

Board of Directors, 1995 - 1996

Officers:

President: Peter Kastner
Vice President: Michael Clarke
Secretary: Sally Flynn
Treasurer: Burton Elliott
Past President: Roger Feinstein

Directors:

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| Margaret Albright | Jeffrey Axelrod |
| Bonnie Carter | Michael Collora |
| Joseph DiDuca | William Hagar |
| Bart Hague | Lawrence Kaplan |
| Vaunita Schnell | Martin Sender |
| William Stephenson | Martin Tropp |
| Robin Washington | Nicholas Yannoni |

Advisors:

| | |
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| 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 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
49 Woodbine St., Auburndale
June 28, 1995

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Deborah Dyer, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Larry Kaplan.

Treasurer's Report: Bud said that the semi-annual report through June showed \$265.00 income over expenses. Including legal expenses, we have \$809.00 on the plus side.

President's Report: Regarding the Irwin Rd. law case, Peter expects an additional expense of \$2500.00 to file a brief. The deposition is scheduled for July 7th. Mike Collora said that finality should be sought by asking for a summary judgment.

Membership Committee: The membership is about 287. Peter would like to add 3-4 more Board members by September.

Grants Committee: Bud has received a letter from Underwood School in appreciation for money given.

Irwin Rd. Law Case: So far, expenses will cost \$9000.00 against \$2000.00 income. We want to win the case; serious misjudgments have been made by the Conservation Commission. The Rokeby Rd. neighbors will be asked for \$500.00 per household contribution.

Parks and Recreation: Mike Clarke reports that it looks good for the **Allison Park, Nonantum**, renewal as part of the Charles River Pathway.

Weeks Field, with \$7000 paid by the City, and \$4000 contributed by neighbors, will be landscaped within the next year.

Bud and Peter met with the Mayor to discuss abuses to **Cold Spring Park** and **Albemarle Playground**. The Mayor appeared receptive, listened attentively.

City Organization: A study paper has been published noting little coordination between departments (Pks. and Rec., Planning, Cons. Comm.). Should realignment occur? Those interested in planning include Margaret, Roger, and Mike Clarke.

Newton Conservators' Organization: Peter led a discussion about what we should concentrate on over the next year. It was felt that some goals should include: observing or monitoring the Land Use and Conservation Commission meetings; continuing the Fall and Spring Walks; coordinating membership drives with program; continuing the Newsletter, which is a strong vehicle but does not add new members with its current distribution; and working on outreach and publicity (more maps should be distributed).

Annual Meeting: It was suggested that invitations be sent out earlier next year to generate a greater number of participants. This year only 68 people came, due to several other meeting conflicts. It was noted that the food, served by Baker's Best, was great.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

July 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
July 26, 1995

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Jeff Axelrod, Bonnie Carter, Deborah Dyer, Roger Feinstein, Bill Hagar, Helen Heyn, Larry Kaplan, Vaunita Schnell, Martin Sender.

Irwin Road Law Case: Last week the DEP rejected the summary judgment on the grounds that it had been filed late. Since \$3500-\$4000 in legal work was related to filing, Peter said that we should get credit from the lawyer. We could argue that the lawyer's negligence damaged our reputation of legitimacy and caused us to lose our ability to appeal. Any questions could be referred to the Mass Bar Association for arbitration. After discussion, it was decided to explore options for redress on a step-by-step basis. Peter will draft the letter.

August 16 is the date set by the Superior Court (Judge Zobel) for review of the case. (Newton Conservators would like to see the summary judgment made by August 16.)

Mr. Fascinella sent a letter suggesting that abutters be asked to be plaintiffs. Peter will contact Dina David to help raise money for the case. Abutters have raised money in the past. The Newton Conservators prefers not to have to draw money from the endowment.

Conservation Commission (Duffield Road): The issue of approval to build near wetlands is contingent upon the city's approval of the plan. It was noted that the Conservation Commission is "holding their feet to the fire" on this issue.

Concern was expressed over Terry Morris' request that the city abide by the less restrictive state map as opposed to the city map. Helen Heyn said that Mr. Morris presented proposals to the Land Use Committee and the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission is divided in its opinion and needs more deliberation. (The issues at stake are residential vs. non-residential vis-a-vis hardship, insurance and other liabilities.).

If the Conservators choose to take a position, one or two members needs to write a brief but cogent paper, gathering the facts with their implications, to present to the press and to the aldermen.

City Organization: The committee will meet on Monday, July 31. Some topics to be discussed will be: 1) what constitutes a "customer," 2) how do we understand the hierarchy of the structure, 3) what is the position of Parks and Recreation, 4) what are the questions raised by accessible technology. Margaret Albright indicated that she would be willing to advise on accessible technology questions.

Charles River Lake District: Martin Sender reported that weed harvesting begins in ten days. MDC will truck it away. Because of funding limits, only 20-25 acres will be cleared (funding is \$50,000). It was noted that this is just a beginning, but it sets a precedent for a multi-year project.

Deborah Dyer

August 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
August 30, 1995
49 Woodbine, Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host & presiding), Bud Elliott, Helen Heyn, Lawrence Kaplan, Fran Seasholes, Marty Sender, Bill Stevenson, Jeffrey Axelrod, Bonnie Carter.

Minutes: The minutes of July 26 were APPROVED as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Bud Elliott reported that we were at about the same as last year in grants, had more in capital gains, an increase in dues income and unpaid legal fees of about \$14,000 related to Irwin Road (\$4000 of that related to the appeal). Our assets are now about \$75,000, excluding the Ordway money.

Irwin Road: Peter reported on conversations with the lawyer and his and Bud's efforts to involve the city. The Judge required the city to act and the developer to put up a \$25,000 bond. An order to dismiss is required, related to the MDC curb cut. The developer has asked for a September 27 summary judgment.

Peter and a handful of Board members met with neighbors in an attempt to raise more legal contributions from them and were disappointed in the response. It is estimated that there is about two more days of legal work and the presentation to the Judge. Peter projects \$18,500 in costs (perhaps minus \$4000 penalty for our lawyer filing late). It was agreed that a small group would meet ahead to refine our position and then meet with Mr. Fascinella around the wording of his arguments to the court.

Peter's financial projections: Five years of budget projections were drafted by Peter for discussion. Questions were around whether to pay off the legal fees over a short or longer term. Some of the basic financial assumptions Peter had made were challenged, but there was appreciation for focusing on this and a suggestion that a small group from the Board examine the issues around structuring the payments. There was consensus that we needed to negotiate firmly with our lawyer. It was noted that we have already paid about \$3000 and that \$1000 more should be forwarded at this time. Later in September/October Jeff and Bud will review the legal bills. Peter gave Jeff the legal file to review.

Membership and dues: We now have 311 dues-paying members, and there was a recommendation that Board members take responsibility for adding 10 or 15 more each. It was also suggested that the dues be raised. The Membership Committee (including Mike Clarke and Mr. Dyer, Bud and Bill) are being asked to propose a dues increase for the Board (and then the whole membership?) to act upon.

Grants: Bud reported that \$2100 has already been paid out in 1995. In late September he plans to send a notice through the school science coordinators asking for proposals, with a November 30 deadline for 1996 grants. As a way of determining how much we can afford to give in grants, it was suggested that the amount be tied to a % of interest income and identified in the next budget.

Newsletter: Bonnie set a September 15 deadline for material, will collate (with help from Sally & Lawrence) and mail the newsletter on September 22. The following assignments were made:

- Peter ...about Terry Morris & changes in wetland rules
- Brian Yates...Hemlock Gorge parking space
- Linda Plaut...Comm. Ave. 100th celebration on October 14
- Linda Plaut...Bullough's Pond
- Marty...Charles River vegetation
- Bud....Citizen Advisory Comm. on city organization
- Peter...Irwin Road
- Peter...Board vacancies (solicit new folks)
- Nick...Fall walks (five in October & November)
- Bud...Grants
- Bud...Ad hoc Committee
- Mike Clarke...Weeks Field
- Peter & Jeff...Questions to ask of reappointed Conservation Commissioners.

Conservation Commission: Terry Morris has **proposed changes in Newton ordinance # 22-22** to allow residential basements below the wetland line (floodplain elevation). This is illegal in the building code and is presumed not to be passed, but we will publicize it in the newsletter and note it to the Conservation Commission.

On September 11 there will be a review of the chairmanship and appointments by the Aldermen, and we (Jeff and Peter) will draft some questions related to their qualifications and level of knowledge on relevant issued.

The city acquired the **Barney Road Conservation Area** from a will, and apparently on adjacent land a developer has flagged a center line that appears to be illegal. Peter will write a strong letter of protest at the city's apparent premature approval of development.

Newton city organization: The mayor has received the recommendations from a Boston College management group and is starting to take action on them. A subcommittee of the Board met (Bud and Mike Clarke) and sent a letter to the Mayor, asking to have the Conservators involved in related proposals.

Landscaping in Newton: Citizen Bill Saunders wrote a letter about the uneven maintenance of public lands, and Peter has picked up on this as a wake-up call of asking key people questions, identifying the problem, and looking for action. It was noted that with Prop 2 1/2 there is no public money now involved, and payments to contractors has been slow.

Charles River weeds: Marty has been delighted by the progress made by the harvesting machine, which began work removing weeds in the Cove, etc. on August 7. Thirty acres of the 55 infested are yielding 100 tons, which are being composted. Because of dormant seeds it needs to continue next year. There has been good cooperation and success.

Ordway Park: Helen and Peter will go there to make the specifications on the necessary pruning, removal of dumped asphalt, etc.

Sawmill Park: Helen reported that there had been 2 recent fires there in an area, including special vegetation, and the fire hoses used to extinguish the fires created gullies.

Edmands Park map: Bud got a communication from a man who complained that our map is not specific enough on this park. There is a 1968 detailed map available, and it was suggested that, when informing him of this, we should invite him to become a Conservator member. There was a consensus not to increase the one dollar price on our map (which goes free to members).

Fran Seasholes, for the secretary

September 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
September 28, 1995
49 Woodbine, Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host and president), Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Deborah Dye, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Helen Heyn, Jean Husher, Martin Sender, Nick Yannoni.

Slide Presentation: Jean Husher showed slides of the **Centre St. Burial Ground**. It needs much work, both on the grounds and setting the stones aright.

Minutes: The minutes of Aug. 30 were ACCEPTED as corrected (under Peter's financial projections: \$300 being changed to \$3000.)

Treasurer's Report: Bud Elliott reported no significant changes. He has paid \$1000 to the Irwin Rd. case lawyer and received dues from 3 new members this past month. Peter mentioned that he has been dropping off Newsletters at the Library for wider exposure of Newton Conservator happenings.

Irwin Road: Peter reported that on Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Conservation Commission meeting, the developer would present a Replication Plan. J. Axelrod, H. Heyn, and P. Kastner met after the last meeting to discuss the technicalities of a document produced by Fascinella, opposing the motion for a summary judgment. Mike Collora felt we should make a payment of \$5000 to "spur on" our lawyers, and offered to approach the Irwin Rd. abutters regarding their needed involvement and assistance. Much discussion ensued on the follow-through of this approach.

Mike will draft a letter to all abutters, then call each, suggesting that they join the Conservators with a tax-deductible \$1000. At this point we have paid approximately \$4000 and will contribute \$2500 more. It looks as if the total bill will approach \$22,000, but failure to file on time by the lawyers should cause an adjustment.

Parks and Recreation: Mike Clarke reported that Russ Halloran has put \$20,000 in his capital improvement budget for improvements to **Weeks Field**. A true cost accounting of the Parks and Recreation Dept., including the possibility of a fee system, would be beneficial.

Conservation Commission: Helen Heyn spoke of 7 site studies that may be managed by the Commission.

Newsletter: A terrific job accomplished by Bonnie; also the illustrations penned by her sister-in-law, Janet.

Harvest Fair is to be held Oct. 15, 1-4 PM. Should we have a booth to sell maps, memberships? Peter and Bill will work on it.

Ordway Park: Peter met with Helen to make up a bid (with 7 parts). Parts 1-5 = \$1300 to clean out litter, logs, dead trees. Part 6 = \$1600 to remove tree saplings, mostly along Grant Ave. Part 7 = \$? to prune. A MOTION was made and PASSED for the \$1300 cleanup (parts 1-5). October 21st is clean up day for volunteers.

Commonwealth Ave. Golf Course: Bart Hague attended the public meeting on 9/27. Issues important to us are: 1) can areas be better managed to create open spaces, and 2) how to solve the problem of greens being wrecked by cross-country skiers.

Stop and Shop Proposal on Needham St.: A public hearing will be held on Oct. 10th to discuss ramifications of a 4-lane highway with 7 lights on Needham St.

New Business: Mike Clarke talked about proposed 32 sq. ft. sign to be placed on Walnut St. for the **Newton Cemetery Corp**. We need to suggest to Board of Aldermen a much smaller 10-15 sq. ft. sign in keeping with the residential guidelines.

Helen Heyn announced a meeting Oct. 6-8 of the Boston Architectural Center, taking place at Newton City Hall, regarding the **Flowed Meadow Area**.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

October 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
October 25, 1995
49 Woodbine St., Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host and presiding), Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Mike Collora, Deborah Dyer, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Jean Husher, Marty Sender, Bill Stevenson, Nick Yannoni.
Guest: Colleen Miniker.

Minutes of Sept. 28 were APPROVED as amended (Bill Hagar, not Bill Stevenson, being present).

Irwin Road: The case was argued before a court. After the defense asked that the case be dismissed, the judge said that we did have standing. Mike Collora sent out a letter to abutters and will call them next week to follow up. He suggested that we make a further payment to our lawyer; it was MOVED that we send \$1250 from the Fidelity Account.

Norumbega Park: Marty Sender reported that on the north edge there are 2 woodchip piles, 40 ft. in diameter by 12 ft. high, which need to be dispersed. Calls to City Hall or letters to the TAB get results. In addition, Martha Horn, the Environmental Planner for the city, should be alerted.

Treasurer's Report: Bud mentioned that 3 checks had been received for the Legal Fund. The bill for the Ordway Park clean up came to \$1395.

Ordway Park Cleanup: Volunteers Peter and Clare Kastner, Bonnie Carter, and a neighbor cleared away brush and pruned saplings on a rainy Sat., Oct. 21. The small park sign is hard to see and needs supplementing.

Grants Committee: A letter was sent to Maxine Rosenberg, Science Coordinator for the Newton Public Schools, to inform her that schools requesting grants need to respond by the end of Nov.

Parks and Recreation: A task force is needed to calculate the uses of money, both private and public; to examine the last 5 years' budgets; to study other cities of comparable size; and to determine how much funding is going to conservation lands. It appears that expenditures are made in categories to specific parcels (like Allison Park). Possibly interested to serve on a task force are Peter Kastner, Margaret Albright, Jeffrey Axelrod, and Anna Maria Abernathy.

Stop and Shop Development: Deborah Dyer reported on the Oct. 10 meeting at City Hall (Aldermanic), which lasted until 1:30 AM. Citizens were allowed to speak around midnight, and the vote was 12 in favor and 200+ opposed. Deborah encourages people to write to aldermen expressing concern about the traffic impact.

Membership: Bud met with Deborah Dyer and Mike Clarke to see about raising number of members, which currently stands around 300. An exchange of mailing lists with local garden clubs, CRWA, AMC Newton members, etc., might be a good start. A move to increase the base membership fee to \$20 will have to be approved at the next Annual Meeting in the spring. It was also felt that mailing the Newsletter to park abutters, or including a pull-off to mail to names of friends, might increase membership.

Newsletter: Bonnie would like a deadline of Nov. 25 for an early December printing.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

November 1995

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
November 29, 1995
49 Woodbine St., Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host and presiding), Margaret Albright, Jeff Axelrod, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Deborah Dyer, Bud Elliott, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Helen Heyn, Larry Kaplan, Marty Sender, Bill Stevenson.

Minutes: Under Ordway Park Cleanup, the small park sign needs supplementing, not replacing.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that we were less in the red this year (\$1800) than last (\$3702), because some investments came due, and there was a recent \$500 additional gift for the legal fund (Irwin Rd.).

Membership Committee: Deborah reported little response to letters sent to Garden Clubs to solicit members. Postcards will be inserted in the late winter newsletter to encourage spreading the work. The membership is about 320.

Grants Committee: Bud has received only one request, a letter from Bowen School, asking for aid in phase 2 of its beautification project. It was VOTED to award the school \$325.

Irwin Rd. Law Case: \$600 more has been contributed by neighbors of Irwin Rd. Jeff and Peter met and will ask our attorney to renegotiate his fee. A decision should be made soon regarding the outcome of the case. It was VOTED to send another payment to the attorney.

Parks and Recreation: Peter had proposed previously that a study needed to be done around park issues. Two results are: Bill Saunders wrote an article in a local paper regarding litter control, which was then brought up at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen; and, Bill Stevenson has a PhD. grad student who will do a study of park issues, comparing Newton to other comparably-sized cities in Mass. It was VOTED to award this student up to \$250 to cover expenses.

Conservation Commission: Helen reported that Martha Horn needs more time for wetlands supervision. With her existing work schedule, she can do nothing with land maintenance. A letter to the Mayor is needed, reinforcing her lack of hours to do her job properly.

Bud proposed that we have a special meeting with the Mayor in early December to discuss several issues, among them: 1) the possibility of increasing Martha Horn's hours; 2) alerting him to our parks study; 3) asking for the criteria for appointments to the Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commissions; and 4) regarding the reorganization of the City government.

Congratulations to Marty Sender on receiving the Ann Blackburn Award from the Charles River Watershed Association for his work on the control of the **water chestnut problem** in the Charles River.

The next meeting will be held on the 17th of January, as there will be no meeting in December.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

January 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 1996
49 Woodbine St., Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host and presiding), Anna Maria Abernathy, Jeff Axelrod, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Deborah Dyer, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Helen Heyn.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that we've received just a few memberships. The legal fees stand at \$12,500 (\$2,500 less, if paid soon). He suggested that we need closure of the Irwin Rd. case. Peter will send a rough copy of the results to Mike Collora before it is published in the Newsletter.

Membership Committee: Deborah reported an exchange of mailing lists with both the Charles River Watershed Association and the Newton Historical Society, in the hope of

increasing membership. The renewal letter will be going out to members soon, generated by Peter.

Grants Committee: Bud had received 6 grant requests by November 30. The committee met on January 6th to decide which proposals to accept. Those ACCEPTED were: the Bowen School Nature Walk (already approved) for \$250 and the Underwood School Outdoor Classroom Project, phase 2, for \$500. REJECTED were Bowen School's request for landscaping (\$650) and F. A. Day's request for landscaping (\$795). Mason Rice's request of \$463 was sent back for further clarification, and Green Decade Coalition's proposed Pesticide Use Survey (\$500) was considered too broad a project to discuss further.

Leo Levi wanted an article for city publication on the grants (which Peter sent).

Parks and Recreation: Mike Clarke reported the Allison Park and Weeks Field successes need to be part of a 5 year plan, which Gene Bober said he would provide.

The city owns property on **Pine St. (near Burr School)**, which needs to be cleaned up and which the Health Commissioner needs to address. The Monday, Jan. 22 meeting will be attended by both Peter and Mike.

Conservation Commission: The new budget asks for more **wildlife habitat** on conservation lands. Martha Horn invited Conservators to attend a meeting at which John Richardson will report, on Jan. 25 at City Hall. We recommend that the Planning Dept. and the Conservation Commission coordinate their future plans.

January 23 will be the meeting with Mayor Concannon regarding budget, conservation, quality of appointments to the Conservation Commission, and other issues.

Mike Clarke says to get information on the parks, recreation, and Conservators click on WEB -- <http://chemserv.bc.edu.parks>.

Stop and Shop Proposal: Peter reported that the Land Use Committee public hearing will happen on Feb. 13th. A study shows that traffic will increase by 1/3 if S & S is built. Needham St. is now at capacity. The tax base can be as well served by small businesses going in (with less traffic). Traffic everywhere in Newton is now a citywide issue.

Board Nominations: We need to plan for the 96-97 year. Each Board member should find one new member. Roger will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The next meeting will be held on February 28th.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

February 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 28, 1996
49 Woodbine St., Auburndale

Present: Peter Kastner (host and presiding), Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Deborah Dyer, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Vaunita Schnell. Guests: Nancy Avery and Phyllis Vineyard.

Treasurer's Report: In Bud's absence, Peter reported that the Irwin Road court case had been paid for, with the exception of the stenographer bill.

Membership Committee: Deborah reported that a mailing had gone out in mid-February. There are 16 new members.

Parks and Recreation: Money for Edmands Park (\$300,000) and Nahanton Park (\$500,000) has been allocated in the Capital Budget Plan. \$75,000 has been allocated for the Newton Historical Cemetery.

Conservation Commission: Peter reported that our concerns were voiced to the Mayor on Jan. 23, regarding the need for a fulltime, not halftime, staff position for the Commission. New appointments will be reviewed by a committee headed by Anita Capeless. The Mayor said he will support term limits.

Nominating Committee has not yet met.

Polly Bryson has asked for a Task Force to be appointed to coordinate Public Works with several other groups. Bill Saunders, representing an Auburndale group, has asked that 1.) \$75,000 be set aside to maintain open spaces; 2) a coordinator be hired to oversee open spaces; and 3.) trained people continue the overseeing.

The Tree Task Force has now become the **Tree Commission**, whose purpose is to study the maintenance of local trees. There is a budget, and it is headed by Leo Levi, Jim Roderick and Jay Bergstrom.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held May 15 or 29th. Save the dates.

Audit Committee will be meeting at Bud Elliott's. Mike Collora volunteered.

Environmentalist of the Year was discussed. Several suggestions were offered. Results will be reported next month.

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club is concerned about pollution in **Hammond Pond**, caused by the lower mall at Chestnut Hill and affecting **Houghton Gardens**. Bill Hagar can test the water, and Martha Horn will be informed.

The next meeting will be held on March 27.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

March 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 27, 1996

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, Anna Marie Abernathy, Jeff Axelrod, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bart Hague, Lawrence Kaplan, Bill Stevenson, Nick Yannoni.

Minutes: APPROVED as read for the February 28th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reported that our net worth is \$76,103, down \$11,423 from last year, since our legal expenses during this period was \$15,925. The total legal fees were \$20,300, with \$4375 contributed by neighbors and Conservators. Jeff Axelrod and AnnaMarie Abernathy were very helpful in settling of the legal suit. Contributions are down about \$1000, but membership is up about \$1000.

Membership Committee: There have been 123 renewals during the past few weeks. The informational table at the City fairs is important for the personal contact with prospective members. An increase in dues has been recommended (due to increased costs and no increase in fees in 10 years) and SHALL BE VOTED on at the Annual Meeting. Fees increase proposed are: Basic - \$20; Family - \$25; Sustaining - \$35; Donor - \$50; and Patron - \$100. A category for new members only will be \$10.

Grants Committee: All grants have been distributed. The Ted Mann Trust has been sent to the Newton Schools Foundation and the library, with CD-ROMs on conservation subjects.

Parks and Recreation Committee: The dumping of snow in **Nahanton Park** came up at the last meeting and has not yet been resolved.

Conservation Commission: On April 6 there will be a **Deer Park** meeting, triggered by a complaint to the state authorities, which have determined that there are too many deer for the space available. It was decided that we should support the Conservation Commission and advise reducing the number of deer.

Open Space Study: Bill Stevenson reported that John Austin, his PhD student, will be picking up budgets this week from a dozen close by, comparably sized cities. He handed out a sheet with an overview of this study.

Annual Meeting: Sally reported that Andover-Newton's Noyes Hall will again be the site of the Annual Meeting on May 29, 1996. Board Nominations are not yet complete. It was decided that the **Environmentalism of the Year** nomination should go to the Commonwealth Avenue Task Force. Several names for **speaker** were recommended, including Robert Campbell, the Globe architectural critic, Sam Bass Warner, Margaret Henderson Foid, and Gretchen Schuler. Peter will call these perspective speakers.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on April 24.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

April 1996

Board of Directors Meeting
April 24, 1996,
7:45 PM
49 Woodbine St.
Aururndale. MA 02166

Agenda was: (1) Review and approval of February minutes, (2) Treasurer's Report, (3) Membership report & Board membership, (4) Grants, (5) Parks and Recreation, (6) Conservation Commission, (7) City Study, (8) Annual Meeting - Speaker, Environmentalism of the Year, Board Nominations, (9) Spring Walks schedule presented, (10) Ordway Park, (11) Newsletter, (12) New business.

Present: Peter Kastner (host and presiding), Margaret Albright, Jeffrey Axelrod, Mike Clarke, Deborah Dyer, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Helen Heyn, Lawrence Kaplan, Nick Yannoni.

Minutes: The minutes from March 27 were CORRECTED to include under Annual Meeting the names of the Environmentalists of the Year. Those chosen to receive for the Commonwealth Ave. Task Force are William Gillitt, Elaine Gentile and Jean Husher.

Treasurer's Report: Bud reports no significant changes since last month.

Grants Committee: April 30 will be the next meeting to determine this round of grants.

Parks and Recreation: Peter reported that the City Finance Committee appropriated \$80,000 (part of the \$160,000 surplus from the City recycling efforts) to be used on open spaces, \$35,000 will be used at specific public places, \$10,000 used to hire a

coordinator to oversee places, \$10,000 used to have an arborist attend to trees, etc., and the balance spent on supplies.

A state grant has been approved to redo **Allison Park**; Joel Lerner is the State Manager in charge.

Conservation Commission: Money was appropriated to care for the deer in the **Deer Park**. Peter had written a letter recommending it.

Nominating Committee: Peter complimented Roger and his committee on their fine work accomplishing Board nomination.

The **Nahanton Park snow dumping** has interfered with an area where birds nest. Peter will be speaking to Russ Halloran on some funding for improving the park.

Bud suggested returning to the B. C. Law Campus for meetings. He also suggested using the June meeting to set the agenda for the coming year.

Mike Clarke will be in Washington, D.C. next year, working with the National Science Foundation. We will miss him and wish him well.

Bud thanked Peter for his leadership and the use of his home for meetings this past year.

Sally Flynn,
Secretary