

Board of Directors 1982-83

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President: Bart Hague
Vice President: Francis Wright
Treasurer: Ruth Heespelink
Secretary: Arnold Meltzer
Past President: Sally Barnett

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AnnaMaria Abernathy	R. Lisle Baker
Rodney M. Barker	Jeffrey Bernstein
John Bliss	Gene A. Blumenreich
William Dain	Peter Harrington
Mary Herring	Frances B. Hinsta
Deborah V. Howard	David W. Jackson
Gerald Krick	Ed Lerner
Joan Lerner	Ruth Misch
Carol Morrison	Nancy Schad
Gabrielle Sullivan	Virginia B. Taplin
Jean Thompson	Verne Vance

June 1982

Minutes of the meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Frank Wright
June 22, 1982

Present: Bart Hague, presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy Ruth Heespelink, Joan Lerner, Rodney Barker, Marry Herring, Arnold Meltzer, Sally Barnett, Fran Hints, Carol Morrison, John Bliss, Debbie Howard, Nancy Schad, Gene Cronin, Ed Lerner, Cayle Alyson Smalley, Sharon Hamby, Gabrielle Sullivan.

MOTION: To accept the **Secretary's report** of the Annual Meeting with typographical corrections. ACTION: ACCEPTED.

MOTION: To accept the **minutes** of the April 27 meeting. ACTION: ACCEPTED.

MOTION: To accept the **Treasurer's Annual Report**. ACTION: ACCEPTED with the proviso that an accountant set up a financial statement as a guideline for future reports. Gene Cronin volunteered the services of his accountant to accomplish this task.

Fran Hints, as editor of the **newsletter**, requested reports on the Charles River Walk, the Bird Walk, information on future events and on-going activities at City Hall of interest to the Conservators.

A resolution was PASSED to support the **Bottle Bill**.

Rodney Barker reported that the Board of Alderman had voted **acceptance of the Kennard Estate and the Beth Avoda land**, and that the Health and Human Services Committee was slated to discuss the abolition of the Parks Commission and its replacement by a **Parks and Recreation Commission** at a meeting on June 23rd.

Sally Barnett brought us up to date on happenings at City Hall.

Program Planning: Bart Hague presented a broad suggested program for the year. Debbie Howard suggested a five-year planning program, targeting one, possibly two, areas at a time. It was a unanimous CONSENSUS that the Novitiate be our major target now with the Kennard Estate a secondary one.

Some additional suggestions:

1. Appointment of a Program Chairman to schedule walks and outings.
2. Development of a speakers' bureau.
3. Work with CRWA on water outings.
4. Work with Newton Recreation Commission to schedule events of interest to conservationists.
5. Expand membership.
6. Outings for school children working through the Superintendent of Schools.

Resolved: That Board meetings this year will continue to be held, as before, on the third Tuesday of the month.

Resolved: To distribute our **maps** at no charge discriminately to those genuinely interested.

The next meeting will be held at the Lerner's, 35 Amherst Road, Waban; Telephone, 965-2381, on Tuesday, July 13th at 7:45 P.M. The meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the use of the Emma Quint money.

[unsigned]

July 1982

Minutes of the meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Joan and Ed Lerner
Tuesday, July 13, 1982

Those in attendance: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Fran Hints, Carol Morrison, Lisle Baker, Deborah Howard, Nancy Schad, Rodney Barker, Giles Kelliher, Virginia Taplin, Sally

Barnett, Joan Lerner, Jean Thompson, John Bliss, Ed Lerner, Verne Vance, Bart Hague, presiding, Arnold Meltzer.

MOTION: To accept the **Secretary's Report** of the previous meeting - APPROVED.

MOTION: To discuss the **Treasurer's Report** when Ruth Heespelink is present - APPROVED.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the **caretaking of the Kennard Estate**. Ed Lerner cited the success of a similar Needham estate which has a caretaker in permanent residence and the renting of the facilities for functions. Additional suggestions for the care and development of the Kennard Estate should be communicated to Sally Burnett.

A written proposal for the use of the **Emma Quint Fund** was distributed, and Deborah Howard remarked on the thinking behind these proposals. After a lively discussion, a MOTION was PASSED to accept the Project Proposal...in principle and to have the Committee come up with specific plans for the expenditure of the money.

