

Board of Directors, 1983-1984

Officers:

President: Bart Hague
Vice-President: AnnaMaria Abernathy
Secretary: Arnold Meltzer
Treasurer: Virginia Taplin
Past-President: Sally Barnett

Directors:

Rodney Barker	Jeffrey Bernstein
John Bliss	Deborah Breznay
Peter Harrington	Mary Herring
Frances Hints	Deborah Howard
David Jackson	Peter Kastner
Edward Lerner	Arlene Lynde
Helen Martin	Cay Morrison
Nancy Schad	Stephen Small
Gabrielle Sullivan	Jean Thompson
Lavina Tomb	Verne Vance
Antoinette Wallace	

June 1982

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Bart Hague
Tuesday, June 21, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, John Bliss, Debbie Breznay, Bart Hague, president, Fran Hints, Peter Kastner, Arlene Lynde, Arnold Meltzer, Carol Morrison, Steve Small, Gabrielle Sullivan, Ginny Taplin, Jean Thompson, Lavina Tomb, Toni Wallace.

The **Secretary's** report of the last meeting was APPROVED. Ginny Taplin gave a **summary of fiscal affairs** since the last meeting.

APPROVAL was given to have only two officers' signatures required to handle our account with Fidelity Cash Reserves. AnnaMaria Abernathy and Ginny Taplin were chosen.

Bart Hague presented an agenda of activities and priorities for the coming year. A lively discussion ensued about **publicizing Conservator activities**. Several members felt we should use newspaper publicity more effectively. A "Conservators' Calendar" to be mailed to all members was warmly supported. As a generality, it was stated that all Board members involved in any Conservator activity should transmit information to Fran Hints for the newsletter.

Summer Event at Novitiate Park. AnnaMaria Abernathy suggested that it be a fairly low key event, because it falls in the midst of the summer vacation period. A MOTION was APPROVED to allocate up to \$250.00 in expenditures. Some of this will be used for leafleting. Anyone willing to assist in this event should contact Nancy Schad, who is the Committee Chairperson.

Novitiate Park: A Model Development. It was suggested that a portion of the Emma Quint Fund be used toward this goal. Bill Giesentanner will work on a joint "Plan of Events" for the Conservators in cooperation with the C.J.P. Efforts will be extended to get the City involved through Russ Halloran. A publication enhancing the value of the park was proposed. Board members are encouraged to submit suggestions to Bill Giesentanner.

Committee Assignments. Bart Hague stressed the need for a more formalized Committee concept, so that there would be a definite allocation of responsibility to get things done. The following appointments were made:

Membership Committee	-	Jean Thompson, Chair
Newsletter Committee	-	Fran Hints, Chair
Publicity Committee	-	Debbie Breznay & Gabrielle Sullivan,
	-	Co-chair
Land Use Committee	-	Steve Small

Further suggestions followed on **publicizing Conservator activities:**

1. Peter Kastner suggested that Ernest Meyers should be commissioned to develop an audio-visual presentation of the various Newton parks, for presentation to neighborhood groups.
2. Lavina Tomb suggested that City Hall should have a "Newton Parks" Day.
3. John Bliss suggested that the "Visit Your Parks" map be distributed to realtors for presentation to new property owners.
4. Several members proposed that the map be updated and mailed again to all residents.
5. A consensus developed that we need to "sharpen our visibility" ... "heighten our visibility" and that we should align our cause with similar neighborhood causes.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 19, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at Jean Thompson's home, 1141 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands. Telephone: 244-9472.

July 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of

the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Jean Thompson
Tuesday, July 19, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, John Bliss, Bart Hague, president, Mary Herring, Peter Kastner, Arlene Lynde, Arnold Meltzer, Kay Morrison, Nancy Schad, Gabrielle Sullivan, Ginny Taplin, Jean Thompson, Lavina Tomb, Toni Wallace.

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

A letter for **membership** renewal will be sent after Labor Day.

A **Banking Committee** was appointed consisting of Ginny Taplin, Gabrielle Sullivan, AnnaMaria Abernathy and Arnold Meltzer. The Committee's principal concern will be to decide where our money should be kept and invested.

September 15th was selected as the deadline for the submission of material for the **newsletter**. All material is to be sent to Fran Hints.

