

Board of Director, 2000-2001

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Treasurer: Katherine Howard
Secretary: Judith Hepburn
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Lee Breckenridge	James Broderick
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Bonnie Carter	Michael Collora
Carol Lee Corbett	Ed Dailey
Sheila Decter	Burton Elliott
Roger Feinstein	Jason Glasgow
Frank Howard	Ted Kuklinski
Eric Reenstierna	Marty Sender
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Rodney Barker	John Bliss
Thelma Fleishman	Sally Flynn
Bart Hague	Helen Heyn
Deborah Howard	Jean Husher
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George Mansfield	Richard Primack
Frances Seasholes	William Shaevel
William Stevenson	Roger Swain
Verne Vance	Brian Yates

June 2000

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of June 28, 2000 at 7:30 PM (as corrected)
Newton City Hall, Rm 202

Attending. Doug Dickson (presiding), Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Corry Berkooz, Jim Broderick, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Ed Dailey, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Judy Hepburn, Jason Glasgow, Helen Heyn, Katherine Howard,

Lucy Caldwell Stair, Eric Reenstierna New and continuing board members introduced themselves.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. The April minutes were APPROVED. Katherine Howard reported \$105,000 in our accounts, with \$22,000 in the checking account, \$33,000 at Fidelity, and the rest in Treasury notes.

Membership. Jason Glasgow and Katherine Howard will be on the membership Committee. We need to look at the database and how we can tract gifts vs. memberships dues. Margaret Albright has a program E-base that will do this and merge E-mail. Bud also thinks Quicken can do this.

Committee appointments and projects: Doug summarized the roles of the Membership, Publicity, Education, Walks, Grants, Ordway, Newsletter, and Strategic Planning Committees and passed around a sign-up sheet asking board members for their preferences. Jim Broderick will continue to chair the Ordway Park committee, and Margaret Albright will chair Publicity. Bud Elliott will chair a new Maps Committee. Strategic planning will consider whether we should encourage and accept gifts, which would be a significant shift for us, and also an open space contingency plan and the open space planning process (with the city's Framework Committee as an antecedent). There are also opportunities to more closely ally with CWRA, Friends Groups, the Brookline Open Space Alliance, and Green Decade Coalition.

Grants: There are no new grants and no request from the Environmental Science Program. Bud thinks we might expand emphasis from the Newton schools to Scouts, etc., and encourage new groups to participate.

Ordway: Jim reports that Newman has completed the spring work satisfactorily. Needed tree work is planned for the fall.

Chandler Pond: The Chandler Pond Association again cannot meet with us tonight.

Hammond Pond: Stephanie reported that the Conservation Commission voted against development on the steep wooded slope at the edge of Hammond Pond. However it is difficult to oversee a site like this as it works its way through several Commissions (Conservation, Historical, etc.) that cover it. Land Use is also involved because of the grade. She questioned how to flag such properties in the open space plan and what the hierarchy of commissions is, as they might come back with a new proposal for reconsideration

Also the people at 74 Longwood, wanting to expand a yard, need to come back with a surveyed plan. Stephanie sees a possibility for another house to go in on the east side of Hammond Pond and a need to red flag this. Helen says one difficulty is the New Planning & Development director seems unfamiliar with the city's open space plan.

Parks and Recreation: Doug reported and gave a hand-out on major new issue in the **Livingston Cove reconstruction**, where money is now available. What had been a minor plan became much bigger after the City Engineer decided to obtain federal funds for handicap accessibility, i.e., \$100,000 paving project that is now facing neighborhood opposition. The work has been halted and scaled back, but there will probably still be a fair amount of paving and a retaining wall built.

Margaret suggests that we invite the new Parks and Recreation head to one of our meetings to discuss such issues. Bud expressed how the process at Flowed Meadow worked better, where the committee involved Mike Kruse, many neighborhood groups, etc. and the end result was restoration not development. Such early public input should be a model for other areas like Livingston Cove. He suggested this be an issue for the Strategic Planning Committee. Doug added that Flowed Meadow now needs a Friends group.

Framework Plan: There is a consensus for substantive action in the new Framework Plan, which will be out around Sept-Oct. The Conservators need to demonstrate our general support, but the Mayor must make strategic plans and substance out of it and he has not been as focussed on land use as on other, competing agendas. Doug then asked what role we should play. He recommended that we work more closely with the Aldermen and involve other groups in this. Bud thought we should develop a better relationship with Mike Druse of Planning and get him to meet with us.

Doug will invite Mike Kruse to September's meeting and Fran Towle in October. We will also try to meet with the Mayor once a year.

Metropolitan Park Council. A Metropolitan Park Council, consisting of dozens of organizations like ours, is forming to combine voices in support of stronger management on MDC properties. They are facing similar pressures as Newton and their maintenance budget has been halved. Doug thought we ought to participate in this and send a liaison, which Bud MOTIONED, Jason SECONDED. Discussion followed, with opposition from Helen, who said Parks & Rec. is supposed to maintain liaison with the MDC, though she noted it hasn't. Doug said that our involvement would be augmenting, not replacing, the current structure. Ed commented that this political advocacy was needed, since the MDC has lost much of its political clout. The MOTION then was VOTED and PASSED.

New business — Meeting date: We have a problem in that several board members (Bill Hager, Marty Sender, Lucy Caldwell Stair, Lee Breckinridge) cannot make Wednesday evening meetings this year, largely due to conflicts with CWRA. Doug thought we must consider meeting perhaps on a different Wednesday of the month or Thursday. Bud suggested we need to find out first what nights board members cannot make, then decide what works. Doug and Judy will work on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Judy Hepburn,
Secretary

[No August meeting]

September 2000

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of September 27, 2000 at 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall, Room 202

Attending: Doug Dickson (presiding), Margaret Albright, Nancy Avery, Stephanie Bacon, Lee Breckenridge, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Clarke, Ed Dailey, Sheila Decter, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Jason Glasgow, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Dr. Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Bob Dooley, Andrew Stern.

Dialogue with Fran Towle and Bob DeRubeis of Parks & Recreation, and Bob Dooley of DPW: Under its new administration, Parks & Rec plans to put the initial focus on more customer service, staff morale & education, and preservation & maintenance of open space, where a set up of guidelines is needed. They have secured a new part-time turf administrator.

DPW's Dooley considers the new Framework Committee's master plan critical to Newton's future. He welcomes E-mail from us. Mike Clarke expressed his thoughts on jurisdiction: that Parks & Rec. now maintains some DPW land, whereas town squares, etc. that are maintained by DPW should be parks. Fran said some of these things happened when Forestry was merged into Parks & Rec., bringing with it tree issues. Bud E. added that too much past emphasis was Recreation, not Parks. Fran admitted that there was a need for more master plans, so as not to end up with a patchwork approach.