It was approved that the committee be called "the Park Project Committee," to be co-chaired by Deborah Howard and Joan Lerner, to implement the proposals for the use of the Emma Quint Fund. Deborah Howard would be our liaison to the Emma Quint Trustees.

Rodney Barker reported that the Aldermanic Human Services Committee had requested the Newton City Law Department to draw up an **inventory of all Massachusetts Constitution Article 97 land** (City-owned land that cannot be sold by the City without approval of the Legislature).

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, August 10, 1982, at 7:45 P.M., at the home of Carol Morrison, 1801 Beacon Street, Waban.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

August 1982

Minutes of the meeting of the
Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Carol Morrison
Tuesday, August 10, 1982

Those in attendance: Lisle Baker, Fran Hintsa, Ruth Misch, Sally Barnett, Ed Lerner, Carol Morrison, Bart Hague, presiding, Joan Lerner, Gabrielle Sullivan, Mary Herring, Arnold Meltzer, Virginia Taplin

Secretary's Report of the previous meeting ACCEPTED.

Discussion of the **Treasurer's Report** will be delayed until the next meeting with Ruth Heespelink is expected to be present.

Sally Barnett reported on the current status of **fall walks** in conservation areas and parks. The concept of co-sponsorship of these walks by the Newton Recreation and Conservation Commissions AND the Conservators was APPROVED. Virginia Taplin will contact radio and TV media to publicize the walks.

Carol Morrison, Mary Herring and Ruth Misch will visit the **Kennard Estate** to suggest uses of house and grounds. Lisle Baker will examine the Kennard will to determine if the Estate may produce income.

A discussion of the **Chestnut Hill development** revealed that the developer is using more of the property than originally anticipated. It was suggested that Conservators call Terry Morris, Chairman of the Aldermanic Land Use Committee, to protest the adding of 70 square feet to the footprint.

Joan Lerner reported for the **Park Project Committee** and spoke of a "bring your own" **picnic** with all sorts of activities for all ages - bird walk, nature walk, canoeing, children's races - balloons and kites provided by Conservators - remarks by Mayor Mann, Russ Halloran and CJP representative to promote cooperation in the **best use of the Novitiate land**. Carol Morrison indicated the Recreation and Conservation Commissions were pleased to co-sponsor the picnic. Bill Geizentanner will be commissioned to do a map of the area.

A MOTION was made and PASSED to give the Park Project Committee \$500.00 to use, if necessary, for the first Novitiate event and ancillary activities. The date of the picnic will be October 17th with October 24th as the rain date. The next Park Project committee meeting will be at Ed and Joan Lerner's on August 24th.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, September 21, 1982, at 7:45 P.M. at the home of Ruth Misch, 274 Park Street, Newton.

Arnold Meltzer,
Secretary

September 1982

Minutes of the meeting of the
Board of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Ruth Misch
Tuesday, September 21, 1982

Those in attendance: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bart Hague, Ruth Misch, Robert Barnett, Ruth Heespelink, Nancy Schad, Sally Barnett, Fran Hints, Gabrielle Sullivan, Jeff

Bernstein, Deborah Howard, Jean Thompson, John Bliss, Ed Lerner, Frank Wright, Bill Dain, Joan Lerner, Arnold Meltzer. Bart Hague, presiding.

Minutes of the last meeting ACCEPTED.

Treasurer's Report. APPROVED.

The **newsletter** will be mailed shortly. Members are encouraged to contribute to future newsletters by writing or calling Fran Hints, 49 Pelham Road, Newton Centre, MA 02159; 527-2814.

Frank Wright summarized the opinion of the City of Newton Law Department with regard to the **Kennard Park and Conservation Area**. It is the judgment of the Law Department that the house may be rented with stipulations and/or guidelines as to responsibility and obligations of the tenant. These would deal primarily with security. The income would be used for the maintenance of the park.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the **Novitiate Park and the picnic** scheduled for Sunday, October 17th (rain date, Oct. 24th).

Joan Lerner gave a detailed description of the variety of activities that will be going on at the picnic (read the yellow brochure distributed at the meeting and included with the Newsletter mailing).

Volunteers are needed to help make the picnic a success. Those of you who did not attend this meeting, please call Joan Lerner, 965-2381. Your assistance is needed and you'll feel good about participating.

Frank Wright spoke of a liaison meeting that was held among representatives of the City, the C.J.P., and Conservators to promote **cooperation in the development of Novitiate Park**. Frank was hopeful about the future of this liaison group. He felt the City and the C.J.P. were receptive to contributing funds toward the improvement of the park if the Conservators put in Emma Quint money. Russ Halloran is going to set up another meeting, which will include "Friends of the Novitiate." Debbie Howard will send a progress report to the Emma Quint Foundation.

Joan Lerner indicated that Sally Barnett will be in charge of the Novitiate winter event.

The Board APPROVED the suggestion that the Newton Parks and Recreation Commissioner should be requested to support the Bottle Bill.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, October 19, 1982, 7:45 P.M. at the home of Deborah Howard, 34 Fairfax St., W. Newton.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

October 1982

Minutes of the meeting of the
Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Debbie Howard
Tuesday, October 12, 1982

Present: AnnaMarie Abernathy, Ruth Heespelink, Cay Morrison, Lisle Baker, Fran Hints, Virginia Taplin, Rodney Barker, Mary Herring, Jean Thompson, Sally Barnett, Debbie Howard, Verne Vance, Bart Hague, President, Joan Lerner, Toni Wallace, Peter Harrington, Bill Dain, Frank Wright.

President Hague opened the meeting. The **Secretary's and Treasurer's reports** were approved.

Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly (J.C.H.E.) representatives Ellen Feingold, Herman Snyder and Alan Schlessinger presented the plan for building a facility on land owned by C.J.P., which has received a grant from H.U.D. They plan:

1. 100 units and about 30 parking spaces for independent elderly only
2. To buy land from C.J. P. (option on 4.8 acres);
3. Site has been proposed, but transferability an issue;
4. Proximity to community center important;
5. Need a zoning change requiring approval by the Board of Aldermen;
6. Will have a "footprint" on Friday, October 22.

Rodney Barker and Debbie Howard spoke of the unsuitability of siting on C.J.P. land because:

1. It removes elderly from easy access to downtown;
2. Of undesirable pressures on Novitiate Park.

And suggested occupying Warren Junior High School.

J.C.H.E. representatives suggested meeting again with a subcommittee of the Conservators as they left.

Toni Wallace outlined the procedures for obtaining a H.U.D. grant: Proposal is at "Fund Reservation" stage and now plans and specs must be developed and approved. Approval is contingent on the applicant obtaining the necessary local zoning and site plan approvals.

During a special October 7th J.C.H.E. presentation to the Conservators, Alderman Terry Morris, Land Use Committee Chairman, noted that the Board had approved the site plan for the Novitiate only 3 years ago on the basis of appropriate density and expressed concern about maintaining the integrity of the site-plan approval process in the face of incessant pressures to increase density at a site. (Messrs. Barker and Hague, among others, share this concern.)

Peter Harrington, Frank Wright, Lisle Baker and Verne Vance discussed the possibilities of this proposal becoming a reality and suggested we continue discussions with all parties concerned. Joan Lerner wants the Conservators to continue to help to create a Novitiate Park for Newton that would best serve the people of Newton.

The Novitiate Committee will continue to follow the proposal and explore alternative sites and strategies.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 7:45 P.M., Rodney Barker's, 49 Woodcliff Road, Newton Highlands (between Route 9 and Centre St.), 244-6949.

November 1982

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Rodney Barker
Tuesday, November 16, 1982

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mary Herring, Ruth Misch, Lisle Baker, Fran Hints, Cay Morrison, Rodney Barker, Debbie Howard, Nancy Schad, Jeff Bernstein, David Jackson, Gabrielle Sullivan, Bart Hague, president, Ed Lerner, Ginny Taplin, Peter Harrington, Joan Lerner, Jean Thompson, Arnold Meltzer.

The **Secretary's report** of the previous meeting was APPROVED.

An aldermanic committee meeting to hear and consider approval of new **Conservation Commission appointments** will be held at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, December 15th at Newton City Hall. Conservators are encouraged to attend to participate in eliciting comments from nominees to determine their views on conservation.

