

Date: June 13, 2024

To: Lincoln School Committee

From: Lincoln Scholarship Committee (LSC)

Re: **2024 LSC Annual Report**

Lincoln Scholarship Committee Members:

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the continuing members of the Lincoln Scholarship Committee included Carolyn Dwyer (appointed by the Town Moderator), Aldis Russell (appointed by the Select Board) and Carol Lovell Carmody (appointed by the Lincoln School Committee).

Committee Process:

The Committee's activities are concentrated in the months of January through June. Starting in January, Lincoln high school seniors are informed of the availability of awards and scholarships. This outreach includes a letter describing each of the scholarships/awards and the application process which is sent to the home of each senior and their parents, postings in each house at LSRHS, communication with the Minuteman/Metco coordinator at LSRHS, and announcements in both the Lincoln Squirrel and Lincoln Talk. Application materials are also reviewed and updated by the Committee, and are made available online via the LSC page on the Town of Lincoln website. For this year, the application cycle opened on February 1, 2024. Applications were due by the end of March and student interviews took place in late April.

The Committee also prepares an annual appeal letter that is sent to all households in Lincoln to solicit financial support for many of the scholarships/awards. Starting in 2023 we worked with our long term printing company partner to handle this town wide mailing as well as the printing. This significant process improvement for the LSC was continued in 2024.

In 2024, although we paid careful attention to getting information on the scholarships out to LSRHS and the community in a timely/complete manner, our pool of applicants continued to be relatively small. But all of our candidates were highly qualified and deserving. Of note, for the first time we had qualified applicants who attend private high schools. After the review of applications and completion of interviews, decisions on recipients are finalized and this year were formally announced at the LSRHS awards ceremony which took place on May 28, 2024.

Awards:

- Fannie S. Campbell Award for academic achievement. This one-time award (\$500) recognizes overall scholastic excellence as well as superior achievement in a particular discipline or area of interest. Each student applicant must submit an essay. This year there were four applicants for this award. This year's award recipient is **Frances Yee**, a student with an exceptional academic record who will attend Harvard in the fall.

- Sumner Smith Community Service Award. This one-time award (\$500) recognizes a student that has contributed in a significant manner to a community need. This year there were three applicants for this award. This year's award recipient is **Lucy Dwyer**, a recipient of the Girl Scouts Gold Award for her work developing and integrating a new curriculum about menstrual cycles and women's health into the Lincoln and Hanscom middle schools. Lucy will attend Florida State.

Scholarships:

- Ogden Codman Scholarships: The Codman Scholarship Committee includes two Codman Trust representatives, Susan Taylor and Kenneth Mitchell, who work closely with the LSC to evaluate student applications and select the award recipients for the following multi-year scholarships that are funded by the Codman Trust:
 - 1) Ogden Codman Scholarship (\$5,000 for each of 4 years): This scholarship is awarded to a Lincoln resident student who has demonstrated both a high level of academic achievement and strong leadership qualities in LSRHS activities and town community service. There were two applicants for this scholarship this year. This year's recipient is **Nicholas Dutkewych**, with an impressive academic record that included multiple advanced science and mathematics courses, as well as athletic (lacrosse) and community engagement/leadership. Nick will attend Union in the fall.
 - 2) Codman Opportunity Scholarship (\$2,500 for each of four years): This scholarship is awarded to a Lincoln student that plans on attending a two or four year college, vocational school or other post-secondary study or training program. Student potential and commitment to success in a specific field or trade are all important decision factors. There were three applicants for this scholarship this year. This year's recipient is **Lukas Lenkutis**. Lukas was an honor roll student through high school, an exceptional athlete (soccer), and campus leader. As of this writing, Lukas is still deciding on where he will matriculate next year.
- Harriet Backus Todd Scholarship (\$5,000 offered for one year and renewable for a second year): The purpose of this relatively new scholarship (est. 2021) is to encourage students pursuing post secondary studies and/or training consistent with Harriet Todd's lifetime of devotion to public service and voluntarism and recognizing commitment and passion for a broad range of civic concerns. The scholarship is funded by a bequest to the Town of Lincoln by long time resident Harriet Todd. This is our first scholarship that is open to students who are not residents of Lincoln, but who have attended Lincoln Schools in grades 5-8 and are graduating from LSRHS or Minuteman Technical school. This year's recipient is **Gray Birchby**, an exceptional student, with abundant intellectual curiosity and literary talent, and a total passion for making a difference in the world. Gray served on Lincoln's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Antiracism) Commission from its inception as the High School representative. Gray will attend Skidmore in the fall.
- Lincoln Community Scholarships: The Lincoln Scholarship Committee offers several scholarships that are primarily needs-based and that are dependent (at least in part) on the community's response to the annual appeal letter and on the number of applicants. These scholarships are generally in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range for one year only. There were four applicants for these scholarships this year. Based on the qualifications of each of the four applicants and on the successful prior year fundraising effort, we were able to make awards to all four applicants: **Gray Birchby, Sebastiano D'Ambrosio, Nicholas Dutkewych and Lukas Lenkutis**.

Fundraising Results:

2023 appeal: We had an unusually strong response to our 2023 fundraising appeal, raising a total of \$15,755 from residents of Lincoln. As noted above, this positive response allowed us to grant awards to all four of our 2024 applicants for Lincoln Community Scholarships.

2024 appeal: Through June 1, Lincoln community members have contributed over \$5,100 to the Lincoln Scholarship Committee's 2024 appeal. This YTD amount is fairly consistent with prior years where the expectation would be for achieving a total goal of \$5,000 - \$10,000. In general, contributions are received beginning almost immediately after the town wide mailing in April, with the bulk of annual contributions coming in the first two months after the mailing. However, contributions continue to be received throughout the calendar year. Most contributions are in the \$50-\$100 range, but many are larger. Most contributions are received via mailed check, but increasingly donors are taking advantage of an ACH payment option on the LSC page of the town website (<http://www.lincolntown.org/645/Lincoln-Scholarship-Committee>).

Looking Forward:

The following areas warrant further consideration:

- Outreach: We will continue to be attentive to making information on our scholarship opportunities available in a timely and complete manner. However, the numbers of Lincoln School students graduating from high school is relatively finite and most of our scholarships require demonstration of need.
- Process efficiency: We continue to have technology improvements on our list that could increase the efficiency of the application submission process for both applicants and the Committee (ex: online platform for application completion and submission). Adding a credit card payment option for our donors has also been suggested.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lovell Carmody (on behalf of the Lincoln Scholarship Committee)