Questions were raised about who's interfacing with MWRA, especially regarding their paving proposal at Edmands Park and aqueduct maintenance. Bob Dooley said he meets with MWRA, and there will soon be a cleaning of catch-basins around Bullough's Pond, also that first the MWRA must come back with its recommendations for a staging area at Edmands before this becomes a city issue. Bud and Mike said they would like to be informed earlier (by DPW and P & R) over issues such as rights and ownership of the aqueducts and proposed bike accommodation, and Mike voiced concern that the City has already ceded rights on the aqueduct to some neighbors, either formally or by tolerating encroachment.

We were also told that proposed capital projects are now being requested for the next 5 years, and that one will soon involve Centre St. We discussed how public meetings on these issues could be made better known via the city's yellow sheet, our

newsletter, the Tab and Newton cable TV. Bud added that he'd like to see our organization informed before public meetings are announced, and Dooley commented that there is often too small a time-window. Lee B. and Dan D. brought up the storm water/drainage issues near former wetlands and the resultant flooding, especially near schools. DPW engineering solutions, special permits, etc. might not be a good Parks solution. Dooley agreed we need more awareness on this issue and not a lot of work has been done, except near the Newton Library.

The Levingston Cove project was pointed out by Board members as an recent example of sequencing failure and major changes put in place without adequate oversight, largely because 3 city departments and a neighborhood group were all involved piecemeal. Similar problems exist regarding proposed development near Hammond Pond. We were told the Mayor is about to create a work group that will plan out this much needed hierarchy of jurisdiction. . Dan thought citizen and interest groups were too often excluded as players. because land use issues get couched in legalisms by the time they get to the Board of Aldermen. He'd like to see more and earlier dialogue by the DPW and P & R with interest groups, so matters don't just default to the Board of Alderman process.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Report. The June minutes were APPROVED as amended. Katherine reported \$103,0000 in various accounts, and she has completed the non-profits filing to the Attorney General for 1997 through 1999. Doug asked Katherine to report on our various accounts at the next meeting.

Grants: Bill Hagar reviewed grants going to schools from 1996 to 1999. He thought our old grant limits were getting too low for the schools and maybe should be boosted to \$1000; Sally concurred. Bud would like to go directly to students for grant applications on environmental projects, perhaps with an annual prize for the best one. Judy H. and Mike Cl. both thought there should at least be faculty sponsorship and oversight; also this could really only be done at the high school level. Doug said the new grants committee should explore these options and make a recommendation at the Oct. meeting.

Ordway: Kevin Newman is doing \$200 in fall work and for \$225 more will do the extra limb work. This was VOTED and PASSED unanimously. Jim will develop an annual management plan and budget.

Publicity: An environmental media coalition, headed by Bev Drose, is going to recreate an environmental page in the Tab, with plans eventually for a web page.

Parks and Recreation: The P & R information manual has finally been accepted. There were three naming issues: one involving Hawthorne Park, Albermarle Park renamed as Russell Halloran Park, and a clubhouse named after Fran Rice, a current city worker. The vote to override procedures didn't pass (but unfortunately will next time). On the agenda next time is Mike Clarke's suggestion that P & R begin planning, based on the City's Framework Plan.

Other Open Space Issues: (1) Larry Burdick has agreed to serve as the Conservator's rep on the community liaison group involved with the **Bradford Development**. Bradford has done a little soil remediation but is behind schedule. (2) **Andover-Newton:** Terraces has re-filed to create 38 larger unit instead of the 60 housing units initially proposed. They need a special permit; meeting is Oct 10. MSH has also filed for an administrative permit.

Community Preservation Act: Jim reports it is now law, operative as of January 1. Because of its final format, Doug thought we need an education program before it can be implemented. A referendum will require 2500 signatures. A coalition of groups is forming to put together a single plan, and Jim thought we should take a lead role in forming this group.

New Committees: Doug has reorganized committees into the the following (and head): Finance and Investments (Larry Burdick), Strategic Planning (Mike Clarke), Membership (Andy Stern), Programs (Mike Collora), Grants (Bill Hagar), Publicity/Newsletter (Margaret Albright), Ordway Park (Jim Broderick), Annual dinner (Stephanie Bacon), Audit (Bud Elliott), and Nominating (TBA). There are also some projects: Land Bank/CPA (Jim Broderick), Report Card (Nancy Avery), Open Space Plans (Lucy Caldwell Stair), New Maps (Bud Elliott), Zoning and Land Use, Parks Recreation and Conservation. Liaisons to other groups include Mike Clarke (Metro Parks Council), Marty Sender (CRWA), Jim Broderick (ELM; Community Preservation Coalition), Doug Dickson (Waltham Land Trust), and Stephanie Bacon (Bookline Green Space Alliance).

Comments made: Andy thought Membership should be merged with Strategic Planning; he will act in both. Programs will be cosponsoring Diana Muir with Greenpeace for the first environmental forum. Conservator member Dan Perlman has also offered a program based on his nature photography, and has expressed his willingness to work with us on maps, using his GIS experience.

CopyCop at Chestnut Hill is interested in doing our Newsletter and says it will give a good price. Bonnie says the League of Women's Voters is already doing something like Report Cards; others (Bud, Doug) also thought this idea might be too controversial.

Doug wants to get more work done at the committee level and reserve our monthly meeting mainly for committee reports. New committees should meet before the October meeting.

New business: (1) **1.5 wooded acres owned by Seiji Ozawa in West Newton** is for sale. He is offering it to the neighborhood to purchase for the city at merely the assessed value (\$1.1 million, its real value approx. \$2.5). The neighbors can come up with some, not all; and the major has suggested the betterment approach. (2) We will

plan to invite **Ruth Balsler and Kay Khan** to the November meeting, after the election, and try to get Bob Kruse to meet with us next meeting.

9:50 adjournment.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

October 2000

Newton Conservators
Meeting of October 25, 2000
Newton City Hall

Attending: Doug Dickson, presiding. Margaret Albright, Nancy Avery, Corry Berkooz, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Lucy Caldwell-Stair, Mike Clarke, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Bud Elliott, Sally Flynn, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Katherine Howard, Eric Reenstierna, Andrew Stern. Guest: Alex Wajsfelner.

Presentations: (1) Jim Broderick spoke to us about plans to turn green space into parking lots and double the enrollment at **Lasell College**, which already lacks a central campus, is surrounded by city streets and thus has many abutting neighbors. Lasell feels that to survive every student must be guaranteed an overnight parking space. Jim requested a letter from the Conservators supporting a development moratorium and a cap to growth. Bud said that long-range planning by private interests was already requested in Newton's new Framework Plan, and we needed to remind Mike Kruse and the Mayor of this. Margaret moved we draft a letter. This was VOTED, APPROVED, and Bill and Doug will draft it.

