

**Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
June 25, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Susan Avery, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, Jane Sender, Theresa St.John-Siegel, Willis Wang.

Also present: Gabe Polk.

Beth opened the meeting by having Alison, Willis, and Theresa introduce themselves; next she expressed thanks to Bill for his three year service as president, and to all the board members who helped with the annual meeting.

Gabe Polk explained that he graduated from high school this month and will attend BU; he is a Conservator member and interested in learning what we do.

Approval of the April 23 board minutes: The minutes were approved with the following corrections: The date in the heading was April 23, not March 24. The Treasurer's report should mention that Katherine had filed for extensions of IRS 990 and State Form PC.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine has updated the signature cards at the bank; will review the contents in the safe deposit box and see whether she has all the deeds. She distributed copies of the March quarterly report and a draft budget, which she also sent electronically to board members.

The Tree Conservancy is getting going: it has obtained its 501(c) (3) designation, and a fall week-end kick-up event is being planned. Ted suggested Eric Seaborn as speaker, with Conservators and Green Decade co-sponsoring with the Tree Conservancy.

Board Meeting Dates: to avoid meeting at the same time as the Community Preservation Commission, we decided to have board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, and to request use of the cafeteria. The July 16 board meeting will be pot luck at Jane Sender's home.

Board Bios: Beth asked members to fill out a form giving biographical information, to help in assigning tasks and to let us know areas in which we can strengthen the board. Please fill the blank she sent via email, and return it to her, or bring it to the next board meeting.

Land Trust Alliance - Land Trust Boards Preparing for Perpetuity: Jane described the manual she obtained at the March Land Trust Coalition workshop. It provides tools to help land trusts implement Land Trust Standards and Practices. She will distribute a PDF version, and urges everyone to examine it.

Committee Reports: • Land Management: Sue described the committee's weekly visits to inventory all the species in the city's conservation areas, and the plans to publish a Newton nature almanac. They will also produce a new trail book and map. Sue further reported that she has planted a number of native species on the Dexter Road property from which invasives are being removed.

Land Stewardship: Jane described the program whereby she, Larry, and Beth meet on the first Monday of each month to monitor the properties we own or on which we hold conservation restrictions. Monitoring reports for the CR properties are filed with the Conservation Commission and the legal department.

We hold CRs on Webster Park, Angino Farm, and Wilmerding; those on Kessler Woods, Wabasso Street, and Crystal Lake have not yet been executed.

We also own three small sites (Ordway, Awtrey gift, Prospect Park (Dexter Road)).

The Conservation Commission has praised our work, and will permit us to put up signs.

Other Committees: Beth read the list and suggested members, asking board members to indicate changes.

Theresa suggested we use photographs to publicize our activities in the local press as a way of increasing public awareness of the Newton Conservators.

Katherine suggested including committees with active programs, e.g., weed pulling.

New Business: Tree Day: Katherine asked that we support the Newton Tree Conservancy's efforts to do a Tree Day program in October. A MOTION to do this was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
July 16, 2008, 8:45 PM
Home of Jane Sender
47 Kingswood Road, Auburndale

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Susan Avery, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

Also attending: Deborah Howard

The meeting opened at 8:45, following a potluck dinner. Several members had also gone on a pre-sunset pre dinner cruise around the Charles on Larry Smith's pontoon boat.

Board Bios: Beth explained the purpose of the biographic information she has requested, and asked members who had not yet sent theirs to do so. A board profile grid is in the process of completion.

Brainstorming: Beth distributed a list of "possible goals for 2008-2009" (see attached) and her suggested committee list for 2008-2009 (see attached).

Discussion points:

• **Aqueduct:** Beth sees supporting Henry's efforts on the aqueduct a major goal. Henry wants to make minimal improvements, mainly to mark the path – he has already selected locations for signs or kiosks. He sees need for a land use specialist to deal with three stretches of the path that are in private hands. Frank suggested we look at the Wellesley web site that shows the signs used there. A September meeting of members interested in signage and the aqueduct is envisaged. Apparently the Conservation Commission had appropriated funds for the signs but the effort stalled for lack of staff time. Ted suggested CPA funds could be sought for the signing.

The following volunteered to join the signs committee: Henry Finch, Frank Howard, Margaret Albright, and the executive committee. *[Beth's committee list also names Eric Reenstierna, Pete Gilmore, Peter Kastner and Ted Kuklinski.]*

Membership:

- Jane stressed the need to expand our membership – to be more aggressive and creative, e.g., with a city-wide mailing.
- Sue pointed out that we can utilize our walks better to push membership, making sure the leaders carry membership material.

- Frank suggested the new pitch: in view of high gas prices, to show how much can be done locally.
- General agreement: more use of editorials and announcements; Bonnie pointed out the value of using photos with a caption referring to our web site. Alison agreed to work on these suggestions. Later in the meeting she asked for feedback from leaders about the walks: which ones people enjoyed most, and how best to promote them. Peter added that historical maps of the sites will be available on his web site. It was decided that each member of the board would select an open space in Newton to “adopt”. They would then write a brief article about the open space with the goal of having these articles published in the Newton TAB or in our newsletter. Beth will distribute a list of the open spaces.
- AnnaMaria pointed out that the Library policy now permits newsletters to be posted in the wall pockets.