Bart Hague spoke on the need for the Conservators to establish improved and even institutionalized links to the various **media** -- local newspapers, cable T, etc. -- in order to disseminate news, information on our position on issues in timely and effective fashion. Some members volunteered to participate in this program.

AnnaMaria Abernathy detailed some of the plans in various stages of approval to **"improve" the flow of traffic from Route 128 through Newton via Commonwealth Avenue.** These improvements would destroy, among other things, the "linear park" and various other characteristics of Commonwealth Avenue that make it one of our most attractive boulevards.

A MOTION was PASSED to express in writing to the Newton Traffic Commission the opposition of the Conservators to this program. (The Traffic Commission is having a meeting Tuesday night, December 7th, 7:30 pm, on this matter. Conservators are urged to attend to express their views.)

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the **Novitiate Park Project**:

1. Cay Morrison described the meeting of the Friends of the Novitiate held at the Brown Junior High School on 11/4/82, well attended by members of the Conservators Board but by only 3 members of the community.
2. Mary Herring described the lively meeting of people in her neighborhood at which many expressed concern about changes in zoning to be requested by the C.J.P. of the Zoning Board for their Novitiate development that would affect property values. Several neighbors felt they had not been kept fully informed by Marcy Richmond. Another neighborhood meeting is planned.
3. During the remainder of the meeting, an attempt was made to develop a consensus in the Conservators position to the C.J.P. plan to obtain approval for 100 units of housing for the elderly. It was agreed that our opposition should include alternatives to the C.J.P. plan that would be more favorable for elderly housing such as the Warren Junior High School. It was also agreed that we should stand firm in opposition to any additional proposals by the C.J.P. that would further change the character of their Novitiate Park development.

A brief discussion of the proposed Novitiate parking lot location indicated that it cannot be seen by Police from the street. It was APPROVED that this should be pointed out to Russ Halloran.

A MOTION was PASSED for the Conservators to retain the services of Bill Giesentanner for an indefinite period of time for the sum of \$1,000.00 to give us advice and guidance on long range plans for the development and usage of the Novitiate Park.

The next meeting will be held on December 14th, 7:30 P.M. at Ginny Taplin's house, 15 Sewall Street, West Newton. Telephone 527-1928

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

December 1982

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Virginia Taplin
Tuesday, December 14, 1982

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Gerald Krick, Cay Morrison, Sally Barnett, Ed Lerner, Nancy Schad, Bart Hague, president, Joan Lerner, Ginny Taplin, Ruth Heespelink, Arnold Meltzer, Verne Vance.

The **Secretary's report** of the previous meeting was APPROVED with the following amendment: "...to appropriate a sum up to \$1,000...for the services of Bill Giesentanner...

Environmental Science Project. The Conservators contribute money to this project every year and Ruth HeespeLink pointed that every year we end up giving more than is budgeted. To establish better control over the outlay, Ruth will call Dick Staley who runs the project to determine, in advance, how much money will be needed, so that what is budgeted only will be given.

Commonwealth Avenue Highway Project. AnnaMaria Abernathy reported on the meeting of the Traffic Commission to get community input. The Commission, which is an advisory body, recommended that the plans, including the suggestions of the Auburndale community, be approved. Much of the community input was representative of the Conservators' letter to the Commission.

Novitiate Park - Winter Event. It was APPROVED to permit the Committee to spend up to \$250.00 for this event. The Conservators are responsible for flyers, publicity, refreshments and ski lessons. Russ Halloran has indicated that the City will do the heavy chores required to make this a successful event. The date for the event will be February 6, 1983, with February 13, 1983 as the alternate date in case there is no snow.

Sally Barnett reported on some recent open space happenings. **Brookline** has transferred to their Conservation Commission thirty acres of **town land abutting the Lost Pond Reservation and Newton's Kennard Reservation**, so that the combined region is now one hundred outstanding conservation acres.

Sally pointed out that a conservation restriction for the **Kessler East** area was recommended in the Conservators' 1974 open space plan. It was the sense of the meeting that it was important to form a committee of people interested in the preservation of this property, which is owned by Boston Edison.

Newton Plan for Low Income Housing. Does an overall plan exist? What are its contents? Ginny Taplin volunteered to talk to Eloise Houghton of N.C.D.F. - Newton Community Development Foundation. John Quatrell, Housing Development Coordinator for Newton, will also be contacted. In addition, Verne Vance will endeavor to get a copy of Newton's public housing program. It certainly is important for the Conservators to be familiar with such a plan.

Award Dinner Committee. Bart Hague appointed the following to be members of the Committee: Rodney Barker, Peter Harrington, Ginny Taplin and Verne Vance. Others may be added.

Novitiate Park Project. Cay Morrison pointed out the need for the Conservators to develop a plan for the Park. Because of a lack of specific goals, we keep reacting to rather than promoting specific programs. Cay felt the presence of Bill Giesentanner in

this project would help considerably in the development of a plan, so that we would take the initiative more frequently in the future.

A meeting of the Conservators with the C.J.P. leadership was scheduled for December 20th at the Golda Meier house library. Several members of the Board and Bill Giesentanner were scheduled to attend. We shall get a report on the proceedings at our next meeting.

Site Plan Approval Process. It was felt that the process had some major shortcomings because once a specific plan was approved in detail, the developer often came back to the Board of Aldermen at a later time with changes that, in more instances than not, were accepted and approved. Terry Morris's remark made on another occasion that "Each succeeding Board does not honor the decisions of the previous Board" supported the despair and cynicism felt by many at the meeting. It was the sense of the meeting that the Conservators should join with the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce and others to form a broad coalition of support for land use planning for the future of Newton.

Frank Wright's Large Parcels Committee will develop an agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday night, January 18, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at AnnaMaria Abernathy's house, 45 Islington Road, Auburndale. Telephone: 244-3447.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

January 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy
Tuesday, January 18, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, president, Ruth Heespelink Fran Hints, Debbie Howard, Arnold Meltzer, Cay Morrison, Gabrielle Sullivan, Ginnie Taplin, Toni Wallace.

The **Secretary's Report** of the previous meeting and the **Treasurer's Report** were APPROVED.

Ruth Heespelink reported on the **Environmental Science Project**. Dick Staley advised Ruth Heespelink that costs have been increased. While we will continue to support the project, Ruth will request Dick to furnish us with a report on the project indicating the activities, the scholarship winners and the selection process.

A local group met with Barney Frank about the **Commonwealth Avenue Highway Project**. Congressman Frank was sympathetic with the group's position and encouraging

about the need not to widen the avenue because of increased usage of the turnpike extension.

A delegation of Conservators volunteered to inspect the **Kennard-Lost Pond-Kessler East** area and will submit suggestions for future plans at our next meeting.

Ginnie Taplin was appointed Chairman of the **Awards Dinner Committee** and was encouraged to obtain all the assistance necessary to make the dinner, which will be held in March, a success.

The following were appointed members of the **Nominating Committee**: Sally Barnett, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Jeff Bernstein, Nancy Schad, Ginnie Taplin and Verne Vance. Anyone else interested in serving or suggesting names for appointment, please contact Sally Barnett, tel: 969-6988.

Bart Hague indicated that the New England Environmental Conference would be held at the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs, Tufts University, on March 26-27.

A MOTION was made and ACCEPTED to subscribe to the **State Legislative Bulletin on Environmental Issues**.

Bart Hague reported on a meeting held at the Golda Meier House library at which he presented the **Conservators' views before the C.J.P. Board**. They indicated they would respond to our position, but as of this date they hadn't, although prior to the public meeting Mr. Sidman said they would entertain restrictions on development.

At a subsequent Zoning Board meeting, Rodney Barker was able to intervene to delay the decision-making process. Rodney suggested that the Conservators write to the Zoning Board and Land Use Committee expressing our views and thanking them for hearing us and deferring their decision. A MOTION was made and ACCEPTED to that effect.

We are pleased to report that Frank Wright is now a member of the Conservation Commission.

It was recommended that Rick Bone, Executive Director of N.C.D.F., attend one of our future meetings to discuss **long range plans**.

Sally Barnett spoke of the wonderful cooperation she has received from Russ Halloran in planning the **Winter Event at the Novitiate Park**. Much of the preparation and implementation will be done by his department. Brochures were distributed to those in attendance for placement in supermarkets, stores, libraries, etc.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday night, February 15, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at Arnold Meltzer's house, 11 Westminster Road, Newton Centre. Telephone: 065-0928.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

February 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Arnold Meltzer
Tuesday, February 15, 1983

Present: Lisle Baker, Rodney Barker, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, Ruth Heespelink, Ed Lerner, Joan Lerner, Arnold Meltzer, Ruth Misch, Cay Morrison, Stephen Small, Ginnie Taplin

The **Secretary's Report** of the previous meeting and the **Treasurer's Report** were APPROVED.

A major portion of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Stephen Small, former staff principal with the General Counsel of the IRS, about the historical and chronological development of federal statues and amendments authorizing **deductions for conservation easements**, several of which he was instrumental in developing.

The Board was most appreciative of his remarks and it should help us considerably in planning for open space preservation.

The matter of Aldermanic reconsideration of site plan approval involving **CJP housing** was discussed. It was the decision of the Board that we should oppose reconsideration.

The Kennard family was selected as the **Conservationist of the Year** and will be so honored at our Spring Dinner.

Arnold Meltzer.

March 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Sally Barnett
Tuesday, March 15, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, president, Ruth Heespelink, Mary Herring, Fran Hints, Ed Lerner, Joan Lerner, Arnold Meltzer, Cay Morrison, Nancy Schad, Stephen Small, Ginnie Taplin, Verne Vance.

The **Secretary's report** and the **Treasurer's report** were APPROVED.

Sally Barnett, Bart Hague and Stephen Small reported on their visit to the **Lacey Estate**. They observed that their experience reinforced the need for improved land use planning in our City. One important step would be to have those involved in land use planning visually, physically, inspect areas that are under consideration for development. The City Planning Department and the Aldermanic land use committee, who are involved in the decision-making process, should be encouraged to engage in the procedure so that the evaluation of developer plans could be done with a more critical understanding.

Bart Hague appointed a **land use committee** to research means to strengthen the City's land use planning program. Verne Vance suggested that the committee contact communities in the state that are recognized as being in the forefront in good land use planning. Their programs and processes should be evaluated to determine the reasons for their success. Appointed to the committee, which would be a sub-group of the Large Parcels Committee, were Cay Morrison, Mary Herring and AnnaMaria Abernathy.

The Board APPROVED a donation to the **Environmental Science Project** of \$660.00 for this year's program, with the understanding that this will be evaluated annually.

It was decided that material for the **Newsletter** should be sent to Fran Hintsa within the next two weeks.

Bart Hague appointed the following to the **Audit Committee**: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Nancy Schad and Fran Hintsa.

The Board APPROVED the use of the Conservators' **mailing list** by the Fund for the Arts in Newton on a reciprocal basis.

Notice: On Mother's Day, May 8th, at 9:00 A.M., there will be a **nature and bird-watching walk** of the Novitiate.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, 1983, 7:45 P.M. at Ginnie Taplin's home, 15 Sewell St., W. Newton; tel; 527-1928.

Arnold Meltzer

March 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Virginia Taplin
Tuesday, April 19, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, President, Ruth Heespelink, Fran Hintsa, Mary Herring, Nancy Schad, Ginnie Taplin, Jean Thompson, Toni Wallace.
Guest: Rick Bohn, Executive Director, N.C.D.F.

The **Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports** were APPROVED.

A MOTION to send \$50.00 to Sharon Francis for travel expenses to the Conservators Dinner was APPROVED. Also passed was a MOTION to send a \$25.00 donation to the West Newton Unitarian Church for permitting the use of their facilities for the dinner.

Richard Bohn, the Executive Director of **NCDF**, described the workings of his organization. The NCDF receives requests for housing from all income groups and manages several pieced of property. The first development under their management was Hamlet Street. The second unit was Casselman House, forty three units of housing for the elderly on Sumner Street, right next to the post office. The third development scheduled for NCDF management is the Weeks Junior High School, which will have 67 units for the elderly and 8 family units. Several of these will be subsidized.

Richard Bohn indicated that these properties are acquired through three sources: the City of Newton, private real estate developers, and private institutions. Casselman House, for example, was purchased from the Mutual Bank for Savings on favorable terms. Weeks School was leased from the City, also on excellent terms. Future developments include Warren Junior High School and the Pine Street dump area, also known as the Rumford Avenue Disposal Area.

