

## Board of Directors, 1972 - 1973

President: H. Garrison Wilkes  
V. President: Mrs. Helen Heyn  
Secretary: Mrs. Phyllis Butler  
Treasurer: John Hendrick

### Directors to 1973

Thelma Fleishman                      Carolyn Whitten  
James Lewis                              Mrs. William Kierstead  
James Lewis

### Directors to 1974

Deborah Howard

### Directors to 1975 (3 year terms)

Mrs. Rochelle Alexander      Mrs. Jan Cadwell  
Melvin Darack                              Mrs. Betty Dyer  
Ernest Loewenstein

## July 1972

Newton Conservators  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 21, 1972

**Present:** Alexander, Cushman, Dyer, Fleishman, Heyn, Howard, Kierstead, Lewis, Loewenstein, Murphy, Rubin, Wilkes, G., Wilkes, S., Wilson. Excused: Darack

In 1969 the Newton Conservators voted to give to the High School Biology Club \$50 every year in the name of B.F. Shattuck. There are now two high school biology clubs. It will be voted at the September meeting whether to continue with the donation, how much if any should go to each high school.

**Committees** - In order to promote activity by the Newton Conservators the organization was divided into the following committees. All Directors are urged to go into the membership and recruit for these committees. Each Director should be functioning on at least one of these committees.

Air Quality: Heywood, Kierstead, Wilkes, Wilkes  
Solid Waste: Lewis, Loewenstein, Rubin  
Land Use: Cadwell, Heyn, Murphy, Torcha  
Charles River: Fleishman  
Transportation: Loewenstein, Howard  
Salt: [left blank]  
Pesticides and Persistent Toxic Substances: Howard

Energy: Rubin, Wilkes, S.

Observer Corps: Fleishman (This committee will be responsible for being sure that there is a Conservator member at meetings at City Hall. All Directors should expect to help with this should the need arise.)

Environmental Education: Publications (Newton Geology - Heyn; Hammond Pond Nature Guide - Kaplan; Guide to Open Space - Murphy)

Newsletter: Alexander

Membership: Dyer

Walks and Programs: Wilkes, S.

Liaison with Newton Public Schools: [left blank]

If you are not now on a committee, please contact Garrison Wilkes (244-3174) and indicate your preference.

Each committee is requested to meet before the September 13th Board meeting and elect a chairman (or co-chairman) and prepare an outlook for work for the coming year. As mentioned above, the chairmen are urged strongly to reach into the membership as a whole for committee members.

A copy of any letter that is sent stating Newton Conservators policy must be sent to the President. This includes any testimony also. While it is generally more efficacious if the president or chairman of an organization signs a letter, it is at the discretion of the directors whether or not it is done.

A request was made to have the City Planner to a directors' meeting to have him explain current plans for Newton.

**Air** - Request was made and granted to send a letter to John McGlennon, Region I, Environmental Protection Agency, thanking him for his firm stand as regards the Mass. Clean air implementation plan.

It was announced that there will be hearings on the revised regulations on July 21, 1972 at 10:00 a.m. at Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston. The testimony to be given at this hearing was okayed.

**Solid Waste** - As one possible means of reducing the load on the incinerator, Alderman Peter Harrington has proposed that Newton introduce a **leaf composting programme** (Wellesley has one.). Mr. Pratt proposed the old Pine St. Dump as a possible site for the operation, and on June 6 the Environmental Subcommittee and over 100 neighborhood residents met there prior to a meeting at the Burr School. Alderman David Jackson stressed that leaves only would be composted, that dumping (therefore extra traffic) would be virtually confined to the Fall and Spring, that supervision would be constant, and that there would be no fire hazard, vermin or odor. It was proposed to have piles of shredded leaves 8' x 8' as long as the site would allow, with corridors for turning, which would be done 2-3 times a year, and that after 3 years the mature compost would be ready for use. Few of those present were in favor of the proposal. At a subsequent

meeting of the Public Works Committee it was voted to table the item until the Environmental Subcommittee can explore the feasibility of a pilot program at a different site.

Aldermen Jefferson and Harrington **proposed a pilot program to collect garbage and trash together**. Our present contract expires in 1973. The ratio is now about 1 part garbage to 15 parts trash. Garbage would be put in plastic bags within larger trash bags. This is being done in Lynn (Pop. 70,000) and Framingham (65,000), and representatives from both communities testified in favor of the proposal at a public hearing on Feb. 10th. They stated that they bought and retailed plastic bags, there was no trouble with dogs, and the resident preferred it. There was strong opposition from people living in the area of the dump who felt that the incinerator would not be able to handle the garbage efficiently, that unpleasant odors would increase, and rats and cockroaches would also in the unburnt residue. This item is being held by the Public Works Committee.

When the present dump was opened in 1963, the City had a site plan approved by the Department of Natural Resources in 1961. This year a notice was circulated by the Department of Public Health to communities with dumps setting forth new requirements, which upgrade some 1961 standards. As a result the City has spent \$90,000 sealing the dump with 2 feet of clean fill and increasing the number of bait stations for cockroaches, but it has asked for a waiver of some of the other conditions. For instance, those applying to operating in a wetland, which requires clean fill to a height of 4 feet above flood level be deposited first. This would mean 8 feet of fill before we started dumping, would cost about \$250,000, and would reduce the life of the dump from about 5 years to one. Also the City would not like to have to cover with 2 feet of clean fill, but rather with incinerated residue, which they would like to use for daily cover. The request was heard by the State Dept. of Public Works, and was opposed by Ald. McGrath and the State Inspector. The Public Works Committee voted to recommend that the City withdraw the request for a waiver on all counts except the first. This was approved by the full Board.

Insert Report on Newton Incinerator.

**Land Use** - The Board voted to oppose the **petition of Marriott Motor Hotels** for permission for a 3,200 square foot tent to be used for clambake dinners and theatrical productions. When the Marriott was built they agreed to a set of restrictions of which Restriction 11 reads: "No building, parking, grading, filling or other development which will alter the present character and typography of that portion of the site northerly of the line 775 feet north of and parallel to the northerly line of Commonwealth Ave. shall be permitted." The Board feels that the erection of such a tent would certainly be in violation of Restriction 11. The Board also feels that the best solution would be to have the Marriott give a scenic or conservation easement to the MDC of the point of land in question.

**Newton at 128** has petitioned to have 400,000 sq. feet more of building plus parking, making a total of 1,200,000 sq. ft. As with many developments, it seems that if you give

an inch, the developers want to take a mile. The Board VOTED TO OPPOSE any further encroachment on the Charles.

**Newton Incinerator** - Under the new state regulation 2.5.3 as of October 1, 1972 the City of Newton must submit a plan and compliance schedule for Newton's municipal incinerator. The incinerator will have to meet an emission limitation of 0.1 grains per standard cubic foot at 12% CO<sub>2</sub> of particulates. The present incinerator was not designed to meet and does not meet these emission standards.

Under the Chairmanship of Alderwoman Lois Pines, the Aldermanic Solid Waste Committee (Pines, Richmond, Gaynor, English, Bullwinkle, Cohen, Bauckman, Jackson & Dietz) has been studying possible future courses of action. That committee has decided that due to the large amount of capital already invested in the present incinerator, that the present incinerator should be upgraded to meet the emission standards.

Concurrently the Executive Branch under Mayor Mann and with the assistance of Richard Dudman and the Planning Department has been studying the problem and seems to also have reached the same conclusion - namely, to fix the incinerator.

In addition, the possibilities of contracting to burn the rubbish from Waltham is also being studied, possibly as a forerunner to a grouping of Newton-Waltham-Brookline in a regional solid waste disposal program. The pick-up of newspaper in addition to being a recycling project is designed to help reduce the load on the incinerator.

Arthur D. Little, a research firm, has been awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to study incinerator combustion, primarily gaseous products (i.e., not particulates) using Newton's incinerator for their tests. Their study will not be a study of how to fix the Newton incinerator, but instead will gather much needed basic data on combustion processes.

The obvious next step, given the decision to fix the incinerator, is to contract with an engineering firm to make an analysis of the Newton incinerator and come up with design criteria to fix it. Once the design criteria are in hand, a contract to actually design the improvements would be let and then a contract to actually build the improvements.

One proposal has been that once A.D. Little is in gear in their experiments they might be hired to come up with the design criteria if they seem competent. The rationale for this being that in order to do the tests they are doing they must conduct a preliminary analysis of the incinerator. Since EPA is paying for their research, Newton would essentially get the free analysis if A.D. Little were hired. (It may or may not be pertinent that the Mayor has friends at A.D. Little.)

An alternate proposal comes from the consultant to the Solid Waste Committee, who suggests that Camp, Dresser, McGee would be appropriate.

Once the incinerator is fixed there is technology available (the New Bedford group at Raytheon) to separate the metal and glass from the ash of the incinerator.

An adequately, cleanly working incinerator, with newspaper pick-up, and the recovery of metal and glass from the ash, would put Newton a long step down the road.

### **Environmental Education**

The idea of a **series of walks** and then **indoor programs** throughout the fall and winter was agreed to. Any persons wishing to help or having ideas for either should contact Susan Wilkes.

In order to have a **monthly newsletter**, but not spend great quantities of money, it was decided to go to a mimeographed newsletter. We will get our own bulk mailing permit and our own set of masters. The amount of \$200 was okayed to get the new system rolling. It was also VOTED to give a donation to the League of Women Voters of Newton for the use of a portion of their office space and mimeograph.

The mailing address of the Newton Conservators is Box 28, 319 Auburn Street, Auburndale.

Work on the **Newton Geology publication** is progressing.

Dr. Lawrence Kaplan, botanist at the University of Massachusetts - Boston, has agreed to help work up a **nature guide to Hammond Woods**.

The Newton Conservators will write **Chapter 3 in the Centennial Publication** of the City of Newton. The topic is to be "Where has it all gone?", a history of land use in the City. Thelma Fleishman will be writing this and will send a draft around before the due date of October 1st. Any suggestions or help will be happily received by Thelma.

### **Announcements**

Any of you not now receiving the Environmental Newsletter written by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should write to: Paul G. Keough, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, EPA, JFK Bldg. Room 2303, Boston, Mass 02203 and request to be on their mailing list. The newsletter is very good.

Any of you not receiving Ecolog, but out by the Norfolk county-Newton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association, 745 High St., Westwood, Mass. Also should write for it.

**September 1972**

Newton Conservators Directors' Meeting  
September 13, 1972

**Present** - Alexander, Cadwell, Dyer, Fleishman, Heyn, Heywood, Howard, Ripley, Rubia, S. Wilkes, G. Wilkes.

Garrison Wilkes opened the meeting and requested that all members have copies of the By-laws of Newton Conservators, Inc. He explained that directors' meeting will precede our monthly newsletter so that board actions and pertinent discussion be included in the bulletin.

Mr. Wilkes commended the "Save the River" group for their efforts defending the Charles River from further encroachment, specifically by Wellesley Office Park.

A **Newton Conservator file** will be started by our President and include back issues of Conservator Newsletters, news clippings dealing with environmental and conservation interests in Newton and elsewhere. This would be located at his home and be available for directors' use, and transferred to incoming boards. Helen Heyn has additional material concerning Newton Conservation and issues and invited the directors to use it. She also stated that Jackson Homestead has Newton Conservator Newsletters dating back to 1963.

### **Announcements** -

Environmental Geology Course sponsored by Wellesley Conservator Council begins 2 weeks. Fee \$20.00.

New England River Basin Conference - September 14 - Holiday Inn, Boston. Fee \$8.00. "Strategies for Natural Resource Decision Making in New England".

Clear Air Symposium - October 19 - place to be announced.

The directors were alerted to two referenda items of importance on the November ballot.

**Referendum I** - deals with tax structure for farmland

**Referendum V** - Environmental Bill of Rights with a rider attached requiring a 2/3 vote of both houses of State Legislature before any park or recreation land can be diverted to other use.

Consensus was Conservators support these referendum questions.

**Treasurer report** given by Mr. Wilkes in the absence of Mr. Hendricks. The treasurer has requested that a written request be made for any outflow of cash showing the amount and service or item it is for - this would obviously facilitate bookkeeping.

**Minutes** of July 21 were read and corrected. [The two corrections were made in the above minutes in this Word file].

Helen Heyn reported that both the **Newton North Biology Club** and **Newton South Ecology Action Club** would like to participate in the Newton Conservator gift (\$50,000) given in the name of B. F. Shattuck. The following motions made by Betty Dyer PASSED unanimously after discussions:

"The Newton North Biology Club shall receive a gift of \$25.00 from Newton Conservators, Inc. in the name of B. F. Shattuck to use as they see fit."

"The Newton South Ecology Club shall receive a gift of \$25.00 from Newton Conservators, Inc. in the name of B. F. Shattuck to use as they see fit."

Mrs. Heyn reported that Miss Carol Bershad, leader of Newton South Ecology Club, would like an opportunity to have her group to observe meetings of Newton Conservator directors. The directors meetings are open and they are welcome to come.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Air Quality** - Mr. Heywood asked for clarification of the scope of our program of air quality control. S. Wilkes explained that air doesn't have a fence line and anything done in the locus of general air basin affects us in Newton. Newton is in one of the 13 critical air quality areas.

Discussion ensued about sources of air pollution in Newton: Miracle Mile along Needham St., Rt. 128, Mass. Turnpike, etc. Mr. Heywood suggests that transportation and air quality be tied together. Garrison Wilkes hopes we can educate ourselves and that the thrust of committee could be to inform Newton residents about air quality in general and in Newton.

**Solid Waste** - No committee has yet been formed and Garrison Wilkes urges directors to solicit general membership and other interested people to serve.

Newspaper Recycling program conducted by the City was strongly supported by the Conservators, and consensus of directors was a greater effort be made to encourage the public to participate in it. In July 147.72 tons of newspaper were collected for recycling.

Solid Waste in Newton - Report prepared by Newton League of Women Voters - \$.50 per copy and available at 72 Columbus Street, Newton Highlands 02161.

Helen Heyn expressed desire that Newton Conservators would support Regionalization of Solid Waste. Newton is in a proposed Solid Waste District 8 - 4 along with Brookline, Needham, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley and Weston.

**Land Use** - [no report]

**Hammond Pond Cleanup** - The Legislature did not approve the request by the Department of Public Health for funds to clean Hammond Pond.

The Conservation Commission would like Conservators support and assistance for a study of Hammond Pond by Process Research, Inc., who have just completed a harvesting program at Hardy Pond in Waltham. Cost of study to be \$965.00. Mrs. Heyn requested Mr. Wilkes and a letter to Mayor Mann urging him to rescind order for appropriation to Department of Health for Newton's share of clean up and instead approve the \$965.00 to study a Harvesting Program at Hammond Pond.

**Newton at 128** - Additional square footage for buildings has been approved by the Board of Aldermen, but the restrictions include adherence to Newton's Flood Plan ordinance for any NEW construction. The developers have approval of Department of Natural Resources for the fill adjacent to Cramer electronics; need 2/3 vote by Aldermen.

**New Legislation** - Inland Wetland Act (Ch. 72) - Review in Superior Court for objecting landowners rather than DNR.

Norumbega Associates requested Newton Conservators act as proctor for an intern to study 18 communities on either side of the Charles River to include an inventory of natural environment, cultural areas, conservation land, MDC land, present and proposed uses and acquisitions. They hope to get a grant from Mass. Audubon to undertake this project. Conservator discussion focused on fact that this would be a duplication of Metropolitan Area Planning Council Reports on Open Space, Recreation and the Charles River already completed.

**Geology Study** - The fourth proof reading has been completed, indexing and changes in the manuscript done by Father Skehan in glossary per recommendation of Helen Heyn. Conservators allocated \$200.00 in April to Joan Powers that had been made. In view of additional editing, Conservators approved \$50.00 be granted at this time. The study is 38 pages long.

**Pesticides** - Debbie Howard strongly urged Conservators efforts to discourage City of Newton's program of **tree spraying**. Several directors (Wilkes, Murphy, Howard) suggested local news media be used to inform public on the widespread use of pesticides and resulting environmental effects.

New legislation - National Pesticide Regulation, which would control use and dispensing of chemicals used as pesticides.

**Energy** - Milt Rubin presented a synopsis of energy and offered several subjects for discussion.

**Solid Waste** - a possible source to generate electric power.



**Transportation** - use of bikes, bike lockers at rapid transit stops, etc. to encourage cycling

Taxation on consumption of electric power to discourage inefficient and heavy usage and as an incentive to purchase more efficient appliances and discriminating usage.

Offshore drilling research into techniques aimed at ultimate security against spillage.

Mayors Advisory Committee on Energy is studying distribution of energy to Newton. Mrs. Fleishman reported that permission must be secured from current supplier of energy (Boston Edison) before a municipal distribution system can be established.

Aldermanic Observer - Thelma Fleishman, Helen Heyn.

Joint garbage and trash collection has had a public hearing and is being held in committee.

Trash compactors ordinance prohibiting compactors in committee. They are awaiting a report from Atlanta on tests funded from national government dealing with compacted trash and incineration.

**Rumford Dump** - Newton's request for waiver of State regulations mentioned in July 21 minutes have been refused. The State's concern focused on additional pollution of Charles River.