Open Space Plan: The City’s Open Space Plan (2003-07) has expired, and the Planning Department does not have funds to bring it up to date (requirements have changed, making this a major undertaking). Peter suggested we lobby for appropriations to do it; Lisle Baker has announced regular office hours, we should talk to him.

230 Lake Avenue Conservation Restriction: Jane announced that we’ve been asked to sign the document, and we need to ascertain that the required base line is established, i.e., to see the documentation before we sign. She, Beth, and Larry will request this. Ted added that the Crystal Lake Master Plan may contain the information.

New Business:

- Ted: Lois Levin asks us to co-sponsor with Bike Newton (and probably the GDC) a showing on October 6 of a film advocating bike lanes, “Contested Streets.” No expense is connected with it. A MOTION to co-sponsor the event was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- Ted: we should request a report on the Crystal Lake Master Plan toward which we contributed \$15,000. He will re-send to board members the attachments about this.
- Ted: Lisle Baker would like to speak to us regarding the Commonwealth Golf Course; he requests 10 minutes at our September or October meeting.
- Larry: This week-end is the big weed pull to remove water chestnuts from the river.

After warm thanks to Jane for her hospitality, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
September 17, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Larry Burdick, Margaret Doris, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

Also attending: Francis Rice, chairman of the Parks & Rec. Commission, and Alderman Lisle Baker for the Commonwealth Golf Course; and Alice Ingerson, the Community Preservation Program Manager.

The meeting opened 7:30.

Commonwealth Golf Course: Alderman Baker summarized the history of the golf course, for the creation of which he was largely responsible. It has now been learned that the conservation restriction that was to have been held by the Conservation Commission was never recorded; the State rejected it because the CC was too closely related to the City. He therefore proposes that the Conservators consider holding the restriction. He explained that a Newton Commonwealth Fund exists to maintain the land for passive recreation should the golf course fail. Anne Phelps has reviewed the draft, and Larry will read it; baselines will have to be established and our criteria met. The Land Acquisition committee will review the problem.

CPC meeting of November 19: Alice Ingerson reported on CPA rules and distributed material about the acquisitions and showed large maps of Newton open space, and an 1892 map of “areas to be drained.” NC is asked to speak for 5 minutes at the Nov. 19 meeting, giving our “wish list.” Beth will ask Ted to speak for us; **BOARD MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO EMAIL THEIR DESIDERATA TO BETH.**

Approval of minutes of July 16: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s report: Katherine said it will be after September 30.

Hyde Brook land gift from Mrs. Galdston: Eric described the small piece of land Mrs. Galston offered to donate to us as contiguous to our Awtrey land. Mrs. G. has not responded to our expressed wish for a conservation restriction instead of a gift. Jane has researched the risk involved and finds it minimal. Following discussion, a MOTION to express NC’s willingness to accept the gift was SECONDED and APPROVED by 13 votes with two abstentions.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Jane has drafted a statement that is an IRS requirement. She distributed copies of it that each member must read and a “Conflict-of-interest disclosure statement” that each must sign and return to her. Copies will be mailed to those not present at this meeting.

123 Signup: Katherine the workings of this system to automate our membership lists, renewals, sales, etc. The cost is \$299 initially, plus \$49/month thereafter. Jane MOVED that we adopt this, the motion was SECONDED and approved by 14 votes, 1 abstention.

Tree Conservancy Event and Fall Lecture: Beth proposed that we co-sponsor the Tree Conservancy kick-off event in October (see Newsletter) in place of our fall lecture, and the board

members agreed. Katherine Howard next told us that the Conservancy now has its own 501(c)3 and asked that the funds we had held for it be turned over to it; a MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Aqueduct/Signage Report: Beth reported for Henry Finch. The committee has decided to begin putting up signs and kiosks in four areas for which there are no questions. Frank Howard reported on Wellesley's practices about trail maps, and that Wellesley receives DCR funds for the trails.

Harvest Fair October 18: Five members volunteered to work: Katherine, Allison, Margaret Doris, Beth, and Bill Hagar.

Open Space Plan Status: Jane reported a conversation with Anne Phelps, senior environmental planner, about updating the plan. The board agreed to send a letter to the mayor about its importance.

Logo Selection: The logo created by Jean Husher in 1961 does not digitize well and needs updating. Pat Robertson has drawn several possible alternatives; a decision will be sought at the next board meeting.

Adopt a Space Articles: So far only Alison has submitted one, a fine article (see current Newsletter, p.6). Beth urged others to think of doing so also.

Other business

•**Wellesley/Newton railroad bridge:** (Beth and Larry Smith) Beth reported on the proposal (emailed to directors and attached below). Beth suggested we ask the Wellesley group for a presentation, and the board members concurred.