Coming events:

1. The **Annual Meeting** will be held at the Jackson Homestead on May 24, 1983 at 6:30 P.M. Duscha Scott, the caretaker of the Homestead, will present a slide show entitled "Newton's Legacy of Open Space Planning: Victorian Newton Out-of-Doors."
2. The third annual **Charles River Pathway Walk**, under the guidance of Bill Giesentanner, will take place on Sunday, June 19, 1983, 9:00 A.M. with Auburndale Park, Wiers Cove, as the assembly point.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 1983, 7:45 P.M. at Bart Hague's home, 110 Roundwood Road, Newton Upper Falls.

Arnold Meltzer

May 1983

President's Report
May 24, 1983
Annual Meeting
the Newton Conservators, Inc.

INTRODUCTION: To outline where we've been and where we're going. To elicit members suggestions and active participation.

I. PAST AND PROSPECTIVE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

A. PRIORITY GOALS

1. Protect remaining open space heritage - what's left in face of intense development pressures at a time when little public funding. Emphasis on: golf courses, institutional holdings & private parcels. Anticipate and speak out on priority proposals - notably those relating to Conservators' Open Space Program and Newton's Open Space Plan.
2. Strengthen Newton's land use policies to achieve consistency and permanence in open space protection - especially provisions for site plan approvals and zoning, supported by tax policy.

B. PROGRAM: A ROAD MAP to rally neighborhoods, as well as citywide residents, toward protection and use & enjoyment of area wide clusters or nodes of parks, open spaces, and conservation lands. Many interconnected by Charles River Pathway, Charles-to-Charles Corridor, and aqueducts as backbones to system.

C. FOCUS: THIS PAST YEAR - Novitiate and vicinity

1. Launch planning and neighborhood participation (Friends of Novitiate) to make new Novitiate Park a model of planning and public use & enjoyment. Earmarked substantial part of Emma Quint Foundation grant of \$7,000.
2. Hold four season events: Fall, winter, spring, and upcoming summer.
3. Retain Bill Geizentanner as planner/public participation consultant/doer.
4. Held neighborhood meeting to try to form "Friends of Novitiate" as first in a series throughout Newton (hopefully).
5. Negotiate with CJP Board on joint planning, as well as further development proposals.
6. Intervened actively in CJP's petition to Board of Aldermen and Board of Zoning Appeals to amend original site plan and extend nonconforming use to build 100 units of HUD subsidized housing for the elderly:
 - a. Moved site from Oak Woods.
 - b. Limited height
 - c. Secured conservation restriction on Oak Woods, as a land use policy precedent.
 - d. Obtained informal commitment to joint planning.

D. ACTIONS / PROPOSALS FOR OTHER AREAS

Kennard-Lost Pond area

1. Supported City's acceptance of Kennard Estate as gift.
2. Supported Brookline in transfer of 30 acre DPW parcel contiguous to Kennard area and Lost Pond to Brookline Conservation Commission
3. Turning to Kessler East, 26 acre Boston Edison lands up for sale.

Lacey Estate

1. Visited Lacey estate (Feb.)
2. May consider involving Robert Lemire, former Chairman, Lincoln Conservation Commission.
3. Seeking to arrange appropriate walking tour.

Golf Courses

1. Seeking informal meeting (exploratory) with Woodlawn.
2. Supporting Chestnut Hill as a preservation model through Trophy and participation on Chestnut Hill Country Club Management Committee.

Institutional: Opposing precedent of MDC transfer of Chestnut Hill Reservoir lands to Boston College

Commonwealth Avenue: Testified and wrote opposing arterial plan infringing on center strip.

Riverside - MBTA gateway: a planning opportunity (next fall).

E. STRENGTHEN NEWTON'S LAND USE PROCESS

1. Talks with Terry Morris.
2. Presentation of housing issues/criteria by Richard Bohn, Executive Director, Newton Community Development Foundation (NCDF).
3. Propose evaluating other town's experience.
4. Considering possibility of request to Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

F. Ordway Park; Conservators as a Land Trust.

H. EDUCATION: Environmental Science Program Conservators scholarships. Support Charles River Watershed Association. October & Spring Fests.

I. CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD. Kennard family with Sharon Francis as Speaker.