

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

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, and Larry Smith.
Also present: David Backer and Louise Levingston.

Approval of Minutes of April 25: minutes were approved as written.

Annual Meeting Review: Bill remarked that everything went very well except that vegetarian food ran out for some who had ordered it. A sign will be used next year to avoid a repetition.

Newsletter: was mailed on June 14, but had not been delivered.

TV programs: Ted said that the video of the annual meeting will probably be used for our next program, in August.

Dexter Woods: Bill reported that NStar has removed a number of trees, and that Chris is monitoring what goes on and explaining to neighbors, many of whom are increasingly interested and approving.

Land Management Committee: Wilson Property (at Elgin and Warren Sts., containing the last unprotected segment of Webster Brook): Eric explained that the family wish to see the property protected; our role is to make a deal with the property owners, then turn it over to the CPA, as we have done before. The immediate neighbors are very active and organized, and plan to raise \$100,000 toward acquisition or conservation restriction; Ken Kimmel has participated in Eric's and Wilsons' discussions. The Land Management Committee recommends that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 2+ acre lot be acquired or put under a conservation restriction, and that the Board authorize the use of up to \$5000 to accompany the offer and fund appraisal and other necessary studies, with reimbursement to be sought from the CPC.

After considerable discussion of the details, a MOTION to authorize the President to negotiate the recommendations of the Land Acquisition Committee was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Next, a MOTION to approve the Conservators' holding on behalf of the Wilsons' neighbors the funds they raise if the proposal goes through was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Environmental Science Program (camera purchase): David Backer began by thanking for the Conservators' contribution to ESP, which had more applications for scholarships this year than in the past. Bill responded by thanking David for his help at the annual meeting. Then he presented his proposal for purchase of a camcorder to be jointly owned by the Conservators and ESP. (see attached). It would produce much better videos for our programs as well as eliminate the cumbersome negotiations to borrow equipment from NewTV. Paul Roberts of Newtonville Camera has given advice and offers sell it at the store's cost. Ted proposed adding \$150 for an editor as well. A MOTION to appropriate \$1300 for purchase of this equipment was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Creem Bill to amend the CPA: AnnaMaria described the Senate Bill #137 to permit more uses of CPA funds. Jane will cast her lawyer eye on it, and the rest of the board will also look into it (see June 27 TAB).

Forte Property: Ted and Eric Olsen are pulling out garlic mustard at Dolan Pond; Ann Phelps, the new Conservation Commissioner stopped by, and was informed about the Conservators.

Habitat has selected two families for the units there, and Ted is hopeful the City and Habitat will soon reach a compromise.

Ted also reported that Alderman Parker is looking for sponsors for his new web site, and that violations may be found at the MacDonald property along the Charles near Cheese Cake Brook.

Louise Levingston: Mrs. Levingston attended to learn about the Conservators. She regaled us with information about Crystal Lake and her role over the years, which led to the naming of the Levenson Park on Lake Street in her honor.

Water Chestnuts: Larry gave the good news that the State, with funds that needed to be spent by June 30, is harvesting water chestnuts in part of the Lake Region of the Charles..

Board meeting schedule: AnnaMaria has obtained the room assignments for this year's meetings – see attached. Next meeting is July July 25, no meeting in August.

Adjournment: at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Newton Conservator Board Meetings 2007-08
4th Wednesday (except Dec.), 7:30 PM
City Hall

DATE	ROOM
July 25 _____	202
August 22? _____	222
September 26 _____	222
Oct. 24 _____	222
Nov. 28 _____	202
Dec. 19? 12?) or skip?	Dec. 12: 222
Jan. 23 _____	222
Feb. 27 _____	222
Mar. 26 _____	222
Apr. 23 _____	222
May 28 – annual meeting?	
June 25 _____	222

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

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter (8:40), Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski (part), Anne Pearson, Beth Schroeder, Jane Sender, and Larry Smith.

Approval of Minutes of June 27: minutes were approved as written.

30 Wabasso Street: Ted explained that the Community Preservation Committee is asking the Newton Conservators to hold the conservation restriction on this property that is contiguous to the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area and which the City wishes to acquire. A discussion of the stewardship responsibilities involved. Anne emphasized the stricter enforcement by the IRS and by the Land Trust Alliance of requirements for holders of conservation restrictions. After considerable discussion, a MOTION to approve the following statement, to be read at the CPC meeting that was occurring concurrently, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED:

“We, the board of directors of the Newton Conservators, voted unanimously that we are in favor of the CPC purchase of the 30 Wabasso Street property. Before accepting the conservation restriction, we need to negotiate with the City on the details – especially the cost of the initial baseline survey, to be borne by the City, and that the City will enforce compliance if we find violations.”

AnnaMaria delivered the statement to Ted Kuklinsky while he was speaking on the matter at the CPC meeting, whereupon he read it to the CPC.

Treasurer’s Report: - Katherine is working on filings - IRS Form 990 and State Form PC are due 8/15. They have been sent to Theresa Houck for review and Katherine and Larry Burdick will meet with Theresa on 8/1.

Katherine said a new IRS requirement is that we list all the CRs that we hold, and asked for details of the Elgin Street (Wilmerding) CR and any others we hold. It was agreed that the Awtrey easement is not a conservation restriction, and that the Dolan Pond CR has not been transacted yet.

Lisle Baker popped in at this moment, and suggested we contact Steve Small about reviewing the stepped up IRS interest in conservation restrictions.

Also, the IRS asks whether we have a code of conduct. [See appended Katherine’s message of July 15, which I saw after the meeting. AnnaMaria]

Land Management Committee : Dexter Woods: Beth reports that her team has given the neighbors the list of plants that they may introduce; they accepted this. One neighbor warned that if another tree falls on his property, he will sue.

Wilson property: no negotiations yet.

Creem Bill to Amend the CPA: Margaret asserted that the bill is dead for this session. She referred us to the article in Commonwealth Magazine about the inequities of the CPA. [see http://www.massinc.org/index.php?id=646&pub_id=2130]

Jane suggested we invite Doug Dickson to a meeting – to explain the issue and how he voted on it. The board agreed to AnnaMaria’s suggestion that we study the issue and discuss it in September.

Website update: Dan Brody explained the pages giving the history of Avery Woods that he has sent to board members; the documents indicate that current parking violates the terms of the original deed and subsequent agreement with the heirs, and Margaret explained further. The board agreed that the pages should be on the web site.

TV Programs: Frank thanked Dan Brody and Ted for the “UTube effect” on our site. Producing a program every other month is a problem, so he and Ted have decided to repeat the original Angino Farm video, followed by that of the annual meeting and of the September one on edible plants. Ted said that ESP will do a program using the new camera.

Fall Talk: Ted announced that John Root will speak on September 20 about “Edible Plants of New England.” He noted that Beth Purcell has left the library, but expects the joint sponsorship of the talks to continue.

New Business:

- **30 Wabasso St.** Ted, who had returned from across the hall, said the CPC thanked us for our motion. They had decided not to make a decision this evening, as they want more information. The owners have agreed to the price of \$355,000, subject to a September closing.

- **Warren Street:** no formal proposal yet.

- **230 Lake Avenue:** This property, which abuts the Hannon property on Crystal Lake, is on the market for \$2 million. The City is eager to acquire it; appraisal about to be done.

- The Conference of National State Legislators meets in Boston in August; program includes a look at Angino Farm and the Forte property.

- **Forte Property:** a compromise between the City and Habitat is in the works.

• **Carol Corbett Memorial:** Ted recounted that the Ward 3 Democratic Committee has dedicated a maple tree at the West Newton Common to Carol – an appropriate memorial, as she was responsible for the existing trees there and this one fills a void.

• **Angino Pear Trees:** Bill reported that he has been helping plant strawberries at the farm - noting that mulch is 5 sheets of newspaper covered by wood chips. Ted Chapman of the Farm Board has requested that 4 street trees along Winchester St. be removed because they shade the farm plantings.

Katherine said that the pear trees we donated in memory of Carol Corbett have been planted, and have been defoliated by winter moths - and that there are objections to removing the four healthy street trees.

Adjournment: at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Katherine's July 15 email:

ello - I am working on the NC 990 filing due 8/15/07. As we have discussed in past (emails from Larry etc) there are new submission requirements regarding easements. Can you please review the questions below (990 Sched A instructions) and can someone get me the required info (location, acreage, inspection activities) for any easements we have? I THINK but am not certain that our only easement currently is Elgin/Wilmerding, and that 76 Webster Park will have an easement but that will happen when the transfer to Habitat takes place in 2007. Please email me or call me at work 617-363-8253. thanks!

Line 3c. Conservation easements. • Answer “Yes” if the organization received or held one or more conservation fees easements during the year. In general, an easement is an interest in the land of another. A conservation easement is an interest in the land of another for purposes that include environmental protection; the preservation of open space; or the preservation of property for historic, educational, or recreational purposes. For more information see arrangements Notice 2004-41, 2004-28 I.R.B. 31.

Attached schedule. If Yes, the organization must attach a schedule that includes the following information:

1. The number of easements held at the beginning of the year, the acreage of these easements and the number of states where the easements are located.
2. same as #1 but for any easements rec'd or acquired during the year.
3. The number of easements modified, sold, transferred, released, or terminated during the year . For each easement explain reason for the modification, sale, transfer, release or termination. Also, identify the recipient (if any), and show if the recipient was a sponsoring qualified organization (as defined in section 170(h)(3) and the related regulations at the time of transfer).
4. show the # of easements held for each of categories: buildings/structures, golf courses or portion thereof, adjacent to residential development and housing subdivisions, Conservation Easements that were acquired in a transaction described in Purchase of Real Property from Charitable Organizations
5. # easements and acreage of easements that were monitored by physical inspection or other means during the year
6. total staff hours and a list of expenses devoted to monitoring and enforcing new and existing

easements during the tax year.

7. id all easements on buildings/structures acquired after 8/17/06..

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
September 26, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Susan Avery; Octo Barnett, Larry Burdick, Cris Criscitiello, Margaret Doris (part), Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Greer Hardwicke, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder, and Jane Sender.

Habitat Groundbreaking Ceremony: Frank Howard showed slides of the ceremony at Webster Park on September 19. Bill read the message of thanks that he had sent to Bill Shavel, who had worked indefatigably to bring the project to fruition but was not able to attend. Ted, who initiated and steered the project, spoke of the many others who had helped, and the board applauded him and ourselves.

Next, as there were several new members, everyone introduced him/herself.

Approval of the Minutes of July 25: the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: - Katherine has received a check for \$10 from Habitat for Humanity – a \$9 gain from the \$1 we paid for the property!

- Katherine also reported on the Tree Commission: a compromise has been reached about the four big maple trees on Winchester St. that the Farm Committee wanted removed: the two middle ones are to be cut down and new smaller trees planted in their stead.
- Lucy Stair asks that she be replaced as the NC contact with the Volunteer Office; we agreed to give Bev Droz our board/web email address for communications.
- Katherine would like help with the many boxes in her basement; Peter will investigate finding inexpensive storage space, and several members agreed to help purge the files.

Crystal Lake: 230 Lake Avenue: the Community Preservation Commission was meeting at the same time as we, to discuss acquisition of the property at 230 Lake Avenue, which would complete City ownership of the entire portion between the Levingston Park and the original swimming site. A MOTION to send a message stating the board of the Newton Conservators supports this acquisition was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Peter departed to bring it to the CPC.

Wilson property: Octo reported on the state of negotiations with a prospective purchaser and there was lengthy discussion of the possibilities regarding the Wilson property; Lyle Baker, who is working on the matter, stopped in at this time to tell where things stood.

Fall Walks and Talks: Frank observed that with our mailing permit, newsletters are delivered in one to three weeks; hence many had not received the letter in time for Don

Lubin's ferns walk, which was attended by 10. The fall newsletter will have to be earlier, and email used where available; Ted and Eric are in process of coordinating the Newton Conservators Nature Notes email news and our printed newsletter.

Ted reported that about 50 people were at the lecture about edible plants. Ellen Meyers (who has taken over the position of Public Relations Director from Beth Purcell) and her assistant Margaret Ford succeeded in finding Russ Cohen (John Root's suggestion) to speak on "edible plants" when our originally scheduled speaker John Root called in sick the day before the lecture; Cohen's excellent lecture was recorded by Frank Howard and will be used for a pair of episodes of our Environmental Show on NewTV.

Ted also announced that our October TV program will feature Greg Maslowe's talk at the annual dinner which was filmed and will be edited by Duane Hillis. Newton Conservators videos (Environmental Show and others) on our Brightcove website have already had over 1100 views thus far.

[See <http://www.brightcove.tv/channel.jsp?channel=291742875/>]

New Business:

- **Data Processing:** Anne needs to turn over the data files (on Microsoft ACCESS) to someone else before November. Katherine proposed that a committee work on this; she and Anne will work with Greer and Bonnie (who is knowledgeable on the issue and was not there to demur.)
- **Cheesecake Brook and MWRA**:** Margaret Albright learned at a meeting of MWRA that the agency plans to install a new water pipe beside Cheese Cake Brook. She suggests we push the MWRA to restore the path properly. Meanwhile the CPA project is on hold, with no successor to Bob Rooney at Public Works. Anne Phelps, who has succeeded Martha Horne as Environmental Planner for Newton, has called a meeting with MWRA representatives for Wednesday, October 3, at 3 PM at the Library; Ted will try to be there to represent the Conservators.
- **Land Acquisition Committee:** Margaret Doris has ideas about how to get obtain bridge funding when immediate action is needed, and is joining the committee.
- **Temple Mishkan Tefila:** Eric noted that the Temple would like access to the Mall road (rather than Hammond Pond Parkway), and that this might be a bargaining point for protecting land adjoining the Webster Conservation area.
- **Wabasso Street:** Ted said we should contact aldermen to urge the acquisition.

Adjournment: at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

**Margaret Albright's corrections to the September minutes substitute the first paragraph on Cheesecake Brook with the following:

* Cheesecake Brook and MWRA: Margaret Albright has been invited to a meeting with DPW, Anne Phelps and MWRA to discuss the MWRA's plans to install a new water main beside Cheese Cake Brook. She suggests we push the MWRA to work with the city to install the path beside the brook and bring storm drainage up to standards. Meanwhile the CPA project to design and create the pathway and replace the bridges is in slow motion, with no successor to Bob Rooney at Public Works.

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

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Susan Avery; Octo Barnett, , Cris Criscitiello, Henry Finch, Greer Hardwicke, Katherine Howard, Anne Pearson, Beth Schroeder, and Larry Smith.