•**Richard Primack's "Flora of Hammond Pond"** Bill Hagar distributed copies of this 1974 booklet that Garrison Wilkes had given to him. Bill will ask Primack to speak at our May 27 annual meeting at Post 440.

•**School Challenge Courses:** Margaret Doris explained the School Department's proposal to install the boards and posts for such challenge courses at the schools. The first one is being proposed for Day Middle School, near Avery Woods. The proponents say that the Law Department has informed them that the original deed restrictions have expired. The board agrees that this assertion must be challenged; Margaret agreed to draft a letter for board approval.

•**December meeting place:** AnnaMaria has been informed that the cafeteria is not available for Dec. 17, and we are scheduled for Room 203. Apparently Henry has offered to host a meeting, and he will be asked about this date.

Adjournment: at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

rom: eseaborn [mailto:eseaborn@comcast.net] **Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2008 1:01 PM
To: Beth Schroeder
Cc: Alice Ingerson; Bob White; Janet Bowser; Joan Gaughn; Kevin Hollenbeck
Subject: Conversion of DCR Owned Rail Bridge to Pedestrian Bridge in Wellesley/Newton Lower Falls Area

Hi Beth –

Over the last several years, the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission has worked with a number of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Wellesley and Newton folks on an idea to convert an existing DCR owned railroad bridge to a pedestrian bridge over the Charles River to connect a Wellesley owned trail in the eastern part of Wellesley and a DCR owned trail in the western part of Newton. Such a connecting bridge would benefit people and businesses in Wellesley and Newton on both sides of the Charles River, by reducing automobile traffic and parking congestion in the area, by providing a human friendly and relatively lengthy trail for passive recreation, by opening up pedestrian access to public transportation at the Riverside MBTA station, by providing a friendly open space environment for the people who live in the Wellesley/Newton Lower Falls area and by putting unused DCR land to good use for the benefit of people.

Currently, the Town of Wellesley is working with a developer to develop a parcel of land adjacent to the Wellesley portion of this trail and the DCR owned bridge. The developer has indicated a willingness to contribute some money for the conversion of the DCR owned railroad bridge to a pedestrian bridge. As a consequence, we would like to accept funds from the developer, provide some Wellesley funds, solicit additional funds from others in both Wellesley and Newton, work jointly with others in Wellesley and Newton to be able to contribute sufficient funds to the DCR FY 2009 Partnerships Matching Funds Program to qualify for matching funds from the DCR and work with Newton and DCR personnel during the implementation of the bridge conversion.

Yesterday, we met with Kevin Hollenbeck, DCR West District Manager, and Alice Ingerson, Newton Community Preservation Program Manager, to determine some approaches to successfully accomplish such a project. As a result of this meeting, it feels like it would be important to start by conducting a detailed survey of the DCR property and a bridge concept development study to define both the technical and programmatic requirements for such a project. Such an effort would cost approximately \$25,000 to conduct, but would provide the detailed planning information that would increase the probability of success during the implementation phase of the project. To finance the detailed survey and concept development study, a partnership application and a check for up to 50% of the total cost for the detailed survey and concept development study will have to be submitted to the DCR FY 2009 Partnerships Matching Funds Program to obtain DCR funding to match any local contributions that are made. We are prepared to

immediately provide local funding of 25% of the total funding needed for the detailed survey and concept development study, the DCR could provide about 50% of the total funding needed for the detailed survey and concept development study and we wonder if The Newton Conservators might be willing to become partners in this effort by contributing the remaining 25% of the total funds needed for this detailed survey and concept development study.

After the detailed survey and concept study results are available; Community Preservation Act funds, funds from commercial businesses in the area, individual contributor funds and more DCR funds are candidate sources to fund the project implementation phase of the project.

If you have any questions about this matter or would like to discuss this detailed survey and concept development study effort in more detail, please let me know. We would be very pleased to discuss this effort with you in any way that you wish. We look forward to hearing from you about this matter and hope to work with you on this meaningful project.

Peace,

Neal Seaborn
Commissioner
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission
781-237-2152

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Oct. 15, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sue Avery, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Lawrence Kaplan, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

Also attending: Bob White, Wellesley Trails Committee; Neal Seaborn, Commissioner, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission; and George Kirby, Chairman of the Newton Bike/Pedestrian Task Force.

The meeting opened 7:40.

DCR Rail Bridge Presentation: Neal Seaborn made the PowerPoint presentation about the Lower Falls DCR Bridge Preservation project. The DCR is very interested in the project, and has 90% of the detailed design for restoration; a detailed survey and plan costing \$36,000 is needed is still needed for this Phase 1. The State's DCR Partnership Matching Funds Program would contribute \$24,000 if the consortium gives \$12,000. For the consortium funding, Wellesley can contribute \$6000, the CRWA has no funds but a prospective private donor, and the Conservators are asked for \$6000. The impact of the new state funding cut is not known [*On Oct. 16, it was learned that DCR funds will be cut by 8%*] For the Phase II Construction, \$275,000 is required; it is planned that both Wellesley and Newton will go to their CPA Committees with a \$130K request. The National Development Corp. which has applied to build on the Grossman property, will offer a large amount to develop a riverside path along its property, but abutters' appeal is still pending. Beth thanked the group for their presentation.

