

Board of Directors, 1994 - 1995

Officers:

President: Peter Kastner
Vice President: Bonnie Carter
Secretary: Frances Seasholes
Treasurer: Burton Elliott
Past President: Roger Feinstein

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Margaret Albright	Michael Clarke
Michael Collora	Joseph DiDuca
Sally Flynn	William Hagar
Bart Hague	James Jones
Lawrence Kaplan	Susan Mirsky
Vaunita Schnell	Martin Sender
William Stephenson	Martin Tropp
George Vogel	Robin Washington
Nicholas Yannoni	

Advisors:

AnnaMaria Abernathy	Lisle Baker
Rodney Barker	John Bliss
Thelma Fleishman	Helen Heyn
Fiora Houghteling	Deborah Howard
Jean Husher	William Jones
William Leitch	George Mansfield
Richard Primack	William Shaevel
Virginia Taplin	Verne Vance

June 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 22, 1994

Present: Peter Kastner, Bill Stevenson, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Helen Heyn, Sally Flynn, Michael Collora, Roger Feinstein, Martin Tropp, Marty Sender, Margaret Albright, Bart Hague.

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

President's Report: The **brochure** has been sent to the designer and is expected back in several weeks. A list of proposed **questions for the mayoral candidates** was

distributed. Responses by Board members were solicited and are due by the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The annual dinner produced a profit of \$93, as opposed to last year's loss of \$170. Nevertheless, through June 22, June expenses outstrip income this month by \$1741.00. Last year at this time June income was \$2,500.00 over expenses. This is largely due to a decline in membership dues of about a third, amounting to \$1,200.00, as well as higher grants and awards. New memberships are minimal. The semi-annual report is due next month.

Membership Committee: The new brochures will be sent out to newsletter recipients, and Board members will be asked to help with new member solicitations.

Grants Committee: Nature walk programs at the Bowen, Memorial-Spaulling and Underwood Schools were supported, and \$400 more is committed to the Underwood. It is recommended that we hold off soliciting new grants for the time being.

Parks and Recreation Committee: In Michael Clarke's absence, Peter Kastner reported that Bud Platt is the new permitting employee. Complaints by neighbors of Hawthorne Park have resulted in some limitations on the upcoming feast. There will be fewer rides and games of chance. Michael voted against the new soccer field at the Brown School because no diagram or plat plan was submitted. It is recommended that the Conservators write to the Conservation Commission [sic], expressing our dissatisfaction with their failure to follow their own procedures on this matter.

AnnaMaria Abernathy has asked if anyone has any old photographs of the CRWA building. The matter of co-sponsoring the CRWA's **Charles River Swim** on July 17th at Forest Grove was discussed.

New Business: Peter Kastner indicated his desire to set up a **number of committees** this year:

- **Finance Committee** to review investments and devise an investment policy
- **Programming Committee** to coordinate events and sponsor guests for Board Meetings
- **Land Use Committee** to review open space plans and special projects like the Charles River walkway and art in public places.
- **Correspondence Committee:** to maintain relations and exchanges of information with other groups
- **Publicity committee:** to write letters to editors, press releases

Peter also expressed his hope that the Conservators can maintain surveillance of the Zoning and Planning Committee, the conservation Commission, the Parks and Recreation commission, and the Land Use Committee.

Board members who are interested in serving on a particular committee should contact Peter in time for the July meeting.

New Business: A MOTION was made and unanimously APPROVED that the Conservators oppose the use of the **Irwin Rd. paper street** for access to the Rokeby Rd. subdivision, since it crosses the Charles River flood plain, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Conservation Commission.

Bill Stevenson passed out information concerning a study of environmental decision-making that he is conducting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

[no signature]

July 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
July 27, 1994

Present: Peter Kastner, presiding, Bud Elliott, Margaret Albright, Helen Heyn, Lawrence Kaplan, Mike Clarke, Bill Stevenson, Bart Hague, Nick Yannoni, Mike Collora, Bonnie Carter, Fran Seasholes.

Minutes: of June 22, 1994 were ACCEPTED as written.

President's Report: Peter was thanked for the clear lists of the Board members and Advisors, and minor corrections were made. Peter has called most members and has prepared **sub-committee lists** as recruited. Committees will be asked to find their own chair-people. More coverage for Aldermanic committees (especially Land Use) is needed so we may join with the Newton League of Women Voters' observers. Public relations and the newsletter are combined, and the Executive Committee will serve as a finance committee to monitor and help decide on budgetary matters.

Peter hopes to keep business meetings short this year and bring in speakers after the business at the monthly meetings. Peter has been appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission (along with Mike Clarke), as a result of his and Bud's meeting with a representative of Acting Mayor Concannon to discuss issues of concern to our organization.

Newsletter: Bonnie has set the deadline for the fall issue as September 1, so that it can reach people before the September Preliminary election and the fall walks.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that not much had changed. A full report is expected at the next meeting. We have about \$45,000 in Treasury Bonds. Of the approximately \$30,000 in bank books earning low interest, it is hoped that we can earn about \$1500 by finding places with 2% higher interest rates.

Membership: The brochure is now in draft form, and he expects to have the one page fold-out to be in colored ink on colored paper. There are now 304 paid members.

Grants: Bud was given APPROVAL to send the second \$500 to the Underwood School for its continuing project of garden plats for classrooms. He had sent copies of the second proposal to those on the Grants Committee. When schools open he will send notices to them all, about the availability of grants. A thank you was received from the Mann Library for our donation in his name.

Bud has had an impressive demonstration by Dick Welch of the capability of the city's new Geographical Information System (computer), which can give a detailed, colored map of any land in the city. He has one of all the open spaces and sees its potential usefulness when we are discussing specific tracts.

Mayoral Election: Peter's draft letter to the mayor candidates with five questions for them to address in writing for publication in our newsletter was discussed and a few revisions suggested.

Land Use: Alderwoman Christine Samuelson discussed with Nick her concerns around abutters to the two aqueducts. She, like we, is interested in keeping it open space. We assume that the MWRA has easements, but perhaps some abutters are paying taxes on it and would try to sell or build on it. It was suggested that we ask B.C. law professor Zyg Plater to have some law students research the issue and ask the city to prepare a map/inventory on what is public and what is not.

Conservation Commission/Irwin Road: Peter, Helen and Bart are particularly informed on this issue of building a road across wetlands. Peter sent a letter to the Conservation Commission on June 23 and Helen also has written, with copies to numerous related people, citing the 1971 Flood Plain Watershed Protection Ordinance, which does not permit fill or activities that would affect the natural process. There is no city precedent for what is being asked, and the Conservation Commission needs to reject the proposal for both legal and public policy reasons.

Bart was asked to attend tomorrow's C.C. meeting to present the Conservators' position. Helen will also be there and has pictures of "100 year floods" to help educate people on the reason for flood plain areas.

Conservation Commission Budget Issue: Helen alerted them to the restrictions placed on use of the Commonwealth Ave. Golf Course Trust Fund and thus averted their using some of that money for salaries rather than maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Commission: There was a 7 to 1 vote to move a backstop structure of the Little League to accommodate a new soccer field in the Wheeler Road area between Newton South High School and Brown Junior High. While the move is a good one and plans, including irrigation, were belatedly presented, Mike Clarke voted

against it on the grounds that the group failed to comply with its own recently adopted procedures on the submitting of written proposals before discussion and votes.

Misuse of Kennard Conservation Area: Helen took photos of piled dirt and construction equipment that was allowed to stay for a few days on the lawn of this city park, while a plumbing job was done on adjacent private property. Restoration of the lawn and possible communication with the construction company should be expected.

August 24: On that fourth Wednesday there is to be a candidates forum for Newton's Preliminary Election, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Cable TV. For that reason and "summer" there will be no August 24th Board meeting.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

September 1994

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 1994

Present: Roger Feinstein (presiding), Joe DiDuca, Lawrence Kaplan, Fran Seasholes, Mike Collora, Margaret Albright, Bud Elliott, Helen Heyn, Bill Stevenson, Mike Clarke, Jean Husher, Bonnie Carter, Robin Washington, Martin Sender.

Minutes of the July 27th meeting were ACCEPTED as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported taking in \$275 in recent memberships and donations (\$100 from the Chestnut Hill Garden Club) but that we are losing grounds on memberships. One recruitment suggestion is to ask Dick Staley for the list of parents of students enrolled in the summer Environmental Science Program.

Our Bay Bank accounts have been closed for better interest in a Fidelity Investments cash management account. Bud expects to bring a recommendation to the November meeting on investments.

Membership: Mike Clarke reported that members (exclusive of those noted tonight) is about 307. Peter gave Bud who gave to the artist the material for the **Conservators brochure**. It is hoped to have a mock-up for inspection at the next meeting.

Grants Committee: On August 2 Bud sent the criteria for grant proposals to Newton schools Science Coordinator Maxine Rosenberg, who in turn is expected to distribute this. The stated deadline is October 31. We fear that the teacher contract difficulties may mean that teachers will not spend the extra time such a proposal would require. Bud asked for suggestions of places in addition to the public schools for publicizing our grant program. He has been unable to get a mailing list for the neighborhood associations. It should be noted in each issue of the newsletter and to garden clubs.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike Clarke reported that 4 trees are to be planted by the **Oak Hill soccer league** in return for renewed playing fields and the sinking of a well.

The **Charles River Pathway** progress includes focusing on the Wells Ave. end, where a path will go on high ground next to the wetlands. It will be first noted on maps, then with ties on trees, and then volunteer labor will be needed to make the unpaved footpath linking existing sections. There are property ownership questions and getting the rights of ways still to be handled, and the group needs to be made aware of the earlier plans by Gessentanner, but Mike feels that the project is slowly moving forward. This is also true for the other end of Newton's section of the Charles River, where the MDC survey of the Watertown area path and Allison Park are being studied.

Fall Walks: The list was distributed with the newsletter and sent to four newspapers. Grey weather cut the canoe trip down to 3 canoes...whose paddlers had a fine time.

Newsletter: Bonnie was thanked for a good September issue, and it was decided not to wait for January for the winter issue but to make the next deadline November 15 with mailing about December 1. It will include a membership envelope and the President's end-of-the-year suggestion of donations and gift memberships, news about the Charles River Pathway, perhaps the brochure if available, and whatever other material is given to Bonnie.

Eco-Expo: Through Leo Levi of Newton Pride the Conservators had a small display at the World Trade Center last week, with Margaret and Roger taking turns being available to talk to people.

Harvest Fair: We agreed that our display had not been too "productive" in this Newton Center Green event, which is set this year for October 16, and that we would not participate this year. Vaunita Schnell of the Friends of Hemlock Gorge will be there, and we will inquire about their distributing our walk schedule, maps and newsletter-membership forms.

Conservators' Land Use Committee: Mike Clarke will convene this new Committee, and it was suggested that they work on a strategy for our supporting the Charles River pathway work, including looking at the earlier proposals. Comments were made about the on-going major road work on Commonwealth Ave.

Conservation Commission: Helen came with the alarming news that all five members just voted to support the developer's desire to build a **road at Irwin Road** (near Quinabequin Rd.) over wetlands of the Charles River. They imposed a long list of conditions. The Planning Board and then Board of Survey must look at this.

Peter had written them a letter with the Conservators' objections, and Helen provided them with a long memo citing the Corp of Engineers and US Geological Survey material,

but it is questionable whether they took these into consideration. We discussed some of the history of flooding and channelization and recognized that much of this issue is technical but that the basic need for protection is important.

We asked our Land Use Committee to look at Helen's memo and to prepare a response to the Conservation Commission itself and/or newspapers and/or other recommendations on how we can effectively respond to what is seen as a bad precedent. Conservation included the problem of underfunding for city staff to oversee conservation problems.

Focus for the year: Bud urged that we have on next month's agenda the question of the organization being more proactive by focusing on a major public project and bringing it to public awareness. The two logical ones are the support of Dan Driscoll's work on the pathway and funding for the Conservation Commission. There was a suggestion that we involve our newly elected mayor directly in our concerns, perhaps in a **public forum** later this fall.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary.

October 1994

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
October 26, 1995
Boston College Law School

Present: Peter Kastner, presiding, AnnaMarie Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Fran Seasholes, Lawrence Kaplan, Bill Stevenson, Helen Heyn, George Vogel, Bill Hagar, Sally Flynn, Jean Husher, Vaunita Schnell, Robin Washington.

Minutes: There was a vote to ACCEPT the September 28th minutes as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Peter reported for Bud Elliott that the transfer of funds had been made into a Fidelity Cash Reserve Account. He discovered from researching fees and interest that he could change from 2% to 5% interest. There was a Board VOTE APPROVING these transfers. Next month there will be a recommendation on staggering 3, 5, and 7-year notes.

Membership: Peter presented a **prototype brochure** to use in recruiting members and a few suggestions were made, but general appreciation for this layout which his sister, Susan Paradise, had created. It includes space for mailing, will include a quote from the new mayor, and some additional sketches.

Grants Committee: Dick Staley who heads the summer high school Environmental Science program has requested that their usual \$500 grant be given to them early to help get it going. There was an AFFIRMATIVE VOTE on this.

Parks and Recreation Commission: The group is working toward establishing a policy about the **naming of city parks**. It is possible that Newton will need to build two **new schools** in the future and siting issues (parkland is often considered) will be important for us to follow.

Conservation Commission: City Planning Director Gene Bober has advertised for the **position of environmental planner**, but the Board of Aldermen order to permit this did not give a job description (just authorized transfer of dollars), so we are interested in what citizen input is being provided for. Candidates will be interviewed by Chr. of the Conservation Commission (Staley) and Bober. Peter will check with Bober on the qualifications and description and express interest in reviewing the relevant law on this new position. Existing ordinances spell out Planning Director functions, but clarification is needed on his relation to the Conservation Commission. It was also suggested that we write the new mayor to alert him to the Conservators' interest in looking at the degree of independence the Conservation Commission has. This can be done in connection to their answers to our related questions during the campaign.

Irwin Road extension appeal: Our Land Use Committee (Mike Clarke Chr.) of 8009 members got together to discuss how far we should go in objection to the Board of Survey action and the Aldermen's October 24 vote to allow this development, which we see as a violation of wetland laws. Peter also consulted with other Board members, and the DECISION WAS MADE to act quickly and file a legal appeal. Mike Collora helped recognize that we needed a lawyer with technical expertise in this area, and Robert Fasenella was subsequently hired to draft the appeal. This goes to the State Department of Environmental Protection for review and opinion. This will force a definition of the state conservation laws and whether the Newton Aldermen ruled wrongly. The Irwin Road development is stopped for now. It was noted that Newton's ordinances need modification/amendment and that the Conservation Commission is not using its full authority in their role as protectors of wetlands.

It was acknowledged that that \$1500 cost is a major one for our small organization, and that one member has donated \$250 toward this. There was Board consensus that the action taken was appropriate. Robin and Peter will work together on appropriate letters/articles for the Globe West Weekly, Tab and Graphic. The Conservators Land Use Committee will continue to address this issue.

Charles River-Expanded Wares Cove Group: The Auburndale Ware's Cove organization, which has been addressing the water chestnut growth and fanwort that is choking the Lake Area, is now reaching out to related organizations to form a task force to lobby for MDC funding to deal with the area in a larger way (possibly renting harvesters to help control this fast-growing plant). They are asking help from the Charles River Watershed Association and will explore state funding.

MDC meeting: Peter will be speaking at a November 2 public hearing about the MDC's historic role in regional planning.

Land Use: The **Wells Park area of the Charles River Pathway** includes an undeveloped area in private ownership, and the thin, raised part next to wetlands needs to be handled carefully. There will be a hearing in Newton Lower Falls on the proposed development of the **Shiple property beside the river**. This proposal would tear down some of the old mill buildings, retain some, and provide space for assisted living, shops and offices. There is a question of whether there could be access on the Newton side for the river pathway.

MDC Advisory Committee: Dan Driscoll is forming this, with a November 15 meeting planned. Among those suggested to participate from the Conservators were Peter Kastner, Mike Collora, Bill Hagar, Joe DiDuca and Margaret Albright.

Clean-ups: Friends of Hemlock Gorge, November 6, 1:00-3:00 at Echo Bridge. Friends of the old Center/Cotton Street Cemetery on October 29, 9:00-12:00. **Harvest Fair:** Vaunita had Conservator material at the Hemlock Gorge table and sold 20 maps & 5 geology books. **Fall Walks:** They have been successful so far. Neglect of Edmands Park was noted again.

Fran Seasholes, Secty

November 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
November 30, 1994
Boston College Law School

Present: Peter Kastner, presiding, Helen Heyn, Nick Yannoni, Fran Seasholes, Bud Elliott, Lawrence Kaplan, Margaret Albright, Bill Stevenson, William Hagar, Mike Clarke, Martin Tropp, Martin Sender, Sally Flynn, Mike Collora.

Minutes: The following revisions were made on the October 26 minutes before being APPROVED: page 1, third line of Irwin Road report "...objection to the Board of Survey action and the Alderman's..." page 2, line 3 in Charles River report add "water chestnut and fanwort."

Treasurer's Report: Bud Elliott noted that our income is down and expenses up compared to last year at this time, largely from grants of \$4688, including \$1500 in legal fees related to Irwin Road. The expenditures over income are about \$3800, and about \$8800 has been put out. Dues have totaled \$3100. Because of the teacher contract action no proposals for school grants have been received. Various bank accounts have been/are being closed and moved to Grove Bank, which charges no fees. The plan is to keep about \$8000 in the checking account.

There was a VOTE TO AUTHORIZE Bud and Peter to use \$30,000 in assets to purchase U.S. Treasury notes on one, three, and five year maturity. These will pay cash dividends every six months.

Irwin Road Appeal: Mike Collora and Peter reported on the status of our having 10 appellants contesting the order of the Newton Conservation Commission to give permission for a road over wetlands off Quinebequin Road in Waban. We hired Attorney Fascinella for \$1500 (\$150 an hour) to file an appeal that would delay the project until the Department of Environmental Protection did an on-site inspection. It happened that he was one day late for the deadline, so has been pursuing an administrative appeal around this at his own expense. He has sent a letter to the MDC, which agreed not to give permission for curb cuts at this time. We feel that the order of conditions that the Conservation Commission outlined were insufficient to protect the wetlands (drywells, etc.). If the deadline appeal is accepted, DEQ inspection might suggest additional conditions to impose.

A second appeal would be to challenge the enforcement of the ordinance Newton now has...which has yet to be tested in court. This would involve appealing to the Superior Court and having environmental lawyer(s) and an appropriate engineer testify. Estimates

for these experts are \$1000 and \$500. The Newton Law Department questions whether the law is sustainable in court. Proceeding on with the Superior Court route to enforce the ordinance involves filing by December 12.

There was discussion on the degree of financial commitment the Conservators should make. There were offers from some present to make substantial contributions toward costs, as well as agreeing to look for community financial support, particularly among the neighbors who already have been considering buying land to prevent this development.

There was a VOTE TO PROCEED with environmental lawyers and engineers to take the question of the legality of the proposed structure (which would restrict the wetland water flow) to Superior Court. There was discussion on whether we would continue to use Attorney Fascinella, try to retrieve some of the money paid to him, or look into the availability of Attorney Greg McGregor of Wellesley. A suggested engineer was Howard Goldberg of Newton with Bryant Associates of Boston.

It was strongly recommended that the US Geological Survey aerial photographs of the area under water in the 1968 flood be examined and provided as documentation. There was a VOTE TO AUTHORIZE Mike, Peter and Helen to decide on a lawyer for up to \$1000 and an engineer for up to \$500 who will file by December 12 and testify. It was agreed that abutters, the Waban Improvement Society, Bea Flashner and others would be contacted about contributions, and that it would be included in the membership annual appeal letter Peter is preparing. Further, it was suggested that a meeting be set up with Mayor Concannon to inform him of this and to solicit support for what the Conservators are doing from Gene Bober as well.

Membership brochure: Peter had included a draft of this with the meeting notice and noted that it is almost ready for the printer. It is anticipated that about 1000 will be printed now for about \$50, and it will be sent to the 538 people on our complete mailing list with other material in the president's letter later in December.

Membership: In addition to the brochure going to the membership Mike Clarke will prepare a list (just names) of those who are already members, so it can be used by those who want to send gift memberships to new people.

Charles River Pathway: Several Conservators (Roger Feinstein, Marty Sender, Bill Stevenson, Helen Heyn) are on the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee for the Charles River Pathway, a group of 30 which will meet 5 times. A consulting group has been hired and \$350,000 committed to the planning phase. The section being focused on is Galen Street to Bridge Street for construction (which will need further appropriation).

Charles River Lake District: Marty reported on the status of the expanded work of the original "Save the Cove" group, which is concerned about the expansion of aquatic vegetation. At a recent meeting of 60 people, representing different organizations and all local legislators, it was said a 1983 survey showed no vegetation in the Lake area, but now 98 of the 190 acre surface is covered with vegetation, mostly water chestnut. State

Senator Lois Pines plans to file a bill in 1995 for \$216,000 to expend over three years to harvest (cut) the water chestnut and chemically treat the fanwort. The Charles River Watershed Association will be the focal organization supporting this effort, and the Conservators' role should be to pay attention, lobby for money before budget hearings and participate in publicizing the problem. The low flow of the river raises a variety of concerns.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Peter reported that recently they looked at policies elsewhere and adopted a process to be used when there is a proposal to name a park or other city facility. Peter's presence among recreation supporters was useful in inserting the "parks," open space aspect into the wording. At the meeting he also proposed that trees as well as fields be planned for when improvements are being planned.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that Martha Horn has been hired as an **environmental planner** (consultant and not a city employee with benefits) by Gene Bober. She is a botanist who was on the Hingham Conservation Commission. There are very poor office arrangements for her. \$23,000 was transferred from maintenance fund, which in turn will get \$25,000 from the Commonwealth Fund.

Newton's Mayor: Now that the election is over, Peter was asked to write a letter to defeated Lisle Baker, thanking him for his environmental efforts in the campaign and counting on his further contributions to the city as an alderman. A letter of congratulations will also go to Mayor Concannon, and it will note his interest in making a master plan for the city and offering the Conservators' participation in this.

Ordway Park: There is pruning and the removal of fallen branches to be taken care of. Peter will ask Bonnie Carter to contact the service that we have sometimes used in the past.

Charles River canoe rental building: Marty Sender was at an MDC meeting and reported that there are plans to use the second floor of this 100 year old structure for concessions and museum.

Norembege Park: Marty Walsh is a citizen who has been doing maintenance there, and he recently pointed out to the Conservation Commission that there is erosion on a steep part of the path which presents a danger/safety concern, and he recommends installation of railroad tie steps. Helen noted that it is next in line, but all the money has now been spent and it will have to await new money.

Albemarle Park: Margaret reported that an adjacent parcel of land is available through an estate, and neighbors are asking that it be added to the park. We will request the city to take the land and add it to the park in exchange for land taken for the Horace Mann School.

Next Conservators Meeting: Change to Wednesday, December 28.

Fran Seasholes, Secty

December 1994

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
December 28, 1994
49 Woodbine St.

Present at the Kastner's home: Peter Kastner (presiding), Mike Collora, Bud Elliott, Margaret Albright, Martin Sender, Nick Yannoni, Mike Clarke, Martin Tropp, Sally Flynn, Fran Seasholes, Helen Heyn, George Vogel, Joseph DiDuca.

Minutes of November 30: Correction on page 3 re canoe rental building: reporter was Martin Sender, not Martin Tropp. The minutes were APPROVED as revised.

Treasurer's Report: Bud will present a full report in January. As of yesterday the dues and contributions are almost \$6000 lower than last year, and expenses have been \$10,152 compared to last year's \$5500. There have been \$3200 in grants and legal costs and a doubling in printing costs. Membership has remained steady at about 330.

Grants: The contract dispute with Newton teachers has meant that no applications have been received from them for projects in the schools.

Membership: Peter displayed the final mock-up of the brochure that will be printed now, including a re-doing of our 1961 logo. Michael Clarke sent Board members a complete list of current members, with the suggestion that gift memberships be given to friends not listed.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike Clarke reported that in January the Newton Soccer League will come before the group with a proposal for creating a new field by leveling a small hillside next to existing fields at Weeks Playground in Newton Center. The Commission is discussing capital improvement, maintenance, signs, fences, benches and the questions of appropriate siting of these.

Land Use / Irwin Road: There are no new developments. Mike Collora and Peter plan to attend a January 5, 6:30 informational meeting with the developer to look at possible modifications in their proposed road over wetlands. The Court will determine what "structure" (law working) is in this case. During litigation no restraining order is needed.

Helen got two abutters to the property to sign on with the 10 Conservator members who are plaintiffs. Peter will solicit monetary support from the other abutters by distributing a letter to them. Martin Sender is editing a letter to go to the newspapers. Consultation with Attorney Greg McGregor found that his services would be \$6000 (too expensive), so we have stayed with the first lawyer who had the matter ready to move. In researching the area with an abutter, Helen has found that the MDC boundaries on the parkland map

show a strip of land beside the existing road of questionable ownership. The Conservators' position is that there should be no development and there is danger of setting a precedent here if permission is given.

Charles River Walkway: Mike Clarke has been working with the MDC's Dan Driscoll on the contour maps in the section south of Nahanton Park to Oak Hill beside the river. Dense growth makes surveying harder, but it is progressing in the marsh and woods. The land is owned by the city and three private abutters, so there is a question of buying easements.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that Martha Horn has begun her work with Bob Merriman and is touring the city conservation areas. It was suggested that we include a biographical sketch of her in the next newsletter and that we invite her to our February meeting.

Meeting with Major Concannon: Peter and Bud had a pleasant session with the new mayor, who listened to learn of the Conservators' areas of concern. He is forming a task force to examine city management and should be alerted to the League of Women Voters' study of the city commissions and our legal action on Irwin Road. We have offered to consult with him on related appointments. It was suggested that when we sent letters to the papers or governing bodies we send the mayor copies to keep him informed. We could recommend that there be required training programs for appointees to city commissions and enough of a budget to provide commissioners with handbooks for related regulations, etc. We particularly relate this to the Conservation Commission.

Help to the Conservation Commission: It is felt that compared to other cities Newton's Conservation Commission is not functioning to protect the public interest and that there is a narrow view and unfamiliarity with state laws, etc. Peter was asked to create a subcommittee including Thelma Fleishman, Bill Stevenson, Bud Elliott and George Vogel to prepare a presentation to Chairman Richard Staley of our concerns.

Proposed open meeting: Peter suggested that we plan a spring meeting (Joint with the Conservation Commission?) to be at the library with architect William Presley, discussing the management of parks and open space.

Internet: Mike Clarke reported that Boston College is offering computer space which could be used for distributing our newsletter, Conservation Commission minutes or other related material.

Canoe rental building: Martin Sender reported that engineers/inspectors see no structural prohibitions to using the second floor of this building for a museum, shop or food service. The MDC is responsive to this general idea.

Aquatic vegetation legislation: Martin Sender reported that state Senator Lois Pines has filed legislation for \$477,000 for a three year program to eradicate the problem vegetation

in the Waltham, Weston, Watertown, and Newton areas of the Charles River. Co-sponsors from those communities would be useful.

Newsletter: Bonnie uses Word Perfect on her computer, so would like submissions to the newsletter in this when possible.

Next meeting: At the January 25 meeting we will appoint a nominating committee, nominate environmentalist of the year and annual meeting speaker.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

January 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 1995
Barry Pavilion, Boston College Law School

Present: Peter Kastner, presiding, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Lawrence Kaplan, Sally Flynn, Fran Seasholes, Marty Sender, Mike Clarke, George Vogel, AnnaMarie Abernathy, Thelma Fleishman, Jean Husher, Helen Heyn, Bill Hagar.

Minutes of the December 28 meeting: Page 1, Parks and Recreation Commission...add for clarification that this is the Weeks Playground in Newton Centre. APPROVED with that addition.

Treasurer's Report: Bud distributed the year-end statement for 1994, showing income of \$8006.51 and expenses of \$10,964.28. We have almost \$8000 in cash and bank accounts. Some transfers have been/will be made to the Grove Bank where we will keep a balance of about \$3000. In addition to Fidelity Investment and Government EE Bonds, we are purchasing Treasury Notes of one, three and five year maturity. Total assets are \$84,285.65. This report has not yet been audited.

1995 Budget: Bud presented and led the discussion on the projected 1995 income and expenditures, which would total \$12,800 and \$12,600. A great increase in interest income is expected. \$1500 has been contributed, ear-marked for the legal action on the Irwin Road issue. New line items are \$1000 each for program and for Ordway maintenance. Extra effort would have to be made to achieve a dues income of \$5000. We have had an insurance policy of \$50,000, and this is seen as more bond than needed, so may be reduced to \$10,000. This liability insurance covers our walks and Ordway Park. Insurance for Board members for \$1,000,000 would cost \$900 and is not being proposed now. An audit and finance committee will be asked to examine our insurance and get professional advise. The budget was ACCEPTED with appreciation for Bud's work.

Grants: Bud reported that only two or three proposals are expected before the January 31 deadline (Teachers in Newton schools are on work to rule, without a contract.) \$3000 has been budgeted, but in 1993 \$1250 was given, and in 1994 \$3188 was distributed.

Memberships: Mike Clarke reported that as of mid-January there are 210 memberships, about \$2000 in dues. It is suggested that at some later point we consider raising the membership dues.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Members Mike Clarke and Peter reported on an interesting meeting with good results on the proposal to level and create a new soccer field on the **Weeks playground**. Thirty neighbors attended (75 notices were sent) and some spoke effectively on the multi-uses of the area, seeing it as a neighborhood park, not just playing fields. The action was to appoint a committee with Mike Clarke as chair, to propose a master plan for the whole park. Gene Bober of the Planning Department and the city Engineering Department (concerning the underground brook, flooding, etc.) will be involved. It was noted that two wells had been sunk there by the city for watering the fields without having gone through the usual review process.

Since our Conservators Newsletter is seen as a "powerful instrument," an article on this should be included.

Mike challenged the interpretation of the city survey on people's satisfaction level about the Parks and Recreation, and he distributed his letter and chart that went to Director Russell Halloran.

Peter requested that the \$300,000 budget for Parks and Recreation be submitted before the meeting to the Commissioners and that more detail be included next time. There is a problem on playing fields, especially this open winter, of those playing the game ultimate frisbee are damaging the ground.

Land Use -- Irwin Road Court Case: Peter reported that after the formal meeting between the developer and our contesting group, the attorneys for the two sides met. It is a 50-50 possibility that our interpretation of the city ordinance would prevail in Court. Peter spent some time examining the MDC maps, indicating that in 1898 the MDC took ten to fifteen feet in from the road. The common practice is for the city to grant easements over MDC land when requested.

Our options appear to be to pursue our objection to the road construction on the flood plain (It would block the unrestricted flow of water.), or go to the developer and get more concessions, or follow-up with the MDC. Helen noted that four residences built in the '30s and '50s would not have been given more recent permits, because they lie in the 100 year flood zone. Such floods would cut off access to the houses now being proposed by the developer. The current Conservation Commission has undercut the ordinance and weakened it for later use. The proposed road would have a retaining wall and twelve inch culvert. Two of the group of ten taxpayers in the court appear are owners close to this property.

It was agreed that Helen will contact Greg McGregor for advice on the MDC issue, that Peter will contact neighbors and ask for money to continue the litigation (giving them copies of our Newsletter and his letter in the Newton Graphic). The concerned neighbors have about \$70,000 in an attempt to buy the land, for which the developer paid \$140,000.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that Martha Horn is getting involved in positive ways. She will be our guest at the March Board meeting.

Open Space Management in Newton: Peter said that Martha Horn is interested in the Conservators sponsoring a community meeting on this topic. It could include how other communities maintain their public park lands. Bill Stevenson and the Program Committee will be asked to facilitate this (in the new library?) for later this spring.

Park Walk and Celebration: Leo Levi/Newton Pride Committee are planning a fund-raising (pledges for walking) event in April and is asking for our cooperation. We postponed a decision.

Newsletter: Without Bonnie's presence a next deadline was not established. but the following articles were proposed for the next issue. (There was a suggestion of making more than three issues a year, since they are so valuable). The Weeks Field - Mike Clarke, Irwin Road - Peter, Grants - Bud, Spring walks - Program Committee*, Biography of Martha Horn, Open Space Management - Program Committee, Annual meeting, History of Quinobequin Road. (* Mike Clarke will lead a canoe trip May 13.).

Charles River Lake District: Marty said that there were no new developments. Sponsor Lois Pines is now in a less powerful position, but legislators in surrounding towns are also involved.

Nominating Committee: Roger agreed to head this, Bill Hagar volunteered, and Bill Stevenson was recommended.

Audit Committee: Lawrence, Marty agreed and Bill Shaevel will be asked to review the treasurer's books.

Annual Meeting: Sally agreed to be in charge of arrangements (with assistance from Fran), and it was agreed to return to Noyes Hall on the campus of Andover Newton Theological School. Jean Husher offered to type the invitations again. The first week in June, mid-week, was suggested.

Nominations for **Environmentalist of the Year** are needed. One suggestion was the chair of the Commonwealth Avenue Task Force, on behalf of that group which had been effective in making improvements over the original proposal of making it more of a highway. Suggestions for a **speaker** at the annual meeting will be in the hands of the program committee but suggestions included: Greg McGregor (\$100 fee), a person from the National Parks on the development of the Boston Harbor Islands, developer Bob

Weinberg discussing public-private partnership, US Senator John Kerry, and Alexandra (Sandy) Dawson on the status of conservation law in the current political climate.

Transportation Day: On Saturday, June 10 a Mayor's committee will be having walks from T stops and other events to "get people out of their cars."

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

February 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 22, 1995
Barry Pavilion, Boston College Law School

Present: Peter Kastner, presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Marty Sender, Bud Elliott, Fran Seasholes, Helen Heyn, Lawrence Kaplan, Bill Stevenson, Margaret Albright, Jean Husher, John Bliss, Nick Yannoni, Bonnie Carter.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 25, 1995 meeting were APPROVED.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported the good news of a \$5700 increase in assets in the last two months...memberships and interest. All bank accounts are now consolidated in the Grove Bank. The Treasury notes in different durations amount to \$65,000, and total assets are now \$89,941.

Membership: Peter reported for Mike Clarke that there are now 243 paid memberships. The new brochure is now available, Peter having had 2500 copies printed at a cost of \$380. The membership committee is planning two letters, one to the politicians and others who now receive free newsletters and another to the 600 people on the Newton Historical Association mailing list. Both will enclose the brochure and urge paid memberships.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Peter reported positively on the **Weeks** playing field issue where the Newton Soccer League has proposed some leveling of a slope to accommodate a fourth level field. Mike Clarke and Wally Bernheimer were part of the 20-member subcommittee to report back, and the group came up with 13 objectives and a landscape architect's plan for both getting another field and enhancing the park-like features of the space by extending a berm and planting trees in an area where picnic tables and benches could be installed. It was encouraging that Comm. Russ Halloran spoke positively about the park aspects of this space, which is basically a very large field. The rise in popularity of soccer in Newton is attested to by our having 200-300 teams!

Siting of new school: After some years of decline during which some school buildings were closed and sold, Newton is now in the position of having an increase of 300+ students a year, and new accommodations are needed. The Planning Department process

and public meetings reduced proposed sites to six. It is desirable to have about 15 acres of land for a middle school, and because of cost the land should already be owned by the city. Peter has been consulting on a role in this for the Conservators, and it is suggested that we pick one or two and advocate for them as the debate continues in the next few weeks. We need to be present at site committee meetings and advocate for avoiding wetlands and consideration of the nature of the land if open space is being used. Peter will draft a letter stating our position, with a leaning toward the Oak Hill School site as the least environmentally damaging.

Irwin Road project: Peter reported for Mike Collora, who has been following this closely. A decision was made to continue going forward, rather than seek a compromise with the developer who risked purchasing the land. This involves asking attorney Fassenella to file a summary judgment (\$1500) to speed the legal process. Peter, Conservators President but not a party to the suit, got notification to testify, but this is interpreted as intended to intimidate. Next week Peter will be meeting with neighbors of the proposed road to request their financial assistance in paying the legal fees. Clarification is needed on how much has been paid and is owed. Peter will ask Mike Collora to convene the petitioners to plan strategy.

The Board VOTED TO AUTHORIZE the executive committee to approve the expenditure of \$1500 of Conservators money for preparing and filing a summary judgment, if such a decision cannot be held over to the March meeting.

Helen has done further research and learned that the eight foot strip beside the road does belong to the MDC and thus the legislature would need a 2/3rds vote to give the developer an exemption. He also would need a curb cut from the MDC. The MDC will need to search and make their own finding on this.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that this group has approved the work that Mike Clarke has done on the **Charles River Walkway** between Nahanton Street upstream past Wells Ave. With a permit he has done cutting and filling. The CC is seeking an "order of conditions" to extend the original work order for treating the fanwort in the **Charles River Lake District**.

Conference on open space management: The proposal that the Conservators sponsor such an open forum this spring is being put aside, partly because the Harvard University Graduate School of Design is sponsoring four lectures in February and March closely related to our interest.

Newton's Earth Day: The Conservators have been asked to arrange a series of walks from village centers to NNHS, the site of displays etc., as part of the April 30 Earth Day celebration. There were no volunteers present to attend a meeting the next morning on this, so it was agreed to decline the request, noting that "we are busy defending our parks."

Newsletter: Bonnie set the next deadline as March 15 with a mailing about April 1. Articles to be included were listed.

Spring Walks: The following schedule was agreed upon: May 13 canoe trip with Mike Clarke, May 14 Nahanton Park bird walk (Paula Chasan?), May 21 Newton Cemetery (Fiora Houghteling?), May 28 Memorial weekend - no walk, June 4 Hammond Woods with Lawrence Kaplan, June 11 Lake District with Peter Kastner, June 18 Aqueduct with Nick Yannoni. Newton's Springfest is Sunday May 14.

Nominating Committee: This group has met and begun its work.

Annual Meeting: Sally Flynn has contacted Andover Newton Theological School and requested Wednesday, June 14 for our annual dinner meeting. There was strong APPROVAL of the proposal to give Senator Lois Pines our Environmentalist of the Year award. In discussing several suggestions our first choice for a speaker is Gregory McGregor and a back-up would be Mr. Zimmerman of the Charles River Watershed Association.

Charles River Lake District: Senator Lois Pines has filed a bill to extend the clean-up funding for three years. The House Chair is Barbara Grey of the Committee on Natural Resources, which will hold a public hearing. Conservators should speak in favor.

Grants: Letters from previous recipients of Conservator grants have written reports, some of which Bud read to the group. Two new requests were received and copies sent to the Grants Committee members. **Cabot School** requests \$363.22 to expand the K-1 gardening and bird feeding project to all the classes through grade 2. This was APPROVED BY VOTE. The Newton Historic Preservation Association's **Newton Burial Ground Project** requests \$568 as a two-for-one matching grant in a total project goal of \$3400. Jean Husher explained that professional slide photos would be taken in the Centre Street burial ground, which is the city's first open space, site of first meeting house, on the national register, and a place with historic grave markers. The slides and a special projector would be used to educate the public about this area, which has been an "orphan" for 100 years. The city has maintained the front of the three acres, and twice yearly volunteer efforts have been made at maintenance, but the spurious grown needs better care and this educational slide program would alert the public to this. The Board VOTED TO APPROVE this grant request.

Audit Committee: Bill Stevenson was added to this committee.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary

March 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Boston College Law School

Barry Pavilion (Room B321)
March 22, 1995

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, Bud Elliott, Margaret Albright, Bill Stevenson, Helen Heyn, Fran Seasholes, Lawrence Kaplan, Sally Flynn, Mike Clarke, Bonnie Carter, Vaunita Schnell.

Guest: Martha Horn, Newton's new Environmental Planner, who is employed 19 1/2 hours under City Planner Gene Bober, was our guest to discuss her projects and learn more about the Newton Conservators. A request for \$22,000 has been approved by the Mayor and now goes to the Aldermen to enable extra work she has identified. This includes honoring volunteers who work on the paths, doing an inventory of paths (students to study), work with Helen Heyn on a management plan, mapping the link between conservation and recreation lands, adding identifying signage on trails. She has also noted that there are liability concerns with the present bad conditions of the bog bridge on the Kennard land, and this would require extra funding. She is getting cooperation from the Engineering Department as she familiarized herself with Newton open sites.

It is suggested that our newsletter publicize some of Martha Horn's work and that Mike Clarke work with her over time to put relevant maps etc. on the Internet through Boston College. A high school intern, Dan Thomases, is helping organize records on city properties and updating the 1975 Charles River Pathway Plan information.

Peter spoke of the Conservators desire that her position be full time, our philosophy of the public use of the parklands, and our role in funding projects with small grants. There is no city money for land acquisition.

Ms. Horn was encouraged to keep in communication with us, partly through our members who serve on related city committees.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 22 meeting were ACCEPTED as distributed.

Treasury: Bud reported that we are \$1000 ahead of last year at this time on memberships, perhaps due to membership envelopes being included in the newsletter. Expenditures have been grants and legal expenses.

Membership: Mike Clarke said that there are about 250 paid members now.

Audit: Lawrence Kaplan reported that the committee had met with the treasurer, reviewed the books, and found all in good order. Bud was congratulated for doing a good job.

Land Use -- Irwin Road Court Case: Peter reported (Mike Collora is away) that at the meeting with the neighbors last Sunday he explained the case, Conservators' efforts, and the fact that we had budgeted \$2500, which was conditioned on further financial input

from neighbors. They were appreciative and 8 or 9 of them agreed to contribute as needed (\$300 each) toward the legal expenses. When that money is used up there will be a meeting to review the position. It is expected that action will be several months off. In the longer range the neighbors of Rokeby Road will be exploring the issue with the city, of the city taking the land for conservation purposes.

Grants: Bud reported that the Cabot School and Newton Cemetery grants had been given. There was agreement on continuing our contribution (\$100) to the Environmental League, which lobbies the state legislature. There was a request for \$500 from Newton's Earth Day Committee to pay for the Boston Recycle Center to introduce its program in Newton schools. We felt that such a request would more appropriately come from the organization itself, through our usual grants process. We agreed to buy a one page advertisement (\$100) in the Earth Day program booklet and to take a table (\$35) there to promote the Conservators and have material available. This was seen as more appropriate than Springfest for our organization.

Parks and Recreation -- Weeks Field: Mike Clarke reported on the effective, win-win plan which creates two large and two smaller soccer fields divided into north/south sections by a raised area of trees and benches, which would be provided by the city (\$5-7000). The underground irrigation system from the two existing wells would be paid for by the city, but the soccer field grading would be paid for by the soccer teams. The effective mobilization of the neighbors was credited, but since the site is also being considered for a middle school it is apparent that nothing is assured yet. Mike was thanked for his participation in this through the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Parks and Recreation Commission -- Policy on land transfers: Wally Bernheimer and Mike Clarke have drafted general guidelines for the Commission to consider when there are requests for transferring land for alternate uses. This was reviewed with positive feedback by Conservators. A specific concern in this regard is the current suggestion by the Newton School Department that it take land in Parks and Recreation control for the construction of a new school. It was agreed that Mike and Peter would speak in the Conservators' name at the upcoming public meeting about siting the school. Peter has already written letters to the Graphic and Tab reflecting last meeting's attitude toward the use of park land for schools.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that the meeting tomorrow will focus on the 1996 land maintenance costs, including contractors' bids for winter storm damage to trees.

Newton's Earth Day -- Parks Walks: Peter will coordinate our having a table at North High School on April 30 for this event and our having an ad in the program book. We declined further participation as an organization.

Newsletter: Bonnie is being offered many articles and will alter the deadline.

Spring Walks: Peter is awaiting responses on some who are asked to lead walks.

Charles River Lake District: Although the legislature rejected Senator Lois Pines' proposal on funding a clean-up of the water chestnut and fanwort choking the area, the question is going to a subcommittee and is being kept alive.

Nominating: The committee has met and is working. A couple suggestions were made for new members, and the question raised about continuing with members who have been non-attenders.

Annual Meeting: Peter reported that Lois Pines was pleased to be named **Environmentalist of the Year** and will provide a list on interested environmentalists to invite. A citation for her will be solicited from the city. Gregor McGregor has agreed to be the **speaker** and will provide a picture and bio to be used in newspaper publicity. Because of his timely expertise we will expand our invitation list. Sally Flynn has made the arrangement with Andover Newton Theological School for use of Noyes Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances C. Seasholes, Secretary

April 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 27, 1995

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, Margaret Albright, Lawrence Kaplan, Fran Seasholes, George Vogel, Bud Elliott, Mike Clarke, Sally Flynn, Marty Sender, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mike Collora, Helen Heyn, Bill Hagar, Bonnie Carter, Bart Hague. Guests Deborah Dyer of New Highlands and Kevin MacDonald of the Irwin Road neighborhood.

Minutes: Correction in name spelling of Martha Horn's high school intern - Thomases. With that, the minutes of March 22 were VOTED accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Clarke estimated that there are now 267 paid members, some having come through the new brochure.

Irwin Road Law Case: Peter was the primary reporter on the status of this effort to keep wetlands protected from development through enforcement of the city's flood plain ordinance. Of the ten people who brought the suit 3 or 4 (not including those living closest and most affected) were recently deposed to testify in Superior Court, including Bill Hagar and Mike Clarke who told of their experiences. The Conservators' concern is that the Conservation Commission improperly granted permissions to the developer. Mr. MacDonald noted that the neighborhood concern related primarily to loss of woods and view.

There was discussion of options and possible outcomes and the sense that we are committed to the course but do not want to be overwhelmed financially by the litigation costs, which have been increased by the depositions. There has been \$1600 contributed by 5 neighbors, but a few others originally planned to donate, and there was a feeling that more should be raised from them. Mr. MacDonald will address this. \$1700 has been raised from the Conservators Board for it, of the \$2500 designated for this year. Peter will look into the legal costs to date and the contributions. It was suggested that a display and appeal be included at the annual meeting for others to become involved. The neighbor group plans to meet with the Mayor and look at the political aspects and whether more publicity or political pressure would be useful. The MDC is not yet active in it.

Treasurer's Report: Bud had no special changes to report but reminded the Directors that purchases for the Conservators are exempt from sales tax if our tax exempt number is used.

School Location Issue: We won...and were joined in our stand against using park land for a new middle school by many neighborhood spokesmen. This included Deborah Dyer, who was present and spearheaded the effort not to use the Newton Highlands playground. Many sites had restrictions on them, and the Parks and Recreation Department had indicated conditions that would have increased costs to the School Department if other than the Oak Hill site had been chosen. Mike Clarke was thanked for the role he took in some of the calculations and the inclusion of a requirement that, since the Oak Hill site involves a dump area, there must be cleaned up near the wetlands. The Conservators influence was also felt by letters and testimony at hearings.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike Clarke noted that the Commission should be commended for 100 linden trees planted this week into **Albemarle Park** and for approving a **master plan for Allison Park** in Nonantum in coordination with the MDC. Martha Horn will go before the Aldermen with a proposed \$22,000 budget for the four special projects she mentioned to us last month, and we need to lobby aldermen for their support. A distressing move made by the P and R Commissioner is to have contracted with the Little League organization for the licensing of the **concession stand at Newton North High School**, without abiding by the 1992 agreement and outside consultation. It was noted that the title remains with the city, that plantings designed to screen the facility are not adequate, that potential financial gains aren't coming to the city as in other situations.

Mike reported that both the Conservators and the Parks and Recreation Commission are now on **World Wide Web**, and text given to him can be added. He also is storing six large boxes of "**The Geology of Newton**," which Peter will take charge of.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that there is remaining salary money in the budget and that Martha Horn will be working extra time before July 1st, when she will revert to three days a week.

Annual Meeting: Sally has been making arrangements with Andover Newton, but this year they will not be able to provide the food service, so she is exploring catering options and intends to keep the ticket price at \$20. The **nominating committee** is working, taking other suggestions and will get the necessary lists to Sally for inclusion in the invitations to the annual meeting. Peter will ask Jean Husher to help with the citation wording, and Marty Sender is handling newspaper publicity, including pictures of Gregor McGregor and Lois Pines.

Newsletter: Bonnie was congratulated on an excellent, large issue, and she noted that Sally had handled the post-printing chores for it.

Earth Day: Peter is coordinating our Conservator table for this afternoon event on April 30 at Newton North High School. We will display the open space map and our publications.

Spring Walks: The schedule was included in the Newsletter.

Charles River Lake District: Marty reported that Rep. Kay Kahn and David Cohen had been instrumental in having the House pass a \$216,000 line item on the MDC budget to do the necessary clean-up and that there is hope that the Senate will also soon approve it. He will be pressing the MDC to act this year on the part of the weed removal that fits with the best botanical timing...the legislative and botanical timing being out of sync. This is phase 3 of a 10 or 12 step process, but it is "good so far." Marty was thanked for his work, and it was noted that the Waltham Conservation Commission had taken an active role in circulating petitions.

Ordway Park: We need to arrange for defining the maintenance needed on this property, which we control, and for arranging with a contractor that it be done.

June meeting: It cannot be decided yet whether we will schedule a June Board meeting to follow the June 14 annual meeting.

Fran Seasholes, Secretary