

Board of Directors, 1988 - 1989

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Vice-President: Richard Primack
Secretary: Frances Seasholes
Treasurer: Lawrence Kaplan
Past-President: Nick Yannoni

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Mary Herring	Fiora Houghteling
Deborah Howard	Peter Kastner
William Leitch	George Mansfield
Carol Morrison	Ruth Nussbaum *
Nancy Schad	William Shaevel *
Ethel Sheehen	Virginia Taplin
Lavina Tomb	Verne Vance

* new board members

June, 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc .
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors
Fiora Houghteling's home
June 9, 1988

Present: Jean Husher (presiding), Anna Maria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Roger Feinstein, Mary Herring, Fiora Houghteling, Peter Kastner, Carol Morrison, Ruth Nussbaum, Fran Seasholes.

Minutes of the May 27 meeting were APPROVED with the correction in #8 substituting Lakeview for Beaumont Street.

Treasurer's report: In L. Kaplan's absence AnnaMaria noted that she or Jean would take the \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit, which has not matured, from the bank box and put it temporarily in savings. The investment committee will re-invest it.

Annual Meeting: This May 11 meeting received positive comments in all aspects. Andover Newton's room and meal were fine, MDC Commissioner William Geary's speech well received, 92 people attended and the cost (\$15 per person) covered expenses. It was recommended that we use Andover-Newton again next year. The

Rev. John Howe, A-N forester, wrote Jean a thank you for being invited and enclosed a copy of the map of their nature trail, which is close to the Webster Conservation area.

Newton Springfest: Our standing display of a photo guessing game was well received and located near City Hall steps. Fiora coordinated it and ended up paying a young man for 2 hours because other potential volunteers were not available.

Land Use Forum: This May 4 event at First Baptist Church which we co-sponsored with the LWV was fairly well attended and useful in educating about Newton's new zoning ordinances.

Newton Hazardous Waste Collection: Conservators and others volunteered in this first day of disposing of hazardous household wastes by bringing them to the Rumford St. dump area. It was funded with state, city and business donations and will probably be annual. Leaving one's donations took one to two hours of patient waiting which hundreds of people did.

Sunday Natural History Walks: Richard Primack was not present to report but others noted that about eight people took the cemetery walk in good weather, thirteen did the Nahanton bird walk in bad weather, and the connection to the Community School program (collecting a fee) or Conservators (soliciting members) may have been ignored. It was suggested that in the fall we should offer a Charles River walk (cancelled in '87 because of rain) and an aqueduct walk.

Conservators' Newsletter: New Board members Bonnie Carter and Ruth Nussbaum agreed to coordinate about 4 newsletters this year so that our members can be kept informed about conservation matters we are focusing on. They were co-editors of the LWV publication "All About Newton" and will expect others to submit material to them.

The following suggestions were made: feature stories (like the history of some spot) are good, the President can write a summary, calendar items are expected, city issues being looked at by the Land Use and Zoning and Planning committees should be noted, requests for volunteers can be publicized, mini-biographies of officers, Board members or people involved in special projects can be written, up-dates from Nahanton Park and other special projects, Conservation Commission actions should be reported. One goal is to develop a sense of community by recognizing those people doing conservation-related things.

Golf Courses - Open Space Zone: Jean sent a letter to the entire membership on May 27 asking them to contact Aldermen in support of placing the three privately-owned golf courses in the new Open Space/Recreation District, because these three have been objecting to this move. There was considerable discussion about the meetings, which had thus far showed little sign of compromise on their desire to be able to maximize

their economic gains through possible future sale. Our position is to show some flexibility but keep as much attractive open space visible to the public as possible.

Jean, Peter, Roger and perhaps Carol will try to meet with Chr. Rodney Barker to indicate our support and concerns. The cemeteries are not objecting to inclusion in this new district. Because this controversy is unresolved we are not currently looking for other land parcels to propose.

MDC Land Acquisiton: Since they have money for expanding MDC land, suggestions are being solicited. Jean will write a letter indicating that the Conservators support the three areas identified by the Newton Conservation Commission; (1) A one acre site in Hemlock Gorge, (2) All the woods west of the Mishkan Tefila Temple parking lot, and (3) A parking lot/woods of Bloomingdale's to prevent construction on it. We will also note our priority for completing the Charles River Pathway and access where possible by the public to the Charles River. We recalled that the CRWA did a 1985 study of public and private ownership along the banks and that the railroad trestle near Riverside perhaps should be under MDC control, as well as the tunnel under the turnpike at the Newton riverbank.

600 Beacon Street: It was noted with some dismay that the Aldermen had voted down a cluster development and the owner, Mr. Lee, now intends to do a by-right subdivision there while still protecting the cliffs. Unlike the Seigel-Davidson neighborhood group we do not consider this a priority for the MDC to purchase.

Conservation Commission Meetings: In as much as there is not a person able to be a regular liaison to this group we will rotate attending their monthly meetings, with an assignment made at each of our Board meetings. Additional help is also needed to keep track of key Aldermanic Committee sessions.

Edmands Park: Fiora and Nick sent a letter suggesting that it be put under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department but have not yet received a reply.

Ordway Park bench: It is our expectation that Jan Heespeink, although now off the Board, will follow through on this project. Jean will see.

Nahanton Park: Peter reported that General Cinema is giving a gift of \$2000, which will be given through us because their 501 C 3 application (non-profit status) has not been finalized. Their annual meeting is next week and Peter will continue as President. They are identifying potential contributors, appreciate a good TAB article, expect the initial construction phase to be completed during the summer and will have a celebration-opening in early fall. When publicity for this is ready we can send it and information about the Conservators to the Newton members of the Appalachian Mt. Club because Carol now has these names.

Mass. Audubon connections: We agreed to offer two \$25 fees for Newton teachers to attend a Project Wild conference. Jean will contact Nancy Schad and/or Dr. Strand to

make this offer. We will be a co-sponsor of their November 12, 1988 conference and need to find when those flyers will be available so that they can be included with our early fall Newsletter. Tapes of the conference in Nov. '87 are available.

MWA is sponsoring a meeting on June 23 to brainstorm on water conservation (with added incentives now that rates are going up) and Carol will represent us there.

MDC program for Hemlock Gorge: They have attractive brochures to publicize this focus.

Environmental Science Program: Jean will contact Dick Staley since we have not heard what the status of this high school program is this year.

July meeting of Conservator's Board: We agreed to meet on Thursday, July 7 at the Jackson Homestead, and since there is a special display of enlarged photos about Newton's development as a suburb we will meet early (7:00) to enjoy this with better lighting.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

Thursday nights are not the best night for our monthly meetings for some Board members. Please come to the July meeting prepared to set our dates...or get word through someone who will be there to speak on your behalf. What suits your schedule best?

July, 1988

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
at Jackson Homestead
July 7, 1988

Present: Anna Maria Abernathy, Alan Cody, Roger Feinstein, Fiora Houghteling, Jean Husher (presiding), Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Fran Seasholes, Virginia Taplin, Nick Yannoni.

Minutes of June 9, 1988: Corrections on names: The Rev. John Howe, Richard Staley.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence Kaplan noted that with about \$28,000 and \$6000 in bank accounts the sub-committee will explore re-investment for higher interest. We VOTED to empower the subcommittee to act/invest up to \$10,000 before the August meeting is an appropriate opportunity should arise.

