

Report to the Lincoln School Committee from the Lincoln Scholarship Committee

May 21, 2020

Procedures

Our busy season runs from January through June. Early in January we inform seniors of the availability of awards and scholarships, including a letter written to seniors and their families and sent to their homes. We also review the application form and make it available on line by February 1. During February we write and arrange for the printing of an appeal letter to be sent to all households in Lincoln. We assemble those for mailing by the first week in March. Contributions generally begin arriving by mid to late March. Applications are due mid-April, and interviews normally take place the last week in April.

For all of us this year, the sudden arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic has changed normal forms of social behavior, including the interactions of the Lincoln Scholarship Committee whose members are Nancy Marshall, Carolyn Dwyer, and Barbara Slayter. With the help of Michael Dolan, Director of Information Technology at Town Hall, we held several meetings on line via Zoom, notifying the Lincoln community publicly, as is required, in case anyone wished to attend. (No one did.) We also conducted the interviews for awards and scholarships on line. This worked surprisingly well, and except for a few frozen moments and communicative pets, we were satisfied with the ease of managing the interviews virtually. We agreed, however, that we definitely preferred to meet the students in person.

For 2020 we had a delightful, highly qualified pool of applicants although it is a small class and thus the pool of applicants was small. Since the awards and scholarships have not yet been announced, I shall not give the names in this report.

1. Awards

- **Fanny Campbell Award** for academic achievement: This award given in recognition of 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 no applicants for this honor.
- **Sumner Smith Community Service Award** recognizes a deserving high school student for contributing in a significant manner to some community need. This year there was only one applicant who is exceptionally well qualified, and we were delighted to make this award.

2. Ogden Codman Scholarships

The Codman Scholarship Committee is comprised of two Codman representatives, Susan Taylor and Ken Mitchell, with a member from the Lincoln Scholarship Committee rotating

onto the Codman Scholarship Committee each year. This year it was Carolyn Dwyer's turn to be on the Codman Scholarship Committee. All five of us participate in the interviews, but only the three members of the Codman Scholarship Committee make the decisions on the allocation of funds.

- **Ogden Codman Scholarship \$5000 for each of four years** is awarded to a Lincoln resident student who has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement, and who has manifested strong leadership qualities among his/her peers both in the broad array of activities that are offered at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and community service within the Town of Lincoln at large.
- **Codman Opportunity Scholarship \$2,500 for each of four years** The award is given to students bound for 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 factors.

3. Lincoln Community Scholarships

The Lincoln Scholarship Fund offers several needs-based scholarships dependent, in part, on the community's response to the annual appeal letter and the number of applicants. Those awards will be determined in by the end of June. This year there were five applicants for the needs-based scholarships.

4. Contributions to Funds

To date, Lincoln community members have contributed over \$5,165 to the Lincoln Scholarship Fund for the 2020 appeal. The appeal letter was mailed early in March. Contributions will continue to come in throughout the year. We have 40 contributions to date, roughly the same number of contributions as we had at this time last year. Generally contributions are in the \$50 to \$100 range. So far this year, there have been several in the \$200 to \$500 category, and one of \$1000.00. This year we are mindful of the economy and market changes. Therefore, we have not yet finalized the amount for each of the Community-based Scholarships for which the practice has been to award \$3000 to \$4000 to those who qualify.

5. New Scholarship Opportunity: Harriet Todd Scholarship

The Lincoln Scholarship Fund is the recipient of a portion of the bequest left to the Town of Lincoln by longtime resident, Harriet Todd. The purpose of this named scholarship is to encourage students pursuing studies and/or training, post-secondary school, consistent with

Harriet Todd's lifetime of devotion to public service and volunteerism demonstrating both commitment and integrity to a broad range of civic concerns.

The Lincoln Scholarship Committee is assuming responsibility for management of this scholarship and is currently working out the details with the Todd family and the Lincoln Board of Selects for qualifications, application processes, and various oversight responsibilities for the scholarship. We anticipate that we shall be ready to receive applications in the spring of 2021.

6. Areas for future change

- Improving publicity for the scholarships, such as announcing them in The Lincoln Squirrel, Lincoln Journal, and publicizing the recipients in these and other ways.
- Increasing the number of households responding to the appeal letter. Currently contributing households seem to be in more or less a steady state. Given the current economic crisis, an increase is probably not a realistic objective, but over the long term, we hope to find creative ways to increase the numbers of households willing to provide financial support for scholarships for Lincoln's students.

Submitted by: Barbara Slayter
Lincoln School Committee Representative on the LSC
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