

Board of Directors, 1997 - 1998

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June 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 25, 1997
City Hall

Present: Bud Elliott - presiding, Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Bart Hague, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Colleen Miniker, Norman Richardson, Vaunita Schnell, Martin Sender, Nick Yannoni. All new members were introduced as well as the re-elected ones. Congratulations to all.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected (from April 23 meeting): Under Ordway Park, Ed Frachman should be Ed Fraktman. Under Parks and Recreation, Helen thought that a

protocol of the design reviews committee in (rather than outside of) the Parks and Recreation Dept should be used more frequently.

Treasurer's Report: ACCEPTED as presented.

Committee Reports:

President's Report: In the absence of Mike Clarke, President, Bud Elliott ran the meeting. Bud announced that Peter Kastner has been nominated to the Rumford Street Landfill Review Committee, and Bart Hague will be nominated to the Conservation Commission.

James Hickey, Commissioner of Newton DPW, is declaring **land at Elliott St., Circuit Ave. and Thurston Road surplus**, with a recommendation that it become conservation land.

The **video on Lost Pond**, which we supported, is now available at the Newton Library.

The Newton Conservators received a Certificate of Recognition from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, on June 3, 1997, for our participation in the "1997 Toxics Use Reduction Networking Grants Program." We helped the Green Decade Coalition get a grant.

Ordway Park: Heeding Helen Heyn's suggestion, Carol Lee Corbett was able to use students at NNHS for silk screening two tasteful signs for the Park, under the request of the Parks and Recreation Dept. Jim Hickey wrote a letter directing Roy LaMotte's crew, who installed the two signs: one is on the Everett St. pole and the other is on Grant Ave.

Conservation Commission:

Colleen Miniker reported that the **Cabot, Cabot and Forbes** development to turn the old Jordan Marsh Warehouse into an office building was reviewed. The garage has been down sized, the lighting altered, the garage will be screened from the river with trees, and there will be rain runoff separators to protect the river, all at the request of Martha Horn and the Cons. Comm. Concerns were voiced about how close the river will be to the garage. Also, there was a lot of discussion about the snow-plowing and salt, and whether that will go into the river, as well as rain runoff from the garage and parking areas. Is it desirable and necessary to return the water and runoff to the river at all? Colleen will bring it up at the Cons. Comm. meeting. There was a question about oversight (by whom?) on all these matters. The consensus was that we review these matters with Martha Horn and then leave it to the Cons. Comm. to review the project at the next meeting.

109 Pine St: We received a report from Martha Horn about the request to do construction near a wetlands. Does this fall under the Rivers Act? We will review this with Martha, who has delayed action, awaiting further information. The Board felt it could wait to act

upon the request. The Commission seemed to be studying the project, and more information would be available for the July meeting of the Conservators. We will review this again at the July meeting.

Recreation Committee: In concurrence with our recommendation, the P & R Comm. voted to discontinue the use of the **sound system at Richardson Field**. Peter Kastner also reported that they also agreed at a meeting with the Friends of Nahanton Park to discontinue the dumping of storm debris in Nahanton Park Meadow, and will plant meadow flowers there.

The Friends of Nahanton Park were promised that the city would call a **task force** to deal with the long-term problem of how to plan for **handling major tree damage and snow removal** without negatively impacting upon open space areas. We are to send a letter to Jim Hickey re planning for debris disposal, cc: Richard Robinson.

Map Committee: Bud presented two estimates for map reprinting. It was APPROVED to have Edison Press do 3,000 at \$630.11 plus art work (minor) and to have the folding done by RSVP. Shawmut Printing quoted \$711.00 for 3000. Bud wanted it in the record that Edison Press is owned by a cousin of his, but that the quote was lower. Several other printers turned the job down because it was too small or not in their field. We could have waited until the fall to ask the Newton North High School to print for free (plus paper), but the VOTE was to do it now.

Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit: The Newton Conservators will have an exhibit at the Mall along with the Brookline Greenspace Alliance and the Friends of Hammond Pond. Bud Elliott has taken on the NC part. The NC map, geology books, and the new NC brochures, and park and conservation area photographs will be shown.

Mayors Committee on Recycling: It was agreed to participate in the reopening program of the Rumford Street site on September 27th.

New **NC Committees and assignments**, at the request of Mike Clarke:

Annual Dinner: Flynn - Chair

Audit/Investments: Yannoni - Chair, Feinstein, Elliott

Grants: Hagar, Bacon, Schnell

Land Bank Committee (ad hoc): Dickson, Elliott

Membership: Collora - Chair, Albright, Elliott

Newsletter: Carter - Editor - needs help from many others

Ordway Park: Corbett, Dickson

Open Space (including Land Use, ZAP, Conservation): Broderick, Bacon, Howard, Richardson, Kastner, Miniker.

Program: Candidates Debate: Kastner - Chair, Miniker, Collora, Carter, Clarke, Sender. This will be a fall event, before or after (preferred) the primaries. The Committee was asked to discuss this and report back at the July meeting.

Walks: (No one yet? Must do before the September newsletter).

Depot Day: Saturday, Sept. 27 will be a reopening of the Recycling Center at Rumford St. Landfill. Frank Howard will staff our booth.

Meetings: The next meeting will be on July 23, Wednesday, at Rm. 202, City Hall. There will be no meeting in August. The September meeting will be on Sept. 24, again at City Hall, Rm. 202. Reminder: all our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month except August, and the November and December meetings are usually combined into one meeting early in December.

Minutes compiled by Peter Kastner, Bud Elliott and Sally Flynn

July 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting of July 23, 1997
City Hall, Rm. 202

Present: Bud Elliott (presiding), Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Michael Collora, Bart Hague, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Colleen Minaker, Norman Richardson, Nick Yannoni

Minutes from June 25 meeting: APPROVED as corrected. Corrections: (1) under president's Report, there is no Burway Road. Amend to read "land at Elliott St., Circuit Ave. and Thurston Road." (2) under Depot Day, change "man our booth" to "staff our booth," and (3) under Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit, the cosponsor of the exhibit is "Brookline Greenspace Alliance" not "Brookline Conservation Commission."

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Colleen Miniker reported on the **Cabot, Cabot and Forbes** filtration system plan, including the screening berm to be planted with 20 ft. trees (an issue we raised), a walkway to the river, and a guarantee that no salt/sand would be stockpiled on the site. Minimal salting with alternates (no NaCl) will only be done there. CC & F seemed responsive to previous critiques, and the Conservation Commission seemed comfortable with the plan as amended.

There was a huge community turnout over **107 Pine St.** Residents of the **Flowed Meadow area** had no basic problem with the project design *per se*, but felt that there were already problems of groundwater saturation and back-up, which new home construction would only add to. Concerns were also raised about the revised proposal, which does not provide for filtration of runoff. The Conservation Commission held up further plans for the site until satisfactory re-engineering of the runoff is demonstrated.