(2) Alex Wajsfelner of the **Chandler Pond Association** spoke to us about the problems of the Chandler Pond, which is in Brighton and gifted to Boston Parks, but 90% of its watershed is in Newton. This 11-acre pond, dug in 1850 for commercial ice, is now effectively dying from silt and fertilizer pollution. Nutrients are entering from areas between the municipal golf course and the pond. The symptoms have been solved with a dredging project, but the association wishes to put in place programs that solve underlying problems by educating people within the watershed. They are finishing a plan within 3 months and have 15 outstanding grant applications. Lee thought an expanded watershed association that crossed city lines would help. Doug thought there was potential for initiatives by the City of Newton that we could support. Alex also volunteered to do a Chandler Pond spring walk for the Conservators.

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report: Sept..minutes were corrected and APPROVED.

Finance Committee: (1) The Insurance policy had been reviewed. It costs \$700, is a good rate as part of a land trust group rate, and covers Ordway Park and anyone on the business of the Newton Conservators. Bud thought it was appropriate to have

directors' insurance as well; he thought we'd once had it. Doug requested a legal opinion on this. (2) We have \$83,000 invested. The Committee wished to invest \$2000/month to raise our investment level to 50%, noting that many groups such as the New England Wildflower Society also now rely on an indexed fund such as our Fidelity 4-in-1 Fund instead of a financial advisor. The MOTION was made, SECONDED and PASSED unanimously. (3) Kate H. will provide a financial statement next month and wants to develop budgets at the committee level.

Ordway Park: Frank Howard has been added to this committee. Corry said that a map of Ordway is being made and will possibly be color xeroxed.

Publicity, Grants: Subcommittees have not yet met. No new grants proposals.

Strategic Planning: Mike Clark had a meeting Sept.16 with Nancy Reed, outreach coordinator for the Dept. of Environmental Management, in which the coordination of the land use, open space plan and framework plan was discussed. It is on the Mayor's docket.

We need to show up at the hearing on the **Framework Plan** before the Board of Alderman, so that they sign on to it. **Land use and open space plans** are slated to be taken up some time next year. The last open space plan has now expired, which is holding projects and grants up. Doug asked if there was any value to writing a supportive letter for going ahead with development of a new Open Space Plan independent of the Framework Plan. Mike thought yes, but it goes against the Mayor's wishes. Bud said we should do it anyway, and Mike agreed to draft something along those lines.

Mike suggested we have a **spring forum** that would prompt greater community and neighborhood association involvement in a new Open Space Plan, and Doug said the Programs Committee was already planning to have a similar forum on the Open Space Plan & Community Preservation Act.

Membership: Andy reports that we are now at our goal of having 500 member households, including the approx. 20 new members who joined at the Harvest Fair. He proposed broadening our database by perhaps offering new Newton residents a free membership. Judy said this would add complications later on, with the many new residents who would not be interested enough to renew. She said purging memberships from our list after just one year is not wise, since some existing members now find that they have paid up more than once a year, as a result of our appeals. Some would like that rolled over into a second year's paid-up membership. Bud said when-to-purge has been an ongoing problem and asked Andy to report on this at the next meeting, which Andy agreed to do.

Annual Banquet: Suggestions made for speakers at our annual spring banquet include: David Breshears (producer of IMAX film on Everest) Diane Muir (author of

"Reflection on Bullough's Pond"), the Regional Director of the Nature Conservancy, Emily Rooney (WGBH), and Andy Kendall (head of Trustees of Reservations).

Parks & Recreation: No report. The last Parks & Rec. meeting was not attended by any of our Board members, but it can be assumed that a clubhouse has now been named for Fran Rice.

Programs Committee: Ideally we would like both a fall and winter program, in addition to the spring banquet. For this spring the committee proposes a **forum on the Open Space Preservation Act**.

For a **winter program at the Library** Ted K. will try to get author & naturalist Peter Alden as our speaker. Dan Perlman is a possibility for next fall. Working with John Regosin in documenting vernal ponds of Newton was also discussed, and he might also be approached for a spring walk.

Judy will continue to put the final **spring walks schedule** together. Other suggested spring walks include orienteering at Cold Spring Park, historical walk along the Charles (CWRA), Cutler Park (Needham). Ted suggested printing spring walks back-to-back with a membership brochure page to put on the Library table. The whole Programs Committee thought this was an excellent idea.

Community Preservation Act: There is an upcoming meeting of various Newton groups and city departments on what to push for and how to implement the new act. The MetroParks Council tried to meet with Durand and only got the MDC's Balfour. The meeting didn't accomplish much. Balfour said no to a proposed moratorium on divestiture of MCD land. And if brought up legislatively, it might conflict with or undercut the 'No Net Loss' Bill. This and a proposal to look back at the Green Ribbon Report and develop a "report card" on the progress made were both referred to subcommittees.

New Business: New proposed legislation on **city trees** is in the works. A card was sent to Board member Marty Sender, wishing him a speedy recovery.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

November-December 2000

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of Nov. 29, 2000, 7:30 PM
at Newton City Hall, Room 202

Attending: Doug Dickson (presiding), Anna Marie Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Lisle Baker, Lee Breckenridge, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Lucy Caldwell Stair, Bonnie Carter, Michael Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Mike Clarke, Bud Elliott, Roger Feinstein, Sally Flynn, Jason Glasgow, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Dr. Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski., Eric Reenstierna. Guests: Rebecca Fishant, Matthew Distler, Gil Woolley.

Forum (with State Reps. Ruth Balsler, Kay Khan, Peter Koutoujian, and with Mike Kruse, Newton Planning and Development): Rep. Ruth Balsler said the preservation of open space in urban areas has become a main priority. Being on the Local Affairs Committee, she dealt recently with an issue to build a school on Article 97 land in Everett, which sneaked by on a midnight end-of-session vote. It made her realize how easily and frequently constitutional protection of land is overridden, so she chaired a subcommittee to look at overrides for the past 10 yrs. With Sen. Pam Rieser, Rep. Balsler is sponsoring a **No Net Loss Bill**, which will not allow for transfer of protected land without substitutes in quality and quantity. The Mass. Municipal Assn. and Bob Durand support it.

Rep. Balsler also had a recent field trip to **Hammond Pond** with the MA Hwy Dept., whose storm drains on Rt. 9 have been blamed for silting. The Highway Dept. tried to show that the problem comes at a point where the mall pipe enters the State Hwy. pipe (thus, due to the Chestnut Hill Mall). However, there is now at least some material for the DEP to be looking over. Doug asked Rep. Balsler to keep us informed regarding DEP's conclusions.

Rep. Kahn has worked to obtain \$60,000 in funding for a biological control to the **wooly algalid problem at Hemlock Gorge**. She has secured funds for monitoring **water chestnuts in the Charles River**. This problem is now statewide and needs about \$1 million funding. With Sen. Creem, Rep. Khan has formed a Charles River Caucus and will file legislation to implement the MDC master plan for the Charles R. basin. She has also proposed legislation to have the MBTA, MA Hwy Dept., MA Turnpike Auth., and MDC to work as a group on **long-range transportation and traffic problems** and to push public transportation, along with pedestrian and bike access to the T. Mike Collora opined that the Big Dig has drained much potential revenue for such projects, and the Representatives agreed.

Rep. Koutoujian has signed onto the No Net Loss Bill. His active projects include extending the **Riverwalk** through the Mt. Feake Cem. (which opposes); a **bike trail** with bridge to Weston, and use of the former **Municipal State Hospital land** that straddles Waltham, Lexington and Weston.

Our Board then posed questions. Bud Elliot asked Ruth Balsler if there are ways to get state funds for land acquisition. She said there still is a state self-help plan with limits of about \$500,000; that doesn't buy much in Newton. Funding also requires an active up-to-date Open Space Plan, which Newton currently lacks. Mike Kruse said the Framework Plan lays a foundation for other plans that will follow but it needs to

be endorsed first by the Board of Alderman, where it is difficult to get a consensus. He expected to be working on the Open Space Plan (OSP) by now, but wants a clear signal first from the Board on the acceptability of the volunteer work done on the Framework Plan (FP). Doug questioned why there could not be overlap, i.e., why work could not start on the OSP despite action or inaction on the FP. Bud added that the FP was written so as to avoid controversy and rejection by the Board of Aldermen. Kruse adamantly voiced his opinion that the OSP should be done the “right way” rather than quickly.

Peter Kastner asked about the roll of the Planning Dept. in Newton’s vision and worried that there is no single person in the city who oversees open space planning and projects involving it. He said we need a director in charge of such planning, not merely a coordinator, citing the recent Crystal Lake project as an example of undirected planning gone wrong. Kruse admitted there was laissez-faire and essentially no city planning at all up until the mid-1960’s, although Newton luckily escaped the problems of other suburbs because of our system of villages that grew up around Victorian RR stations. But he thought there was also no simple solution for the future, as it is difficult just to get the various Departments talking. Peter commented that the machinery of city government needs to work better. Doug added that the Conservators will gladly help move the Open Space Plan forward. Questions were raised to Kruse about Newton’s \$25,000 signage project for Conservation Land, which hasn’t happened. Katherine H. said the initial bids came in too high, according to Martha Horn. Kruse said he is asking for money to upgrade Conservation Land and wants now just to make one area (Dolan Pond) so nice that the city will want to fund even more such projects.

Doug Dickson expressed frustration with the final shape of the Community Preservation Act. Rep. Kahn said they were lucky to get anything passed, and the bill was watered down to satisfy everyone. Rep. Balsler agreed it was a disappointing bill, but the current House leadership is very protective of business interests. Both thought it would not be easy to make changes now. Funding and maintenance of the MDC and MDC space conversion was also brought up. Rep. Kahn agreed the MDC needs shoring up and said Rep. Paulsen wants to start an MDC Caucus. For the short run, legislation will soon be filed to convert existing MDC parks to historic properties.

Secretary’s Report. Nov. 28 minutes APPROVED. Members/advisors requesting it (via last attendance sheet) will in the future receive minutes and agenda by E-mail instead of, or in addition to, postal mail.

Treasurer’s Report and Finance Committee: Katherine H. said she will make formal quarterly reports, including this month (3rd quarter). Procedures for P.O. bulk mailings were made available. Bud questioned why we actively carry Ordway Park on the books. Doug thought it has no financial bearing unless we were to borrow on it. Jim B. said we could, since there were no strings on Ordway when it was gifted to us. Katherine said she will query as to how land trusts book the value

of their land assets. She is looking into Quick Books, as an alternative to Quicken, as software for our financial records, and she is also working on budget development.

Membership Committee: Doug asked the committee for a January report on membership goals.

Community Preservation Act. Jim B. went to two CPA meetings with representatives of city commissions and community associations, for the purpose of identifying future projects. Lucy has gotten information from the Assessor's Office to estimate costs per ave. household for various plans. Peter thought there should be an early consensus on how any funds voted in would be divided between open space, historical and affordable housing use. Lee thought we should look further into easements, as an alternative to the CPA.

Strategic Planning Committee: The committee met with Nancy Reid of the EPA regarding land trusts. She is from Bolton, where 80% of residents belong to the Land Trust. The matter of the **Ozawa property** came up, in that the local community and surrounding landowners can put up \$500,000, which might be met with a matching grant. The land can then be preserved by restriction to the deed, once a land trust is in place. Doug brought up about the betterment process as an alternative, one that had been successfully used to save the Municipal Golf Course.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

January 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of January 24, 2001, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall, Room 202

Attending: Doug Dickson (presiding), Stephanie Bacon, Lee Breckenridge, Larry Burdick, Mike Clarke, Lucy Caldwell Stair, Bonnie Carter, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Dr. Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Andy Stern.

Secretary's Report. Minutes APPROVED with one correction.

Treasurer's Report – Finance Committee: Katherine reports that the year-end statements are finished. Larry then asked for a resolution to enable us to make changes at Fidelity without need of further Board resolutions. This PASSED unanimously (attached to filed minutes).

President's Report: (1) Doug asked us to agree in principle to support and be involved in creating a **memorial to Marty Sender** in conjunction with the CRWA. It would possibly be a designated portion of Charles R. pathway near the Cove, perhaps with a bench, but specifics can be worked out later in later meetings with involved groups. The Board AGREED.

(2) A letter was received from the Mayor asking for our service as part of a large Advisory Committee to work on an **Open Space Update Plan**, aiming for a June 1 completion. Doug noted that Martha Horne doesn't have much time to devote to an OS plan now, nor was it clear what this Committee or its role would be. The Conservators have been on record for 18 months urging that the OS plan be started; now plans are to do it quickly. Doug feels this can't be done by June, considering the recent Framework Plan was 1 year over deadline and is still not approved by the Board of the Alderman 4-5 mo. later. Mike Cl. thought it sounded like a hasty job was planned, just enough to meet requirements for grant.

The last OS plan (1995) was also just a pasted-up rollover of the previous one (1988) and ran two years late. Doug added that it was not known whether much of the old Plan is still valid. Mike, Lee and Doug thought we must insist on a reasonable and adequate OS plan, following proper procedures. It is especially important that the job be done well now because of the possibility of local Community Preservation Act funds. We also need to examine preservation tools other than only City money for acquisitions (e.g., easement). Targets that have some likelihood of being met need to be in the document. Doug asked for volunteers to get involved, and Mike Clarke and Lucy Caldwell Stair responded. Doug will also ask Helen Heyn and possibly Anna Marie Abernathy. He will also contact Friends groups.

(3) There is a Jan. 20 Zoning & Planning meeting on the **Framework Plan** that Doug thought we should actively participate in. He will try to connect with Bud Elliott and Ed Dailey and get their input on how to present our support, caveats to raise, etc. Mike Cl. thought short interactions by other on the Board not as directly connected to the Framework Plan as Bud and Ed might be more effective. Doug will put together a quick one page opinion and will go to the meeting or send some one. Lee thought we should add our message about the OS plan.

Program Committee: Ted K. has arranged March 21 (Wed.) 7-8:30 for Peter Alden to speak at the Newton Free Library for our 1st **winter lecture**. Ted will give the Library some publicity information and will write up a press release. The topic is "Birds and the Bees, Flowers and the Trees: Biodiversity in Newton." The Green Decade might co-sponsor. Ted also thought taping for NewTV would also be a good idea. Mike Co. suggested Doug speak briefly before the lecture about our organization. Ted brought up the question of an honorarium, which has not yet been discussed with the speaker. Mike Co. suggested \$100, and Judy thought that was the usual stipend for several talks Alden has given to the Needham Bird Club. Mike Co. will help get out flyers to supermarkets, the table at City Hall, other groups, etc. and

they'll also work with Margaret and Publicity Committee. Doug said we are also getting low on maps.

Membership Committee: The March mailing will be refined so as not targeting new residents per se, and there was some thought that perhaps we'd be better off to target established residents. The Committee is looking at known patterns by level of giving, zip code, etc. \$25 is the largest group for giving level. There is also a need to update the enclosed (gift) envelope.

Andy suggests a joint meeting with Strategic Planning, especially to work on a new brochure. One suggestion was to add testimonials to the brochure. Jason & Katherine raised questions about how we ought to acknowledge larger gifts & donations of \$100 or more (e.g., from Committee to Reelect the Mayor).

Grants Committee: Bill H. sent packets to the science chairs at both high schools and an update of our grants guidelines (with a rolling deadline instead of Jan. 1) to the elem. science head.

(1) **Bowen School Proposal:** We liked the tone of a proposal for an educational vegetable garden but want a more detailed plan, more environmental focus and a budget closer to \$1000.

(2) **Powder House Hill Park, Newton Centre, Proposal.** A linear, sloping parcel of land over the aqueduct along Lyman St. and running to Summer St. has been offered by the MWRA for our management. It will give the City \$10,000 for management if matched by \$10,000 in non-public money. A demonstration project of low-maintenance planting, to become a model for traffic islands and pocket parks, is being proposed. We are being asked to fund \$2500 for the design component, which Terry Bastian is creating. Doug said this was a discounted rate, because Terry really is into this project. The City would do the actual planting and needed grading. Lee asked how the planting design would influence the long-term vision for this place. She thought it a great project but one that seemed far along already, so she wondered if this really fit well our Grants objectives. Doug said the park would be a simple walk-through space (whereas earlier proposals for a concert amphitheater area met with no enthusiasm). We have a fair amount of money in the Grants budget (\$3000) and haven't usually used it all up in recent years. Judy asked why Ken Eisenbraun could not do the design work, and Doug said it was too big in scope. Ken would not be released by Planning for this. Mike Co. wanted to know if we'd get credit for this. Frank asked if we might hook into the Historical Commission to raise funds, because it was the site of the Powder House; Jim thought Newton Pride might be useful too. Mike Cl. thought this a beautification project: not our mission, especially on state land. Judy thought making a non-use area into one that invites passive use was very much our mission, and Andy added that former Mayor Mann once wanted a parking lot on Powder Hill. That could be still proposed again, when the land is surplus (in 5-10 years). Doug and Andy will put together more background and formalize the proposal (to take up at our Feb. meeting).

Community Preservation Act: Jim B. is trying to contact community organizations to find what in specific neighborhoods should be targeted for preservation or for affordable housing. These guidelines will be the basis of a Master Plan. At a 1% funding level we could generate \$1-2 million/yr., costing \$60/household on ave. and only \$40 after federal tax deduction. Much of the Feb. 26 Green Decade Legislative Forum will be dedicated to the CPA. Durand's office scheduled a meeting in Worcester's Mechanics Hall for Feb. 10, 8:15 AM. Mike Cl. hopes someone from the Board will go.

Mike Clarke (open sp.), Phil Herr (hist.), and Josephine McNeill (aff. housing) have together created a mission statement and name: **Newton Preservation Alliance**. Getting the CPA past the taxpayers is now the main hurdle, and the Board of Aldermen will only try CPA once (thus, done right). Jim B. thought we should handle CPA like the recent high school issue, in which Marty Sender got a Globe pollster to determine the best message, which the advocates then focussed on. Doug said a strong endorsement by the Mayor also helped in the school issue and was needed here too; but this will be difficult in an election year.

Annual Meeting: We will begin the next meeting with nominations for Environmentalist of the Year; also 40th Anniversary Plans. Stephanie has set May 30 for the Banquet, May 23 as an alternate date.

Parks and Recreation / Conservation Commissions. The Bike & Pedestrian Taskforce is opening discussion with MWRA on **Sudbury Aqueduct** access & bike use. **Edmands Park** Friends have developed a master plan (with little P & R Comm. input). Millenium Park is expected to be similarly rubberstamped. Other issues involved water use budget (lower than before, but deemed OK because of water wells drilled; but some wells were unsuccessful). Eric R. is working with neighbors on the **Ozawa property** & the Symphony may take a non-monetary role. A purchase & sale could move forward, with the land conveyed either to the Conservation Commission or the Newton Conservators. At the **Hammond Pond** parcel, a conservation easement was granted in return for permission to tear down the other house.

9:50 PM adjournment.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

February 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc. — Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting of February 28, 2001, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall, Room 202

Attending: Katherine Howard (presiding), Margaret Albright, Nancy Avery, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Lalor Burdick, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Bart Hague, Judy Hepburn, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Eric Reinstierna

Secretary's Report. January minutes APPROVED with one correction.

Treasurer's Report. The 2000 year-end statement was finished, though with Friends of Hammond Pond liability still to be reviewed. The **2001 budget** was also finished, based on an aggressive membership goal (20% increased). A goal is to have money left over annually for long-term land acquisition fund.

After discussion, the Board voted to raise the grants budget to \$4000 (i.e., by \$1000) and to keep the subsidy for the annual meeting. All other items are as stated in the budget handout. Regarding the budget item "Dues," Katherine requested suggestions as to what organizations we should join.

Publicity: (1) **Membership drive.** The March mailing was discussed, and Frank H. suggested sending letters to new Newton residents; Margaret A. suggested targeting mailings to open-space abutters as well. Mike C. suggested list exchanges again. Bud questioned the practice sending letters to members who had renewed in December, and Katherine agreed that could be done. Margaret A. will follow up these suggestions on the mailing with Andy.

(2) A press release for the March 21 lecture has gone out to newspapers and the Library. Margaret gave flyers to Board members to post around town.

(3) There will be an article in the Tab coordinated with Francoise Lamonica (Environmental Media Coalition), re taking care of environment in fertilizing lawns.

(4) **40th anniversary** was discussed. Bud suggested we coordinate events for the Annual meeting. He suggested a lecture series similar to Green Decade's lectures. Ted K. replied that the Programs committee was already getting underway along these lines, starting with the March lecture by Peter Alden.

Programs: (1) Peter Alden has agreed to a \$100 honorarium for his lecture on Mar. 21, in addition to money from sales of signed books. We will have two tables, one inside & one outside the hall for literature and Alden's books. Mike Collora and Carol Lee Corbett volunteered to staff the tables and come early (6:30 PM) for this. The library will do general set-up, arrange a projector, etc. Margaret A. will put together a flyer for a handout for the 21st. Bud E. reminded that Newton North has been willing to take on printing projects for brochures, etc. for free. Doug has our large, colored open space map and will provide it for a prop at the lecture.

(2) Judy H. asked the Board for volunteers and/or suggestions on spring walks and that any ideas be E-mailed to her soon (hepburnj@bc.edu).

Annual Meeting. It is set for May 30. (1) Suggestions for **Banquet Speaker** were: the Regional Director of Nature Conservancy, the head of Trust for Public Lands; Andy Kendall, new head of Trustees of Reservations (also a Newton Lower Falls resident), Roger Swain (PBS Victory Garden. Judy H. reminded the Board of previous suggestions from the Oct. 2000 minutes: David Breshear (IMAX film on Everest), Diane Muir (author "Reflection on Bulloughs Pond"), Emily Rooney (WGBH) as well as Andy Kendall. (2) **Environmentalist of the Year** nominations were discussed. Carol Lee passed on a suggestion made to her: to nominate Dick McGrath for his 25 year fight to close the Rumford St. dump and tear down the incinerator, both just completed. Discussion ensued over McGrath's mixed history on environmental issues, while acknowledgement was made that he has been an open space advocate on the Board of Alderman. The consensus was that a simpler Commendation (e.g., lifetime achievement award) might be more in order. One conservator voiced that a similar Commendation might be given to Gene Cronin for his work regarding Ryan Park and Nahanton Park. Dick Staley was suggested for either Environmentalist of the Year or a similar Life Achievement award. Other suggestions for E of Y Award: recent resident Linda Simon for her work on Newton Pride, Trees, Dolan Pond Rep. Ruth Balsler and Ald. Lisle Baker.

Ordway Park. No report tonight. There will be one at the March meeting.

Grants. Bill H. announced a turnaround on proposals, having had 5 recent submissions. The subcommittee wished to award \$1000 to **Bowen School** for their expanded community garden, \$500 to **Day Middle School** for their on-going Charles R. project (for water test kits, canoeing), \$650 to **Friends of Nahanton Park** for equipment (binoculars, compasses, fishing poles) for an outdoor classroom day with Countryside School students (restriction requires appropriate storage of this equipment at the Nahanton hut), and \$800 to Mann School for a butterfly garden (with concerns voiced that any planned storage shed be in compliance with Parks & Rec Committee approval). A proposed Bowen outdoor mural project did not seem to meet environmental goals. Total requested by the Subcommittee for awards: \$2950. Bud E. made a MOTION to approve the Subcommittee's recommendations, Mike C. **SECONDED** and the motion unanimously **PASSED**.

Bill H. added the usual **Environmental Science Summer program** request for \$1000 would use up the Grants budget for this year. No new proposals received in the fall could be awarded until 2002.

Community Preservation Act. The Green Decade program on the CPA was televised for NewTV. There will be an April 6 meeting at City Hall Room 202 regarding efforts to publicize the CPA. At this point everyone should be contacting Alderman and voicing support; Ken Parker & 8 other Alderman have sponsored discussion. The coalition is just at the point of "going public" and their next March 11 meeting will need publicity. Margaret A. suggested an ad in the TAB.

Hammond Pond: (1) Rep. Balsler has become interested in Hammond Pond and last week convened a group (MDC, MA Hwy, etc.). Eric R., who attended the meeting, said the focus was on grant-getting. The Mall people (C & R) were also contacted and are interested in being a partner not an adversary. Stephanie said the DEM will do a major (\$400,000) grant for four demonstration ponds, and Hammond because of its multiple-type abutters is an ideal candidate. Balsler's support puts it in a good position to get a grant.

(2) There are concerns that the Epsteins's development along the eastern shore of Hammond has angered the CPR Trust, which owns 7.5 acres and had made a conservation easement on the shoreline to save historic beech trees. CHP is rethinking what it did because the Epsteins got away with aggressive development. Bud C. suggested that Doug should write a complimentary letter to the CHP Trust, acknowledging appreciation for their easement. Stephanie also suggested a letter to the Historical Commission: to tell them of our interest in this area, plus house settings are not just an issue of architecture but of historic *landscape*, i.e., the visual impact to the Pond.

(3) Bud E. thought we should also write the Board of Alderman voicing supporting a legal set-back on the Pond, but Peter K. worried that we might set off preemptive development if zoning changes were about to be imposed. He thought we should work *with* the immediate neighbors before hitting them with an ordinance affecting their property. Bud E. thought this would be another case of the Conservators being reactive rather than proactive, which we do too often. It was recommended that we continue this discussion on our role at Hammond Pond and schedule it for the next meeting.

Andover Newton: Rescheduled for the March meeting, since Sarah Barnett is not present.

Parks and Recreation: The **Edmands Park Plan** funded by Boston College is out. Peter K. thought it looked good: a possible prototype that could be used to improve all of our parks. P & R. approved work by the Water Dept. for stabilization and asked for an estimate on the cost of restoring the pond at Edmands for skating. In all \$800,000 would be needed to convert this underutilized property into a true urban park. Bud would prefer that there only be pond restoration, nothing else. He also thought the Conservators should have an opinion on the Edmands Plan and express it. It was agreed that the Conservators should review the Plan for environmental issues, and Doug will be requested to report on the Edmands Park Plan at the March meeting

Conservation Commission: Eric R. reports that nothing much has come up: just ordinary small property issues. Dick Staley will be retiring from the Commission and as Chairman. There were mixed feelings by the CC board members on whether or not to support the CPA.

Other items: (1) Katherine said Doug Dickson would like **Powder House Hill** to be under “projects” not “grants” as a potential budget item. Jim B. thought discussion on Powder House Hill should be postponed until Doug was here, and the Board agreed.

(2) Doug was to have gone to a **Marty Sender Memorial** meeting on ideal, funding, etc. for such, but the meeting’s results are not yet known.

(3) The Board was uncertain whether or not the Conservators had a member (?Doug D.) on the **Mayor’s open space plan committee** at this point. Judy H. and Ted K. pointed out that the OSP committee was listed in last week's Tab and the Conservators were conspicuous by our absence. Bud E. recommended we have a Conservator on it and thought that the mayor would surely agree if we asked him. Doug will be asked to approach the Mayor to see that we are represented in the OSP group, unless of course Doug is already our rep.

(4) Mike Cl. sent a letter to the Aldermen, correcting the impression that pavement was desired for an **Aqueduct trail system**. Parks & Rec. Commission is asking the Mayor to convene a committee to look at the aqueduct question.

(5) Bart Hague would like to resign from the **golf course commission** and would like a replacement with an open space perspective. It is not necessary to be a golfer, meeting are once a month on the last Tues., but are in actuality mainly bimonthly. A volunteer is requested.

9:50 PM adjournment.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

March 2001

Newton Conservators
Meeting of March 28, 2001, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202

Attending: Doug Dickson (presiding), Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Mike Clarke, Carol Lee Corbett, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Sally Flynn, Eric Reensteirna.

Secretary's Report: Read and ACCEPTED with corrections and two deletions. Mailings of the previous month's minutes that go out with the agenda will be marked "Draft" in the future.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$300 more in income as an adjustment on the last quarterly report, from a correction for funds we hold for Friends of Hammond Pond.

Membership: Andy (not present) is now working on the renewal mailing, which will go out next week. A broader citywide mailing, the first in a long time, is being planned. Also an initiative on new residents, welcoming them to Newton with an offer of a free introductory membership will be given. Judy asked if these recipients must send something back to get the free membership; it was thought not. Katherine would like to send newsletters, etc. to them but not really count them as "members" until they renew with a paid membership, which met with general agreement.

Publicity: No report. We co-sponsored an environmental speaker with Green Decade on April 26.

There are two important upcoming community meetings: April 11 on CPA & April 12 on summer plans for control of West Nile virus and equine encephalitis.

Annual meeting: (1) Larry Burdick arranged for Andy Kendall, of the Trustees of Reservations and formerly MA Audubon, to be **our speaker**. (2) The standard menu of chicken or vegetarian option (and of course strawberry shortcake!) was agreed upon. (3) Bud Elliot (not present) had brought up to Doug the possibility of raising the cost of the banquet, to make the annual meeting self-sustaining. There is now a subsidy of about \$700, due to increased cost of the hall rental. Sally F. thought many on fixed incomes might stay away. Carol Lee would rather scale-down the fancy invitations. A MOTION to raise the charge for the annual dinner from \$20 to \$25 was DEFEATED 9-2. It will stay at \$20, and any cost-cutting will be on invitations. (4) A **Nominating Committee** was assembled: Bill Hagar as chair, Mike Clarke, Eric Reinsterna, Carol Lee Corbett, and Doug Dickson.

(5) Candidates for **Environmentalist of the Year** were discussed. Bud had suggested to Doug four **guidelines** for this award (something we haven't had): that it

be given to a current or recent resident, active in open space activity or writing within the last 1-2 years, does something that benefits Newton or else has regional or national recognition, and is generally consistent with the mission of the Newton Conservators. The sentiment was that we didn't need to make any firm guidelines at this time. Doug did not see any problem with giving out a number of Special Awards in addition to one Environmentalist of the Year Award, although Mike Clarke worried that we would dilute the honor if given to too many.

Discussion quickly focused on Dick Staley, Sarah Barnett, Ruth Balser, Lyle Baker and Linda Simon for E of Y. A general consensus was that the award should not be given to someone who had previously received it. Several voiced concerns about giving the award to currently active politicians. After much discussion Mike Cl. made a MOTION that PASSED unanimously: (a) to name Richard Staley as Environmentalist of the year unless he had previously won, with an alternative being a Lifetime Achievement Award, (b) to name Sarah Barnett as second choice, and (c) to give Achievement awards to three legislators: Dick McGrath, Lyle Baker, and Rep. Ruth Balser. Judy will review the Environmentalist of Year history and past recipients from the files of old minutes.

(This review, reported to Doug Dickson on 29-March, revealed that both Staley and Burnett, as well as Baker, were past recipients. Doug presented these findings to the Board via E-mail and asked for a NEW VOTE via E-mail. As a result, Rep. Ruth Balser was selected as Environmentalist of the Year, with Achievement Awards now going to Staley, McGrath, and Baker).

Programs: The lecture with Peter Alden resulted in 8-9 new members and sales of some geology booklets. Dan Perlman is the likely speaker for our **early winter lecture**. **Spring walks** are being finalized this week.

Ordway: Jim passed out copies of an Ordway Plan. He wants to request a city-installed curb, which for the proper type will cost us \$2000 (not immediate; we will be on wait-list for several years). When the City does the work we might be billed \$2000 at once or \$100/year for 20 yrs. Rehabilitation of plant life requires removing large volunteer saplings; he estimated a bill be \$500, within the already-approved budget. The curbing was VOTED unanimously.

Other: (1) **Land Trust Coalition:** Four Board members attended. Larry B. went to sessions on appraisal and the GIS system & data. Katherine suggested we hook up with the existing regional land trust.

(2) **Marty Sender Memorial.** The MDC, CRWA, and Newton Conservator representatives met with the Mayor and agreed to go further on the memorial. The Charles River Pathway starting at Lyons Field & ending at Forest Grove MDC will soon be marked in his honor, with an inscription on the back side of the MDC heron posts. There will be a bench in Auburndale Park to honor Marty too. The plan and

budget is in order, but it uncertain when improvements to the pathway will be made relative to the time of placing the markers.

(3) **Open Space Committee:** We have two members on the committee: Mike Clarke and Lucy Caldwell Stair.

(4) **Aqueducts:** A resolution was passed and a committee will be formed. We will make a formal offer to the Mayor to be the open space member on the committee.

(5) **Powderhouse Hill.** Doug presented the preliminary design. It is a xeroscaping water-demonstration project to improve an ugly, high profile area, hatched 3-4 years ago via discussions between Andy Stern and the MWRA. Recycled materials will be used in hardscaping, and there is material at the DPW being held for this purpose. DPW will do grading and much hardscaping in their off season, assisted by Parks & Rec . The City must take responsibility for later maintenance. The MWRA is making a \$10,000 matching grant (not including in-king services), and only a few \$1000 more is needed.

Doug PROPOSED we give \$2500 for support of the cost of design, and Eric R. SECONDED it. In discussion, some thought there should be less money and a simpler design (Katherine, Carol Lee), Mike thought it lies within our mission if the aqueduct itself is the focal point, not just beautification of the area or its potential as a model for Parks & Rec. Doug thought it fits our mission in education for drought-tolerant planting, passive recreation, and it puts a “stake in the ground” for longer range plans for the aqueduct. Mike Cl. also questioned P & R’s maintenance commitment, and he would like Newton Center merchants in addition to Citizen’s Bank to contribute more. Doug said the City wanted to gain this space for passive use and favored the demonstration planting.

Katherine then proposed an AMENDMENT that we contribute just \$1000, which Jim B. SECONDED. The final VOTE was to provide \$1500 for the project, which carried 6-5, with the provisions that the Conservators receive recognition for our contribution, that our contribution be positioned as a challenge to raise \$1500 from the business community, and that the design reflects the potential of aqueducts as linear greenways.

(6) **Newsletter:** A new coordinator is needed to help Mike Cl. with the next edition and to take over for next year.

(7) A replacement has been found for Bart Hague on the **Golf Course Committee** who is both an open space advocate and a golfer.

Adjourned at 10:15 PM

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

April 2001

Newton Conservators
Meeting of April 25, 2001, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202

Attending: Doug Dickson (presiding), Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Mike Collora, Mike Clarke, Carol Lee Corbett, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Sally Flynn, Eric Reestierna.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. Our March minutes were APPROVED as amended. The Treasurer mailed in the 990 EZ form, federal tax documents were filed with the State, and Form PC, which shows we use our own funds for charitable purposes, was submitted. We have a loss of about \$2000 for the quarter, due to investment losses. We took in \$5000 in dues, about 10% higher than last year. The **Audit Committee** will meet within the next two weeks.

Publicity. Walks fliers have gone out, have been placed at the Library and City Hall, and released to the press. This also in the Chandler Pond Newsletter, our own newsletter, and Doug will put it in the Tab's monthly environmental column.

The idea of 40th anniversary stickers was broached and rejected as unnecessary. For \$80-100 we could have a foam core sign made for our fall library lecture. A new brochure has not happened yet.

Margaret requested publicity bios on Ruth Balser and our banquet speaker, and any old photos for the 40th celebration. An article on Ruth, our Environmentalist of the Year, will be in the next Tab environmental column. Doug talked to Jean Husher about writing a **history of the Newton Conservators**, as she had done previously for the 20th anniversary. Carol Corbett will be on this committee and possibly Deborah Howard, if willing.

Annual Dinner. Doug said all our annual award winners who he'd contacted were pleased; he had not connected with Ald. McGrath. We agreed to give complimentary banquet tickets to our awardees and one guest, as in the past, at a cost to us of about \$15 per person. Stephanie will contact Bonnie Carter about taping the presentation this year again. The banquet is May 30 at Noyes Hall, Newton-Andover.

Parks and Recreation. Their **budget** has been severely cut (by \$61,000) this coming year, because city revenue and state aid for the schools is down. The plan is to eliminate 3 full-time positions. Partial compensation will be a little more money for contractors, a little more flexibility in the overtime budget, and a greater Adopt-A-Space effort. Favorable to us is that Fran is mainly planning cuts to the program side of P & R, not maintenance.

Doug PROPOSED that the Conservators take a position and voice our concerns about continued cuts in P & R and what it says about (1) future park maintenance and (2) how our open space is valued in Newton. Over the long term and with inflation correction their budget has been cut from 1989-1991, and flat ever since then; staff has been decreased; and there has been more outsourcing, some planned but some due to budget constraints. Margaret thought we should urge that maintenance of school lands be turned over from P & R to the schools. Bud MOTIONED that we make a statement to the effect that it makes no sense to reduce the P & R budget while there has been no reduction in land to maintain. Mike Cl. countered that the budget should even be increased for capital improvement acquisition of the Angino Farm property for soccer in the next CIP budget. But both agreed that this was a really matter for the Mayor. Carol SECONDED Bud's motion, and we VOTED to disapprove of cuts to P & R.

We recessed at 8:15 PM to attend the Programs & Services Committee meeting that same night in City Hall Room 220, which was considering the Parks & Recreation budget. Our business meeting resumed in Room 202 at 9:00 PM.

Ordway Park: no report.

Grants: The Committee recommended a proposal from **Lincoln-Elliott School** for \$425 for a Worm Café (composting). Discussion included whether we needed to fund this, as it would be done anyway (Mike Cl.), and whether we were still saving \$1000 of the Grants Budget for summer **Environmental Science Program scholarships** (Katherine H.). Doug thought we should soon contact the new Env. Sci. coordinator, asking whether they've need for any scholarship money this year, since we've not yet been approached. Bud thought we could still give \$500 for an Env. Sci. scholarship, as we had before upping it to \$1000 in the last two years. He made a MOTION that we (1) approve the Worm Café for \$425 and (2) keep \$500, the remaining budget, in reserve for the Env. Sci. Program. This was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. It was decided to defer moving any more money into the Grants budget, since there is no immediate, demonstrated need for it.

Current issues:

Community Preservation Act: Jim reports that the CP Alliance met on April 4 with Programs & Services. The important planning meeting, determining the recommendation to the Board of Aldermen, will be May 31 at City Hall. Attendance at the meeting and contacting Aldermen before it is urged; 12 Aldermen currently voice support. The CP Alliance's polling was completed, and future investment will focus on 2-3 at-large mailings. \$20,000-30,000 will be needed for mailings and professional help. B

Bud asked whether we should contribute toward this, and if we should offer to handle a 2nd checking account for the CP Alliance. Doug thought they needed to create a budget and a fund-raising process before approaching us. Judy noted that we had not

formally voted a position on the CPA since the bill became law, roughly a year ago. Mike Clarke then made a MOTION for Newton Conservators to formally join the Alliance, Judy SECONDED it, and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Bud and Bonnie added that we need to investigate political repercussions of involvement, and that much could be learned from the recent “Yes for Our Kids” group. Doug suggested cutting the President’s Report at the May banquet, giving more time to push for the CPA, but the consensus was that we should not eliminate the annual report entirely. It was agreed that the annual meeting should be used to inform people about the CPA and that purely educational information could be dispersed without triggering Campaign Finance Reporting. Jim, Mike Cl., Doug and Bud are our Board members on the CP Alliance committee.

Open Space Plan. An introduction and needs analysis have been reviewed, and changes were made regarding Aqueducts. There needs to be more on action plans, i.e., targets for acquisition.

Hammond Pond. Stephanie reports that at the last Hammond Pond meeting there was brainstorming on grant sources, but it has been hard to proceed without active participation from C & R Management (the Mall people).

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary