

Board of Directors, 1996 - 1997

Officers:

President: Burton Elliott
Vice President: Bonnie Carter
Secretary: Sally Flynn
Treasurer: Roger Feinstein
Past President: Peter Kastner

Directors:

Margaret Albright	Jeffrey Axelrod
Bonnie Carter	Michael Clark (on leave of absence)
Michael Collora	Carol Lee Corbett
Douglas Dickson	Roger Feinstein
Sally Flynn	William Hagar
Bart Hague	Judith Hepburn
Lawrence Kaplan	Brian McCarthy
Colleen Minaker	Vaunita Schnell
Martin Sender	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
William Stevenson	Virginia Taplin
Verne Vance	

June, 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 1996

Present: Bud Elliott - presiding, Jeff Axelrod, Mike Clarke, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Collora, Douglas Dickson, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judith Hepburn, Colleen Minaker, Marty Sender, Nick Yannoni, Guest - Abra Rosenzweig.

Minutes: APPROVED as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bud had no changes from the Annual Meeting report.

Annual Meeting: Thanks to Sally for running it, and to Bud for his assistance.

Grants Committee: Bud gave an extended report and overview of this committee. Although it hasn't met for 2 months, it is active and has given out \$6641 over the past 4 years. The following grants were considered and VOTED upon: 1. \$500 has been given to the High School Environmental Program for scholarships (CARRIED); 2. \$500 given to the Library (CARRIED, with the following requested conditions: 1/2 for the Main Library and 1/2 for the branches given over 2 years, with a display of grant recognition, if acceptable to the Library); 3. \$300 (of \$500 asked for) given to Underwood School as part of its ongoing garden education project (CARRIED); 4. \$400 given to Carol Kowalski to complete a video on Lost Pond, a Sanctuary on the Brookline/Newton line near Kennard Park. \$300 is to be used to finish up this video (with appropriate credit given Conservators), and \$100 for copies of tapes (CARRIED).

New Subsidized Senior Housing Project: Bill Shaevel, NC Advisor, came with a group of 4 others working on the project on the **JCC Newton property**. These others were: Joe Geller, landscaper; Ellen Finegold, President of Jewish Housing for the Elderly (nonsectarian); Scott McCready, and Lee Cott, architect. After a presentation showing the projected 46 unit addition to Campus House, there was discussion centering around the loss of 34 trees. Bud will write a letter supporting this worthwhile subsidized housing project, with the proviso that perhaps the trees could be replaced.

Committees: Bud discussed the need to have active committees. Parks and Recreation meetings are covered by Peter Kastner and Mike Clarke; the Conservation Commission meetings will be attended by Colleen Minaker; Mike Collora will work on the Membership Committee; Bill Hagar will head the Grants Committee; and Judith Hepburn will work on the Program Committee. Bud also wants to encourage all members to come regularly to Board Meetings and to come promptly, since they will now be commencing at 7:30 in Room 202 of City Hall. The next meeting will be held Wednesday 24, 1996.

New Business: It was suggested by Bud that we consider having a Symposium on Conservation Issues, possibly to be held at B.C. as a public forum in November. He will look into the possibilities of such a plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Flynn, Secretary

July 1996

Minutes

Newton Conservators, Inc. Board Meeting
July 24, 1996 7:30 PM
Room 202, City Hall

Present: Margaret Albright, Michael Clarke, Carol Lee Corbett, Douglas Dickson, Burton Elliott (President), Roger Feinstein (Acting Secretary), Lawrence Kaplan.

1. **Minutes** APPROVED as corrected.
2. Report that Peter Kastner and Helen Heyn were doing well after their respective surgeries. Flowers were sent to each from the Conservators Board.
3. A notice was read from the Newton Pride Association announcing a "**Daffodil Trail**" **Project** for planting 250 sites with daffodils around the City. NC's VOTED to buy 500 bulbs for \$100.00, which we will plant at **Ordway Park**. Carol Lee Corbett agreed to chair a committee to oversee this project. October 5 and 12 are the planting dates.
4. In accord with the vote at the last Board Meeting, a letter was sent to the Jewish Housing for the Elderly and William Shaevel regarding the **proposed addition at the JCC site**. The letter is in the files. It was determined that a copy of the letter should be sent to the JCC, so they would see our concern regarding future development.
5. Earlier in the month we were invited to join in an \$8000.00 grant request (no cost to the NC) by the Green Decade Coalition, the Newton Health and the Parks and Recreation Departments and the Conservation Commission to do a study and recommendations for **Toxic Pesticide Reduction in Newton**. BE conducted a Board telephone vote (as the deadline was before this meeting) and a majority of members (10) VOTED YES. The names are in the files. Green Decade was notified "yes." This was ratified at this meeting.
6. A discussion was held regarding the **Newsletter**. The Board agreed to publish the newsletter bimonthly from September through May, if possible. It was recommended and accepted that we encourage outside articles and columns. The Commissioners, Department heads, and people from other organizations will be invited to submit articles. Doug Dickson agreed to help Bonnie Carter publish the Newsletter.
7. Meetings are scheduled with the President and other Board members with the Commissioners and Department heads (P&R, Cons. Comm. Etc.) to discuss their plans and our issues and involvement for their departments for the coming year. Reports will follow the meeting.
8. BE proposed that we hold a **public symposium** in the fall. It would consist of a panel made up possibly of the dept. heads and Commissioners of appropriate departments, who would each explain what they have done, are doing, and propose to do with our parks and open spaces, and would be followed by a public Q & A period.