Waban Improvement Society will present a **Kettle Pond dredging project**, in order to reconstruct open water habitat in a recently filled-in wetlands near Homewood Road. This pond is one of our 22 wetlands that has permanent state restrictions.

The Mayor is proposing to acquire the **Boston Edison Kessler West property** -- west of Vine St., off LaGrange -- as reported by Martha Horn to Helen Heyn. Though purchased by Boston Edison in 1973 for a possible transformer, the company now wants to divest this 9.2 acre property, of which approx. 9 acres is wetlands and permanently restricted. The property has been on the Conservation Commission's open space purchase plan for >20 years and would be the last of the **Sawmill Brook** purchases. This issue just came up last month; there is a year to appraise it. Bud Elliott suggested that we go on record in support of this purchase, and the Board unanimously VOTED APPROVAL.

Helen Heyn has spoken to the Controller, Dave Wilkinson, about the financial arrangements for **Kennard Park maintenance**. Under the trust fund, money from the lease of the 246 Dudley Rd. house (within the park) is to be used for park and house maintenance, and billing has been going to the Controllers' Office and the Public Buildings Dept. Parks & Recreation has no specific money for Kennard maintenance. Wilkinson concurred with amending the ordinance so that Parks & Recreation handles future maintenance, instead of the 2 to 3 departments currently involved. However, these changes must be made by the Board of Aldermen and probably cannot happen until September at the earliest. Peter Kastner added that the system should not have been set up merely for billing simplicity and that Kennard should properly be Parks and Recreation's jurisdiction. He will check on the current status and follow it up with Commissioner Halloran.

Martha Horn has called Bud Elliott about the **MA Dept. of Environmental Management grants program**, whose proposals are due in August for matching funds of up to \$50,000. She has a list of various things she wishes to do, including projects at Houghton Gardens. Peter made a MOTION that we participate in the plan, which was SECONDED and CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report: No changes, consequently no details provided.

Grants: No report. Bud Elliott stated that we need to prepare materials on grants in August, so they can go into the schools in the fall.

Land Use: No report.

Membership: Mike Collora requested brochures to put in places like the library. The Chestnut Hill Mall exhibit already has 2000 of the new brochures. The reprinting of the map will be ready by the end of summer. When Mike Clarke is back both Mikes will get together and sort out problems with the computerized membership list.

Bud said that Mike Clarke has a goal of boosting paid memberships to 500, which will take special efforts. Colleen Miniker had ideas about using targeted direct mail (e.g., to park abutters). Bud expressed need for a meeting on this soon.

Ordway Park: Carol Corbett said that pruning has not yet been done, but because of the drought it's probably best. She and Doug Dickson will get 2-3 estimates and then bids. Helen Heyn suggested that at this point we should wait until fall; early November prices for tree work are usually better.

Parks and Recreation: Colleen Miniker asked if we could get **Newton Little League** to take down their advertising at the end of baseball season, instead of the fall. Peter Kastner suggested that we write a more general letter to Parks & Rec., suggesting a *calendar* be drawn up for removal of advertising and temporary storage structures at the various parks. He feels that the problem is not willful, but mainly one of lack of organization.

Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit: Bud reports that the exhibit is in place and will be up until the end of August. A suggestion was made that, following the mall exhibit, the photos could be displayed at another location (e.g., the Library). Doug Dickson has already been working on something similar: a City Hall exhibit.

Fall Program: Peter Kastner and the group had held an informal meeting and felt that the program should be done after September's preliminary election, when the mayoral candidates are pared to two. Mid-October seemed best and Peter picked as first choice the second week in October (on Tues, Wed. or Thurs., depending on moderator's and candidates' schedules). Suggestions for moderator included Conservators Bud Elliott (declined), Mike Clarke (perhaps not appropriate since he holds a city board appointment from the current mayor). Other suggestions to be considered include Marjory Arons Baron, editorial commentator for Channel 5; Bill Leitch, Florence Reubens; journalist Robin Washington; and an environmental law professor from Boston College (name not stated).

Continental Cable has agreed to broadcast the program and to provide use of their studio if we wish, but the consensus was that a larger venue was needed -- one with room enough for the public. Suggestions included the Library (but it's only open until 9), Boson College, or the Yamawaki Center at Lasell. Format was also discussed. Bonnie Carter commented that the moderator, once chosen, might have his/her own preferences on format. Peter and the committee will work with these suggestions in mind.

Newsletter: Bonnie Carter could use additional help with the newsletter, including speaking with people for possible articles and help with bulk mailings. Materials for the next newsletter need to be in by Sept. 1.

Walks: Judy Hepburn volunteered to put together a list of walks for the fall. Suggestions were made that we include the new boat ride at Norembega and the new Kennard bog bridge, if possible.

Other: Helen Heyn mentioned to us that there is a proposed House bill (House 3102) that is intended to make it more difficult to direct conservation lands to inappropriate uses.

Next meeting is Sept. 24 at City Hall, Room 202.

Minutes compiled by Judy Hepburn, Bud Elliott and Sally Flynn.

September 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors
September 24, 1997
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Mike Clarke - presiding, Margaret Albright Stephanie Bacon, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Collora, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Judith Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Norman Richardson, Marty Sender, Nick Yannoni. Guests: Karyn Powers, John Decker.

Minutes: From the July 23, 1997 meeting, APPROVED as read.

Treasurer's Report: Nick passed out the Balance Sheet and was complimented on his 'fast take' of the Treasury situation. He was asked how the dues increase has impacted the membership. There has been no negative response. The grants are paid up.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee announced there would be no fall cleanup. Doug has received several estimates for pruning and dead tree removal. His recommendations are as follows: have work done immediately (including removal of 4 large trees) at an estimated cost of \$4000; convene a subgroup to consider this plot for the future (a management plan); and implement decided-upon plan.

Peter mentioned that the original bequest, about the land being left in a natural state, should be honored. Marty MOVED that approximately \$4000 be used to clean up Ordway Park (VOTED and PASSED). The committee chosen to develop a management plan includes Judy, Norman, Bud, Doug and Carol. It was suggested that a Gibbs St. neighbor might be asked to be on the Committee. Helen also suggested that an environmental consultant be hired to do a plant and tree inventory. Doug called John Richardson to get an idea for an estimate: no reply at this time.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Norman reported on the 7/24 meeting. Next meeting 9/25. The Pine St. subdivision still has an issue of flooding and storm water discharge; the design is still incomplete. Points of discussion included Kettle Pond, the Edison land purchase, Houghton Garden grant application, and Dolan Pond. Bud wants our mission

statement not to be ignored. Peter stated that the City should enforce fines for transgressions and dumping, but Helen replied that the City doesn't have coverage (money) to enforce non-dumping.

Land Use: John Decker, a neighbor of the **Kessler NE and W property**, circulated a petition asking that the City acquire the entire property from Boston Edison, which will sell to the highest bidder to the tune of approximately \$6 million. The auction has been delayed. 30% of abutters (Harwick and Wayne Rds.) have come to meetings in support of this purchase. Letters have been sent to S. Harshbarger and L. Pines, and should be sent to the TAB. An article will be written for the Newsletter.

Membership: Mike Collora says that PR is needed to get the word out to attract new members. The mailing list is currently over 500.

Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit: Bud has the photos and documentation from the summer exhibit. He, Doug, and Stephanie will pursue the possible showing of these at the Library or City Hall Rotunda in combination with a membership drive.

Parks and Recreation: Judy reported that a policy is to be put into effect for **dumping (snow/brush) during emergencies**. Gravel areas at Rumford Ave., Upper Falls Playground, Edmands Pk., Eliot Playground, Nahanton Pk. and the Lyons Carriage Way will be used as a contingency plan. Preplanning is now going on regarding these sites, not just to restore, but improve them.

Fall Walks: Judy is to be congratulated on putting together a full compliment of walks.

The next meeting has been changed from October 22 to October 20, due to room constraints at City Hall. Please note: We will meet on Wednesday, October 20, at 7:30 PM.

Sally Flynn, Secretary

Addendum: **Report from Marty Sender on the Sangiolo Press Conference:**

Amy Mah Sangiolo and her husband John have formed the Charles River Neighborhood Trust (CRNT) and are seeking applications to enlist as many as 10 to 12 individuals to serve on a Board of Advisors for the trust. Mr. and Mrs. Sangiolo are the sole trustees and control CRNT's assets of \$200,000, the amount Cabot, Cabot & Forbes of New England, developers of the Jordan Marsh warehouse property, put up in exchange for the Sangiolo's dropping an appeal to the MA DEP regarding the development's possible encroachment into a protected area adjacent to the Charles River. Mrs. Sangiolo is currently a candidate for Alderman in Ward 4 and is also an attorney with experience at the National Wildlife Federation.

The CRNT "...shall in its grants and other activities focus principally on preservation and protection of the environment and support for cultural, educational, social service and

civic betterment programs in the City of Newton, Massachusetts.: The Trust is prohibited from supporting or engaging in any political activity. The Trust can raise and invest funds, employ persons and own property. It must file an annual report with the Attorney General's office. The Board of Advisors would be strictly advisory. All decision making is delegated to the Trustees -- currently the Sangiolos, who could, if they wished, appoint other.

The Sangiolos and one of their attorneys, Gregor McGregor, a noted environmental lawyer, described the CRNT's focus as "watershed oriented." They hope the CRNT would "provide seed money" for "local, regional and state groups." They spoke of "innovative projects" including those that would assist "watershed ecosystem management." There were no more specifics.

October 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 29, 1997
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Mike Clarke presiding, Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Collora, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Colleen Minaker, Norman Richardson, Nick Yannoni. Guest: Anatole Zukerman.

Announcements: Nov. 6, 1997 will be the meeting date of the Newton 2000 Task Force on the Environment.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected (from Sept. 24 meeting: Under Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit, Stephanie (rather than Judy) will join Bud and Doug in pursuing a possible showing at the Library or City Hall Rotunda. Under Parks and Recreation, Judy (rather than Peter), reported a policy is to be put into effect for dumping (snow, brush) during emergencies. Areas in Rumford Ave., Upper Falls Playground, Edmands Pk., Eliot Playground, Nahanton Pk. Lyons Carriage Way will be used as a contingency plan.

Treasurer's Report: Nick presented a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. Upcoming expenses will include map production. Bud mentioned that with \$17,000 in the bank, \$10,000 could go into a Treasury Note, either 2, 3, or 5 years.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Norm reported that the Pine St. development (5 units) has still not been voted on. Colleen asked why construction would be allowed there at all. The nearby residents are concerned about flooding. A \$25,000 bond has been posted to ensure annual maintenance of the drainage structure. Norm also reported that a

Washington St. easement is being considered, a concrete structure storm drain near the Charles River.

Membership: Mike Collora reported that the AMC doubled its membership in 5 years by direct mailing. Margaret suggested targeting specific areas. Alan Licarie at City Hall has address labels for residents. The library has online listings of recent homebuyers. Bud said that there is a procedure for gaining new members through the annual membership mailing in November-December, which also solicits gift memberships. Also, each Newsletter has an appeal section.

Sangiolo Press Conference Report: Doug reported that the key decision-making resides in Amy and John, along with a 10-12 member advisory board. He asked what our involvement should be. Carol Lee hopes the Sangiolos could come to a board meeting, on Dec. 10, for presenting and questioning. Amy and John have already been asked to speak before the Conservation Commission on Nov. 20.

Program: Bud asked if we might consider having the new Mayor speak to us (accept questions) in January, and/or the new Planning Commissioner in February.

Parks and Recreation: Mike Clarke reported that \$25,000 would be requested by Parks and Rec. for the use of sites at Newton Upper Falls Playground, Nahanton and Edmands Parks, for brush storage and snow removal. He had suggested that the request letter indicate specific improvements, such as better delineating the parking areas to be used, especially at Nahanton Park. This is in accord with the **brush/snow removal task force report** that suggested that areas around the dump sites should be improved and planned for. Judy feels that neighborhoods should be involved as well.

The Mayor is allocating \$60,000 from the '97 Marathon to Parks and Recreation, to improve several playing fields, including re-sodding the **Newton Highland playground**. The Pop Warner Football League will pay to irrigate the field. Work is expected to be done in the spring. Helen will contact Debbie Dyer and Bill Hagar, who live close to the playground, and possibly Aldermen Yates and Samuelson, who live in the district.

Bud mentioned that Zyg Plater, a BC Professor, had plans to have a handicap trail going through **Edmands Park**. Plater had hoped to involve BC in financially supporting improvements to the park; however, this has not happened. BC has a permit in for reconstructing office and classroom space on their campus abutting Edmands Park and has plans to build graduate student housing there. Bud suggests we watch this carefully.

Ordway Park: Mike Clarke and Doug visited the park on 10/28 to get a sense of what the park needs and how we should plan for it. In particular, there are utility lines crossing the property. Thanks to Helen for passing on information and maps. The dead tulip tree that needs to come down is not actually on our property. Bud asked how much we want to invest, beyond the \$4000 that was approved last month. The Ordway Park committee will recommend a plan for the park at our next meeting.

Fall Walks: Judy said that 25-30 people went on the most recent walk around Hammond Pond. An advertisement in MetroWest section of the Globe may have accounted for the good turnout.

Old Business: Mike Clarke reported that letters were sent to the Mayor, the president of Boston Edison, and Attorney General Scott Harshbarger urging the transfer of the entire 40 acre **Kessler Woods property** from Boston Edison to the city.

He also wrote letters to the aldermen urging passage of the **Telecommunications Ordinance**, which would provide for siting antennas and monopole towers for cellular phones. Fred Abernathy has helped to write the ordinance, which provides for a setback of 4 ft. from residences and 2 ft. from other structures for every one foot in tower height. FAA permits would restrict higher towers needed for digital TV's.

Thanks to Bonnie for rapidly getting the Mayoral candidates' responses to our questions published in the Newsletter.

New Business: Bud asked if a symposium is in order for the spring or fall. Possible topics could be Open Space Plans (Kessler Woods, Rumford Ave., Andover-Newton), Parks and Recreation, Land Banks, etc.

Stephanie wants to use the **Chestnut Hill Mall Exhibit** at the Library and/or the Rotunda at City Hall for display of Conservator materials. She will look into both.

Anatole Zukerman spoke about the **Rumford Dump capping**. 13 acres will be capped for passive recreation, but the City is doing the minimum. DEP has approved the removal of vinyl chlorides, but the DPW wants to do as little as possible. Bud thinks we should pursue this problem. (Mike Clarke visited the site on Nov. 4 with Martha Horn and two members of the CRWA Stream Team).

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 1997, 7:30 PM, in Rm. 202 of City Hall.

Sally Flynn and Mike Clarke

November-December 1997

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 1997
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Mike Clarke presiding, Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Collora, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Norm Richardson, Vaunita Schnell, Marty

Sender. Guests: Amy and John Sangiolo. Observers: Karyn Powers and Anatole Zukerman.

Minutes: APPROVED as read.

Treasurer's Report: Roger presented a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. On it, Hammond Pond, listed as a liability, should not be.

Invited Guests: John and Amy Sangiolo came, at the invitation of the Board, to talk of the Sangiolo Trust. Marty Sender gave a brief overview, with information from the Sangiolos, of the evolution of the suit versus Cabot, Cabot and Forbes. Although they are having difficulty finding advisors to serve on the Trust, their mission remains the same: to provide an ongoing source to provide for and save the City's resources. Two attorneys have been hired: one to help the Trust to grow and one to take care of the Trust

Bud asked if just the income from the interest on the endowment would be used, and whether the moneys would be for Newton or all of the Charles River watershed area. Amy answered that the Trust would need to grow to be a viable fund, and that the State Ethics Commission saw no conflict if moneys were used outside Newton. Colleen asked about the number of advisors and whether they could be increased from the 10 the Sangiolos mentioned as a working number. The Sangiolos said that they are just interested in getting a group together with some expertise in local environmental issues -- no formal applications necessary, just letters and resumes. Peter brought the discussion to an end, mentioning that although it is good that a private citizen can start a group, that privilege may take away from existing groups and duplicate work already being done.

Andover Newton Land Parcel: Mike Clarke reported that 2 meetings have been held regarding the 20 acres to be sold by Edison [sic]. Hebrew College will acquire 6 acres, and the neighbors would like the City to purchase the rest, which may be impossible if the asking price is \$8 million. Mike would like a comprehensive plan including as much green space as can be legally protected for the entire campus. Bud asked what legal guarantees will be put into place to reassure land conservation? Helen said a 1989 ordinance called the Open Space Plan should be used as much as possible.

Although a **5 year open space plan** may have been devised, current planning came to a halt when Concannon lost the election. The **Kessler Woods** project has also been delayed. Bud met with Mayor Cohen regarding the **Rumford Ave. site**, discussing the advisability of having one property (from Lexington St. to the River) rather than separate plots. Public Works oversees 10 of the 25 acres. The question is whether Parks and Rec. or Conservation groups should control the use of the remaining acres.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Norm reported that the CC approved the building of 5 units on **Pine St.**, with space for 10 more conditional on the storm drain status. Colleen mentioned that that might take a year to resolve, due to concerns about backups and

storm drain culverts. Norm said that the Lexington St. storm drain is too low, with the discharge pipe entering wetlands: **Purgatory Cove.**

Bud wonders if planning is going awry, with the Rivers Act circumvented twice in recent weeks. M. Clarke mentioned that communication problems are hindering participation in the CC. Margaret asked if CC members are trained, as it seems that the City legal department just washes over environmental lawyers. The CC is too accommodating to projects. Martha Horn has been attending meetings on regulations and says they are becoming stronger. Norm said the next CC meeting would be 12/18.

Membership: Mike Collora reported that he, Margaret, Bud and Peter had met to discuss ways to increase membership. They came up with 4 projects:

1. Getting lists of local citizens (Weeks, Richardson Field, Cold Spring Pks. Volunteers, Andover-Newton abutters);
2. Getting group lists (AMC, Friends of Bullough's Pond, etc.);
3. Approaching realtors and giving them maps for donations to new residents; and
4. Taking out a 1/4 page ad in the Tab for \$350.

Peter commented that 2-5% of people respond to mailings. Bonnie thinks that the Membership list should be weeded out.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee Corbett met November 9 at the Park with committee members Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Judy Hepburn and Norm Richardson. The following report was written by Doug Dickson:

The Ordway Park Committee recommends that Ordway Park be developed for a hybrid use based on the reclamation, to the extent possible, of the remaining original plants. Decisions concerning the selection of plants, either through thinning or replacement planning, will be guided by the following criteria: 1) native or traditional plants consistent with the spirit of Priscilla Ordway's original plan; 2) native trees not commonly seen in Newton, but which are well-suited to the space; and 3) plants that are attractive to birds.

The concept of the park shall envision two distinct "rooms" for development and use: 1) a dense shade and evergreen area fronting Grant Avenue; and 2) a more open area predominated by beech and hickory trees fronting Everett and Gibbs Streets. The character of each of these sections will be maintained in decisions about what plants to keep and plant.

Existing trees, plants and shrubs will be inventoried. Labeling for an outdoor classroom will be considered if the School Department expresses interest.

In addition to the major tree work, thinning of saplings and reclamation of existing shrubs, additional attention will be focussed on the berms and banks, for which a low-maintenance ground cover will be sought.

The committee will consult with abutters about: 1) possible removal of the large dead twin tulip tree which is on the adjoining property; and 2) the utility wires that cross Ordway Park to the abutter's home. The Conservator and Jackson Homestead archives should be combed to gather as background information about the original plan and intent of the park, which may be used in future planning for the park.

Reported submitted December 10, 1997 by the Committee. VOTED and PASSED unanimously by the Board.

Grants: Bart met with Vaunita and Stephanie regarding Countryside School's asking for \$500 to work on a garden. VOTED on and PASSED.

Discussion about the **Telecommunications Ordinance** is postponed until next meeting. Mike Clarke will write letters to Aldermen keeping our original requests of no monopolies and low impact towers.

Anatole Zukerman presented his plan for **Rumford Ave. area**, to be surrounded by a canal. Peter reiterated that we support a comprehensive plan.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 PM in Rm. 202 of City Hall. The City Planner, Mike Kruse, will be coming at 7:45 PM.

[no signature]

January 1998

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 28, 1998
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Mike Clarke, presiding, Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Norm Richardson, Marty Sender.

Minutes: APPROVED as corrected.

Announcements: Mike Clarke reported that a meeting of **Andover-Newton Theological School** (ANTS) neighbors will be held on Feb. 12, at 7:30 PM in the Lutheran Church in Newton Centre. Hebrew College (HC) will request a change in the Zoning Ordinance on Feb. 10, which should come before the Zoning & Planning Committee on Feb. 24 or March 24. This amendment would be to a footnote in Section 30-15, Table 2, regarding setbacks for religious/educational institutions in Residential 3 areas. This would allow HC/ANTS to obviate the 30 ft. setback requirement between them, in order to cluster their two campuses. While this is a reasonable request, it also provides the first, and

possibly only, hearing for the neighborhood to influence development on the 6 acre HC site and the additional 14 acres ANTS plans to sell.

There is no new **Kessler Woods** development.

Ruth Leabman (Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Recycling) requests that the Conservators cosponsor (with Green Decade) "**Depot Day**" at the **Rumford Ave. Landfill site**, which is now known as the Rumford Depot. Depot Day on Sat. May 16 is being initiated by DPW, and Ruth would like for the Conservators to lead a walk in the area, and possibly to guide a canoe trip between Purgatory and Ware's Coves. It was the consensus of the board to participate in **Depot Day**. Judy Hepburn will coordinate the walks.

Articles for the upcoming Newsletter should be sent to Mike by Email as soon as possible.

Mayor's Environmental Task Force: At the Jan. 27 meeting, several focus areas were adopted: 1. Water and the River; 2. Recycling and Waste Management; 3. Governmental Structure for Handling Environmental Issues; 4. Resource Management, including energy conservation; 5. Toxins and Pesticides; and 6. Education and Communications.

Under " 3." would be increasing the number of parks and open space people on the Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commissions, as well as hiring a Deputy Commissioner for parks, and a land management person. Information from the environmental planner suggests that about half of local Conservation Commissions fall under Planning Depts. Like ours, while others, such as Wellesley, have Departments of Environmental Resources. Peter said that budgeting by project should be extended to budgeting by site. He recommends Bill Stevenson's document for specifics, for which Mike will try to get updates. The next meeting of the Environmental Task Force is on Feb. 10.

Treasurer's Report: Roger passed out Nick's report. The Annual Appeal was a great success in bringing in new members. This is not completely reflected in this report, which was written on Jan. 8th. Next month we will discuss investments.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Norm Richardson reported that there are flooding concerns on several projects, Cheesecake Brook and Laura Estates (Rokeby Rd.). An emergency order went out to see about removal of a 270 gallon oil tank on Quinobequin Rd., which might be leaking into the Charles River.

The Commission is considering raising Filing Fees for developers, which is currently \$200, since this does not cover the costs of handling the permit applications.

Norm also reported that **Brunen Brook**, which enters the Rumford Depot site from the Lexington St. side is at too low an elevation to flow properly. About 300 ft. in from

Lexington St. on the SE side of the landfill, the brook will be rerouted to flow into a constructed wetland that will connect with Flowed Meadows wetlands.

Membership: A mailing was done to ANTS neighbors. Mike will provide a Newton Homeowners list to Mike Collora for area solicitation of members.

Parks and Recreation: Mike and Peter reported that at the Jan. 16 meeting of Parks and Rec., a Newton Center Playground neighbor, John Allen, presented a petition requesting that the **ball field signs** be taken down, as the NC Little League was not living up to its promises to: 1) take the signs down at the end of the summer; and 2) maintain the signs in good condition. The Commission ruled that the signs would be allowed to remain up from April 1 to August 1. Doug reported that the earlier petition from Mr. Allen regarding the disposition of the fences along the stream through NC Playground would be resolved when the Landscape Task Force finalized its policy on fences on public lands.

Grants: Bill Hagar asked that we vote on a proposal submitted by Bigelow Middle School, requesting \$436.00 to purchase chemical testing kits, in order to participate in a national water quality data testing study coordinated in NJ. Marty felt that the school should also look at the MWRA studied. VOTED and PASSED.

Mike raised the idea of **matching funds for neighborhood groups** who were working to preserve open space. Specifically, independent naturalists' surveys sponsored by the Bowen-Thompsonville Neighborhood Organization for the ANTS land, and the Vine St. Neighbors for the Kessler Woods land. Carol Lee felt it would be contrary to our mission to provide funds for political purposes or for general purposes, such as Xerox machines. Peter pointed out examples where we had helped other groups in the past. Bart felt it should be part of our program. Doug said it could give us a higher level of visibility. It was the consensus of the meeting that such grant proposals would be appropriate for consideration by the grants committee.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee reported that Doug had contacted a utilities co. to have wires removed prior to the tree removal. It is evidently a long process, one which he will report on next meeting. The neighbors are amenable to the wire and tree removal.

Old Business: The **Telecommunications Ordinance** passed on Jan. 5th, and Tody's Services, Inc. in W. Newton is suing. The state will allow appeals through the DTE.

New Business: Mike asked is we should have a **Forum**, as we did last year. Bart recommends this, and Peter thinks it could be entitled "Land Use Planning in Newton -- Who's in Charge?" Bart reported that a Jan. Democratic City Comm. Meeting, held recently at the Newton Highlands Women's Club (attended by Anita Capeless, Rodney Barker, Brian Yates, some other Aldermen, and about 40 other people) raised this question and sought community input on projects like the Needham St. Stop and Shop plan. Doug feels that the timing is critical if we do have a forum, and that this spring might be too soon in light of all the Task Forces now dealing with environmental and

open space issues. There will be a joint meeting of the Program and Nominations Committee (both chaired by Peter) to discuss the possibilities.

The Urban Tree Committee would like to sponsor (with us) a series of "tree walks," with the first probably in the Newton Cemetery in late spring. Judy will look into this, in conjunction with planning for the **Spring Walks**.

Stephanie reported that the **Chestnut Hill Mall** owners want to add 160 parking spaces to the lower Mall, which would entail possibly blasting on an adjacent house site, affecting **Hammond Pond**. The Friends of Hammond Pond have finished their study into the polluting of the Pond, determining that 71% of the water is storm water from Rt. 9 and surrounding roads. The report will make a number of recommendations to preserve Hammond Pond, including a possible dredging of the pond, which is eutrophying.

Mike observed that with all the issues we are now dealing with and the Mayor's presence at the next meeting, we will have to be very efficient in how we proceed. Possible topics for discussion include: 1. The status of the Planning Dept.; 2. Structural issues for dealing with open space and the environment; 3. Contingency funding for acquiring open space when institutional and golf course lands go on the market; 4. Jurisdiction over dumping; 5. What models of open space does he look for; 6. Promoting the MDC Charles River Pathway; and 7. Appointing more environmentalists on City Commissions.

Annual Meeting: Sally reported that Noyes Hall at Andover Newton has been reserved for Wednesday, May 27.

Future meeting dates: Feb. 25, March 25, and April 29 (this last is the 5th Wed.)

[no signature]

February 1998

The Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 25, 1998
City Hall, Room 202

Present: Mike Clarke, presiding; Anna Marie Abernathy, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Nick Yannoni. Guests: David Cohen, Karen Powers.

Minutes: APPROVED as read.

Announcements: Andover Newton Land: Mike announced a March 9th public hearing before the Zoning/Planning Committee. Hebrew College and Andover Newton are to propose a zoning amendment that would allow them to apply for a special permit in order to cluster their campuses together. An important aspect is how the removed setback would be replaced by additional setbacks on other sides of the Hebrew College property.

Interview with Mayor Cohen: Mike welcomed Mayor David Cohen, and promptly asked him his challenges and goals as new mayor. Cohen replied that having available municipal and state funds in order to acquire and preserve open space was high on his list of priorities. He continued the discussion about **Andover Newton**, saying he hopes for a restriction (on building) on the lower slopes as the most productive goal. Mike responded that the Conservators' goal is green belt around the whole space, which would be a win-win situation for both HC and the neighbors.

Cohen commented on the **Kessler site** discussions with Edison and the possibility of 13 unbuildable wetland acres being given to the City (at no cost to the City). He's hoping groups like the Nature Conservancy or Trust for Public Land may help. He does not like "careening from crisis to crisis with 2 valuable plots of land on the market and no contingency plans" (for available funding). Mike asked how much time we have, and Cohen replied that the selling price is still an issue. As long as Edison doesn't sell at a loss (\$6 million +), we may be able to free up land for conservation.

The Mayor mentioned outstanding expenses that need to be repaid over the next 2 years to maintain the AAA rating, including bonding for Oak Hill School, a science lab for NNHS, and the Carr School reclamation.

Peter made 2 observations: 1). There is a problem in developing a constituency for open space -- little public support; and 2). There is little signage, low visibility and PR, so that people use our open spaces less than they might. When residents feel connected to their open spaces, it makes it easier to get open space funding. He further observed that the Conservation Commission members are not strong stewards for land acquisition.

When asked about the **Rumford Depot** site, Cohen admitted he had not focussed on it yet. Mike asked about appointments to the **Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commissions**. Cohen replied that Maria Plati, a newly hired chief policy and communications person, will inventory these groups. Bud asked if we could provide input on the makeup of these groups. The Mayor said that a broad constituency is sought.

Colleen asked if the person chosen to be chief of policy/communications is qualified, and Cohen replied, "eminently qualified."

Cohen said **zoning ordinances** need to be enforced, and he will use the new Friday Report to keep constituents informed. AnnaMaria indicated that dockets were not posted until about three weeks after the meeting dates and asked if current items could be posted

before the meetings. Cohen's priority is getting forms on the WWW and is getting help from Webmaster Susan Bramer, Newton librarian.

After close to an hour of questions and discussion, the Mayor left for another meeting. Mike continued with the agenda.

Treasurer's Report: Nick passed out the balance sheet. Bud suggested that moneys being invested for 5 years might do well in Fidelity's money market fund, and also asked for a comparison with last year's membership income, which Nick will provide next month.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: Colleen said that since the meeting was the next night (Feb. 26) there was nothing to report. An upcoming item was opposition to the construction of observation decks on Charles River Pathway from abutters.

Membership: Mike Collora has acquired 2 lists (AMC and new taxpayers) which we can use to solicit new members. It was VOTED to send a donation of \$100 to the AMC. We will look into ads for the TAB.

Parks and Recreation: Mike Clarke reported complaints about the **Newton Center ballfield signs** not being removed last month. Peter said that neighbors need to come to this month's meeting for P & R to act. It was hoped that Russ Halloran could give schedules and reports to groups. This item will come up at the March P & R meeting,

Grants: Bill announced that Bigelow Middle School has been awarded their grant, and the CRWA has also been informed about this grant to lend support to the water testing project. The Countryside School gardens have already been started.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee thanked Doug, who did most of the work of contacting the utility companies about changing the lines through the park. The arborist (Lupien) will start next week, with \$3700 covering approximately 5 days' work. Volunteers were sought to haul branches on March 7.

Old Business: Carol Lee reported that Community Development moneys are no longer available for the **proposed Dolan Pond Boardwalk**. Martha Horn will give us an update on that situation.

Stephanie reported that dredging **Hammond Pond** will provide a long term benefit. The proposed parking lot expansion will be discussed at a March 19 meeting.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Peter has a meeting upcoming. Suggestions for Environmentalist of the Year were Leo Levi and former Mayor Concannon. Suggestions for speaker were Trudi Cox, Peter Forbes, Paul Levi, and Jamie Hoyt.

NC archives will be stored in Carol Lee's basement by Board APPROVAL.

Nest Meeting: March 25, 7:30 PM.

[no signature]

March 1998

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 25, 1998

Present: Mike Clarke, presiding; Anna Marie Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Jim Broderick, Bonnie Carter, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Peter Kastner, Colleen Minaker, Norm Richardson, Nick Yannoni. Guest: Mike Kruse.

Minutes: APPROVED as read.

Treasurer's Report: Nick passed out a comparison of '96 and '97 accounts, as well as a current balance sheet.

Interview with Mike Kruse, City Planner for Newton. Mike Clarke welcomed Mike Kruse and opened the conversation by asking MK how he planned to tackle the **Open Space Plan**, a report generated every five years. MK answered that the most recent plan was done in '95 to satisfy some State requirements and qualify for some grants -- this is not good enough in his estimation. MC asked about the Mayor's Transition Task Force, regarding **recycling, pesticides, etc.** -- what is the touchstone to measure these items against? What can be done to generate a higher level of awareness of these issues in city departments? MK replied that without guidelines, it is hard to make recommendations. He has a citywide point of view and has been perusing old plans and records as one of his introductory activities. PK asked about the quality of the reports coming out of the Planning Committee. MK thinks most of the reports are good (considering he hasn't read them all in the 6 months he has been here). He commented that the Planning/Development Board wears several hats in Newton. CLC observed that, as a passionate advocate for **villages**, she worries about their identities in the City. MK thinks the village wards are political groupings, but was attracted by the villages here and plans changes at both the City and neighborhood levels. PK asked how the next **Newton Open Space Plan** will evolve. MK said that it is hard to make changes in the structures people are used to, and that presently the Mayor is still occupied with organizational and budget details.

MC asked about **Kessler Woods**. MK replied that Carol Boch from his office went to the neighborhood meeting on 3/22. Edison wants to put the property out for bid. There are 76 possible house sites, but the Mayor hopes 20-30 houses will be built with the rest of the land saved for non-development. Edison has already committed the 13 acres of wetlands to the city.

DD commented that both the present and previous mayors haven't had time to devote to open space issues. But MK disagreed, saying this is a hot issue for the Mayor and has been included in his recent Tuesday afternoon press conferences. BE spoke about the Land Use Committee and the need for more coordinating, planning, and a stronger public notice. PK made the observation that the City has a laissez-faire attitude toward developers. MK feels that Edison may feel compelled to maximize its profits and will not offer to sell the land for much less than what the market will bear. MC asked what models there were in other cities that might allow Newton to respond better to open space suddenly offered for sale. MK answered that Nantucket used a real estate tax to acquire property, but that with limited revenues coming in, it can't be budgeted in, especially with schools being the top City priority. PK recalled that 2 decades ago, the City was short-sighted, selling unused schools instead of leasing them.

BE asked if MK could prioritize his department. MK said there were 28, half paid in federal moneys (working for housing) and half working on current planning. He wants the city to focus more on comprehensive planning. BE asks again how important open space issues are? MK feels it is important, as is connecting green parcels. PK mentioned Bill Stevenson's study of surrounding, comparative towns regarding open space. He feels the public doesn't realize the importance of acquiring open space and putting up signage. MK reminded us that the budget is determined by the Board of Aldermen, with the final budget meeting on April 6. People need to go and advocate for open space and make their voices heard. PK spoke about our support of the Charles River Pathway. BE asked if there are any moneys for land conservation. MK answered no -- the Mayor said to hold the line.

AMA asked about the **proposed development of the Woodland and Riverside MBTA land**. MK said that the MBTA has a mandate to provide 10,000 more parking spaces (250 in Newton), and they could do this on their own. However, for apartment or office building they would need to get city permits. At this point the MBTA has not involved the city in their planning.

MC complimented the Planning Dept. on Martha Horn's successful effort to transfer the **30 acres between Wells Ave. and the river** from DPW to the Conservation Commission. Also, on Susan Glazer's work in including open space requirements in the recent zoning amendment to allow religious/educational institutions to build cluster campuses. He thanked MK for coming and discussing open space issues.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Commission: The developer of Laura Estates has not yet met the permit conditions. Approved were 2 Notices of Intent, including Pine St. and Cheesecake Brook additional landscaping. Newton Country Day School is having problems with landfill for a soccer field.

Land Use: Clarke reported that the Conservators' efforts in clearing the southernmost section of the **Charles River footpath** through the City's land upstream of Nahanton Park **along Wells Ave.** has paid off. At the Land Reuse Committee meeting in March, Martha Horn presented her case for transferring these 30 acres from DPW to the Conservation Commission.

The land first came to Martha's attention when the Conservators' secured permission from the Conservation Commission to clear the path. Since then the path has been linked to another section of the CR Pathway, which Dan Driscoll has recently marked with granite markers (Highland Ave. to Nahanton St., opposite Nahanton Park). Now that the land belongs to the Cons.Comm., Driscoll and Horn can apply for ISTEPA funds to improve the CR Pathway at its southern terminus. This should lend impetus to completing the pathway between Auburndale Park and Highland Ave.

Clarke also noted that a **zoning amendment** was passed regarding **institutions being able to cluster buildings**, as long as a buffer zone is maintained. The first (and probably only) application of this will be brought before Land Use Committee on Apr. 14, when Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School apply for a special permit to build the HC campus on 6 acres adjacent to ANTS.

Membership: Mike Collora will be sending out 900-1000 solicitations for membership. It was suggested that he use the services of RSVP for sending them out. He will provide a membership count for the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation: The Parks and Rec. Commission approved an electronic scoreboard for the Newton Center **Little League** in Newton Centre Playground, as long as it contains no advertising. This will replace an existing chalk scoreboard. The Commission turned down a request to extend the period when advertising signs on the fall field fence could remain up. The Commission is also going forward with a NCLL request to construct a storage building at the NC Playground, provided that it gets approval from other city departments.

Grants: The next round of grants is expected soon. Bill will arrange for some of our grantees to present posters of their projects at the Annual Dinner.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee gave special thanks to Doug and Frank for supervising the cleanup on March 28. A large, hollow oak tree must be felled for safety reasons. Cost: \$1000.

New Business:

Spring Walks: Judy will arrange tours of Flowed Meadows for "Depot Day" on May 16. Marty and Mike will conduct a canoe shuttle between Purgatory and Ware's Cove.

Swedish Home: Carol Lee raised concerns regarding the plans for building 40 assisted living units on the corner of Crafts and Waltham Streets, which will take away the current vista around the Swedish Home. The timeline for building has not yet been established.

Bud reported that the **Audit Committee** met Tuesday, March 24 and will report that everything is in order at the Annual Meeting.

Doug announced that the Newton 2000 meeting will be held April 7, 7:30 PM in City Hall.

Newsletter: Mike will contact Fran Towle, Mike Kruse, Dan Driscoll, John Decker (Kessler Woods), about articles for the next publication. Also, he will congratulate the Planning Dept. for acquiring 30 acres.

Annual Meeting: Julia O'Brien, MDC Planner will be the featured **speaker**. Dan Driscoll, CR Pathway Project Manager will receive the **Environmentalist of the Year Award**. Leo Levi and Helen Heyn will receive **special Directors' Awards** for outstanding services over the years.

\$500 was APPROVED for the Tree Endowment Fund in Leo's name, and \$400 to the Library's fund for purchasing environmental books in Helen's.

Next Meeting: April 29, 7:30 PM.

[no signature]

April 1998

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 29, 1998

Present: Mike Clarke, presiding, Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, James Broderick, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Sally Flynn, Bart Hague, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Colleen Minaker, Norm Richardson and Nick Yannoni.

Minutes: APPROVED as read.

Announcements: Mike reported that the **Environmental Task Force (ETF)** met with the Mayor on Friday 4/9. David Delporto is organizing a mayoral commission on sustainability and will write a draft environmental policy statement for the City. Mike presented ETF recommendation.

Land Use Planning: Bud reported that over 11 committees have been put together by the Mayor. One is for the establishing of rules, goals, and format for a Land Use Planning Committee. Bud also reported that we would like the Conservation Commission to be separate from the Planning Dept. He recommended that the Parks be a separate Dept. from the Recreation Dept.

Andover Newton: The Land Use Committee is considering a special permit for Hebrew College. ANTS wants to realize at least 5 million dollars from the land sale. Mike discussed some of the various development plans: cluster housing, luxury housing, mixed-income housing, and a possible private middle school. The developer has not yet been determined. The Bowen Neighborhood Assn. meets on 4/30 to discuss these possibilities. Mike wrote Susan Basham asking for a conservation restriction on a 70' setback. Before construction, the trees should be inventoried (and replaced, ultimately). The conservators VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to support these directives.

Depot Day will be held Saturday, May 16. Judy and Peter will be leading walks, Frank will handle the Conservators' table and information, and Marty and Mike will run canoe rides.

Helen reported that the **bog bridge at Kennard Pk.** still has not been built.

Colleen suggested that the Conservators ask Linda Finucane to provide a copy of the **alderman's packets** to the Conservators. Colleen would pick the packet up when she picks up the one for the NLWV. Mike will ask Ms. Finucane to provide the packet.

Treasurer's Report: Nick asked for Board approval to keep \$7000 in Cambridgeport Bank. APPROVED.

Nominating Committee: Peter Kastner will present the proposed slate of officers, directors and advisors at the Annual Meeting.

Conservation Commission: Norm reported that ponds were the topics of discussion at the last meeting. At **Hammond Pond**, drainage from Rte. 9 and the Chestnut Hill Mall bring sediments to the pond, causing it to fill. The 1949 drain system has neither traps nor filters.

Program Committee: The issue of organizing a **forum** for the fall was discussed. However, it was agreed to delay this decision until the new mayor had organized his environmental and open space policy and the results of the Newton 2000 and Environmental Task Force were in. Bud and Mike will review the possibilities.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Mike reported that the **Newton East Little League** wanted to extend its season, April 23 - Sept. 30; it was passed. There was a 4-4 vote on the vote to have an electronic scoreboard. Bud wants these NELL dealings to be publicized, and the Mayor be informed.

Annual Meeting: Julia O'Brien, head of Planning for the MDC, will be our **speaker**, with Dan Driscoll receiving the **Environmentalist of the Year award**. Leo Levi and Helen Heyn will receive special **Directors' Awards**.

Ordway Park: Carol Lee announced that a cleanup will be held May 9th, 10 AM - 1 PM. Doug commented that all the tree work is done, chips have been put down, and there is another path to reclaim.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Sally Flynn

May 1998

Presented by Michael Clarke
at the Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators, Inc.
Wednesday, May 27, 1998
in Noyes Hall of the Andover-Newton Theological School.

The past year has a very busy one for the Newton Conservators. Mike Collora has increased our membership through a direct mail campaign. Bonnie Carter produced four very informative Newsletters. Our grants program continues strong and this year we funded two grant proposals for environmental-based activities for the Countryside Elementary School and the Bigelow Middle School.

Early in the year we queried the two mayoral candidates on their positions on a number of open space issues and published their replies in our Newsletter. We have since interviewed with both Mayor Cohen and, Mike Kruse, the new Planning Director, at our February and March board meetings to ascertain their views on planning for Newton's Open spaces.

The Board of Alderman, at their first meeting of the year, passed the Telecommunications Ordinance that Fred Abernathy wrote and lobbied for, and which the Conservators strongly backed. The ordinance provides for the effective control of communications antennas in Newton and is a model for other communities.

The Conservators' efforts of several years ago in clearing the southernmost section of the Charles River footpath along Wells Ave. paid off handsomely. The existence of the footpath and its connection with the segment that Dan Driscoll recently cleared and marked opposite Nahanton Park provided Martha Horn, the City's Environmental Planner, with a strong argument for transferring 30 acres from DPW to the Conservation Commission. In March, the Land Use Committee readily agreed, and the South Charles River Reservation is now a part of Newton's Conservation lands.

Throughout the year the Conservators have been a strong voice on the Newton 2000 Committee on the Environment, which Doug Dickson has been chairing, and the Mayor's

Transition Task Force on the Environment. The Newton 2000 effort will make a statement on Newton's vision for its natural environment and natural resources for the millennium. The Mayor's Transition Task Force has made a number of specific recommendations to the Mayor concerning the preservation of open space.

The Ordway Park Committee, chaired by Carol Corbett, undertook an extensive cleanup of the park, which combined about \$4000 worth of arbor services with many volunteer hours. The area around the large beech tree was cleared, a large, dead, yellow wood tree was removed, and a number of trees crowding the growth of others were taken out. The chips from the removed trees and branches were recycled into new surfaces for the trails. Judy Hepburn planted a number of daffodils that were evident this the spring, so that the park now has a very welcoming look.

In addition to our successful Walks program, chaired by Judy Hepburn, the Conservators participated in a highly successful Depot Day, which celebrated the capping of the Rumford Ave landfill and its transformation into a recycling center. Both the walks Peter Kastner and Judy Hepburn led through the surrounding open space and the canoe trips that Marty Sender and I led between the Depot and Auburndale Park were greatly appreciated.

But all is not rosy. The year will be remembered for the two large parcels of open space that came suddenly on the market. The Mayor has been dealing personally with the 40 acre Kessler Woods, which Boston Edison must sell. During a visit at one of our board meetings, the Mayor indicated that he is confident that at least the 13 acres of wetlands will be preserved and that he is seeking a means to preserve more.

20 Acres of the land that now surrounds us on the Andover-Newton Theological School campus has been placed on the market. In an 1888 essay on "*Our Hills*" in Newton, H.I. Ordway wrote: "Newton Centre is abundantly blessed by nature in possessing Institution Hill, and we have reason to be thankful that the hill will always be free from the barriers of more private ownership." Unfortunately, it now transpires that this last wooded Hill in Newton will be developed. 6 acres will go to a new Hebrew College campus. Working with Hebrew College and the Bowen-Thompson Neighborhood Association, we were able to develop wording for a zoning ordinance change that allows for a special permit process, so that religious and educational institutions in one zoning district could cluster their campuses, as long as the obviated setback between them is preserved as open space. We are continuing to work with Hebrew College, the BTNA and the city to hammer out the details of a the special permit so that as much open space as possible will be preserved with no less public access than we now enjoy. In fact, Hebrew College will be presenting a possible CR to do this at the Conservation Commission meeting tomorrow.

We have also been closely monitoring the sale of the remaining 14 acres that Andover-Newton plans to sell to a developer. This includes 10 acres between ANTS and the Bowen School. Since the very first Newton Open Space Plan, a CR has been sought to preserve the view of the Blue Hills from this area of the campus. We hope that as part of

the special permit process Andover-Newton will make some provision for a view to remain with public access to it.

In the coming year, in addition to these two major open space issues, we expect that the MBTA will begin acting on its intention to development their Grove St. site. This will get more interesting when the MBTA approaches the city for permits to do so.

So next year promises to be just as busy as the last.