

Directors, 1993 - 1994

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John Bliss`	Thelma Fleishman
Helen Heyn	Firoa Houghteling
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Virginia Taplin	Verne Vance

June 1993

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
June 23, 1993, 7:45 PM
Room M410, Boston College Law School
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Peter Kastner, Margaret Albright, Bill Hagar, Nick Yannoni, Bud Elliott, Helen Heyn, Sally Flynn, Fran Seasholes, Leo Levi, John Bliss

Minutes: The minutes of the April 28 meeting were ACCEPTED with the deletion of the words "about \$3000" in the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report: Bud distributed and commented on his report which was ACCEPTED BY VOTE. We are ahead about \$2500 year-to-date, after paying all grants

committed up to this time. An additional \$10,000 has been invested in U.S. EE bond. Bud has ordered reinvestment for an additional two years of a \$10,000 U.S. Treasury note that matures on June 30. There was a net loss of \$174.72 on the annual dinner which was considered acceptable, rather than planning to increase the ticket cost, which was \$18 this year. Participation in the Star Market Star Share program brought in \$28.06 from 11 users. Bud suggested that we repeat it with better advance planning again this year.

Membership: It was noted that Mike Clarke has taken on the data base. Peter Kastner was elected to fulfill the other membership functions, and he has set a goal of expanding membership to 500 by the end of 1993. He proposes to establish a budget so that (1) direct mail can be sent to targeted people, such as those who have signed related petitions, garden club members, Board members of Newton Pride; (2) to urge Board members to give memberships instead of money gifts to the Conservators, and (3) work with Jean Husher to put together a slide show promoting the Conservators' work, which could be taken to community groups.

Map Project: Bud reported that he has received about 50 map requests from the notice in Arts in the Parks and Newton Pride citywide mailings, which offer the map free to those who send a stamped envelope. He coded the membership envelopes that were sent this way and has had a few new members from that.

A DECISION had been made not to send a mass mailing, but about 600 have been distributed so far, including to our entire mailing list. About 145 have been sold at \$1.00 each, largely at Springfest. But will put out feelers about selling the maps to real estate groups or other organizations at 50 cents each, for them to resell. This idea was APPROVED by those present. He will also look into a colored printing, as originally planned. It was noted that we wanted wider distribution, but that direct mailing to 29,000 households was probably wasteful and that publishing it in a local newspaper would cost about \$2000. There was enthusiasm for setting up a map sale table in City Hall in the fall on the days designated for people to come in to pick up their ordered flower bulbs.

Grants Committee: Bud reported that 9 members met on May 26 to consider criteria and procedures for applying for grants from us. Proposals for formalizing this, including having deadlines, will be presented to the Board in a few months. It is suggested that requests for proposals be sent out at the end of September, with replies requested by December.

Current grants to the Environmental Science summer program and the library have been made, and a request from the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association for Hamilton Park will be reviewed at the next Grants Committee meeting. Leo commended the Zervas School development of an outdoor classroom area.

Ordway Park clean-up: Roger noted that he and a member of the Newton Historical Society were the only ones to show up. It was recommended that we return to paying for

maintenance of this tiny park, which is covered by the Ordway bequest. Bonnie Carter will look into this.

Newton Pride/Leo Levi: Our guest, Leo Levi, is chairman of the beautification aspect of this citizen group, and Stanley Gaffin (who couldn't be present) is President. They are focusing, along with the MDC and Gene Bober of the Planning Department, on looking at the **Newton sections of the Charles River Pathway** and connecting other natural spaces with trails. The time is right to promote local natural resources and for working together on upgrading current facilities, and supporting new access. Their vision also includes field guides, having some paved paths for the elderly and handicapped, and creating a bike trail map. The Conservators and others need to be vocal in support of the MDC reclaiming their land from the abutter encroachments, and overcoming neighborhood resistance to more public access.

Helen noted that the plans were developed in 1975 (She has a record of the testimony at hearings then) and that it would be unfortunate to proceed in ways that would repeat the controversies and public debate done then. Mayor Mann reportedly supports the Charles River Pathway proposals and acquiring more land with federal money. The Metropolitan District Commission is seen as a key in this, and the Conservator's Open Space Committee (Mike Clarke, Chair) is encouraged to be active. Leo reported that Boston is one of two communities being considered as the location of the May 1995 national conference of the National Urban Forest Council. If Boston is chosen, it would be a good opportunity to further promote things like the Charles River Pathway.

MWRA Aqueduct walks: Nick led a popular walk on the Aqueducts, and it has been noted that the MWRA has posted some signs on the Sudbury aqueduct indicating "no trespassing." We would like a more specific or inviting kind of sign.

Apparently some of the land is private with easements, and in the 1970's it was looked into, but legal issues stalled more free access. It was suggested that Tom Therrin of the MWRA staff be invited to discuss this with us (He was well informed and interesting in leading a U. Mass. Group there last year.) Some needs have been identified since WW II for repairs and upgrades. Roger was asked to write to them of our concerns and ask about their plans for improvements.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Peter and the League of Women Voters have been observing this public group for the last couple years. He provided handouts of the commission's May 25 meeting, when they worked on criteria, policies and procedures for their approval of building structures in public parks. Peter also submitted his suggestions for doing away with the ad hoc system they had been using. The activism of our members (particularly Peter, Margaret and AnnaMaria) and a letter from the LWV have had an influence. Peter surveyed this information on to the commission, which is now well aware of the Conservators' opposition to private buildings on public lands and controlled usage of facilities. We were encouraged by their recent responsiveness.

It is planned that Roger, Margaret and Bud meet again with Mayor Mann and Gene Bober (and Russ Halloran?) to discuss our view that the petitioner, not the commission, controls the permit process.

Bicycle Task Force: Alderman Brooke Lipsitt has formed a group to look at Newton's bicycling facilities. Roger and John Bliss are members.

Conservators Mission statement: Roger distributed some proposed extensions on the 1992 statement ...to be discussed later.

Next Meeting: It was agreed to continue meeting through the summer...on fourth Wednesdays.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

July 1993

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
July 28, 1993
B.C. Law School, ROOM M410
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Peter Kastner (presiding), George Vogel, Lawrence Kaplan, Bill Stevenson, Mike Clarke, Margaret Albright, Fran Seasholes, AnnaMaria Avernathy, Burton Elliott, Helen Heyn, Mike Collora, Bart Hague.

Introductions for the benefit of new members. It was suggested that Peter send the mission statement, by-laws and copies of the last few minutes to new members.

Minutes of June 23 were VOTED approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that there is little change, but our finances keep improving some.

Membership: Mike Clarke reported that he now has the lists on his Macintosh computer...540 people. Some questions will be raised later on this.

Map Distribution: Bud reported that they are gradually being given to people who inquire and that he now has a bid from another printer who would do the originally planned two-color printing. 5000 copies would cost \$1100 plus the cost of folding.

Grants Committee: Bud indicated that the large committee had met, had input from other Boards and Maxine Rosenberg, and had prepared a final handout for Board consideration. The Mission statement, guidelines, program criteria and outline of the application-for-grants process were read, discussed and unanimously APPROVED BY

VOTE. There was particular discussion of #7 related to publicity for the Conservators through the grants. This document is meant to be flexible and reviewed periodically for adjustments. The work of the Grants Committee was much appreciated, and note was made that the idea had been about three year in preparation and the work has been responsive to Board recommendations.

"Park Management" meeting: Peter led the reporting on recent activity of Board members with the Mayor and officials, around our concerns about **private use of public parks** and the functioning of the Conservation Commission [sic: ?Parks and Recreation Commission]. He noted that we do not have a set policy and procedure for the Conservators to interact with public bodies but that the recent work had been quite gratifying.

Roger Feinstein's newsletter article was seen as an excellent statement of issue of the privatization of Newton parks. Mayor Mann had been upset with a letter to the editor addressing this issue. Bud Elliott went around the city taking photographs of unsightly and questionable aspects of parks, and these were taken to the Mayor (5-30-93), then Gene Bober, by a delegation of Conservators. They found both men sympathetic and in agreement with our position.

This delegation then joined forces with Mike Clarke and the Open Space Committee heads, and they went to Parks and Recreation Commissioner Russ Halloran to discuss the Charles River Pathway, Parks and Recreation Commission and suggestions for revising this group and its procedures.

Chair of the Aldermanic Program and Service Committee, Jordan Kraus, subsequently took leadership in looking at the P and R Commission having power outside Aldermanic control. The Commission accepted 90% of the Conservators' recommendations, some of which had come out of the League of Women Voters' recent examination of most Boards and Commissions of the city. They agreed to tighter restrictions on their procedures, term limits, and majority votes, but the suggestion of an expanded Commission with representation of specific groups was not agreed upon.

There was no consensus as to the Conservators pursuing this suggestion. We recognized that we need to continue being active watchdogs in these elements of change and continue the good relationships we have initiated. The Legal Department also made valuable proposals on considering criteria for appointments, which are made by the Mayor.

Mike Clarke and Peter Kastner were particularly thanked for their expertise and work in moving toward reform. Mike and his committee will meet next week to work further on wording of proposals that would go to the Aldermen, to keep the momentum going toward appropriate stewardship of public lands.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

August 1993

There was an August agenda sent out that was comprised of the following:

- (1) Review and approval of July minutes
- (2) Treasurer's Report
- (3) Membership Chair's Report
- (4) Map distribution update
- (5) Grants Committee Report
- (6) Ordway Park cleanup
- (7) Open Space Committee draft letters to Alderman Kraus and Commissioner Halloran,
- (8) Newsletter assignments
- (9) Harvestfest
- (10) Old business
- (11) New business.

[There are no minutes on file, and it seems highly possible the August meeting was cancelled. The September agenda says the August meeting lacked a quorum and only approval of July minutes was listed as an agenda item. However, it is not 100% clear that the Aug. meeting did not continue, despite lack of a quorum.]

September 1993

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
September 22, 1993
Boston College Law School, Room M410
Center Street, Newton Centre

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Margaret Albright, Michael Clarke, Sally Flynn, Helen Heyn, Jean Husher, Peter Kastner, Oliver Komar, Susan Regan, Bill Stevenson.

Minutes of the July meeting were ACCEPTED (August meeting lacked a quorum).

No Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report: Sparse renewals over the summer. Ideas for increasing membership and visibility of Conservators include: 1) using the Community Schools Bulletin to advertise Spring walks; 2) indoor programs/slide shows, and 3) bird watching in Newton (possibly in conjunction with other groups such as the Needham Bird Club which has high quality monthly programs.).

Open Space Committee letters drafted: Mike Clarke wrote to Commissioner Halloran (Parks and Recreation Dept.) suggesting changes, including 2/3's majority necessary for alterations to policies and procedures. His letter to Alderman Kraus suggested legislation dealing with changing the Newton code and the appointment by the Board of Aldermen of 4 members to administer parklands.

Report of Recreation Meeting of 9/21/93 involving Friends of Cold Spring Park and Newton Youth Soccer. Request for use of the old part of Cold Springs was dropped. The new part of Cold Springs may be expanded or renovated for soccer usage. Fields may be shifted and adjusted from year to year to protect grasslands.

Water Withdrawal from the Charles River: After much discussion, consensus was reached on opposition to water withdrawal, pending a study by the Watershed Assn. checking effects on wildlife. Peter Kastner will write a letter to the Conservation Commission asking that no water be withdrawn until further data is accumulated and collected.

Newsletter assignments: Jean Husher needs material by early October, because she is travelling to Turkey. Mike Clarke will write an article reporting on Parks and Recreation business over the summer.

Harvestfest (October 3rd on the Newton Centre Green): Volunteers for the Conservators booth include P. Kastner, R. Feinstein, J. Husher.

October 6-9 volunteers are needed to cover a Conservators booth at City Hall during the time of the bulb pick up. It was decided to have modified hours of 4-8 PM Wednesday through Friday, and 9-12 noon coverage on Saturday.

Old Business: Will **Ordway Park** be maintained by Conservators? Five firms, contractors for the City, may be possibilities to do the yearly cleanup. October 15 is the deadline for **grant proposal applications:**

New Business: 4 **Fall walks** are scheduled.

Next Board Meeting will probably be held at Boston College Law School on Oct. 27.

[no signature]

October 1993

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
October 27, 1993
Boston College Law School, Room B321
Center Street, Newton Centre

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Bud Elliott, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, William Hagar, Lawrence Kaplan, Margaret Albright, William Clarke, George Vogel, Fran Seasholes.

Minutes: The minutes of the September Board meeting were APPROVED BY VOTE.

Treasurer's Report: Bud Elliott distributed detailed reports and led the group through them: a balance sheet as of 10-27-93, Profit and Loss Statement 1-1-93 through 10-27-93.

It was noted that memberships, contributions and interest were down but that more could be expected at the end of the year. This year's income is \$7648.97 and 1992's for 12 months was \$12,673.21. Because we have not made as many grants this year our outgo has been \$4469.89, compared to \$7739.60.

Bud presented a **proposed 1994 budget**, with the statement from 1992 for comparison. This budget will be discussed at the next meeting, but final decisions on it will wait until January when the final amounts for 1993 have been noted.

Membership: There was a VOTE, as required in the by-laws (Section VI 1) to elect into Conservators membership all those who have paid their dues.

Letter to Parks and Recreation Commission: Because the P& RC has not yet accepted their new guidelines (and provided no minutes), Mike Clarke wrote a letter with some additional ideas on their policies and procedures. It is expected that they will formally accept our recommendations at their next meeting. He went to the Aldermanic Program and Services Committee to recommend an Advisory Committee of four, instead of expanding the commission membership. A change in the city code would be necessary. This was Alderman Jordan-Kraus's last meeting and no vote was taken on the agreed upon points, but presumably the newly elected Aldermen will continue this examination of the P & R composition.

AnnaMarie Abernathy and Peter Kastner have been following this closely, and it was agreed that Conservators should continue the pressure to keep the issue alive. There will be a Newsletter article on it, members will be urged to contact aldermen, and Mike Clarke will write a letter on behalf of the Conservators' Board. A letter of thanks and praise to Linda Jordan-Kraus, with copies to the rest of the Aldermen, will be sent.

It is suggested that the Conservators and League of Women Voters plan a joint public forum to keep the park issue alive and highlight some of the issues, including the role of the P & R Commission. Our Program Committee (Nick Yannoni and Bill Stevenson) will be asked to look into this for Jan., Feb. or March, possibly using a large BC classroom.

Membership: Mike Clarke reported 330 paid memberships for 1993 and 560 on our mailing list. Peter Kastner made several suggestions of actions the Membership Committee will be taking: a letter to unpaid people (in the newsletter or a separate mailing in mid-November), a suggestion again that people give gift memberships to friends (and we would mail an announcement to the recipient), an appeal be made for general or specifically ear-marked gifts (\$1000 was received when last done), and that we develop a one page brochure created by Bud and Peter, including some to test with 200 letters to potential donors.

Peter will soon be giving a talk to the Newton Garden Clubs, including slides of the parks. He would like to create a slide library with other labeled and dated pictures. This could be used in talks to other civic groups.

Newsletter: Bonnie set the deadline for November 3 with a mid-November receipt.

Conservators Logo: There was agreement that we should keep but "strengthen and contemporize" it.

Harvestfest: Our tryptych display still stands and attracts people, we found, when used near the children's rides at City Hall. The space cost \$20 and some maps were sold. Leo Levi also sold our maps at the flower bulb pick-up, raising \$15.

Fall Walks: We noted that foliage has passed its peak, and the last walk (Lawrence Kaplan) is this week at Hammond Woods. Helen Heyn's walk in Kennard Park was attended by some of the Kennard family members, who have renewed contact with us, and by interested neighbors.

Mission Statement: Helen has offered some revisions of dates.

Grants: Bud reported that there are 3 proposals to review, and the Grants Committee will meet before the next Board meeting.

Jewish Community Center development proposal: Peter had site plan drawings to show that the proposed covered-inflated tennis courts and outdoor swimming pool would be within 20-30 feet of Nahanton Park and thus in violation of the 150 foot buffer required for residential property. That closeness to a relatively little-used area, the noise pollution from fans, and the glow with nightlights are issues to be considered. Because the land is [?not] owned by the city the JCC did not notify the city, and it is unclear what the environmental impact would be.

[Probably "not owned" was intended but it was not mentioned in the corrections to these minutes at the Dec. meeting].

The Conservators needs to ponder what protections to the park should be advocated, and review how such decisions are made. The Friends of Nahanton Park were not notified or consulted. There was a consensus that we are against precedent-setting spot zoning and that the buffer should be observed unless there is an overwhelming reason/benefit.

On November 5 the Land Use Committee (Aldermanic) will forward a recommendation to the full Board. It was VOTED that a letter should go the the Planning Department, asking them to review and assess the impact on the park and consult with the Friends of Nahanton Park. Peter will draft this letter.

Marriott Hotel Gazebo: Another request to be considered by the Public Hearing in front of the Land Use Committee on November 5 is the hotel's desire to construct an open structure on the point of land beside the Charles River, which is restricted land with public access. Helen Heyn was aware of the 1963 conditions on this land about no alterations to the topography, no structures and a 775 foot line from the street. We suspect that the plan had a commercial aspect in the sense of being rentable for weddings, etc. Annamaria will draft a letter to all members of the Board of Aldermen reminding them of the Board orders, which should be honored.

Next Meeting: There was agreement to combine the November and December meetings by meeting on Wednesday, December 1 [sic] at Boston College,

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

December 1993

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 1993 at 7:45 PM
Room B321 (Barry Pavilion)
Boston College Law School
Centre Street, Newton Centre

Present: Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Michael Collora, Vaunita Schnell, Roger Feinstein, Bud Elliott, Mike Clarke, George Vogel, Margaret Albright, Bart Hague, Bonnie Carter, Nick Yannoni, Bill Hagar and member Dave Ford.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and APPROVED.

Bud reported that Oliver Komar will be going to Central America and then to school in Ohio and will be resigning from the Board.

Treasurer's Report: \$1000 in memberships have been received (approximately 40 memberships), mostly renewals. There were approximately 4 gift memberships.

Membership Chair: Peter reported that his sister has agreed to modernize the Conservators' logo and do a brochure. He would like to experiment with direct mailing of the brochure.

Budget Proposal: The budget proposal has been postponed until January's meeting. Bud would like any suggestions that Board members might have regarding the budget.

Grants Committee: Bud reported that five grant applications had been received and reviewed by the committee. The committee recommended that we fund proposals presented by the Underwood School for a Green Lab Project and the Memorial Spaulding

School for "Composting: Solid Waste Management That's Free." Though the Spaulding proposal was weak in some aspects, it was suggested by the committee that we work with them to improve their proposal.

It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept the committee's recommendations.

Parks and Recreation: Peter reported on the latest progress with the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission had officially adopted the recommended procedures for alterations to parks open space. A proposal by the Newton Central Little League was recently made for Cabot Park. The league's organization was informed that the proposal must conform to procedures, and the proposal will be taken up again at the meeting on Monday, December 13.

Newton West Little league has proposed a temporary trailer snack stand and batting cage for Lyons Park.

The Commission discussed at length the proposed changes to the statute governing P & R. They agreed with all proposed changes with the exception of term limits.

Peter then reported on the actions of the Programs and Services Committee regarding the statute changes. The Aldermen were reluctant to impose term limits on the Parks and Recreation Commission, but all other language was approved and sent to the full board for vote. The Parks and Recreation Commission will now have four alternate members, not associated with any particular ward. These members are to represent a broader constituency. Parks and Recreation has also accepted a change in statute language, which adds open space to their charge or recommending.

It was suggested that we send letters regarding this great progress to *The Tab* and *The Graphic* and write letters of thanks to the participants. This was MOVED and SECONDED. Congratulations were extended to Mike and Peter for all their hard work on this issue.

JCC/Nahanton Park: Peter reported on the meeting regarding the variance request by the JCC for an outdoor pool and tennis bubble. The JCC added 20' to 10' trees to the plan, which was approved by the Land Use Committee and the Board of Aldermen.

Marriott Hotel: Roger received a reply to his letter to the manager of the Marriott. The proposal for the gazebo to be built by the hotel has passed the Land Use Committee and is being received favorably by the Auburndale Community Association, despite its violation of a 1967 Board Restriction. We discussed at length the possibility of getting the Marriott and the Board of Aldermen to agree to placing a conservation restriction on the land. Also discussed at length the placement of the gazebo on the flood plain within a 100' setback of the river. It was recommended that action be taken before the Aldermen's meeting of December 20.

Bud MOVED and it was seconded and PASSED that the Conservators take the following position:

- 1) That the construction of the gazebo should not take place because of the 1967 Board Restriction.
- 2) If the construction does take place, there should be a conservation restriction placed on the site to prevent further alterations.

Wyman Farm/Hyde Farm: Guest Dave Ford brought us up to date on the problems in Waban regarding the proposed development by Mario DeBonno of the historic Hyde Farm. The farm is of interest to the Conservators since the Cochituate Aqueduct is on the property, and this is the only part of the aqueduct that is privately owned.

The battle between the neighbors on Woodward Street and the developer has become quite heated. The proposed lot lines of the development are very irregular, and one of the structures will directly abut the aqueduct. The Historical Commission voted that the property is an historical landmark, but the City's Legal Department has evaluated and is considering asking them to reconsider that vote. One of the neighbors already has a private law suit pending against the developer.

Dave sought the Conservators' advise on how to proceed and wondered if the Conservators could become involved in some way. It was suggested that the Woodward Street neighbors become more certain of their legal position and the issues involved. It was suggested that the neighbors seek legal counsel, and attorneys Peter Harrington and Bob Cohen were suggested. It was also suggested that they should look into: 1) prescriptive rights of adverse possession of a public pathway; 2) the sub-division laws; 3) MWRA easement rights.

Margaret Albright

January 1994

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board Meeting
January 26, 1994
Barry Pavilion (Room B321)
Boston College Law School
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Fran Seasholes, Lawrence Kaplan, Margaret Albright, Bart Hague, Bud Elliott, Vaunita Schnell, Jean Husher.

Membership in groups: At Bud's suggestion we reviewed the contributions we make to related organizations and made the following decisions: Land Trust Association -- continue our membership of \$150.00, Environmental League of Massachusetts (lobbying) -- \$25.00, Newton Green Decade Coalition -- \$25.00, Bulloughs Pond Association -- \$100.00 as a one time contribution to their long-range landscaping plans.

Charles River Watershed Association and Friends of Hemlock Gorge will both be asked for reciprocal memberships without exchange of money.

Minutes of the December 8, 1993 meeting: These were ACCEPTED as distributed. Margaret Albright wrote them.

Marriott Hotel Gazebo: This structure on the riverbank was approved by city officials despite previous restrictions. Roger had sent our letter objecting to the plan. The Conservation Commission will be discussing it further at their meeting tomorrow, with the idea of making safeguards on permanent restrictions in the future.

Roger was asked to write to the Marriott, Gene Bober and the Conservation Commission supporting the position of no further building on the Marriott land.

Treasurer's Report and 1994 Budget: Bud distributed his report, which details the 1993 income and expenditures compared with the previous year and proposes a 1994 budget. In 1993 there was less in interest and contributions than in 1992, but dues income was up. By changing banks we were able to save on bank charges, and so our overall income was 8.8% greater in 1993 than in 1992. Our assets have increased from \$81,454.52 to \$86,920.37.

For 1994 the projections reflect an increased effort to increase membership and to distribute grants, and an increase in insurance and postage rates. There are enough maps not to anticipate needing to print in 1994. \$500 was budgeted to evaluate possible tree or other work at Ordway Park. 1994 Income is projected at \$10,650 and expenses at \$7950.

Bud was thanked for thorough work on the reports, and the 1994 budget was ADOPTED BY VOTE.

Membership: Mike reported the breakdown of the 525 people who are on our mailing list, which has only 218 paid members at this time. Peter was given an OK to especially contact Board and Advisory members who are not up-to-date.

Peter Kastner is working on a brochure (with help from his sister), and with Mike's letter and the use of his wife's 12,000 name mailing list, we will be ready to do a mass mailing to Newton residents about joining the Conservators. It is anticipated that printing can be done at Newton North High School and stuffing by RSVP people and that the bulk rate will be 11.3 ¢ per piece. It is hoped to have this out in early spring, and there was agreement that a free map could be offered with membership and the geology books on request. There was a suggestion that further names could be gleaned from the various petitions used in neighborhood projects and that red dots on the newsletter address labels could alert people to pay the 1994 dues. Peter and Mike will propose a more specific membership budget breakdown at the February meeting.

Grants: Bud reported that there are none at the moment. The next request for proposals will be sent in March, and he anticipates sending these directly to the schools rather than

through the central administration. Leo Levi will include publicity about grant proposals in his Newton Pride mailings. Neighborhood associations might be notified. It was suggested that photos of projects might be part of our display at Springfest, etc.

Bud has arranged for the fundraiser of Star Market Shares for shoppers on March 1, 2 & 3, with coupons included in the next Newsletter.

Newsletter: Bonnie set the deadline for materials at February 4 and mailing between the 14th and 18th.

Jewish Community Center Additions: The Planning Department has given approval to the plan that includes a screen of trees around the new structure. There were different opinions on whether light and fan noise will be significant on the adjacent Nahanton Park.

Advance agendas: In the effort to know what issues are being dealt with by public bodies, the question was raised as to whether we could be sent advance agendas of related groups. Mike and AnnaMaria Abernathy each receive Parks and Recreation notices. The Aldermen on our Board, Lisle Baker, Mike Malec and George Mansfield should be asked to do more of this.

Waban: Jean will get more information from the active neighbors, who are protesting the subdivision of land next to an historic house on Woodward Street. Access to walking on the aqueduct and aesthetics are both issues.

Quinobequin/Rugby Road: Helen reported that tomorrow the Conservation Commission will be reviewing a proposal, first raised and rejected in 1989, to develop an area that would clearly violate the floodplain ordinance. The developer is Irwin Road Realty Trust.

Communication with President Roger Feinstein: There is now FAX capability on Roger's home phone after six rings.

1988 charts: Jean brought and turned over to Roger three large core board charts of the city with open spaces marked, which had been used in promoting the Open Space Ordinance. It was suggested that they be included in our display at Fairs.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike reported that the revisions finally approved by the Aldermen were somewhat weaker than we had recommended. There are to be four alternate members of the Commission, and Mayor Mann has already appointed one. We need to promote the appointment of people who would be passive recreation/open space voices and several names were suggested. Roger will contact them about offering themselves for three-year terms.

Lyons Park Little Leaguers are proposing temporary structures similar to Albemarle's, and we noted that having a batting cage would necessitate an electrical power source for a pitching machine and that a storage shed and dugout may be proposed.

Questions were raised as to whether the **Security Mills assisted living development** next to Cabot Park has been given a go-ahead.

Ordway Park: It was suggested that we allot time at a later meeting to brainstorm about our stewardship of this property.

Annual meeting: The preferred date will be Wednesday, June 8. An alternate location will be explored.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

February 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
March 2, 1994
Barry Pavilion (Room B321)
Boston College Law School
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Sally Flynn, Peter Kastner, Helen Heyn, Bill Stevenson, Margaret Albright, Fran Seasholes, Jean Husher, George Vogel, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke.

Minutes: The minutes of January 26, 1994 were corrected with the last figure in the first paragraph of the treasurer's report changed to \$86,920.37.

Treasurer: No report.

Membership: Peter has not yet made progress on the brochure and if his artist sister cannot assist at this time, he will search out a paid design source. Dues for 1994 have been paid by 133 people. Fran provided figures from minutes since 1990, which indicate no big swings in membership.

Letters: Roger had not written to the Planning Director about the **Marriott Gazebo**, but it is understood that the Aldermen have approved it.

Parks and Recreation Board: Roger solicited suggestions for names to forward to the Mayor to be considered for three vacancies on this community group, of which Mike Clarke is already a member. It was also suggested that Roger write the mayor requesting that he fill the one vacancy on the Conservation Commission.

Peter reported that the **Little league batting cage** proposed for Lyons Park was approved, because the new plan is for a portable, all-net unit, which is less visually intrusive. The concession stand idea has been dropped, but a mobile unit will be used during the season. A temporary trailer will be used for storage.

There has been neighborhood objection to the increased hours and noise of the **annual carnival in Hawthorn Park, Nonantum**, sponsored by the St. Mary of Carmen (?) Society. A study group has been appointed.

Woodward Street subdivision: Jean reports that it appears that the strange lot lines are still standing, and the neighbors are hoping that if buildings are added it be two, not three homes, and keep the historic designation.

Annual Dinner: Fran presented comparative information on using the Tara Sheraton Hotel or the Andover-Newton Noyes Hall, and the Board agreed to return to Andover-Newton Theological School, despite a doubling to \$300 of their fee for the room. The date was set at Wednesday, June 1, and it is hoped to keep the ticket price below \$20.00. Fran will handle arrangements with help from Sally and Jean.

Nominating Committee: Roger, as outgoing president, agreed to chair a committee with Margaret and Bonnie.

Audit Committee: Bill Stevenson, Mike Clarke and Bill Hagar will review the treasurer's books.

Annual Meeting program and awards: Although we are open to nominations which may come through the offer in the Newsletter, there was strong support for naming Betsy and Bill Leitch as **Environmentalists of the Year** for their success in the Bulloughs Pond renovation and other community work, including the compost committee and Commonwealth Ave. Task Force. It was suggested that members of the Bullough's Pond Association be invited to our annual meeting.

There were two suggestions for **speakers**, Mr. Tegis (?) who has written three books including "The Hidden Charles" and has a good slide presentation, or Jim Gomes, who is Director of the Environmental Lobby which works at the State House.

Finance Committee: Bud will meet with Bill Stevenson and Margaret on March 23 to review the bank accounts and make recommendations.

Spring Walks: A subcommittee will put this together and it was suggested that Cutler Park, on the Needham side of the Charles River, be included.

Newsletter: There was praise for Bonnie, Jean and the others involved in producing the latest letter. Deadline for the next issue is April 4.

Possible site for a summer meeting: The Frederick Law Olmstead house in Brookline, which is a federal park.

Missing recognition: It was noted that Tab newspaper publicity of a **composting project at the Underwood School** failed to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Conservators. It was suggested that (since one of our reasons for the grants is to increase the organization's visibility in Newton) a letter be sent to the teacher involved asking that she write a letter to the editor noting the oversight.

MDC vs. Highway budgetary issue: Helen reported on a current threat to the natural areas on MDC parkways by the Governor's proposal that maintenance be taken over by the Highway Department, which would be less focused on aesthetics and the health of plantings. There is a coalition opposing this, and we considered writing a letter in the vein of the good Globe editorial (Ed. This proposal is still in House I fiscal '95.)

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

March 1994

The Newton Conservators Inc.
Board of Directors
March 30, 1994
Room B321 (Barry Pavilion)
Boston College Law School
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Bud Elliott, Thelma Fleishman, Sally Flynn, Helen Heyn, Jean Husher, Larry Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Bill Stevenson, George Vogel.

Minutes: The minutes of March 2, 1994 were ACCEPTED as corrected. Mike Clarke was present at meeting on 3/2/94. Last line of MDC vs. Highway Budgetary Issue was corrected to read "this proposal is still in House I fiscal '95".

Finance Committee: Bud felt we should give some thought to investing the approx. \$40,000 lying fallow (since bank interest is low at 1.8%). Fidelity or government investment is possible and \$10,000 put into Treasuries. What is the purpose of income? To provide grants or upkeep of open areas? Do we have a financial plan? What mechanisms should be put in place? We will put on the future agenda for long range planning.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that the first quarter income totaled \$431, with outflows totaling \$1188 in grants sent out in January. Our net worth is not fluctuating. Star Market 5% coupons totaled \$60.11. Bonnie reported that we can use these Star coupons four times a year.

Membership: Mike reported that renewals are still coming in; he looks forward to the mailing to expand membership. Do we need to advertise? Should we have a membership committee? Maps were sent out for free to anyone requesting them. This generated only 1-2% new members. Peter, George and Mike will meet regarding membership.

Grants: Underwood School apologized for leaving Conservators name out of newspaper letter; it was inadvertent. Maxine Rosenberg, Science Coordinator, had distributed notices of grant to principals and schools.

Woodward Street Subdivision: Jean reported that historic importance of building and land on 401 Woodward St. has currently saved it from being subdivided.

Annual Dinner: Michael Tougias will be the speaker (\$60 honorarium). Author of three books. Andover Newton is charging \$250 instead of the \$300 originally asked for. Members of Conservation Committee, Board of Aldermen, and Bullough's Pond Committee will be invited.

Newsletter: Bonnie reported that material needs to be submitted by 4/4/94. She hopes to mail it by 4/22. Dates included will be May 7th Newton Burial Ground Cleanup, and Canoe Trip, May 21st Ordway Park Cleanup; April 28th - Roger will speak at NSHS on "What are Newton Conservators Doing?"

City Budget: Helen reported that it is an exact replica of last year's. The Conservation Commission administers approximately 250 acres of land. Problems noted were about snow removal, specifically about the dumping of snow on the road at Nahanton Park.

Bulletin Board: New photographs needed for the board displayed at Fall Fair, Springfest

Minutes taken by Sally Flynn for Fran Seasholes

April 1994

The Newton Conservators Inc.
Board of Directors
April 27, 1994
Room B321 (Barry Pavilion)
Boston College Law School
Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, George Vogel, Margaret Albright, Bill Stevenson, Martin Tropp, Fran Seasholes, Bud Elliott, Robin Washington, Bill Hagar, Nick Yannoni, Peter Kastner, Sally Flynn, Mike Clarke, Jean Husher, Vaunita Schnell, Bonnie Carter.

Minutes of March 30 were ACCEPTED as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Bud summarized the quarterly report and indicated that we were behind in income compared to expenditures for the first three + months, as compared to 1993. This is \$1808 (not including the grants), because of less interest income, fewer contributions and a dues drop of about one-third.

He has two recommendations: the first, to begin action immediately to increase membership and contributions (see report below). The second was given a unanimous VOTE OF APPROVAL, namely, to move \$20,000 out of bank accounts that are earning less than 2% now into Fidelity Cash Reserve and Money Market Funds. We will let this sit for a few months and then have the Finance Committee re-evaluate. We are advised to strive for a 6% income growth.

Membership Committee: Peter, working with Bill Hagar and Mike, distributed their recommendations for enlarging the Conservators' membership by developing a brochure, having separate mailings and reaching out more to have people feel a connection to our work. They will bring a draft brochure to the May Board meeting and mail it with our map to 5000 random households in Newton in September. After evaluating that outreach, the remainder of households could be reached in December.

The second effort would include a mailing of the brochure in July to city officials, letters to lapsed members with the brochure, asking each Board member to give material to ten friends in September, and have the fall newsletter suggest giving memberships as holiday gifts. The third set of recommendations involved listing Board and Advisors on stationery, use the newsletter to list the entire membership (controversial), and highlight awards and special activities of members outside, but related to, Conservators' work.

They also propose developing six articles a year for the local papers. There was support for these recommendations and the expectation that Newton North High School print shop and RSVP mailing services would be available to us again.

Grants Committee: Bud noted that the original 1993 budget allocation for grants was changed from \$3000 to \$2000, but to date \$1188 has been given, and with those in-process this will become \$1600. The 94-95 budget allows \$5000 with \$3855 already allocated, leaving a balance of \$1145.

There was enthusiasm for a proposal out of Bowen Elementary School to develop a nature path with identification of plants in a wooded area near the school and tie this in with library and a speaker. There was AGREEMENT of granting their full request, which is for \$575 this year and \$250 in the second year (with the possible suggestion of Conservator member speakers and reminder of publicizing the source of the grant).

Underwood school sent a letter apologizing for neglecting to mention the Conservators when publicizing in the Tab their project of an outdoor classroom. A new request to the Grants Committee was deemed not quite appropriate, so Bud will go back to them explaining what is appropriate.

The RSVP organization is raising money for their 45th anniversary, and we VOTED to send them a contribution of \$100 and acknowledge the free work they have done for us around mailings.

Memorial for Mayor Theodore Mann: There was considerable discussion on what would be an appropriate recognition by the Conservators of Mayor Mann's many years of leadership and his support for the preservation of open space and environmental issues. There were suggestions of planting a tree, naming an annual grant for him, a lecture, and soliciting funds from our membership for a specific project. There was a VOTE to give the Mann Library \$150 for books related to our conservation interests, which would include bookplates noting the source. If there is further interest in a campaign involving more money, etc., the grants committee should work out a specific proposal.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike reported that there are three alternate positions open. Roger has sent a letter to the mayor with suggestions and will send another updating this.

Annual Meeting: Plans are all in place for this June 1 function at which Bill and Betsy Leitch will be awarded Environmentalists of the Year, author Michael Tougias will be the speaker, and the business meeting will be conducted. The nominating committee will give its completed slate to Jean Husher, who will prepare the invitation, which Fran will send within a week to the Conservators and Bulloughs Pond memberships.

Spring Fest: We will again have our display at City Hall to distribute literature about the organization, etc. A sign-up for coverage was passed around for the hours between noon and 5:00 on Sunday, May 15.

Spring Walks: Flyers about the series of canoe and walking outings were distributed with the recent newsletter and are available for other publicity, including newspapers.

Newton Bike and Pedestrian Map: Nick showed a city map being prepared by the mayor-appointed task force, which is being prepared for distribution. Alderman Brooke Lipsitt is chairing this effort.

Nominating Committee: They are completing their work in preparation for the annual meeting.

Member Recognitions/activities: Jean and Peter are to be taped tomorrow by the Newton cable TV station in a half hour program on the history of the Conservators. Jean and Helen Heyn were taped walking in the Kennard woods, to be used in the background of that program.

The Newton Green Decade Coalition gave Peter an environmental award at their Eco-night/Earth Day evening recently. Bud and Roger will be speaking to students at Newton South High School tomorrow as part of their Earth Day celebration. Vaunita will also be speaking there about Hemlock Gorge.

Hemlock Gorge: Vaunita reported that the bridge was restored by the MDC last year, and this year they will be restoring the ironwork railings and making an echo platform under Echo Bridge. On April 30 they will have a tree planting and are restoring an area to birch trees, as it was historically. The stone building has had its roof replaced and an architect is planning for its renovation...possibly as a small museum or nature center. There will be a clean-up there on May 14 and an annual picnic on June 18.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 25

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

May 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
May 25, 1994 at 7:45 PM
Room M410, Boston College Law School
885 Center Street, Newton Center

Present: Roger Feinstein, presiding, Nick Yannoni, Fran Seasholes, Helen Heyn, Mike Clarke, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Margaret Albright, Marty Sender, Mike Collora, Bonnie Carter.

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were ACCEPTED as printed.

Audit: Mike reported that he and two others had carefully reviewed the treasurer's records for the year and found them to be in order.

Membership: Peter distributed a draft of a four-panel brochure to explain and promote the Conservators, and provided samples of a similar AMC brochure. It would be on 8 1/2 x 14 inch paper, include the mission statement, quotes from related people, a list of accomplishments, a membership form, the logo and line drawings. Suggestions included that the proposed list of activities be less chronological and focus on the fact that the Charles River Pathway is likely to be a key project for the next few years. The fact that the organization is guarding against the loss of open space in Newton should be made clear in a "zippy" way. The cost of a professional designer handling the material could be as high as \$600, so there was a VOTE to authorize Peter to spend up to that amount in bringing in a mock-up at the next meeting.

The brochure would be used as a hand-out at walks, fairs, the library, etc., and there is a proposal to mail 2500 with our map and 2500 without the map to Newton households, to compare which would bring more new Conservator members.

Organization stationery: Members liked the mock-up of stationary that Peter distributed. It uses the logo and name at the top and the list of Officers, Directors and Advisors on the left margin.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike reported that he will be a minority on the commission in voting against a proposal to redo the **Brown Junior High soccer field**, because the agreed upon procedures for presenting proposals had not been followed. The proposal involves moving a Little League backstop and creating an irrigation ditch for watering the fields, but water costs and who would pay for this were not clearly presented. There are broader issues of tapping into underground water through wells, an increasing practice with MWRA water rates being so high.

Roger intended to suggest names to fill the vacancies on the Commission.

Conservation Commission: Helen intends to raise this question of wells.

Newsletter: Again there was appreciation and praise expressed for an excellent newsletter put out by Bonnie, Jean and others.

Annual meeting/dinner: Fran reported that currently there were 74 reservations (from a mailing of 820) and that several people indicated their pleasure at the Leitchs being named as the Environmentalists of the Year. The basic meal costs for chicken stir-fry, etc. is \$14 and the per person cost of the other expenses (hall rental, printing, mailing, honorarium, guest means and award) will be about \$9, so even increasing the ticket cost to \$20 this year will not cover the costs.

Springfest: It was noted that there were fewer non-profit booths and less attendance this year, but after paying \$20 for the booth we made a profit of \$71 on map and book sales. Before taking our photo display and table to Harvest Fair we may need to do further repairs and consider some more attention-getting techniques to encourage people to stop and talk about the Conservators.

Nominating Committee: Add Susan Mirsky's name to the list of Directors sent with the annual meeting notice. Appreciation was expressed to Roger for having being our President for the last two years and to Peter for agreeing to become President again.

Walks: Dan Driscoll (MDC) had about 12 people walking in the Watertown/Newton section of what will be the Charles River Pathway. It was noted that the encroachments to the MDC land assure that accomplishing the goal will be a long process, for which constituency support will be much needed. When thanking him for leading the walk, Roger will offer the Board list as supporters.

Mike led the canoe expedition...9 canoes and 20 people on the Charles River. Nick had 8 people on the aqueduct walk on a rainy day, and Lawrence had 10 on a threatening day at Hammond Woods. When it is a good day and the Globe has listed it in its calendar there may be more participants than a leader can easily handle, so it would be desirable to have a backup or co-leader.

City Garden: Leo Levi's Newton Pride is initiating a garden to feature local plants. Ken Eisenbraun is making plans for a strip of land beside the Newton Center Green.

Newton Cable show: Peter, Jean and Helen will all be part of the upcoming show featuring the Conservators on "Spotlight on Non-profits."

Newton Mayoral election: It was suggested that we create a set of questions on matters of concern to us (private use of public lands, Charles River pathway, etc.) to be put to each of the mayoral candidates and publicized either in our fall newsletter, through the League of Women Voters' guide, or elsewhere. Peter offered to phrase these to bring to the next Board meeting.

Newton Tab map: Peter will write a letter to the Tab noting their use of our map of public parks, etc. in a recent paper and suggesting that they may want to use one section (with its sub-map) at a time with further information about it as a way of alerting people to these resources...and our organization.

Board Meetings: They will continue to be on fourth Wednesdays, the next being June 22.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

Annual Meeting 1994

Newton Conservators, Inc. Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 1994
Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School

There were 86 dinner reservations from the 820 invitations sent to the Conservators and Bulloughs Pond Association membership lists.

Environmentalists of the Year were Betsy and Bill Leitch for their work since 1983 to restore Bulloughs Pond, through educating and lobbying to have it dredged. Senator Lois Pines presented a citation from the Legislature, and President Roger Feinstein presented the Conservators' plaque.

Leo Levi of Newton Pride gave several announcements, including initiation of a display garden on the Newton Centre Green.

Treasurer Bud Elliott said reports were available on request, that the organization's new worth increased by \$4000 to about \$87,000, that focus will continue on membership growth and providing grants to schools, neighborhoods, the library, etc.

The Officers, Board members and Advisors were introduced, and the Secretary requested to cast one BALLOT for their election.

The Audit Committee found the organization's books to be in order.

Author/speaker Mike Tougias presented a slide show-talk focusing on natural areas for canoeing and walking in the state, particularly related to the Charles River.

Fran Seasholes