Approval of Minutes of Sept. 17: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Katherine said the financial statement as of 9/30/08 will be negative, as our index fund investment is down 22% due to the stock market decline (though our heavy mix of money market and Treasury notes offsets this, to an overall impact of about 10%). Further, the prognosis for the year is also very negative as we can expect donations to be way down (and we normally get 50% of our income in October - December). Through June our net assets were down by \$23K mostly due to the large expenditure for Crystal Lake. Despite all this, our net assets are still healthy (\$160K as of 6/30/08).

Conflict of Interest Statement: Jane asked those members who have not yet read and signed the statement to please do so and return the form to her. She then MOVED that we adopt the policy, Katherine SECONDED the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Newsletter listing of board members: This has been requested; after brief discussion and reminder that in the past this as done, the board agreed that the names of officers and board members be listed.

December 17 meeting: will be held at Henry Finch and Pat Robinson; there will be a regular meeting, but members are welcome to bring tidbits for the festive occasion.

Land Acquisition Committee: met this evening about the golf club conservation restriction, and decided that it meets our criteria. Baseline documentation is needed, a photographer will be sent to record current conditions, and the committee still needs to determine the sum that will be needed to meet our added expenses of insurance, etc.

123SignUp: Jane and Katherine will define the details when they have time, after November 4.

“At Home in Newton” request to survey our membership: Lawrence Kaplan explained that the nascent group’s desires to learn residents’ needs, to have our members answer their questionnaire. Board members expressed support for the project, but find it not part of our mission. Rather, it was suggested to ask Ted Kuklinski whether he will run it on the Dolan Pond newsletter. Beth will talk with Ted and put him in touch with Lawrence.

New Logo: Beth circulated two possibilities, for a decision to be made next month. Bill Hagar argued for inclusion of the date 1961 as important to indicate our long history.

Community Preservation Committee meeting of Nov. 19: Beth asked again that members send her their thoughts about priorities for CPC funds; so far only Eric has submitted his list. Jane suggested a request that funds be set aside for City acquisition of golf courses should they come on the market.

DCR Rail Bridge: Alison reported that she, Frank and Sue had gone over the bridge. They think the project is important and doable. She agrees with Henry opting for permeable surface and not a paved path. Frank and Willis voiced concern whether either DCR or the developer will have the needed funding. Katherine noted that our funds are diminished, but we still have \$4,000 available for special projects. Following discussion, AnnaMaria MOVED that we offer \$4,000. The motions was SECONDED and unanimously approved. Henry suggested that we explain that \$4,000 is the amount we have available for projects.

New Business:

- A Brandeis volunteer has volunteered to help us; Jane and Katherine can use help on the database for 123Sign UP, if the student is computer literate.
- The permit on Kessler Woods has run out, and Eric suggested we propose that rather than simply renewing it, the City request right of first refusal to purchase it.

Adjournment: at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

CPC LIST for November 19, 2008 meeting
Board members’ suggestions of recommendations for CPC grants:

For each meeting we're asking 3-4 speakers to present their group's 5-minute "wish list" for future CP spending. These presentations are intended as discussion-starters, to help the public/audience and the Community Preservation Committee think big and long-term. We don't want elaborate Power Points or agendas that each speaker feels compelled to defend at length. We do want to reserve most of each meeting for discussion, hence the time limit (not absolute, but if I offer some people 10 minutes,

they'll take 15, and discussion time will evaporate ...). Finally, some time soon, I should have a "case statement" to share with all the speakers, for why the CPC thinks it's time to develop some long-term priorities, rather than continue waiting to see which proposals come in, year-by-year.

Alice Ingerson

The Newton Lower Falls path/bikeway and rebuilding of the historic RR bridge.

River maintenance such as invasive weed control fits under CPC funding possibilities but some funding, if only to support volunteer efforts, would be great. A healthy, open river provides a great recreational resource and the Charles forms more than half of Newton's boundary.

Larry

The DCR bridge restoration project

Co-sponsorship with the Newton Tree Conservancy of historic neighborhood preservation including preserving historic trees and restoring landscapes.

Katherine

The Cheesecake Brook Greenway. I think this is a good priority project because:

- 1) Original design idea for the boulevard with green strip connecting to Charles River pathway came from Charles Elliot
- 2) There are photos at the history museum of trees all along the roadway and the bank of the brook making a green swath down to the river
- 3) Now that the DCR has created recreation and bike trails into Boston and Cambridge along the Charles this is a very well traveled route for those who bike to work in addition to the recreation uses.
- 4) Now that Newton is encouraging walking and biking to schools, this is a prime pathway for school kids attending both Horace Mann and Day School.

Margaret

Our main priorities that would involve CPA spending are the properties on the city's open space list. Most of the acquisitions that have involved open space have come from that list. We use the list to demonstrate the importance of a parcel when we are making a proposal to the CPC. We are somewhat at the mercy of property owners in terms of the timing of acquisitions, as most of the acquisitions are done when the owners choose to put their properties on the market. Recently, we "lost" two parcels, at Farwell Street and Elgin Street, when private buyers acquired properties that are on the open space list. (But we haven't given up on these properties.) The most important property on the open space list is the land at Temple Mishkan Tefilah, about 10 acres in the middle of Webster Woods, with vernal pools.

The golf courses need protection as open space. It would be good to put a conservation restriction on them. But that would lower the taxes they pay to the city, and the city wouldn't want that. It would also be good if the city had a right of first

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refusal to acquire any golf course if it is put on the market. We might propose that the CPC fund an acquisition of a right of first refusal at each golf course.

Trails are important along the Charles and the aqueducts.

The CPC could fund the planting of trees along our streets. It would take some creative mechanism to get this done if we want to use CPC funds for that purpose. Like, we would need to say that we are upgrading the historic streetscape.

The overhead wires should be put underground because they destroy street trees and the historic streetscape on scenic roads.

Eric

Dog walking signage, pamphlets, trail markings, bag distribution, and receptacles for used bags in parks and conservation lands. (Similar to Mount Misery Conservation Land Dog-Walking Regulations in Lincoln, MA)

Information for signage:

Owners must pick up, bag and dispose of dog feces.

Dogs must be on leash and firmly under control on designated trails.

Dogs must remain on trails in unleashed areas.

Dogs must be kept in sight and under voice control at all times.

No more than 3 dogs are allowed per dog walker.

Beth

Riverside Park

Bob Persons

Priorities for CPA program

Conservation, sustainability and environmental improvements should be the focus of CPA funds here in Newton. The city is already heavily built up, and most open space consists of golf courses and cemeteries. There are few opportunities to preserve any more significant open space. Though if a parcel does come up it should be preserved, or have a conservation restriction placed on it. But a bigger priority should be improving the quality and diversity of Newton's remaining undeveloped land, as well as improving the green spaces in the urban settings. Examples of this would be having a goal of planting a minimum number of trees in the city each year. There are many parts of Newton (and I live in one of them), where there are few, if any trees along the streets. The few trees that remain are often in poor condition. Many trees are cut down and removed at a rate much faster than we are replacing them. At this rate, in a couple of decades Newton won't be the "Garden City" anymore.

Another idea would be around restoring functional ecosystems in the city. One such project could be "day lighting" and improving the water quality of

Cheesecake Brook. The Cheesecake Brook Greenway Design is a good project, but in my mind has much less value if we are simply landscaping an open sewer. The brook is a stressed waterway, and in heavy rains all kinds of contaminants from the combined sewer overflows (CSO's) that still exist, as well as non-point source runoff cause huge problems for this little brook that only adds to the contaminant load of the Charles River.

There are some projects that our local elementary school, Lincoln Elliot would like to plan. This includes an outdoor classroom space on the Jackson Road side of the school. Tree planting and landscaping projects, and a butterfly and/or a community garden project.

The current recycling program could be significantly expanded. There is an effort currently underway to promote more recycling in the public schools. The push comes primarily from parents, and the Green Decade, and there is limited assistance from the city. The city is literally throwing away money when paper gets thrown away, because it has to pay \$130 a ton to dispose of it, whereas it gets paid \$40 a ton to recycle it. It is estimated that the city throws away about \$5 million worth of paper annually.

I think it's important to be political at the local level, and to also be green at the local level. With the very real threat of global warming looming, we should be doing all we can in our communities to promote the change to a "green" lifestyle, including energy conservation, and alternative energy projects. Possibilities could include, adding solar panels to city buildings, or having an energy conservation assistance program, similar to the current "first time homebuyer assistance" program that we currently have. Why not help reduce the carbon footprint of qualifying Newton residents?

A recent editorial in the Newton Tab was critical of some of the projects that were funded by CPA monies. These included city park improvements that I do agree really should have been part of the Parks and Recreation budget. There was also a window restoration project at the West Suburban YMCA that was questionable. It is important that CPA money not be used as an extension of the city's operating budget. However, I do believe a case can be made for allowing CPA funds to be used to improve the quality of the city's green spaces, and minimize our contribution of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. I feel these priorities are consistent with the true spirit of the CPA goals.

Alison

Setting aside funds in the event that a large piece of property (like a golf course) comes on the market. The possibility of that seems more likely in this economic climate. Some research needs to be done before Nov 19 to make the argument that the CPC has the authority to do that.

Jane

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Nov.12, 2008, 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall War Memorial Hall

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Greer Hardwicke, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

The meeting opened 7:45.

Approval of the minutes of October 15: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Katherine began by announcing the invitation to Habitat for Humanity's Open House [this Sunday, Nov. 16, from 1 to 4 PM](#) at 76 Webster Park, West Newton. Next she thanked for the help at the Harvest Fair Conservator & Tree Conservancy table, especially both Hagars, who helped all day; also Alison and the two Margarets. About 40 people enjoyed Cris Criscitiello's fine tree walk; fewer stayed for the ceremonies that followed. The Conservancy has 12 members so far; at Beth's suggestion, the board decided to include its membership form with our membership renewal letter at the beginning of December. Beth suggested we do a special membership drive, possibly with emails and phone calls.

Katherine reported that the unrestricted net assets were 189K going into the year. They decreased to 161K as of June largely due to 15K Crystal Lake, Grants, low membership income. As of 9/30 they decreased further to 156K due to Unrealized Loss on our 4-in-1 investment and low membership income. The market has gone down further since then.

Newsletter: Eric said the deadline for the winter issue is the first Friday in December. At his request for an adopt-a-space article, Pete Gilmore volunteered to write about Cabot Park.

1-2-3 Signup: Katherine said she, Greer, Jane, and Dan Brody will go through training in preparation for using the service to maintain our files.

Newton-Wellesley railroad bridge: will be discussed [on Monday, November 17](#), at 4 PM, at a meeting in the Planning Department with Alice Ingerson, the proponents from Wellesley and some of our members. Ted made a MOTION that the Conservators be co-applicants on the CPA application for the project; it was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

December 17 meeting: will be held at Henry Finch and Pat Robinson; there will be a regular meeting, but members are welcome to bring tidbits for the festive occasion.

[November 19 CPA meeting 7 pm, City Hall Cafeteria](#)

Future Funding Priorities for OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION:

- Eric suggested adding to the suggestions listed in last month's minutes, the restoration of historic streetscapes by planting trees in the "Historic Neighborhoods."
- AnnaMaria suggested we express opposition to the proposed Creem amendment to the CPA which would permit the use of CPA funds for restoration of recreational facilities that were not acquired through CPA. Ted countered that usable parks deserve CPA funding; e.g., Wellington Park was restored with CPA augmenting City funding. He added that we needed to know the full details of the proposed amendment. A majority ABSTAINED from AnnaMaria's MOTION that

we oppose the Creem amendment. A MOTION to express “concern” about the amendment was SECONDED and APPROVED.

- Beth volunteered to present our suggestions at the November 19 meeting, and asked board members to make editorial suggestions. [\[IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MANY CONSERVATORS ATTEND THE MEETING.\]](#)

Logo: members signed a display to indicate their preference between two proposals, and the majority (including some votes that had been emailed by members who couldn't attend) chose the one with the four trees. At Dan Brody's request, Pat Robertson will be asked to revise it by removing the “Inc.” Also, Bill stressed the importance of the date, so a tag line will be added with words such as “advocating for open space in Newton since 1961.”

Grants Proposals: Bill Hagar summarized the three proposals that have been received:

1. Cold Frame NNHS student \$550
2. Cabot Woods Trails NNHS students \$520
3. Oak Hill School Organic garden \$822.50

Katherine noted that \$900 for grants remain in this year's budget. Therefore a MOTION to fund #3 was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED, and a MOTION to favor #1 and #2, but to fund them pending the budget for next year was also SECONDED and APPROVED.

Annual Meeting Speaker: will be Richard Primack, on “Climate Change Comes to Thoreau's Concord.”

Other Business:

- Aqueduct Walk:** Henry reported that 50 people went on the walk, many volunteered to join the committee; See the description at Newtontrails.blogspot.com.

- Library display of our Newsletter:** Frank reported that the Library now has space for our newsletter.

Adjournment: at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy

NOTE: the December 17 meeting will be at the home of Henry Finch, 153 Windsor Road.

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Dec. 17, 2008, 7:30 PM
Home of Henry Finch, 153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Octo Barnett, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, , Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

Also present were Advisors Michael Clarke; and for parts of the meeting, Lisle Baker, and life members Andr e and Richard Wilson.

The meeting opened at 7:45.

Approval of the minutes of November 12: The minutes were approved with the following correction: under "Grants Proposals" : "...a Motion to fund #2 was seconded and unanimously approved;, and a motion to favor #1 and #3..." That is to say, the Oak Hill organic garden will be funded and the others will be considered next year.

Treasurer's report: Katherine asked that any requests for reimbursement of expenses be submitted before December 31.

New Logo: The new logo was admired, and a gift of a filled Newton Tree Conservancy tote-bag was given to Pat Robinson to thank her for creating it.

Richard and Andree Wilson property: Professor and Mrs. Wilson explained that their land is bounded by both aqueducts that run through Newton and that they have land rights over these. They have given 1/2 acre to the City in the past, and wish to ascertain that the property will remain unbuildable also when the house will be sold.; i.e., they want restrictions on both lot 15 and lot 16. They want advice on how to achieve this. After some discussion and Beth's recommendation of Peter Alpert as lawyer, it was decided that the acquisitions committee will take up the matter. The board thanked the Wilsons, who left the meeting after this.

Recycling Report: Alison reported on the "Cash for Trash" meeting at the library:

- The City's 20 year contract for trash collection is up for renewal
- The City is experimenting with single stream collections
- Programs of "Pay as you throw" solid waste lead to increased recycling. She would like the Conservators to endorse this policy
- The twice-monthly meetings of the Solid Waste Commission are at 7:30 AM; Frank Howard volunteered to attend.

Commonwealth Golf Course CR: Alderman Lisle Baker explained the need to correct a problem: the State never accepted the conservation restriction that was filed at the outset, thus the land is currently unprotected. Ald. Baker is working with Steve Small, a conservation restriction expert, on drafting a thorough CR on the 74 acre site. To hold the restriction, the Newton Conservators are requesting \$30,000 to defray expenses of enforcing the CR on this large property. Lisle is proposing that a \$30,000 escrow account be established by the golf club, to be used by NC if needed for enforcement. Willis concluded the discussion, stating that the land acquisition committee (Ted, Eric, Octo, Larry Burdick, Henry, Jane, and Willis. is dealing with the matter.

Temple Mishkan Tefila: Octo explained a potential problem regarding the Wester Conservation area: the Temple sees its land abutting the conservation area as salable to a developer. There is a question whether a restriction on the use of this land only for religious purposes has expired after 50 years. The possibility is that CPC funds may acquire some part of the 10 acres.

123 SignUp: Jane reported that the program is in place, and will be tested by having board members pay their dues through it.

Board member handbook: Beth said it is in the works.

Wiki at Boston: Henry volunteered to take care of the Conservator entry.

Board meeting schedule: There is no conflict with CPC meetings on January & February; we will explore the possibility of meeting on the second Wednesday of the month thereafter.

The Terraces: are violating the promise to maintain a 30' buffer zone toward Langley Road. Octo and Mike Clarke will look into it. Octo added that trees, mostly small, have also been cut on Temple Road.

Walks: Henry reported that more than 50 went on the aqueduct walk, and 25 on the one to Cutler Park.

Adjournment: at 9:45 PM., followed by potluck refreshments, with thanks to Henry and Pat Robinson.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 21, 2009 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Sue Avery, Dan Brody, Margaret Doris, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Greer Hardwicke, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

The meeting opened at 7:40.

Approval of the minutes of December 17: The minutes were approved with the following correction: “Approval of the minutes of Nov. 12” line 4: “Cabot Woods Trail Marking” replaces “Oak Hill organic garden.”

Board meeting schedule: To avoid meeting at the same time as the Community Preservation Committee, beginning with March, our meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month:
thus March 11, April 8.

Election of Mike Clarke: Mike has returned from his years in Washington, D.C. A MOTION to elect him to the board was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

123/Signup: Beth and Jane reported that the trial of having board members renew using the system went well, and work on full implementation is progressing.

Grants: Bill presented the two grant requests approved in November whose funding was deferred to this calendar year:

- Cold Frame at the farm, a NNHS student project \$550. MOTION to approve SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- Oak Hill School organic garden project. It was decided to grant \$600, not the \$822 requested that included \$200 for contingencies. MOTION to approve SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Land Acquisition Committee:

Commonwealth Golf Course CR Willis explained the provision of an escrow account to fund potential Conservator costs to enforce the CR. The complicated agreement has been vetted by Steve Small, the authority on CRs. After some

discussion, a MOTION to accept the CR and the escrow agreement was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED/

•**Temple Mishkan Tefila:** Eric will talk with Lisle Baker.

•**Wilson property preservation:** The committee has discussed the issue and will talk with the Wilsons again; Beth suggested asking Peter Alpert for assistance.

Land Management Committee – Almanac: Beth said the almanac is planned for publication in time for next Christmas. She asks board members for photographs to illustrate florae & fauna at the different seasons.

Rail-to-Trail Bridge proposal:

• Larry Smith attended the public meeting about the proposal; there is strong neighborhood opposition. Ted noted our advocacy role; several board members volunteered to write letters to the TAB. Getting abutters to the Charles River Pathway in Newton to speak of their experience was mentioned.

• Katherine will await approval and instructions for our \$4000 pledge.

Annual Meeting:

• The following volunteered to form the **committee**, which will on February 11th at 7:30 PM at Beth Schroeder's house, February 12th is the substitute date in case of snow: Bill Hagar, Alison, Katherine, Greer, and Ted. Margaret Doris and Beth said they can obtain centerpieces.

• **Annual Meeting Awards: Environmentalist of the Year, Charles Johnson Maynard Award**, and possible **Directors awards:** Beth asked members to think about suggestions and bring them to the next board meeting. Margaret Albright suggested David Backer, for having revived the Environmental Science summer program.

Tree Program at the Library: the board agreed to co-sponsor the Tree Conservancy's March 2 program on "Tree Pests and Tree Health." This will be our spring lecture.