Golf Course Petition on the new Open Space/Recreation Zone: The three have submitted perimeter sub-division plans. Jean, Peter and Roger met with Lisle Baker and agreed not to have the conservators put pressure on. At the interim aldermanic meeting after hearing more viewpoints and comparisons with other communities it was agreed to withdraw the plans and resubmit plans with a new public hearing at the end of September. There was some pressure, seen by us as inappropriate, to have the Conservators act as negotiators on the proposals. Jean will try to reconvene our open space committee this summer with the idea of providing more public education on the issue, including an article in our fall newsletter.

Water Resources Authority: Cay Morrison attended a City Hall brainstorming meeting of 15-18 local citizen groups representatives on educating the public on water conservation with the increase in demand. Notes are available, and she'll report more later.

Nahanton Park: Peter Kastner reported that with the Conservator's 510 C3 classification number he will be able to receive additional contributions to the Park fund. He will ask Bill Shaevel's help in proceeding with their own slow approval process. The city's work on the park is 75% completed and looks fine with access off Winchester St., a parking area to reach the field and attractive road. The Jewish Community Center will become more active, contributing new Board members. Appreciation was expressed for Peter's hard work.

Environmental Science Program: Jean provided 24 Conservators maps to the students in this year's program, which is under way. The Appalachian Mountain Club also contributed scholarship money.

Hazardous Waste Collection: Ginny Taplin attended a follow-up session and learned that about 450 cars stuck out the long wait to get rid of their household toxic material, and the city's cost (with some business donations) was about \$50,000. State money was available only for this first year. Despite the complexity of dealing with this material everyone is in favor of continuing and recognizes that the public needs to be educated on buying appropriately and not discarding toxic material with the regular trash collection. Ginny and Jean will write a letter to the Mayor praising this work.

Fall Walks: It was agreed to publicize our fall walks through the Newton Community Schools catalog again this year and to better clarify the payment arrangement. All will be on Sunday afternoons. With the possibility of some revisions, the following schedule was proposed: (Dates...Sept. 25, October 2, 9, 16 & 23).

1. Hemlock Gorge - led by MDC person - September 25
2. Aqueduct - led by Nick Yannoni - October 2
3. Charles River Pathway, Auburndale Park to Hemlock Gorge - led by Peter Kastner (?)
4. Nahanton Park - tie-in with Dedication ceremony.
5. Cold Springs - Peter to ask Wm. Pressley (its architect) of his wife (knowledgeable on plants)

MDC Land Acquisitions: Jean wrote a letter supporting the Conservation Commission recommendations and adding our own. MDC will categorize and prioritize and offer public meetings later.

Conservation Commission: Anna Marie and Alan will attend the July 14 meeting which will include further work on 600 Beacon Street and a Parker Street site on wetlands with affordable units proposed.

Observers needed: Jean and Anna Maria requested that other Board members volunteer to monitor some of the Aldermanic Committee meetings. There does not appear to be regularized dates for the Land Use and Planning committees.

Newsletter: The following assignments were made for articles to be forwarded to Bonnie and Ruth for the next newsletter:

- Ginny - recycling and hazardous waste
- Jean - golf course zoning debate
- Jean - fall walks
- Jean, Fran, Richard, Lawrence - brief biographies
- Jean - ask MDC to write on their issues, including the fish way
- AnnaMaria - current land use issues
- Lawrence - prepare something for a later issue on the restoration of wetlands (an issue in the south of trying to create new ones), the greenhouse effect, utilities, plastic
- Bill Leitch - Bullough's Pond update
- Peter - Nahanton Park opening
- Ginny - membership renewal, finding new members

Board Meeting dates: There was consensus that our meetings will be the FIRST TUESDAY of the month. The next meeting is thus Tuesday, August 2 at Ginny Taplin's house with the meeting starting at 8:00 sharp.

Land Trust Exchange: We agreed to renew our membership with this group, primarily because we are able to purchase liability insurance for the Board through them.

Environmental Lobby of Massachusetts: Previously we supported this group, lapsed and agreed to renew at this time.

Land Use Forum on affordable housing: Lawrence will check to see whether we paid First Baptist Church for using their building in spring. Anna Maria raised the question whether we will co-sponsor with the Newton League of Women Voters their fall forum focused on educating the community about the need for affordable housing. We discussed and VOTED to co-sponsor, with the provision that the locations of housing in relation to environmental concerns should be addressed. A.M. and Peter are also on the LWV committee.

Nick Yannoni invites Board members and their families to enjoy a relaxed weekend, September 17-18, in a large cooperative house in North Conway, N.H. Please leave a message on his telephone... 332-6683...to discuss further.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

August 1988

Board of Directors Meeting

August 2, 1988

at Virginia Taplin's

Present: Jean Husher (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mary Herring, Alan Cody, Ginny Taplin, Fiora Houteling, Fran Seasholes and Ruth Nussbaum

Minutes of July 7 were APPROVED with the correction is spelling of Bill Leitch's name.

Treasurer's report: In Lawrence's absence AnnaMaria reported that the Treasury Note investment they prepared missed the deadline, so the money was returned.

600 Beacon Street: New ideas from the Conservation Commission prompted developer Lee to withdraw. The Planning Bd. Sitting as Bd. Of Survey set a September 15 date for further consideration. A three-year hold on part of the land may be imposed while ways to preserve the geologically significant portions are explored.

Woodmere Commons (off Parker Street): The Conservation Commission says the vegetative wetland aspects of the land indicate that the state Environmental Protection Agency should do an inventory/study. The proposal is to use Chapter 774 to provide low-income housing. The Board of Survey didn't hear it. It has been postponed for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Should we look into it?

Conservation Commission: The next meeting is Thursday, September 15 and Alan Cody will attend as our representative.

Edmands Park: Fiora and Jean wrote but have not yet received a response about the city's giving this park adequate legal protection and supervision.

Annual Meeting minutes will be on file but not sent to Board members.

MDC walk: Jean will inquire whether they will do a Hemlock Gorge walk for us on Sunday, September 25.

Publicity: We noted with pleasure the good publicity given to our award of Environmentalist of the Year Award to Anita Capeless (Tab).

Nahanton Park: We noted with concern/interest an article today/indicating that Mario Boccabello, with Mayor Mann's support, has proposed that this new city owned facility be developed as a "new Norembega" with facilities for regional outdoor concerts. Remembering the many restrictions placed on the amount of asphalt, for example, which were necessary for acquiring state and federal funds, we assume such dreaming is unrealistic. Peter and Cay will be sent copies of the article with the suggestion that inquiries to Mario, Mayor Mann, Linda Plaut and/or Rodney Barker might be in order.

Newsletter: Ruth asked for guidance and it was suggested that the fall issue be out by September 18, in time to alert people to the first walk on the 25th. All articles are due by the next meeting 9-6.

Conservators Dues: Ginny is about to send out 1988 dues reminder and noted that clarification is needed on what period of time is covered by the current \$5.00 dues. The consensus was that dues cover a calendar year. There was a proposal that we double the dues to \$10 as of January 1, 1989 and use the increased revenue to do a major membership recruitment effort. The by-laws will be reviewed on this matter which will be brought to a vote at the next meeting.

Golf Course Zoning: AnnaMaria suggested that we should be prepared to do some solid education of the Newton community, including the Aldermen, when the golf course owners come out with their proposal on acceptance of being in the new Open Space-Recreation Zone. We will have to work in September to talk up the big gift they already get from the city, the fact that their rights aren't being changed much (in that re-zoning hearings would still be required), and that we need to look at the whole city's needs. We must be prepared to respond to their arguments.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

September, 1988

Board of Directors Meeting
September 6, 1988
at Fran Seasholes'.

Present: Jean Husher, presiding, Bill Leitch, Lawrence Kaplan, Finny Taplin, Fran Seasholes, AnnaMaria Avernathy, Bonnie Carter, Richard Primack, Peter Kastner, Fiora Houghteling, Nick Yannoni, Ruth Nussbaum, Bill Shaevel.

Correction of **minutes** of August 2, 1988. Substitute sentence for last [one] under 600 Beacon St. The minutes were APPROVED as corrected.

Minutes of the May annual meeting were APPROVED.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence distributed a current printed report indicating a September 1988 balance of \$45,243.59 and 1988 disbursements to date of \$14,793.91. Our bid to invest \$10,000 in a three year Treasury Note was accepted. Lawrence was given an OK to redesign the disbursement categories in his bookkeeping.

There was a VOTE to have Jean write a letter of apology and Lawrence prepare a check for \$50 to the First Baptist Church in Newton, for 1985 and 1987 use of the church for Land Use Forums. We last paid in 1986 and regret this oversight.

Annual dues: They by-laws indicate that a vote to increase the dues must be done at the annual meeting rather than by the Board so this will be brought up next spring.

Rita Barron reception: We VOTED to pay \$30 for a ticket for Nick Yannoni to attend a Sept. 23 function honoring the Charles River Watershed director, Rita Barron. AnnaMaria will also be attending and representing the Conservators.

Harvest Fair: We agreed to have our display at this city function on October 2, and Jean will send in the \$20 registration fee. Nick and Bill will get the heavy display from Ginny's garage and set it up, Richard will monitor it in the middle of the 12-4 hours and Peter will take the final portion.

Mass. Water Resources meeting: Jean and Ruth will attend. Sept. 8, 4-6.

Aldermen's Board of Survey: Anna Maria will attend and hear more about 600 Beacon Street on Sept. 15.

Tufts' Filene Center workshop: Bill Shaevel will attend this December session on New England strategy for growth management.

Continental Cablevision: They are soliciting suggestions for programming, and we suggest they attend and film an aqueduct walk.

Woodmere Commons (Parker St. development): A group of neighbors has organized to resist overdevelopment and has provided us with significant background material. The plan was withdrawn without prejudice and a new one is expected.

Conservators Newsletter: This is the deadline for material. Bonnie, Ruth and AnnaMaria are preparing it and will have a mailing session of Wednesday, Sept. 14 at Ruth's.

Fall Walks: Jean prepared an attractive flyer indicating our four guided walks on successive Sundays at 2:00 beginning September 25. More of these will be made and distributed with the Newsletter, in libraries and to the school administration for distribution. The Tab, Graphic and cable TV will also be alerted. Through Community School registration the cost is \$5 for the set. At the beginning of the

individual walks the leader will request \$1 from unregistered people to be given to the Community School program.

Golf Course zoning: Rodney Barker's Zoning and Planning Committee will next meet on September 28 to discuss any proposals. The golf course representatives had asked for this extra time to survey their lands and come up with alternatives to the new open space-recreation zone guidelines. The Conservators will stand firm in support of the new parking and other restrictions. It's the prerogative of the Bd. of Aldermen to make any compromises.

As a first step Jean will contact the lawyers and request copies of what they plan to propose. We are interested in publicizing the issue broadly and urge letters to the newspaper editors and requests that the newspapers attend a "press conference" or other interview with our best informed people. We plan to make a strong testimony at the September 28 meeting and indicate that breaking up the golf courses would be difficult. Jean, Peter, Bill (as advisor) and AnnaMaria will meet at Jean's on Sept 13, 8:30 to plan a presentation.

Friends of Nahanton Park: Peter noted that the \$2000 donation from General Cinema had been received through the Conservators, their own 501 C tax exempt status not being completed yet. The city gave the contractor more time to finish, so the opening will be postponed until spring. Members will be meeting soon and approving new officers. Fundraising will continue over the winter. Although the work on the 55 acres looked alarming during the process, it now is essentially done (road system in, seeding and the building but the canoe dock is not yet in) and looks nice. \$450,000 produced a lot of work. The group praised Peter for the excellent work he has done with the Friends, and he in turn noted Cay Morrison's part. Mr. Boccabella's development ideas have been "put to rest".

600 Beacon Street: AnnaMaria updated the group on how Mr. Lee's cluster plan for 7 houses has now become four large lots, three new lots, which he intends to sell to anyone to make their own house, and one lot with the existing house and carriage house. The city is losing his gift of land or a restriction on the geologically sensitive area, and he is suing in relation to the MDC's letter to the Aldermen. Now with a standard by-right development the road will be wider, and the control of special permits is removed. The Conservation Commission could hold up some development for three years in relation to wetlands and the rock formation, and the MDC could buy it for conservation land. We will watch with interest how this is resolved.

Happenings at Nahanton Park: In the past the Conservators have planned recreational outings there, once a season. At the next meeting we will discuss whether to do so again.

Bullough's Pond Association: Bill distributed a notice of the September 19 annual meeting of this group, which is working toward the dredging of the pond etc. Recommendations from a consultant's report include creating a diversionary channel

close to the pond to keep leaching salts from it, and adding catch basins near City Hall to catch silt from Hammond Brook. The group has been working for five years, and Conservators praise the Leitchs for their steady work, which included getting experts now to support their proposals.

Stone Institute proposal for a nursing facility behind their Newton Upper Falls institution. Bill has been involved and notes that the Historic District had approved the plans on a 4-3 vote, preserving the large lawn intact. Two and a half acres of what the public now sees will remain open space.

Lasell Junior College: Peter noted that they have a new President, dwindling enrollment (they're leasing dorm space) and it might be good to make contact with him on the long range desirability of maintaining open space on their campus.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

October, 1988

Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 1988
(at Jean Husher's).

Present: Jean Husher, presiding, Lawrence Kaplan, Ruth Nussbaum, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Roger Feinstein, Carol Morrison, Fran Seasholes, Virginia Taplin, Bill Leitch, Nick Yannoni, Mary Herring, Bonnie Carter.

Minutes of the 9-6-88 meeting: Two corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence distributed copies of his report indicating that a second \$10,000 Treasury note has been applied for, that the accounts and investments as of 10-4-88 were totaled at \$48,858.17, and the 1988 disbursements to date total \$24,986.79 (including the two 10K notes). There has been a significant increase in dues and donations recently.

Dept. of Interior list of publications is available to anyone interested.

Harvest Fair: This recent city event was very well attended. Our display had an excellent location, \$49 in sale of books, maps and memberships were realized, and the exhibit was praised for its interest. Jean noted two problems to be addressed before participating in the spring event: the need for more volunteers to take short shifts manning the display and someone to handle small repairs to the photo and label aspect. The wooded frame is fine. It was suggested that an additional panel or two be made with golf course information.

Mass. Water Resources Meeting: Ruth attended and reported on this City Hall meeting which was designed to foster cooperation among local groups and did so to some extent. It was reported that the Mayor will be sending two all-households mailings on water conservation, one focused on indoors and the other on outdoors. Talks are being given in schools, but someone will be raising with the Supt. of Schools the integration of conservation into the curriculum. There is a display in the Chestnut Hill Mall and a banner at the Sheraton Tara Hotel.

Barbara Sydney of the Newton League of Women Voters is seeking the support of other groups for a forum on water conservation, with Paul Levy as a speaker and a video of "This Old House" on Monday, November 21. MWRA will pay the expenses. It was our consensus that we should co-sponsor this event, getting a mailing to our members.

Conservators' Fall Walks: At the first walk, Hemlock Gorge, about 25 people attended, including some from other towns. Rob McArthur did a good job of leading and Jean sent in the \$ contributions to the Community School office. Nick left the Harvest Fair last Sunday to meet about 15 people for an aqueduct walk, which included distribution of the park map and aqueduct system map. The third walk will be in Cold Spring and the fourth in Nahanton Park. The Graphic and Tab and WNTN and News Tribune have helped publicize the walks.

Golf Courses - Open Space Zone: Jean, AnnaMaria and Peter spoke and other Conservators attended the September 28 second public hearing before the Zoning and Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen about putting Newton's three golf courses in the new zone category. Jean had good visuals on how land and open space are used as she presented the Conservators' position that all of the property should be included in this new zone. We think telephoning some members and having our newsletter available at City Hall helped increase the audience.

Braeburn Country Club kept their June proposal that the area of the 18 hole course be put in the new zone and that the area of the nine hole course and parking lot be kept in a residential zone. Charles River Country Club proposed a perimeter of 200 feet of their land along roadways be in the new zone and an internal area be retained for possible residential use (like the Gables). Woodland Country Club proposed using the trolley tracks as a separation point for residential potential and open space. The Aldermen charged several people to get more information and make changes before the working session of this committee on Wednesday, October 12. The Conservators will have a presence there also, although we think our testimony is finished.

We agreed to telephone/contact individually the eight alderpersons on the committee to urge them to put the entire holdings of the golf courses in the new zone and not divide them.

Affordable Housing Forum: We agreed to be one of the co-sponsors of a Wednesday, November 16 (7:45 at 1st Baptist Church) forum: Affordable Housing, Is It Possible

in Newton? The NLWV is taking the lead and designing the format with Moderator Langley Keyes of MIT, with other co-sponsors being the Chamber of Commerce, NCDF, the Newton Housing Coalition. There will be a description of three possible programs and the panelists will be Bob Engler, Rodney Barker, Peter Gaglardi; Langley Keyes, moderator. We will send flyers to our members (along with the Water Conservation Forum notice) on November 7.

600 Beacon Street: This project is "out of our hands" but will be coming up again before the Board of Survey. The Newton Centre Improvement Committee is asking now for an emergency environmental impact restriction based on the idea that blasting would endanger the rock formation etc.

Revisions of Commonwealth Avenue: A public hearing is scheduled for October 6 by the Public Works Dept. on widening Commonwealth Avenue to create breakdown lanes, taking down 100 trees and reducing the green. The proposal comes, apparently, because federal money is available and would save the city repaving costs and improve traffic flow. We felt that it sounds unnecessary and would change the concept of having interesting vistas, which the 1890's designers intended. Bullough's Pond people intend to be present at the hearing, as well as Jean Husher and AnnaMaria Abernathy.

Winter Happening: We agreed to revive an event to promote Nahanton Park by scheduling a recreation outing on Sunday, February 12.

Conferences etc.: Announcements of various opportunities were made, and it was agreed to pay the \$15 registration fee for a Mass. Land Trust conference on October 15 in Ashland. Charles River Watershed Assoc. is looking for volunteer bed and breakfast hosts as a fundraiser when a national rowing meet is held here on October 23.

Next Conservators Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 7:45 at Nick Yannoni's.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

November, 1988

Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 1988
Nick Yannoni's home.

Present: Richard Primack, presiding, Nick Yannoni, Bonnie Carter, Ginny Taplin, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bill Leitch, Rodney Barker, George Mansfield, Fran Seasholes, Bruce Elias (guest).

Minutes of October 5: These were ACCEPTED as distributed.

Golf Courses: Rodney Barker, who is chair of the Aldermanic committee seeking to implement the new Open Space/Recreation Zone, reported on the committee's work with the three Newton golf course lawyers. For practical and legal reasons they unanimously support the concept of letting the golf courses retain about one-third of their property in the current Residence I or II category (being taxed at 25% of its assessed value) and put the other two-thirds in the new zone. The golf courses have withdrawn their site development plans but feel the need to have that potential for their financial security. The Braeburn suggestions on division seem reasonable, but Charles River and Woodland need working on for further compromises before they next work with the Planning Department. It is hoped that that step will be complete before the next meeting of Rodney's Committee (Monday, November 14), when they hope to make a decision. When it goes to the full Board it will need 18 votes, which probably will be possible with this compromise of the original hope of having their entire areas in the new zone. The current state law would enable a golf course to tie up the process for eight years by filing development plans. There is a proposal to change this law.

The Conservators docketed this item through Rodney and we discussed the pros and cons of supporting this compromise. There was a VOTE of 6 in support and 1 opposed. We need to inform other Board members of this, since some who had been active on this were not present, and President Jean Husher and Bonnie Carter are asked to attend the November 14 committee meeting for the Conservators.

Commonwealth Avenue - Urban Systems Project: Bruce Elias of Newton's Public Works Department was present to explain, with diagrams, the proposed changes in four segments of Commonwealth Avenue which would channel traffic more safely. George Mansfield was also present and he is chair of the Aldermanic Public Facilities Committee, which is involved. The project design, using state money, is considered 25% completed at this point, and public hearings have been held by the Public Works Department, which has solicited money from the Urban Systems Project.

Questions focused on the necessity of adding a second breakdown land, necessitating the removal of 110 trees, and altering the current grass for a combination of grass and concrete. There is general dismay at this project, which is using a great deal of government money (\$2.5 million in federal funds would be brought in) to address what is generally not perceived to be a problem and would result in a whittling away of an attractive, planned linear park. The process of decision-making is vague but the Aldermen, who have not yet scheduled a public hearing, would be involved later.

There was a unanimous VOTE to oppose this enormous project on the basis that it does not serve the public interest or enhance the city environment, that it reduced open space and interferes with the original, attractive design of Commonwealth Avenue. We asked that AnnaMaria and Jean write a letter to the newspapers and aldermen explaining our opposition.

Affordable Housing Forum: During the meeting flyers to our membership were prepared for mailing to this November 16th forum, which we are co-sponsoring.

Water Conservation Meeting: The Conservators are also co-sponsors for this November 21 community meeting and we will mail a flyer when it is available.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of Lawrence's treasury statement of November 1, 1988 were distributed.

600 Beacon Street: AnnaMaria noted that the developer of this site, Mr. Lee, has sent us a copy of the documentation of his position on the use of the disputed land, which included the unique ledge/cliff. It is unknown whether the neighborhood group that so actively objected to his plans will contest the ruling that he can create four house lots there, one of which would be the stone house and carriage house.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

December, 1988

Minutes of the meeting of Dec. 6, 1988
held at the home of Jean Husher
1686 Beacon Street, Waban.

Present: Jean Husher, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Roger Feinstein, Bart Hague, Mary Herring, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Ruth Nussbaum, Richard Primack.

Minutes of the Nov. 1 meeting were APPROVED with one correction.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence Kaplan proposed a new set of reporting categories for budget and expenditures. He also suggested that our dues are too low, and that with a minimum membership of \$10 we would be able to support other environmental groups. He and the President will work on preparing the new budget.

Open Space District for Golf Courses: Jean Husher and AnnaMaria Abernathy summarized the background and reported on the aldermanic Zoning and Planning committee (ZAP) meetings of Nov. 14 and 30, which attempted to reach a compromise putting between 60% & 70% of each golf course into the new zone. Several banks had confirmed that providing collateral to borrow funds would be difficult for the golf courses if their entire land were in the open space zone. A straw vote passed easily to approve the **Braeburn** proposal to put its 18 hole course into the new zone and to retain the 9 hole course and the parking lot in the current zone. Braeburn's proposal did not have to go before the entire club membership. Braeburn Atty. Medaglia suggested that this plan be adopted even if the other two golf courses did not enter the new zone. The

Charles River Country Club board had voted down a proposal to place approximately two-thirds of their land into the new zone; the full membership was to meet on Dec. 14, and representatives from the ZAP were invited to explain their position. **Woodland** proposed a compromise that placed approximately 50% of the course into each zone, but the aldermen by straw vote chose an alternative (#4 in a Planning Dept. memo examined on Nov. 30) with a 61/39 split. Woodland Atty. Buonastolli predicted that the club's membership would reject this plan.

Jean H. proposed that the Conservators encourage Rodney Barker to put before the Board of Aldermen the Braeburn plan. Ruth N. so MOVED, Mary H. SECONDED; upon discussion, this motion was unanimously APPROVED.

Commonwealth Ave. Urban Systems Project: Jean read

- 1) the letter she had written to Mayor Mann reporting the conservators' concern and opposition to the current plan, and
- 2) the Mayor's letter to Public Works commissioner Jim Hickey expressing *his* concern and decision to appoint a citizen committee to review the project, and
- 3) Jim Hickey's letter to Jean, announcing the committee and suggesting Bill Leitch as Conservators' representative, and
- 4) Alan Cody's letter to Jean regretting his inability to attend recent meetings and seconding our opposition to the Comm. Ave. project.

The Board asked Jean to be the Conservators' representative, suggesting that Bill Leitch be named as a neighborhood representative. The request that Comm. Ave. be named a scenic road was repeated. Further discussion noted that Route 9 initially had grassy medians. And Peter K. noted that the Village Study recommends that Commonwealth Avenue be restored.

It was agreed that the report of Comm. Ave. for the next Newsletter incorporate the full text of Jean Husher's letter to the Mayor.

Forums on Affordable Housing and Water Conservation: Both forums were well attended. The Affordable Housing one was especially useful. It underlined the fact that negligible appropriate undeveloped land remains in the city, and that with the disappearance of federal and state support, the city must contribute significantly to make projects possible.

Parker Street (Woodmere Commons): AnnaMaria described the proposal to build 20 units (6 would be HOP units) under Ch 774 (anti-snob zoning) on an 85,743 sq. ft. lot, the rear quarter of which is wetland. The Zoning Board of Appeals hearing on Nov. 29 heard only proponents and will continue on Jan. 10. After discussion, it was VOTED that if necessary, after the Conservation Commission hearing on Dec. 9, the Conservators will write a letter supporting the Conservation Commission's opposition to the project on environmental grounds.

Stone Institute: Jean reported on the proposal for an 82-bed nursing home on 2 acres of the 5+ acre site. The neighborhood feels they have been beset by development, while the Stone Institute needs a source of income to survive. The proposal has been approved by the Historical Commission. Atty. Bill Shaevel sent a copy of the proposal to the Conservators. The members decided to consider the issue at the January meeting. Bart Hague and Roger Feinstein, who live in the area, will learn more and report.

Dudley Road (Read) Conservation Restrictions: The Conservation Commission in September recommended circulating conservation restriction guidelines to the owners of the properties involved. It was decided to ask Helen Heyn what if anything the conservators might do.

Hammond Pond Conservation Restrictions: Bart Hague noted they will expire soon (after 25 years) and that we need to ask what is happening.

Lasell Jr. College: Peter K. and neighbor Steve Leonard plan soon to discuss the college's plans with Pres. DeWitt. The 11 acre site adjoining Woodland, containing an esker and pond, is slated for sale.

Newsletter: The deadline for articles is January 15. Contents will include: Commonwealth Avenue; golf courses; Land Use issues, Housing & Water Conservation Forums.

Unitarian Social Concerns Group has contacted us inquiring about a project of limited scale they might undertake. A study of the leaf-dumping problems on the aqueduct (Cold Spring to Bread and Circus) was suggested.

Nuts & Bolts Review: held to next time.

AnnaMaria Abernathy, for the secretary

January, 1989

Minutes of the meeting of January 10, 1989
held at the home of Jean Husher
1686 Beacon St., Waban.

Present: Jean Husher, presiding; Lawrence Kaplan, Alan Cody, Ruth Nussbaum, Roger Feinstein, Peter Kastner, Bill Leitch

Minutes: of the December 6, 1988 meeting were ACCEPTED.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence Kaplan distributed the proposed budget by function. The functional budget was previously discussed and presented to highlight the costs of major activities of the Conservators rather than simply itemizing expenses by item. Functions listed were Board Expenses, Programs, Forums, Newsletter, Membership Development,

Dues & Contributions to other organizations, Awards & Environmental Science, Fees & Insurance, Ordway Park Maint. and Misc.

After a question by Ruth Nussbaum on the budget for newsletters and discussion, the budget was increased from \$650 to \$1000 to reflect actual costs for three newsletters. New budget figure of \$3690, reflecting increase for Newsletter, likely to be covered by dues with additions to assets (for excess of dues and other revenues over expenses) of \$3520. Bill Leitch asked what current asset levels are, and Lawrence responded that they are \$48,000. A brief discussion followed on what if any additional spending should be undertaken, and Peter Kastner suggested that the value of the endowment be preserved primarily for education and that the Conservators should not as a matter of principle take on services that the city should be providing. The budget as amended was APPROVED by voice vote.

Stone Institute: Roger Feinstein reported on the Land Use Committee meeting and explained the need for Stone to add an 82 bed nursing home. Roger is in favor of the project. The concept behind Stone is perpetual care in return for money, which elderly people turn over to Stone. The money has been insufficient for Stone and hence the need to improve operating economics with the addition of a nursing home. The Land Use Committee discussed blasting risks for an hour, as some blasting apparently will be required. In return for building Stone apparently is willing to give a conservation easement to preserve the green space in front of the building. Jean asked what position the Conservators should take, and the following statement was ADOPTED by voice vote:

"We look with favor on the conservation restriction on the Eliot St. lawn of the Stone Institute as a significant amenity to the Upper Falls Community."

Nuts and Bolts Calendar: Jean Husher led the discussion. The charge for bulk permit was changed from \$40 to \$60 for renewal mailing. Various other revisions of fees consistent with the budget were made by Lawrence Kaplan.

A **nominating committee** of Bill Leitch as chairman, Peter Kastner, Lawrence Kaplan and Fran Seasholes was appointed. The **annual meeting** will again be held at Andover-Newton. Mary Herring and Fiora Houghteling will work on plans. It will be held around the 10th of May, before graduation, to facilitate catering. Peter suggested that new board members be actively recruited; members with suggestions should call him with possible nominees by February 15th. It was suggested that Dick Staley be nominated as **environmentalist of the year**. Bill Leitch asked for further time to think over other nominees -- please call Jean by Feb. 15th with other possible names. Jean will call John DeVillars the new state Secretary of Environmental Affairs to see if he will be **guest speaker** at the annual meeting.

Commonwealth Avenue Project: Jean has been appointed to the Mayor's committee to look into this project along with Bill Leitch. The first meeting of the committee will be held this week and Jean will report back on who the other committee members are and the status of the project.

Conservation Restriction on Route 9 Backyards: The Conservation Commission has only begun to discuss this issue. The Hammond Pond land (East and North Sides) had a 25 year restriction which expired in 1985. The Commission would like to restrict it again but will wait until the owners come to the city.

Golf Course Open Space: Only one golf course has come forward with a plan -- Braeburn. Others are unhappy with the situation. Jean, Anna Marie and Peter will meet with Rodney this coming Saturday to discuss how to proceed.

Parker St./Woodmere Commons: Jean said a hearing will be held on the 12th and Roger will try to attend.

Lasell Land Sale: Peter reported on his meeting with the president of Lasell. Lasell apparently is down from 900 to 450 students, and they want to convert to a four year accredited college. In order to do this they need among other things financial viability. Divestiture of the land would, in the opinion of the president, increase their endowment enough to do this. A few properties have been sold already. The land was deeded originally with a no build restriction -- this expired a year ago. Lasell is getting proposals on 11-12 lots and will present a plan to their trustees. The land is between Grove St., Woodland Country Club and Lasell and includes an esker. Peter suggested monitoring developments, will meet the president again and suggested getting a list of board members. Peter also suggested that the Conservators undertake an educational effort to insure that conservation restrictions on deeded land work.

Spring Walks: The following were suggested as possible spring walks:

1. Houghton Gardens
2. Kennard Park (around Memorial Day)
3. Cutler Park across Charles in Needham
4. Nahanton Park opening
5. Newton Cemetary
6. Edmands Park

Others will be considered at the next meeting in time to announce all in the next newsletter.

Winter Happening: Will be held on February 12h, Sunday at 1 PM in Ware's Cove Park in Auburndale for skiing and/or skating. All will meet at the hut at 1 PM.

Other Business: Peter announced approval of 501C3 for **Friends of Nahanton Park.** The friends raised \$3,000 last month and are expecting approval of a loan from Bank of Boston.

State Park Fee Increase: As part of revenue enhancement the state is raising fees for use of state park land. It was agreed that the Conservators would write to State Senator Lois Pines and Representatives David Cohen and Susan Schurr opposing this.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 PM.

February, 1989

Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 1989
Lawrence Kaplan's home

Present: Jean Husher, presiding, Lawrence Kaplan, Roger Feinstein, Mary Herring, Fiora Houteling, Bonnie Carter, Ruth Nussbaum, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Peter Kastner, Fran Seasholes, Bart Hague, Richard Primack.

Minutes of 1-10-89: Three corrections. The minutes were VOTED ACCEPTED as corrected.

Newsletter: Everyone commented favorably on the excellent publication recently produced by AnnaMaria, Ruth and Bonnie, and they were thanked especially. The spring newsletter will be ready in time to give out on April 21.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence distributed printed copies, which include a new feature of a running list of disbursements in relation to the 1989 budgeted amounts. Lawrence noted that he is now bonded for \$50,000 with a \$500 deductible. There was a unanimous VOTE TO ACCEPT the report.

Conservation Commission Meeting: The next one is February 9, and we will be represented to take particular note of discussion on the Charles River Pathway and Hammond Pond.

Winter Happening: This event at Nahanton Park takes place on February 12 (Sunday) with a focal point being the new recreation building (which will probably be closed) and the hope for conditions to ski, sled and the like. We are providing cider and donuts for the rough estimate of 25 people in attendance.

Commonwealth Avenue revisions: Jean reported on meetings of the Commonwealth Avenue Project Taskforce, of which she is a member. Although the federal guidelines will not be critical to the final outcome, the group is trying to obtain them for study. They are starting with an overview of what they would like the road and median-park to be, including the carriage road, and to that end Jean and others will spend time carefully looking at the intersections, etc. to identify problems. Representing the Conservators, Jean was recently interviewed on the local cable television station, on February 4 about the organization and February 8 about Commonwealth Ave.

Woodmere Commons: AnnaMaria reported that there were no new developments since the Newsletter report, but the Zoning Board of Appeals is unsure how to deal with it.

Lasell property: This Auburndale college is planning to sell 11.8 acres of its campus which includes a good-sized pond and open space. Peter Kastner is following it and the neighborhood input is being solicited.

Stone Institute expansion: The Land Use Committee approved the plans with no objections, and it now goes to the full Board of Aldermen. The lawn is protected and there is to be a huge tunnel for drainage protection. There seems to be neighborhood support.

Open Space District: Braeburn Country Club is voluntarily willing to be rezoned, and Rodney Barker suggests a new public hearing to move it ahead, hoping that the others would follow. Bart shared a letter from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course to the Aldermen, supporting the Open Space District concept.

Friends of Nahanton Park: Peter reported that \$1045 has been received in donations from Conservators members and \$2000 from companies in December. The Jewish Community Center has assigned a person to help solicit funds, and the hope is to cap this drive in April. The annual meeting to elect officers, etc will be in March. First National Bank of Boston has made a \$5000 pledge. In the city's exploration of sites for a new police station this site was mentioned, but Peter and others noted its unsuitability.

Conservators' Annual Meeting: We will use Andover Newton facilities again, hoping for either May 9 or 11 (Mary to check). Jean's contact with the newly appointed Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs indicated that he will not be giving talks until July. Lawrence made overtures to an outstanding colleague of his at U. Mass., Dr. John Farrington, who is Director of their Environmental Science Program. He is a well qualified expert on coastal waters and a good speaker. There was a unanimous VOTE to ask Dr. Farrington to be our annual meeting speaker. It was suggested that he give both a global perspective and local, in-land angles, including storm drains, the Charles River etc.

There were three nominations for our Environmentalists of the Year award, which will be voted upon at the March meeting.

Springfest: If we are to have a manned display at this City Hall event on May 21 there has to be more committed support than in the last two years. Nick and Roger offered to restore/upgrade our standing photo boards, Lawrence will send in the \$20 registration fee, and others will make an effort to be available to man it.

Nominating Committee: Peter Kastner will act as convener for the committee of himself, Lawrence, Fran and Bill Leitch.

Audit Committee: Jean appointed Roger, AnnaMaria and Vinnie Tomb.

Charles River Pathway: Bart noted that in Upper Falls near the radio station construction work is underway on an interceptor. We suggested that Jean write a letter to the Conservation Commission recommending that this sewer right-of-way be included in the pathway.

Announcements and literature related to other organizations were noted.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary.

March, 1989

Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 1989
Nick Yannoni's home.

Present: Jean Husher, presiding, Bill Leitch, Rodney Barker, Fran Seasholes, Virginia Taplin, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Nick Yannoni, Bart Hague, Richard Primack.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 7 meeting were APPROVED as printed.

Boston College expansion plans for Law School on Centre Street: Guest Susan Leiber who is the organizer of the Newton Campus Neighborhood Association brought to our attention their concerns about B.C.'s plans to put more buildings on this campus in a subdivision that was approved two years ago and thus subject to prior codes. They feel that there has been inadequate communication between neighbors and the college about the proposed size of the development and its impact and that the Newton city government has not been active enough to prevent too intensive use of the area, and they have thus initiated law suits. Alderman Rodney Barker was somewhat familiar with the situation and noted that the Aldermen had tried to obtain some control over the by-right development of educational and religious institutions in the city by filing a home-rule proposal with the state legislature but that this has been "shelved" in committee. In August 1987 the Newton Aldermen passed height restrictions, but this will not cover plans submitted before this. There is a sense of being trapped by B.C.'s power and state laws. He and others felt that the city was doing what it could and wished the group well in their lawsuit with lawyer William Green.

One 4.5 acre piece of property that belongs to B.C. was commonly thought to be part of Edmands Park (next to Colby St.), and the neighborhood would like that kept wild, serving as a buffer to new dorms, classrooms, athletic facilities or whatever. It is not considered wetlands although there had been a dammed skating pond there. The Conservators have not yet received a response on our suggestion that the matter of which city department has jurisdiction over this wooded park be clarified. Jean will write to Alderman Lisle Baker of the Administration and Planning Committee about this. Rodney will inquire of the Newton Law Department whether that segment has

been considered part of the park. A Conservators sub-committee is asked to investigate how important that 4.5 acre piece is to the park (Susan Leiber offered some of her material) and report at the next meeting. Bill and Bart will ask Fiora to join them in this.

Open Space District - Golf Courses: Rodney reported that the Assessing Department is working on the 18 hole Braeburn Country Club property. It is hard to find "comparables." Changing its value to be included in this new district will mean less tax money to the city and hopefully set an example to the other two.

April Newsletter: The deadline for articles is April 12. Jean will write articles about Commonwealth Ave., the spring walks, the golf courses-open space district, sale of Lasell property; Virginia will write about the hazardous waste collection; AnnaMaria will write about Woodmere Commons and Stone Institute; Bart will write an editorial; Fran will profile the Environmentalist recipient; Peter will be asked to write about Nahanton Park; the annual meeting on May 9 will be noted; and Jean will ask Richard Staley to have one of the student leaders write about the Environmental Science program.

Commonwealth Ave. Project Task Force: Jean, Roger and AnnaMaria took a careful look at the area of proposed "remodeling" and wrote out 11 recommendations, which were well received by the whole task force. There is a detailed checklist of items to be evaluated, taken from federal guidelines, and a report to the mayor is due by the end of March.

West Newton "police station" park: A guest did not come to bring concerns. The green area at the corner of Cherry and Washington streets is not officially a park, although it is set up as such. As city open land it is one of the possible positions for an enlarged or relocated police station. Until 1932 Newton City Hall was on the site. The West Newton community is concerned to keep it as open space.

There are objections to other proposed sites and the Conservation Commission has written a strong statement on protecting parks, playgrounds and not "nibbling" at the city's open space. There was a unanimous VOTE that Jean send a similar statement to all the people who receive the C.C. letter, particularly noting the Winchester Street Infirmary land as inappropriate.

Stone Institute: Last night the Aldermen voted against the proposed nursing home behind the Stone Institute in Newton Upper Falls. There would not be enough votes to reconsider. It is possible that the next proposal will be less desirable and the front lawn may not be protected.

Environmental Science Program: A letter from ESP Director Richard Staley thanking us for our summer 1988 tuition support was read. The 1989 program will be for 6th through 9th graders from July 5 to 31, their 22nd year. We want to continue to be

supportive of this excellent educational opportunity for Newton students and so VOTED to send \$500, to be used for two partial scholarships.

Woodmere Commons: This Parker Street project was rejected by the Aldermen and is now going to be appealed.

Winter Happenings: About 25 to 20 people turned out on a nice, cold but snowless afternoon to enjoy skating on the river and each other. We agreed that it is a good idea, and it should be done again next year with larger signs to direct people and the Conservators' Newsletter available to give to new people.

Spring walks: The five Sunday afternoon walks are scheduled for May 7, 14, 21, June 4 and 11. They are well listed in the Community Schools brochure and we will have a flyer/notice as the front of our newsletter.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council: David Jackson, who has served on this 3-times-a-year body, is seeking a replacement who could commit several years to it and solicits our recommendations. One hundred and one cities and towns are represented.

Conservators Annual Meeting: Plans are set for this May 9 event to be held at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary again with Fiora and Mary H. in charge of arrangements. Dr. John Farrington of U. Mass. Will be the **keynote speaker**.

After some discussion it was VOTED unanimously that Environmental Science Program Director Richard Staley be named our **Environmentalist of the Year** and that Jean will notify him and arrange advance publicity.

Springfest: In order to participate in this City Hall event Nick and Roger need to repair our display.

Items from Helen Heyn: The Conservation Commission has written to the TV stations about **easement beside the Charles River for the pathway**, but the answer is delayed because of a possible resale. They are checking on other segments, one having been reserved since 1980 and another having brook-crossing problems. Three owners of property in the Dudley Road-Route 9 area are interest in conservation restrictions. Such a buffer zone would be a good example to others and will be reported in our Newsletter when it is final.

Nick's **New Hampshire week-end** offer: Nick is offering again to host board people and their families at his Victorian-era ski cub lodge in North Conway either during the summer or fall. What's best?

Next Meeting: April 4 at Virginia Taplin's house.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

April, 1989

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 1989
Virginia Taplin's home.

Present: Jean Husher, presiding; Nick Yannoni, Ginny Taplin, Mary Herring, Fran Seasholes, Ruth Nussbaum, Bonnie Carter, Lawrence Kaplan, Fiora Houghteling, Richard Primack, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Peter Kastner.

Minutes: The minutes of March 7 were APPROVED as written.

Treasurer's Report: Lawrence Kaplan distributed his monthly report and noted that he had filed Mass. Revenue Form 3 ABC (return of property held for charitable purposes) and the appropriate IRS forms (990 and 501a). He noted that dues receipts for the first quarter of the year were similar in 1988 and 1989. We VOTED to authorize him to invest some of the more than \$18,000 in the Ordway account in an appropriate Treasury note when they are available in auction; probably \$10,000.

Parkland clean-up: Jean and Ruth have observed that one gully in particular and other back-yard areas in general along the **Cochituate aqueduct** near Cold Springs Park have been treated as dumping areas and need clean up. It was agreed to make a work day in this area on Saturday, April 29, with an effort to get abutters, other area residents and Conservators as volunteers. Bonnie will help design a flyer; Mary and Fiora will help distribute it in the neighborhoods most affected; and Ruth will put an item in our Newsletter, notify the New[ton] Highlands Area Council for assistance, and contact the appropriate city departments about a time and spot for truck pick-up of collected junk. Fiora will investigate bio-degradable bags. The time will be 10 to noon, with an assembly point at the end of Carver Street and Board members serving as crew leaders. This could be an example for working later on other spots, such as Edmands Park.

Bench at Ordway Park: It was noted that there has been no progress on the recommendation to install a vandal-proof bench in this small park, which is under our care.

Commonwealth Avenue Taskforce: Jean, who served on this citizen review committee appointed by the Mayor, reported that the work is completed and a report is being written by the chairman, based on the responses to an elaborate questionnaire completed by each taskforce member. The job was difficult because of the large size of the area under consideration, but the recommendations on berms, turn-off lands, destruction of trees and reducing the amount of green area will reflect concerns expressed earlier by the Conservators.

