

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



PAROLE BOARD

*12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy
Secretary

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DEAN LINDSTROM

W38481

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 24, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: October 25, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.¹ Parole is denied with a review scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

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, he also pleaded guilty to armed assault with intent to murder and armed assault in a dwelling. He received 18 to 20 year concurrent sentences, as well as a 3 to 5 year concurrent sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm.

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

¹ Two Board Members voted to grant parole after 12 months in lower security to LTRP.

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. 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.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022²

Dean Lindstrom, now 70-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 24, 2022. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Lindstrom was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1995, and after his review hearings in 1999, 2004, 2008, 2013, and 2018. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Lindstrom spoke of the number and gravity of the offenses that brought him to prison, as well as the enormous impact that his actions have had on his victims. Upon Board Member questioning, Mr. Lindstrom stated that he moved with his family from Arizona to Massachusetts at a young age. He was sexually and physically abused by his older brother as a child. As a young man, he drank heavily and robbed a gas station, for which he was sentenced to 12 years in state prison. While serving this sentence at MCI-Framingham, Mr. Lindstrom began dating a fellow inmate. Both inmates escaped with the help of a friend. While on escape, Mr. Lindstrom admitted to committing three armed robberies to pay for his drug use, one of which resulted in the governing offense.

Mr. Lindstrom has had a problematic institutional adjustment. In 2004, Mr. Lindstrom stated that he relapsed by drinking alcohol and using drugs. He planned an escape and participated in a scheme to import drugs into NCCI Gardner. As a result, one inmate died from an overdose, which was one of the reasons he was transferred to a prison in Florida. The Board noted that Mr. Lindstrom obtained his bachelor's degree and a certificate in Wastewater Management, while incarcerated. Mr. Lindstrom reported that he attends both AA and NA programming and is involved in religious and meditative programming. When Board Members pressed him for answers regarding his mental health treatment and sobriety during his incarceration, Mr. Lindstrom responded that he struggles with his mental health. He admitted to feigning mental health issues, at times, to avoid punishment for disciplinary infractions. He received counseling in the past, but does not currently receive any treatment.

² The entire video recording of Mr. Lindstrom's February 24, 2022 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

Mr. Lindstrom's son testified in support of parole. A member of the Victim Services Unit read into the record a letter of opposition from the Valentine family. The Board considered testimony and a letter of opposition from the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office.

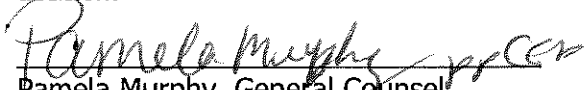
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Dean Lindstrom has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Lindstrom has served 44 years for the murder of Richard Valentine. He also violently assaulted and robbed [Mr. Valentine's wife], permanently disfiguring her. The Board remains concerned as to his criminal thinking. The crimes were committed while he was on escape status. The Board remains concerned that Mr. Lindstrom manipulated the legal system by feigning mental health symptoms. He also participated in a conspiracy to bring drugs into the institution, which resulted in another inmate's death. The Board encourages Mr. Lindstrom to engage in treatment and programming that addresses victim empathy, criminal thinking, and insight. Mr. Lindstrom should continue to develop a robust release plan, as he failed to recognize the concerns of the Board related to his proposed work plan.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Lindstrom's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Lindstrom's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lindstrom's case, the Board is of the opinion that Dean Lindstrom is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Lindstrom's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Lindstrom to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

10/25/22
Date