

Board of Directors, 1987 - 1988

Officers

President: Nick Yannoni
Vice-President: Jean Husher
Secretary: Carol Morrison
Treasurer: Roger Feinstein
Past-President: AnnaMaria Abernathy

Directors:

Rodney Barker	Bart Hague
Jan Heespelink	Mary Herring Fiora
Deborah Howard	Lawrence Kaplan
Peter Kastner	William Leitch
Linda Mackey	George Mansfield
Susan Stone MacDonald	Richard Primack
George Stephen	Nancy Schad
Frances Seasholes	Ethel Sheehan
Virginia Taplin (Membership Chair)	Lavina Tomb (Newsletter Editor)
Verne Vance	

June 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, June 18, 1987
at the home of Jean Husher.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bart Hague, Jan Heespelink, Fiora Houghteling, Jean Husher, Carol Morrison, Fran Seasholes, Ethel Sheehan, Susan Stone, Nicholas Yannoni, presiding.

1. **Minutes** of the Board Meeting of May 21st were APPROVED. Dates of Coalition meetings corrected: June 9 and 23.
2. Treasurer away. No report.
3. **Friends of Nahanton Park:** Cay Morrison reported another \$750 has been received. She mentioned to the Board that FNP might want to have a reception the day of the Charles River Swim - July 18 - and might need money for refreshments. Combined Jewish Philanthropies (JCP) would undoubtedly pay half of the cost.

MOTION: That the N.C. Representatives to FNP spend up to \$100 on refreshments or other costs for an FNP reception. ACTION: AFFIRMATIVE.

Cay stated that FNP had spoken only briefly about a reception. A meeting of FNP was to be held the next morning, and definite plans would be made then, which Cay could report on at the July meeting. It was possible that no money would be needed other than the expense of a flyer and mailing to inform our members.

4. **The Spring Walks report:**

May 3, Aqueduct Walk. Eighteen people enjoyed this pleasant and interesting walk.

May 10: Mothers' Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park. Manning Sears led the walk. He is a very knowledgeable birder, recognizes birds by their calls, and often can call them to him. Twenty-five people came, 45 bird species identified. Very successful.

May 16: Houghton Garden. Twenty people enjoyed this walk.

May 24: Charles River Pathway walk. This was the long weekend. Only one person accompanies the leader, Peter Kastner, on this walk.

Reports on May 31, Canoeing on the Charles River (P. Kastner) and June 7th walk through Kennard Park and Lost Pond Conservation area (Toni Wallace) not available. We hope to have reports of these activities at the next meeting.

The early walks were very successful. People seemed glad to be out of their houses and walking together. Perhaps thought should be given to scheduling the walks earlier in the season - last half of April and first half of May. There should be a sign up sheet at each walk, so each participant will receive N.C. literature.

The publicity for the walks was excellent. Ginnie Taplin deserves a great deal of credit for arranging this.

- 5 **Charles River Swim:** Co-sponsored with CRWA on Saturday, July 18 at Nahanton Park. It was suggested we have material about the Park and N.C. at the swim. Perhaps Jean Husher's tent fly, or Nick's, could be used over a table with Conservators and Park information.

It was hoped that the N.C. logo as well as the logo of CRWA would appear on the announcement flyer for the swim. The Board wanted the N.C. publicity for the event to be coordinated with that of CRWA. Susan Stone agreed to talk with Rita Barron about publicity plans. Susan will then make arrangements for the N.C. publicity decided on, Newton radio, cable TV, newspapers, etc.

6. The Board enjoyed a short slide show of the **Springfest activities** and a Spring canoeing event on the Charles. Those of us who missed Springfest were delighted to see the pictures. The large N.C. felt sign with logo was very effective.

There was a short discussion about a lighter weight stand and further display of the photo exhibit. The supporting frame seen at the Waban Trainfest, made by Mr. Husher, was spoken of as an excellent model. Jean told the board the background screen had been purchased at Pier 1.

7. **N.C. on television.** Susan Stone plans to arrange Newton Cable TV coverage of Charles River Swim. Also an interview with a N.C. Board member or President. Susan thought there is general metropolitan interest in a clean, swimmable Charles River, and that it would be a good story for the Boston Globe. Susan race-walks with Globe editor, Charlie Manshard and will see if the idea is of interest.
8. **Ordway Park.** Report by Jan Heespelink. No other foresters or gardeners are interested in doing a large clean-up, trimming, cutting and grubbing job at Ordway Park. Board members agreed Jan should ask Mr. Lupien to do the job.

Monthly maintenance: it was suggested that a few members of the Board would volunteer to do this. Nick said he would be glad to contribute some time. More on this at the July meeting.

9. **Review of the tax undercut proposition:** Nick said he hopes to make up for the Newton Coalition a chart showing the changes in the tax base and the projected expenditures of the city that could be published in the Newton Graphic.

At a meeting this past week, the Newton Coalition decided on pins and bumper stickers saying "Vote NO on 1." Some Board members thought the phrase "Keep Our Services" was good and would be effective. The Coalition needs funds and volunteer help.

N.C. Board members felt the city administration should speak out again clearly regarding misuse of the word "Surplus" which should be stated "Reserve for capital expenditures."

10. **Other Items:**

- A. **Bulloughs Pond:** Report of hearing for Bulloughs Pond consultant's report by Bill Leitch.
- B. Report by AnnaMaria on the first of four meetings of the full board of Aldermen on the **Zoning Amendments.** The Board is working diligently on the final wording of the Zoning Amendments. The concepts and wording delineating the uses and limits of the Public Use District and the Open Space/Recreation Districts was accepted at the meeting the previous evening. Rodney Barker, Chairman, Zoning Amendments Committee, did an excellent job presenting, reviewing, and summarizing the amendments and wording.

Public attendance was very poor: six people. The Board of Aldermen did NOT have copies of the amendments or their rewording available for even these few people. This seemed most unfortunate.

- C. **Village Study Meeting**: Bart Hague told Board members that in one village (Newton Upper Falls) and perhaps in others (Newton Lower Falls and Nonantum) where the Charles River was an integral part of the village center, the Charles River corridor and pathway was neither recognized nor mentioned in the options presented by Connery Associates. Board members felt this should be brought to their attention. Nick and Bart agreed to draft a short letter in the next week and send it to Connery Associates, calling attention to the importance of the Charles River corridor and the C.R. Pathway plan.
- D. **New Hampshire Weekend**: Nick said he will call Board members soon to see whether they and their families can come up for the weekend. The Lodge holds 50 people. The Kastners, Hushers, and Cay Morrison plan to go. Anna Maria plans to be there Friday evening and Saturday morning through lunch. Fran Seasholes and Bart Hague hope to take part in the activity on Saturday or Sunday. They will be in the area.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. for the convenience of several members.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison

July 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, July 9, 1987
at the home of Carol Morrison.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Mary Herring, Frances Seasholes, Peter Kastner, Carol Morrison, Nancy Schad, Susan Stone, Virginia Taplin, Lawrence Kaplan, Nicholas Yannoni, presiding.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 18, 1987, were corrected and APPROVED. It was requested that the names of all the walk/activity leaders be mentioned in the report on spring outdoor activities.

