

🌿 Peter Kastner 🌿



We are sad to report that Peter Kastner passed away on July 15. He was an inspirational and influential force for preservation and management of open space in Newton for over three decades, during which he served as vice-president before becoming president of the Newton Conservators from 1994 to 1996. For many years he coordinated the Conservators' walk programs, chaired the nominating committee, and served on the annual audit committee.

Peter was also a longtime observer of the Parks and Recreation Commission and helped draft procedures and standards to control the construction of structures on Park and Recreation lands. For several years he was an open space representative on the Zoning and Planning Committee as well as a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Long Range Planning. He advocated expansion of the Commission to include members interested in open space preservation. As a result, he and Conservators' board member Mike Clarke became alternate members of the Commission.

Finally, Peter Kastner was one of a number of active participants in the development of Nahanton Park as he helped raise initial funds for a matching \$400,000 self-help grant to improve the park. Peter helped establish the Friends of Nahanton Park and served as its president for several years.

He will be missed by all of his friends and colleagues as well as others who benefit from his legacy of open-space preservation. We will always remember his warm greeting, including his wry smile when discussing topics of interest.

Peter's wife, Clare, passed away last year. We miss them both.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 16th at 2 PM at the Unitarian Church in West Newton. Donations in Peter's memory can be made to either the Newton Conservators or the Friends of Nahanton Park.

🌿 Bill Hagar