

Board of Director, 2001-2002

Officers

President: Lucy Caldwell-Stair

Vice Pres: Eric Reenstierna

Treasurer: Katherine Howard

Secretary: Judith Hepburn

Past Pres: Douglas Dickson

Directors:

Margaret Albright

Stephanie Bacon

Lee Breckenridge

Lalor Burdick

Michael Clarke

Carol Lee Corbett

Sheila Decter

Don Fishman

William Hagar

Ted Kuklinski

Andrew Stern

Nancy Avery

Corry Berkooz

James Broderick

Bonnie Carter

Michael Collora

Ed Dailey

Burton Elliott

Jason Glasgow

Frank Howard

Dan Perlman

Advisors

AnnaMaria Abernathy

Rodney Barker

Thelma Fleishman

Bart Hague

Deborah Howard

William Jones

Peter Kastner

George Mansfield

Frances Seasholes

William Stevenson

Verne Vance

Lisle Baker

John Bliss

Sally Flynn

Helen Heyn

Jean Husher

Lawrence Kaplan

William Leitch

Richard Primack

William Shaevel

Roger Swain

Brian Yates

June 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

June 27, 2001 at 7:30 PM

Newton City Hall, Rm 202

Attendance: Eric Reenstierna (presiding), Nancy Avery, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Judy Hepburn, Katherine

Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Dan Perlman. Guests: Jeffrey Wong & Jonathan Rivnay of the Environmental Science Program.

The meeting began with introductions of new and old board members.

Jeffrey Wong and Jonathan Rivnay, directors of the **Environmental Science Program**, then gave an update on this summer program for 30 middle schoolers, now in its 34th year. Big changes this year are extended hours that are better for working parents (8:30-4 PM now) and a trip on the Aquarium's Doc Eggerton research ship. They have filled the program for the 1st time in several years, and 8 have applied for financial aid. Bud requested that in future years that the Environmental Science Program applies to us earlier, in the winter months, for scholarship aid.

Minutes and Treasurer's Reports. The April minutes were ACCEPTED with one change. The treasurer reported we were not meeting our revenue budget, mainly because we were running behind on projected dues income. However, expenses had also been below budget, especially for mailings and maps. The May annual meeting- banquet was on budget.

Grants: Bud addressed the question of Environmental Science Program scholarships, toward which we've traditionally contributed \$500 annually. We had doubled that amount for the last two years, partly because there were few competing requests, but this situation has now reversed. We have \$650 left in the grant budget. Bud MOTIONED that we again give ESP \$1000. In discussion that followed, Katherine preferred that we stick to the existing budget. Carol commented that tuition had increased from \$675 to \$975, creating more scholarship need than ever. Doug then SECONDED Bud's motion, and the VOTE to give \$1000 to the ESP passed 11-1.

The Grants Committee's recommendation that we again go back to 2 proposal deadlines/year (with the next on Jan. 1, 2002) met with general approval of the Board.

Special Projects: Doug reported on the **Marty Sender Memorial**. A group representing the City, Chas. River Watershed, MDC and the Conservators has been meeting and now have a specific proposal to name and improve a section of the Charles River Pathway in Marty's memory. Costs are \$22,000, work is to begin this summer, and completion is scheduled for the fall. \$11,000 has been secured (by CRWA & family), and the Mayor will decide on the city's contribution next week. Auburndale Community Assn. will also be approached for support.

Discussion regarding our potential contribution followed. It was noted that we'd put \$500 into the budget for Marty's memorial when this was discussed several months ago (Katherine H.), and that by spending \$22,000 now we risk losing potential for matching federal grant money (Nancy A.). However, others thought we should make a larger financial gesture than previously budgeted to show our recognition of Marty's contribution to the Conservators and Newton open space (Doug, Eric). It was also noted that we have already used up all of this year's projects [grants] budget of \$3000. Bud E.

thought the Conservators should do a memorial to Marty on our own, not just be one of many donors in some larger effort, but Doug pointed out we'd been part of the joint committee all along. The general consensus emerged that, as this is a memorial, we should not worry about "getting credit" for any contribution made. Several Board members seemed comfortable with a gift roughly equal to the cost of the memorial bench that was included in the plan (\$900), and Doug MOTIONED that we round this amount up to \$1000. Carol SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED unanimously.

The **Community Preservation Act** project was then discussed. The Board of Alderman is now proposing a 1% surcharge with no exemptions, and their vote on whether to place CPA on the November ballot is scheduled for July 9 (which may get postponed to August 13). The CP Alliance has been advised that a campaign to educate voters through an all-resident mailing would be most effective, and fund-raising is now needed to meet that goal. Large donors are especially needed.

Doug placed a colored flyer requesting contributions to the CP Alliance in our summer Newsletter (about to be mailed), and asked what else we can contribute. Larry B. refreshed our knowledge on acceptable advocacy by non-profits by reading the standards cited in "Worry-free Lobbying for Non-Profits". Financial contribution must meet either the "insubstantial parts" test (generally < 2-5% of budget), or else we may file a Section H form, which allows a 501C3 organization to expend up to 25% of annual budget expenditures on advocacy. We can revoke Section H at any time.

A brief discussion quickly showed that there was widespread agreement that the CPA was in perfect accordance with our mission of open-space advocacy. Doug MOTIONED that we contribute \$1000 to the treasury of the CP Alliance now, Bud SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously without further discussion. Doug then MOTIONED that we file Section H paperwork in advance of any possible future contribution, Carol SECONDED the motion, and this also PASSED unanimously.

Doug made a third MOTION that we formally ratify our approval the Board of Alderman's position of a 1% - no exemption surcharge for the CPA. Bud AMENDED that motion to read that we endorse the Board of Alderman's proposal but for the record support the original proposal of the Community Preservation Alliance of a 2% surcharge. Nancy SECONDED the revised motion and it PASSED unanimously.

Publicity: Margaret A. has drafted a news release following our annual meeting and banquet. NewTV also has a tape of the annual meeting, but it needs editing.

Doug D. has agreed to be the **newsletter** editor in Mike Clarke's absence. He will continue to try to produce 5 newsletter/year with a schedule of Feb 5, Apr 5, June 5, Sep 5 and Nov 5 for submission deadlines. Bud suggested that the November issue also be a membership appeal. Suggestions have been made to revise the newsletter by adding a calendar section or possibly profiling of our Board members. Bonnie noted that, because of personnel changes, the P.O. is not getting out bulk mailings by the next day, and it now takes 4-7 days.

Membership: The mailing to new residents was postponed (from April) because of questions as to what we were to offer: a no-strings free membership, or a free membership on request via a send-back form. Now that it is summer with many families on vacation, it was felt that we should not act until the fall.

Proposals for a full citywide mailing have been indefinitely postponed, because it would exceed the budget. Just buying names on disk would cost \$800 (1 ¢ per label), and then a mailing house would have to print the labels. A suggestion was made that Mass Envelope be approached to donate the envelopes to us, since they have twice done so in the past.

Programs. Dan Perlman will be giving a **talk** sometime in late November on the “History of Cold Springs & Human Impact through the Seasons.” Ted K. is working on a date at the Library.

The **maps** have not been redone, and Bud says he would still prefer a booklet on our open spaces rather than simply redoing the map. We were told that Lucy Caldwell Stair has agreed to take over this effort.

Walk planning & suggestions will be brought up at the July meeting (if held).

Ordway Park, No report tonight.

CPA. Jim B. urged us to speak up and write our Alderman at this point. He is willing to coordinate the sending of letters to the TAB so that they are well spaced over the next several months. Send drafts of proposed letters to him.

Land Use. No issues.

Parks and Recreation. Peter Kastner will be asked to continue to cover parks & Recreation Commission meetings for us. There will likely be a vacancy on the Commission in the upcoming months, and the Mayor had already committed himself to naming one of our Board members to the Commission at that point.

Conservation Commission. Eric reports that upcoming items are (1) the **Dolan Pond Improvement Plan** and (2) issues with the dog run at **Norumbega Park**.

?July meeting: The need for a July meeting was briefly discussed, especially in light of the CPA planning. It was decided by general consensus that whether to have a meeting on July 25 or not will be left to the discretion of our new president Lucy Caldwell Stair.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary.

September 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of September 26, 2001, 7:30 PM
City Hall, Rm 202

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Margaret Albright, Nancy Avery, Sarah Barnett, Larry Burdick, Jim Broderick, Bonnie Carter, Doug Dickson, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Eric Reenstierna.

Minutes: July minutes APPROVED.

CPA: Jim Broderick passed out bumper stickers, flyers, and dear friends cards. He asked for help holding signs, for a phone bank and at polling time. Immediate upcoming needs were for people to work the Volunteer Fair and the Harvest Fair; sign-up sheets were passed around. Nancy and Doug thought the CPA and Conservators should have separate tables at the Harvest Fair, but maybe fairly close together.

Jim reported all of the CPA printed materials has been prepared but one, and now the movement needs people and financial help for the 32,000 household mailing, which will cost \$7000. Larry said the CPA Committee has about half the money needed for postage. Lucy asked if Newton Conservators should complete this funding. Judy then asked if we'd completed the Section 8 election needed for making a large contribution, as discussed in the June meeting. Larry said we hadn't yet but should do so. Katherine will fill out Section H paperwork. This would allow us to spend up to 20% of our total budget for CPA. If our expenditures are \$18,000, we could donate the \$3500. Catherine said we have so far spent \$7600 this fiscal year, but with newsletters maps, membership mailing, memorials, etc. could expend as much as \$20,000 for the fiscal year (= calendar year).

After this discussion, Jim MOTIONED that we offer up to \$3500 to the CPA to cover mailing expenses, over and above the amount already given. Doug AMENDED the motion so that we make this an "insurance" offering, with our contribution diminishing as other contributions come in, and Larry AMENDED Doug's amendment by adding a time limit, which was to be the date when payment for postage for the CPA mailing is due. Since bulk mailing takes about a week this date will likely be around the start of October. A VOTE was taken, and the motion PASSED unanimously to front up to \$3500. Eric, Lucy, Katherine and Doug volunteered to do CPA fund-raising by phoning our membership.

Terraces: Sarah Barnett presented a Terraces update. The Planning Dept. had hired an outside consultant to review the developer's plans, because they were so complicated, and a report was made in July. It was a good one regarding trees, water, and clustered housing.

Terraces came back in August with a revised plan with critical sections of the consultant's report deleted. The clustering of 33 by-rights houses was deleted. No open space was added. Other issues involve Terraces's plan to take down too many trees, and storm water issues in which Terraces says the opposite of the consultant as to runoff vs. infiltration. Two working sessions of the Land Use Committee are coming up, and a vote will be taken on the special permit next time. Lucy commented that we usually get something in the public interest for a special permit, remarking that 48 luxury condos is a big project. Sarah thought negotiation was not something the Land Use Committee was interested in -- just voting it up or down. Doug MOVED that by Friday (Sep 28) we send a letter to the Chair of Land Use (Susan Bashar) updating our position on open space, storm water, and the trees issue, and he volunteered to write it. Frank SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED unanimously.

Programs. Dan Perlman is set for the next program in our **winter lecture series**. Ted is dealing with the Library people; Margaret will publicize it. Judy asked Board members to represent us on the **fall walks**, especially those of the two new leaders, since her time in Oct-early November is limited this year.

Map project. Lucy showed her plan for a pocket guide of maps in booklet form, to be 40 pages and cover 23 individual open spaces. Printing of a 2-color booklet will run about \$2000 for 1000 pieces, but her only estimate for drawing maps (\$7000) seemed high. She'd like to get that down to about \$3500 for art, for a total publication cost of \$5500.

Judy thought that drawing maps should not require professional art since we have base maps already, which could readily be copied in Adobe Illustrator. She and Lucy will look into this and city GIS information. Doug commented that Lucy's booklet plan was an admirable piece of work.

Dolan Pond. Ted reported progress on the Dolan Pond project, with plans for landscaping, handicap accessibility, a bench, kiosk and observation platform. Doug wondered if our new map booklet could show the planned platform. Ted believed it was a last priority, dependent on the remaining funding.

Land Acquisition. Two lots (30,000 sq. ft.) at **185 Elgin Rd**, purchased in 1999 for a tax advantage, were to be gifted to the City. This is vacant land next to Webster Conservation land and on the City's 1985 Open Space Plan "wish list". Martha Horne sent the text of restrictions to the Conservation Commission attorney, who thought it seemed complicated and asked for a simpler redraft. The owner now thinks his gift is not appreciated by the City. Eric took the liberty of suggesting maybe the Newton Conservators could act as agent to receive the gift. One issue is funds (i.e., an endowment) for maintenance, but Doug said that for undeveloped conservation land this would not be much.

Ordway Park. Frank Howard's chestnut tree has doubled in size. The American beech pruned last year came through the summer well. Jim and Corry Berkooz tagged 18

saplings to be removed this fall. One additional large oak looks bad; the arborist said to wait on it.

Lasell College. Woodland (31 trees) that had been previously promised for preservation were removed to make parking for 45 cars this summer. Lasell plan to put 121 more spaces on Bragdon Hill. The City has no grounds to act, and Jim thought we need to circulate a letter on this issue. Doug said the Dover Amendment gives Lasell no protection against the Tree Ordinance, and the City can deny an application if the parking lot can be placed so as to preserve trees. Jim MOTIONED that we send a letter to President DeWitt, the Lasell Trustees, with a cc to the Mayor, commenting on our understanding of their plan and the felling of trees. All VOTED in favor.

Parks and Recreation Committee. Doug announced that there were open positions on the committee, one due to a recent death, and it is likely that one of our Board members will be appointed to replace her. The other opening is for an alternate who recently resigned and that had not been filled. Suggestions are welcomed. The Parks and Rec. Board consists of 8 members, one from each ward, but alternates can reside in any ward.

9:40 PM adjournment.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

October 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of October 24, 2001, 7:30 PM
City Hall, Cafeteria

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Margaret Albright, Nancy Avery, Jim Broderick, Mike Collora Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Judy Hepburn, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Dan Perlman, Eric Reinstierna

Minutes of September meeting: ACCEPTED without change (Frank motioned, Carol Lee seconded.)

Treasurer's Report. Assets are down, mainly due to Four-in-One fund losses, and several recent donations we made. \$1500 was required for the CPA mailing and \$1000 for the Marty Sender memorial. Projections for the 4th quarter make assumptions for an upcoming mailing, but are \$11,000 under the projected revenue target.

Ordway Park. The fall clean-up and tree removal estimate is \$750. Doug suggested even more extensive work there, but Jim said that more saplings would then need to be tagged for removal. So far efforts were targeting mainly the Grant St. side of the park. Jim said he'd see if the landscaper will pro rate for more work.

Membership. Pieces for the mailing are now at the printer and will be sent in the "best window" historically for membership drives (Sep 1- Nov 1). This mailing will go to 2300-2500 who are currently not members.

Doug asked about the annual December appeal for special contributions and gift memberships and whether we wanted to continue it or do something different. Dan thought maybe we should have a premium, a gift or a holiday sales item, suggesting for the latter his biodiversity CD. The general consensus was that this seemed like a good idea, and Carol Lee volunteered to help on the CD project. We need to do this by Nov. 5 for something to come out in the mid-Nov. newsletter.

Programs/publicity. Margaret has sent information on our **winter lecture** by Dan Perlman to the Tab.

Map. Lucy and Judy have done some preliminary planning on layout and style. Drafting can be done using Adobe Illustrator, but there are some up front issues of font, color, size to be worked out before they can go full scale into drafting maps and pamphlet layout. They probably cannot get to this until after the CPA Nov. vote, however.

CPA. Jim passed out copies of the citywide CPA mailing to Board members. There were six Letters to the Editor, most by Conservator Board members who Doug recruited, in the Oct. 24 Tab. Also the Mayor's endorsement was in that issue. Doug had also recently spoken for the CPA on NewTV, which has been running weekly pro and con pieces. A phone bank will be held on Sunday before the vote to turn out Conservator members. Lucy commented that we must make a strong effort to get out our vote, as most towns so far have voted CPA either up or down by a slim margin. Newton Taxpayers do not seem to be making a large counter-effort against the CPA.

Parks and Recreation. The Mayor will appoint our recommendation candidate to fill the Parks and Rec. Commission vacancy. There is also alternate vacancy to fill. Margaret thought one of the Albemarle parents involved in the playground there would make a good candidate to recommend to the Mayor. Bud asked about the status of the **Powder House Hill project.** There has not been much focus on it recently, due to the upcoming Nov. 7 vote.

Land Trust. Eric will head up our efforts to become either a land trust or "enabler" of such, and this will be our primary focus for the upcoming spring meetings. We need to form a subcommittee to do Land Trust work, but we need input from many more people on properties to target, contacting owners, etc. Much work is needed to gain the cooperation of those who have a sense of stewardship for their land.

Questions were asked about what a "land trust" actually is. Such an organization acquires property and holds it for conservation land (e.g., Trustees of Reservations), or else buys conservation rights and easements, which is often done for taxes as well as love of one's land. Lucy added that such land should be scenic or in some manner endangered. Margaret pointed out one advantage a land trust over willing land to the

City, was that wills have been violated in the past, e.g., land that was given to the city for a bird sanctuary became the Day Jr. High School site. Doug also pointed out that land gifts made to the city face public access requirements, but access could still be limited with a land trust, which would appeal to some owners.

Steve Small, Newton resident, lawyer and leading expert of preserving family land, is willing to talk to us at some point, but the Board generally felt we should lay some initial groundwork before soliciting his expertise. Small was recently appointed to take Bart Hague's place on the Municipal Golf Course Commission, at our recommendation. Margaret A. will search Foundation Services online for other organizations that could help.

Dan thought we should think hard and carefully regarding properties we want for easements of gifts, because of later maintenance costs. Nancy agreed on the need to prioritize, pointing out how the Chestnut Hill Garden Club has spent many \$1000's just maintaining Houghton Gardens, work that the City simply doesn't do.

Margaret suggested the Verizon parking lot by Walnut and Crafts St., only used for trucks at night, as an easement candidate. Judy thought some of the large properties south of Houghton Gardens had backyards that could also be easement candidates. Carol thought we should aim to acquire the small parcel next to Ordway Park, but it was pointed out there may be frontage issues involved for the landowners. By CONSENSUS, it was generally agreed that our "short list" should certainly include: (1) the Angino Farm on Winchester St. (Lucy will approach the family.), (2) the Ozawa property (His agent is Lipton.), and (3) the CHP Trust, on the shore of Hammond Pond (attys. Turnbull & McCarthy).

We adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

November -December 2001

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of November 28, 2001, 7:30 PM
City Hall, Room 202

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Mike Collora, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski Dan Perlman, Eric Reinstierna. Member: Henry Finch. Invited speaker: Valeria Talmudge

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: October meeting's minutes were ACCEPTED with three changes.

The targeted mailing to increase **membership** gleaned 90 positive responses (4%) as of the meeting. Projection was optimistically for 10% response, but the Board thought 4% very good. Analysis has not been done yet to tell which of the lists we obtained brought the best responses. Doug said he'd put something in the last newsletter soliciting year-end gift memberships & contribution, since we had not resolved whether to do a separate December mailing at the last meeting.

CPA, Since the CPA passed, the Mayor has begun forming a commission. There are four spots to fill, and we have a change to get someone with our prospective on the commission. Wards 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 must all be represented. Jim will accept names until none tomorrow; any received later must go directly to the Mayor. Candidates especially with expertise in architecture, finance, law, or open space management who can see all three parts of the CPA as a joint community effort are desired.

Guest Presentation and Questions —Valerie Talmudge of the Trust for Public Land Office (TPL). Ms. Talmudge congratulated us on CPA 's passage, saying its an exciting tool for historic preservation and open space, allowing for a visionary rather than reactionary, subsistence level approach. 35 communities have passed CPA in its 1st year. 100% matching funds for the first several years seems likely, and new opportunities exist for re-greening and for connecting open spaces.

There are currently 143 land trusts in MA (Newton Conservators are one), and 1263 in U.S. MA has >10% in part because we're organized around municipalities not counties, and there are lots of town land trusts. Land trusts can do things government can't do without a private partner, and has become the practical, results-oriented "political movement" of the conservation world.

Ms. Talmudge passed out "Land Trust Roles and Activities" -- outlines to her presentation:

(1) Things some land trusts do in areas of EDUCATION.

(2) ADVOCACY: This is taken seriously by some land trusts (e.g., MA Audubon), while others actively avoid it so as not to cloud relations with land owners (e.g., Trust for Public Land). One's decisions on advocacy will affect neutrality during land negotiations.

(3) PLANNING/ PRIORITIES. Some, such as the Cohasset Land trust, have funded the town's open space plan. Others have adopted a particular vision, e.g. Hull Land Trust which has a specific goal centered on the Wier R. Estuary Park, which overlaps three towns. Other planning can be to do inventories and strategies for protection. (4) PARTNERSHIP. Building community support is always a land trust role. Others can be fund-raising via state, federal grants, or via private funds for "seed money" or to plug remaining gaps.

Eric asked: who keeps the titles if land trusts raise the funds? Talmudge replied that at TPL they never hold land permanently, and focus is on lots of pre-acquisition work. However, group involvement does protect against later conversion to other land uses, especially if private funds are brought to the table. Some land trusts also act as "matchmakers" for conservation buyers, but this is more common in the Western U.S than in the East. Doug asked at this point about strategies that apply to communities of high-value property, like Newton. He said there's been no city funding since the 1960-1980's period of acquisition, when both Newton had more money and property was more affordable. Talmudge said one that can work well is to promote land trusts as a strategy to avoid capital gains on land acquired at a much lower price. However she noted that it's "hard to beat the market," and an approach to limit development needs funding to make it work. TPL helped Greenwich, Conn, raise \$11 million in 100 days, but something like that large-scale must have the "right properties with the right mix.

(5) CAMPAIGN WORK: Eric brought up the question of Newton's vacant NSTAR property, noting people think its protected and its not. So they are hesitate to help even preserve some of the open space via cluster or limited development. Talmudge agreed that cluster-limited development is a difficult area for land trusts.

(6) LANDOWNER OUTREACH/ACQUISITIONS/ STEWARDSHIP. Frank asked about later maintenance of gifted lands, i.e, the need for endowments for funding the annual maintenance budget. Talmudge commented that land trusts that acquired via land donations have worked mainly in places like the Cape and Dover. Lucy asked about the possibility of holding land restrictions. She brought up especially the 3 Newton golf courses, which are not protected much (though some have 61 protection) and also vacant lots and side lots abutting open space. Restrictions would give a land trust the responsibilities for enforcement, but not for maintaining property. Talmudge thought we should get together with the golf course people and discuss their vision, what it takes for preservation, etc. However, before going after easements in general, we should talk with Joe Lerner, Sec. of Environmental Affairs to get his comments on any such program, as his office has to approve easements and conservation restrictions. For easements, however, we have to argue for a public or historical interest to the property. A "rhythm of housing" is okay but there should be no fencing, no additional buildings, no cutting of trees beyond certain size (though landscaping is permissible) -- i.e., activities must meet public goals. Bud asked: what the owner gets out of the process? The reply was mainly a charitable deduction for tax purposes. Also discussed were differences between "before" and "after" the restriction appraisals. The land value decrease that comes from restrictions on an "extra lot" can cause the house value to go up, since the adjacent land is now unbuildable.

Land Trust Committee. The newly created land trust subcommittee consists of Eric Reenstierna, Doug Dickson, Lucy Stair, Larry Burdick, and Dan Perlman. Participation of others is welcome, especially anyone with their eye on a particular piece of land. The Committee will meet over the next month, before the January meeting.

Winter Lecture Series. Dan Perlman's lecture at the Library is set for tomorrow (Nov. 29). Carol will work a table with Conservator's literature. Katherine will be at another table selling Biodiversity CD's.

Old business carried over to January: We will discuss the **annual dues** at the next meeting.

Adjournment at 9:10 PM

Judith Hepburn, Secretary

January 2002

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Meeting of January 23, 2002, 7:30 PM
City Hall, Cafeteria

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Margaret Albright, Bart Hague (advisor), Judy Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Larry Burdick, Carol Lee Corbett, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner (advisor), Eric Reenstierna.

Minutes of the November meeting were APPROVED.

CPA Committee. Two of our Board are about to be appointed to the Committee: Eric Reenstierna (Conservation Commission rep), and Doug Dickson (Recreation rep). Others serving include Bob Platt (Parks & Rec), Setti Warren, Holly Pinta (housing rep), Claudia Woo (historical preservation rep), also someone each from the Housing Authority & from Planning & Development. The Mayor will call the first meeting and a chairman will be elected as first business. Money is now accumulating and state money will come on Oct. 15, with a full match for at least this year.

Lucy suggested a role we might play with the CPA Committee is to submit proposals. Peter thought that since we now have the Open Space Plan, we could act as an advocate to prioritize items there, and focus on high priority properties. Bart agreed that we need a proactive approach with priorities, and Larry Burdick noted that the new Friends of the CPA would be soon having their first meeting, with the goal of setting priorities. Doug mentioned that the Affordable Housing group is working hard on how to make their case, and we should do something similar. Peter thought restoring the historical cemetery might be a good early, small-expense item to suggest for funding. Bud thought it would make sense to create a CPA Subcommittee on our Board, and added that to accomplish much we will need the backing of Mike Kruse of Planning. Lucy thought our existing Open Space Committee could serve also as CPA Committee. She further suggested, to general agreement, that we should wait until the Feb. meeting to get proactive, when we shall have "gotten the lay of the land" and after Eric and Doug have more to report.

Open Space Committee. Lucy reports that they meet once a month. A subcommittee is looking into changing zoning laws to allow for cluster housing on properties with <5 acres (currently not allowed).

A CRWA rep who came to the last meeting said CRWA has funds to buy land, and wanted to know what's available in Newton. It was noted that three properties prioritized in the OS Plans are along the river. Suggestions were made for the Edison Land (but it's not on water). Eric thought we should first find out exactly what CRWA is wanting to do. Judy asked about who owns afterwards (answer: CRWA).

Lucy was working on recognizing and ID'ing small <1 acre parcels of land for the Committee, as landowners are more likely to get an IRS approved conservation easement if they are in an existing open space plan. Bart asked about possibility of providing protection to Newton's "paper streets."

The Committee also met recently with Steven Small and learned that conservation restriction doesn't mean a property has to be kept natural. **Cold Springs Park** was brought up as a property always under threat, with questions as to how to get public open space (the City) to give up an easement to a group (purpose being to limit options for use later on). The group learned that the City could be paid for such an easement, and Bud asked if CPA money could be used this way. (No one knew). Peter thought it wasn't worth our time to attempt to get Aldermen to move Cold Springs from Parks and Rec. to CC, but Bud thought we should still explore it.

Eric and Lucy met with Bob Rooney about the 10 acres held back from **Flowed Meadows** that has not been declared surplus. It should go DPW to Conservation Commission, as Jim Hickey had wanted, but Rooney is not 100% on board. His rationale for keeping the land with DPW is that Conservation has no maintenance funds. He does not want to give CC an easement at this time. Bud commented it's P & R's job to mow CC lands, so not needing funding. Peter wondered if Hickey was still around Newton and could be brought into a subsequent meeting with Rooney. Lucy said we'd continue the discussion of Conservation Commission easements next meeting.

Treasurer's report. Katherine presented the year end report. We were below budget on income and membership increase (by 30%) but were under planned expenses (by 25 %), and so made about \$1800 for the year. Katherine will present a budget for 2002 at the next meeting, including possible needs for more funding to grants.

History Exhibit. There is nothing post-1990 on the Newton Conservators at the Jackson Homestead. We need to showcase what we've helped the City accomplish for our 40th Anniversary, i.e., the acquisition of parks, but organized material to work with is lacking. Board members with things in basements and attics, etc. should look into what they have, and turn over to Lucy what to keep, archive or throw out.

Peter will work with Carol on the 5 boxes she has in storage at her house. The space for an exhibit at the Jackson Homestead is fairly small but we still need to (1) recap what we

have, (2) contact Jean & Thelma on the history update, and ask Helen Heyn to help, and (3) proceed from the documentation we have.

Bud thought the recent donation of Ordway family drawings would make a nice addition to the exhibit. Lucy suggested a notice in the newsletter, asking for help in pulling together and designing our exhibit, and Doug said he'd put this in the next newsletter (it's deadline is Feb. 5). Judy suggested also asking members if they possess any items suitable for the display.

Annual Meeting. Bud suggested we solicit possible Board member and Environmentalist of the Year recommendations in the next newsletter. The **Nominating Committee** will be Bud Elliott and Peter Kastner as co-chairs, Judy volunteered to do phone calling, and Jim Broderick and Mike Collora will also be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee. We must also confirm that Stephanie Bacon will do the annual banquet planning.

Walks. Board members suggested that Dan Perlman and/or Ted Kuklinski be asked to assume planning of our walks, especially as the spring walks now heavily involve Biodiversity Days.

Other. Helen Heyn made a \$25 donation to the Conservators in memory of Jack Roberts, a charter Director of the Newton Conservators who died on Jan. 25.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

February 2002

Newton Conservators
Feb. 27, 2002, 7:30 PM
City Hall Room 222

Attendance: Lucy Stair (presiding), Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Doug Dickson, Judy Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Eric Reenstierna.

Minutes of the January meeting were APPROVED with 2 corrections.

Treasurer's Report. Katherine passed out a preliminary draft **budget**, based on our membership goals for this past year (only partly met), a possible increase (by \$1000) for grants, and insurance rates going up sharply. Doug will ask Larry Burdick to review the United Way Insurance Package as an alternative. Doug commented that he thought the budget was fine. Eric MOVED to approve the budget, Larry SECONDED it and APPROVAL was unanimous.

On the budget the dues were based on last year's 20% increase, which Judy mentioned had never been officially voted in. Larry MOVED to ratify the **increase of dues** to \$25

for individuals, \$35 for families, \$50 for sustaining members, \$75 for donors, and \$100 for patrons. Eric SECONDED the motion and it was APPROVED unanimously.

Judy asked about the introductory memberships, which we'd rescinded by vote several years ago, but have still offered at the Harvest Fair, etc. Doug responded that our charter says the Board must set a fee schedule, so any discretionary reductions would have to be voted in as exceptions, not as part of the schedule.

Last year's (2000-2001) **Audit Subcommittee** (Bud Elliott, Larry Burdick, Jason Glasgow) was reappointed for this year.

Land Trust Committee. The Boston Globe is looking to do an article, based on the excellent Newton Tab item covering the Wilmerding's conservation restriction gift to the city. Helen Heyn will be meeting with the Land Trust Committee soon to share her years of experience. Eric sent out letters to CHP (Gerald Chan owner) about preserving Hammond Pond via land trust, but has had no response. A letter also went to Mayor Cohen, asking for an easement on our behalf on the 10 acres at Flowed Meadow.

Lucy has created a package on land trust of the sort to go out to potential land trust donors, tried it out on 3 prospects, and met with mixed responsiveness (though understandably no "instant successes"). Doug thought that, after making a prospect's acquaintance, we should offer them something like a ticket to our annual banquet, and Eric suggested a free copy of Steven Small's book. Also suggested was hosting a small discussion with Stephen Small for 3-4 prospects. Doug asked if we've kept Martha Horn in the loop and mentioned that we should work together with her on her projects (e.g., she's already pushing for an easement on the property SE of Dolan Pond).

City's CPA Committee. The first meeting will be February 28.

Grants Committee. Neither Bill nor his designee (Carol) was here, but he'd passed along a favorable opinion on the **Burr School** revised proposal. Lucy will forward his report to Board members and we will vote on it via email.

Addendum to meeting's minutes: The Burr School grants proposal for the classroom garden PASSED, by email vote of 13 to 0, on March 14.

Annual Meeting. Stephanie Bacon agreed to organize the May banquet again this year. The Board agreed on a \$25/person banquet fee, which means we will subsidize it at the same level as last year. May 29 (Wednesday) is set for the banquet date. Peter will do an email letter for the **Nominating Committee** to ask for recommendations for new members to the Conservator Board for 2002-03. We then brainstormed on **speakers** for the meeting. Suggestions included Val Talmudge (Trust for Public Land), Diane Muir (Bulloughs Pond book), Bruce McWhirk (Metropolitan Parks System historian/expert), Thomas O'Connor (Boston history), Jim Skehan (geology of Boston & MA), Phil Shabakov (author of 3 books on the environmental movement; former writer for NY Times, Brookline resident). We prioritized our choices to (1) Bruce McWhirk (Doug

approaches), (2) Phil Shabakov (Doug) and (3) Val Talmudge (Lucy). Stephanie pointed out that because of the lead time needed for invitations we must have this down firm by, or right after, the next (April 3) meeting. Suggestions for the **Environmentalist of the Year** were the CPA Alliance or Jim Broderick as its chair. Debate then ensued on whether we should honor the entire Alliance network and/or its 3 leaders, which might also yield a large banquet turnout, or whether or not this would stray from our mission as being too broad (i.e., beyond open space), with some members taking opposite views. We also need more nominations beyond the Alliance, and at the next meeting need to make a definite pick.

It was suggested, with widespread APPROVAL, that a special banquet honor also be given to Alex and Ginnie Wilmerding for their recent easement gift to the City.

Program: We had committed to increasing our **library talk series** to two per winter season, and we've so far only had one. Doug thought we should try to get one more in, by late spring. A panel discussion on land trusts seemed too much to put together by then. Judy suggested Jim Skehan, who is local and has a new book out on Roadside Geology of Massachusetts, for a date in late March or April. She will do a preliminary query to him and pass results on to Ted for subsequent arranging. Lucy said she'd also call Ted about a second talk and also walks.

Addendum to meeting's minutes: Skehan was very willing, but Ted reports that the Library is already highly booked through April, so a 2nd talk will likely not happen this spring.

Other items: (1) Sarah Barnett gave a write-up to Doug that raises question about the City's **zoning** for open space preservation. She feels there are holes in the zoning that we might be interested in addressing. Doug will ask her to send it around, if in email form. (2) The **renewal notice** should go out at the end of March or early April (Lucy will remind Jason). New members as of the fall will not be in this mailing, since they were enrolled off cycle.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

March 2002

Newton Conservators
April 3, 2002 (March meeting)
7:30 PM, City Hall Cafeteria

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Larry Burdick, Carol Lee Corbett, Michael Collora, Burton Elliott, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Helen Heyn, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Eric Reinstierna. Guest: Mayor David Cohen

Override Referendum: The March meeting began with Mayor Cohen, speaking in support for the Proposition 2 1/2 Override Referendum. He talked of Newton's rank among cities and maintaining Newton as a quality place.

Cuts would also affect the Planning Dept. It would mean no part-time staff person, a position the city had wanted to fund, to work on the Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Both would have to depend on volunteer staffing. The ability to go forward with the Comprehensive Plan would be crippled, he said, and it would seriously jeopardize Step 2 of the Open Plan, which is to make a more comprehensive one following the "quick job" recently done to maintain grant eligibility. The annual \$25,000 for upkeep of conservation land would not be continued. Parks and Rec.'s budget has been already "nibbled at," he said, praising Fran Towle for managing to keep all programs despite this. But failure of the override would end free liming of fields for the sports (soccer, little league), as well as less field maintenance, mowing and pickup of debris. The biggest impact would be on actively used open space.

In the questions that followed, Doug commented on deferred building maintenance and the present Parks budget, which has had projects deferred or diminished, including tree pruning. An independent appraisal of street trees put their worth at \$65 million, and to replace them is a fantastic price to contemplate. Bud brought up the perception that schools get virtually whatever they want at the expense of other areas in the city budget. The Mayor said that as a community we should not be at loggerheads over who gets what, but he didn't think there was huge waste in the schools. He has a plan to provide \$5 million annually for all city building and school maintenance. Doug asked what would come in the future if the override passed, and the Mayor said that with passage there would be no more future override attempts for at least several fiscal years. Bud asked if there'd be any money for parks and open space beyond catch-up on deferred maintenance. The Mayor expressed hopes and expectations that the large school budget hikes were over and that the override and end of the recession would bring in enough money for modest initiatives on the city (non-school) side.

After the Mayor left Frank asked if we had yet taken a position on the override. We had not, and Doug thought we should discuss it. Arguments for publicly endorsing the override as a Board included: (1) that the things we care about would be affected by cuts and to support the override is an obligation and (2) money drives competence when it comes to open space maintenance. Arguments for taking no stance included: (1) it is a more ambivalent issue than the CPA (voiced by 2 members), (2) an endorsement might have a negative impact on our efforts to obtain property easements, largely from the elderly, and (3) that we were unsure of how our membership feels about this issue and would be overstepping our bounds (by 2 members). Frank MOTIONED that we endorse the override, Doug SECONDED it. Further discussion for the motion included: (1) that things like charging for field liming would have a domino effect on maintenance. Further discussion against the motion included: (1) the issue was too divisive and (2) it seemed similar to the recent vote for new high school construction, and yet we didn't take a

position there. Discussion was closed and the motion to endorse the override was REJECTED by a wide majority, by show of hands.

Peter thought that the Board seemed enough divided that there should be both a pro and con article, written by board members, in the April newsletter. Judy thought we should objectively present what the Mayor said in areas that pertained to open space issues, and that was ultimately AGREED upon. She agreed to write the article from her notes.

Annual banquet & Environmentalist of the Year. Stephanie has the hall for May 29. She needs to get the invitation printing started soon and needs names for speaker, etc. Bruce McWhirk has proven to be unreachable. Margaret suggested Justine Liff of Boston Parks, who is involved in Emerald Necklace improvement and a good speaker. Also if she had a conflict, she'd probably bump the role to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. New priorities for speaker are (1) Justine Liff (Margaret contacts), and if not (2) Phil Shabakov (Doug contacts).

For Environmentalist of the Year the consensus was the CPA Alliance, and the discussion revolved mainly on how best honor the Alliance for their work on behalf of open space preservation. Several board members thought the entire collaboration group should receive the award. Judy worried that we'd be limiting candidates for future E of Y awards by including too many in a group now. Lucy then MOTIONED to give the entire Alliance the award and to ask Jim Broderick to receive it for the group; Doug SECONDED the motion. In the ensuing discussion Peter suggested we could get a photo for the Tab with Jim accepting the award and others gathered around him. Stephanie brought up the problem of offering a complementary dinner to so many. The VOTE was unanimous to give the award to the CPA Alliance as a group, but with no complementary dinners.

Doug PROPOSED and Katherine SECONDED a motion to give **Director's Awards** to the Wilmerdings and to CHP for recent conservation restrictions on their properties, with complementary dinners. The vote was unanimous in APPROVAL. Stephanie will call to find out who will accept for CHP.

Lucy asked about inviting grant recipients to present their work at the banquet, like last year's Worm Café poster, and Stephanie suggested a limit (i.e., not all 5 recipients), in the interest of time. Bill will write and find out who has something like a poster, etc. to present. Larry Burdick will be heading the **Audit Committee**.

Nominating Committee: Nancy Avery, Ed Daily, Don Fishman and Andy Stern asked to be off the 2002-03 Board. Peter Kastner is coming back on, and Bud Elliott will move to Advisor. There are 5 openings, and of 6 suggested candidates, three declined and three more remain to be asked. The Committee will have another meeting by mid-May. It was mentioned that we have an impressive list of Advisors and might ask more assistance from them. Plans are to call a meeting of both Board and Advisors to explore this. Bud thought some might be helpful in the land trust initiative, mentioning that one (Bart Hague) already is.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine presented a revised budget.

CPA Board: The April 4 meeting will focus of open space. The previous month's meeting (affordable housing) showed that community input and turnout is important. Eric urged as many as possible from our Board to attend.

Grants: Bill said recent grant proposals that have come in have mainly been asking us for a small portion of what is really a much larger appeal. This is largely different from the past history of our grant awards.

Programs: The volunteer who had agreed in early April to do **walks** backed out, and there is currently no schedule for the spring. Peter Kastner volunteered to take on this job and to pull a program together quickly in time for the mid-April newsletter. Ted will coordinate **Biodiversity Day** walks. He and Judy have also arranged a second talk and book signing in our **winter lecture series** for May 8 at the Newton Library. The speaker is Rev. Jim Skehan, who has recently authored "The Roadside Geology of Massachusetts." Mike Collora and Carol Corbett volunteered to work a table with Newton Conservator membership forms, materials, etc. for the lecture night.

Maps Project: Judy showed the 5 open space maps she'd drafted for the brochure that were basically finished. She asked for volunteers, especially for those who live near or are very familiar with a particular open space, to "field check" maps as they get completed, noting that she has already found differences on existing maps of Newton Cem. and Edmands Park areas that don't fit the current reality. Doug Greenfield at City Hall has been very cooperative in supplying GIS mapped data, and Judy expects soon to have ready access to the aerial orthophotograph collection that Newton did for its GIS mapping, a copy of which is in a computer file at Boston College.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Judy Hepburn,
Secretary

April 2002

Newton Conservators
April 24, 2002, 7:30 PM
City Hall Room 202

Attendance: Lucy Caldwell Stair (presiding), Margaret Albright, Stephanie Bacon, Jim Broderick, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Carol Lee Corbett, Michael Collora, Doug Dickson, Bud Elliott, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Judy Hepburn, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Dan Perlman, Eric Reenstierna. . Guest: Sarah Barnett

Minutes: The minutes of the last two meeting were APPROVED without amendment.

Treasurers Report & Audit: The Audit Committee will readily complete their audit by the time of the annual banquet.

Discussion items

Proposed Auburndale Hist. District. The meeting began with Jim Broderick presenting the proposal to establish an Auburndale Historic District by the Lasell Neighborhood Assoc., which has asked us to endorse it. The purpose is primarily architectural and not related to other land uses (e.g., doesn't protect buildable lots), so indirect to our mission (Jim). Several members thought it too remote to our goals (Dan) or too political in nature (Carol). Doug reviewed our mission from the by-laws, and thought it a stretch to include issues of historic preservation. Doug asked about the process and timetable. The historic district would not go before the Alderman until the fall, so there would be time to endorse later on. No motion was made, and the Board moved on to other items.

Zoning and Special Permit issues. Sarah Barnett has been researching Newton zoning issues, and Doug asked if the Board wanted to also take on this project, which is in early stages. Sarah presented her findings on several ambiguities in the law.

Three main points were: (1) Loopholes: The Open Space Preservation Ordinance, for parcel sales of >5 acres (which includes private golf courses), allows for 10,000 sq. ft. house lots if residentially developed (Area 3). But there are allowances to reduce lot size to 7000 sq. ft, if the balance is given to open space. Questions have come up, because of the Newton-Andover developments, about what an "open space parcel" means. Some interpretations allowed for Terraces went beyond the original intent of the Ordinance — e.g., should fragmented, noncontiguous parcels count? Also 10,000 sq. ft. lots must contain 50% open space not including driveways, but the ordinance is ambiguous on whether the same applies to 7000 sq. ft. lots. And while the law pertains to single residences, there could be greater open space preservation if there were single attached dwellings. Also, who judges whether the developer's offer is "fair" (e.g., does a "gift" of unbuildable rock cliffs count as open space?) (2) Lack of Attention. The conservation restriction on Hebrew College is not necessarily perpetual. It comes to an end in 20-30

years unless the City makes sure to renew it, and Martha Horn, when asked, was not sure who would do this. (3) Wiggle room. While the Board of Aldermen's job is to ensure that there is minimum disruption of topography and tree removal in the case of special-permit site plan approval, how this is decided is left vague. Only the plan presented before the Alderman is discussed, not whether it is the "best" plan possible. For example, negative findings of independent consultants hired by Terrance that were included in the first report were edited out of Terrace's later second draft. Since this was presented to the Aldermen many months later, the earlier negative conclusions were forgotten. Sarah concluded that the Andover-Newton property would have been better developed if the Open Space Preservation Ordinance had been more strictly interpreted.

Doug added that Newton has a reputation as an "easy" city for development and one that is unique in using a political process (vote of the Board of Aldermen) for obtaining special permits. He suggested three areas the Conservators might get involved: (1) by working to update the somewhat old Open Space Preservation Ordinance, (2) by helping create standards for special-permit site plan approval, and (3) by looking into possible additional controls. Doug would like to see that a subcommittee of the Board take this on as a project, and Lucy agreed. She asked the Board to consider getting more involved in this. New board member Henry Finch added that the timing was good, as it has gotten harder for developers in the last 2-3 years since Cohen became mayor.

Conservation Commission issues: The MDC is proposing use of a slow-release herbicide to control the exotic, invasive **fanwort in Purgatory Cove** (using Floridene-Sonar AS). This was used last year at Wares Cove and other lakes in the state with good results. There are concerns about long-term effect, but Eric thought the CC would defer to the two Commissioners who have the expertise in this area. Dan asked if eutrophication caused the fanwort, which if so would just come back. He volunteered to find out and get the information to Eric via email. Doug thought we perhaps should weigh in on this issue, and wondered if the CWRA had taken a position (No one knew). A more permanent solution (dredging) would cost \$1.2 million and is out of the question.

Updates

Nominating Committee: There will be a meeting in early May, after Peter Kastner returns from China, to finalize 2002-03 Board members.

Land Trust Committee: Larry, Lucy, Doug, Eric and Bart Hague are starting to work with various property owners. Dr. Lipton, who handles the Ozawa property in West Newton, is being contacted. There have been difficulties in working with the CHP landowners, who have recently let a special permit lapse (perhaps to avoid conservation restrictions).

Oak Hill radio towers: A proposal to build more radio towers was withdrawn temporarily, so this agenda item was dropped.

Other updates: Brief updates were given regarding status of the **spring programs**, the upcoming lecture by James Skehan and publicity for these events, the planned **Jackson Homestead exhibit** celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Newton Conservators, and the drafting of maps for the planned **new maps booklet**.

Annual meeting: Remaining banquet questions were: (1) whether to videotape the annual meeting again. Doug thought this is something good for archiving, but we have never in the past edited the tapes or done anything with them. We will tape if there is a volunteer for this. (2) what AV equipment the speaker needs. Our **speaker** will be Keith Morgan, a BU professor of landscape architecture who has written a book on Charles Elliott and the origin of the MDC. He was highly recommended by Bruce McWhirk, who was not available. Kay Kahn will follow-up with a 10-15 speech on current MDC issues.

Doug then proposed creating a new **Charles Maynard Award**, in light of our evolving interests in "open space as habitat, promoting biodiversity". The suggested award, named after a renowned 18th century Newton naturalist who is currently being featured at the Jackson Homestead, would be given to "someone who had done something to reclaim habitat and/or preserve habitat." Doug went on to suggest Rep. Kay Kahn for the first award for her work in (1) obtaining state money for clearing water chestnuts out of the Charles and for beetle control of the wooly adelgid problem at Hemlock Gorge and for (2) helping to form the MetroParks caucus.

A lively discussion followed. Several members thought that this would be one too many awards, though others thought it would encourage banquet participation. Several members thought we should not rush through a new, permanent award so quickly. Reasons given were (1) this year's banquet invitations were already at the printers, and (2) the Charles Maynard exhibit will be at the Jackson Homestead for a full year, so it will still be timely for the 2003 banquet. Bud suggested a Maynard Annual Lecture in lieu of one more banquet award. Lucy thought we could rename or replace Director's Awards with the new award, but Doug argued that the all-purpose, irregularly given Director's Awards should be retained for special needs. Judy thought that qualifications for the Charles Maynard Award, if created, should be broadened to include people who "increase the awareness of habitat in Newton," so that it could be given to qualified educators, authors, etc. in addition to politicians and similar activists. A VOTE was taken and PASSED by 7-4 to create the Charles Maynard Award for this year, to make Kay Kahn the first recipient, and to award a plaque to the recipient identical to the Environmentalist of the Year award.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Judy Hepburn, Secretary

Post-Meeting Addendum: By an E-mail vote of 17-0 on April 29, the Board VOTED to give \$1000 to the **Hammond Pond Remediation Grant**, subject to Newton receiving funds from a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant.