No treasurer's report.

Ordway Park: Lawrence Kaplan reported that Lupien Company will do the park cleanup work. It is hoped the work will be completed within a month. There was no further discussion of a summer maintenance program.

Charles River Swim: The MDC has issued a permit to the CRWA for a public swimming event in the Charles River at Nahanton Park on Saturday, July 18 from 11 to 1 p.m. However, an official in the Newton Dept. of Public Health has refused to issue a permit for this event. Rita Barron, Executive Director DRWA, expects to go ahead with the swim but without extensive publicity. The CRWA will also be in further contact with Newton City Administration regarding the swim.

There was a long and extensive discussion of this latest development and alternative ways to handle it. It was decided that Susan Stone should cancel Newton Cable TV coverage of the event and cancel plans for news coverage in the Boston Globe prior to the event.

Peter Kastner agreed to write to members of the Board of Aldermen if necessary, mentioning the permit from the MDC and the difficulty with one official in the Public Health Dept. He will include the press release by the CRWA. Sending this letter will depend on the outcome of the further negotiations between the CRWA and Newton City Administration. The press release mentioned will be filed with these minutes.

Surprise was expressed that a flyer announcing the swim had not gone out to Conservator members, since we are joint sponsors of this event. AnnaMaria agreed to get out a postcard announcement by Monday at the latest. Although expensive, this will be sent first class, so N.C. members will receive it before the swim.

N.C. had recently been requested by CRWA to provide a boat and 1 or 2 lifeguards for the event. Since Nick expects to be away for 2 weeks, Susan Stone and AnnaMaria agreed to work on this. A reasonable payment for lifeguard services agreed upon was \$35.00.

Representatives of **Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.**, Carol Morrison and Peter Kastner announced the exhibit of the parkland model, the landscape designers' plans for the development of the park and the architect's drawing of the building near the river. This exhibit would be on display at the Jewish Community Center (the adjoining property), on the day of the swim.

Peter and Cay were disappointed to learn that almost all Board members expected to be out of town Saturday, July 18th -- especially because of the fundraising effort underway. Lawrence Kaplan, Susan Stone, and Cay Morrison planned to attend the swim. Cay Morrison said she would take a folding table, information about the Conservators and about Nahanton Park. She would also take a supply of Conservator maps showing parkland in Newton.

Plans for the August Board Meeting: Conservator member Brian Yates spoke to AnnaMaria about the need to discuss the new **Open Space Zone** in Newton, in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding compensation by a city or town for land-taking or the taking of land ownership rights from a landowner. Brian would like to be present at the meeting.

The meeting will be held August 20th at AnnaMaria's home. It was agreed she should invite Zygmunt Plater (B.C. Environmental Law Professor and past N.C. Board Member) to speak on this subject at the August meeting and invite Brian to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Sec'y

August 1997

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, August 20, 1987
at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy
45 Islington Road, Auburndale, MA 02166.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein (taking minutes), Fiora Houghteling, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, William Leitch, Richard Primack, Fran Seasholes, Lavina Tomb, and Nicholas Yannoni, presiding.

Treasurer's Report was submitted. The question of the size of the **membership** of the Conservators was raised. The Treasurer was asked to report the number of members who have paid dues this year. Directors expressed their intention to recruit new members using the Map with the membership application attached.

Ordway Park cleanup is scheduled for September 8th, 1987.

Charles River Swim was informally discussed. Some concern was voiced concerning possible pollution due to the existence on the river bank in West Roxbury of a City of Boston dump. Nevertheless, the comments about the swim were largely favorable, and a good time was had by the many Newton people in attendance.

Nahanton Park was discussed from several angles. Nick Yannoni referred to an article in the Waltham News-Tribune. Nick reported that the Friends of Nahanton Park have raised over \$16,000 so far. Pledges from banks and other businesses are being secured by Gene Cronin and other Conservators. The goal is to raise \$50,000 for the City's matching funds obligation and \$20,000 for a maintenance endowment.

The Friends of Nahanton Park have scheduled an Open House at the Park on Saturday, September 26th. The event will be jointly sponsored by the Friends and the Metropolitan District Commission, and officials from Needham will be invited to attend. A brochure to assist the fund-raising efforts of the Friends is being prepared by the Beacon Construction Co. It will show the park as it is, and outline the work that has to be done at the site.

The Security Mills Newtonville housing development proposal was raised. The proposal includes seventy apartments in three story structures and twenty-seven townhouses. This constitutes a significant increase in density for this neighborhood, and if approved would set a precedent for excessive density in all future housing developments in the city. The Board was critical of the failure of the City's Department of Planning report, which failed to challenge the arguments of the developers concerning the excessive density, but it was noted that the report did mention the lack of open space and natural areas in the proposal.

In contrast to the developer's proposed 97 units, it was noted that a committee from the League of Women Voters has suggested a limit of 65 units, while a group of Newtonville neighbors has suggested a 70 unit limit. The fact that the site is presently in industrial use, and could be developed for office use, was seen as a point of pressure on the neighborhood to accept over-dense residential development.

AnnaMaria Abernathy and Peter Kastner will write to the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen on behalf of the Conservators. The letter will stress the importance of limiting the "bonus" units given to developers who build housing units on sites presently in commercial use or zoned for commercial use. It will stress the need for low density development and the provision of green open space on the site, so as not to spoil the existing scale of the neighborhood. It will support the 65 unit compromise suggested by the LWV.

The **Coalition for Newton** is working to defeat the tax override, which will be on the November city election ballot. The Board has committed the Conservators to support the Coalition, but decided not to supply the coalition (or any other group) with the Conservators' mailing list. Nick suggested that an article in the fall Newsletter lend support to the Coalition. We can argue from our unique vantage point as conservationists that the override is a danger to enable the city government to keep Newton as a desirable place to live and work, only if the city is free to raise the necessary taxes that are sure to be needed in the coming decade, when probably cutbacks in federal and state aid, salary raises, and contingencies for increased cost of trash removal and other services are almost certain to occur.

Board members (and others) are encouraged to support the Coalition by attending its fundraising brunch, Sunday morning, September 27th, at the home of Manning Sears on Prince Street. Ticket information can be secured from Sue Fleigel, 108 Arnold Road, Newton Centre. 969-8270. Attendance at the Democratic City Committee's forum on the override, on Wednesday, September 9th, was also encouraged.

