

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
June 21, 2006
Newton City Hall Room 203

Present: -- Bill Hagar (presiding), Margaret Albright, Lawlor Burdick, Carol Lee Corbett, Cris Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder

Also attending and introduced were – Sam Cohen, Kevin Kernan, and Peter Karass of the South Newton Homeowners Assoc.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of April 19 were approved.

Annual Meeting: -At the Annual Meeting of May 31 the following slate of officers was unanimously elected: -President - William Hagar, Vice-President – Beth Schroeder, Treasurer: - Katherine Howard, Secretary:- AnnaMaria Abernathy.

Presentations made by the speakers, Peter Smith and Lynn Wolff, on plans for the Rose Kennedy Greenway are summarized in the current issue of the Newsletter, edited by Eric Reenstierna.

Carol Corbett had words of praise for the caterer, “Maria’s” of Watertown. A note of thanks will be sent to Alderman Salvucci for his help in making American Legion Post 440 available.

An **Urgent Item** was introduced for discussion by Ted Kuklinski to the effect that property owned in Newton by Mr. McDonald near the Charles River just upstream from the new Great Blue Heron Bridge is expected to be placed on the market in the near future. After discussion as to its potential value as riverside open space, and in the face of the possibility of its being sold to other bidders as a building site, a motion was made that the President of the Newton Conservators Board offer a proposal that, through the use of CPA funding, a bid of up to 1.5 million dollars be made for its purchase, thereby initiating a process of inspection and evaluation by the City of Newton. This motion was passed by a vote of 10 yeas, one nay, and 2 abstentions.

Messrs. Kernan, Cohen, and Karass of the South Newton Homeowners Assoc. presented their concerns about a five acre tract of land listed under “Sam White and Sons” and “Horst Woods”, on the south side of Boylston St. in the vicinity of Oldefield Road and Hurley Place. They assert that these are reported as Specific Vacant Open Space Lands containing “unique geologic treasures and scenic vistas” and that this same area is a flood plain along Paul Brook (which serves as the only outlet for Crystal Lake) and that isolated wetlands, including a vernal pool, have been identified on this same property. (See their letter on page 8 of the most recent Newton Conservators Newsletter.) They state that they have been unable to present their case to Mr. Sam White who they believe to be on the point of selling this property for possible housing or commercial development. They are requesting support from the Conservators for help in making their case that this property be preserved as open space and not made available for development. They stated that Mr. White is represented by Atty. Allen Schlesinger. It was agreed that Bill Hagar and Duane Hillis will attempt to obtain further information about the status of the proposed sale of these plots and report back to the South Newton Homeowners Assoc.

Margaret Albright reported that the MWRA has approved reconstruction of the greenway paths adjacent to the Cheesecake Brook in its course along Albemarle Roadway en route to the Charles River.

Membership Committee – Anne Pearson reported that the number of members continues to increase, and our mailing list is approaching 800.

Management Committee - Beth Schroeder indicated that a request has been made that a named bench or some other type of memorial with a dedicatory plaque be permitted in Ordway Park. This request will be discussed, as a policy about such monuments needs to be established.

Beth also indicated that the weekly flora and fauna survey sessions conducted by a group from the Management Committee are continuing on a regular basis with much data accumulated over the past year and a half. She also made note of illegal dumping of debris by abutters in some of the open space areas. In response to a call about this, Martha Horn has had a sign posted in the Sawmill Brook area, one of the sites abused.

Grants – Bill Hagar reports that David Backer of the Environmental Science Program has requested approval of his plan to send grant applications to two charitable foundations, the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation and

the Cambridge Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. All applicants are required to be non-profit, 501 c 3 groups in order to match their giving criteria. Since the Conservators fulfill this classification whereas his program has not yet been designated in this category, David has requested that his applications be made through US, with \$2,000 asked of each of these Foundations. The Board gave unanimous approval to this request with the understanding that he will gather the appropriate materials and submit the applications for review before the deadlines of June 28 and July 14th.

Angino Farm status – Larry Burdick reported that the initial application for non-profit status (501) by the Farm Committee was refused by the IRS because of what they judge to be an inadequate proportion of charitable distribution of produce vs. paid distribution and educational effort . A new distribution plan was approved by the Committee and new application submitted.

He advised that signage be erected on the farm premises to indicate Newton Conservator involvement in the enterprise. He also noted that more Volunteer help for our farm manager, Greg Maslowe, is badly needed. An intern, supported by a grant from Williams College, is presently on the scene.

He also discussed a growing problem with respect to our Newton Conservators status as a member of the Land Trust Alliance. Its criteria for Standards and Practices are quite demanding and have become difficult for many conservation groups to observe. He explained that although the IRS requests documentation of our status as a member of the Land Trust Alliance, the membership criteria are becoming overly strict for agencies like ours to fulfill.

Board Meeting Dates Changed: The meeting dates for the Newton Conservators have been changed to the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The reason for this change was to obtain an upstairs meeting room, and also permit attending relevant aldermanic committees on the 3rd Wednesday. This change from the 3rd to 4th Wednesday was approved unanimously, and will initiate with the next meeting on July 26, 2006.

Adjournment: at 9:35 pm

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Respectfully submitted
M.G. Criscitiello, Acting Secretary

**Newton Conservators, Inc.—
Minutes of the Board Meeting
September 27, 2006, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Dan Brody, Lalor Burdick, M.G. Criscitiello, Henry Finch, Florrie Funk, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schoeder (after 9 PM).

Also attending and introduced were Sue Avery and Robert Fisek

Carol Lee Corbett: Bill read the eulogy he gave at Carol's memorial service (see appended.) and members spoke at length about Carol, reminiscing about her and her many contributions to the Conservators. Margaret's suggestion that the educational programs at the Angino Farm be named for her.

The archives that she held will need a new home; eventually the Angino farm may have space. Meanwhile Katherine Howard volunteered her dry basement. The scrapbook of clippings about NC that Carol kept will be continued by AnnaMaria.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting of June 21 were approved, with thanks to Cris Criscitiello.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine distributed copies of the June 30 income & balance statements. Also

- she has filed extensions for the May 15 federal Form 990 and state Form PC filings; they are ready, awaiting only the review by our volunteer accountant, Theresa Houck.

- Forte property:** Lot A of the Forte/Webster Park property have been sold to the Newton Housing Authority, but the full value remains on our books until either the remaining lot is transferred to Habitat for Humanity, or, if that is not going to happen by 12/31/06, the City attorney has promised to work with us to adjust the value down so that our year-end books are not overstated.

- ESP:** David Backer has written that the \$630 in contributions that NC has held for the ESP be transferred to ESP for their scholarships. A MOTION to transmit the \$630 to ESP was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Backer reported that his two applications for grants had been unsuccessful.(letter attached to the file copy of these minutes.)

- Trail Guides:** The supply of trail guides is running out; Lucy Stair suggests we do an update with corrections and the numerous additions; Judy Hepburn has expressed agreement. It was agreed that this should go forward – members are asked to review their copies and send corrections to Judy and Dan Brody.

•**Announcements:** Katherine distributed mail about environmental groups' meetings • Cris volunteered to respond to Margaret Albright's request for someone to discuss Owls with a group of school children.

Land Stewardship: Larry reported:

•**Dexter Woods:**

•**Reimbursement for tree damage:** The problem was extensively discussed. Larry will consult our insurer, and it was agreed that we will move expeditiously to remedy the problem. Before the tree fell, McKinney Tree Company had given an estimate for removing invasives and dead limbs. We will look into the cost of doing only the latter at this time. (Zeeb letter attached to the file copy of these minutes.)

•**Land Trust Alliance standards:** the discussion will be saved for the next meeting. Meanwhile Larry urged members to review the agreement (appended) and the standards themselves at www.lta.org/sp/land_trust_standards_and_practices to prepare to decide whether/how we can meet them.

Walks Schedule: Margaret will send the schedule of the remaining walks to the TAB.

Talks Schedule: Ted reported that Peter Alden may speak about invasive plants in November.

Land Management Committee: • Cris announced that a Survey Team of the Land Management Committee, directed by Beth Schroeder, has visited all the open spaces in the city, most of them during each season..This group includes, among others, our two new Board Members, Florrie Funk and Sue Avery. . The long lists of flora noted at each site include numbers of invasive species.. Members of the Conservators TV crew are planning a program to educate the public about this survey, including the problems posed to native species by invasive growth.

• Eric Olson, Ph D, a faculty member of the Brandeis Heller School has ideas for eradicating invasive plants; he would like our help with a proposal for a grant application to the Norcross Foundation to buy equipment - mostly loppers and the like- for which he also needs storage space. He expects his Brandeis ecology students, already working in Waltham and Watertown, will help with similar efforts in Newton. Any such plans for removal of alien growth here in Newton would be undertaken with agreement and direction from Martha Horn and others involved in the supervision of parks and conservation areas. Margaret commented that CPA funding has been obtained to remove invasives and debris from Avery Woods; Cris added that NNHS has a program for AP Biology students interested in invasives. Dexter Road would be a nearby site for them. It was agreed to invite Eric Olson to our next board meeting.

New Business:

• **Architect Robert Fizek**, spoke to us about the **Hannon property on Rogers Street, abutting the Gill Bathhouse on Crystal Lake**. He had urged the City to acquire the property some years ago whenever it should be for sale, to no avail. He started Citizens for a Better Crystal Lake some months ago, to advocate for acquisition of the property; he showed his plan for how the combined property could be used. For it and the group’s petition, see his web site, <http://www.betterlake.com/>

Peter emphasized that the Parks & Recreation Commission has already voted in favor of City acquisition of the land with CPA funds. Some think the City is negotiating with Mr. Hannon. After considerable discussion, Henry MOVED that the Conservators commend the Parks & Rec. for its recommendation to acquire the property. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED with only the abstention of Peter, who is an associate member of the Parks & Rec. Commission.

• **Aqueduct trails:** Henry asked that they be put on the agenda for next month.

• **Election of Sue Avery to the board:** a MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Adjournment at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

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Carol Lee Corbett

This is a time of sadness for all of us. Carol Corbett passed away in her house on Sunday, August 27, 2006. Carol died in her sleep from conditions stemming from lung cancer. Carol was battling the disease for over a year keeping her condition a secret from most of her friends. This was Carol a person who did not want any sympathy, but continued her work in the political arena and for the Newton Conservators. She was in charge of the Conservators' annual dinner for the past years, and- despite her illness- she organized and supervised the 2006 dinner, which was a tremendous success. (“Don’t serve chicken without the bone!) She was a co-chair of the Conservators' grant's committee for a number of years, and had special interest in the Environmental Science Program (ESP) and its success. Some of the successful environmental - education based grant proposals that she helped fund were the following:

“The Butterfly Garden: A Real World Experience”: where students at the Horace Mann School planted plants that attracted butterflies to their school yard garden.

“From Cheesecake Brook to Stellwagen Bank”: where students at Day Middle School studied water quality from their brook to the Charles River.

“Community Garden”: where students at the Bowen School grew their own vegetables using organic farming techniques, and then planned to donate their harvest to the Newton Center Food Bank.

“Science Day Fun in Outdoor Classroom” where students of elementary or middle schools in Newton studied the flora and fauna of Nahanton Park in Newton.

-----Original Message-----

From: robert zeeb [<mailto:robertzeeb@rcn.com>]

Sent: Sat 9/16/2006 9:01 AM

To: William Hagar

Subject: dexter road

Dear Bill,

Just to update you a bit regarding the aftermath of the tree fall on Dexter Road. Our car is repaired, and we've paid the \$500 deductible. We've had an estimate on the repairs to the side of our house and have been told it will be more than \$500, so that will be a second \$500.

We and our neighbors have been looking at two oak trees that are of particular concern. They are very tall and have dead branches which could fall directly on our roof as they lean at an angle even more extreme than the one that fell on our car.

We are concerned that were we to make another claim, undoubtedly more extensive than the first, that the insurance company might question the situation the second time since they know you're aware of the problem with the trees. We do not want the Newton Conservators to be faced with a large insurance claim (perhaps one you cannot pay), do not want it to fall back on the city, and most certainly do not want to risk having to pay for it ourselves if it is somehow declared an act of God.

We urge that you combine forces with the city to have each of these two trees removed. Again, thanks for your help.

Bob and Holly Zeeb

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Land Trust Standards and Practices Resolution:

What does "Adoption" of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* Mean?

The Land Trust Alliance requires that all member land trusts adopt *Land Trust Standards and Practices* as the guiding principles for their operations. LTA also encourages all land trusts to implement them at a pace appropriate for their organization. There is a clear distinction between "adoption" and "implementation".

"Adoption", using the resolution included in *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, indicates that:

- The organization has reviewed *Land Trust Standards and Practices*;
- The organization agrees that *Land Trust Standards and Practices* are the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust; and,
- That the organization adopts *Land Trust Standards and Practices* as guidelines for the organization and commits to making continual progress toward implementation of these standards and practices.

When a land trust "adopts" *Land Trust Standards and Practices* it joins over 1,000 organizations across the country in indicating its philosophical support for the widely accepted code that guides the land trust community. The land trust also recognizes its role in upholding the public trust and the credibility of the land trust community.

In addition, by adopting *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, the land trust makes a commitment to use

the standards and practices to guide their organization, that is, to use them as a touch stone in developing or refining program and policies.

Lastly, adoption signifies that the land trust is continually learning, refining its programs in an effort to implement the standards and practices, and striving for excellence.

Adoption does not signify that a land trust is fully implementing the specific details of every practice. When it comes to implementation, land trusts use a wide range of methods to put the practices into operation. If a land trust has adopted *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, however, it indicates that its implementation efforts are consistent with the spirit and intent of the practices.

Sample Board Adoption Resolution

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) requires that all Land Trust Members of LTA adopt *Land Trust Standards and Practices* as their guiding principles. Some public or private funders also ask for such a statement. Below is a sample resolution.

WHEREAS, the [organization] has reviewed *Land Trust Standards and Practices* published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004; and,

WHEREAS, the [organization] agrees that *Land Trust Standards and Practices* are the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the [organization], hereby adopts *Land Trust Standards and Practices* as guidelines for the organization's operations and commits to making continual progress toward implementation of these standards and practices.

date adopted

posted 6/10/05

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**Newton Conservators, Inc.—
Minutes of the Board Meeting
October 25, 2006, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Lalor Burdick, M.G. Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Duane Hillis, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schoeder.

Also attending were Judy Hepburn, Lucy Caldwell-Stair, and Eric Olson.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting of September 27 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine had emailed her financial statements to the board. In a message to Bill Hagar, she wrote that

- she and Larry Burdick plan to meet with Theresa Hauck on November 6, in time to file IRS and state filings on Nov. 15.;
- she will file the Secretary of State's Corporation report;
- Ted Kuklinsky has delivered the Conservator archives to her basement.

Trail Guides: Lucy explained that she delivers copies to Newtonville Books, our biggest customer, and to New England Mobile Bookfair, and mails those ordered through our web site. Ann sends copies to each new member. About 500 copies remain. She and Judy are willing to prepare a new edition, and it is thought that Pat Robertson will also help. (A number of additions will be needed, and there may be a problem of too many pages to use the simplest binding of 2 staples.) Henry will coordinate their work with the board. He, Bill Hagar, Dan Brody, and Cris volunteered to work with Judy, Lucy, and Pat in a committee to carry out the project. A MOTION to form this committee was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Lucy asks that members send all corrections and additions to her at Stair@comcast.net.

Aqueducts: Henry reported that Martha Horn has told him she has no involvement with the aqueducts (unlike Helen Heyn), and referred him to DPW; Elaine Gentile was suggested as a resource in City Hall for questions about the Cochituate aqueduct. The MWRA has given him the “go ahead” with the Sudbury Aqueduct. He proposes that we request CPA funding to do as Wellesley does, with kiosks and markers. Costs and types of signage were discussed, as well as the five privately owned parcels. Ted has researched types of signage, and Margaret Doris suggested consulting David Taylor, the facilities director at Fessenden School.

Removing invasive plants project: Eric Olson, currently at the Heller School at Brandeis, has talked with Dan Driscoll about having his students attack invasives

on the Charles River Pathway. He explained how he and 12 graduate students have been attacking Japanese knotweed along trails; as an undergraduate ecology dept. is being organized, he will also have undergraduates. The NNHS Advanced Placement biology students will also provide manpower. What he needs are tools, for which he is preparing an application for a small grant, and he would like the Conservators to be the conduit for this. After discussion, Peter made a MOTION that we work with the knotweed task force to write grant proposals for the purchase of tools and equipment to attack invasives. After discussion of the question of liability insurance, it was agreed that we can help raise the money and give the tools to the task force. Eric SECONDED and the motion was unanimously APPROVED. It was also noted that Home Depot may donate tools.

Dexter Woods: Bill read emails between him and Bob Zeeb, and reported that he, Cris, and Beth had met with the donors of the land. Cris said that they are supportive of our attacking the invasives. Carolyn Fine-Friedman suggested we contact their arborist, Rolf Bridge, and said she will pay for his estimate. Mr. Bridge suggests the neighbors be invited to attend when he evaluates the trees.

Crystal Lake: Ted reported on recent developments, and said that he had conveyed to the Mayor the Conservators' willingness to help in negotiations. There will be a meeting in early November at the Library [The meeting has been set for Monday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 PM in the Druker Room at the Library.] Eric raised the question of whether this fits our mission, as it is a recreation project, not open space. This led to considerable discussion, with the weight of opinion favoring our involvement.

Walks and Hikes: The coming Sunday at Cutler Park is the last of the season; this 5 ½ mile hike has attracted as many as 30 people in the past. Ted said 18 people came to the walk at the Blue Heron Bridge last Sunday, even with the Angino Farm festival at the same time.

Talks: Peter Alden will speak on Invasive Species on November 28.

Angino Farm:

- **Sunday Event:** the event was a great success, with some 300 visitors.
- **Asian Pear trees for Carol:** Bill said that Greg Maslow suggested that Conservators wishing to donate for a memorial to Carol consider a row of Asian pear trees along Winchester Street. This idea met with favor.

Adjournment at 9:50

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
November 29, 2006, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Dan Brody, Lalor Burdick, Florrie Funk, Dan Green, Duane Hillis, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Beth Schroeder.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the meeting of October 25 were approved as written.

Dexter Woods: Bill reported that arborist Rolf Bridge had come a second time, with neighbors, Beth, and Carolyn Fine Freeman attending; he found “treasures” on the land. The neighbors are interested now, and will remove invasives that they planted. The need to mark our boundaries was noted. All agreed that Bob Zeeb should be the one to write to the City asking removal of trees that present a threat.

Treasurer’s Report: Katherine referred to her financial statements of the previous month, and said things are fine. She and Larry had met with Theresa Houck, CPA, to review the statements, filings, and reporting issues. She filed the required IRS and State documents (990, and Form PC) by the Nov. 15 deadline. Larry added that Theresa Houck has given high praise to Katherine’s financial statements. Regarding the \$1.1M mortgage on the Webster Park property that is awaiting transfer to Habitat, Katherine reported that she had discussed this recently with Eileen McGettigan of the City's Law Department, which prompted a call by Planning to the new Habitat director, who said there was no reason the transfer should not be accomplished before 12/31/06, so that the mortgage could be off our books by year end. Katherine agreed to follow up and to ask Eileen whether we need to request additional legal help from Bill Shaevel.

Ted observed that the other portion still needs to get transferred to the Conservation Commission.

Crystal Lake Property: Bill said that the Mayor wants the City to do the appraisal. AnnaMaria summarized the LWWN observer’s report on the CPC meeting of 11/14, where the Mayor requested CPC funds for the appraisal. Upon discussion, the board decided to do nothing at this time beyond the letter Bill had sent to the TAB.

Committee Reports:

• **Membership:** Peter urgently asks to be replaced on this committee.

For the December membership letter, Dan Green will inquire at Allegra printers about the cost of having the entire mailing done by them and whether it could be done with stamps, to decide whether to let them do it or the traditional mailing. If not, the default option was to be a mailing party at Bill's house.

- **Grants:** No applications have been received while teachers “work to rule.” We need a replacement for Carol Corbett. Meanwhile, Bill will write to the principals and to the science coordinator.

- **Land Trust:** Larry reminded us that the Land Trust Alliance requires us to adopt their “Standards and Practices” in order to continue obtaining their insurance. He distributed copies of the explanation of what adoption means and the sample board adoption resolution (see attached). After reading these and discussing them, a MOTION to adopt the standards was SECONDED by several members and UNANIMOUSLY approved. During the discussion some members observed that these “Standards and Practices” were excellent goals to work towards.

- **Fall Lecture:** Ted pointed out that the following day's “Invasive Alien Plant Update” ties in well with the work of our land management committee; he also asked a few members to come early to help.

- **Trail Guides:** the committee members are collecting corrections and updates. Dan Brody has already updated many entries on the web site.

- **Environmental videos:** Ted has put all the videos on the web, using Britecove.com. with a link to the Conservator web site. See it there, or directly at <http://www.brightcove.com/channel.jsp?channel=291742875>.

Adjournment at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Attachment:

What does “Adoption” of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* Mean?

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the [organization], hereby adopts *Land Trust*

Standards and Practices as guidelines for the organization's operations and commits to making continual progress toward implementation of these standards and practices.

date adopted

posted 6/10/05

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 20, 2006, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 222**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Dan Brody, Lalor Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Cris Criscitiello, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said the only update was that the membership letter had been very effective, leading to many responses.

Dolan Pond Land Transfer: The City lawyer is working on the papers so that Katherine and Bill Shaevel may sign the documents. Lot 2 will go to Habitat for Humanity and Lot 3 to the City, with the Conservators holding the conservation restriction.

The MOTIONS authorizing the President and Treasurer to sign deeds conveying Lot 2 to Habitat for Humanity and Lot 3 to the City of Newton were SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

During discussion about accepting the conservation restriction on Lot 2, members observed that we don't have the actual language of the CR we are asked to accept. Assuming similarity, the language of the CR on Lot 1 was reviewed. Then a MOTION to authorize the President to accept the CR subject to his review of the terms and adequacy of the base line documentation was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Ted said there will be a ground breaking and a plaque in honor of Irene Forte. Larry suggested we have signage announcing that we hold the CR and asking the public to notify us if they observe a problem. Duane added that we need to put permanent markers of the boundaries. Larry will review whether to amend our criteria for accepting CRs to have these marked boundaries.

Membership: Katherine said that over 100 renewals had come in. Bonnie reported a phone call from Betsy Leitch saying she has a life membership, a category that no longer is offered; Anne will look at the data base for names of life members.

We still need a membership chairman to replace Peter; no one volunteered.

Grants: Margaret Albright will join Bill and Anne on the grants committee. She has a list of all the elementary school principals and will contact them. Bill showed us the letter he will send to Newton Public Schools Science Coordinator Jennifer Craddock. (Copy appended.)

Dan Brody's excellent web page about the grants program was noted.

Committee Reports: Cris gave details about the recent Christmas bird count, which will appear in the next Newsletter.

• **Land Management Committee:** Cris will ask Mr. Zeeb to write to the City requesting removal of trees within 6' of the street that threaten homes, as well as encouraging removal of invasives like Norway maples to make room for natives like sugar maples.

• **Ordway Park:** Bernice Auslander is head of the neighbors' committee; they would like to install a plaque in honor of a deceased neighbor. Our policy is not to have such signs.

New Business: Newton Community Farm request: Larry conveyed the Angino Farm cboard's request that the Conservators contribute the \$7500 we had pledged. Katherine, Dan Green and Larry all MOVED that we do so. The motion was SECONDED. In discussion, Peter suggested that we donate with a photo-op, which will help with the fundraising. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

Adjournment at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, INC.

P.O. BOX 590011, NEWTON CENTRE, MA 02159

William Hagar 617-964-2644
Anne Pearson
Margaret Albright
Co-Chairs, Grants Committee

December 20, 2006

Jennifer Craddock
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton 02460

Dear Science Coordinator Craddock:

We would like your assistance in providing Newton School Teachers with information for education-based funding from the Newton Conservators. Newton Conservators Inc. is a citizens group that advocates for Newton's open spaces. We are a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Newton's open space, for wildlife and for the community (<http://www.newtonconservators.org/>). We would like your assistance in passing on information to teachers about the monetary support that the Newton Conservators provides for science projects in the Newton School systems. The Newton Conservators, Inc. provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions. The grants are generally modest in size; requests of between \$250 and \$1000, although smaller and larger grants will be given full consideration. They can be made for a single event, a long-term project, or for multiple year funding. Projects for multiple year funding must be reported upon and resubmitted annually.

Some of the projects funded during the past few years were “Butterfly Gardens”, “Community Gardens”, “The Garden Classroom”, “Science Day Classroom”, “From Cheesecake “Brook to Stellwagen Bank Water Quality Project”, “Walking Wednesday” and “Environmental Education Garden”. These funded proposals were from elementary and middle schools in Newton. We would like to continue supporting these types of educational programs, and welcome your assistance in informing teachers about this opportunity. Grant proposals may be submitted any time during the year. Information on submission guidelines is found on our website (<http://www.newtonconservators.org/grants.htm>). Please let us know if we may provide any other information for these proposals. Please feel free to pass on this email, or the information contained to interested teachers. Thanks again for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Grants Committee
William Hagar(william.hagar@umb.edu)
Anne Pearson
Margaret Albright

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 24, 2007 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Octo Barnett, Cris Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Duane Hillis, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder

Election of Octo Barnett: After he was introduced, a MOTION to elect Octo Barnett to the board was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of December 20: The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said that

- the Webster Park transaction has still not gone through, as the City and Habitat discuss the terms regarding affordability.
- Bruce Phillips and Susan Ericsson have, as in the past, made a gift of \$1000.
- American Legion Post 440, the generous hosts of our annual meetings, has sent a request for contributions to their silent auction during their Winter Wonderland Dinner. Peter offered to donate a framed map of the area (\$125 value). Everyone thanked him warmly.

Memberships: Anne Pearson reported that 310 members have paid this year's dues. 178 memberships expired in December '06, and 49 in '05.

Land Acquisition Committee: The committee met recently. Eric observed that in the recent past, gifts have come to us; now the aim is to go after land, particularly potential pocket parks in densely populated areas. Margaret Doris spoke about the need to inform the public about whom to contact about small properties to be saved; she will write an editorial for the TAB. We could also work to get such properties listed in the City's CIP. The two Margarets will also investigate the Central Congregational Trust, which funds projects in the neighborhoods of its former parishioners; a pocket park on Court Street and the McDonald properties would qualify.

- Octo presented a board with map and photos of land - adjacent to the **Webster Conservation** area - that is behind the parking lot of and owned by **Temple Mishkan Tefila**. A 50-yr. deed restriction imposed when the MDC sold the land has about 25 yrs. left. Octo suggests getting the MDC to swap this land for a site

on the side of the Temple and abutting Hammond Pond Pkwy, as the former has desirable natural features and many trails, while the latter may be of more use to the Temple while having no interest for us. Eric will try to contact the Temple board, which did not respond to his first attempt.

- Eric also reported about the **McDonald property** at 56 Farwell Street. He has drafted a letter to the McDonald Trust offering \$1.4 million contingent on obtaining CPA funding. Margaret Albright said the MWR also has an interest in the land. Another possibility is protecting only a strip of riverfront land.

The current **Crystal Lake** property situation was discussed.

Dexter Road: Rolf Briggs has marked trees to be removed, and will give an estimate after the City decides which trees it will be responsible for.

Spring Walks: Peter named

- May 13: Bird walk - led by Cris
- Memorial Day: walk through Newton Cemetery, jointly with the Newton History Museum – led by Peter
- Walk around Crystal Lake, also jointly with NHM
- Aqueducts walk or bike ride – led by Henry
- Fern walk around the aqueducts – led by Don Lubin

- **Land Management Committee:** Cris will ask Mr. Zeeb to write to the City requesting removal of trees within 6' of the street that threaten homes, as well as encouraging removal of invasives like Norway maples to make room for natives like sugar maples.

Spring Talk: Ted knows some persons interested in animal tracks and wild edibles.

Annual Meeting: Bill announced it will be on May 30. He and Duane will make the arrangements with the same caterer as before, and Ted will speak with Alderman Salvucci.

- **Annual Awards** were discussed. Cris NOMINATED Beth Schroeder for the Charles Maynard award, for initiating and directing the survey of the flora and fauna of all the green areas of Newton (c. 40). The nomination was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. After discussion, it was agreed that the award would go to the entire committee working on it, and Beth should accept it.

- **Annual Meeting Speaker.** Suggestions were Julia Brody, Director of the Silent Spring Institute (Eric)

Peter Alden again (Duane)

Bill Cullina, wildflower expert (Beth)

The author of the biomap for Massachusetts (Cris)

Katherine also mentioned one of her neighbors, Jim Milke in the Attorney General's office, who led the MA suit vs. the US on environmental affairs before the Supreme Court.

Nominating Committee: Peter, Cris, Margaret Doris and I volunteered to serve on it and, to fill the void, I reluctantly agreed to chair it. Members suggested nine potential board members; Anne would tell us who is NC a member.

New Business: The Newsletter: Eric explained that he and Ted will cooperate on material for it and for Ted's Dolan Pond email *Nature News* newsletter. Publishing four issues/year instead of five was discussed, and it was agreed that after the current issue, there will be 4: in February, June, September, and December. We are urged to submit material. Margaret Doris suggested a "Kids' Corner" be added. Duane suggested that an offer to receive it via email be inserted in the Newsletter.

Adjournment at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 28, 2007 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Margaret Doris, Florrie Funk, Dan Green, Duane Hillis, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder.

Also present were Robert Fizek, Ann Hochberg, and Barbara Wales.

Approval of Minutes of January 24: The minutes were unanimously approved as written with minor corrections by the secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine distributed the financial statements for 2006 (attached to the file copy of these minutes). She noted that revenues were slightly favorable, expenses very favorable, as was investment income. For the 2007 budget, insurance cost rose by 1/3; other items will remain unchanged. Katherine also noted that it is time for the audit committee to meet.

Crystal Lake: Robert Fisek reported on the eminent domain taking and asked us to reiterate our support for this. Ann Hochberg, an attorney who was involved in the negotiations, explained that eminent domain was the only way for the City to get clear title to the property, as the multi-million dollar liens on it are forgiven in that process. She explained the steps involved, and suggested the Conservators influence what happens to the property, e.g., after the taking is completed, we could let citizens, also non-members, contribute to us toward betterments.

The board members applauded and congratulated Fisek, and agreed to write to the Mayor congratulating him; also to write a letter of support of the application to the CPA for funding.

Mr. Fisek also told us that the other neighbor to the City beach is ready to move away and favors public ownership.

Duane wanted to go on record: he thinks it is wrong for the City to be using eminent domain, and that acquisition through continued negotiation would have cost less than the legal battles that will now ensue. Ann Hochberg responded that Hammon did not get an alternative assessment on which negotiation could proceed. In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out, among other things, that the CPA limits the City's offer to the appraised value.

We decided that in letters to the TAB and to the CPC we strongly endorse CPC acquisition, without getting into the issue of eminent domain.

Land Management Committee, Dexter Road: Beth gave Cris's report about the Dexter Road trees; the City will take remove some trees for which it is responsible, and we Rolf Briggs will give an estimate for removal of others that he deems dangerous. Katherine argued that given the City's lack of funds for trees, we should pay for all the trees, but the board disagreed.

Nominating Committee: AnnaMaria reported that the committee has met and apportioned the calling of advisors to ask whether they wished to continue. Bill Hagar has agreed to continue as president. The other officers and members present at this meeting also agreed to stay on; those absent will be contacted. Anne had informed us which of the persons suggested at the January meeting for board membership are already NC members, and the committee discussed other possible candidates.

We also mentioned reviving the practice of giving material about the Conservators to local realtors, to give to new residents.

Land Acquisition:

- Eric: attempts to contact persons at Temple Mishkan Tefila. Octo spoke of the vernal pool on one side of the temple and rare plants there.
- There's been no success in contacting relatives about the McDonald property.
- Ted: Alice Wilson of 24 Warren St. called him that day about her property of about 2 acres which abuts the Webster Conservation area: it is on the neighbor. A neighbor seems interested in contributing to keep the space open.

Membership: the committee still lacks a chairman. Bill will write the reminder letter to members who have yet to renew; Margaret Albright agreed to help with editing.

Newsletter: Eric said copies are needed to distribute at talks and walks and in City Hall et. al. AnnaMaria will look into how many remain; if necessary, more will be printed, as this Newsletter is valid through May.

Spring Talk: Ted invited board members to attend, to help and to mingle. He will send PDF copies of the flier to board members to print and post.

Annual Awards: Without need for discussion, Dan Brody was chosen as Environmentalist of the Year for his work on the Conservator web site.

Ted suggested a posthumous acknowledgment to Carol Corbett. Bill agreed, and added that Greg Maslow will plant trees in her memory; Beth and others strongly suggested that native trees be used, not Bradford pears.

Martha Horn, who is retiring this June, will also be acknowledged.

Annual Meeting: is set for May 30 at Post 440. Post officials appreciated the map of the area that Peter took to them to express our appreciation.

Tab Environmental Web Site: Lois Levin, who has been an editor for the TAB's environmental page, plan to set up her own web site, and has asked Cris asking our permission to post our Newsletter articles and Nature Notes on her web site. The board decided to offer only a link to our site.

New Business: Nahanton Park plantings. Duane said Judy Dore had called him the previous day because she has \$7000 for plants in Nahanton Park that must be spent before March 16. (This is probably the remainder of the original landscaping appropriation.)

Beth had quickly emailed the land management team and with their suggestions, worked up a list of native plants that their survey had found missing in the park. She had sent the list, including cost of planting, to Weston Nurseries, so they may send an invoice before the deadline.

Adjournment at 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 28, 2007 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sue Avery, Octo Barnett, Lalor Burdick, Dan Brody, Modestino Criscitiello, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Beth Schroeder.

Also present for the first part of the meeting was Greg Maslowe.

Approval of Minutes of February 28: The minutes were unanimously approved. Next, Bill noted the addition of two items at the beginning of the agenda.

Election of new board member: Cris introduced Maurice (Pete) Gilmore, who has been active with the land survey team. A MOTION to elect him to the board was SECONDED and unanimously approved, as he was welcomed to the board.

Angino Farm trees: Greg Maslowe explained that he is planning permaculture for the farm, and will put multi-story plantings along the edge: fruit trees, with mid-level crops such as blueberries, and low ones such as strawberries or lettuces. He hopes this will serve as a model for people to emulate in their yards. Asian pears will be among the fruit trees: he has placed an order for 25 @\$260 (he needs only a dozen, but 25 cost the same as 12, so some will be given as awards or sold.).

In accordance of our intentions to create a memorial for Carol Corbett, A MOTION by Beth was SECONDED and unanimously approved, to pay for these trees in her memory.

Treasurer's Report: none this month.

Wilson Property: Bill distributed copies of the memorandum that Eric and Octo submitted to Ned Dorn and Peter Wilson on March 19 and had emailed to the board on the 18th – (see attached). After a brief discussion, a MOTION to approve the memorandum was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Larry said this (need to approve or rescind after the event) raised the issue of having an executive committee to act on urgent matters between board meetings. Discussion followed, ending with agreement to consult lawyers among our advisors and to investigate other organizations' handling.

Land Acquisition Committee – information about conservation restrictions:

Beth spoke of a landowner who asked her how to save some land; Henry will call on him about a conservation restriction. This led to agreement on the need for a brochure on the process. Larry said land trust organizations have brochures. [see also <http://walthamlandtrust.org/land/conservation-restrictions/conservation-restrictions-in-massachusetts/>]

Annual Meeting Agenda: Several suggestions of speakers were discussed, and all agreed to ask Greg Maslowe to speak about how homeowners may grow their own food, and to offer him an honorarium. Mentioned for future years were Bill's colleague, Jeffrey Dukes and Brian Donahue.

Membership Committee: As soon as details of the annual meeting are settled, Bill will write the renewal reminder letter with a mention of the event.

Nominating Committee: AnnaMaria reported that in addition to Pete Gilmore, Theresa St.John-Siegel has agreed to serve, and the committee is working on others; we especially would like to have an attorney on the board.

Annual Meeting: is set for May 30 at Post 440. Post officials appreciated the map of the area that Peter took to them to express our appreciation.

Crystal Lake property update: Henry had attended the aldermanic preservation committee meeting the previous day: it voted 7 to 0 to approve \$2.3 million for acquisition. The finance committee meets on the matter on April 9.

Management Committee: Dexter Road: (Cris) The tree warden says the City will soon begin work there.

New Business (as corrected at the April meeting):

- **Land Trust Alliance ('LTA') Standards and Practices ('S&P'):** Larry said that since we have voted to adopt the S&P we should begin the challenging process of implementing them. (Adoption was a requirement of continuing our membership in the LTA and thus qualifying for the insurance package.) A week ago he attended the annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference where there was much discussion about land trust accreditation, which some believe will be essential for any land trust to survive over the long term. Accreditation requires demonstrating full implementation of the S&P for two years and will be difficult for small land trusts to accomplish. We may wish to be in touch with neighboring ones.
- **Insurance:** Larry also explained that our liability insurance package no longer covers canoeing, but the Charles River Canoe Service has insurance for their rentals. People bringing their own canoes to our events may not be covered.
- **Spring lecture:** Ted thanked those who helped at the lecture, which had a much broader attendance than usual thanks to coverage in the GLOBE WEST paper.
- **Annual Awards:** The board agreed on Directors' Awards for Martha Horn on the basis of her retirement, and Catherine for her great service as NC treasurer.
- **Planet Earth** film on the Biography Channel was highly recommended by Duane.

Adjournment at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Attachment to minutes of 3/28/07:

Memorandum

to: Ned Dorn and Peter Wilson

from: Octo Barnett and Eric Reenstierna

date: March 19, 2007

re: proposal for Wilson property

The Newton Conservators wish to submit this proposal for the Wilson property on Elgin and Warren Streets. We have not had a chance yet to meet with the Wilson family to fully know the family's intentions. This proposal is made on the assumption that the Wilson family's intentions are consistent with our own: to preserve as much of the property as possible as open space, while providing the Wilsons a fair price, with a sale to occur without substantial delay. Octo Barnett and Eric Reenstierna would welcome the opportunity to meet with Peter Wilson, Alice Wilson, others in the Wilson family, and Ned Dorn, to make this proposal conform to your desires, so long as its basic provisions result in the protection of the most important open space on the property.

Use – We propose that a surveyor be hired to create the boundaries of a building area at the location of the house. The building area would have 100' road frontage and an area of 15,000 square feet (the minimum requirements for a building lot) and would otherwise conform to Newton's requirements for a building lot. The surveyor would also create the boundaries of a potential future lot on Elgin Street with similar dimensions. Both lots would be on the west side of the site and would use the existing west boundary as one of the lot lines.

The Wilsons would sell the entire property to a buyer who would gain the right to use the building area where the house is.

The Wilsons would sell the Newton Conservators a "no build" and "no disturbance" easement on the rest of the property that is outside the building area on Warren Street, for nominal consideration (\$1.00). This would prevent development of the majority of the property, especially the land along the brook and east of the brook.

The Wilsons would retain the right to obtain subdivision approval, to create the second lot on Elgin Street. The Wilsons would retain the right to re-purchase this second lot, for \$1.00. The Wilsons could sell this right to a builder, who would need to go through an approval process with the City of Newton. If the builder obtained approval, the Conservators would be required to exempt this lot from the "no build" easement, to allow the builder to proceed.

By this method, the Wilsons are able to sell the most valuable part of the property as quickly as a house is ordinarily sold. They are also able to benefit financially from the potential sale of a second lot. They may be eligible to benefit from tax advantages in granting the Conservators the "no build" easement. The advice of an estate planner and a tax advisor would be necessary to determine whether advantages of this kind are available.

Price – We expect that the value of the lot with the house on Warren Street is in excess of \$1,000,000, given that it is adjacent to conservation land that would be under the protection of the Conservators, as well as other land of the City.

We expect that an additional amount up to \$1,000,000 may be available from the sale of the second lot. This lot would require a longer time frame for approval, and approval appears to be uncertain, because of the status of the road as only a paper street. It cannot be known whether this second lot is available until some party goes through an approval process.

Timing – The Conservators have not had a formal meeting of its Board of Directors. Our next scheduled meeting is March 28. We have had informal discussions by email over the past two days, in order to be able to present this proposal to you. Presuming that we vote to accept the easement we propose above, we would be ready to “close” on this agreement whenever you settle on a buyer for the house and when that party is ready to close.

We hope that this proposal addresses your needs. It meets our goals, which are to protect open space. It recognizes that the City can take a long time in approving an acquisition, so it leaves the City out and avoids delay. (It may be that we would approach the City to acquire the rights for the second lot at a fair price. It may also be possible to obtain financial help from an abutter for a purchase of those rights.)

We would enjoy the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further.

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 25, 2007 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Modestino Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, Duane Hillis, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder, Larry Smith, and Theresa St.John-Siegel.

Introductions: Bill introduced Larry Smith and later, Theresa St.John Siegel, both of whom will join the board. They were warmly welcomed.

Approval of Minutes of March 28 The minutes were approved as modified by an expansion of Larry's comments about Land Trust Standards and Practices, and of addition of names omitted from the list of those present: Larry and Beth Schroeder.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine will e-mail the quarterly report. The audit committee has met and found all in order.

Land Management Committee:

- The tax rate under Chapter 61b classification was briefly discussed.
- The bill to legalize using CPA funds for artificial turf at schools was discussed, and the board agreed that the president will write a statement to the TAB objecting to this use of the funds.

Nominating Committee: AnnaMaria named the four members who are leaving the board: Florrie Funk, Carole Herman, Duane Hillis, and Bill Stone. Five new members who will be elected at the annual meeting are: Octo Barnett, Maurice Gilmore, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, and Theresa St.John-Siegel. In addition to the officers, this will bring the board membership to 18; our by-laws permit 21 at annual meeting, plus 3 whom the board may elect during the year. Duane Hillis will remain as a treasured advisor. AnnaMaria thanked the other members of the committee for their good work (Cris Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, and Peter Kastner.)

Membership Committee: Bill will write the reminder letter to Conservators who have not yet renewed their membership, in time to mention the upcoming annual meeting.

Annual Meeting & publicity for it:

- Bill handed out copies of the agenda, to which Beth amusedly noted that it renames the Conservators' Land Management Committee to "Newton Flora and Fauna Committee."
- The two Margarets agreed to take care of publicity for the Annual meeting.
- Bill will ask Doug to prepare certificates for the award recipients, and also to award the Director's Award to Martha Horn.
- Greg Maslowe will be asked to write up his speech for use in the Newsletter.

- It was agreed to prepare name tags for the Annual meeting dinner.

Spring Walks: Octo reported that the Webster Woods walk was a great success; the 20 or so participants, including many children, showed much enthusiasm for the vernal pool. Sue Avery undertook to write an article about it for the Newsletter.

TV Programs: Duane announced that two programs will be devoted to Peter Alden's talk. Greg Maslowe's talk might be televised for another program. Duane said new blood is needed for the programs, e.g., David Backer and the ESP participants; Cris joined him in stressing that the editing is very time-consuming, and help is needed, possibly by hiring someone. Margaret Doris suggested perhaps getting knowledgeable high school students to help.

Awards: Duane described New TV's annual "Red Carpet" awards, which give internships to the recipients. Money is raised by selling space in the program for the event. In light of the great support we've had from NewTV, Duane MOVED that we fund the inside front cover or the back one for \$500. Eric SECONDED the motion, which was APPROVED without opposition. Margaret Albright will get the information, and the board hopes Pat Robertson may create the page. Margaret Doris will ask NewTV to run the text also on the air.

Next board meeting: For May we have the annual meeting; the next regular board meeting will be on June 27. We will also meet in July, and omit an August meeting.

New Business:

- **ESP:** There has been no request so far for the usual \$2000 for scholarships. The board voted to grant \$2000, conditioned on a conversation with David Backer.
- **Farwell Street Property:** Eric reported that the 2 acre parcel on the Charles River which we had hoped the City would acquire for \$1.4 million has been bought by the abutter for \$2 million, commenting "That's one that got away."
- **Temple Mishkan Tefila land:** Eric has not had a response to his call about protecting 11 acres adjacent to the Webster Conservation land.
- **Wabasso Street:** The owner of the sole house on Wabasso St.(off Riverview Ave. in Auburndale, abutting Rumford Ave. landfill) has died. The City wants to acquire the property, and Martha Horn has asked the Conservators to pursue this.

Eric added that he hopes new board members will join the land acquisition committee.

- **Wilson Property:** Octo and Eric have submitted our memo; the broker has called, and will meet them on Monday. This may be merely a courtesy call; the property is on the market for \$2Million.
- **Conservator web site:** Dan Brody showed that the web site is clearly visible on palm pilots, cell phones, etc.
- **Newsletter:** Bonnie announced that she will be away June 1-16, so if the Newsletter is to go out during that time, someone else needs to take charge; she will leave a detailed description, in her words “a recipe” of what needs to be done.

Adjournment at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary