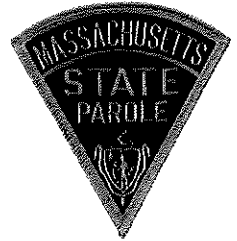


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DEAN LINDSTROM
W38481

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 29, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 9, 2024**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is granted on/after two weeks of issuance of Decision to Interstate Compact NH.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 5, 1981, in Middlesex Superior Court, Dean Lindstrom pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 24-year-old Richard Valentine and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Lindstrom also pleaded guilty to armed assault with intent to murder and armed assault in a dwelling, carrying a firearm, and escape. He was sentenced to 18-to-20-years on the armed assault charges and 3-to-5 years on each of the remaining offenses.

In 1984, in Norfolk Superior Court, Mr. Lindstrom pleaded guilty to escape and to the crimes committed during the October 26, 1979, home invasion. He pleaded guilty to armed assault in a dwelling and armed robbery while masked and received 18-to-20-year sentences to run concurrent with the life sentence. For the same home invasion, Mr. Lindstrom pleaded guilty to the unlawful carrying of a firearm and received a 4-to-5-year sentence to run from and after the 18 to 20-year Norfolk sentences. Mr. Lindstrom also pleaded guilty to escape and received a 3 to 5 year concurrent with the life sentence.

Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2004 and after review hearings in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2022. On February 29, 2024, Dean Lindstrom appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Dean Lindstrom's February 29, 2024 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On January 14, 1980, 27-year-old Dean Lindstrom, armed with a handgun, followed an occupant into an apartment building with the intent to rob Richard Valentine's 31-year-old wife. When Mr. Valentine's wife answered his knock on her apartment door, Mr. Lindstrom forced his way in and assaulted her, demanding her diamond ring. When Mr. Valentine came to the aid of his wife, a struggle ensued. Mr. Lindstrom shot Mr. Valentine in the neck and hit him with the butt of his gun. Mr. Lindstrom then shot Mr. Valentine's wife twice in the chest, stole her diamond ring, and kicked her in the face. The Valentine's 8-year-old son was in the apartment and witnessed the assault. Mr. Valentine's wife survived the shooting (with life-long injuries), but Mr. Valentine did not. Mr. Lindstrom was subsequently arrested in California in July 1980.

At the time Mr. Lindstrom murdered Mr. Valentine, he had recently escaped from MCI-Framingham, where he was being held for a 1978 conviction for the armed robbery of a Billerica gas station and possession of a sawed-off shotgun. Mr. Lindstrom had been serving a 12-year sentence for that conviction. In investigating Mr. Valentine's murder, it was discovered that Mr. Lindstrom had committed other home invasions while on escape. On October 26, 1979, Mr. Lindstrom and an accomplice broke into the Brookline apartment of a 31-year-old mother and her 2-year-old son. Mr. Lindstrom demanded her diamond ring at gunpoint and then bound and gagged her.

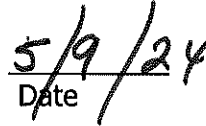
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Lindstrom's eighth appearance before the Board. He is 72 years old and has served 44 years on this sentence. Mr. Lindstrom has increasingly invested in rehabilitation and has demonstrated that programming has led to meaningful change. He has maintained sobriety for 13 years and provided the Board with a comprehensive relapse prevention plan. He re-established his relationship with his son in 2009, who remains a positive support and will assist him with reentry. The Board notes he has a history of numerous successful furloughs. Mr. Lindstrom earned his bachelor's degree and is seeking to further his education and become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. He has also committed himself to Buddhism and has provided compassionate care for terminally ill inmates. Mr. Lindstrom's son spoke in support. The victim's family submitted letters of opposition that were read during the hearing. Middlesex County ADA Alicia Walsh spoke in opposition as well. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Dean Lindstrom has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Release to Interstate Compact New Hampshire; Waive work for 2 weeks; Curfew must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM at PO's discretion; Electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)' family; No contact with victim(s); Counseling for transition; AA at least 3x per week.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above-referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date