In response from a request from John Stewart, candidate for the Board of Aldermen, concerning publishing candidates' views on Conservator issues in the Newsletter, the Board DECLINED to initiate this form of voter education for the present time.

In response from a notice from Phyllis Phillips of the Newton Community School Bulletin, the Board AUTHORIZED the spending of up to \$200.00 for a notice listing Conservator Walks.

Proposed schedule of Fall Walks for 1987. All walks to be held on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 PM

- Sept 13 Newton Cemetery: Fiora Houghteling & Lawrence Kaplan
- 20 Canoe trip (reservations requested). Peter Kastner
- 27 Kennard: Toni Wallace?
- Oct 4 Conservator Booth at Harvest Fair: Schad, Seasholes, Yannoni, Feinstein, Kastner, et al.
- 11 Charles River Pathway: Feinstein & Bliss?
- 18 Aqueduct: Lavina Tomb
- 25 Webster Conservation Area: Richard Primack

FINIS

PS: Cay: Please recheck the date for the Harvest Fair. It has gone back and forth between the 4th and the 11th several times, and I'm up in the air on it.

Roger

Many thanks to Roger Feinstein for recording and typing up these minutes. The Harvest Fair is October 4th.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary

September 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting, September 17, 1987
Held at the home of Virginia Taplin

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Jan Heesepelink, Peter Kastner, Vart Hague, Mary Herring, Carol Morrison, Jean Husher, Virginia Taplin, Frances Seasholes, Nancy Schad, Nicholas Yannoni, presiding.

1. The **minutes** of the August Board meeting were APPROVED.
2. **Brookline citizen conservation group:** Nick told of a telephone conversation with Michael Berger of Brookline. Mr. Berger is working with a small group of Brookline citizens who wish to organize a citizens' conservation group similar to the Newton

Conservators. The board asked Nick to invite Mr. Berger to its next meeting and to send him a copy of the N.C. By-laws.

3. **Coalition for Newton**: Things are moving along well, but volunteers are still needed for the Phone Bank and for work on the master voting list. It is important to work up a list of phone numbers so telephone calls can be made to urge people to get out and vote -- or to arrange transportation for them if it is needed.

Call Sue Fliegel 960-8270 or Mary Adelstein 527-5503 (63 Gammon Road, Waban) if you can donate some time. 10,000 envelopes need to be addressed and leafleting needs to be done.

4. **Ordway Park**: Jan Heesepelink reported the major cleanup job on the park has been done, at a cost of \$1200. The park is much improved; it looks very nice. Members agreed that at some future time they would like to have a bench in the park so people can enjoy sitting and relaxing there.
5. **Land Use Issues**: There was discussion regarding developer Alan Green's plan for the use of the Newton section of the **former St. Sebastian School land**. Boston has refused him a permit, because his proposal has too high a density of dwelling units. Mr. Green now wants to proceed with his development on the Newton side of the property. After discussion, the Board asked AnnaMaria Abernathy to write a letter to the Aldermanic Land Use Committee. It was agreed the Conservators wished to endorse the negative report of the Planning Department: i.e., it should be an integrated development with the City of Boston. Should a plan proceed, nevertheless, it was emphasized that there should be a much lower density of dwelling units and more natural screening provided. Most important, the plan should not set as precedent for dense development, thus increasing the pressure for development.

One of the Newton Proposals for Governor Dukakis' plan for **housing for first-time homeowners: Auburndale lot next to the Mass Pike**. Brian McLane (Rand Terrace, Auburndale), a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee presented to the Board the three architectural plans for use of this property. The Board agreed that this is an important part of Commonwealth Avenue greenspace at the approach to the bridge over the Mass Pike. After some discussion, it was agreed that AnnaMaria Abernathy and Peter Kastner should write a letter to Sondra Shick, Chairperson of the Aldermanic Land Re-Use Committee, conveying these thoughts:

Due to the extreme shortage of affordable housing, Newton Conservators recommend use of 6,000 sq. ft. for a single family house, and the rest of the land be maintained as open space. It is important that the screening of large evergreen trees on the boundary of the property remain.

Edmand's Park: Helen Heyn, Conservation Commission Secretary, recently reminded AnnaMaria that Edmand's Park was given to the city, but it has never been properly assigned to the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department, to be

preserved and maintained as a park. The Board agreed that Newton Conservators should urge the Aldermen to take the necessary action and insure that proper assignment and designation is accomplished.

6. **Newsletter**: Next Newsletter should be out by October 24th. Virginia Taplin, Membership Chairperson, will stamp unpaid members' copies "TIME TO RENEW." Please send articles to Nick, Fran Seasholes, and when she returns, Vinny Tomb. Peter Kastner will write an article giving an update on Nahanton Park.
7. **Octoberfest**: Plans for the Conservator booth at the October 4th Fair were reviewed.
8. **Speaker for the Annual Meeting**: One suggestion is Paul Levy, the new director of the Mass. Water Resources Authority. Everyone agreed he would be an excellent choice.

Mr. Levy's wife, Barbara, has expressed some interest in the N.C. Board. Peter Kastner will call her and ask her to join us.

9. **Bullough's Pond Assoc.**: This group needs \$2,000 to pay for the expert opinion on the Pond.

MOTION: The Newton Conservators donate \$100 to the Bullough's Pond Fund.

ACTION: AFFIRMATIVE.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary

October 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, October 15, 1987,
at the home of Carol Morrison

Present: Jean Husher, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Rodney Barker, Nancy Schad, Bart Hague, Carol Morrison, William Leitch, Frances Seasholes, Mary Herring, Virginia Taplin, Brian Yates (N.C. member and incoming alderman), Michael Berger (guest, Brookline Green Space Alliance).

1. The **minutes** of the September Board meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer not present.
3. Rodney Barker, Alderperson, was present to talk to us about Newton's revised zoning code. For the first time there is an **Open Space-Recreational Zone** in Newton. No

property has been designated yet for this zone. Rodney suggested that the Conservators analyze recreational land and open spaces in the city, then recommend to the Board of Aldermen those areas that should be placed in this zone. Rodney recommended that we submit this listing in stages: first, a petition for the most obvious parcels, i.e., the golf courses, later the other types, e.g. Ordway Park, Newton Cemetery. It was agreed that the owners, executive directors, or board members of the golf course be contacted before acting. Property on which there are radio or TV towers was also mentioned.

Jean Husher told interested Board members to form a committee to analyze the open space and present their recommendation to the Aldermen (Rodney would docket the request that they be placed in the Open Space District.)

In a related matter, it was agreed that **Edmands Park** needs to be formally assigned to the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. According to Helen Heyn, Conservation Commission Secretary, this area has not been so assigned since it became a park.

The Conservators have received a note of thanks from the **Bulloughs Pond Association** for our donation.

AnnaMaria reported that the work of the **Newton Coalition** is moving along well. There will be a debate October 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 440 on California Street. Many volunteers are still needed for phoning and helping with a huge mailing.

There was a short discussion regarding the next **annual meeting**. Paul Levy has just addressed the CRWA annual meeting on the subject of the Boston Harbor cleanup. He had been mentioned as possible speaker for our organization.

Jean Husher reminded Board members that a **Nominating Committee** needs to be formed. Volunteers are needed.

Several Board members asked Jean Husher to lead a **walk** next spring in the old Centre Street Cemetery.

Guest Michael Berger described the many activities of the new group, **Brookline Greenspace Alliance**. He shared copies of their excellent newsletter and survey. These will be filed with this report. This Brookline group would like to consider some joint activities with the Conservators on open space that is contiguous in Brookline and Newton, e.g., the Lost Pond area.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison

Addendum: Helen Heyn information regarding **Edmands Park**:

The Edmands family intended the land to be park and playground - the deed sets out parts for each use. And the deed does have a reverter clause; nonetheless, an Aldermanic Board Order assigning the park to a city agency would be a safeguard against changes of use. Suggested wording:

We petition the Board to assign to the Parks and Recreation Department jurisdiction for the management and control of Edmands Park, to be permanently preserved and maintained as a park.

A.M. notes regarding Nov. 12, 1987 agenda:

Item 5 - The Board of Aldermen approved the residential development at Security Mills for 94 units.

Item 9 - Other open space items: St. Sebastian's: Land Use Committee is holding a second working session simultaneously with our board meeting to try to work out a solution (not very hopeful). Depending on the Land Use Committee. Outcome, A. Abernathy may be asking board members to phone aldermen in support of our position before the full board takes it up.

Commonwealth Ave./MASSHOP site: The Re-use Committee did not discuss the item last week because the Planning Dept. report had not been submitted.

Item 12 (3): Abernathy can host one of the meetings, e.g., Feb.

November, 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, November 12, 1987
at the home of Nicholas Yannoni.

Present: Jean Husher, Bart Hague, William Leitch, Richard Primack, Susan Stone, Virginia Taplin, Lavina Tomb, Nicholas Yannoni, presiding.

Susan stone agreed to lead an effort with support from other Conservators, to have **Newton Cable TV** film a program about Conservator activities and also open space in Newton. She suggested a verbal discussion of open space issues as background to video shots of park walks, including pictures of abuse of open space by dumping and vandalism. Vinny thought that encroachment on open space by development should be stressed.

Bill Leitch reported on the progress of the **Bullough's Pond Association**: The Board of Aldermen endorsed and Mayor Mann has signed a proposal filed by the Parks and

Recreation Department requesting a grant of \$750,000 from the Commonwealth's Clean Lakes Program. If accepted the state will furnish 70% of the funds and the city 30%, to dredge Bullough's Pond and to limit silt entry. Bill mentioned that 60% of Newton's rainwater drainage (brooks, underground streams) goes through Bullough's Pond.

The BPA thanked the Conservators for their contribution.

Bart Hague talked about the **new Open Space/Recreation Zone** in Newton. It was suggested by Rodney Barker that the Conservators play a leading role in designating particular parcels that should be placed in this zone by the Aldermen. Bart Hague said he needed a committee to help with this task. One thought is to prepare a brochure to explain the concept to owners of large parcels of land, e.g., golf courses.

On December 1st Bruce Elias will speak about **Hazardous Waste Collection** at Newton City Hall. Ginny Taplin said she would attend this meeting and bring back information to the rest of the Board.

Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc. reported that this group has transferred \$16,000 to the City. This was done so the contract of the City with the contractor, Frost and Higgins, could be signed and the work begun at Nahanton Park.

Board members gave suggestions for a speaker for N.C. **annual meeting**: Paul Levy, Mark Primack. A new suggestion for "Environmentalist of the Year": Diane Dumanovski.

The next meeting will be December 17 at the home of Jean Husher.

With these minutes are included an addendum - a supplement to the October minutes, written by Anna Maria Abernathy [These are copied herein as correction to the October minutes and as an addendum appended after them.]

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison

December, 1987

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, December 17, 1987
at the home of Jean Husher.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Jean Husher, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Carol Morrison, Frances Seasholes, Nick Yannoni, presiding

1. The **Secretary's minutes** of the November meeting were ACCEPTED.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer requested instructions regarding the remaining money in the Quint Fund account. Jean Husher reminded the Treasurer, Roger Feinstein, that he would shortly receive another \$500.00 check from the Quint Fund trustee, John Roche. Roger was reminded that in the fall or winter of 1987-88, the Board voted to donate all the money in that account to Friends of Nahanton Park Inc. (FNP), where it will be used by the Newton Parks and Recreation Department in developing or maintaining the Park.
3. **Friends of Nahanton Park Status Report.** Peter Kastner, Treasurer, FNP, told us that \$27,000.00 has been pledged to the group, including \$5,000.00 by Damon, Inc., and \$1,000.00 by the First National Bank of Boston. \$21,000.00 has been received.

Other FNP items of interest:

Since FNP has been functioning without an active president, Peter has agreed to assume that office. The City has signed a contract for the park work (including the building and canoe dock) to be done by Frost and Higgins, contractors.

501 C3 papers for FNP to be a non-profit, tax-exempt group were filed with the Secretary of State in November.

Almost 1/3 of the members of NC gave to the Nahanton Park Fund. That is a large percentage.

Several Board members, including Nick, want to see the list of donors so they can personally thank those whom they solicited for donations.

4. **Open space summary plans for new zoning category.** The NC Open Space Zone committee, made up of Bart Hague, Jean Husher, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Joan Lerner, Fiora Houghteling and Carol Morrison met in early December. Each member will review the major statements and reports on Newton open space made by the Conservators in the last 12 years. Copies of these are being distributed by Bart Hague. Another meeting in late January is planned. At that time the committee hopes to look at the criteria it will use to choose open space areas in the city to recommend to the Board of Aldermen for inclusion in the new Open Space Zone. They also plan to consider priorities and strategies to be used to facilitate progress in placing large areas of remaining open space in this open space zone.

Rodney Barker, Lisle Baker and Deb Howard will be invited to this meeting, to contribute their ideas. If the date is agreeable, the meeting will be held at Joan Lerner's house, 35 Amherst Road, Waban, at 10 AM, Saturday, January 23rd, 1988.

AnnaMaria reported that Conservation Commission Secretary, Helen Heyn, suggested that the managers or Boards of the golf courses be contacted to see if these governing boards wish to petition the Board of Aldermen themselves, asking that their land be placed in the new Open Space Zone. Helen Heyn also stated that the

conservation easement of the Webster estate will soon expire. This should be renewed.

Bob Merriman, Newton Planning Department, has been working on updating the city map.

Another area of open space: The **Andover-Newton College campus**. Fran Seasholes will read over the correspondence to date between NC and Professor Howe and President Peck. Fran lives near the college. She plans to get in touch with Dr. Peck again, to see if he can facilitate progress with Professor Howe's idea of placing a conservation easement on a large area of the campus. The college is bombarded with requests from developers who would like to purchase part or all of the campus.

5. **NC spring activities**: Nick has talked to Ms. Philips regarding the placement in the Newton Community Schools Bulletin of the schedule of **NC spring walks**. AnnaMaria stated that this group usually insists that each activity be listed as a course, and a charge made. However the coverage is wonderful because the Bulletin goes to the 20,000 households in Newton. She suggested the walks be listed as a course, titled: "GET TO KNOW YOUR PARKS". A one dollar charge could be made at the time of the walk. The money collected could be turned over to Community Schools. Board members agreed this would be a good way to handle it.

Nick announced that new Board member Richard Primack had agreed to organize and publicize the walks. Besides being enjoyable, he hoped they could provide learning experiences. He was planning to have a geologist and a botanist on each walk. This is a new development, and Board members were pleased and excited with the news.

Another Open Space note: Peter Kastner attended the recent dedication ceremony of **Brook Farm**, organized by the MDC. While there, he had a chance to talk with Julia O'Brien, a senior executive of MDC. He discussed with her the possibility of an **MDC trail system along all of the Charles River**. While Conservators are very interested in the 13 mile shoreline of the Charles in Newton, the MDC could do the whole route, complete with maps and trail markers. Peter expressed his hope that the MDC would set up a rental bike center at the State Transportation Department Building in Boston -- or -- even better, at the Museum of Science. All of this would make enjoyment of the whole river system much more accessible to a greater number of people -- particularly people who enjoy outdoor activities but live in more densely populated areas. Board members were interested in these ideas.

Another publicity item: Susan Stone has investigated possibilities of a half hour documentary on **Newton Cable TV** of NC activities. (She still maintains that Newton Conservators is the best kept secret in Newton.) Susan was told this would cost about \$10,000. If so, we would have to prepare a proposal for funds for the project and look for funding from one or more foundations. Susan indicated she would be glad to act as consultant on the project but would be unable to assume a more active role.

A good deal of discussion followed. Some Board members expressed their view that public service was an essential part of the cable TV franchise in the city. Others felt that a very limited number of people watch local cable TV; therefore, it would not be worth the effort. Lawrence Kaplan suggested the W. Newton Theatre might be interested in a 10 minute film. It became evident [that] with the Open Space Zone Committee work needing to be done, that no one had the time to pursue this project. Further discussion was planned for the next meeting.

6. **Land Use Issues:** Report from AnnaMaria Abernathy. The Aldermanic Reuse Committee voted against the use by Governor Dukakis's affordable housing project of the small irregular lot on Commonwealth Avenue, next to the Mass. Pike Bridge in Auburndale. Unfortunately, its location and small size make it inappropriate for a building site. Aware of the tremendous need for **affordable housing**, Board members were sorry to learn that other, more desirable sites have not been found in Newton.

The Aldermanic Land Use Committee reduced the number of condominiums proposed by developer Alan Green for the **St. Sebastian School property** by 9 units. It appeared that Mr. Green had told members of the Board of Aldermen that if his proposal was not approved promptly, he would simply sell the property. Aldermen McGrath, Jefferson, Bryson and Bullwinkle tried to recommit the proposal for further discussion at a later meeting, then tried to amend the proposal, but failed. Green's proposal was approved without change. Ten percent of the units must be available for low income housing.

AnnaMaria remarked about her understanding of an important point in Chapter 774 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, regarding development for low income housing: If 25% of the development is for low income housing, the zoning ordinances of the city or town do not apply - but not if this will create unreasonable density or be detrimental to the community.

7. **Household hazardous waste disposal meeting,** City Hall, December 1 - Report by Virginia Taplin. The meeting was called by Bruce Elias of the Public Works Department and attended by Helen Heyn and several members of the LW Voters. The state has granted Newton \$11,000.00, to be matched by the city, for collection and disposal of household hazardous waste. Public education and publicity is not included in the grant, but the city will supply some money for this.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is planned for this spring; possible dates are Saturday, April 30, May 4, or 14, depending on when an appropriate waste company can be hired. To publicize the event, a citywide mailing has been considered. This would cost \$6,000.00 (to 27,000 households), unless it could be "piggy-backed" with another mailing -- perhaps tax or water bills. Many volunteers will be needed for the event, and it is hoped many Conservators will volunteer.

Other communities have attracted more people than could be accommodated, creating bad feeling. Newton hopes to avoid this.

8. **Annual Meeting**. The Board agreed to have the annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, May 19, 1988, with a speaker to follow.

Suggestions offered for the after dinner speaker:

William Klein, Nantucket Planning Director, who successfully publicized the need for a local Land Bank Fund, now functioning with money raised by a small tax on real estate transfers.

Alan Lupo of the Boston Globe.

Elizabeth Bell, Trustees of Reservations of Mass., involved with acquisitions.

Kelly McClintock, Exec. Director ELM (Environmental Lobby, Mass.)

Vin Sulley, a Commissioner of MDC

Nick was asked to write a letter of welcome to the new Planning Dept. Director, Eugene Bober.

Since it was already late, other items on the agenda were deferred to the January, 1988 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary

January 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, January 21, 1988
at the home of Frances Seasholes.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Jean Husher, Roger Feinstein, Lawrence Kaplan, Bart Hague, Carol Morrison, Mary Herring, Richard Primack, Fiora Houghteling, Frances Seasholes, Nick Yannoni, presiding.

1. The **Secretary's minutes** of the December meeting were ACCEPTED, with corrections.
2. **The Treasurer's report** was discussed. There was discussion about the **Arboretum Fund**. It was tentatively agreed to offer the money to the Conservation Commission

for use in the Norumbega Conservation Area Arboretum. Fiora Houghteling offered to first talk with Helen Heyn about the timing and conveyance of the gift, and Virginia Taplin offered to look into the Conservator archives for background.

The **budget** was also discussed, and it was agreed that a portion of income should be reserved to maintain capital, hence the budget needs to be reviewed.

The **Environmental Science Program**, which did not take place last summer, will have its usual program this year. The Conservators in recent years have offered two scholarships. Cay Morrison offered to telephone Dick Staley to learn what the financial needs are.

3. **Spring Walks**. Richard Primack reported the plans: each of the five walks in May will have a natural history theme, and they will be listed in the Community Schools program that goes to each household in Newton. Attendance will cost one dollar, but no registration is required. See schedule following these minutes.
4. **Open Space District**: The committee working on applying this new zoning category met in December and will meet again on Saturday morning, January 23, at the home of Joan Lerner. Gene Bober, the new Planning Director of Newton, will probably be there.
5. **Friends of Nahanton Park**: Peter Kastner is to be installed as President of the group at its annual meeting on January 22. Jean Husher presented a \$500 check from the Quint Fund to Roger Feinstein, Treasurer. This is money that was pledged last spring for the development of Nahanton Park.
6. **Ordway Park**: Lawrence Kaplan announced that Jan Heespelink has agreed to design the bench. There was discussion of which arborists to use for tree work, and Nick offered some names.
7. **Hazardous Waste**: Virginia Taplin reported that the City committee had met again, but gotten no further than in December. No "requests for proposals" having yet been formulated.
8. **Land Use**: AnnaMaria reported that the Board of Aldermen has reorganized its committees, with a new Zoning and Planning Committee (Rodney Barker, chair) for zoning policy and the new zoning map, as well as for the administrative site plan approvals, while the Land Use Committee (Susan Basham, chair) continues to deal with zone changes and special permits. The latter is formulating new operating procedures to which it promises to adhere.
9. **Committee work**: Nick planned to form a **nominating committee** and a committee to organize the **annual meeting** before the next board meeting. Discussion of the environmentalist of the year award and a speaker for after dinner were carried over to the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary

Spring Sunday Natural History Walks:

- May 1, 8-10 a.m. Birds. Leader to be announced. Meet at parking lot, Nahanton Park.
May 8, 2-4 p.m. Insects. Andrea Kozol, leader. Meet at Kennard Conservation Area, Dudley Rd.
May 14, 2-4 p.m. Mammals. Ken Zeicker, leader. Webster Conservation Area, end of Warren Street.
May 22, 2-4 p.m. Trees and Shrubs. Richard Primack, leader. Newton Cemetery, Walnut St. between Beacon & Homer.
May 29, 2-4 p.m. Aquatic Plants. Judy Dudley, leader. Hammond Pond, Shopping Center parking lot near the woods. V

February 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, February 18, 1988
at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Jean Husher, Peter Kastner, William Leitch, George Mansfield, Carol Morrison, Virginia Taplin, Nick Yannoni, presiding.

1. The **Secretary's minutes** of the January meeting were ACCEPTED, with the following correction: "Friends of Nahanton Park: Jean Husher presented a \$500 check from the Quint Fund to Roger Feinstein, Treasurer. This is money that was pledged last spring for the development of Nahanton Park."
2. There was no Treasurer's Report.
3. The **Open Space Zone Committee**: A Saturday breakfast meeting was held at Joan Lerner's at which the new Newton Director of Planning, Eugene Bober, was present. Committee members were impressed with his cooperative spirit and with his interest in working with various groups in the city. The committee decided to first recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the obvious large parcels, i.e., the 3 privately owned golf courses and Newton Cemetery, be placed in the Open Space Zone. The Committee is inviting the boards of these organizations to a meeting on March 3 at the home of AnnaMaria Abernathy. Alderman Rodney Barker will explain the Open Space Zone and its application to these lands.
4. **Spring Activities Program**: Nick reported that the activities will be announced in the spring Community Schools Bulletin. There will be a charge of \$1.50 per walk or

\$5.00 for the series. Manning Sears has agreed to lead the bird walk on Sunday, May 1, at Nahanton Park.

5. **Friends of Nahanton Park**: Peter Kastner is the new President of FNP, Inc. He is planning biweekly meetings for the FNP fundraising committee. This committee plans to solicit large donations from 15 or 20 corporations. They hope the major part of the fund drive will be completed in three months.

Teresa Walsh, a neighborhood representative, would like to have a FNP meeting to bring park neighbors up to date on the progress of the park.

6. **Land Use**: AnnaMaria reported that plans for 75 housing units at the **former Warren Jr. High School** had fallen through after the Mayor added a day care facility and senior drop-in center to the plan. Parking space limitations would have involved removing more Recreation Dept. organized sports from the playing fields. Newton Conservators are concerned that the playing fields not ultimately be sacrificed for parking. She also described briefly former Alderman Terry Morris's Westminster, Ltd. development proposal on Court Street and a proposal on Walker St. She thought there was no issue for NC in either one.

Later, George Mansfield talked of James Lee's plans for the almost **6-acre estate at 600 Beacon Street** just east of Glen Avenue. AnnaMaria doubted that NC needed to get involved but felt it would be advisable to make a site visit.

The League of Women Voters Land Use Committee invites the Conservators to co-sponsor a **forum** on Wednesday evening, April 27. The subject will be the **Village Study Report and the new City Zoning ordinances**. All present were very much in favor of this.

7. **Ordway Park**: Jan Heespelink hopes to present a plan shortly for one or two benches at Ordway Park.
- 8a. **Annual Meeting arrangements**. Nick reported. Information given by Fiora Houghteling and Mary Herring about holding the meeting at Andover Newton Theological School. A MOTION to reserve the room for May 11 by sending \$200 was unanimously APPROVED.
- b. **Environmentalist of the Year Award**: The Chestnut Hill Garden Club was suggested, and Jean Husher undertook to investigate its merits and possibly other garden clubs. The issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- c. **Annual Meeting Speaker**: Board members liked the idea of inviting William Geary, MDC Commissioner. They hoped he could tell us about the MDC plan for the complete Charles River Pathway and parks. Peter Kastner agreed to make the arrangements with Commissioner Geary.

d. **Nominating Committee:** Appointed by the board were Peter Kastner, chairperson, Fran Seasholes, Bill Leitch, Lawrence Kaplan.

9. **Other Items:**

a. Jean Husher requested that the Conservators change their \$100 award for the **Newton Tricentennial Photo Contest** from "student" to "amateur." The presentation of awards will be at the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. Nick plans to be there and hopes many Conservator members and Board members will also be there.

b. No **Newsletter** has come out this fall or winter. All Board members are distressed. Roger Feinstein said membership has fallen off precipitously, so the treasury is low.

Board members instructed Nick to publish a President's letter, with any additional articles available. Nick agreed to do this in the immediate future, and will ask Fran Seasholes, Ginny Taplin and others for help in getting it in the mail.

c. **Bullough's Pond:** Bill Leitch reported bad news. The proposal for dredging and restoration of Bullough's Pond is not on DEQE's list of projects to be funded. It was not even considered because the City's consultant did not get its report to DEQE in time for consideration. Very disappointing news. The City will resubmit the proposal in FY 1989.

"Once Around Bullough's Pond" by Douglas Worth (Wm. L. Banham, pub.) is available at N.E. Mobile Bookfair.

d. **Household Hazardous Waste:** There will be a planning meeting on Feb. 23, 10 a.m., at City Hall room 209 for the Newton Collection Day. Ginny Taplin agreed to attend.

e. Board Meeting locations: April 21 at Ginny Taplin's house. June 16 at Bill Leitch's.

f. Nick hopes Board members can enjoy an early fall weekend at his ski house in N. Conway on Sept. 10-11.

g. Conservators' contribution to the Environmental Science Program will be considered at the next meeting, after a review of the budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary

March 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, March 17, 1988
at the home of Jean Husher.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Bart Hague, Jan Heespelink, Mary Herring, William Leitch, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Carol Morrison, Richard Primack, Frances Seasholes, Virginia Taplin, Jean Husher, presiding.

1. **The Secretary's minutes** of the February meeting were ACCEPTED, with the following addition: Newton Conservators will not be co-sponsoring the Charles River Swim this summer, since the Charles River Watershed Association plans to hold the swim in Waltham.
2. There was no Treasurer's Report.

Environmental Science Program: It was unanimously VOTED to send a check for \$500 to Richard Staley, advisor to the Environmental Science Program, for two scholarships for this summer's program.

3. The **Open Space Zone:**
 - a.) A meeting was held with representatives of the three golf clubs on March 3 at AnnaMaria's house. Rodney Barker explained the open space zone and the procedures that will be followed for placing the golf courses and the privately owned cemeteries into the zone. Later, a letter was sent to Aldermanic president Verne Vance requesting that Braeburn, Charles River, Woodland golf courses and the two privately owned cemeteries be placed into the zone.
 - b.) Richard Primack suggested the next step of the open space zone committee would be to look into other fairly large institutional parcels in the City (e.g., Mt. Ida, Lasell, Boston College, Mt. Alvernia, Fessenden, Temple Miskan Tefila (in the middle of Hammond Woods) and the Andover Newton Theological Institute). Perhaps some of these are concerned with long-term custodial care of their open space, as Andover-Newton has indicated for its land. This can be explored.
4. **600 Beacon Street.** Presentation of the opposition to the Beacon Heights, Ltd. Development of James Lee was by Elise Segal and Rhoda Davidson of Gray Cliff Road (across Beacon Street from the site). They discussed visual impact, drainage, and access to the rare geological site behind the proposed cluster development. Seven board members had visited the site and had a presentation by Mr. Lee. After they left, and after studying the proposed topographic site plans, the board members VOTED NOT TO SUPPORT the proposal for the following reasons:

- a.) the idea outcome would be for the 5.8 acres adjoining the Webster Conservation area to remain open;
- b.) the project is an inappropriate use of the cluster zoning: the acreage of the whole lot has been used as a basis for the plan, not the acreage of the buildable land. The zone was intended to preserve buildable land from development, not to intensify development on a small buildable area;
- c.) Lawrence Kaplan pointed out that the hydrological studies needed to ascertain the drainage pattern and whether the tall screen of evergreens will survive the proposed construction have not been done;
- d.) Jan Heespelink expressed doubt that the by-right proposal (which would destroy the geological sites) shown by the developer is economically feasible.

AnnaMaria Abernathy and Peter Kastner were asked to write a letter to the Land Use Committee and subsequently to the Board of Aldermen, expressing the above position.

- 5. **Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.** Peter Kastner reported that Damon Medical Lab has pledged \$1000/yr. for five years. Peter has spoken to the Oak Hill Park group describing the park plan and asking members for donations. Bill Shaevel, a member of this group, indicated his wish to become active again in FNP.

Peter also reported that Phase I of the park development should be completed in July, and that gardeners using city plots were angry at being denied access to the park by the contractor. It now appears that the gardeners will be able to have access to the plots by April 15. The gardeners and the bikers, as well as others, are distressed that Phase I does not include necessary improvements for their areas, because so much money was designated for the park building at the Nahanton Street entrance.

- 6. Land Use Issues: Other news was deferred to the next meeting for lack of time.
- 7. **Ordway Park bench:** Jan Heespelink said he will present a design for one or two benches for the park at the next meeting.
- 8. **Annual Meeting arrangements** and **Nominating Committee:**
 - a.) Arrangements for the meeting have been completed by Mary Herring and Fiora Houghteling. The board agreed that they prefer to use china plates rather than paper, despite the \$1.00 additional cost.
 - b.) **Environmentalist of the Year Award:** The Board voted to give the award to Anita Capeless for her continued contribution to land use issues in the city over many years - notably in the League of Women Voters, on the Economic Development Commission, and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

- c.) **Annual Meeting Speaker:** Peter Kastner was reminded that he was to contact MDC commissioner William Geary.
- d.) **Nominating Committee:** Board members offered a few names to assist the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, secretary

April 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
held on Thursday, April 21, 1988,
at the home of Nick Yannoni,
31 Lafayette St., Newton Lower Falls.

Present: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Mary Herring, Fiora Houghteling, Jean Husher, Richard Primack, Frances Seasholes, Nancy Schad, Elise Sigal (member guest), Lavina Tomb, Nick Yannoni (presiding)

1. The **Secretary's minutes** of the March meeting were ACCEPTED.
2. Treasurer Roger Feinstein distributed a **treasurer's report** indicating a balance of \$46,794.94 in bank accounts as of April 14, 1988, income in 1988 of \$2901.25, and transfer into checking account of \$2386.40. Expenses thus far this year are \$975.36.

Over 140 people have contributed \$1700 in dues and donations, largely in response to the President's letter, which is good. The **membership** is considered to be about 350.

A subcommittee of Roger, Lawrence Kaplan and AnnaMaria was appointed to check on the maturity of the Treasury Note, to redeem and reinvest it in a savings account until making a longer-term decision, and to examine the three separate savings accounts.

3. **Newton Open Space Zone:** Jean Husher reported that she and Peter Kastner attended the Aldermanic public hearing on this new zoning category and feel that the newspaper reports misrepresented the degree to which golf course reps protested perceived limitations on their rights to develop the land. Only Woodland Golf Course protested. They receive tax breaks for maintaining the open space, and the zone reflects their tax status. The next working session is scheduled for May 25, and Conservators should attend. Jean was authorized to write a clarifying letter to the Graphic, News Tribune, and Tab.

A possible list of additional recommendations of sites to be placed in the Open Space District -- to be selected from the list of privately owned open space in the City's Open Space Plan -- was discussed, but it was decided not to pursue this at present. It was observed that conservation restrictions are preferable on sites one really hopes to protect. A further recommendation was made for our subcommittee to check on the legislation David Cohen and other state legislators are working on to regulate the development rights of educational institutions. Lisle Baker and Rodney Barker are also resources in this home-rule related issue.

4. **Nahanton Park** work is progressing and Nick has been photographing the stages of construction of the canoe docking and recreation building. More help is needed in contacting area business for donations.
5. **Ordway Park bench** design is still awaited from Jan Heespelink.
6. **Bullough's Pond restoration** application to DEQE was not completed on time by the consultant hired by the City, and Fiora reported for the Leitchs that it probably is not appropriate. An application will be made to the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Management, since the needed dredging can be considered flood control. It was APPROVED that Nick prepare and send a supporting letter. A decision on the project is expected by the end of June.
7. **600 Beacon Street Development:** The aldermanic land use committee working session will be held next week on the cluster application, which has had changes in building height, road steepness, and removal of one new unit, the total remaining 7 by conversion of the existing carriage house into a separate unit.
8. **New designation as park land** is recommended by the Conservation Commission for the triangle of wooded hillside across from City Hall, bounded by Beaumont, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets. The C.C. would like it designated as an area for public use and permanently put under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department.
9. **Edmands Park:** There is concern that this wild area which was a gift to the city in 1913 for park and recreational use has not been properly assigned to a city body. This valuable asset needs protection, maintenance, and a sign recognizing the Edmands family which gave it. Fiora was asked to create a letter, which Nick will send to the Board of Aldermen, and ask that the City Clerk refer it to the proper committee.
10. **Other spots of concern:** The area around **Langley Road and Route 9** is undergoing extensive changes, which we should be aware of. Several acres of **Webster Woods** suffered a superficial burning of dried leaves, etc., yesterday.

The grounds of **St. Sebastian School**, slated for a large development, are being used by area gardeners for dumping. There are further delays because of a suit against the Aldermen for not following due process in granting the special permit.

11. **Conservators' Annual Meeting**: Notices were received by members today (as was the first Newsletter of the year) for the May 11 dinner, Environmentalist of the Year Award, and address by MDC Commissioner Wm. Geary, which will be held on the Andover Newton campus. Details seem to be in hand by Fiora and Mary and Nick (Nick will send a press release to the papers) and an audit committee of Vinny Tomb, Lawrence Kaplan and Jan Heespelink was appointed to review the treasurer's books before the meeting.
12. **MDC Land Acquisition for Charles River Corridor**: Nick and AnnaMaria attended the MDC hearing in Waltham on how to spend the \$50 million available in the 1987 Open Space Bond for MDC land acquisition, and spoke in general about the desirability of increasing public access to the river bank, reserving a formal recommendation to be made by the Conservator Board. Jean was asked to contact Alderman Brian Yates to inquire about the one acre site on Eliot Street abutting the river, where a house has been removed and condos to be built. AnnaMaria will investigate other possibilities and their recommendations will be brought to the next meeting.

At the MDC hearing, acquisition of the **600 Beacon Street site** was recommended by Lisle Baker and by a letter from Vern Vance, as well as by Elise Sigel and Rhoda Davidson of the Neighborhood committee.
13. **Newton Hazardous Waste Collection**, a first, is scheduled for Saturday May 7 at Rumford Ave.
14. **Sunday Natural History Walks**: Notice of the 5 walks which will focus on birds, insects, mammals, trees and shrubs and aquatic plants has been sent to members and through the Community Schools fliers. They present a good opportunity for recruitment of new Conservator members, so leaders will give out maps and membership envelopes.
15. **Land Use Forum**: On Wednesday, May 4, at 7:45 p.m., we are co-sponsoring (with the Newton League of Women Voters) a forum with Rodney Barker, Eugene Bober and Mitchell Fischman. It will focus on the new zoning ordinance and the Village Study. AnnaMaria had posters for distribution and noted the availability at the City Clerk's Office of the full Village Study reports.
16. **Springfest**: Fiora will coordinate a Conservator display at City Hall on Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day weekend).
17. June Board meeting will be the second Thursday, June 9th [See agenda for details].

Fran Seasholes for the Secretary.

Annual Meeting - May 1988

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of the Newton Conservators, Inc.
held at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 11, 1988
at Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School

The Conservators enjoyed a pleasant chicken buffet dinner. After dinner, Anita Capeless was presented the Environmentalist of the Year award. Nick Yannoni reminded us of Anita's constant work over many years to ensure sensible land use in Newton. She has continually urged the city to make long range plans, to think through new development, not to allow too great density or misuse of the land.

A short business meeting followed. The President, Nick Yannoni reviewed the major activities of the past year. There were brief reports from the Treasurer, Roger Feinstein, and the Audit Committee.

Peter Kastner, an NC representative to, and now President of, Friends of Nahanton Park, told NC members of the progress of the contractors at the Park. It is expected that the contractor will finish phase I of the park development. Peter thanked Conservators for their generous financial support of the park.

A bulletin board of photos, showing stages of the work being done at the park in April, had been prepared by Carol Morrison and was on display at the meeting.

Since there were no additional nominations from NC members, it was moved and voted that the Newton Conservator Secretary cast one vote for the proposed slate of Officers and Directors for 1988-89, which was done.

Newton Conservator 1988-89 Officers and Directors;

President: Jean Husher
Vice President: Richard Primack
Treasurer: Lawrence Kaplan
Secretary: Frances Seasholes
Past President: Nicholas Yannoni

Directors:

AnnaMaria Abernathy
Rodney Barker
Bonnie Carter
Alan Cody

Roger Feinstein
Bart Hague
Mary Herring
Fiora Houghteling
Deborah Howard
Peter Kastner
William Leitch
George Mansfield
Carol Morrison
Ruth Nussbaum
Nancy Schad
William Shaevel
Ethel Sheehan
Virginia Taplin
Lavina Tomb
Vern Vance

An interesting audio-visual history of the Metropolitan District Commission followed the business meeting. William Geary, MDC Director, continued with a fascinating talk, telling us of the recent exciting activities of the MCD, its renewed sensitivity to environmental values, new tree planting and flower planting projects. The MDC is trying to reach out to citizens in the communities asking for their help in caring for MDC parks. Commissioner Geary was particularly pleased to tell us of the educational projects MDC has begun, focusing on public school children and older people, in order to help as many citizens as possible to develop environmental sensitivity, appreciation and enjoyment of our green spaced.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morrison, Secretary