It was suggested and APPROVED that future **walks** should be scheduled for at least a six month period, with one person assigned as the contact for each walk. The schedule will be completed for the September newsletter.

Novitiate site visit of June 28, 1983. Bart Hague reported on the above. Ed Sidman of C.J.P. and Bill Giesentanner participated. Bill is trying to work out a framework for an entrance and sign. Ed Sidman approved of the planning activities of Bill Giesentanner, and Ed, speaking for the C.J.P. agreed to equal the financial support of the Conservators.

Kessler East. There was much discussion about this property. All told, Kessler East and West totals about 50 acres. Boston Edison sold 5 acres to WGBH for "This Old House" and the construction will be of a solar house. We were not absolutely sure of the exact size layout and boundaries of the total area. AnnaMaria offered to get a map of the area so that in future discussions, we'd know what we are referring to. Jack Cox of Boston Edison indicated that Boston Edison would confer with both the Brookline and Newton Conservation Commissions before taking any major action regarding this property.

Wellesley Office Park. A proposal for another building in this development with additional parking has been made to the town of Wellesley. A MOTION was made and APPROVED to have an officer of the Conservators write a letter opposing this additional construction. It would be sent to the town of Wellesley with copies to the D.E.Q.E. and the U.S. Corp of Engineers.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at Jean Thompson's home, 1141 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands. Telephone: 244-9472.

Arnold Meltzer

Secretary

August 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Jean Thompson
Tuesday, August 9, 1983

Present: Deborah Breznay, Bart Hague, president, Arnold Meltzer, Carol Morrison, Jean Thompson.

Since a **quorum was not present**, no formal action was taken.

The By-Laws were distributed to those present and will be distributed again at the next meeting to those who did not receive them.

The **Novitiate** continued to be a major topic of discussion. Bart indicated that cooperation was necessary and desirable among the three parties involved: the Conservators, the C.J.P. and the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing a model plan for the park.

Cay Morrison reported on the **Novitiate Planning Committee**, which held a meeting right after the picnic on Sunday, July 31. Cay presented her report in writing. We felt it was important enough to include copies of it with the minutes. Furthermore, the committee would welcome any ideas and suggestions from other members of the Board to improve the park, to utilize it more fully and effectively, even to come up with a better name for it. Jean Thompson suggested Nahanton Park, which was warmly received by those in attendance at the meeting.

A brief discussion followed on the **Newton Land Use Committee decision-making on new and renovated buildings**. It was felt that the Conservators Land Use Committee should examine this issue with particular attention to building height and increased traffic, as part of its review and recommendations for building siting and design. It was felt our concern should be height, density and setback.

It was also recognized that this matter will be discussed further at our next Board meeting.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to aldermanic candidates to solicit their views on conservation and open space use. It might be publicized through the local press.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at the home of Lavina Tomb, 34 Waterston Street, Newton Corner. Telephone: 332-0818.

Arnold Meltzer,
Secretary

September 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Lavina Tomb
Tuesday, September 20, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, president, Mary Herring, Peter Kastner, Ed Lerner, Arlene Lynde, Helen Martin, Arnold Meltzer, Steve Small, Ginnie Taplin, Jean Thompson, Lavina Tomb.

After the **Secretary's and Treasurer's reports** were APPROVED a good portion of the meeting was devoted to the **Newsletter** and **publicity** regarding Conservator activities. A notice will go out to members listing future **fall walks**.

It was suggested and APPROVED that the Human Services Department at City Hall be given information on walks and other goings-on for inclusion in their publication, "Golden Times."

Helen Martin suggested that walks be scheduled for Sunday afternoons as a time when attendance might be greater. There was substantial concurrence with this suggestion.

As at a previous meeting, it was suggested and APPROVED that the **views of Aldermanic candidates** on open space issues should be elicited. A committee of three - Peter Kastner, Steve Small and Bart Hague - was appointed to develop a series of questions for presentation to candidates. An effort will be made to have them available for inclusion in the newsletter.

During the final segment of the meeting, there was a continuation of a previous discussion regarding the role the Conservators should take - or not take - on various aspects of **Land Use**. In summary, it was suggested that the Land Use Committee draw up a series of questions and objectives for the Aldermanic Land Use Committee. Before further action, these would be reviewed by the Board to develop a consensus.

Note: On Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 P.M., there will be a small informal walk around the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary overlooking Newton Centre and adjoining autumn landscapes. Reverend James Burns will explain inspirational and aesthetic values of private open spaces. Those attending will meet in front of the Seminary office at the top of the hill of Herrick Road.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18, 1983, 7:45 P.M., at the home of Ginnie Taplin, 15 Sewall Street, West Newton. Telephone: 527-1928.

Arnold Meltzer,
Secretary

October 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Virginia Taplin
Tuesday, October 18, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Bart Hague, president, Peter Harrington, Peter Kastner, Arlene Lynde, Arnold Meltzer, Carol Morrison, Nancy Schad, Virginia Taplin, Toni Wallace.

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

A **mailing to former members** - 1981 and 1982 - went out shortly after this meeting
Ginny Taplin will report on the results at the next meeting.

Newsletter - A committee was appointed to determine the focus and direction of future newsletters. The following ideas and suggestions were presented at this meeting:

1. Copies should be distributed to City Hall, school libraries and public libraries.
2. The first newsletter of the season should list the newly elected Officers and probably the members of the Board.
3. It should have an editorial point o view.
4. It should have a "Letter from the President."
5. We should consider having a part-time paid editor.
6. Each issue should include a guest columnist.

Aldermanic Candidate Queries - The inquiries of the Aldermanic candidates will be prepared and disseminated before the next meeting. Replies will be circulated to the membership and sent as news releases to the local newspapers and to Newton Cable TV.

Novitiate Park Planning - The Board felt it is important to activate the **Tri-Partite Committee** - representatives of the City, the C.J.P. and the Conservators - so that all parties would participate in decisions affecting the Park.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 1983, 7:45 P.M. at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy, 45 Islington Road, Auburndale. Telephone: 244-3447.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

October 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy
Tuesday, November 15, 1983

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Deborah Howard, Bart Hague, president, Peter Kastner, Arlene Lynde, Carol Morrison, Nancy Schad, Stephen Small, Jean Thompson.

The **Secretary's report** was APPROVED, pending addition of names of committee members for Newsletter.

The **Treasurer's report** was ACCEPTED. The mailing to 1981 and 1982 members with remittance envelopes brought 85 responses. The budget discussion will be held next month.

Board Members - Gabrielle Sullivan had resigned from the board, with hopes that she may rejoin when she is no longer taking evening courses. Debby Breznay has indicated that she can remain only as a passive member for the time being. Steve Small suggested that Phil Tabas, director of the Boston office of the Nature Conservancy, be invited to a meeting with an eye to possible nomination.

Newsletter - The advisability of sending summaries of board meetings to the membership either in the newsletter or in separate monthly "news briefs" was discussed. Beth Ann Daniels Nicols has indicated that she is interested in helping to put out the newsletter on a paid basis, and the board agreed to include an item in the 1984 budget for this work. Copies of Mrs. Nichols' resume are available either at the Dec. board meeting or from Virginia Taplin.

Conference reports - Stephen Small reported on the conference sponsored by the Montana Land Alliance to discuss proposals for conservation easement regulations. The new proposals would make it possible to grant conservation restrictions on land for which mineral rights are held separately, as is the case in most Western properties. Steve also reported on the Land Trust Exchange.

Bart Hague reported on the Brookline Conservation Commission and Brookline Land Trust and various "Friends of..." groups. In particular, Merle Schrieber has organized a **new "Friends of Stony Brook"** to help the Kessler East property.

Novitiate Park Planning - Cay Morrison reported that in response to Conservators' queries about why the new parking lot at the Novitiate Park was not open to the public except by specific appointment, the Recreation Department has provisionally begun opening the entrance during the daytime, closing it at dusk.

It appears that the conservation restriction on the Oak Woods has not yet been registered.

The **Interface Committee of the Novitiate Park** has not met recently, but a meeting is scheduled for November 29. At that time, Bill Giezentanner's memorandum of July suggesting a modus operandi for the committee and for planning the park will be discussed.

In August, the CJP requested permission from the Recreation Department to use the Colonial Road again, during construction of the swimming pool. The permission was granted.

Emma Quint Grant - Debby Howard agreed to write some paragraphs for the newsletter explaining what is in the works, and soliciting volunteers from among the membership to work on the project. The project involves developing more constituencies for open space, not simply developing the Novitiate Park. Using the Novitiate's position in the Charles River Pathway, and working toward realization of the Pathway, was discussed.

Land Use Issues - Five aldermanic candidates responded to the Conservators questions about land use, which went out just before the election. Bart Hague envisions writing a letter to the new Board of Aldermen expressing our concerns. He also raised the idea of sponsoring a workshop meeting on land use. A co-sponsoring organization and/or assured manpower for the project were raised as prerequisites.

Other possible programs were discussed:

- inviting key persons involved in land use decisions to address the board at meetings to which the membership-at-large is invited.
- reviewing with the new members of the Board of Aldermen the Conservators' record of recent years, plans for this year, and our concerns for land use matters.
- inviting our State Representatives about development at the state level.

It was agreed to begin by inviting Terry Morris to discuss his thoughts as he departs from the Board of Aldermen.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 1983, 7:45 p.m. at the home of Deborah Howard, 34 Fairfax Street, West Newton. Telephone: 244-7269.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

December 1983

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Deborah Howard
Tuesday, December 6, 1983, 7:45 P.M.

Present: Bart Hague, presiding, Jeff Bernstein, Mary Herring, Debby Howard, Peter Kastner, Cay Morrison, Nancy Schad, Stephen Small, Virginia Taplin, Jean Thompson, Lavina Tomb, Toni Wallace.

The discussion focused on the **Conservators' impact on land use policies**, the possibility of a **Public Forum**, and a series of forums to be held in the various Wards. The Board agreed that the Conservators work with neighborhoods to define the issues in the villages as they pertain to Conservators' objectives.

The **Treasurer's report** was discussed and ACCEPTED.

The next meeting will be a Public Forum for the entire membership and interested public, to focus on "Newton's Land Use Policies: Present Issues and Future Strategies" - led by Terry P. Morris, retiring Chairman, Land Use Committee, Newton Board of Aldermen. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 8:00 P.M. (public forum) at the First Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. At 7:30 P.M. (prior to the public forum) the Board will hold a brief but important business meeting.

Agenda and notices of the Public Forum are enclosed. Be sure to publicize the Public Forum.

[No signature]

January 1984

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the First Unitarian Church, West Newton
Tuesday, January 17, 1984, 7:30 P.M.

Present: Bart Hague, presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Peter Kastner, Ed Lerner, Arnold Meltzer, Helen Martin, Cay Morrison, Steve Small, Ginnie Taplin, Toni Wallace.

The meeting was devoted to a discussion and decision regarding the **Memorandum of Understanding "between the City of Newton..Combined - Jewish Phianthropies of Greater Boston - and the Newton Conservators"**.

Copies of the Memorandum were available for perusal and clarification by our representatives on the Interface Committee, Cay Morrison and Peter Kastner.

In summary, the Memorandum is an instrument to establish a working relationship "between the City, the CJP and the Conservators for common planning and action regarding the use and enjoyment" of the Novitiate Park, the conservation restrictions affecting the J.C.C. and the Winchester Street Recreation Area.

The CJP and the Conservators are each to deposit \$3,500.00 in an account for use during 1984 to improve and enhance the value of the recreation area.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to have the Conservators sign the Memorandum.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to a presentation by Terry Morris on **how the land use process worked** during his Chairmanship of the Land Use committee, and what he sees as the **major land use problems for the remainder of the '80's**.

Terry described the various aspects of the decision-making process, the competing and often conflicting interests in a land use decision, the compromises so often required, the pressures for increasing the tax base, and the competing ideas relative to the use of a parcel.

Terry feels we should have a Planning Commission similar to Boston's B.R.A. In his view, the City has failed to fund and pursue an aggressive land acquisition program. He feels the major problem of the '80s will be intensification of current use areas. Unless there is greater planning by the City, land use and traffic problems will become worse.

Peter Kastner thanked Terry for his remarks and those in attendance concurred in this view. The next meeting will be held at Cay Morrison's house, 1801 Beacon Street, Waban, at 7:45 PM on Tuesday, February 28, 1984.

Arnold Meltzer
Secretary

February 1984

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Carol Morrison
Tuesday, February 28, 1984, 7:45 P.M.

Present: Bart Hague, presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sally Barnett, Mary Herring, Debbie Howard, Peter Kastner, Arnold Meltzer, Cay Morrison, Ginnie Taplin, Toni Wallace.

The **Secretary's and Treasurer's reports** were ACCEPTED as rendered.

The membership response to the recent outstanding **Newsletter**, edited by Anna Maria with contributions by Cay and Peter, was excellent. It was recommended and approved that the Quint Fund Trustees be put on the Conservators mailing list.

The next Newsletter deadline is April 1st and we cannot urge too strongly that members of the Board submit newsworthy items to AnnaMaria for inclusion in it.

Outings - AnnaMaria suggested that we plan a series of **aqueduct walks**. It was also agreed that an on-site visit of the Riverside area by the Board should precede any schedule of walks for the area.

It was suggested and approved that we obtain the agenda of forthcoming meetings of the **Land Use Committee** of the Board of Aldermen. We would endeavor to schedule the attendance of some members of our Board at meetings where items of particular interest to us were being discussed.

Peter Kastner, Chairman of the Program Committee, announced that Barry Canner, the City Director of Planning and Development, will speak to the Board at the April meeting.

Riverside - A discussion about MBTA plans for this area ensued. As we know, it is in the embryonic stage of substantial commercial development. It was felt our goal should be to influence the direction of this growth. A site visit by the Board was planned for March 22, and a report of this visit will be made at the next meeting.

Cay Morrison and Ginnie Taplin volunteered to direct the planning of this year's **Annual Meeting** on May 22nd.

The following were appointed to the **Nominating Committee**: Sally Barnett, Cay Morrison, Lavina Tomb and Toni Wallace.

The **Audit Committee** will include AnnaMaria Abernathy, Gene Cronin and Fran Hintsä.

Cay Morrison reported that Bill Giesentanner and Mr. Lash of the C.J.P. are working on plans for presentation to the **Novitiate Park Interface Committee** meeting, scheduled for March 13th.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Bart Hague, 110 Roundwood Road, Newton Highlands, March 20, 1984, 7:45 P.M.

Arnold Meltzer

March 1984

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Bart Hague
Tuesday, March 20, 1984

Present: Bart Hague, presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mary Herring, Peter Kastner, Ed Lerner, Joan Lerner, Arnold Meltzer, Cay Morrison, Lane Sofman, Ginnie Taplin, Jean Thompson, Verne Vance, Toni Wallace.

The **Secretary's and treasurer's reports** were ACCEPTED.

Verne Vance elaborated on the **Aldermanic Resolution on land use policy** that was recently passed, of which he was one of the sponsors. The Resolution states in part that the Executive Department institute a review and evaluation on a citywide basis of all present zoning and other land use controls, and is to submit recommendations to the Board of Aldermen for changes in these controls. The work should be carried out by the Planning Department and/or a private consulting firm or a combination of the two.

A MOTION was made and APPROVED for the Conservators' Board to write to the Mayor and Barry Canner supporting the implementation of Resolution 148-84 and to offer our assistance in the project.

During the remainder of the meeting, Bill Giesentanner presented a progress report on **Novitiate Park** planning. Bill had four alternative "maps" for the Board to consider. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that we recommend Plan C Prime as the one most desirable for further consideration by the Interface Committee. Meanwhile, an on-site Novitiate Park visit by the Board was scheduled for Sunday, March 24th, to gain a better understanding of the approved plan.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Steven Small, 47 Fenno Road, Newton Centre, April 10, 1984, at 7:45 P.M.

Arnold Meltzer

April 1984

Minutes of the Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators
at the home of Stephen Small
April 10, 1984 (April 24, 1984).

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mary Herring, Peter Kastner, Arlene Lynde, Arnold Meltzer, Cay Morrison, Stephen Small, Lavina Tomb, Toni Wallace.

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

Peter Kastner was pleased to report that LaSalle Junior College was waiving charges for the Conservators' meeting on April 24th, at which Barry Canner, Director of the Department of Planning & Development of the City of Newton, was the principal speaker, and Lisle Baker, the Moderator. LaSalle Junior College also agreed to allow the conservators to use Winslow Hall, twice again at no charge.

The members appointed to the Committee to plan the **Annual Meeting** are Cay Morrison, Ginnie Taplin, Arlene Lynde, Lavina Tomb and Toni Wallace. The notice of the Annual Meeting will have reached you before this report. Weather permitting, the

Environmental Award will be made at Kennard Park, 6:30 P.M., to be followed by a "brown bag" supper at 7:00 P.M. at Goodwin Commons, Newton South High and the business meeting at 8:00 P.M. at the same location.

Several members of the Board attended the Barry Canner meeting. It was spirited and enlightening. A few impressions: (1) There are many interested and active constituencies concerned with **land and building use and development** in the several communities that comprise Newton. Because of this healthy and vigorous interest, a multiplicity of processes has become almost institutionalized before decisions are made regarding land and especially obsolescent municipal structure use.

At a future meeting, it is expected to have the Mayor as the main speaker.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on May 22, 1984, 6:00 P.M. Kennard Park. If it rains, we will meet at Goodwin commons, Newton South High School.

Arnold Meltzer.

May 1984

Annual Meeting
of the Newton Conservators
convened on Tuesday, May 22, at 8 P.M.
in Goodwin House, Newton South High School

Bart Hague, President, opened the business meeting and commended Helen Heyn for her spirit of public service and her integrity in "treating the (public) land as though it were her own."

Virginia Taplin, Treasurer, presented the Annual Report and, following a brief discussion of maintenance costs of our established parks, receipts from membership dues, and the change to the Mutual Bank for our account it was VOTED TO ACCEPT the **Treasurer's Annual Report** and that of the **Audit Committee**.

The **Membership Committee Report** was presented by Jean Thompson, outlining the categories of membership and dues as follows: single (\$5), family (\$10), sustaining (\$25) and patron (\$100). Most of our memberships are singles and family, with only a few contributions to report. After a short discussion concerning our funds, dues and costs, it was concluded that in the future, the Conservators need a broader base of public support to achieve our goals and further our objectives, with a manageable membership of at least 400-500.

Arnold Meltzer being unable to attend the meeting, there was no report of the Secretary.

Bart Hague delivered the **President's Report**, stressing the important issues during his term of office and outlining some future goals of the Conservators. Among the particular

concerns were the Conservators' targets for acquisitions and maintenance, and the city's Plan for Open Spaces and the funding available. Speaking of a "regional concept" which would emulate the earlier plans of Frederick Law Olmstead, it behooves the City of Newton and the Conservators to work in cooperation with Brookline and other neighboring towns as the few remaining bordering parcels of open space become available for parks and recreation. Newton's golf courses, comprising one-half of the remaining open space in the city, must be protected through conservation designation, since the Assessors already seek to raise the tax rate of these large holdings. Here, the President recommended that Lisle Baker, Steven Small and Rodney Barker should be a committee to watch the whole question of **golf course taxation and development**, since it is now a "hot" issue at City Hall.

Following his expressed concern as to the general involvement of the membership in matters such as the Newsletter, press coverage of our events and programs, and our communication with hearings, etc. at City Hall, Bart Hague then stressed that our **main focus must be Newton's Land Use Policy**. We must formulate a plan for the future and focus our abilities to influence the experts, the City Planning staff. The President then urged all present to attend the June 12 meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Newton Conservators at the First Baptist Church in Newton Centre at 8 P.M. Titled "Land Use Policy and Planning in Newton," this program may enlighten the citizens of Newton as to the immediate need for a consistent course in the wise development of our city.

Bart Hague introduced Deborah Howard, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Mass., who spoke to us on "Land Use Policy - New Directions for the 80's." Included in future state plans are those to restore commons and malls in cities and towns across the state with the assist of a competitive program from state funds, a program for Coastal Zone Management, and an Urban Self-Help Program to assist cities and towns with populations over 35,000 to acquire park land. Debby informed us of plans now being undertaken to clean up Boston Harbor, to be implemented by a newly created authority specially charged with powers and responsibilities formerly under the MDC. To be titled the Water and Sewer Authority, extensive work will be undertaken to upgrade the water supply system across the state.

The **Nominating Committee Report** was read and with the addition from the floor of the name of George Mansfield, the report was accepted as read.

Sally Barnett, Past President of the Conservators, presented Bart Hague a gift from the Board, a volume on the life and work of Frederick Law Olmstead.

The gavel being passed to our new President, AnnaMaria Abernathy, she then announced that the June board meeting will be held on the 19th of June at the Abernathy's home in Auburndale. The July meeting is scheduled for July 17 at the Impact 2000 house. With thanks expressed to all those who have contributed time and effort to Conservators' programs, AnnaMaria adjourned the meeting at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Lavina C. Tomb