



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Public Safety

PAROLE BOARD

*12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

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



Josh Wall
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DEAN LINDSTROM

W38481

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 26, 2013

DATE OF DECISION: February 4, 2014

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the testimony of the inmate at the hearing, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On October 5, 1981, Dean Lindstrom pleaded guilty to second degree murder in Middlesex Superior Court. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to armed assault with intent to murder and armed assault in a dwelling and received two 18 to 20 year concurrent sentences as well as a 3 to 5 year concurrent sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm. These charges stem from the same incident as the murder. The victim of the murder was Richard Valentine, age 24.

On January 14, 1980, Malden police were dispatched to 240 Belmont Street, apartment 35, on a report for a double shooting. Lindstrom, then age 27, entered an apartment building and asked John,¹ age 8, if he knew a Nicki Valentine, age 31, and the wife of the murder victim. John told Lindstrom that she was his mother and escorted him to the apartment.

¹ This is a pseudonym.

Lindstrom forced his way into the apartment, demanding Mrs. Valentine's diamond ring. As the murder victim, Mr. Valentine, came to his wife's aid, Lindstrom struck him in the head with the gun and then shot him in the neck. Lindstrom then kicked Mrs. Valentine in the face, inflicted two gunshot wounds – one to each of her breasts - beat her with the gun and, as she lay there in her own blood, pried the diamond from her ring prior to fleeing. John was a witness to this atrocity. Mr. Valentine succumbed to his wounds and Mrs. Valentine was left permanently disfigured. Lindstrom was subsequently arrested in the state of California in July of 1980.

When Lindstrom murdered Mr. Valentine in 1980, he had been on escape from a 1978 conviction for armed robbery and possession of a sawed off shot gun, having committed an armed robbery of a Billerica gas station on February 10, 1978. Lindstrom pleaded guilty to these crimes in December 1978 in Middlesex Superior Court and was sentenced to 12 years. Lindstrom, however, escaped from MCI-Framingham on September 17, 1979.

On October 26, 1979, while on escape, Lindstrom and an accomplice committed an armed assault in a dwelling and armed robbery while masked. In that offense, Lindstrom broke into the Brookline apartment of a 31-year-old mother and her two-year-old son. Lindstrom demanded her diamond ring at gun point, and bound and gagged her. In 1984, Lindstrom pleaded guilty to these charges in Norfolk Superior Court and received 18 to 20 year concurrent sentences on the armed assault in a dwelling and armed robbery, and a four to five year sentence for the unlawful carrying of a firearm. Lindstrom also pleaded guilty to the escape and received a 3 to 5 year concurrent sentence.

II. INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Dean Lindstrom has a poor record of institutional conduct which includes violence, an attempted escape, and long periods of drug use. His initial adjustment was extremely poor resulting in four returns to higher security, placements in the Disciplinary Segregation Unit, and an out of state placement. Significant disciplinary infractions include assaultive/violent behavior, gambling, conspiring to introduce drugs into a correctional facility, drug use, possession of wire cutters and escape.

In June of 2002, Mr. Lindstrom was transferred to the Florida Department of Correction, following allegations that he conspired with other inmates to smuggle heroin into Souza-Baronowski Correctional Center. According to classification reports, his initial adjustment in Florida was acceptable as Lindstrom obtained a work position as an education aide and then as a clerk in the laundry department.

Lindstrom was not program involved from 2008 to 2010 and incurred four disciplinary reports. After Lindstrom incurred his last disciplinary infraction in April of 2010, he requested to be transferred Wakulla Correctional Institute, a faith based institution. He has since completed several programs to include: Anger Resolution; religious services; numerous programs in yoga and meditation; computer programming; Grief Recovery; and Alcoholics Anonymous. His current programming consists of a leadership workshop, mediation and yoga.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Dean Lindstrom, age 61, appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board on February 26, 2013 for a review hearing on the life sentence he is currently serving at the Wakulla Correctional Institution in Florida. He has served 32 years. This is Lindstrom's fifth appearance before the Board. He first appeared before the Parole Board on August 14, 1995 for his initial hearing. The Board voted to deny parole and review in three years, noting his violent criminal record and his crimes being committed while on escape status. His subsequent petitions for parole were denied by the Board Parole in 1999, 2004, and 2008. On each occasion, the Board noted that Lindstrom is a violent criminal whose risk to re-offend is still present, poor institutional adjustment, lack of program involvement, and he takes little responsibility for the murder of Mr. Valentine and shows no remorse.

Lindstrom seeks a parole to the Elijah House in Mobile, Alabama, a faith based program that helps offenders transition back into the community, to include obtaining employment and housing. He no longer has any viable support in the community. In his opening statement, Lindstrom provided an overview of his criminal history and institutional adjustment. He also spoke of his remorse and accepted responsibility for his crimes.

Throughout the hearing the Board expressed concern that Lindstrom has a long history of violent behavior and remains unable to explain his propensity for violence and rage. Mr. Valentine was murdered, and Mrs. Valentine was left permanently disfigured due to the brutal assault that was inflicted by Lindstrom while he was on escape. Lindstrom committed his crimes by manipulating the 8-year-old child of the murder victim. He said, "I became an animal and I've worked hard to make sure it won't happen again."

During his presentment, Lindstrom stated he has been "an extremely manipulative person." He now believes that he is genuine and sincere, and is not trying to manipulate anyone. However, he does not present the Board with evidence of this transformation as his testimony at times remains inconsistent and implausible. Although Lindstrom has recently begun to embrace the process of rehabilitation, he has long road ahead of him to address a lifetime of anti-social behavior.

He obtained sobriety in 2010 after decades of substance abuse within the confines of a secure correctional environment. Lindstrom gave his account of his substance abuse in prison: "I drank and smoked pot for years in prison; I made the alcohol myself; I stopped in 1996 or 1997 when I started AA; I was 16 years sober until February 2004 when I started with morphine; I started drinking again in 2004; between 2004 and 2010 I was mostly drinking and smoking pot. I used for five years but got sober in 2011 with AA, yoga, and meditation; I haven't missed an AA meeting since I started up again; I am sober now for almost two years." With respect to his disciplinary report in 2001 for smuggling heroin into prison, he said, "I did what the disciplinary report says I did; I conspired to bring in heroin and I lied about it; I wasn't using the heroin."

Lindstrom gave details about the 1979 escape from South Middlesex Correctional Center: "I drank a shampoo bottle full of vodka in the early morning; we opened three sets of doors and we walked out the doors; I had called some people who helped us; at first I lived in Charlestown across from the Bunker Hill Monument; then I took Amtrak to California; I did IV

drugs, morphine and heroin, while on escape." He was apprehended ten months later. About the attempted escape from Gardner in 1983, Lindstrom said, "I tried to escape a number of different ways; there were tunnels under the prison and we wandered through them looking for a way out; I also had wire cutters that I used to cut the fence in a number of different places."

A Board Member asked Lindstrom to describe the robberies he committed. He said, "I did four robberies; one in Revere using a .45 caliber gun; the second was in Brookline when I used a .45 caliber and tied up the female victim with duct tape; the third robbery was the Valenti family; the fourth robbery was a gas station in Billerica during the blizzard of 1978 and I used a shotgun."

Lindstrom's institutional history includes three psychiatric commitments and a diagnosis of sociopathic personality disorder. He said that he currently has no mental health issues.

Middlesex Assistant District Attorney Steve Hctor spoke in strong opposition to Lindstrom's petition for parole. He pointed out that Lindstrom went 18 years with no rehabilitative programming.

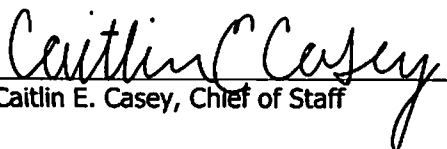
In his closing, Lindstrom stated, "I can't imagine anyone putting their signature on a paper to let me go." In addition, he previously informed the Board during his opening statement, "that justice has not been served; no amount of time or programming will ever be enough."

IV. DECISION

Dean Lindstrom has a long history of violent, anti-social behavior consisting of murder, sadistic violence, armed robberies, escape from prison, and decades of substance abuse. He is a very dangerous person whose rehabilitation will require years of commitment, progress, and achievement. Lindstrom started that process in 2011 with sobriety and active program involvement.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Mr. Lindstrom does not merit parole. The period of review will be five years, during which time Mr. Lindstrom should maintain sobriety and continue with an active commitment to 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.


Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff

2/4/14
Date