Police Station sites: As requested, Jean wrote a strong letter to many people stating views similar to the Conservation Commission of protesting the proposed use of

parks, playgrounds and conservation land for a proposed relocation of the Newton Police Station. A meeting was held, the authorities concurred and the four current proposed sites are OK for this point of view.

Newsletter: Article assignments were reviewed. They are due by April 12.

Annual Meeting: A separate mailing-invitation will be sent to the membership (in addition to a Newsletter article) and will include the nominations and by-law changes. Mary reported that the site (Andover Newton Theological School) and menu will be similar to last year but increases in costs necessitate a charge of \$17. Dr. Farrington and his wife will be our guests (he speaking without honorarium) as well as Mr. and Mrs. Staley (Environmental Award), and special invitations will be sent to Mr. Staley's principal. We anticipate a turn-out similar to last year's 90. Nick will provide background music.

By-law changes: We VOTED to recommend to the annual meeting that Article 2, section 6 of the by-laws be changed to increase the dues for Conservators members. Patrons would be \$100, Sustaining members would be \$25, Family members would be \$15 and Individual members \$10. It was agreed that there should be a by-law review committee next year to bring further revisions to the 1990 annual meeting.

Nominating Committee: Peter Kastner distributed the proposed list of officers (we especially appreciate Jean's willingness to continue as President) and board members, which is not quite complete.

Membership needs: Ginny, who will be leaving the Board, noted she has recommendations for the next person to handle the membership job, including one person who would concentrate on the lists and one who would work on recruitment.

Open Space District: Jean continues to remind Rodney who continues to remind the city assessor that a dollar value needs to be placed on the Braeburn Country Club before next steps can be taken. There is little precedent for this difficult assessment.

Hazardous Waste collection days: Ginny reported on the city's dividing the city into north and south for May 6 and September 23 collection days, with the need for volunteers from our group and others.

Springfest: Nick has begun repairing our display boards. We need volunteers to "man" the display between noon and 5:00 on May 21 (rain May 28), and Fran's number will be given in the Newsletter to hear from volunteers.

Summer bus tour: Arts in the Parks suggests that we provide a tour leader for a summer bus tour to acquaint people with some of Newton's less well-known parks. Fiora and Richard Primack offered to do this on Saturday, July 8, focusing on the south side. Peter Kastner offered to lead a parallel bicycle tour.

Nahanton Park: Peter announced a \$500 gift from the Charles River Country Club.

Announcements: Land Day at the State House is April 11. Newton Water Conservation Committee is April 13. The 7th annual Run of the Charles (canoes) is April 30 and needs volunteers. The Appalachian Mountain Club is sponsoring several outings on Saturday, May 20 related to conservation.

Next Board Meeting: There will be a brief Board meeting on Tuesday, May 2. We will need Springfest volunteers as well as last minute review of the annual meeting and spring walk plans. It was suggested that we get some newspaper publicity and pictures for the latter but others noted that they had been very well attended without extra publicity and it is difficult to accommodate large numbers.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances C. Seasholes, Secretary

May, 1989

Minutes, Newton Conservators Board Meeting
May 2, 1989
held at Fiora's home.

Present: Jean Husher, Mary Herring, Lawrence Kaplan, Roger Feinstein, Fiora Houghteling, Allan Cody, Ginny Taplin, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Peter Kastner, Richard Primack.

The **secretary's report** was ACCEPTED with two changes: Staley, not Straley, and the date for hazardous waste disposal for the south side of the city will be 9/23, not 9/16.

The **treasurer's report** was presented by Lawrence Kaplan and was filed for audit.

Jean reminded us that at the annual meeting we need to have copies of the annual report and of the audit committee. Lawrence will take care of printing them.

We talked briefly about our **need to raise dues** for the yearly running of the organization. AnnaMaria reminded us of the rule that an organization should not spend more than 5% of its principal for current expenses.

Jean gave congratulations to all the contributors and editors of the current **newsletter**.

In speaking of **nominations for next year's board**, Peter reported that neither the Chestnut Hill nor the Auburndale Garden clubs has yet had time to nominate someone for our board. We will be able to add those names later. He also reported that Bill Jones has accepted our invitation to become a board member. Unfortunately, we had to print the invitations to the annual meeting before we received his acceptance.

Peter read a letter from Alan Barkin, which suggested that service by aldermen on the Conservators board is a violation of the state's conflict of interest law. It was our consensus that a decision about conflict of interest is up to the individual involved, not to the board. Peter will call Mr. Barkin to explain our stand and will send copies of the Barkin letter to the three aldermen presently serving on our board, with an explanatory note about our action.

For the annual meeting, Nick Yannoni will provide background music and will need a sturdy table. Jean will get a list for the head table to Mary. Jean has sent invitations to Dick Staley's principal and to the superintendent of schools. There will be 8 guests. People may come after the dinner for the meeting. (On May 2, we had 57 reservations, including the 8 for guests.)

Jean reported that there had been a very successful **Cold Spring Park cleanup day** the previous Saturday, when 70 people turned up to help. Ruth Nussbaum and friends had distributed flyers to all the abutters. The Newton Highlands Neighborhood Assoc. would like to take it on as a yearly project! We agreed that we should clean up another park next year.

For **Springfest** Roger and Nick will upgrade the exhibit board and Fran will be able to help on the day itself. A sign-up sheet was passed around for staffing our exhibit. Springfest gives us a good opportunity to publicize our organizations.

The **Nahanton Park opening** will take place on the last Sunday in June, Peter reported. He will have leaflets about that ready for Springfest. He wondered whether we could ask for money also.

Michael Dothe will replace Richard Primack as the leader for the Houghton Garden walk on May 21.

Jean asked for people interested in sitting at a Conservators table at the **Mayor's Prayer breakfast** to be held at B. C. this year (when Ginny and John Taplin will be among the people honored). A number of members said they would attend.

We were reminded that **Hazardous Waste Day** was to be on May 6. Several board members will be volunteering that day.

Jean reported that the **Commonwealth Ave. Task Force** has submitted its report to the mayor. In brief, they have asked for a greatly reduced project.

There was a **discussion of open space**.

Peter spoke of efforts to raise funds by the **Friends of Nahanton Park**.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, June 6 at AnnaMaria's

Respectfully submitted,
Fiore Houghteling, secretary pro tempore

Annual Meeting

for members and guests
Tuesday evening, May 9, 1989
Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School
Herrick Road, Newton Centre

- 6:30 Social Time
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Presentation of the Environmentalist of the Year Award
- 8:15 Business Meeting
- 8:30 Speaker: Dr. John W. Farrington, Professor and Chairman, Environmental Science Program, University of Massachusetts at Boston. Topic: "Current Challenges in Environmental Sciences -- Local and Global"

Agenda for Business Meeting

Treasurer's Annual Report and Audit Committee Report

President's Report

Election of Officers and Board of Directors for 1989-1990

Proposed change in the By-Laws: Article VI, Section 2. "The membership fee for an individual member shall be five dollars (\$5.00) ten dollars (\$10.00); for a contributing member ten dollars (\$10.00) (this to be eliminated); for a family membership fifteen dollars (\$15.00); for a sustaining member twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); and for a patron one hundred dollars (\$100.00)."