Approval of the Minutes of September 26: AnnaMaria read the amendment to the that Margaret Albright requested that the first three sentences of the paragraph about Cheesecake Brook be amended as follows: “

* Cheesecake Brook and MWRA: Margaret Albright has been invited to a meeting with DPW, Anne Phelps and MWRA to discuss the MWRA's plans to install a new water main beside Cheese Cake Brook. She suggests we push the MWRA to work with the city to install the path beside the brook and bring storm drainage up to standards. Meanwhile the CPA project to design and create the pathway and replace the bridges is in slow motion, with no successor to Bob Rooney at Public Works.”

The minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: - Katherine noted that she had emailed the third quarter income statement; there were no questions apart from ascertaining the definition of “unrealized gains or losses.” She also reported that she had filed the Secretary of State's Annual Report.

Crystal Lake: 230 Lake Avenue: Bill reported on the Community Preservation Committee's discussion at the previous evening, and its vote of 7-2 to recommend acquisition of the property Bill had followed up on our vote in September with a letter of support to the CPC. The board decided not to send a similar letter to the TAB, now that the vote had occurred, and because members disagreed on whether the wording of Bill's draft implied that the existing house would be torn down; see appended.

Dexter Woods: Sue had attended a neighborhood block party at Dexter Woods, and found neighbors enthusiastic about planting blueberries and yellow root to stabilize the slope; they helped her do this. She added some NNHS students are also interested and helping. Cris updated us on the trees that needed to be removed; after the City and N-Star removed many of those marked as dangerous, only two remain. McKinney Tree Service will remove these and grind down some remaining stumps for \$1000 (in contrast to the earlier estimate of \$5000.)

Land Management Committee:

• **38 Wabasso St.** Bill received from Alice Ingerson shortly before our meeting the text of the conservation restriction on 30 Wabasso Street. It makes no reference to the initial base line analysis or who is responsible for enforcement. Greer suggested we obtain a

memorandum of agreement about these. Bill planned to attend the Conservation Commission meeting the following day.

- **Newton Almanac:** Beth announced a group would meet on Nov. 27 at 7 PM at her home to begin work on an almanac listing the times of flowering or appearance of all the flora and fauna in the Newton open spaces; she invites all who are interested in this work. Eric Reenstierna will discuss the need to maintain open meadows for songbirds. Henry suggested starting a Google blog for it.

TV Programs: ESP program: Frank Howard is working on a TV program with the ESP group, using the camcorder we bought for them.

Potential speaker: Cris said that Pete Gilmore had spoken to him about Sam Jaffe, a senior at Brown U. He has studied all the flora and fauna in Cold Spring Park, and may be a speaker in our series of talks at the Library.

Committee Updates:

- **Data Processing:** Anne reported on the meeting with Katherine and Greer: Greer has agreed to take over the data base as is for now, and the committee will investigate possibilities for possibly changing to FileMakerPro and outsourcing the work. Greer was warmly thanked.

- **Wilson Property:** Octo described the ongoing issues about the Wilson property..

- **Temple Mishkan Tefila:** Octo reiterated Eric's statement that the Temple would like access to the Mall road (rather than Hammond Pond Parkway), and that this might be a bargaining point for protecting land adjoining the Webster Conservation area.

- **CheeseCake Brook Water Main project:** Margaret Albright said the MWRA has no interest in a bikeway or in mitigating water problems. She described the very expensive project to pipe water ultimately to the Charles River. She was to meet with our State Representatives the following day to see what can be done.

Trail Guide: Bill inquired about the status of a new edition; Katherine said that Lucy had agreed to work on it with the original collaborators, Pat Robinson and Judy Hepburn, but set no date. **Meanwhile, board members are requested to send Lucy corrections and updates.**

Adjournment: at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary.

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

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Susan Avery; Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Cris Criscitiello, Margaret Doris, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Greer Hardwicke, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Beth Schroeder, Jane Sender, and Larry Smith.

Also present for part of the meeting, re 230 Lake St.: Doris Sasson.

Approval of the Minutes of October 24: The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Crystal Lake: 230 Lake Avenue: Bill started the discussion of Alice Ingerson's request that the Conservators be willing to hold the conservation restriction on the property. The aldermanic cpc committee would like to know that we are interested in the project.

A number of questions were discussed at length, including

- we do not know whether the cr would include the house, nor whether the house will be preserved and for what use. The house in Kennard Park is a model that has not been brought up.
- the proposed cr is the standard boilerplate, which does not address many of the characteristics of this site. E.g., it would not permit a beach.

Finally, the following response was approved: "We [The Newton Conservators] welcome the opportunity to hold the conservation restriction on 230 Lake Street, pending agreement on the details. We look forward to working with the City on this project."

A MOTION to approve was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Crystal Lake:230 Lake Avenue – Fundraising: Ted reported Robert Fizek, leader of the *A better Crystal Lake* group, is asking for our help with fundraising; the CPC requires proponents to have a fund raising plan. It was agreed to take no formal action at this time.

Conservation Restrictions listed: Katherine Howard, who was unable to attend, informs us that she has the complete list of CRs we hold.

Land Management Committee:

- **Hyde Brook:** Eric reported that Mrs. Galdston of Hyde Ave., abutting the Conservators' Awtrey land, has offered us a small piece of her land that also runs through Hyde Brook. The land management committee has visited the property. Eric indicated to Mrs. Galdston our desire for a gift to help maintain land we are given.

Dan Green objected that we put ourselves at risk by accepting ownership when we don't need to – i.e., when either a conservation restriction or a gift to the City would achieve the same purpose; we could hold the cr without incurring expense or liability.

Cris's reservation was that only the neighbors have access to this land; but Beth pointed out that access exists via the Awtrey easement. It was agreed that Eric will investigate the alternatives with Mrs. Galdston.

Membership Committee 2008 mailings: We still have no membership committee chairman; Bill will write the December renewal letter [*secretary's note: and Margaret Albright last year volunteered to help edit them.*] The board discussed combining this mailing with the Dec. newsletter, and decided for separate mailings, as first class mail gets attention that a newsletter insert does not. Greer will provide two sets of labels; Bill and Anne volunteered to help stuff the envelopes.

- **Newton Almanac:** The group met on the preceding evening, and decided to begin work on the months from March to May. They assigned general tasks (e.g., data, photography, newsletter), and each member adopted one conservation area for the first investigations. Greer added that she has a friend who is interested in planting native species at a site in Newton. The group will meet again on Dec. 18 at Jane's home.

Committee Updates:

- **Spring Lecture:** Ted said that Sam Jaffe, who graduated from Brown University this year, will probably speak on the flora and fauna in Cold Spring Park.

- **Dolan Pond Newsletter:** Ted also said his next email "Dolan Pond" newsletter will appear shortly, and invited members to send him any news to post.

- **NewTV:** Duane has completed the program featuring Greg Maslowe's annual meeting lecture.

- **Lois Levin:** Ted said that Lois Levin is requesting articles for her environmental page in the TAB.

Also, she is organizing a

"Bike Newton: Making Newton a Bicycle-safe City" on May 18, 1 pm at the War Memorial. She would like Conservator support. A MOTION that the Conservators cosponsor the event was **SECONDED** and approved, with one negative vote.

- **Wilson Property:** Octo reported that the land is being sold, and that the new owner is willing to consider a conservation restriction.

New Business:

• **Bloomingtondale “Shopping Benefit”** Ted explained that each year, Bloomingtondales’s invites about 40 organizations to participate in this fund raiser. Those organizations sell tickets for \$10, keeping the proceeds. They also may receive some of the gate revenue from shoppers using the tickets. He gave full details, and said that Habitat and Green Decade have already accepted. While Jane observed that Bloomie’s is not exactly our kind of shop, all agreed that the advantage of the publicity from Bloomie’s ads and handouts featuring our mission statement will be valuable. A MOTION to join was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

• **Next Meeting: December 19.**

Adjournment: at 930 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary.

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 19, 2007, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 222**

Present Bill Hagar (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Susan Avery, Dan Brody, Cris Criscitiello, Dan Green, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Jane Sender, Theresa St. John-Siegel

Also present for part of the meeting was Robert Fizek, for Citizens for a Better Lake.

Approval of the Minutes of November 28 The minutes were unanimously approved after a correction: Sam Jaffe graduated from Brown University in June 2007.

Membership Committee: The membership letter went out, and had been received by several board members; a few reported empty envelopes.

Crystal Lake:230 Lake Avenue: Bill introduced Robert Fizek, who reviewed the status of the proposal for City acquisition: it had been approved – with many abstentions – at a joint meeting of the aldermanic Programs & Services and community preservation committees, and was to come before the Finance Committee and the Mayor. Fizek's group is working to establish a Crystal Lake Conservancy for fund raising.

Following discussion of 1 2/3 hours , The following MOTION was **SECONDED** and **APPROVED** without opposition: "In principle we support holding contributions - up to the amount permissible under IRS reporting regulations - on behalf of the Crystal Lake Conservancy, subject to review by our Treasurer."

Bill then thanked Mr. Fizek, who left the meeting.

It was agreed put the fund raising information on our E-Newsletter and on the Conservator web site.

Relating to the above, AnnaMaria reported on a letter from Andree and RichardWilson requesting that the dates and locations of our board meetings be publicized in our newsletter and easily found on our web site. They also pointed out that their life membership status was not being recognized and they were being asked for annual dues.

Hyde Avenue/Galdston offer: Beth reported that she had spoken with Anne Phelps, the City's Environmental Planner; the Conservation Commission would have to approve any City action on the land. The board is awaiting Eric's report on his discussion with the property owner.

Dan Green argued emphatically against our owning land and incurring liability. Owners wishing to preserve land should donate it to the City and have us hold the CR, or simply

give us a CR. Cris reminded us that Carolyn Fine Friedman had insisted that the Dexter Woods donation be directly to the Conservators.

Dan Green agreed to investigate further and report.

Committee Updates:

• **Newton Almanac:** the committee's December meeting was cancelled (snow), and has been rescheduled for Jan. 15

• **Bloomingtondale's "Shopping Benefit" of Feb. 27:** Ted reported that Katherine has done the paper work for our participation. Our obligation will be to have two volunteers at the event for three hours each.

• **Green Decade proposal:** Ted reported a GDB suggestion that we promote a double membership for \$40 to help each organization get new members. The board's feeling is rather to promote each other in our newsletters, without joint memberships.

• **Trail Guide:** Bill will inquire about progress on the update undertaken by the three original authors.

• **Visibility:** Ted reiterated that we need more visibility, suggesting

-the possibility of t-shirts or caps

-participating in more local events

-getting our newsletter to Globe West

-offering some of our newsletter items to Lois Levin for the TAB

Cris also suggested that the Library policy on posting newsletters seems to have changed, so that will be looked into.

New Business:

• **Heritage Landscape Inventory:** Ted reported the request by Amy Yuhasz, the Community Development Program Manager in the Planning Department, that we support the Planning Department's proposal to the Community Preservation Committee for \$10,000 "for consultant services to prepare a Historic Landscape Inventory for Newton." He MOVED that we send a letter of support for the CPA proposal for a "Historic Landscape Inventory." the motion was SECONDED and APPROVED by a vote of 7 pro, 1 anti, 1 abstention. Several board members noted that much of the inventory information already is at hand, e.g., the work on the Newton Almanac.

Adjournment: at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary.

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 23, 2008
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Susan Avery, Dan Brody, Cris Criscitiello, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, Larry Smith

Also present for part of the meeting Bob Persons.

Approval of the Minutes of December 19: The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine distributed the reports for 2007, noting that expenses had been below budget as usual, and that we had \$13,000 extra income.

Walks and Talks:

- **Walks:** Ted said that Jon Regosin is planning some Farm nature-related events that we may consider adding to our walk schedules. Katherine suggested we add some activities to the walks – e.g., removing invasives; this may attract more interest. Later, Peter arrived and said he will send out information in the coming weeks, in time for the March Newsletter.
- **Talks:** Ted has reserved the Library room for March 19 at 7 PM; tentatively Sam Jaffe will speak about Cold Spring Park. [next day addition: note that Sam has expressed the need for more time to prepare, so we will likely have an alternate speaker this time – suggestions welcome.]

Committee Reports:

- **Almanac Committee:** Beth announced it will meet next Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7 PM, at Cris's home (2 Raeburn Terr. Newton, 02461). She asked members for suggestions of items to include (e.g. flowering dates & locations) and relevant photos. No invasives or non-native plants will be included.

Insurance Coverage: Jane passed on Larry Burdick's information about our statutory protection as a non-profit and our insurance. Therefore there is no reason to avoid owning land for fear of liability. In some circumstances,

it may be more onerous to hold a conservation restriction. In the interest of time, Dan agreed to explain his position at the next meeting. Cris added the issue of what commitment we make regarding the use and handling of land.

New Business:

- Jane spoke of the **Land Trust Coalition Workshop** to be held in Worcester on March 29, urging members to join her in going. One Conservator has free admission as Trust member; for others, the fee is \$35.

- **Riverside Park:** Ted introduced Bob Persons who, with photographs described the neglected Riverside Park. It has been effectively blocked off, with the footbridges marked unsafe. Its location between Riverside MBTA and the former Grossman's in Wellesley offer opportunities and dangers as these become developed. Bob has talked with Dan Driscoll, who suggested writing letters pressing for repair of the bridges and that the Conservators might help in the effort; Dan has names of persons to write to. Peter added enlisting Kay Khan. Bob agreed to write about this for the Newsletter, and to lead a walk of the area.

- **Bloomington's Shopping Benefit Day, Feb. 27:** Ted suggested we hold our board meeting at Bloomington's that evening, thereby adding our attendance to the event. Katherine distributed 5 cards to each board member present; if all these get used (for a \$10 donation to NC), we are certain to have the 70 that will entitle us to share in the gate receipts for the day which could amount to several thousand dollars; last year four non-profits split about \$16,000. We must also provide 3 volunteers for 3 hours each; Jane, Peter and AnnaMaria volunteered.

Crystal Lake:230 Lake Avenue: Ted explained the situation, and that the Board of Aldermen had postponed a vote for two weeks. During an hour-long discussion, the pros and cons of all possible options were discussed:

- acquisition of the entire parcel
 - and razing of the house
 - or preserving the house
- subdividing the lot, selling the house & acquiring 7000 s.f. of open space
- obtaining a lakefront easement for the City
- offering a large sum (\$75,000 the most mentioned) toward the acquisition
- stipulating the conditions under which we'd contribute funds, (e.g., only for acquisition of open space, no added parking on any part of the park)

- not supporting acquisition and putting our efforts to more worthy goals
- working to reverse the new parking bans on side streets near the swimming area; at present, it is not accessible to citizens not within walking distance; on this point, everyone agreed.

To conclude discussion, Beth asked each person to say what they felt. The gamut ran from two opposing the acquisition entirely to two in favor of offering a significant portion of our endowment for it. Emanating from this was the following MOTION:

If money is needed beyond the CPA funding to acquire 230 Lake Avenue, we would be willing to donate a minimum of \$15,000 if the plan for the property conforms to our mission statement*

*(which promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, park lands, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation.)

This was SECONDED and unanimously approved, whereupon Ted was authorized to report it to the board of aldermen prefacing it with “the board of the Newton Conservators met last week and voted unanimously that...”

Adjournment: at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary.

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 20, 2008
Newton City Hall Room 202

Present: Bill Hagar (presiding), Susan Avery, Dan Brody, Larry Burdick, Margaret Doris, Pete Gilmore, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Eric Rienstierna, Beth Schroeder, Jane Sender, Larry Smith

Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2008: The minutes were approved with amendment to the insurance coverage section. (*See below)

230 Lake Avenue: Under discussion was an amendment to last month's vote which approved a donation of a minimum of \$15,000 for the acquisition of 230 Lake Avenue. Since that meeting, it was explained, the funds would be more useful if they could be used for the planning process for master plan for the public property at Crystal Lake, rather than the acquisition itself.

Alderman Lisle Baker (present by coincidence for a few minutes) stated that if the Conservators would approve a \$15,000 appropriation for planning for the use of the Crystal Lake property, it would "jump start" things. Under discussion was the \$50,000 allocation by the Board of Aldermen to develop a plan which would divide the house from the property so that a private buyer could be found for the subdivided house and property. It is hoped that the funds for the acquisition itself will come from the Community Preservation Committee. Peter Kastner said that we have spent money for planning in the past. Katherine Howard said it would be good to get a good planner.

A motion was offered, **SECONDED** and approved (14 in favor, one abstention) as follows: “The Newton Conservators will contribute \$15,000 for the planning of the use of the property at 230 Lake Avenue and the contiguous properties.”

Spring Lecture: Ted said that Alan Young is the speaker.

Nominating Committee: Bill Hagar said that he has really enjoyed being president but that it might be time to start thinking about a successor. Jane Sender and Margaret Doris volunteered to join AnnaMaria Abernathy on the nominating committee.

Annual Awards: Bill reminded everyone that we give 3 awards each year and to start thinking about candidates.

New Business: Beth Schroeder proposed sponsorship for NewtonServes. A motion was offered, **SECONDED** and unanimously approved for the Conservators to be a Newton Serves Leader and Katherine Howard was directed to write a check for \$500.00.

Adjournment: 9:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Sender, for AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

* Amendment to 1/23/08 minutes: **Insurance Coverage:** Jane passed on Larry Burdick’s information about our statutory protection as a non-profit and our insurance. ~~Therefore there is no reason to avoid owning land for fear of liability~~ The Conservators have taken all reasonable steps to protect themselves from potential liability issues for land ownership

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 24, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Bill Hagar (presiding), Margaret Albright, Susan Avery, Modestino Criscitiello, Dan Green, Greer Hardwicke, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson, Beth Schroeder, Jane Sender, Larry Smith.

Approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2008: The minutes were approved, with thanks to Jane Sender.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said that she has filed the ABC form with the Newton Assessor, and that she will file for extensions for IRS and MA forms due May 15, so the audit committee may meet before the filings.

The Audit Committee should meet soon: it was agreed to appoint Larry Burdick chair, and to include Eric, Peter, and Renee Gurie.

Crystal Lake Conservancy gifts are coming in; so far the Conservators are holding 11 gifts totaling \$1900 on behalf of the CLC. AnnaMaria volunteered to send acknowledgments to the donors.

Annual Meeting:

Date: Bill learned that the only date available at Post 440 is June 4, the date of the NNHS graduation; several aldermen would attend the graduation. After mention of possible sites –The Greater Chinese Cultural Center on Cherry Street, Lasell, Secod Church, Our Ladies', the Senior Center (deemed too small), a committee of Bill, Greer, and Margaret A. agreed to work on this.

Speaker: Richard Primack has told Bill he would not be available during June, as he will be out of the country. Cris will investigate the speaker he heard at Mass Audubon about global warming's impact on native areas, Dan Green mentioned Ken Kimmel; also Jim Hunt, Boston environmental chief (on Boston's composting program.)

Annual Awards: the following were decided:

Environmentalist of the Year: the group that achieved the Dolan Pond/Habitat success: Ted Kuklinski who initiated and pushed the process to completion, Housing Authority administrator Harvey Epstein and others who supported Habitat, and Bill Shaevel who did all the legal work for the Conservators in the property transition.

Charles Johnson Maynard Award: Eddy Street/Cheesecake Brook CDBG project (Chairman is Charles Wagner)

Directors' Awards: 1) Mark Welch, the Newton tree warden, who has helped in many endeavors

2) Anne Pearson, for her years of managing our membership lists and mailing labels as well as for her energy and ability on the Grants Committee.

230 Lake Avenue: Ted explained the status quo, and that a caretaker for the house may be needed if the City buys the property, until the house is sold. Following discussion, including amusing thoughts about the uses we could make of the house, Jane made the MOTION that if necessary, the Conservators would use all reasonable efforts to find a caretaker for 230 Lake Avenue until a buyer is found. The motion was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Spring Walks: Peter is working on the schedule. Since it is not in the current Newsletter, a separate mailing is planned.

Grants Committee: Bill, Anne, and Margaret Albright met. Their recommendations and the board's decisions are as follows:

* **Environmental Science Program:** *recommendation:* continue to give \$2000 for two scholarships. *Decision:* add a third \$1000 scholarship, to be the Carol Corbett Scholarship. At Frank Howard's suggestion, ESP will be reminded that the video camera was given last year with the idea that some ESP New-TV programs be produced.

• **Butterfly Garden Open Classroom:** *recommendation:* give ½ of the requested \$2314 for sturdy benches. *Decision:* give the requested amount.

• **NNHS Environmental Service Project:** *recommendation:* grant the \$200 requested for anti-littering buttons. *Decision:* Grant \$200, with the recommendation, suggested by Dan, that the money be used more for program rather than for buttons.

• **Boston College Organic Garden for a Sustainable**

Newton: *recommendation:* grant \$500 of the \$929 requested. *Decision:* Grant \$500, unless recent information says only \$300 is now needed.

Motion: to approve \$6014 for grants, and to request that the Conservators' support be acknowledged in the grantees' programs and publications. SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: AnnaMaria reported that the officers for next year will be Beth Schroeder, President; Jane Sender, Vice-President; and that the current treasurer and secretary will remain. To her regret, Anne Pearson will leave the board; other board members present agreed to continue. AnnaMaria learned that an email she sent on Mar. 14 via bd/web, asking all board members to let her know that they planned to stay on, had not been received. She asked for suggestions of possible new members: we may add up to three.

Land Management Committee: Beth announced that Sue and Jane are now the co-chairs, while Cris and Beth remain as members, together with Don Lubin. AnnaMaria will send out the old list of committees for updating.

Electronic Newsletter: Ted and Jane spoke about two services that keep the email lists current and distribute the newsletter: Constant Comment @\$20/month and MyEmma @\$30/month. A MOTION to fund one of these was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 23, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall basement

Present: Bill Hagar (presiding), Margaret Albright, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Anne Pearson.

Approval of the Minutes of March 24, 2008: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine sent a message: •she will email the March 31 Statements •the audit committee would meet on May 12 •grant checks mailed •Marc Welch is pleased with the award and will attend with his wife •Annual meeting: ordered tablecloths/napkins, no centerpieces planned •no new donations for Crystal Lake received.

•**Centerpieces:** Margaret Doris volunteered to have Girl Scouts make some centerpieces, as they are eager for projects.

230 Lake Avenue status: no new developments known. Later Ted arrived and said the house is under agreement; 4 or 5 potential buyers had come forward. We were asked to hold a conservation restriction on the property. Larry pointed out that we need to see the document beforehand, so we don't hold it up at the time of signing. Henry will ask Alice Ingerson for this, and about the Kessler Woods and Wabasso Street conservation restrictions as well.

Spring Walks: Peter listed the six walks that he plans. Margaret Albright volunteered to prepare a postcard about them, using a postcard service, asking Greer for labels. Peter agreed to send the schedule to AnnaMaria to append to these minutes. Who will do publicity, contact the TAB?

Annual Meeting: Will be on May 28, at Grace Episcopal Church. Bill passed around draft copies of the invitation and agenda. The speaker will be Prof. Jeffrey Dukes, of UMass Boston, on "Global Warming: Future New England Flora?" Bill will ask Ted to do publicity with the TAB; also suggested, given the topic, that we email the Green Decade about it. Margaret Doris will investigate what is needed to be able to serve alcohol.

Committees: Larry reported that the stewardship committee (he, Jane and Beth) will meet monthly. He and Jane attended the Land Trust Conference; he also went to the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition meeting, where he learned that accreditation requirements have been relaxed so that we may not need accreditation. He also showed a brochure about new auto licenses that benefit the LTA.

A tentative list of committees will be circulated to the board members.

New Business:

•**Thelma Fleishman:** Cris will be asked to write a piece about her for the next newsletter.

•**Trail Guide:** Bill inquired about progress on the new edition, which should contain several new sites: Kessler, Blue Heron Bridge portion of the Charles River Pathway.

•**Grants Committee:** The committee (Bill and Anne) met before this board meeting to review the request by Leah Wang, NNHS'08, Prof. Eric Olson and Stefano Chinosi, NNHS project advisor, for \$300 to fund "Newton's first annual invasive species clean-up" at Dolan Pond and Hammond Pond Reservation. The proposal was well thought out and the committee recommended approval. A MOTION to approve was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

* **Bike Newton:** Ted told us that as co-sponsors with the Green Decade of this May 18 event, we've been asked by Lois Levin for a grant of \$570 for posters. He has agreed and asks us to approve the grant. Following discussion, a MOTION to approve was SECONDED and APPROVED unanimously.

• **Kidservators:** Margaret Doris reported on a project to encourage students to write about conservation, for our newsletter and the electronic newsletter; she sees it as a way to make younger parents aware of the Conservators and to encourage them to join the Conservators. She has submitted material about this to Eric. Board members expressed interest and look forward to a written proposal.

Adjournment: 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary