

Board of Directors, 1978-1979

Officers and Directors elected at Annual Meeting, May 25, 1978 (plus later additions)

Officers:

President: John Bliss
V. President: Ted Tedesco
Treasurer: Ron Bocage
Secretary: Harry Crosby
Past President: Ann Roesner

Directors:

Anna Maria Abernathy	Rodney Barker
Sally Barnett	R. Lisle Baker (later addition replacing Dorothy Berg)
Jean Artin	Abe Bluestone
Bart Hague	Ruth Heespelink
Deborah Howard	David Jackson
Priscilla Leith	Ed Lerner
Joan Lerner	Jane McKinnell
Carol Morrison	Scott Paradise
Ruth Rabinow	Robert Ricles
Robert Romero	John Stewart
Andree Wilson	

Volunteer Coordinator:

Jean Thompson

Conservation Commission:

Helen Heyn

June 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board meeting
June 8, 1978, 8:20 p.m.
home of Joan and Ed Lerner
35 Amherst Road, Waban

Present were Board members Abernathy, Barker, Barnett, Bliss, Tedesco, Bocage, Hague, Heespelink, Jackson, Ed and Joan Lerner, Morrison, Rabinow, Ricles, Stewart; Volunteer Coordinator Jean Thompson; and Conservators Tamara Bliss and Myrna Bocage.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the May 4 Board meeting and of the May 25 Annual Meeting were examined and ACCEPTED by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: As required by the by-laws, a committee of three to **audit** the outgoing treasurer's records was nominated and unanimously elected: Ted Tedesco, John Bliss, Ron Bocage.

Arboretum and Vale Funds: Joan Lerner asked about the status of the special funds, and expressed hope the Board will soon formulate a policy regarding these.

The status of the **Ordway Fund** has been resolved through examination of the deed. The materials relating to the Vale and Arboretum Funds have been placed in separate envelopes by the outgoing Treasurer, and the new Board has the task of examining and resolving the issues.

Sally Barnett explained that the **Vale Fund** was not turned over to the city because the entire Vale, rim to rim, was not saved. At the time the money was collected, the oral response to the question of what use the contributions would be put to, if the Vale acquisition did not go through, was that another piece of land would be purchased. Further, David Jackson recollected that all contributors known by name had been asked by mail to what use their contribution should be put, and none had replied, whereupon the Board had decided to hold the money. He suggested that a letter be sent to the newspapers explaining that we are holding the money for another suitable land acquisition, since the original conditions of the Save the Vale movement were not met. Joan Lerner argued that the issue is less clear, since the funds were collected not by the Conservators but by Save the Vale.

Ruth Heespelink volunteered to work on reconstructing the history of this fund through minutes and interviews.

The Arboretum Fund also needs examination. It was the creation of Garrison Wilkes, executed by Ann Roesner.

Volunteer Effort: Jean Thompson presented the draft of the questionnaire she has prepared and gave each member present at the meeting 10 names of members to be telephoned during June, so the results can be returned at the next Board meeting. (We have 26 Board members and approximately 300 members.)

Note was made that volunteers for observing public meetings will need to be briefed on their work.

Chestnut Hill Country Club: Bart Hague recommended that we take the position against any rezoning for more intensive development, since the large parcels are named in the Conservation Commission list of land desired for acquisition, and the Conservator list. He argued in favor of conservation easements.

David Jackson suggested that we flood the Board of Aldermen and the Planning Department with proposals for action that would compete with the Carabetta proposal,

each petition to be signed by 10 conservators, docketed, and distributed to the city officials and newspapers. Examples of the kinds of proposals would be:

- 1) that a conservation easement plan be developed by the City and proposed to the owners, together with an estimate by the assessors of the effect on the tax rate;
- 2) that the city create a new "business recreation zone" with permissive use for ancillary buildings. This would apply for any activity in which fees can be charged for outdoor or indoor recreation, and all golf courses would then be so zoned;
- 3) that the city establish the development value of the country club under its present zoning and buy these rights from the club.

A discussion of the pros and cons of such a course ensued, as well as of the substance of the ideas themselves.

Joan Lerner argued that the Conservators have best served the city when they have presented responsible, researched plans. We need to make viable proposals, avoiding those that only make work and whose legality is not certain. John Stewart also argued the need to set out real alternatives, doing basic education for the Aldermen, for example with a 3 or 4 page memo outlining possibilities.

John Bliss suggested that a cook-out in July, to discuss the issues with the Aldermen, Planning Board members, and golf course officers be arranged.

Bart Hague and John Stewart volunteered to prepare a document on the business zone, hopefully to be ready by the next Board meeting.

A committee to work on this project was named: Tamara Bliss, Joan Lerner, Ruth Rabinow, Cay Morrison.

Time of Board Meetings: The fourth Tuesday of the month is suggested as the future permanent date. If this date is not possible for any board member, please inform the president before the next meeting, which is to be held on July 11 (admittedly not fourth Tuesday...) at 8 p.m. at Ted Tedesco's home.

Novitiate: Because the Perry, Dean, Stahl & Rogers proposal was received only today, rather than well before the board meeting, as promised, it was agreed to acknowledge the receipt and explain that we could not act on it before the study of it.

The Novitiate Committee arranged to meet Thursday, June 15, 8 p.m. at the Blisses to discuss the proposal: Rodney Barker, Sally Barnett, John & Tamara Bliss, Cay Morrison, Ruth Rabinow, Bob Ricles, Bob Romero, Ted Tedesco to be the committee members, and Joan Lerner to consult.

ESP: 27 applications have been received, 6 for scholarship. Ted Tedesco undertook to maintain contact with ESP while Andree Wilson is unavailable. The letter to the School Committee re ESP is on the next meeting's agenda.

Newsletter: Four newsletters, with possible brief bulletins in between, are envisaged.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

July 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board meeting,
July 11, 1978
home of Ted Tedesco
80 Atwood Avenue, Newtonville

Present: President John Bliss, Cay Morrison, Ruth Heespelink, Bob Ricles, Ruth Rabinow, Helen Heyn, Ronald Bocage, Harry Crosby, Ted Tedesco, and Sally Barnett. Called to order: 8:25 p.m.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the June 8, 1978 Board meeting were examined and ACCEPTED by the Board, after the omitted name of Ted Tedesco was inserted.

Treasurer's Report. Ron Bocage distributed the financial report for June-July, 1978. The savings account total as of July 10 was \$29,357.45; checking account balance \$3,527.60. Grand total, \$32,903.15. President Bliss raised the question as to who can sign checks. At the time only the treasurer was authorized to handle fund, but no problem was anticipated.

Webster Vale ad hoc Committee. As part of her assignment to research the history of the Vale fund-raising project to help decide what should be done with the Vale Fund, Ruth Heespelink prepared a voluminous history of the activities related to the Vale, and the report has become a permanent part of the Conservators' record. In sum, her report indicated that Sharon Francis had indicated to the membership, to the fund donors, and to Mayor Ted Mann, that the money was raised for "the full Vale." When only part of the Vale was purchased, the membership was polled and voted December 10, 1975 to keep the money in a separate fund for use in purchasing future open spaces. Since extensive discussion culminated in a decision to continue this policy, Ted Tedesco, seconded by Cay Morrison, MOVED that the segregated Webster Vale account be closed and the money be deposited in a new account to be called "Newton Conservators' Fund for Acquisition of Open Spaces," the account to be held by the Mutual Bank for Savings. The motion was unanimously APPROVED , and President Bliss expressed appreciation to Ruth for her research and report.

E.S.P. Report. Ted Tedesco presented the April 24 budget based on 36 students and inadequate insurance. With just 31 students paying \$160 and one student on scholarship funded by the members, the income is \$4960. Since expenses are \$5345, there is a current deficit of \$375, plus a likely possibility the Conservators will have to pay about \$365 rent. Peter Rehter (\$900) and Lee Zallinger (\$500) are still unpaid.

Novitiate Report. Cay Morrison reported on a committee meeting of June 15, 1978, which considered having Perry, Dean, Rogers and Stahl prepare a study of alternate uses for the Novitiate property for a fee of \$25,000. John Bliss and Bob Romero were assigned to take John McGrath to lunch to ascertain whether he was interested in the project. He thinks 30 acres should be sold to get market value at present value at current zoning. Discussion of the Novitiate by the Board members ranged from rumors about developers' interest and city activity to various other hints that something is afoot, but nothing conclusive is known. Helen Heyn agreed to ask Charlie Thomas what is happening. One rumor was that Sanford Kaplan, a developer, is interested. Jan Heespelink knows of an architect who specialized in rehabilitation who might make suggestions. It was suggested that this acquaintance, Jeff Brown, should get in touch with Mr. McGrath. The discussion was concluded in the belief that no action is necessary at the time.

Conservation Commission. Helen Heyn reported on a meeting with a registered arborist, Richard Metro, who made four recommendations: (1) The city should adopt an ordinance (currently being studied by David Jackson) according to which the city would pay for trees to be planted on private property. Water and feeding would be the responsibility of the property owners, but the city would take care of trimming. The ordinance is currently being studied by the City Solicitor's office. (2) Newton should have its own nursery to develop older and sturdier trees at less cost for more dependable planting. (3) the City should institute an educational program against vandalism and tree destruction. (4) The City should adopt the scenic and historic roads ordinance being studied by the Board of Aldermen.

Treasurer's Report, continued. Discussion of the report had been tabled to permit discussion by members who had to leave early but wanted to hear about the Webster Vale, the Novitiate, and Conservation Commission Report. That having been effected, the Board continued its discussion of financial matters. It was MOVED by Ruth Rabinow, seconded by Bob Ricles, and PASSED unanimously that the Conservators should authorize the signatures of the President and Treasurer for use of the bank accounts and that all officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) can have use of the safety deposit box. A copy of the complete resolution is on file.

New Business. Helen Heyn reported that the Newton Floodplain and Wetland laws are sufficiently inclusive not to be affected by recently publicized law cases....She reported also that purchase is being considered by an Iranian of a seven-acre property at 230 Dudley Road. The proposed subdivision is presently owned by Capitol Bank and Trust. It would require culverting a brook.

Newsletter. Ruth Rabinow reported for Anna Maria Abernathy that help is needed, that schedules of all meetings and minutes of such meetings should be submitted to the Newsletter, and that she hopes to develop a theme for each edition.

Adjournment. Moved by Cay Morrison, seconded by Bob Ricles, passed unanimously at 10:25.

Next Meeting. August 22.

Respectfully and garrulously submitted,
Harry Crosby, Secretary

Disposition: Copies mailed to Board Members, Conservation Commission Secy. Copies to following files: Treasurer's, Secretary's minutes, Webster Vale, E.S.P., Novitiate.

August 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
August 22, 1978
at the home of President and Mrs. John Bliss
9 Lewis Street, Newton

Call to order, at 8:20, with President Bliss commending the members for a good turnout.

Present (in the order signed): Ruth Rabinow, Jean Thompson, Scott Paradise, Sally Barnett, Priscilla M. Leith, John Bliss, Joan Bryan Lerner, Edward Lerner, Rodney Barker, Herry Crosby, Ron Bocage, and Bob Ricles, members. Also attending: Helen Heyn, Conservation Commission; Tamara Bliss, a member; and Penny Barker and Ruth Ricles, guests.

The **Treasurer's Report** (on file) was reported by Ron Bocage, and accepted by the membership. Current balance is \$30,157.12.

Several errors were noted in the **Secretary's Report** for July 11 but since reporting members Tedesco and Heespelink were not reported, the accurate information was noted but not yet verified. Sally Barnett went on record that we must get a clear statement about the history of the Webster Vale Fund and the votes taken about its use. (See report by Ruth Heespelink.) President Bliss pointed out that only the Treasurer can sign checks and suggested that a by-law amendment might be wise to make other arrangements possible.

Joan Lerner MOVED, Rodney Barker SECONDED and the Membership APPROVED moving the Novitiate item up on the agenda for immediate discussion.

Novitiate Committee. Lerner reported that Cynthia Black, editor of the Newton Graphic, first called attention to the prospective sale of the Novitiate land when she called several Conservators about the report that the Xaverian Brothers have received an offer of approximately 1.2 million dollars from Combined Jewish Philanthropies for

approximately 35 acres of the 60-acre plat. The Novitiate Committee met to try to formulate a recommendation for the Conservators about the proposed sale. Several members have heard the City plans to try to buy the remaining 25 acres, hoping for 80% reimbursement from state and federal funds. It is reported that the City will try also to acquire the WHDH and Davis land at the same time.

The consensus, which the Conservator discussion focussed on, was that the sale is generally acceptable but certain details are not. Selling to CJP is a good concept, but the City is giving up too much. Alderman Barker reported that he had written a letter to City Planner Charles Thomas (attached) which provided further basis for the discussion. Joan Lerner MOVED, Ron Bocage SECONDED, and the Membership APPROVED the resolution that Rodney Barker be authorized "a reasonable amount of money" to have master copies made of the Novitiate maps.

Bob Ricles MOVED, Rodney Barker SECONDED, and the Membership APPROVED a resolution authorizing President Bliss to call a press conference to announce the Conservator position on the Novitiate-JCP acquisition, the position being as follows:

1. The City should retain the playing field, without which the park would be "a doughnut with several bites removed." (See Barker letter, paragraph #3).
2. The eastern boundary is not satisfactory, the Conservators wishing to retain for the City the old colonial road, which is very much an integral part of the parcel and future park. (See Barker, #4).
3. If the City acquires the part of the parcel that CJP does not, there will be no need for CJP to have an easement from their property to the river, since CJP would have the same rights to the river enjoyed by any citizenry.
4. The proposed road from Nahanton Street should be open to all instead of being restricted to CJP use. (See Barker, #1).
5. There should be some kind of a Conservation Easement to prevent loss and damage to the stand of pine trees.

Further plans: John Bliss, Rob Romero, and Bob Ricles will contact Norman Levantahl of CJP; Bob Ricles will contact the Recreation Commission via Wd. 8 representative Herb Bamel. Because increased interest in girls' sports has developed a need for more playing grounds, John Bliss will contact representatives from girls and boys soccer leagues. He will also contact representatives of girls' softball and boys' Little League teams. Also contacted will be Russ Halloran, Recreation Commissioner; Wd. 8 Democratic chairman Jerry Weiss, by Bob Ricles; Aldermen David Cohen, Ed Richmond, DePasquale, Creem, and McGrath, by the Blisses; Sheehan, Dietz, White and Colletti, by Crosby; and Morris, by J. Lerner. NOTE: Conservators will not be "lobbying." They will be "raising the consciousness" of the people with whom they talk.

Conservation Commissioner Helen Heyn reported that the **Chestnut Hill Improvement Association** thinks the City should buy Lot 8B of the Conservation Area, and they are willing to pay part of the price. She relayed Dick Staley's suggestion that the Conservators contribute the Webster Vale Fund to help purchase the lot. The item was held for the agenda of the next meeting.

There will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 7; the next Regular Meeting (fourth Tuesday) will be September 26, at the Crosby home, 48 Ruthven Road, Newton Corner.

Adjournment: 11:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry H. Crosby
Secretary

September 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
held September 12, 1978, 8:15 p.m.
at the home of John and Tamara Bliss
9 Lewis Street, Newton

Present were Anna Maria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, John and Tamara Bliss, Ronald Bocage, Helen Heyn, Ruth Heespelink, Joan Lerner, Carol Morrison, John Stewart, Jean Thompson, and Ted Tedesco.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the August 22 Board meeting were examined and ACCEPTED by the Board.

Member Jean Artin, 41 Hyde Street, Newton Highlands, was unanimously elected to membership on the Board of the Conservators.

Novitiate Committee: Joan Lerner reported that the press conference authorized by the Board at its August 22 meeting was well received by the local press and resulted in feature article coverage in each local newspaper of the Conservators' position on the proposed sale of part of the Novitiate lands to the CJP. She further reported that she also discussed this position in detail with Alderman Terry P. Morris, Chairman of the Land Use Committee.

Helen Heyn reported that the Newton Conservation Commission is preparing an application for funding under the Urban Self Help program, which application should be filed soon. The consensus of the Board was that the application ought to be as flexible as possible in respect of the amount of acreage to be acquired by the City since, in the view of the Conservators, that issue is still open. Ms. Heyn further reported that the Mayor has

not yet received from Norman Levanthal of the CJP the promised written explanation of the nature of the easements sought by the CJP over the portion of the Novitiate land which it will not purchase (the portion proposed to be purchased by the City for the Novitiate Park).

Suffolk Road, Lot 8B: Ms. Heyn reported that the Mayor expressed to her his view that at least \$15,000 of the sale price of Lot 8B (amount not yet set - up to \$40,000 speculated) ought to be donated by private sources. It was MOVED by Joan Lerner that the Conservators pledge \$1000 from its fund for open space acquisition, formerly known as the Vale fund, to the purchase of part or all of Lot 8B by the City, provided that the considerations outlined in the August 11 letter of the Newton Conservation Commission to the Mayor are met, and that adequate conservation rights in any portion of the Lot not purchased are conveyed to the City. The motion was duly SECONDED and ADOPTED.

E.S.P: Mr. Bocage reported as follows: The final E.S.P. budget was received from Lee Zalinger. It showed total expenses of \$5572.22 and total income of \$4960, resulting in a deficit of \$616.22. Since the total income includes a Newton Conservators' scholarship of \$160 and the total expenses includes \$365 for the Newton School Department, which is not expected to be billed, the total investment of the Newton Conservators, as shown in the budget, is \$411.22. However, the total income reflects full payment of tuition by all 31 students. This has not yet occurred. At last check, approximately \$600 of tuitions had not yet been received. In addition, there is a disputed liability of \$150 to Robert Lein, a camp counselor. Peter Richter said that Lein understood he was doing volunteer work. However, Lein claims that the money was promised him by Lee Zalinger. If the tuition remains uncollected and Lein's claim has validity, total investment of the Newton Conservators could easily exceed \$1000.

Andree Wilson reported on her telephone conversation with Peter Richter. Mr. Richter will resign from the Program. He thought that the Program had another very successful year and advised that Richard M. Staley had expressed interest in succeeding him. She also discussed with Mr. Richter the possibility of the Newton School Department reinvolving itself in the Program. The School Department has not yet been contacted about this possibility.

Mrs. Wilson then asked for discussion of the interest of the Board in sponsoring the Program next year. Following discussion of the significant monetary investment from the Conservators which the program required and the enormous investment of time required of Board members, it was MOVED by Ted Tedesco that the Conservators decline to again sponsor the E.S.P. and that this decision be communicated by Messrs. Richter and Staley. The motion was duly SECONDED and ADOPTED. Several Board members suggested that the Conservators assist Messrs. Richter and Staley in their presentation to the School Department, if requested.

Nahanton Woods: Sally Barnett reported on the hearing before the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Mr. Wasserman's application for a zoning change to permit construction of a five-story apartment building on Nahanton Woods. She reported that

there were no new developments since previous hearings on similar applications by Mr. Wasserman.

Membership Poll: Jean Thompson reported that several Board members had reported back to her the results of their respective canvassing of the membership for additional volunteers. Several good leads were found. Anna Maria Abernathy observed that 60 members have not yet paid their 1978 dues. Board consensus favored sending a special mailing to these members. Ted Tedesco will assist Mrs. Abernathy in this endeavor.

Newsletter: Mrs. Abernathy asked for assistance in preparing the next issue of the Newsletter. Numerous suggestions were made as to items which the next Newsletter should contain. This matter will be discussed again at the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
T.M. Tedesco

late September, 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Executive Board
September 26, 1978
at the home of Harry Crosby, 48 Ruthven Rd.

The meeting was called to order at 8:23 p.m.

Present: John Bliss, President, Ed Lerner, Bart Hague, Jean Artin, Andree Wilson, Joan Lerner, Jean Thompson, Scott Paradise, Carol Morrison, Ron Bocage, Anna Marie Abernathy, Ted Tedesco, and Harry Crosby, Secretary (13 present).

The **Secretary's Minutes** for the Special Meeting of September 13 were discussed, questioned and APPROVED. The President thought the report of the future of ESP was unduly pessimistic, but the membership thought the report appropriate. Ted Tedesco, who had served as secretary pro tem for the meeting, was thanked for his service.

The **Treasurer's Report** was deferred, pending the arrival of the treasurer.

Novitiate Committee. Cay Morrison reported on the Committee's walk of the Novitiate, stressing the deficit to the city if all the CJP purchase is approved. Scott Paradise pointed out that CJP should be less concerned about the need for the playing field and the easement to the river if they could be assured that the City would own the rest of the parcel and the CJP would have access to the river and field. John Bliss, using a map of the Novitiate, described the CJP boundaries. He was informed by the discussion that John McGrath and the CJP officials have asked for guidance re Conservators' objectives.

ACTION: The Novitiate committee was authorized to invite the Conservation Commission, the Land Use Committee, and three members of the Planning &

Development Board (Margaret Smith, Ellen Lipson, and David Lurensky) to walk the land and see the effect of the CJP offer. Preferred dates: October 5 and October 4.

ACTION: The President will ask Sally Barnett to study the situation of the Conservation Commission, with a special responsibility for helping the City recognize the value of Helen Heyn and an independent and forceful Conservation Commission and for helping advise the Newton Conservators about how we can best help. (This action grew out of the discussion of the Novitiate and meetings about it held by the Conservation Commission.)

E.S.P. The Treasurer expects to have a final report on the summer adventure at the next meeting. Anna Marie Abernathy reported that four employees have not been paid and that a check (\$201) for canoe rental has been returned marked "insufficient funds."

Ordway Park. Andree Wilson reported that Ross Bronson has hurt his back and is no longer working. He has been paid \$96 of the \$500 available for park maintenance. Andree has employed a worker to remove two trees, clear brush, and do some planting, including shad bush, laurel, etc. **ACTION:** her report was APPROVED and an addition of \$200 MOVED, SECONDED, and APPROVED for further maintenance.

Membership Poll. No report. Sally Barnett has provided a computer printout membership list and will be asked to give a copy of the list to the Secretary.

Newsletter. Anna Marie Abernathy gave a progress report. The next edition will include a report on the press conference; Novitiate deliberations and objectives, and an update on recent developments; Houghton Gardens; E.S.P.; Chestnut Hill Country Club; and an open spaces referendum.

Adjournment: 10:30

Next meeting: October 24 (the fourth Tuesday) at the home of Ron Bocage, 12 Pleasant Street (off Waltham Street), in West Newton.

Respectfully submitted
Harry H. Crosby, Secretary

Addendum: The **Treasurer's Report**, showing a balance of \$29,877.64, for September 26, was submitted, ACCEPTED and filed.

October 1978

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of October 24, 1978

The meeting of October 24, 1978, took place at the home of the treasurer, Ron Bocage, at 12 Pleasant Street, in West Newton.

The meeting was called to order at 8:20, with the following **present**: John Bliss (President), Ron Bocage, Jean Artin, Joan Bryan Lerner, Cay Morrison, Jean Thompson, Bart Hague, Ted Tedesco, and Harry Crosby, secretary. Hal Mahon, 47 Freeman Street, Auburndale, MA 02166 (969-3527) was present as a guest. (A quorum in seven.)

Secretary's Report. The minutes of last month's meeting were APPROVED.

Treasurer's Report. Ron Bocage gave a financial report (see archives) indicating that the current balance was \$31,773.20. The report was ACCEPTED.

Novitiate Committee. Cay Morrison reported that the Committee met on October 10 to discuss the Novitiate tour of the preceding Thursday, which has been commended by participants. A discussion was held to decide on the next step, which was to hold an informational meeting for all concerned. Rodney Barker reported that wire got crossed on the Board of Aldermen, which resulted in both Alderwoman Creem and Alderman Morris attempting to schedule the meeting. Alderwoman Creem has withdrawn her efforts and Alderman Morris has sent invitations to the Mayor, the Planning Department, interested members of the Board, the Conservation Commission, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and John McGraw, to attend a discussion, with a representative from the Conservators to be present. (See attached letter, Archobrd).

ACTION: Ted Tedesco will urge Terry Morris to press for the meeting, and Rodney Barker will urge the Mayor to attend. Tedesco and Barker are to report results to Cay Morrison.

Membership Committee. Jean Thompson will take over the membership drive and is currently preparing a membership form. There was discussion about raising the membership fee by one dollar, but no action was taken.

Newsletter. Editor AnnaMaria Abernathy reported that, with the help of Jean Artin, an issue will be out within a month. She reported also that the cost of one issue in April, 1978, was \$56.25, and a previous issue cost \$33.00.

Conservation Commission. Continuing the discussion about whether the Conservation Commission should have a **paid staff member**, Sally Barnett distributed a job description prepared by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, indicating that there is substantial precedent for Newton's having a paid member. She reported that many communities do have a paid member, with the member having varied responsibilities, salaries, and hourly commitments. Some commissions have "secretaries" and some have "directors." In Newton, as in many communities, many departments provide paid and professional help, including the Engineering Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Planning Department. Many communities now have an Open Spaces Plan, and Wellesley, in addition to having a plan, also has an

implementation committee. ACTION: Sally Barnett is to continue her research re other Massachusetts communities, and she is to provide the information for Alderwoman Shea, who has submitted action to provide a salary for a Conservation Commission staff member.

Barnett reported on a "draft" of an **Open Spaces Plan**, which the Planning Department has sent to Joel Lerner and the state B.O.R. Bart Hague and others commented that the law requires citizen input and participation, but Barnett said the Planning Department believes that calling the plan a "draft" means input is not yet necessary. Barnett did criticize the Planning Department for lack of planning and questionable use of open spaces. ACTION: Joan Lerner was appointed chair of a committee (Artin, Bocage, Hague, Abernathy, the Lerner, Saturday, November 11, 9 a.m., to see what can be done. Abernathy is to have ten copies made of the "Plan" in time for the meeting.

Continuing her discussion of the Conservation Commission, Barnett sees a need for someone to develop a constituency for acquisition and proper use of open spaces. The staff member should also keep up on federal and state laws and fund sources. It might be wise to have a person on half time as a planner and half time as worker for operational activity. (See Archives, for the state job description.) In the past Steve Gartrell and Bob Marrison have helped from the Planning Department, but they seem no longer assigned to the Conservation Commission. The whole problem was referred to the Open Spaces Committee, chaired by Joan Lerner.

Staniford Street. Hal Mahon reported on the history of attempts by builders to construct apartment complexes on Staniford Street. In the past the Zoning Board of Appeals has turned [down] various petitions for construction by developer McIsaacs because much of the building would have been in flood plains areas. Now the parcel is owned by Judge Shubow, who wishes to develop a complex to be called Auburndale Gardens, 54 units, of which 5 would be for low income housing. A subsequent request for 128 units is also under consideration. Although the Newton Conservation Commission rejected the petition because the building would violate flood plains legislation, the Division of Community Affairs has prevailed upon the Department of Environmental Quality (check name?) to decree that Newton has enough open spaces and not enough low income housing, and thus the petition seems likely to be granted. The Conservators at the meeting recognized that this ruling may have great precedential impact, since the DCA seems to be attempting to override the local Conservation Commission and flood plains and wetland legislation. ACTION: Bocage MOVED and Tedesco SECONDED, with a vote of 5-1-1, that members of the Conservators should contact land and conservation lawyer Greg McGregor (with a maximum commitment of \$200) to evaluate the situation and see what the Conservators can/should do to save the land. In view of the lateness of the hour and departure of several members, the president deferred action. Rodney Barker was asked to check with the City Solicitor for a ruling and advice. Afterwards Tedesco and Bocage will discuss Barker's finding and confer with the President as to what the Conservators should do.

Adjournment at 11:15

Respectfully submitted,
Harry H. Crosby, secretary

November 1978

Meeting of the Board of the Newton Conservators
8 p.m., Tuesday, November 28, 1978
at the home of John Bliss, 9 Lewis St., Newton

[No minutes of this meeting are on file. However the following agenda is:]

- 8:00 Come to Order
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
- 8:15 Novitiate - Cay Morrison
- 8:30 Newsletter - Anna Maria Abernathy
- 8:40 Membership - Jean Thompson
- 8:50 ESP - Ron Bocage
- 9:00 New Board Members - Harry Crosby
- 9:10 Conservation Commission - Sally Barnett
- 9:20 Open Space Plan - Joan Lerner, Jean Artin
- 9:35 Staniford Street - Ron Bocage
- 9:45 Anything else...
- 10:00 Adjourn.

Don't be dismayed by the number of items; several shouldn't take too long. Try to make calls to the membership.

A letter on file following the agenda says that "the Newton Conservators VOTED unanimously at the November 28 board meeting to oppose the petition of Carabetta Enterprises to rezone the **Chestnut Hill Country Club** (CHCC) land from Residence B to Residence F.

December 1978 (in early Jan. 1979)

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 2, 1979
at the home of Sally Barnett

Called to order: 8:30 p.m.

Present: Priscilla M. Leith, Sally Barnett, John S. Bliss, Ruth R. Heespelink, Joan Bryan Lerner, Ted Tedesco, A.M. Abernathy, Andree Wilson, Richard Wilson, Carol Morrison, John Stewart, and Harry Crosby.

Minutes of the previous meeting. Cay Morrison asked that it be clear that, for the meeting in the Mayor's office, the entire Conservation Commission were asked, but only a few Land Use Committee were invited. This correction was accepted.

A discussion re the suitability of John Bewick, a Newton resident, for the position of Secretary of Environmental Affairs was suggested but deferred.

E.S.P. In the absence of Ron Bocage, John Bliss reported that an ESP check for approximately \$100 is still in question. The leadership of the program has been informed that the Conservators will not sponsor the program again. Andree Wilson commented that she thinks the leaders will conduct the program themselves.

Membership. Jean Thompson is ready to go to work on a membership push. Lisle Baker was approved as a member of the Board of Directors.

Ordway Park. Andree Wilson reported on the clearing of brush and felling of trees and purchase and planting of several bushes (by Jean Thompson, Kevin Thompson, Anne Roesner, and Andree. She reported that there is a question about the boundaries of the Park with the likelihood that the neighbors own some of the bushes and paths, which have been assumed to be part of the Conservator property. Lisle Baker will be asked by Andree and Dick Wilson to advise the Board about what action should be taken. Ron Bocage has received an \$800 property tax bill. Leith MOVED, Crosby SECONDED, and it was unanimously VOTED that Ton Bocage contest the bill, since we are a non-profit organization. Total spent on Ordway Park was \$595.39. She was authorized to prepare an estimate for future expenses.

Novitiate Committee. Since nothing seems to have resulted from attempts to cooperate with the Mayor and the City Planner, President Bliss agreed to invite the Novitiate Committee of the CJP to attend a meeting either January 22, 23, 24, to be at the Wilsons or Crosbys. The purpose of the meeting would be to see how the Conservators can help. The chair of the Novitiate Committee of the Conservators was asked to send postcards to all Conservator members urging them to support our positions by attending the Land Use Committee meeting re the Carabetta project on January 24 and to write the Mayor in support of our concern for the Novitiate park.

A meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was announced for Saturday, January 8, at the Lerner's, 9 a.m.

Harry Crosby and John Bliss were asked to investigate possibility of publication of a brochure publicizing Newton's open spaces.

Adjournment: 10:30.

Harry H. Crosby, Secretary

January 1979

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Executive Committee, Minutes of the meeting
January 30, 1979

The meeting was at 9 Lewis Street, at the home of President Bliss, and was called to order at 8:25.

Present were (in order signed) Ted Tedesco, Lisle Baker, John Bliss, Jean Thompson, John Stewart, Carol Morrison, Priscilla M. Leith, Andree Wilson, Ronald J. Bocage, Harry Crosby, Ed Lerner, and Joan Lerner.

Secretary's Minutes of previous meeting. Amending the rather avuncular and critical tone of the minutes, the Board decided to send a letter of congratulations to Environmental Secretary John Bewick. The Secretary was requested to prepare an up-to-date list of Board members. A correction was made in the final paragraph: the reference should have been to the Open Spaces Plan Committee.

Treasurer's Report. The attached report for December-January was ACCEPTED [However, it was not attached -- i.e., not on file]. The Treasurer reported that a tax assessment presented to the Conservators by the City for Ordway Park has been paid but we are currently contesting the legitimacy of a tax of property owned by a legally constituted non-taxable organization. The Vice President suggested that a manual be prepared to show incoming officers of the Conservators what reports must be made to governmental bodies. Copies of the **Audit Report** were circulated. (See files.) Total money on hand was \$37,630.

Nominating Committee. The committee will be reconstituted at the next meeting.

Discussion of the Chestnut Hill Country Club. Land Use Committee denied the Carabetta petition but is trying to ascertain what kind of development might be acceptable. Interest was shown in a limit on density and public access. The bank holding the mortgage has foreclosed. The Mayor is reportedly not interested in acquisition. The neighborhood is discussing some kind of land trust based on B.O.R. funds. Lisle Baker discussed a Special Assessment District, a system of bonding purchase of open spaces with the cost being returned by tax assessment on properties, which profit from proximity to the land, with amounts being feathered out to more remote areas. Lisle and Ted Tedesco were asked to investigate possibility.

Discussion of new City Planner. The President was directed to prepare a letter listing criteria for selecting new City Planner. (Secretary's note: This was not done when the President learned that the City Planner has already been selected.)

Ordway Park. Andréé Wilson reported on likelihood that use of Ordway Park by Conservators infringes on neighbors' property. She was instructed to begin measures to obscure paths leading to neighbors' property and the map, "A Tour of Ordway Park" be destroyed. (MOVED by Ed Lerner, SECONDED by John Stewart, unanimously PASSED.) Joan Lerner MOVED, Harry Crosby SECONDED, and it was PASSED that she be authorized \$600 to fund maintenance of the Park for 1979. If more is needed, further action will be taken. (Note: Ted Tedesco also seconded the resolution.)

Discussion of Newton Open Spaces Brochure. John Bliss showed some impressive diagrams to illustrate locations of the groups, and Harry Crosby listed estimates of about \$900 for preparation of 4,000 copies of such a document. Suggestion was made that the brochure demonstrate what open spaces are public. A commendation was made to President Bliss for the contributions and the committee was instructed to press on. Mentioned as to be covered included Hammond Pond, Webster Vale, Norembega, Kennard Estate, Cold Springs, Ware's Cove, Norembega, and Auburndale Park. There is to be a note on the brochure that it is provided as a service of the Conservators.

Next Meeting. February 28, at the home of Harry Crosby.

Adjourned 10:25.

Respectfully submitted
Harry Crosby

February 1979

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 27, 1979
at the home of Harry Crosby, 48 Ruthven Road

Called to order: 8:10 p.m.

Present: Lisle Baker, Ruth Heespelink, David Jackson, Joan Lerner, Sally Barnett, Rodney Barker, Cay Morrison, John Stewart, and Ted Tedesco. Guest: Ethel Sheehan and Theresa Tedesco.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the January meeting were read and APPROVED.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report, showing a balance for February 27 of \$30,468.50, was read and ACCEPTED.

Novitiate Committee. Two members of the Newton Board of Aldermen, Ethel Sheehan and Rodney Barker, in response to reports in the newspapers that developments in the attempts to secure the Novitiate were not going well, discussed what has been happening.

In contrast to previous understanding that the portion to be owned by the City would resemble what the Conservators have recommended, latest developments indicated the City was expecting substantially less. It was therefore MOVED, SECONDED, and unanimously APPROVED that the Novitiate Committee were to write and send a letter to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen affirming our position on the Novitiate. Bart Hague MOVED, David Jackson SECONDED, and the Board unanimously APPROVED that the Novitiate Committee could also "take any further action deemed necessary."

Chestnut Hill Country Club Ad Hoc Committee. It was decided that the study of this committee might cause false rumors about the Conservators' position and the report was therefore "off the record." One public development is that State Representatives David Cohen and William Galvin are filing a bill to have the M.D.C. purchase the Club. It was MOVED that the committee continue in their discussion about how there could be public acquisition of the Club. The voted were 7 FOR, 3 against, and 3 abstaining.

Nominating Committee. Andreé Wilson (chair), Sally Barnett, Joan Lerner, Rodney Barker, and Cay Morrison were appointed. Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers, and an Executive Board with three new members.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 24, at the home of Ron Bocage.

Meeting adjourned, 11:12.

Harry H. Crosby, Secretary

March 1979

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 27, 1979

Called to order: 8:25.

Present: Ruth Heespelink, John Bliss, Sally Barnett, Rodney Barker, Bart Hague, John Stewart, Ted Tedesco, Lisle Baker, Gay Morrison, Joan Lerner, and Harry Crosby. (22 members present.)

Novitiate Committee. Rodney Barker presented a statement containing the agreements made by Mr. Alan Schlessinger, counsel for CJP, in response to Conservators requests. The understanding was that the following are included: a new boundary line as requested; no permanent fence on the playing field; non-exclusive easement to the river; recreational use only of the playing field; no buildings; protection of pines along Winchester Street; agreement about City use of the playing field; conservation restriction to the bottom of the kettle in the oak woods. It was MOVED, SECONDED and PASSED that Tedesco, Lerner, and Barker draft a letter to Mr. Schlessinger spelling out these agreements.

Chestnut Hills Country Club ad hoc Committee. After a report by Lisle Baker about the neighborhood's attempt to save the golf course by a betterment assessment, Morrison MOVED, Lerner SECONDED, PASSED that a letter prepared by Baker and signed by President Bliss be sent to the Commonwealth Improvement Association commending this attempt to save the open space.

Treasurer's Report. The report by Ron Bocage was ACCEPTED. The Treasurer was congratulated for his presentation and appreciation was given for clarity of the report.

E.S.P. Committee. In reply to the report by the committee and a request from Richard Staley, the meeting RESOLVED to present \$280 for scholarships for E.S.P, at \$70 each.

Nominating Committee. Suggestions were requested.

Other Business. President Bliss was delegated to speak on behalf of the Conservators at the Planning and Development Board meeting for the **Open Spaces Plan**. Funds were made available to provide \$25 each for up to five members to attend the New England Environmental Conference at Tufts, April 21. The necessary number of members signed the application for the annual report to the Secretary of State.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry H. Crosby, Secretary

Note: These minutes were not approved by a subsequent meeting because secretarial difficulty made their duplication impossible. Notes prepared by President Bliss were discussed and APPROVED -- HHC

April 1979

the Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 24, 1979
at the home of Sally Barnett
34 Westminster Road, Newton Centre

Called to order: 8:20

Present: Bob Ricles, Ron Bocage, Ed Lerner, Ted Tedesco, Joan Lerner, Ruth Heespelink, Jean Thompson, Sally Barnett, John Bliss, and Harry Crosby. Guests: Fran Hints and Richard Rimack. Ten members; two guests.

Secretary's Report. In the absence of minutes by the Secretary, the President presented his recollections, which were APPROVED. (Secretary's note: the Secretary's notes were later duplicated and made a part of the permanent records.)

Treasurer's Report. Presented by Ron Bocage, and are filed with permanent records. Balance of April 24: \$29,484.55. Accepted as per motion by J. Lerner, seconded by Ricles, and unanimously APPROVED.

The **Annual Meeting** will be Thursday, May 24, probably at the home of Andree Wilson.

Membership Committee. Jean Thompson reported that she has sent out 341 membership renewal reminders. Since the number of members is important for political influence, there was discussion about how many members we have and how we refer to the number. It was the consensus that we now refer to the number of "households" we represent. DECISION: We will purchase the A.M.C. mailing list for circularizing as prospective members. Bart Hague and John Bliss will write the letter. Jean Thompson will do the mailing. The letter will include a disclaimer such as "If you are already a member of the Conservators, please excuse the duplication." Speaking for the membership, John Lerner thanked Jean Thompson for her good work.

Nomination Committee. For President, John Bliss; Vice President, Ted Tedesco; Treasurer, Ron Bocage; Newsletter, Joan Lerner with Hannah Morehouse and Jean Artin as helpers: Librarian, Ruth Heespelink; Membership Chairman, Jean Thompson; other members: Ed Lerner, Lisle Baker, Sally Barnett, Andree Wilson, Priscilla Leith, John Stewart, Bob Romero, Cay Morrison, Bart Hague, Richard Rimack, and Harry Crosby. The list is not complete, and names will be added. (Secretary's Note: Peter Harrington has agreed to become a member of the Board and serve as Secretary.)

The notice of the Annual Meeting will contain a list of the slate of nominees. The committee will provide desserts and drinks. Members will bring brown bag suppers.

Note: During the discussion of the Nominating Committee, Ron Bocage was enthusiastically thanked for the clarity and fullness of his reports.

The Vice President's Report on the Audit and Insurance. After Vice President Ted Tedesco asked for nominations for the Audit Committee of financial records, as mandated by the by-laws, the President asked Bob Ricles and Octo Barnett to serve with the President, making the third member. The audit will be for the calendar year. Insurance for public liability will be renewed by the Committee according to their discretion, as per MOTION by Ricles, Barker SECONDED, PASSED unanimously. (Note: At this point in the meeting Octo Barnett happened to walk through the room and got appointed. Rodney Barker is not listed as "Present," but arrived at about this point.)

Novitiate Committee. Joan Lerner reported that she attended the public hearing along with other members of the Conservators and made the statement, as prepared by the Open Spaces Committee. Everything went very well, but the deliberations subsequently became unraveled. Rodney Barker reported that a meeting in the Mayor's Office seems to have settled the CJP and City arrangements favorably. The story continues.

Old Business. Joan Lerner agreed to keep informed about the possibility of a paid staff member for the Conservation Commission.

Adjournment: 10:28.

Respectfully,
Harry H. Crosby, Secretary

May 1979

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 24, 1979

[Picnic and meeting at home of Andree and Dick Wilson, 15 Bracebridge Road, Newton Centre, 6:00 - 8:00]

Present: John Bliss, Tammy Bliss, Rodney Barker, Sally Barnett, Andree Wilson, Cay Morrison, Ann Roesner, Joan Lerner, Helen Heyn, Bob Ricles, Fran Hints, Harry Crosby, Peter Harrington, Lisle Baker, Ron Bocage, Ed Lerner.

Report of Nominating Committee by Andree Wilson

Slate of officers and board of directors submitted by the nominating committee:

President - John Bliss
Vice President - Ted Tedesco
Treasurer - Ron Bocage
Secretary - Peter Harrington

Board of Directors

Jean Artin	Rodney Barker	Sally Barnett
Harry Crosby	Bart Hague	Ruth Heespelink
Fran Hints	Deborah Howard	David Jackson
Priscilla Leith	Ed Lerner	Joan Lerner
Cay Morrison	Richard Primack	Ruth Rabinow
Robert Ricles	Bob Romero	John Stewart
Andrée Wilson	Alex Zimmer	Lisle Baker

The nominations from the floor - none.

MOTION to accept the officers and board of directors as submitted by the nominating committee by Helen Heyn. ACTION: APPROVED unanimously.

MOTION by Joan Lerner to sponsor a **public event at the Novitiate property** on September 9 (alternate date September 16) for the purpose of education Newton citizens

as to the location and the various educational/recreational uses which may be derived from this parcel, if its future care and development are guided by the principles of conservation.

ACTION: By unanimous CONSENT a committee was appointed. Joan Lerner chairman, to work out the details and sponsor the event.

Report of Lisle Baker regarding **Chestnut Hill Country Club**.

- a) A group of neighbors have purchased the Chestnut Hill Country Club at foreclosure. They are planning to reopen the golf course. With the help of federal and state assistance, they hope to keep all of the land undeveloped open space. There has been some discussion that, if necessary for financing purposes, the neighbors will sell some lots on Woodchester, Algonquin or Kenrick Streets for development.

MOTION by Harry Crosby to authorize the expenditure of \$100.00 for the acquisition of a Golf Tournament Trophy Cup to be awarded by the Newton Conservators to the winner of a golf tournament at the Chestnut Hill Country Club and open to all Newton residents. ACTION: APPROVED unanimously.

Treasurer's Report submitted by Ronald Bocage, Treasurer. Showed during calendar year 1978, revenues of \$8,135.97 and expenses of \$7,941.01.

As required by Massachusetts General Law the report will be submitted for auditing and then submitted to the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for acceptance.

MOTION by Harry Crosby to commend the treasurer for his work in general and specifically for his detailed report, which concisely identified all sources of revenue, expenses and assets of the corporation.

ACTION: APPROVED unanimously,

Future meetings established:

Board of Directors - meet June 26, 1979 at 7:45 P.M. at the home of Cay Morrison, 1801 Beacon Street, Waban, Mass.

Board of Directors to meet July 24, 1979 at 7:45 P.M. at the home of Harry and Jean Crosby at 48 Ruthven Rd., Newton, Mass.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Submitted by:
Peter F. Harrington, Secretary
June 11, 1979

Annual Meeting

[It was a picnic -- bring-your-own brown bag supper; beverage and dessert provided -- at the home of Andre and Dick Wilson, 15 Bracebridge Rd., Newton Centre (tel. 332-4823) on Thursday, May 24, 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

The order of business was:

1. picnic (indoor or outdoor)
2. the annual membership meeting and election of officers and board for '79-'80.
3. a planning session for a June celebration at the Novitiate.]