It was suggested that the City's Open Space Plan be a starting point for the meeting discussions. Mr. Bober and Mr. Staley have agreed to attend if we do it, and Mr. Halloran, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Neparstek and possibly the Mayor and others would be included. We would invite the League of Women Voters to cosponsor this (BE to ask), and other organizations would be invited to sign on, so we could get a good

showing at the meeting. We will use either a BC auditorium or the Library auditorium (MC to ask re this). The Board VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY.

9. Mike Clarke brought up several issues:
 - A. The **Charles River Pathway construction** will reach Allison Park within 18 months. Abutters (who have usurped the MDC lands as their backyards for years) are resistant.
 - B. The NC needs an **annual calendar** so we can plan our projects and conform to City activities.
 - C. MC will follow up on attempting to get the **Aldermanic agendas and Minutes** available by E-mail. Also, he is trying to get a schedule of appointed board members with their term expiration dates for our consideration.
 - D. **Allison Park renewal** will go forward, with inclusion of 47 parking places.
10. Mike Clarke was given a vote of thanks for his hard work for the NC over the past several years, for his work as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and given best wishes for his year to come in Washington DC.
11. No Board meeting is scheduled for August.
12. The Meeting was adjourned.

September 1996

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board Meeting
September 25, 1996
Newton City Hall, Room 202

Present: Bud Elliot - presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Douglas Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Jean Husher, Lawrence Kaplan, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected. In Section 6, the last sentence should read, "Doug Dickson agreed to help Bonnie Carter publish the Newsletter."

Treasurer's Report: Roger passed out his report, noting little action regarding either income or expenses.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: Anita Capeless will be asked to report on meetings.

Parks and Recreation: No meetings yet this fall

Conservation Commission: Peter Kastner will report on meetings.

Program: Peter was thanked for organizing the fall walks.

Grants: Bill Hagar has volunteered to be the new grants director. A MOTION to provide \$3000 in grants over the next year was voted upon and PASSED. Maxine Rosenberg, Head of Science for the Newton Public Schools, receives and distributes grant applications for the Newton schools.

Membership: Mike Collora will be in charge. 150 new maps will be printed to renew our stock.

World Wide Web, Internet: Mike Clarke will continue to oversee the Conservators' computer access.

Newsletter: Bonnie Carter and Doug Dickson are to be commended for all their work on the most recently published Newsletter. Beth McDermott typed and set up much of this issue; she will be given an honorary membership for all her work.

Bud encouraged members to contribute articles on a monthly basis if possible. Bonnie needs help, and appreciates people sending their reports to her on disk, minimizing typing. Peter said that RSVP, a Seniors group, may be able to take on some of the collating responsibility. Bud would like to see the Newsletter sent out every other month. He asked for an Oct. 15 deadline for articles to be published in early November.

Ordway Park: Clean up is scheduled for Oct. 5. Carol Lee Corbett asked that all coming bring trowels and spades to plant daffodil bulbs.

Symposium Review: Bud led a discussion of this event, which is cosponsored by the Conservators, LWV, Green Decade, and Newton Neighborhood Network. He passed out signs to hang around Newton for this November 14, 1996 event.

The format includes 6 city employee participants, who will speak for 6-8 minutes apiece. Invited guests include Jim Hickey and Martha Horn. Cards with questions from the floor will be collected. Bonnie will oversee the Cable connection. She recommends that Diana Cartier would be a good setup person. Margaret (audio/visual) will set up the microphone and find out if slides/projector are needed. Bud will moderate, Mike Collora will display membership materials, and Peter, with the help of Margaret, Doug, Bud and hopefully Marty Sender, will draft a letter to newspapers. (It was felt that we need a public relations person for just such occasions.) Anna Maria will help involve Newton Neighborhood Network in this meeting.

Questions raised: What are the real issues to be addressed? Is Newton buying any more land? Colleen raised the question of leasing recreational spaces to private soccer clubs and outside groups -- Are we charging enough for the overuse of these lands? How much is each field being used? Should they be leased at all? Are there enough appropriations?

Bill would like the possibility of this symposium becoming an annual event. Bud encourages Board members to draft some questions and bring them to the next meeting.

A MOTION was made to pay \$50 to Newton Cable Access Corp. for membership and use. It was voted upon and PASSED.

New Business: Tody's Garage in W. Newton Square is seeking to erect a 150 ft. tower (Petition 226.96). Safety and aesthetics are several of the issues. Should N.C.'s say we're in favor of a long term citywide policy on erecting towers? A MOTION was made, voted upon, and PASSED unanimously. A letter will be sent opposing the building of the tower.

The next meeting will be held October 23, and the following one, for Nov.-Dec. will be held Dec. 4th.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Flynn, Secretary

October 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
October 23, 1996
City Hall

Present: Bud Elliott - presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Marty Sender. Guests included several Green Decade Coalition members and Ald. Christine Samuelson.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected. In the Grants section, it should be corrected to read, "Maxine Rosenberg, Head of Science for the Newton Public Schools." Under New Business, it should include "A letter will be sent opposing the building of the tower" (proposed by Tody's Garage).

Treasurer's Report: Roger Feinstein reported that we are getting "richer," as we now have \$10,163 in the bank.

Open Spaces Symposium, Nov. 14, 1996: Bud reported that Russell Halloran, Mayor Concannon, and Jim Hickey will be absent, but the Pks. Dept will be represented by Bob DeRubis. Bud thinks it is a good panel of 6 City and MDC employees.

Much discussion ensued about the questioning process to take place after the panel discussion. Doug asked about presenting Bill Stevenson's research. Bud responded that it might take too much time, but that he would pursue it with Bill. Peter asked about "public participation on the P. and R. Comm." We think there should be more. How is

the public to be involved in the process? Weeks open space is a good example of public participation in planning.

The involved questions to be asked of the panel, including: 1. How will the public be involved in the planning/budget process? 2. Margaret has received the new Rivers Protection Act, Aug. 96 - How is the Conservation Commission going to implement it? 3. Who is permitting the structures to be built on the playgrounds? 4. What are the priorities for the use of the parks? 5. What is the mission of the Conservation Commission?

Newsletter: Bonnie hopes it will go out around Nov. 1 or at least in time to re-announce the Symposium. Future issues might include questions and answers that couldn't be answered at the Symposium.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Colleen went as an observer to the last meeting. The Commission has hired a consulting group to examine **Hammond Pond** for pollutants.

Membership: We shall track whether the Symposium increases or changes membership.

Ordway Park: Carol thanked people for their help on October 5 and 12. Three abutters also showed up to help. Bud commended Carol on organizing the daffodil planting. Doug, Carol Lee and Judy will look into long-range plans for the Park.

Programs: Edmands Park walk will be held on 11/17.

Rumford St. Area Property Acquisition: Finance Comm. will OK at their next meeting. A MOTION was made and PASSED to send a letter to the Board of Aldermen to encourage this purchase.

Christine Samuelson came to see if open space can be made available for dog walkers to use on a regular basis, areas currently known as "barking lots."

The next meeting will be held Dec. 4th, for the months of Nov.-Dec.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

Newton's Open Space Symposium

Thursday, Nov. 14, 1996

Drucker Auditorium, Newton Free Library

Burton Elliott, President of the Newton Conservators, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM in the Drucker Auditorium of the Newton Free Library, to a capacity crowd. He began by introducing the other Sponsors: The League of Women Voters of Newton (President,

Andrea Kelley); Green Decade Coalition/Newton (Louise Bruyn, President); and Newton Neighborhood Network (Co-presidents, Susan Mirsky and Gary Sparrow).

Elliott's beginning remarks focused on the reasons for holding a public forum:

- 1) to provide an opportunity for public understanding of the decision-making process;
- 2) to provide a chance to air questions;
- 3) to raise and hear issues;
- 4) to create an ongoing dialogue to help resolve issues.

He commented that Mayor Concannon had wished to come, but was at a previously scheduled meeting in Waban. Andrea Kelley spoke briefly on behalf of the LWVN, citing their goals of supporting zoning in Land Use Issues, education voters, and encouraging community involvement in government.

At that point Elliott introduced the 6 panelists who would speak about their Commissions, both City and MDC. They are: Brian Yates, Chair, Zoning and Planning Committee of the Newton Board of Aldermen; Richard Staley, Chair, Newton Conservation Commission; James Mahoney, Chair, Newton Parks and Recreation Commission; Susan Glazer, Acting Director, Newton Office of Planning and Development; Dan Driscoll, Senior Planner for the Metropolitan District Commission; and Doug Dickson, Chair, Newton Landscape Maintenance Task Force.

Brian Yates began by acknowledging two people present who had created helpful partnerships with government, Alderman Richard McGrath and Rep. Kay Khan. He stressed that nothing can be spent except through the Mayor, whose proposals need the approval of the Board of Approval [sic -- Aldermen], Several items that are being considered now are: the purchase of the **Wabasso St. land** (sent to B. of A. and sent back for future consideration); **Kennard Bog Bridge**, in poor repair, will be discussed at a meeting on Dec. 10th; **Deer Park** (which has had the upkeep improved at a yearly cost of \$400); an environmental consultant came out to check out **parks in SE and SW parts of the city**, suggesting that some trees be cut back, and people be familiarized with these parks.

The **Newton Conservation Commission** -- Dick Staley asked for volunteers for particular areas including the Deer Park, and to come and share ideas at the monthly meetings. There are 7 members of the Commission, including a paid part-time administrator of lands and trails. Some money comes from the use the golf course (used for maintenance of lands, etc.). Some plans in the works include signs to be erected for each open area, and some cleanup plans. A Land Management Plan is in the works.

James Mahoney represented Russ Halloran on the **Parks and Recreation Commission**, which operates as a policy-making group of 8 members appointed by the Mayor with 4 alternates. It has a 3.3 million dollar yearly allocation, using \$521,000 on land improvements. Its maintenance includes 1000 acres, using 11 buildings. Plowing is also an important wintertime feature. Three issues dealt with recently are:

1. Structures on City lands

2. Restoration of Weeks Field (with community assistance)
3. Use of pesticides moderated

Mahoney also talked about the recreational importance of fields for sports, the playing areas and organizations carrying out sports; i.e., Newton Youth Soccer contributed \$200,000, with matching funds from the City, contributed for improving fields. The Dept. also supports the men and women coaching, etc. in leadership roles for kids. In closing, Mahoney praised Peter Kastner's leadership role and talked about support for the Tree Commission.

Susan Glazer, the Acting Director of the **Planning and Development Office**, thanked the Conservators for creating a balance in the City for open spaces. A plan should be updated every five years. The goals are 1.) to preserve the City's natural resources, the Charles River, and the Commonwealth Ave. median, to name two; 2) to provide an adequate amount and distribution for different parts of the City - 20% is open space, with 55% publicly owned and 45% privately owned, - the major population is in the North, while the major open space is in the South of the City; 3) to encourage compatible integration of multiple use areas; 4) to protect large open spaces like the golf course. It is difficult to implement plans, but policies come from goals. She also mentioned better use of lands around town centers, such as the Bullough's Pond area and library land.

Dan Driscoll, a Senior Planner for the **MDC**, has spent from 1986-96 opening up the Charles River walkways. Now becoming a reality in Newton, it will stretch from Watertown Square to Hemlock Gorge. There are 92 illegal encroachments near the Charles River. The plan cost \$370,000 and with \$2 million in federal funds, the Watertown segment is starting. In January it will be put out to bid. Dan also gave thanks to Marty Sender for helping eradicate the debris and growth in Ware's Cove.

Doug Dickson is the Chair of the **Newton Landscape Maintenance Task Force**, which is just 11 months old. Its issues are that budget moneys have been cut back in recent years, but that public moneys (state and federal) have been made available. The Task Force is made up of members of all the above-mentioned groups, with the following as guiding principles. 1.) Open spaces are a part of the infrastructure of our city. 2.) It will be a loss of our investment if space is not kept up. 3) Trees, etc. give quality to our lives.

Questions asked:

B. Leitch asked Dickson if local projects (Bullough's Pond, Friends of the Fountain) could have more help from the City (regarding legal problems,, etc.). He mentioned that Andrea Kelley, Open Space Coordinator, has been hired as a go-between and liaison for such purposes.

L. Levi feels that the panelists should meet a few times a year to coordinate efforts. He was told that coordination is going on and checks and balances in place. The Landscape Task Force should be good in the short run in aiding coordination.

We need a Forestry Dept. Agreed by many.

After developing the Charles River pathway, how will it be maintained? With lower care, restoring with native plantings. The "Greenway" will be paved (8 feet wide) for disabilities accessibility.

How does one get attention paid to dangerous or neglected areas? NNHS field, near tot lets, is being fixed.

J. Bates, who has a skateboarding son, wonders if any facilities are being planned? Bob DeRubis met with some students from Day and NNHS to discuss. Some safety requirements are necessary; perhaps a tennis court may be used. If funds are available, what spaces are planned for acquisition? Wabasso St. is first on the list. Funds need to be allocated.

Bud asked, with Oak Hill School using some open space land, other lands being overused by sports teams, and developers still getting lots, what is being done to replace these open spaces? Oak Hill Proposal uses School Dept. property, but in fact, open space acreage in Newton has decreased from 2994 in 1980 to 2087 in 1990 [?acres].

M. Zukerman read a statement regarding the stench from the Rumford Ave. dump, which has a Jan. 2 deadline for capping. Ald. McGrath answered that although the Aldermen from the area are involved, there is not much that the public knows. He thinks it can be returned to a natural state.

How is Landscape Task Force funded? From the sale of the recyclable materials on our curbs.

J. Husher commented on the poorly maintained oldest cemeteries. \$50,000 a year has now been allotted.

B. Hague asked if aqueducts could be linked with green spaces.

P. Kastner commented that a sense of vision is needed to articulate open space demands. Bud brought the meeting to a close at 9:30 PM.

November-December 1996

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 4, 1996
Newton City Hall

Present: Bud Elliott-presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn,

Bill Hagar, Judith Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Marty Sender. Guests included Ald. Christine Samuelson and Jim Hickey, Comm. of Public Works.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected: under Open Space Symposium, "the Pks. & Rec. Dept. will be represented by Bob DeRubis." Under Programs: Edmunds corrected to Edmands.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Feinstein's report was ACCEPTED with a request for a modified form in the future. Roger also announced that memberships are rolling in.

President's Report: Bud introduced **Jim Hickey, Commissioner of Public Works,** who presented his view of current DPW goals. His background at Boston University was as a planner prior to coming to Newton 12 years ago as an administrator for the Mayor. He recounted the **history of Wabasso Rd. and the landfill site,** as being designated in the 1960's by the Board of Health as a sanitary landfill (40 acres) with 5 1/2 more acres for an incinerator. Leaf composting has been happening for 10 years, making all the City loam. For 8 years, replacing curbs have been made into crushed granite. In addition, the silt collected from the Bullough's Pond Project several years ago has been deposited there. This site is valuable as a landfill for (1) recycling; (2) stockpiling, and (3) composting. All make the City more self-sufficient, as we handle our own waste materials.

Since the late 1970's the landfill has never been capped. Currently only 25 acres are used as landfill, while 24 acres are wetlands and high areas. There is no use for the incinerator. Hickey corrected misinformation regarding trucks passing through adjoining neighborhoods at all hours. They would instead go from the Mass Pike to Lexington St. to Rumford Ave. Post-closure usage would include capping off the 25 acres. Soils in the additional acreage have been tested and pass inspection.

Peter Kastner observed that the City has not been aggressive about taking the land nearby by eminent domain. With the **Wabasso Rd. purchase,** a disadvantaged part of the City will be improved. Flowed Meadows needs area-wide improvement. Hickey says that there has to be a cap, and there has to be a plan. The Conservators' letter supporting this, sent previously (to the Board of Aldermen) prior to the meeting on Dec. 18, requested the purchase of the Wabasso Rd. property.

Grants Committee: Bill Hagar presented 3 applications. (1) The Underwood School will be granted \$480 to continue the garden project this spring. VOTED/PASSED. (2) Day Middle School was given \$500 to support student canoe trips testing water quality on the Charles River from Cheesecake Brook to Boston Harbor. VOTED/PASSED. (3) An application for expenses for a plan for building a canal at Purgatory Cove (A. Zukerman) was put on hold.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Marty Sender attended the last meeting at which shoreline restoration in front of the swings at **Ware's Cove** was discussed. A plan was resubmitted to the Conservation Commission by the Auburndale Community

Association. **Auburndale Park** will be improved in several areas next year. **Kennard Park footbridge** will be repaired also, if approved by the Finance Comm. Although there is \$50,000 proposed in the P & R Capital Improvement Budget, no plans are currently approved. We are working with the Mayor and the Finance Comm. to achieve this.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee Corbett received phone calls from pleased abutters to the Park, including Kenneth Ingham who lives in the Ordway home. She will make up a maintenance committee of neighbors.

Conservation Commission: Colleen Minaker noted that there were no minutes taken at C.C. meetings.

New Business: Maps - when will they be reprinted? This will be placed on the January agenda. **Symposium Review** - would it be appropriate to have another one for candidates in the fall?

New Program Proposal: Should we consider asking Halloran, McGrath or Concannon to speak at our meetings in the next few months?

Other Business: Steven Grossman and the Mass. Envelope Co. were acknowledged for providing new membership envelopes as a gift.

Next Meeting: January 22, 1997.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

January 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 22, 1997
Newton City Hall

Present: Bud Elliott- presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, John Bliss, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judith Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Marty Sender.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected: under President's Report, 3rd line from bottom Hickey "says" instead of "feels" that there has to be a cap.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Feinstein's report noted that \$3300 has come in recently in dues. Most people are renewing at the \$25 level. It was VOTED and moved TO ACCEPT the report.

Conservation Commission: Colleen Minaker made copies of the last 3 months' minutes of the Conservation Commission. They are seeking a grant for a **Hammond Pond cleanup**, for which we have given our approval (although we won't contribute monies).

Bud asked for comments as to whether the Board thinks the Commission is pro-development. Marty hopes that Martha Horn is made a fulltime administrator, and that the Conservators keep attending meetings to apply pressure to keep green spaces in Newton. AnnaMaria thinks that for the next election, we should oversee appointments. Margaret mentioned that the Mayor has asked for the expiration dates of the terms of the 7 CC members, who serve a 3-year term and are often re-appointed (in April). Peter feels that appointments should be looked at 6 months up front, before elections. Bonnie thinks we should submit names to the Mayor of worthy appointees. Margaret suggested that the CRWA might contribute names. Mike wondered if these appointees are expected to put in a lot of time.

A **subcommittee was formed** (Marty, Colleen, Judith) to examine the reappointment process of the CC. Helen noted that the wetlands work is technical (requiring a full-time person like M. Horn) and that it may be too late to get names together before April. It was MOVED and VOTED to approach the Mayor about his candidate selection.

Grants: Bill Hagar reported that the list of grants given out since 1994 has several repeating schools. Thank you letters have been received from Janet Springfield, Underwood, and Carol Kowalski, with the Lost Pond video. It was VOTED and PASSED to give \$500 to the Environmental Camp Program. Bill mentioned that the next round of grants would deadline on March 18; \$1700 remains of the \$3000.

President's Report: Bud said that in **Kennard Park Conservation Area** the Finance Committee has approved the building of the Bog Bridge to the tune of \$17,000 -- John Richardson is in charge. As there are no extra monies available to have maps and markers made, Bud suggested giving the rest of our grant funds (\$1700) to pay for these. Anna Maria feels that the City should be paying for this. Mike suggested that Brookline could offer matching funds. Peter wonders if there is a master plan, which Bud says Richardson is overseeing. Bonnie mentioned that neighbors may not approve having more people coming through Kennard Pk.

The CC wants to improve Kennard to use as a prototype for the City. Peter feels that the CC should show more effort regarding this funding. Bud will re-examine this issue, seeing how much the CC would estimate the costs might be. Doug and Peter questioned whether Kennard should be the prototype, how to develop a public constituency, and what to do about signs. Bud says we will hold off grant requests temporarily.

Zoning/Planning: Meeting to be held 1/27/97 (Carol Lee reported), called by McLeish to eliminate Alderman's control of zoning, to pass over to the Planning Board.

Land Use: AnnaMaria reported that the State Dept. of Public Utilities has decreed that providers of cell phones have to come under local zoning; these providers would like to be considered a local utility.

Bud mentioned that the **maps** will be reprinted when someone is willing to do it.

Membership: Mike asked about labels, membership list, and ways to generate new memberships.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee thinks the abutters should now be willing to group together to accomplish some cleanups on their own.

Parks and Recreation: Peter Kastner reported no news except ice skating at Ware's Cove. There is an ice skating hot line, but no one knows what it is.

Wabasso Rd. property acquisition is a done deed; entire property from Commonwealth Ave. to Waltham now owned by the City.

Annual Meeting: Bud wonders if we should stay at the Andover Newton site; more agree than not. Reservations will be made for either May 28th or 29th. Nomination for **Environmentalist of the Year** was brought up - it was decided to try to get Diane Dumanoski, who co-authored the book on pesticides called "Our Stolen Future." We will also try to have the new President-elect of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Jennifer Huntington, a Newton resident, called to be **speaker**.

Bud needs Newsletter articles (for the rest of the year!)

New Business:

Newton Volunteer Corps has started a consortium led by Ginny Lay Crow, whose salary is paid by Newton Pride. It was moved to join this consortium at a cost of \$25.
VOTED/PASSED.

Peter asks who has E-Mail, and addresses.

Marty mentioned a public informational meeting on the Charles River Walkway Project, to be held Feb. 11 at City Hall, with Dan Driscoll overseeing.

Doug reported that the Mass. Water Resource Authority wishes to upgrade the space next to the fire station in Newton Centre on Centre St. What is proposed is minor and regarding tree planting.

Next meeting will be February 26th at City Hall, Rm. 202, 7:30 PM

Sally Flynn, Secretary.

February 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 26, 1997
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Peter Kastner - presiding, Anna Maria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Judith Hepburn, Colleen Minaker.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected: under Annual Meeting, Diane Dumanoski. Under New Business, Ginny Lay Crow.

Treasurer's Report: Roger is amazed at the number of members renewing at the \$25 level. Some discussion ensued about the dues due date. There will be an article in the next Newsletter regarding dues payment schedules. No bills from the last Newsletter have yet come in.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Colleen announced that at the Jan. 23rd meeting, **Auburndale Park** improvements were being planned with the help of Marty Sender, Carol Stapleton, and neighbors. The **Commonwealth Golf Course** is getting work and improvements done. The construction of Temple Avodah has had problems in the neighborhood with storm water drains. **Kennard Conservation Lands** improvements expect to be approved by the Finance Committee. Unofficially M. Horn's hours will be increased.

Judith Hepburn submitted a comprehensive **report on the Conservation Commission's term limits and members' status**. Some discussion of requirements for future members occurred (should have technical advice and stewardship about lands they're protecting). Peter suggested that Bud and others search out alternate candidates and let the Mayor know that Roger Matthews might be more valuable on the Economic Development Commission (otherwise, there could be a conflict of interest).

Membership: There is a possibility for effective outreach at the Library.

Parks and Recreation: Peter reported no financial backing for the proposal of a new position of Deputy Commissioner. Russell Halloran may retire in a couple of years. Pete also mentioned that a group wishes to **rename Allison Pk. Forte Park**, after Richard Forte, who died in Vietnam and grew up in this neighborhood.

Annual Meeting: The **Speaker** will be Jennifer Huntington, President of the AMC; Diane Dumanoski will receive the **Environmentalist of the Year award**. There was some discussion about the dinner menu, but nothing has been decided yet.

Newsletter: Pete will put some walks together for the next issue.

Resignations: Jeff Axelrod and Lawrence Kaplan (who will be asked to stay on as an advisor) have resigned. It was MOVED, voted, and PASSED to accept these resignations.

New Business:

Bill Hagar was asked by the Newton Highland Garden Club to speak. He did a presentation and received names of potential members. They asked if we could have walks during the summer months. Many thanks, Bill.

Bart Hague observed a tremendous runoff from the shopping center into **Hammond Pond**. He feels the center should be held responsible for some of the polluting results. Friends of Hammond Pond should be included in the efforts to stop future polluting.

Carol Lee Corbett attended the Democratic City Committee meeting on 22/25. Two bills sponsored by Lois Pines were distributed, both having to do with toxins, labeling and disclosure of pesticide applications.

Bud is using E-mail to inform Board members about community affairs.

Newton 2000 Committee includes Bud, Doug, and Pete as members.

There is to be a public meeting regarding the building of a **Cabot, Cabot and Forbes office** in the old warehouse space near the Riverside T stop.

Bart Hague also wishes to resign from the Board due to his commitment to the Commonwealth Golf Course Board. His question was, "How can the space on the course be used other than for golfing?" [see correction in March minutes -- Bart Hague NOT resigning].

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 PM, in R. 202, City Hall.

Sally Flynn,
Secretary

March 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 26, 1997

Present: Bud Elliot, Anna Maria Abernathy, John Bliss, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Judith

Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Jean Husher, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Fran Seasholes, Nick Yannoni.

Treasurer's Report: Roger presented the March Balance Sheet. He and Mike Collora will do a membership review, and also look into the interest situation on several of our accounts.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected from the Feb. 26 meeting. Under Conservation Commission, Kennard Park should be, "Kennard Conservation Lands improvements expect to be approved by the Finance Committee." Under Parks and Recreation, delete sentence after "Russell Halloran may retire in a couple of years." [deleted]. Under New Business, Bart Hague is NOT resigning (My apologies, Bart! SHF).

Annual Meeting: Bud discussed particulars. Peter will see to the awards. Past presidents will be listed and honored (including the 9 present at this meeting). Vegetarians will have a choice of menu on the invitation.

Nominating Committee: Peter, Bud and Margaret will meet on April 1, 1997 to review members of the Board.

President's Report:

Bud led a discussion regarding the **number of tasks falling on the shoulders of the President**. He proposed a Bylaw change, to be able to appoint 3 Vice Presidents, in order to share responsibility and encourage participation in leadership.

Doug mentioned delegating positions, and asked what some of the tasks to be covered were. Bud spoke about how time consuming it was, working with the Mayor, City and community groups. Bart felt time, interest and flexibility were important issues for the presidency. John said that in the past, everyone was assigned to a committee, but that idea is not as valid now. Peter mentioned that a certain tenure time might be connected to several jobs (most positions being for two years). Doug suggested that the president-elect could help the president, or that former presidents might meet and help establish some guidelines over a longer period of time. Judith recommended that the Board appoint 2 others as VPs over the year. Bud's proposal: to provide for up to 3 VP's with Board choosing 2nd and 3rd from the Board of Directors. Proposal NOT SUPPORTED.

Committee Report:

Conservation Commission: Colleen reported that Martha Horn and Richard Staley were concerned about a collapsed pipe draining into Purgatory Cove. Repair will filter and redirect waters into the **Flowed Meadow** area. **Auburndale Park** is being worked on to become handicap accessible; the play area is also being renovated.

Bud mentioned that the **Environmental Planner position**, currently held by Martha Horn as a part-time worker, will come up as a fulltime position when voted on by the Board of Aldermen.

Grants: Bill mentioned that the Hammond Pond grant is nearing completion. He also suggested asking school grant recipients to the Annual Meeting.

Land Use: AnnaMaria reported that the **Cabot, Cabot and Forbes** drawings for a building (lacking garage information), are not complete. Concern was expressed for screening from river view.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee invited everyone to come and see the budding daffodils that we planted in the fall. An arborist needs to prune some dead branches; currently we are getting three estimates. April 26-27 may be an appropriate weekend for cleanup as the 25th is Arbor Day. Bud said we should get professional cleanup help. Carol Lee will look into this.

Newsletter: Bonnie needs articles submitted on disks, and soon. Bud, Peter, and Doug will be submitting articles.

Chestnut Hill Mall Program: Bud announced that the Conservators are joining with Brookline Green Space alliance and Friends of Hammond Pond to support an exhibit on Newton and Brookline open spaces at the Chestnut Hill Mall. Marty Sender will be involved with this project, as well as Bud.

CRWA Stream Team Water Testing Program will occur May 31 as a shore survey covering a 12 mile stretch of the River, with training on May 28 for Newton residents and May 29 for Needham and Wellesley residents. This will be a visual survey of the river.

Newton 200 Committee will be meeting at 8 AM on 3/27/97 at City Hall. Jean Husher will be our official historian for a City publication, overseen by Linda Plaut.

New Business:

Doug announced that a **Land Banks Bill** hearing will be held on 4/1/97. Sponsored by the Environmental League of America, it is opposed by real estate firms because of the possibility of a 2-3% tax levied on all real estate transactions. He will report further next month.

Robert Pettipan spoke at the Fall Symposium about the **Richardson Field (Zervas Field) noise**, caused by the professional sound system installed in 1987. He finds the loudspeakers an annoyance and public nuisance to his neighborhood. Bud is following up with Mr. Halloran.

Discussion of reinstallation of a **sports equipment shed at Lyons Park**, also at Albemarle, Allison, and Cold Springs Park. We will protest to the P & R Dept.

Metropolitan Greenspace Organization is a new coalition serving 101 towns and cities. We voted to join.

Jean Husher presented a video, made with funding from the Conservators, to acquaint people with the historic Newton Burying Ground. Thank you for sharing it, Jean.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, at 7:30 PM in Rm 202, City Hall.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

April 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 1997
Room 202, City Hall

Present: Bud Elliott, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Michael Collora, Roger Feinstein, Bart Hague, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Marty Sender, Nick Yannoni.

Minutes from March 26 meeting: APPROVED as corrected. Under Conservation Commission Report: reserve Flowed Meadow and Purgatory Cove to read "...were concerned about a collapsed pipe draining into Purgatory Cove. Repair will filter and redirect waters into Flowed Meadow." Roger provided the April Balance sheet later in the meeting: accepted.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Colleen missed the Conservation Commission meeting, not knowing that the Commission has changed the date, but presented their agenda, however. There was a Green Decade Coalition presentation on their alternative-to-pesticides campaign whose goals are education, to locate toxic-free and integrated pest management areas, and fund brochures and mailings. The Mass. Turnpike Authority has a public hearing request for determination of wetland resource areas. There is a public hearing for demolition of the incinerator and regrading the site.

Zoning and Planning: Bud reported that the ZAP Committee passed the proposal to upgrade the **environmental planner position** from 20 hours to full time. It must go to the Finance and the full Board of Aldermen next. Bud also commented that, in addition to the **Wabasso St.** property purchase, there are two other contiguous properties that the City is hoping to purchase and is in negotiation for one now.

Grants: No report. Bud wished to readdress the **proposal to give the City a modest grant for signage, trail maps, etc. for parks** (possibly Kennard or Webster

Conservation Area), requesting feedback not a vote. Helen commented that Martha Horn already has plans but lacks capital, and the Conservation Comm. has had no capital to go ahead with them. Marty wished to know how it would work; would we be billed directly? Peter preferred to have a grant request submitted in the usual way, knowing what we'd get in actual signage. Roger suggests we get a feel first for the project's cost. Based on a show of hands, the majority felt that the project was worth pursuing with Martha again, but was unwilling to commit to a firm dollar amount without more knowledge of the potential costs. The sense of the Board was that it would approve a grant it liked in principal.

Membership: Regarding the membership list, Mike expressed some technical difficulties figuring out the system he'd inherited and putting it in order.

Bud mentioned that the Chestnut Hill Mall needed maps and brochures for their parks project and has mentioned paying for them. We should also get more **brochures and maps printed** for ourselves. The Main Library, City Hall and Bread & Circus were suggested as places to put them. Carol MOTIONED to print as many as needed, Bart seconded; APPROVED.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee said the daffodils were looking great. There will be a clean-up on Saturday, April 26. Last time 6-7 neighbors became involved. A recent wine-and-cheese to further the goal of neighborhood involvement was given by the Engels, who live in the original Ordway house, and produced one new eager volunteer.

Carol Lee said we need a **sign on Grant Street** that says "Ordway Park" and conforms with City standards. Helen suggested Ed Fracktmann and his students at Day, who had earlier made various park signs for the city. Peter recommended we get someone to plan it out first and then have a vote. Bud expressed concerns that the sign should look nice, since it represents the Conservators. Carol Stapleton and Judy Dore were suggested as useful contacts for suggestions.

Regarding needed pruning on specimen trees, Carol Lee will work with Roger to look over past arborists used, how much work was done in the past, and to get estimates.

[no signature]

May 1997

President's Report
presented at the Annual Meeting
May 29, 1997
by Burton Elliott, President

Welcome to the annual meeting of the Newton Conservators. I'm Bud Elliott, the current President, and it's a pleasure to see you all here. It's my duty to report on our activities

over the past year. It won't be easy to do so in the six minutes time I am allotted, but I will summarize some highlights.

Our Newsletter has been expanded this year to five issues, and more articles have been printed from outside participants to provide more information.

Our membership is strong, and our finances are in order.

Our spring and fall walks continue to be well attended, and reports from our walk leaders have been favorable.

Our Grants Program continues, and this past year we have partially funded an independently produced video of the Lost Pond and Kennard Conservation Areas, given funds to the Library to purchase more environmental books and periodicals, we continue to give scholarships to the Conservation Commission Summer Environmental program, and we continued to fund Newton School environmental projects proposed by teachers.

We assisted the Green Decade Coalition in obtaining a state grant for a toxic pesticide study and education program, and we assisted the Friends of Hammond Pond to obtain a state grant to study the deterioration of Hammond Pond.

Our November Symposium on Parks and Open Spaces with six City and State Officials was attended to overflowing at the Library auditorium, and has had a major impact on our agenda and activities since.

We worked hard and successfully to have the city fund the reconstruction of the Kennard Conservation Area bog bridge which is essential to its trail system, and we worked hard and also successfully to stop the city from allowing the construction of a 150' communications tower in West Newton Square. We have been involved in the Allison Park, now Forte Park, renovation and the Charles River Pathway Project. We have worked on issues concerning Richardson Field, Lyons, Edmands, Auburndale, Nahanton, and Cold Springs parks and many more. We constantly encourage the City to keep the parks well maintained and to keep them from inappropriate use and defacement, sometimes successfully, sometimes less so.

We successfully advocated for expanding the position of Newton Environmental Planner from a half time to a full time position. We hope and expect that the increase will have a major positive impact on the future maintenance of our Conservation areas. We are pressing very hard for the City to choose a new Planning Department Director who will be sympathetic to the City's environmental and open space needs instead of its development only.

Our Board Meetings are hard working and well attended. You have a dedicated Board of Directors, and many of our advisors attend and participate. Several times aldermen have joined us, and we had a presentation by the Public Works Commissioner on the issue of the Rumford St. dump capping. Board members also attend P&R meetings and Cons.

Comm. meetings, as well as many Aldermanic committee meetings, and we speak on behalf of our open spaces. We have two board members on the Parks and Recreation Commission and expect to have one member appointed to the Conservation Commission this spring.

We strongly and successfully advocated for the City purchase of private property adjacent to the Flowed Meadow area in Auburndale, and are working with the city on the purchase of two more contiguous properties that also abut the Charles River. We believe the entire contiguous area of approximately 170 acres can become one of the City's finest active and passive recreation areas if it is well planned.

We have our own web site on the Internet where people can see some of our park maps and learn of our news and issues. We expect to expand this even further.

We are strongly encouraging the City and its departments to do long range planning for our parks and conservation areas. So far we have not been successful at this, but we will not stop until we are. This is another area in which we need your help.

We have worked in cooperation with the League of Women Voters, The Green Decade Coalition, Newton Pride, The Newton Landscape Task Force and many other City non-profit organizations. We also will be having an exhibition in conjunction with our counterpart in Brookline, the Brookline Green Space Alliance, in July at the Chestnut Hill Mall to show the splendors of our open spaces.

And there are many, many more areas and issues in which we have been involved.

Article II of the original by-laws is entitled "purpose". The essence is in the first part of the first sentence. It reads: "The purpose of the Corporation shall be to foster for the public interest in the City of Newton the protection, preservation and conservation of natural objects and areas..". It later mentions fostering acquisition of land, dissemination of information, and incidentally, not to participate or intervene on behalf of any political candidate, to promote good citizenship, and even to combat juvenile delinquency! I cannot imagine what was going on then for that to be included!

Question: except possibly in regard to that last item, is the Newton Conservators of today living up to the original purpose?

Question: is Newton a better place because the Newton Conservators exists? I certainly believe so. and nothing we do could be done without the support of all of our members.

Thank you.

Burton Elliott
President

