
  - New or improved Town Office
  - New or improved Public Works Building
  - New or improved Transfer Station
  - Airport Improvements
  - Improved Ballard Hill Community Center
  - New Recreation Center
  - Expansion of sewer and water to accommodate future growth and development
  - Expansion of the Library

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will be reviewing the results of the Public Opinion Survey, which will be used to develop the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan update. Anyone interested in being on the Committee should contact Ruth Birtz at the Town Office. More information on the Comprehensive Plan, including the results of the Opinion Survey can be found on Lincoln's WEB page [www.lincolnmaine.org](http://www.lincolnmaine.org).