



*Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

*the Newton Conservators*

# NEWSLETTER

Holiday Issue

[www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

November/December 2001

## **CPA Passes by 448 Vote Margin in Newton**

*Light Turnout and Boston Campaign Cut into Election Margin; 5 out of 8 Wards Carried*

In a close contest, the CPA came up a winner on Election Day 2001. Despite voter turnout of just 30% and a highly visible campaign by the business community in Boston that filled the airwaves with negative ads during the final two weeks of the campaign, the CPA prevailed in Newton.

Nevertheless, the results show that this win to be a citywide endorsement for the CPA. Winning in 19 of 31 precincts, including many on the north side of the city, support for the referendum came from a broad base. Some had predicted that voters from the north side of the city would reject the CPA outright, but that turned out not to be the case.

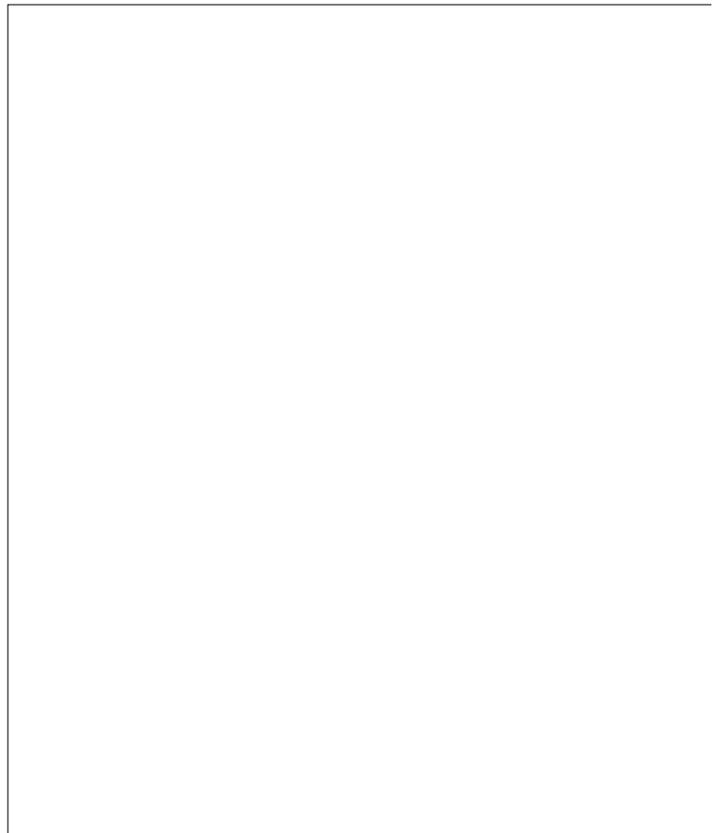
In contrast to the north-south theory, the negative vote seemed highest in areas where races were not hotly contested and voting was lighter as a result. The CPA did best in areas with higher turnout, including wards 2, 4, 5 and 6. (For details, see vote totals by precinct on page 2)

It became clear during the final weeks of the campaign that the major opposition to the CPA in Newton was the Boston business community. Spearheaded by Fidelity and the Boston Chamber of Commerce, major business interests took a high profile position against the 2% surcharge pushed through by a coalition of affordable housing groups in Boston.

With no effort to distinguish between the Boston and Newton proposals, which called for a 1% surcharge to serve all four purposes permitted

by the law, the campaign waged in the Boston media was no doubt mistaken by many Newton voters as applying to our community. In Boston, business shouldered about 80% of the tax burden compared to about 20% in Newton.

*(Continued on page 2)*



(CPA Passes, continued from page 1)

While the Boston opposition succeeded in blocking passage of the CPA in that city, the CPA prevailed in the neighboring cities of Newton and Cambridge in spite of the noise created by the Boston campaign.

Failure of the Boston referendum virtually assures a 100% match from the state this year, adding \$1.5 million to the money Newton expects to raise from the 1% CPA property tax surcharge.

**Every Effort Counted**

What is clear in retrospect is that every step taken by those working to achieve passage counted. The thousands of flyers, telephone calls, "Dear Friend" cards, signs, bumper stickers, and brochures were needed to create the margin of victory. The financial contributions of hundreds of citizens permitted a mailing to all voters during the final week of the campaign as well as an ad in the Newton TAB.

The hard work by individuals, advocacy groups and community organizations, including the Newton Conservators, United Citizens for Housing Affordability in Newton, the Newton League of Women Voters, the Green Decade Coalition, the Newton Girls Soccer and Newton Youth Soccer Leagues, Members of the Newton Clergy Association and the Charles River Watershed Association, all counted in the end.

So did a major contribution by the Newton Conservators, a grant from the Trust for Public Land, the sponsorship of a Kick-Off Rally by UCHAN, and a significant in-kind donation by Steve Grossman.

"Without the efforts of many dedicated supporters, this victory could not have been achieved," said Jim Broderick, chairman of the Newton Community Preservation Alliance. "It took the sustained effort of many dedicated citizens to pull off this win. Everyone who had any part in this campaign should take a bow because the result shows that their participation really did make a difference."

**Next Steps**

The next step in the process is to ensure timely passage of the Community Preservation Ordinance by the Board of Aldermen. Appointment of the Community Preservation Committee will follow and the work of the committee will begin.

(Continued on page 3)

**CPA RESULTS BY WARD AND PRECINCT**

(Taken from City's Website as of November 11, 2001)

Ward-Precinct	Polling Location	Results Y-N
1-1	Lincoln Eliot	84-202
1-2	Fire Station #1	217-172
1-3	Bigelow	136-132
1-4	Pellegrini Fieldhouse	57-214
<b>Ward 1 Totals</b>		<b>494-720</b>
2-1	Horace Mann	227-226
2-2	Cabot	219-158
2-3	North High	384-251
<b>Ward 2 Totals</b>		<b>830-635</b>
3-1	NCSC	166-206
3-2	Pierce	247-161
3-3	NCSC	151-254
3-4	Franklin	130-209
<b>Ward 3 Totals</b>		<b>694-830</b>
4-1	Burr	219-248
4-2	Hamilton	415-278
4-3	Pierce	267-183
4-4	Burr	174-276
<b>Ward 4 Totals</b>		<b>1075-985</b>
5-1	Emerson	119-137
5-2	Hyde	331-230
5-3	Zervas	226-170
5-4	Zervas	229-161
<b>Ward 5 Totals</b>		<b>905-698</b>
6-1	Bowen	229-138
6-2	Weeks	279-203
6-3	Hyde	355-193
6-4	Mason Rice	305-188
<b>Ward 6 Totals</b>		<b>1168-722</b>
7-1	Church of the Redeemer	175-151
7-2	Bigelow	227-169
7-3	Ward	127-111
7-4	Ward	96-65
<b>Ward 7 Totals</b>		<b>625-496</b>
8-1	Brown	166-210
8-2	Oak Hill	138-197
8-3	Countryside	158-241
8-4	Countryside	90-161
<b>Ward 8 Totals</b>		<b>552-809</b>
<b>CITYWIDE TOTALS</b>		<b>6343-5895</b>

**Don't miss DAN PERLMAN, Conservation Biologist and Newton Conservators Board Member, at the Library on November 29<sup>th</sup>.**

(CPA Passes, continued from page 2)

The Programs and Services Committee and the Zoning and Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen have both recommended passage of an ordinance that would create a nine-member Community Preservation Committee. This measure now goes to the Finance Committee at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 15 and then to the full Board for enactment, presumably at its meeting on Monday, November 19.

### **Community Preservation Committee**

The CP Committee, as currently conceived by the Board of Aldermen, will consist of the five members required by the state law and four others appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board. The four members appointed by the Mayor would meet geographic requirements and possess certain functional expertise.

To ensure geographic representation, the city is divided for this purpose into four quadrants, each made up of two wards. The first quadrant would consist of wards 1 and 2, the second would consist of wards 3 and 4, and so on. The four appointees would also need to have knowledge and interest in one of the four areas to be funded by the CPA, the objective being to add expertise to the Committee in each of the four categories.

The five members mandated by the state come from existing city commissions, one each from the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Development Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and the Housing Authority. Among all nine members, the ordinance as currently framed calls for a reasonable effort to identify and include expertise in the areas of law, real estate, finance and architecture.

Once established by ordinance, the process of assembling members to fit the various criteria will begin and the committee will get organized. That could take 3-4 months. The development of operating procedures and priorities will be important to the smooth functioning of the group as it studies community needs and entertains proposals from groups like the Conservators.

The CP Committee can only recommend projects on which to spend CPA money. Its recommendations must be approved by the Board of Aldermen before any projects can begin.

*Doug Dickson*

**The Newton Conservators Newsletter**© is published five times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc. Issues usually appear in February, April, June, September and November. Deadlines for these issues are the fifth of each month in which an issue is scheduled to be published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles by email in MS Word or rich text format to [ddickson@mediaone.net](mailto:ddickson@mediaone.net). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Sarah Barnett, Rep. Kay Khan, Doug Dickson, Dan Perlman, and Lucy Caldwell-Stair.

## **President's Letter**

Dear Conservators,

We can all celebrate passage of the CPA since it will provide a source of funds to acquire and preserve open space in line with our 40-year mission. Thanks to all Newton Conservators members who helped get the CPA passed.

### ***CPA Contributions***

Here are just some of the ways our members pitched in: 30 hosted lawn signs, 40 worked the polls, a dozen wrote letters to The TAB in a coordinated campaign. Countless others wrote "Dear Friend" cards, made telephone calls and distributed flyers at the Library, at supermarkets and elsewhere in the city. The Newton Community Preservation Alliance was composed of NC members. And many donated money to the cause. As a group, we contributed \$2500 to guarantee the ability to mail flyers to the homes of all Newton voters. This is a tremendous show of support and a key reason we were able to prevail on Election Day. Many thanks and congratulations to all of us.

### ***Fall Lecture***

There are several upcoming events I want to call to your attention. Dan Perlman will be presenting our Fall Lecture at the Newton Free Library. This continues a series we began last Spring with Peter Alden, who spoke about the rich biodiversity of Newton's open spaces. Dan, who is a conservation biologist and a Newton Conservators

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(President's Letter, continued from page 3)*

board member, will discuss Human Impacts on the Landscape using Cold Spring Park as a metaphor for global changes. Anyone interested in the fragile condition of our environment and/or the history of changes in our own Cold Spring Park will not want to miss this lecture. Save Thursday evening, November 29 and plan to join us in Druker Auditorium at 7:00 PM.

### ***Biodiversity CDs For Sale***

Dan has also graciously offered copies of a CD-ROM he created with Harvard University's E.O. Wilson as a holiday gift to our members. This multimedia CD is called Conserving Earth's Biodiversity and will make a perfect gift for anyone who on your holiday list who shares your interest in the environment and open space conservation. A portion of the proceeds from each CD sold will go into our treasury to cover expenses associated with open space preservation. See the ad elsewhere in this Newsletter.

### ***Advocacy***

The Conservators took positions on two issues in recent weeks. First we pressed for changes in The Terraces, a 48-unit housing proposal for the south side of Institution Hill, adjacent to Andover Newton Theological School. Second, we restated our earlier proposal that Lasell College develop and present to the city a master plan to guide its development of Bragdon Hill and other sections of its Auburndale campus. Our letters outlining these positions are reprinted in the following pages.

### ***Guest Speaker***

Finally, I am excited to announce that Val Talmadge, project leader in the New England office of the Trust for Public Land, will join us at our November Board of Directors meeting. She will answer our questions about the various roles the Conservators can play in encouraging landowners in Newton to use conservation restrictions or other measures to preserve their open land and enjoy tax breaks at the same time. All members of the Newton Conservators are invited attend this regular meeting on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:45 pm at City Hall, Room 202. For details about the Trust for Public Land go to [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

Sincerely,

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*

## ***Two excellent pamphlets are now available from the Land Trust Alliance:***

"Conservation Options for Private Landowners" and "Protecting Your Land with a Conservation Easement"

To receive a copy, please send your name and street address to Lucy Caldwell-Stair at 617-928-3375 or at [longwood@mediaone.net](mailto:longwood@mediaone.net).

## **Open Space Committee Considers New Zoning, Neighborhood Parks**

Starting this fall, the work of the Open Space Committee is taking a new emphasis. After submitting a slightly revised version of an older Open Space Plan to the State last June in order to qualify for various planning grants, the committee is now focusing on developing four of the goals contained in the Plan:

**Aqueducts.** A subcommittee wants to find ways to enhance the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts as green corridors that offer improved public access and ensure that they are permanently conserved. This goal involves working with MWRA and other landowners. The group will determine if any of the parcels that make up the linear trail are vulnerable to development and whether the city can take over surplus land if it is decommissioned. Team leader is Tom Gawrys.

**Pine Street.** The Pine Street landfills and adjacent land pose both problems and opportunities that will be examined by a team headed by Jim Mahoney.

**Zoning mechanisms.** This team is looking into zoning changes that will better preserve, maintain, and increase open space without great cost to the city or its constituents and which are likely to be approved by the Board of Alderman. Preliminary suggestions include a reduction to the current cluster zoning provision requiring five acres for a special permit and zoning for pocket parks via restrictive covenants in exchange for tax breaks. Roger Wyner is team leader.

**Small parcels.** This team is working with the Assessors Office to identify undeveloped parcels in the city that are smaller than one acre. Such small parcels are highlighted in the Open Space Plan for their ability to provide a sense of space within

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Open Space Committee, continued from page 4)*

neighborhoods all over the city. The team will quantify these small parcels, select the ones that are most promising for stand-alone pocket parks or for adding to larger existing parks. Lucy Caldwell-Stair of the Newton Conservators is head of this team.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the new Open Space Plan or working on these subcommittees should contact Juris Alksnitis of the Newton Planning Department at 617-552-7135 or [jalksnitis@ci.newton.ma.us](mailto:jalksnitis@ci.newton.ma.us).

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*



*View of Hammond Pond from nearby parking lot.*

## ***Working to Protect the Metro Parks; Improving Public Transportation***

*By State Representative Kay Khan*

As part of my environmental agenda, I am leading an effort in the State House to preserve and enhance the Metropolitan Park System. I have filed legislation to require the Metropolitan District Commission to apply for placement of the Park System on the National Register of Historic Sites. The bill is designed to protect the Metro Parks from the neglect that has plagued these irreplaceable resources in recent years.

The Metropolitan Park System is truly an indispensable resource that we must protect. The Metro Parks are so much more than just ball fields and picnic tables, they are historic sites that should be cherished and protected for the enjoyment of the people of Newton and other residents of the State.

To further the cause of protecting the Metropolitan Park System, earlier this year I invited an expert in landscape architecture and city planning, Boston University Professor Keith Morgan, to make a presentation for legislators at the State House. Professor Morgan helped put the cause of protecting the Metro Parks into context for Legislators. Most lawmakers instinctually appreciate the importance of protecting our parks, but the Professor's presentation emphasized the historical value of the Parks as well as the enormous scope of the tragedy we will face if the Parks are abandoned.

I am also focusing on improvements to the public transportation systems that serve Newton. I have initiated discussions with the MBTA on plans to make Newton's commuter rail stations accessible to people with disabilities. In conjunction with my work on the commuter rail, I have been working with the Mass Turnpike Authority on improving the vegetation on the property between the Turnpike and Auburndale Square. In addition, I have spearheaded an effort to create more parking at the Waban T station. These projects are part of an overall strategy that I share with many others – making public transportation more attractive to travelers and commuters and thus contribute to environmental protection efforts.

### **Val Talmudge of Trust for Public Land to Speak**

All members of the Newton Conservators are invited to attend a presentation on local land trusts by Val Talmudge, project leader in the Trust for Public Land's New England office. She is an authority on conservation restrictions and other measures to preserve open land while providing tax incentives for owners. Val will speak at the monthly Directors meeting on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:45 pm at City Hall, Room 202.

***Join us for this informative discussion!***

**Don't Miss the Newton Conservators  
FALL LECTURE**

Co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library

*Thursday, November 29, 2001  
7:00 – 9:00 PM*

*Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library*

**Dan Perlman**

*Conservation Biologist*

*And Member of the Newton Conservators Board of Directors*

*Presents*

**From Cold Spring Park to Planet Earth:  
Human Impacts across the Landscape**

*Think you know Cold Spring Park?  
Concerned about the future of planet Earth?*

**See them both in a whole new light with biologist and photographer Dan Perlman.**

Dan will discuss a wide range of human impacts at both the local and global levels. On the local level, he will describe the history of the Cold Spring Park area since Newton was settled by Europeans. This part of the talk will be illustrated with maps, aerial photos, and photographs Dan has taken in the park for the past 18 months.

During that period, Dan has photographed the same scene twice every month, creating a powerful teaching and learning tool that he has shared with students in many of Newton's public schools.

For the discussion of global impacts, Dan will use materials from *Conserving Earth's Biodiversity*, a multimedia CD-ROM that he and Harvard University biologist Professor E. O. Wilson co-developed. Copies of the CD will be available for sale.

Dan taught conservation biology at Harvard for nine years, where he won the Phi Beta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award. He has just joined the biology faculty at Brandeis University. Over the past half dozen years, Dan has also offered science programs in nearly all of the Newton Public Schools.

# Update on The Terraces

The Terraces proposal to build 48 large, luxury single and attached single houses on the 10-acre southern slope of Institution Hill (between Langley Road and Cypress Street) will go before the Board of Aldermen on Monday, November 19. Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) owns the land and has a purchase and sale agreement with The Terraces.

The slope is now forested with hundreds of native trees. For decades there has been a walking path through the woods from the bottom of the slope near Bowen School to the top of the hill where there is a spectacular view south to the Blue Hills. The woodland path and view from the top of the hill are unique in Newton—all other hills have been covered with private residences.

The proposed development will destroy over 600 trees of significant size in addition to the walking path. A replacement path is planned, 30 to 40 feet from Cypress Street, adjacent to and at the bottom of a high retaining wall that will run parallel to the street.

To retain the view, structures and new landscaping will not extend higher than 290 feet above sea level.

In an effort to maximize the use of space, the developer has included no vest pocket parks or open areas to facilitate enjoyment of this beautiful site or appreciation of the view.

To the north, and out of sight of the development, a long narrow strip of land (1.8 acres) between Cypress Street and the ANTS parking lots will be set aside as conservation land for public use as passive recreation. However, the slope is not conducive for walking and the land is so steep that walking on it the slope would likely cause erosion, which is forbidden in the regulations for the conservation areas.

With proposed blasting and bulldozing, the southern slope will be extensively re-graded. The report of an outside consultant hired by the city to review The Terraces proposal concluded: "It is our professional opinion that this site, due to its topography and vegetative cover, simply cannot handle development to the extent shown on the Terraces plans." The consultant suggested that the plan might be reconfigured to allow the steepest

slopes not be built on. This might also allow for the retention of the walking path through the woodland.

The city ordinance states that a special permit may be granted if the public convenience and welfare will be served without substantial detriment to the public good, if the site is appropriate for the structure, if major topographical changes are avoided, and if tree and soil removal are minimized.

*Sarah Barnett*

## *Letter to the Land Use Committee on The Terraces*

September 28, 2001

Dear Alderman Basham,

The Newton Conservators would like to comment on three aspects of the most recent application submitted by The Terraces, LLC.

- **Open space preservation**—The amount and distribution of open space included in the latest plan, while marginally greater than in previous proposals, is still relatively little compared to the scale of developed land. We believe the plan does not reflect the spirit of the cluster zoning ordinance and that the open space saved by clustering should be more significant and of greater value to the community for a special permit to be justified.
- **Storm water runoff and drainage**—We continue to be concerned about the impact of large storm events on Bowen field. Neither the plan itself nor any remedial provision speaks to this issue. We have previously proposed that Terraces create and set aside a fund sufficient to deal with future storm-related damage and related maintenance that will likely ensue from the construction proposed for this site. If this is not done, the expense of repairing this recreation facility will fall to the city, which is in no position to cover the cost of damage created by private construction.

In addition, we continue to be concerned about the impact of this development on groundwater and surface flows, particularly as they affect the quality of the wetlands in Webster Vale and Webster Conservation Area.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*Terraces Letter, continued from page 7)*

## *Letter to Lasell College*

November 8, 2001

Dear President DeWitt:

The Newton Conservators directors have asked me to write you about recent actions at Lasell that raise concerns about the future of the neighborhood. As you know, the Conservators has worked successfully for the past 40 years to promote city-wide conservation efforts. Recently, we have played a constructive role when two other colleges in Newton—Boston College and Newton Andover Seminary—proposed changes in the use of their property. As we do with those colleges, we recognize Lasell College's right to grow.

When our past president, Douglas Dickson, wrote you last November, he asked the college to defuse tensions and uncertainty about Lasell's growth by providing to the city a Lasell Master Plan instead of submitting applications for permits piecemeal. The officially-adopted Newton Frameworks 2000 Report concludes that "only a Master Plan can reveal the context of support facilities, offices, landscaping, pedestrian and vehicular traffic routes, etc. required for a full understanding of proposals as they are presented." It is our understanding that Lasell has not yet done this nor indicated that it will. We continue to feel that a Master Plan would improve the college's relations with city agencies and improve its increasingly intransigent image. We ask once again that you and the Trustees give a Master Plan a high priority.

We are especially grieved by the recent destruction of some thirty mature trees on Woodland Street in order to create a paved parking lot for forty-five cars. The college went ahead with that work despite the letter in the Newton TAB of June 19, 2001 from the college historian, scion of a distinguished Lasell family and former Trustee, Donald Winslow. He wrote, "The need for parking space is a major concern, but there are other possible choices where many full grown trees are not involved."

Mr. Winslow's letter also focused on the promise to the city that the college made in the mid-1960s in order to gain a variance for two brick dormitories on Woodland Street. Many older

*(Continued on page 9)*

- **Preservation and replacement of trees**—We take strong issue with the suggestion that the Tree Preservation Ordinance was not intended for projects of this size and scale. In fact, it was designed to cover projects both large and small. The loss of community benefit caused by removal of this many trees needs to be compensated in one of three ways. Either new trees are planted on the development site in the manner specified in the ordinance or new trees are planted in a location specified by the Tree Warden or a contribution equal to the cost of replacing the lost trees is made to the city's tree replacement fund. Planting trees on the Andover Newton campus is *not* an option permitted under the law.

We commend the developer for the steps taken to preserve the view from the top of Institution Hill. To the question of whether the public interest in preserving the view or Andover Newton's interest in screening the development from its campus should prevail, we strongly urge that the committee make explicit that the public interest supercedes that of Andover Newton. We continue to believe that, as a co-petitioner, Andover Newton should commit to preservation of the view as the petitioner has.

We also stand by our earlier comments regarding the value of forming a Community Liaison Committee.

Sincerely,

*Doug Dickson*

### ***Calling All Teachers! Scouts! Environmental Clubs! Others!***

*The Newton Conservators Annual Grants Program is looking for project proposals. Each year we make small grants (up to \$1000) to fund educational or demonstration projects related to open space and the environment.*

*Contact Committee Chairs Bill Hagar (964-2644, [william.hagar@umb.edu](mailto:william.hagar@umb.edu)) or Burton Elliott (244-8920, [elliott1@rcn.com](mailto:elliott1@rcn.com)) for info.*

*(Letter to Lasell College, continued from page 8)*

residents and a former dean of the college have also testified that such a promise was made, a promise, to quote Mr. Winslow again, that "the area in front [of the dormitories], with its many trees, would remain as it is now indefinitely." We wonder what kind of lesson the new parking lot on that land teaches Lasell students about institutional ethics and environmental responsibility.

We again ask the college to reconsider one cause of the need for more paved parking areas: Lasell's guarantee that every student may have a parking space on campus. Lasell advertised the convenience of public transportation when it solicited residents for Lasell Village. That same point could be effective in recruiting applicants for admission.

Boston College takes this approach. It provides just 320 parking permits for 4500 junior and senior resident students only, on the basis of need (disability, internship, nursing, education appointments). Until this year parking was provided for commuters, but even that is now restricted to commuters living beyond a fixed radius of the college.

At Lasell, student and faculty cars crowd residential streets and change a neighborhood that the college continues to celebrate as pleasantly suburban. Care will have to be taken as the college continues its growth lest the qualities that have identified the Lasell campus in the past are lost beyond recovery.

We want to repeat Mr. Dickson's plea was for a reconsideration of the projected leveling of Bragdon Hill and the parking of 121 undergraduates' cars opposite an elementary school. On that site, traffic, density, open space, parking and proximity to Williams School raise issues only a long-range plan can adequately address. We would now add that the perceived "threat" of an historic district in the Lasell neighborhood can hardly justify a preemptive destruction of the college's own most historic site.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Caldwell-Stair*

**Don't miss DAN PERLMAN, Conservation Biologist and Newton Conservators Board Member, at the Library on November 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## **MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.**

The Newton Conservators promote the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.

A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

*The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 40 years ago in June 1961.*

## **Brief Updates**

*News of interest from various sources*

### **Elgin Street CR Offered to City**

The Wilmerding family has offered a Conservation Restriction on a one-third acre parcel adjacent to the Cohen Conservation Area at the end of Elgin Street. The details of this generous gift have been discussed at two recent Conservation Commission meetings. It is expected to be signed at the next regular meeting on November 15. The family anticipates a two-stage process, with plans to grant another CR on an equal sized parcel in five years. Thompsonville Brook runs through the parcel on which the initial CR will be applied.

*From Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes*

### **Hammond Pond Grant Update**

We learned recently that our grant proposal for remediating the storm water runoff problems at Hammond Pond will not be funded through the State's Lakes and Ponds Demonstration Program. This is disappointing news after the hard work that was put into the grant proposal this summer. The group of state, city, community and business

*(Continued on page 10)*

(News Briefs, continued from page 9)

representatives who have been meeting over recent months to tackle this problem will get together again soon to consider next steps. Other funding sources will be explored.

*From State Representative Ruth Balsler*

### **MIT Students Prepare Studies for City**

Two groups of MIT Urban Studies graduate students has been working this semester with Newton's Planning and Development Department to develop planning strategies for two village centers—West Newton and Newton Centre. A third group is working with the department to improve and enhance the city's development review process. The student teams will look at issues related to zoning, land use, urban design and circulation. A meeting was to be held on November 14 at which the students were to share preliminary findings and recommendations for public input.

*From Planning Department Update*

### **Conservators Receive Generous Gift**

This summer, John Hegnauer, designer of the bronze plaque that graces the entrance to Ordway Park at the corner of Everett and Gibbs Streets, and his mother, Helen Richie Hegnauer, generously donated two paintings made by Mrs. Hegnauer. She was one of a group of artists who met regularly with Priscilla Ordway to paint in the third floor studio of her home at 111 Gibbs Street, next to the park that Priscilla willed in 1971 to the Conservators. The paintings have been added to our collection of papers and other objects at the Jackson Homestead and add an important dimension to this part of our history. We are extremely grateful for this thoughtful donation.

*Doug Dickson*

### **Map Project**

Work continues on the updated map of Newton's parks and conservation areas. Our multi-talented secretary, Judy Hepburn, has mastered a map-making software program to create line drawings of our open spaces complete with paths, features and amenities. This effort will save a significant production expense. Completion, including new historical and other information, is anticipated by year-end.

*Doug Dickson*

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Thursday, November 15, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Conservation Committee Meeting**

Monday, November 19, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, November 28, 7:30 PM  
Room 202, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservators Board Meeting**  
**Guest: Val Talmudge, Trust for Public Land**

Thursday, November 29, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
Newton Conservators FALL LECTURE  
**"From Cold Spring Park to Planet Earth:  
Human Impacts across the Landscape"**  
**Dan Perlman, Biologist and Photographer**

Monday, December 17, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Thursday, December 20, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**

NO Newton Conservators Board Meeting in  
December

Monday, January 21, 2002, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, January 23, 2002, 7:30 PM  
Room 202, Newton City Hall  
**Newton Conservators Board Meeting**

Thursday, January 24, 2002, 7:30 PM  
Room 209, Newton City Hall  
**Conservation Commission Meeting**

Monday, January 28, 2002, 7:00 PM  
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library  
**The Green Decade Coalition/Newton  
ENVIRONMENTAL SPEAKER SERIES**  
Speaker to be announced

***SPECIAL OFFER!***

**CD-ROM “Conserving Earth’s Biodiversity”  
Available to Newton Conservators Members  
For Savings of \$10**

**Dan Perlman, biologist and photographer, created this CD with  
Professor E.O. Wilson of Harvard University.**

Dan is making a limited number of these CDs  
available to our members at \$10 off the regular price.  
In addition, he will donate \$14 of the sale price to the  
Newton Conservators for each CD purchased through this offer.

The CD is ideal for older students and adult learners  
who wish to gain a deeper appreciation for  
conservation biology and environmental science.

It is hailed by one by one scientist as “...a breakthrough in  
science teaching through interactive multimedia.  
the combination of E.O. Wilson’s on-screen narration,  
and Dan Perlman’s educational design and content  
make this production a must for science students and teachers.”

***To order your copy of “Conserving Earth’s Biodiversity,”  
Mail your check for \$30.00 to:***

**Newton Conservators  
PO Box 590011  
Newton, MA 02459**

\$14 will be donated to the Newton Conservators. Allow two weeks for delivery.

***Copies will also be available at the Fall Lecture on November 29 at the Library.***

***Take advantage of this opportunity  
to **RENEW** your membership  
in the Newton Conservators***

(If the mailing label on this Newsletter contains a red dot, your subscription is overdue)

***OR*** to make a tax-deductible contribution  
to support our work in preserving  
Newton's remaining open spaces.

Just ***CLIP*** the coupon below and mail it  
with your tax-deductible check to:

**Newton Conservators, Inc.  
PO Box 590011  
Newton, MA 02459**

***Happy Holidays and Thank You!***



*Celebrating our  
40<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

***Newton Conservators Membership Form***

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • 617-969-8661 • [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

- YES, I'd like to start/renew my one-year membership with the Newton Conservators to help preserve open space in Newton. I'll receive informative newsletters and emails and be invited to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities.
- I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support the work of the Newton Conservators: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS**

- Individual member \$25
- Family member \$35
- Sustaining member \$50
- Donor \$75
- Patron \$100

*All amounts are tax deductible*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to **Newton Conservators, Inc.**

November/December Newsletter

# GIVE A NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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**Total amount of gift memberships \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and mail with this form to **PO Box 590011, Newton, MA 02459**. Thank you!

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