City Planning Committee report recommending that **Victory Field** be returned to Recreation Department and used as area for passive recreation was returned to committee by the full board of Aldermen.

Also returned to city Planning Committee was report recommending that the **Chestnut Hill Golf Course** be purchased by the city to be used as a municipal golf course. Helen Heyn commented that the Conservation Commission has alternative recommendations for the Chestnut Hill Golf Course.

G. Wilkes commended both Thelma Fleishman and Helen Heyn for their vigilance at the Aldermanic meetings.

**Environmental Education** - Susan Wilkes has outlined a program consisting of **4 walks** to be publicized in local newspapers and mimeo notices to be posted in various locations around the city.

Oct.1 2 p.m. Bird Walk - Fall Migrants - led by Elizabeth Cushman - will meet at parking lot at corner of Elliot and Chestnut Street (near Echo Bridge) and walk thru reservation to Longfellow Pond.

Oct. 15 2 p.m. Charles River Caravan - leader Rita Barron - will meet at City Hall lagoon

Oct. 21 2 p.m. Newton at 128 - leader S. Wilkes - G. Wilkes - will meet at parking lot behind Georgia Pacific. This walk will be repeated in spring to illustrate seasonal and other changes taking place.

Nov. 5 2 p.m. Hammond Pond Area - leader Larry Kaplan - will meet at Sterns parking lot. This walk will also be repeated in spring.

Suggestions for **indoor programs** during late winter were made by Susan Wilkes. These might include movies. "Flooding River" was mentioned, and an E.D.A. movie "The Gift" was considered. The general membership and public will be invited.

It was requested that committee chairmen prepare written reports and submit them to Garrison Wilkes at least 1 day prior to board meetings. He will copy them for board members to review immediately preceding board meetings.

Meeting adjourned 11 p.m.

### **October 1972**

#### Newton Conservators Board Meeting October 11, 1972

**Present:** Alexander, Butler, Cadwell, Darack Dyer, Fleishman, Heyn, Rubin, Wilkes, G., Wilkes, S., Wilson and visitor Sally Barnett.

**Board Meetings.** Pres. Wilkes proposed that the board meetings be devoted to discussion in depth of one or more conservation issues facing the Newton Conservators, to give the directors and others a better basis for decision making. The topic of the November meeting will be Salt, Pesticides, and Tree Plantings in Newton. The December meeting will be devoted to Solid Waste. The March meeting will be on the Charles-to-Charles Corridor. If this seems to work well, we will consider it for open membership meetings. Directors much in favor.

**Trips.** The bird walk on Oct. 1, 1972 was attended by 20 people who enjoyed the trip. Commendation was given to Elizabeth Cushman who led the trip. There may be a trip on November 18th to Hemlock Gorge with a geology professor from Boston College.

**Newsletter.** Great commendation given Rochelle on the newsletter. All directors are reminded to bring material for the newsletter to the board meetings. Don't be shy. Any reference to books you found worthwhile or to environmental happenings in Newton

should be submitted to Rochelle. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform our members.

**Membership.** The newsletter is bringing good membership growth.

**Sears Fund.** It was suggested that a definite project to be used by the Sears fund would help its growth. Two projects suggested would be development of a pond in Edmands Park to be then named after Betty Sears or the creation of a bicycle path to be named after her. Betty Dyer will look into the feasibility of these projects and report back to the board.

**Solid Waste.** Milt Rubin brought EPA report on municipal composting. As of Oct. 14, 1972, residents will be able to bring leaves, etc. to Beacon St. (the site of the old snow dump) to be composted by the city. The composting operation will be manned by volunteers (more are requested). The Mayor's committee on Ecology is assessing recycling metal, plastics and glass.

**Salt.** Some private developers have agreed to restrict their use of salt on paved areas. Richard Wilson will check at City Hall on this experimental reduction in salt last year and will report back to the Board.

**Pesticides.** Debbie Howard's report appreciated, commended. Any director who was absent and did not get a copy of this report should ask G. Wilkes for a copy.

**Land Use.** It was agreed to distribute copies of the leaflet from Mass. Citizens to Save Open Space, which is a discussion of Referenda 1 & 5 on the Nov. 7th ballot. Referendum 1 would permit the taxing of productive farmland on its value as farmland rather than as value for development, or highest market value. In Newton, approximately 50 acres of productive farmland have gone out of production in the last 10 yrs. Referendum 5 is the Environmental Bill of Rights.

**City Hall Observers.** T. Fleishman reported that a new director of the Dept. of Public Works is due to be appointed. Mr. Pratt is due to become Water Resources Chairman. Mr. R. Dudman and J. Carroll are under consideration. It was suggested that the new men be invited to a Bd. meeting in Jan. or Feb. to discuss with them their new roles.

Phyllis Butler,  
Secretary

### **November 1972**

Newton Conservators Board Meeting,  
Wed., Nov. 8  
8 PM  
at the Wilkes'

- I. Reports, maps and other literature were distributed during socially oriented coffee and dessert, perusing ideas till 8:30, when meetings are now called to order.
- II. President H. Garrison Wilkes announced receipt of a **citation award to the Conservators** from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region, Boston, Mass., for efforts made to achieve betterment of our environment.
- III. Sunday, November 12, 12:30 PM, TV Program, Channel 5, with Susan Wilkes, Scott Paradise, and Milton Rubin.
- IV. **Ordway estate** has been processed -- Conservators have deed to land bequest, plus Newton-Waltham (Newtonville branch) Bank savings account.
- V. Invitation to Governor's Conference, Friday, November 17, 0 AM to 4 PM; \$10.
- VI. Richard Wilson's report on **Air Quality Implementation Plan**
  - A. Necessity to limit autos in downtown Boston.
  - B. Boston Transportation Planning Review considering 3rd harbor crossing -- could cause more traffic (not brought up at hearing).
  - C. Commonwealth has no plan.
- VII. Susan Wilkes reported that **airport pollutants** contribute 11 micrograms to Boston air, directly affecting Newton. Slides showed ozone on bean plants in Waltham. Aldermen have authorized a \$40,000 study of incinerator. Regional arrangement being talked about, but no authorization or meetings in the offing.
- VIII. **By-Laws**, Purposes section questioned. Conservators are allowed to lobby locally. Garrison will talk to Morris K. McClintock to get lawyer's interpretation. Richard Wilson will forward summary of letter to Rochelle for Bulletin.
- IX. Betty Dyer, via Milt Rubin, requested written report on **Edmands Park**. Suggestion: re-name it Betty Sears Pond met with agreeable response. \$25,000 estimated cost of preparing pond, liming it, and surfacing bottom. Bike paths? Most money to historical sites goes for signs, not transportation. Where are they? A statement of support by Conservators will be presented by Helen Heyn and Thelma Fleishman at Thursday night's meeting (Nov. 9) concerning parks, ponds, street dept., and public works (undergoing re-organization); also a survey. Mr. Pratt's staying on until replaced; then he becomes Water Commissioner until retirement. Helen Heyn requested a statement, including finance (in works for 12 years).
- X. The Upper Falls Development Plan including Flatley Co., is option to purchase almost **60 acres of St. Joseph Novitiate** came "under fire". They are willing to grant MDC controlled easement for scenic, public access path, Nike site, and parking area. Also, for 10 % low-moderate housing. Desired density possible problem; Aldermanic Planning Dept. recommends 420 units. Our support

questioned. Some design control necessary -- area chosen because of least continuity of control. Sewer inadequate already - needs to be relocated or rebuilt. Infiltration from river combines to contaminate golf pond. Ann Donnelly took photos for report sent to DPW. Asphalt poured over manhole. Refer to Chapter 782, Wetlands Appropriation Act. Apartments, house lots, or light industry more compatible? Zone changes necessary -- 25,000 sq. ft. new single residence. A \$900,000 option offer for the land has been made.

Conservators stand or proposal should consider best use of land re: river frontage and/or open space. Don't move mini-bikes elsewhere! If there is a hearing, an emergency Board Meeting to consider strong words on sewer and to establish policy on land use will be needed.

- XI. **Open Space** is the "next push" to follow; Flood Plain Zoning [has been] main stress recently. Conservation Commission is submitting a plan to the Mayor and City Planning Committee. Rezoning is the big issue (viz. Marriott and others whose land went to the highest bidder, dribbling Newton away).
- XII. **Salt** - Richard Wilson. To the tune of \$118,000 Newton has steadily increased its salt to 30 tons per road mile in the last 10 years. Trees are in bad shape. Marriott reservoir from their parking lot typical sample. Car rot costs \$20-30 per year each. Zurich, Switzerland uses 7 tons per mile. Minnesota bans salt except for high speed areas, critical intersections, and inclines. Newton's formula: 1 part salt, 3 parts sand - even Salt Institute recommends only 20 tons per road mile. Pure salt is used now by Mayor's permission in busy areas - intersections and shopping areas. No action taken for next year; more modern equipment needed. Recommended bar on side roads. Fewer accidents psychological thing; people are better drivers and more cautious when not relying on salt. Plowing is getting worse and worse, as the use of salt increases for the same reason. Also, salt has not been applied consistently after plowing - often going down the drain, on lawns, etc., when plowed up with the snow. Sweepings could be used for cover material for the dump. A letter to the mayor will be sent for Thurs. night's meeting (Nov. 9) by Richard Wilson and Thelma Fleischman. Action is needed, as the next budget covers 18 months.
- XIII. Recommendations for **Newsletter**:
- A. Trees
1. Norway maples are "junk trees" - diversity more desirable (viz. Brookline's good program).
  2. Lindens were tried one year, but pesticides and too much salt caused their breakdown, due to lack of strength to combat disease.
  3. Alternate plan needed: include cost and positive suggestions.
    - a. leaf disposal (viz. Honey locust - small leaves)
    - b. fall color variety
    - c. insect resistance

- d. include tree planting is beautification for Centennial - get the Mayor thinking!
  - e. prompt removal of dead trees to prevent widespread blights
  - f. pesticides
    - Methoxicl used in winter on swamps with some justification to curb Dutch elm disease
    - Sevin used on everything else in June to kill worms
      - 1. toxic to pollinating insects
      - 2. causes defects in bird and animal population
    - Malathion available on request, but benefits only a few people and degrades the environment.
    - Pyrethrum cheaper, more desirable.
  - g. labor costs
  - h. environmental indemnities: new National Law by 1976
- B. Audubon defoliation in Vietnam slides available.
- C. More Education of the Public re: trees and mosquitoes (publish in news)
- D. CONSERVATORS STRESS ONE CONCEIVABLE, ATTAINABLE GOAL.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Carolyn Alsmeyer,  
 Secretary pro-tem

### December 1972

Newton Conservators, Inc.  
 Minutes of December Board of Director's Meeting  
 Dec 13, 1972, Wilkes' home

The meeting held on December 13th at the home of President Wilkes at 8 P.M., was well **attended** by 15 directors -- Alexander, Butler, Cadwell, Cushman, Darack, Fleishman, Heyn, Howard, Lewis, Loewenstein, Murphy, Rubin, Torchia, Wilkes. Guests included Mrs. Darack, Scott Paradise, Ald. David Cohen and Richmond, Andrew Coburn of the News Tribune, Lerner of the Newton Times, and Richard Dudman - incoming director of Public Works.

To allow as much time as possible for our **Solid Waste** consideration, business was kept to a minimum. December's treasurer's report is available from Garrison Wilkes. Minutes of the November and December meetings will be reviewed after directors have had a chance to read them.

General policies of the state regarding solid waste were presented by Dana Duxbury of Andover. Present volume of waste nationally is estimated at 10 lbs. Per person per day in this country. In 1968 Raytheon made a study of solid waste for the state, at a cost of \$200,000 and made proposals for area controls. The three large volumes resulting are of only limited value, with many changes in dealing with waste occurring lately. However,

the DPH started with the Raytheon proposals in updating plans in 1971. EPA urged particular attention research at that time.

Of the present landfill sites, now 300 in the state, only 60 are adequate. Of 24 incinerators only 1 meets standards; 4 are closes; 6 are impractical to try to update; and 13 seem too expensive to bring up to standard.

The state plan has 4 supervisory divisions. The original 13 planning areas have now been increased to 41 because of transportation and distance limitations. Presently there seem to be too many agencies involved; and there is the question of obtaining sufficient volume for economic handling if waste is to be kept within a limited transport area. The regional engineer for Newton is located in Lakeville - a considerable distance away.

The plan proposes divisional sites for recycling centers, with a separate facility at each disposal center. A subsidy is intended for the separation of trash, with recycling of retrievable materials such as paper, plastic, glass and metals. Recycling, hardly mentioned in the Raytheon report as feasible, is now functioning many places, and the economics are constantly being revised. Solid waste concern has been transferred to ECA rather than remain in DPNR.

Estimate of required landfill for the U.S. is 1 acre per year per person -- and this 7' deep! Students of air pollution in Mass. Are averse to increased incineration with its resulting ash and gases. As for private dump trucks, the general trend is for cities to impose higher charges at landfill sites because of increased costs and capacity demands. Markets and industry might seek other means of disposal, or their own recycling, as more economic.

Betsy Lowenberg reported the survey of the LWV on recycling, with their various attempts in this field. Study of newspaper recycling began in the spring of 1971; by April of 1972 the city was stimulated to put an official program into effect. More information would be needed from PW to be sure of actual results, but apparently 30% of the public now cooperate in separating and bundling newspapers, and it is estimated 14% of Newton's trash is paper. Collection costs are not increased, since 1 truck of the regular crew picks up papers I advance of trash collection. In the last few weeks it is believed the city has made some profit from paper sales. The proposal was made that separate days be set for paper and trash collections to avoid occasional mix-ups. It would mean added expense for the duplicate run over the route, and there is some question as to whether the public would do as well getting the paper out at another time. The volume of paper collection is lightening the load upon the incinerator and residue landfill, and there is less likelihood of unburned newsprint appearing in the fill.

A leaf collecting and composting location was instigated by LWV in October, 1972. Brookline and Needham have compost programs. Needham even charges for leaf dumping, and the resultant compost is later sold to citizens.

Informing the public was difficult because of our lack of a citywide single newspaper. The various papers were informed; parents received word through the schools, and it was

estimated the collection at Beaconwood Street had 20,000 cu. yds. of leaves by Nov. 28th. Volunteers were used to direct the dumping. Gardeners cooperated well, and we even received some loads from neighboring towns.

If we had a shredder in Newton, handling of the material would be much simpler, and decomposition advanced. The stacks of leaves have to be spread into windrows of 8' x 10' for proper aeration. No arrangement for additives to hasten action has been made, nor plans developed for eventual disposition.

The city's present vacuuming system for cleaning leaves from city areas is slow and expensive. It cannot handle wet leaves, and the mechanics are difficult. However, it is an improvement over our previous collection arrangements, and much cleaner. Leaf composting should save at least 5% of the incinerator loads, and wet leaves in the incinerator defeat effective burning.

Wellesley's separation of trash by residents at the dumpsite has proved quite effective. Families take their own refuse to the dump and sort it, rather than hiring trucks who will not make any separation. If Newton had increased separation and recycling of paper, glass, plastic and metal, there should be 33% reduction in total volume for incineration. Estimates of present waste are that Newton handles 3 lbs. per person a day, of which paper weight is 56% and food 9.2%.

Mary Adelstein summarized the LWV review of Newton's present waste disposal system. In comparison to many other cities of the state, Newton's incineration procedure has a fairly efficient rating. Our city collection cost is \$9 per ton, and this is less than for many others. Newton employs 75 workers. We have weekly pickups throughout the city, daily ones for the hospital, and frequent ones for apartments without disposal units. Currently 250 tons of material goes into the incinerator daily. Just recently Newton has shut out outside contractors' dumping. The present charge for private truckers is \$6.00 a ton.

A study by Arthur D. Little Corp. is now being made to determine what our present problems are and to suggest possible improvements. The Rumford Street unit was supposedly designed for 500 tons consumption a day; it now deals with only 300 at capacity operation. The fans added above and below the burners do not eliminate a blanket of stagnant air, which slows down the operation and curbs efficiency. There is a question whether the present unit has sufficient capacity for Newton's needs; thus the consideration of a regional center is valuable.

Newton and Waltham have appointed regional planning boards, with the idea of using Newton's incinerator and Waltham's landfill. There is a tentative grant from ECPA for \$110,000 to "create" a sanitary landfill. Waltham is also considering the Saugus commercial installation, which shreds material before incineration, removes metals and non-combustibles, and plans the sale of steam to GE across the Mystic River.

Combined garbage and trash collection and incineration is not at all feasible with our present equipment. All householders would have the expense of purchasing plastic



containers; frequent and quick collections would be needed; separation of trash content would be next to impossible; garbage would not be readily incinerated, and the inescapable carryover in the pit before next day's burning has obvious problems. Our garbage collection by Capello cost \$360,000 in 1972. Approximate volume is 4,000 to 5,000 tons a year, with cost of 75¢ a ton. Supposedly it is delivered to a Sudbury pig farm.

Certainly the market refuse goes as most desirable material; whether all does is unsure. On the whole the biweekly collection serves the city fairly well.

There is presently a recommendation before the aldermen for a research study of Newton's solid waste at a cost of \$40,000.

Present charges for private dumping obviously do not approach the cost. Brookline charges \$11 per ton and Boston \$15. There is opposition from gardeners and city markets and industry, and there has been considerable delay and discussion in aldermanic review.

How much time does Newton have before their landfill space is all used up?

At the rate of cover the DPNR is now requiring for a sanitary residue landfill in Newton, it will not be long. A cover of 6" of sandy loam each day, and 2' to seal an area causes Newton to truck sand from the Cape and loam from New Hampshire. It surely is poor ecology to take from other areas, and how long can we find such material? Newton has applied for a variance to reduce these specifications. How much height can the dump raise above the river? At present 4' is the limit. Drainage from the dump needs more attention, with possibly better filtering required. There are instances where communities have built ski slopes from their closed dumps. The hazards of using landfill areas when closed involve slippage, settling and methane gas formations. Only surface use is possible for many years.

How can we reach the sources of trash accumulation by the public? There is an excess of packaging materials, paper wraps, plastics, etc. Can the public be educated to control their refuse?

Packaging in stores has helped control handling damage and thefts, as well as appearing more sanitary. The power of the packaging industry is considerable. Will required sorting of paper, glass, metal and plastics at home cause more care? Separate collections, added recycling are bound to add greatly to the PW costs. Present impaction packages are a hazard in the trash.

The plea was made for the Conservators to spearhead an action group for solid waste improvements, to support and promote the aldermen's decisions, and made more public stands to advance definite plans for dealing with current and future problems. The Conservators should determine at an early meeting their responsibility.

All the speakers were most responsive to the questions asked in general discussion, and Garrison Wilkes thanked them for their information and courtesy in coming.

[unsigned]

### January 1973

Minutes of Newton Conservators' Directors Meeting  
January 10, 1973  
129 Moffat Road

Meeting of January 10, 1973 was called to order at 8:15 P.M. at 129 Moffat Road by President H. Garrison Wildes. **Present** were directors Alexander, Alsmeyer, Butler, Cadwell, Cushman, Dyer, Fleishman, Hendrick, Heyn, Howard, Lewis, Loewenstein, Murphy, Rubin and Wilkes.

**Minutes** of November and December meetings, having had no corrections in writing from any directors, as requested, were considered approved. Incorrect listing of Ald. Richmond as a director instead of guest was noted in the December account.

To fill vacancies on the board, Garrison proposed names of Sally Barnett and Scott Paradise, with terms to be only until 1973 annual meeting. Sally Barnett received unanimous APPROVAL and Scott Paradise majority vote of 12.

Richard Wilson's current testimony of the storage of oil is as a private individual, not as a Conservator. Susan Wilkes will be testifying at the public hearing on the incinerator on February 5th at 10 a.m. The present aim for the Newton incinerator is to bring it to standard for particulates by December 1974 by the use of scrubbers.

**Conservation Commission.** A grant of \$5,000 has been offered if Newton will match with \$4,250 toward developing the green belt area along the Charles River. Weeks Jr. High plans to use the Hammond Woods for science study. Review of Flatley Co. Upper Falls proposal for 264 condominiums on 35 acres was heard. The proponents claim it will bring \$500,000 tax revenue to the city. Considerable question was raised about giving up this open space, but no stand was taken by the Commission. A 10-acre easement has been offered the city by the developer, this being a little more than the wetlands involved.

An **Arboretum Committee**, with Garrison Wilkes a member, was instituted as a centennial feature, but now has continuing status under the beautification project of Newton. Power lines along Commonwealth Avenue to Chestnut Street should be underground by late May, with the exception of some service lines. Tree planting is to be a feature activity, and it is now intended to incorporate the **Sears memorial** here.

**February Meeting.** Land Use Committee have invited members of Newton Planning Department to talk with us on Newton's Open Space and Land Use. The date is Wednesday, February 14th.

**Membership.** Betty Dyer asked authorization to have envelopes printed for membership applications and renewals, with the notation that payments of the last 3 months will be considered 1973 memberships. Dues are payable January for 1973. Helen Heyn asked Van Buren Press, printing our stationary and having our seal, be considered as well as Newton Corner Press.

**Pesticides.** Ald. David Cohen introduced the Sevin resolution to the aldermen, and Deborah Howard testified for it. Considerable skepticism was shown by Joe McDonnell as to its passage, and we may ask for a public hearing to save the bill. January 25th is next meeting of Public Works Committee. Active support by directors is needed. Mosquito control statement has been removed from this and stated separately.

**Treasurer's Report.** May 23 through December 1972 shows expenses for the period \$1500, receipts \$991. \$20,000 Ordway bequest to be divided with \$5,000 in available savings, \$15,000 in 90-day account. Use intended as internal loan for financing geology publication.

**Geology Book.** Final approval of publication cost and printer now to be determined. Garrison Wilkes asked for background of study, and Helen Heyn told of MAPC recommendation for communities making their own assessment of geologic areas. Newton had nothing in print. In 1968 the Conservators decided to underwrite costs and printing of a study, and Father Skehan of BC agreed to supervise the work. Maureen Beringer, then Kathy Barton, did this as a Master's thesis. It is aimed at High School students' and adults' understanding and has good tour and location directions to facilitate its use.

Present proposal is to print 10,000, about 48 pages, 8 1/2 x 5 1/2, 2ith numerous prints in black and white. Cost to us is estimated to be about 35¢ a piece and 50¢ was set as our charge to the public, with the APPROVAL of 12 directors. Several bookshops have agreed to carry it without charge. Of the three bids received, it was VOTED to accept the \$2,350 by Blake Press, with 13 directors approving, 1 opposed.

**Public Works.** Richard Dudman was welcomed as the new director of Public Works for Newton, and several guests joined the meeting. Mr. Dudman chose to follow the line of questions the president had given in his letter.

Present division of Public Works has 3 departments reporting to the director -- Streets, Water and Engineering. Two-thirds of the work and 75% of the budget goes to Streets, with 425 of the 600 employees. Engineering has 40 to 45. Dudman aims to make 4 divisions -- Sanitation, Engineering, Water and Streets. Sewers would be part of water management. Sanitation would include rubbish, incinerator, dump and garbage. Streets

would cover highways (surfacing & drains), traffic (signs, painting, curbs, lighting and meters) and forestry.

Signs, speed zones, traffic lights are proposed by the city but approved by the state. Edison does all installations and repairs. Newton crews only check and report to them. Engineering covers layout and planning.

Two features need better controls -- fiscal matters such as purchasing and inventory; and planning. There needs to be current knowledge of planning aims and progress assessments.

Snow disposal is handled under Streets.

The yearly budget amounts to \$8,000,000, requiring close control and decisions as to the best use of equipment.

Pesticides. Scolitis control of city elms; use of Form #190 for brush and weeds on parkways; Sevin tree spray in mixture of 5 lbs. to 400 gal; Aerosol Ortho spray for hornets, wasps. Private property requests for spraying should be dropped for lack of proper equipment and manpower. Tree loss 10% a year in whole city.

Newton Corner traffic complex badly needs clarification both for pedestrians and vehicles. Painting would help. Any plans for redesigning not evident.

With the present problems of our incinerator, any proposal for pilot program combining trash and garbage is of no value. However, a special meeting of the aldermanic committee on January 25th has an active proposal for this, and statement of public opposition is badly needed according to Thelma Fleishman. Susan Wilkes was asked to send a statement on behalf of the Conservators, and directors' individual letters would be helpful.

Salt: Dudman's recommendation is to use 3 in 1 mix on primary highways and major secondary streets, with a 5 in 1 mix for tertiary roads. Heavy ice storms would mean exceptions. Uneven distribution of cover comes from old tailgate models, but newer jet operations good. Operators are conditioned by past performance and re-education or limits are hard to enforce. Sidewalk plowing will be continued as previously, not on streets asking none. Many children will not use sidewalks, and high piles along street create hazards.

Incinerator: original construction division between several contractors defeated any one responsibility. Dudman's request for \$60,000 study (cut down to \$40,000), by a qualified scientific research firm, of Newton's solid waste needs for 10 to 15 years is now in action. It should include all phases -- what lifetime any incinerator improvements would have, any value in regionalized waste handling, changes possible through recycling, etc.

The three objectives:

- (1) determine possible options, methods, operating costs
- (2) recommendations -- even to complete change rather than upgrading
- (3) to make up precise functional specifications as basis for bids, considering likely Federal air specs. After we meet the present particulates demands.

Any contract made on these specs would place whole responsibility in one location. A.D. Little making the study and 3 models will be made and tested. Final decision due by June. Report of study should be available, but not widespread. Determination will be by Mayor, aldermen, officials, and valued citizens.

Present incinerator heated by oil, with all that wasted energy.

Recent Raytheon household incinerator amazing result of minimum residue and gases; community cost no greater than municipal unit.

Mr. Dudman was most agreeable to questions and extremely helpful to a better understanding of the Public Works.

Phyllis Butler, Sec'y

### **February 1973**

Newton Conservators, Inc.  
Minutes of Directors' Board Meeting  
February 14, 1973  
128 Moffat Road, Waban

Meeting was held as usual at 129 Moffat Road, Waban, with 15 **directors present**: Alexander, Barnett, Butler, Cadwell, Cushman, Dyer, Fleishman, Alsmeyer, Heyn, Heywood, Howard, Paradise, Rubin and both Wilkeses.

**Committee reports** were submitted as follows: **Solid Waste** hearings by Susan Wilkes, **Newton Conservation Commission** meeting by Sally Barnett, and the **Land Use** report by Janice Cadwell. President Wilkes thanked these people and emphasized the need for all committee heads to furnish reports at meetings in writing to inform directors of activities and furnish the basis for the Newsletter.

The **Geology survey** is now at the printers, and it is hoped it will be ready for sale at centennial functions in May.

Next meeting of the directors will be March 14th at the Highlands Workshop, combined with Chas. River Watershed Ass'n as hosts to Conservation Commissions of Brookline and Boston. Subject is to be the Green Belt plans they have made. We need as many directors as possible to attend.

Mention was made of Ald. Jefferson's application for recreational use of **land in West Newton bordering the Turnpike**, and we continue to support this, as in 1969. Refiling of application for **historical districting** is supported by the Jackson Homestead Friends and the Conservators.

Carolyn Alsmeyer has agreed to set up a **clipping file** of Conservators' interests. Elizabeth Cushman and Mimi Murphy are collating and handling the mailing of the **Newsletter**.

Thelma Fleishman and Helen Heyn are reviewing the **5-year Capital Improvement Program of the city**, and Helen will speak for the Conservators at the hearing on February 28th. Water areas need attention, and Hammond Pond has not been included at all.

Janice Cadwell introduced the consideration of Newton's land use by a **review of the origins of some of our open space areas**. When Newton became a city in 1873 a committee was appointed to determine the park and playground needs of each village area, and 9,000 acres were recommended. Improvement Ass'ns secured areas in Newton Centre and Auburndale. Washington Park in Newtonville was given by developers of housing surrounding it. Lowell Park was a local purchase, and old buildings removed to clear the area. Edmands Park, 30 acre, was a memorial given in 1913. Farlow Park was donated by abutting owners, filled and cleared for park. Constant vigilance is needed to keep those areas open and protected.

Helen Heyn's slide presentation showed areas of Conservators' action in past years. Silver Lake in Nonantum, past and present, shows great diminution. Dolan Pond in West Newton has been saved. The Christina swampland in Upper Falls, the Telmark Realty development at the Silk Mill required shore protection and landscaping. Numerous MDC easements' misuse has been spotted and corrected.

Juris Alksnitis spoke for the **Newton Planning Dept.'s basis for future planned development**. Past controls and zoning have generally been done on compliance standards and with strict separation of classification. A study is now being made to effect more sensitive control and clearer definition of method. To obtain open space and maintain as large a proportion as possible, the aim is to cluster buildings, enabling better utility service, and setting a precise design for the whole area concerned. Joint open space may be serviced by joint tenancy or trust management. Combinations of residential, commercial and industrial uses are to be determined by the needs and extent of areas involved. Detailed plans would be reviewed before approval, with planning board and possibly conservation commissions involved. Area plans may involve overlaying or zoning correction of present buildings. The cluster type of plan is well represented in sample developments in Plymouth, Mass. and Newtown, Pa.

Sylvia Apelbaum reported on studies of **Newton's density ratios**, considered both as people per acres and people per mile. Sample figures are these: 4.9 people per acre in Auburndale, 9 in Newton Corner, 13 in River Street, W. Newton. Density of Newton's

city of 91,000 is 17.0 per acre or 4,968 people per mile. Wellesley has only 2660, Weston a real minimum, Watertown 9,000 and Boston 14,000. Areas in the MAPC "Guides for Progress" of 1963 of open space were estimated to be 482,000, with only 1% around 128. A "density umbrella" determines community areas' allowance; and multiple dwellings in Newton jump it rapidly. Standards for recreational space according to density are 15 acres per 1,000 people.

Norman Wolfe spoke for abutters to the **Chestnut Hill Country Club** who are concerned with the threat of development there. There are continually renewed offers of purchase made to the Club, the latest being for state purchase for community college building. The proposed amount of value runs to 5 or 6 million, with Senator Kelly appearing much involved with the brokerage. In such a case the volume of students then in the area of BC is estimated to exceed Harvard Square, and commuting facilities are very limited. Of the 80 acres, 26 are in wetland, and only 40 to 50 buildable. The Conservators agreed to reaffirm their opposition to any such development. The MOTION was made and CARRIED that: As the Chestnut Hill Country Club is a most important area in the remaining open space of Newton, we urge the property not be purchased for a college or any development. This statement shall be forwarded to the Mayor of Newton, the Governor and representatives and senators of the General Court.

Opposition is needed at a hearing on March 7th at 600 Washington Street in Boston, when the White Fuel will present their application for discharge of oil waste into Cheesecake Brook in West Newton. A spokesman for the Conservators will present our opposition, and more representatives should be present.

[unsigned]

### **March 1973**

Summary Report to Joint Meeting  
Newton Conservators Inc.  
Newton Conservation Commission  
Charles River Watershed Association  
Boston Conservation Commission  
Brookline Conservation Commission  
14 March 1973  
65 present

The City of Newton, acting by and through several city agencies, boards and departments, can protect and improve the landscape for living in Newton with private gifts and city, state and federal credits and grants. By these means, Newton can help perpetuate open, green spaces along its eleven miles of the Charles River shoreline, along MDC aqueducts, and among golf clubs and elsewhere throughout the City. These potentials are outlined in the citywide Newton Open Space Plan Report, now before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Two kinds of actions are proposed by the City:

- 1) an interconnecting Newton series of hiking and biking pathways along the Charles River edge and along MDC aqueduct embankments;
- 2) pathway tie-ins with Boston, Brookline, Waltham, and Wellesley. Also in the Southern Segment of the Charles-to-Charles project, Boston and Newton pathways might connect across the River with 700 acre Cutler Park (MDC) in Needham.

Pathway potentials in Newton are being documented in detail by the municipal planning department for the Mayor and Aldermen, the Planning Board, the Park and Recreation Commission and Department, and for the Conservation Commission.

Pathway circuit completion through the southwest corner of Brookline is being studied jointly by the Newton and Brookline Planning Departments.

Potential pathways will be an element in Waltham landscape planning along its three miles of the Charles River between the two river frontages in Newton.

Pathway extension southerly in Newton past the Charles River Golf Club, the former Working Boys Home and the Newton-at-128 Park with offices, tennis and skating development is being studied jointly with Boston in relation to existing Charles River wetlands, Saw Mill Brook, and a new West Roxbury High School site.

In the Middle Segment of the Charles-to-Charles project, the Conservation Commissions in Brookline and Boston are seeking, from landowners in both communities, opportunities to secure gifts or make purchases of all or parts of the titles to fourteen properties, or to secure conservation restrictions. Action is ranging along two miles of Boston-Brookline boundary between Allandale Road and the hill slopes around Jamaica Pond. The Mayor of Boston in January announced Conservation Commission agreement to purchase a five acre parcel fronting on Allandale Road. Other announcements are expected soon near Larz Anderson Park, Brookline, and in the neighborhood of Jamaica Pond.

In the Northern Segment of the Charles-to-Charles project, water quality improvement in the bed of the Muddy River is under study. Two weeks ago the Brookline Conservation Commission held a Hatch Act hearing on a Brookline street drainage improvement proposal. Other 1972-73 Muddy River studies are being made for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and for the Metropolitan District Commission. The basic hydrology of the Muddy River in relation to the Fens and the Charles River Basin is documented in the 1970 and 1971 Charles River Study report publications by the New England Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waltham.

All of the above-mentioned conservation actions in Newton, Waltham, Brookline and Boston will help accomplish the main purposes stated by all participants in the five-year long Charles River Watershed study conducted by the Corps of Engineers.



The central goal is to preserve and improve the environment for living in the Massachusetts capitol cluster cities and towns.

End.

Executive Session  
Summary  
Newton Conservators  
March 27, 1973

**Present:** 2 Wilkes, Alexander, Butler, Alsmeyer, Howard, Cushman, Loewenstein and Paradise.

**Newsletter:** Costs of seal and heading imprinting on present issue amounts to \$60/year.

Is value worth this? General opinion was opposed, but proposal made that other prices secured to see if [we] could do stationary and mimeo at same time, or different printing technique might serve. Was recommended we solicit opinions of membership other than directors to determine value of seal & heading. Enough now printed on green paper for 2-3 more issues, so will be opportunity to assess.

**Open Space Day:** Outline given by Debbie Howard of proposed form of conference on May 12 at McElroy Common at BC. Combined brainchild of Debbie, Susan, with aid of Sharon Francis, Assoc. Dir. BC Environmental Center, with aim of developing public awareness of Newton's open space history and limited remainder. Now that format ready and speakers engaged, financing needed to carry publicity and mailing. BC's contribution estimated to be \$500 for location, planning, publicity help. Inquiry was made as to this being basically a Conservators' development under our land and open space committee. Jan Cadwell gives it her blessing. MOTION was made that the Conservators support the conference and invite BC as co-sponsors; CARRIED unanimously by those present, and President advised approval by number of directors not present.

Check of our financial position by Garrison with Treasurer and prospective expenses appears to justify making investment of \$200 without hazard. VOTED TO APPROVE unanimously. General discussion followed of possibly saving in mailing by BC bulk rate, means of publicity promotion. Debbie Howard and Susan Wilkes carrying; others ready to assist.

**Charter & By-Laws:** Inquiry showed some uncertainty of directors as to exact intent of charter and by-laws of Conservators -- Are we primarily land trust? Have we already exceeded limits intended? Where should we seek directors - to advance holdings or widen interests? Does present designation serve current needs, or should there be a review and restatement of By-laws?

Conclusion gave authority to Garrison to research exact definition of legal and concern intent of present by-laws and to present agenda for consideration at next Directors' meeting April 11th --president's duties (direct, coordinate, or just preside); what standing committees; open or closed meetings; whole method of procedure.

Phyllis Butler, Sec'y

### April 1973

Board of Directors Meeting

Newton Conservators

April 11, 1973

**Present were:** Directors Alexander, Alsmeyer, Barnett, Butler, Cushman, Fleishman, Heyn, Lewis, Howard, Murphy and 2 Wilkes.

Report was made of the Charles-to-Charles presentation on March 14th at the Newton Highlands Workshop in combination with the Charles River Watershed, and summary was distributed at the meeting. There was attendance of 65, with majority Newton although Boston and Brookline Conservation Commissions were represented.

The special business meeting of March 27th raised issued to be considered as to the Conservators' basic designation of interest and limits of performance, was brought to the fore, for consideration again.

Debbie Howard distributed the pamphlet for the Open Space Day on May 12th at BC, for which 2,000 copies have been sent out by means of the Conservators' \$200 contribution. The instigators were complimented on the program. For \$2.50 a ticket entitles one to the entire program, including lunch. Surely all Conservator members should take advantage of this survey.

Garrison Wilkes reported the Centennial tree planting is organized and set to go. Treed and sites selected and ready to be effected as donors subscribe. These are to be planted along Commonwealth Avenue, with stately impressive varieties.

Helen Heyn said the Geology Book is being bound and should be in our hands by the 24th. Garrison Wilkes assured we could have a sale table at the City Hall on the day of Centennial opening, on May 6th.

Sally Barnett reported on the Conservation Commission meeting -- site plans opposed for the **Auburndale Staniford Street** revival of proposed development by McIsaac. Also opposed is the **Thompsonville Valley proposal**, with the recommendation for city purchase of the land. The Commission is looking for associate members, and Debbie Howard has summarized their role in a brief outline.

On Saturday, April 16th, a work party will gather at 9:30 a.m. to clean and clear the **Ordway Park**.

Returning to the **charter designations for the Conservators**, Garrison stated his review with the Conservation Law Commission brought the opinion that organization under Chapter 180 General Law of Mass. classifies the by-laws as an excellent land trust, but limits us to administrative but not legislative activities. The phrase "except locally" entitles us to legislative action in Newton, but not wider areas such as state or general concerns outside. There is the option of splitting off a wing for legislative action, to justify the recent spread of interests, if the directors want such wider coverage without hazarding our tax exempt status. Views were expressed on both sides, and the directors asked Garrison to seek further legal judgments such as Muther's to reassess our limitations. In view of his recent filing on the Ordway Park, he should be currently posted on IRS attitudes.

Presently suggested **additions to justify lobbying** would be the addition of "Commonwealth of Mass." In Section 1 of by-laws, and "to protect and enhance land and air." Garrison asked Helen Heyn to assist him in this review.

Jan Cadwell's copies of her **Land report** were distributed, and Garrison commended such thorough and multicopied contributions that are so helpful.

It was decided that the meeting on May 9th be strictly a director's business occasion, and the **general annual meeting** be an outside gathering at Cold Spring Park on May 20th, with rain date the following week. Walks will be planned along the aqueduct, and maps distributed, with open invitation to the public.

Proposed **plan for future meetings** is to have an hour's business from 7:30 to 8:30, an open meeting with program after that. This is a trial to see if business needs can be accomplished in proper season and yet provide for public attendance at study sessions. Announcement of these plans is to be made in April, and final summary of the year's work sent in a June Newsletter. Garrison will be ready with report on the by-laws at the business meeting.

General APPROVAL was given to having the **Vice President succeed to the presidency**, in order to have the president well-posted on the nature of Conservators' operations, and perhaps require a longer term than 1 year for officers in order to provide steadier standings.

Milton Rubin read some of the ordinance developed with Ed Richmond for a **Newton energy tax** instead of property tax increase, thus giving a different tax base and enabling some energy limitations for future use. In response to his question whether the Conservators wished to give official approval to this measure, the board recommended the pursuit of the study to determine state allowance for such and the public utility attitude. Considerable more information is needed to make a judgment. This field would furnish a good subject for a fall program.

Directors VOTED to ask the city oppose any development of the Cohen and McIsaac lands as not suitable terrain, and positively recommend city purchase.

**Pesticide** action opposing the Middlesex spot controls by fogging was supported, as we have previously gone on record.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

### **May 1973**

Newton Conservators, Inc.  
Minutes of Meeting of Directors  
May 9, 1973

Meeting at 129 Moffat Street was attended by directors Alexander, Alsmeyer, Barnett, Butler, Cadwell, Fleishman, Howard, Dyer, Susan and Garrison Wilkes, with guest Ann Resnor.

The **Open Space Conference** on May 12th now has 100 signed up for attendance. It is hoped that from this interested group some Conservator memberships may be obtained. The in-depth analysis of Newton and the summaries to be presented are valuable. We hope to have copies of the conclusive recommendations.

Report by Sally Barnett of the Conservation Commission's unanimous approval and recommendation for the **purchase of Webster Vale** by the city was exciting to the Conservators. Deborah Howard and Garrison Wilkes both made statements at that meeting. All funds of the Commission were advanced to the Friends group working toward this purchase. The Commission also asked for greater priority in city action toward purchasing open space. The associate membership plan for the Commission has secured a number of people with special talents, and more are being sought.

The **study of our By-Laws** by Helen Heyn, Lorenz Muther and Garrison Wilkes was reported by the president. It was determined we are limited to land related concerns (natural objects and areas), with added scope (and other areas). This eliminates such committees as Air Pollution and Energy. Action promoting city and state departments is supported by the words ("to assist and encourage the City of Newton or any of its agencies or any other Mass. Government or governmental agency"). They concluded to retain the present form and wording of the By-Laws, with recommendation for periodic examination in later years. To cover all the areas now open to us requires more manpower and active participation than we now have.

Deborah Howard gave the **Nominating report** for officers and new directors for the coming year, and directors present were pleased to learn Garrison Wilkes will continue for one more year as president. He is limiting his active Conservator work to six hours a week, but will be available by telephone through his college office. Details of the report

were to be sent out in a Newsletter issue next week, and Mrs. Howard was commended upon her work.

**Annual meeting** will be held on May 20th at Cold Spring Park, with a picnic and a tour of the aqueduct by the park, with copies of the area map available. Any tour of the Park itself (covered last year) will depend upon demand and volunteer guides on the spot.

There will be a directors' meeting scheduled for June 20th, the last for the summer unless need arises.

**Year end reports** were in hand and copies available from the Land Use Committee and Observers at City Hall, summarizing work done. **Membership** is still pursuing unpaid members for 1973, and after the end of June will cull their names from the register. Present mailings go to about 400.

**"The Geology of Newton"** was on display May 6th at the Centennial opening, and about 200 have now been sold, with the schools taking about 1,000. It was proposed this excellent booklet be sent gratis to all Conservator members, especially our Life Members. The sale of 50%, @ 50¢ apiece, should cover printing costs. Action was tabled until review of membership lists is completed.

The memorial to Betty Sears was considered in reference to the Newton Arboretum project. Manning Sears has approved of such a use, and it is hoped the fund can be increased. Publicity of our interest to develop a **"Sears Grove"** will be planned to obtain more cooperation, and details worked out. Motion made and VOTED.

Discussion of **next year's meeting plans** brought helpful suggestions. Thelma Fleishman asked for more time allowance to bring to the attention of the directors matters needing action, which should be prompt to be effective. A proposed business meeting time of 7:30, with an hour to allow time for decisions, was favored before the general program. Spoken reports allow for up to the minute information and a clear understanding of material offered, with questions possible. Written reports are also advisable. Larger active committees would enable more coverage of affairs. It was decided the Land Use Committee should be resolved into several departments -- Zoning, Open Space and potential parkland, Roads and Roadside Plantings, and Recreational Areas. Although we have no Water Committee, observers and referrals to CRWA can be well effected.

As our By-Laws set up the Conservators as a vehicle for the protection of land, President Wilkes has given our tax number for deductible allowances to the Friends of the Wabster Vale and to the Newton Arboretum Fund. Motion was made and carried to APPROVE this.

To give new committee heads and directors an informed background on Conservator action unanimous APPROVAL was given [to] the organization of a summary catalog of the **history of proposals made and stands taken**. The volume of correspondence and

records is considerable, and an accurate summary for reference is essential. The delegation of this work over the summer for use in the fall was APPROVED.

Susan Wilkes, as a departing director, had some recommendations for the coming year. She favored open meetings and more active use of directors in the organization work, an annual review with the Public Works director of the city program direction, and with Rita Barron on the CRWA concerns. The film "A Flooding River" was commended.

**Proposed walks** for next season are Echo Bridge with Prof. Roy, Hammond Woods with Mary Kaplan, and Edmands Park with Mimi Murphy. Study of open space should consider the golf courses' crushing reassessment under the imminent revaluation in the city. Careful consideration should be given the Kennard estate of 30 acres, adjacent to the Brookline line, and available for sale to the city.

[unsigned]

### **Year End Summary -- Land Use Committee**

Again this year we focused our attention on upon spaces, parks and playgrounds. Members of this committee attended meetings of the Aldermanic City Planning Committee and Public Hearings on items of particular interest to Newton Conservators. Written communications and public testimony was given as required. Conservator members met with other groups when necessary to convey our comments concerning specific proposals. Helen Heyn met frequently with Flatley Associated concerning the Xaverian Fathers land off Winchester St., with developers of Newton at 128 about protection of the flood plain in that area, and with the Newton Redevelopment Authority regarding plans for river bank easement and reconstruction of a footbridge in that locale. Helen Heyn will supplement this report with additional information. Specifically:

**River + Playground** - Newton Conservators Land Use Committee supported a neighborhood petition to have the Recreation Commission reacquire this play area for a tot lot. It was approved by directors at May 1972 meeting and our support was forwarded to the Recreation commission. Since that time this area has rejuvenated with several new pieces of equipment and was usable as a tot lot in summer of 1972. This support position was based on our 1969 decision of opposition to the Recreation Commission action declaring this "surplus".

Land Use supported and helped publicized two Referenda issues on Nov. 1972 ballot. Referenda 1 & 5 dealt with tax structure for farmland and an Environmental Bill of Rights respectively. We secured 400 information booklets from Mass. Farm Bureau in Waltham, and they were mailed in conjunction with conservator October newsletter.

**Newton at 128 Industrial Park** - After months of work by Vice President Helen Heyn to protect the flood plain, the Newton Board of Aldermen approved the additional square footage for construction but restriction on the approval included adherence to

Newton's Flood Plain Ordinance for any new construction. The developers must receive approval by Dept. of Natural Resources for the 2 buildings next to Cramer Electronics.

**Victory Field** - Conservators approval of Alderman Magni's proposal to return remainder of Victory Field to Recreation was contingent on Housing Authority withdrawing their offer to buy same land. At the December meeting of City Planning Comm. (aldermanic) it was voted to allow 4 units of housing on 14,000 sq. feet of land, April 1973. Finance Committee voted to sell 14,000 sq. feet of land to housing authority. This leaves 32,000 sq. ft. of land. Recreation Commission still considers this land surplus. Perhaps Conservators could reaffirm their support for the remaining land to be used for recreation.

**Chestnut Hill Golf Course** - Reaffirmed their opposal to this area being developed. "As the Chestnut Hill Country Club is a most important area in the open space of Newton, we urge the property not be purchased for a state college or any development." This statement was to be conveyed to Mayor, Governor, and members of Great and General Court by Conservator President Wilkes. I think this area would be included in a major parcel open space plan when one is considered by the Board of Aldermen.

**Myrtle Baptist Church** - Land use supported a proposed resolution that land in the vicinity of Crescent St. West Newton, which was acquired from the Mass Turnpike Authority, be designated for recreating if multiple access could be assured. Our support her goes back to I think 1968,

**Capital Improvement Program** - Helen Heyn, Thelma Fleishman reviewed the Capital Improvement, and Helen Heyn presented the Conservator statement on Feb. 28, 1973.

**Charles to Charles Corridor at March Meeting** - Program planned by Helen Heyn and summary appears in March 1973.

**Historic District Proposal** - After several discussions with members of Jackson Homestead, Thelma Fleishman prepared the petition for establishment of Historic District (Reported in March 1973 newsletter).

Next year it is my feeling that land use interest in this will revolve around planned unit development and major parcel use, along with the on-going surveillance of parks & playgrounds.

Janice Cadwell

### **Observers' Report, 1972-73**

Observing at City Hall by the Conservators was tried on a regular basis for the first time this year. It took a while to become familiar with Aldermanic procedures and work out some method of using the information picked up there. Practically all regular meetings

of the full Board and the committees on Land Use, City Planning and Public Works, as well as those of the Conservation Commission, were covered.

We initiated legislation limiting the use of Severin by the City. Our proposal, submitted in 1971, for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to permit planned development, cluster zoning and a density bonus is before the City Planning Committee; and together with the Jackson Homestead and the Historical Commission, we have filed a request for the setting up of historic districts. We testified at the public hearing on the Capital Improvement program and at a Land Use hearing on the extension of the gross floor area permitted the Newton at 128 Realty Trust. We have also commented for and against various issued both at committee meetings and by letter.

Jan Cadwell has been a frequent observer at City Planning, Debby Howard has looked after the Severin resolution, Sally Barnett now attends officially the Conservation Commission, Susan Wilkes followed the activities of the Subcommittee on Solid Wastes, and Helen Heyn has been available when wanted. Nevertheless, there are committees, such as the Legislation and Rules, which reported on the Urban Beautification Commission, and Public Buildings, which deals with the incinerator, which it has been impossible to cover.

If the Board decides that this activity should be continued, I would like to suggest that a monthly report of the "observations" be submitted to and discussed by the Board, and the observers directed to support, oppose, watch or ignore the issues as early on in the legislative process as possible.

### **Late May, 1973**

Report of Annual Meeting  
Cold Spring Park  
May 20, 1973

The annual meeting of the Newton Conservators, Inc. was held at Cold Spring Playground on May 20, 1973. Following a picnic gathering, the meeting was called to order by President Wilkes at 1:45 p.m. While precise attendance was not taken, nearly 20 members were there, including Directors Butler, Cushman, Heyn, Lowenstein, Paradise and Wilkes.

The report of the **Nominating** Chairman, Deborah Howard, was read by Susan Wilkes and a copy is attached. There being no additional nominations made, the polls were declared closed and the motion was made and carried that the Secretary cast one vote for the election of those named.

President Wilkes expressed his thanks for the work of the officers and directors during the past year, especially that of Helen Heyn and Susan Wilkes.



The next directors' meeting is called for June 20 at 8:00 p.m., the place yet to be set. Location may be learned by calling President Wilkes closer to the date. In the succeeding months the meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, as in the past.

Report was given on the status of the **Webster Vale promotion**. Buttons are being sold for \$1.00 a piece to swell the fund being promoted under Conservator approval. The finance committee has recommended to the aldermen that \$4,000 be sent for appraisal of the property. It will be brought before the full Board of Aldermen on May 21, and Conservator members were urged to attend. The committee for the fund is asking for volunteers to canvass neighborhoods and to man the booths placed at strategic locations.

A provisional **Finance Report** was submitted by Helen Heyn from the treasurer's information, covering the various accounts and funds now extant. There being no new business brought before the meeting, it was adjourned at 2:15 in order that a conducted tour of the adjacent aqueduct might proceed. Approximately 16 traveled the route under the leadership of Susan Wilkes, and a map and history of the Cochituate Aqueduct were provided for all.

Phyllis Butler,  
Secretary