Conservation Defense Insurance: may become available in the future.

LWVN Forum: Beth has been asked whether we would co-sponsor the second LWVN forum about trash collection, on April 7. Alison will inquire what co-sponsorship involves.

Spring Walks: Alison asked about the schedule. It was decided to delay the spring Newsletter deadline to March 15th to permit the schedule's inclusion.

Conservator Board minutes Dec. 17, 2008 – p.3
Alison's article in the current TAB about the winter bird count was noted.

New England Grows 2009 Educational Conference: Beth recommended this to board members. After paying the admittance fee of \$55 all educational classes and the exhibition floor are free. This is open Wednesday through Friday February 4-6 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Check website for hours and list of classes. <http://www.negrows.org/about/overview.php>

Crystal Lake Plan: plans were to be presented on Jan. 22 at the Library, and posted on the Parks and Rec. web site. [not found on 1/26/09].

Conservator Archives: Eric mentioned the possibility of renting storage space for \$35/mo. at a facility on Chapel St. The difficulty of accessing material was noted.

Urban Ring Project: Greer announced that the project is coming up; see the web site (<http://www.theurbanring.com/>) for the draft environmental plan.

Bike Newton: Eric noted that its program is coming up. Upon discussion, the board agreed that we can co-sponsor specific events, while any request for funding must go to the Grants Committee.

Adjournment: at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 18, 2009 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Larry Burdick, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Eric Reenstierna, Jane Sender.

The meeting opened at 7:40.

Approval of the minutes of January 21: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: • Katherine explained the financial statements for 2008. As expected, our income and balance sheet have decreased in value. It was decided to budget \$5000 for grants rather than \$7000 as in 2008, and \$10,000 for Special Projects rather than \$20,000 as in 2008." A motion to approve the Statement and Budget for 2009 was seconded and unanimously approved.

- Katherine is about to file the Massachusetts Form 3ABC due March 1.
- She has received a thank you letter from Carol Corbett's son for the trees we gave to the Angino Farm in her memory.

Nominating Committee: Alison and Peter volunteered to join AnnaMaria on the committee. Suggested as off-board members were Cris Criscitiello and Deb Howard.

By-law Review: Larry Burdick and Jane have reviewed the by-laws. 1) Two years ago not enough members voted to approve changing the provision that our property would go to the City in case the organization should cease to exist. Since then, the Attorney General has ruled that at the dissolution of a non-profit the property must go to another non-profit with similar aims. That renders the by-law moot. 2) Actions between board meetings are not possible, as they must be approved by the board. Larry favors giving the executive committee the power to act; he and Jane will work on this, for future discussion.

Annual meeting: Dinner: Beth reported that the meeting is set for May 27 at Post 440, with Sabra Restaurant as caterer, and Adele Dryer playing piano background music; price will be \$30.00, with a cost to our budget of about \$1500. AnnaMaria suggested that the expenses be cut or the price raised so that our funds not be depleted by nonessentials; in light of the economy, other non-profits are economizing, e.g., by potluck desserts @\$10, but others countered that this is a

proper way to strengthen the organization, and for this year at least, the arrangements stand. Richard will speak about "Climate change comes to Thoreau's Concord (and other places in Massachusetts).

Awards: following some discussion, unanimous votes were for the following:
Environmentalist of the year: the Crystal Lake Conservancy, whose core members were Janice Bourque, Robert Fizek, Skuylar Larrabee, Sdrjan Nedeljkovic and Barbara Wales

Charles Maynard Award: David Backer

Directors' Awards: Carol Stapleton Lisle Baker, and Sue Avery

Environmental Science Program: As in the past, David Backer has applied for a contribution of \$2000.00. Bill Hagar, on behalf of the Grants Committee, MOVED that we give \$2000 for scholarships. The motion was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Land Management Committee:

- **Wilson Property follow-up:** Ted has corresponded with Mrs. Wilson, and will meet with them this Friday. He, Eric and Henry will walk the property and discuss the options for preserving the open space.

- **Awtrey Property:** There are still no signs or marked path.

Rail to Trail Bridge update: As reported in the TAB, the project is going through.

Conservation Commission monitoring: Beth will discuss this with Dan Green, who is on the CC.

123/SignUp: Jane said the site is working; one can set up payment via PenPal.

Spring Walks: The following are projected:

Historic walk – offered by Lucy Caldwell-Stair

Fern walk – Don Lubin

Working walk – Katherine suggests one or two, e.g., pulling garlic mustard end of May.

2 Bird Walks – May 10 is Mother's Day Walk

Canoe trip – June 7

The deadline for the walks and articles for the Newsletter will be March 27.

April Board Meeting: The April meeting will be at Henry's home. In March we begin meeting on the second Wednesday, which will be the 11th.

Crystal Lake Plan: plans were to be presented on Jan. 22 at the Library, and posted on the Parks and Rec. web site. [not found on 1/26/09].

Habitat project on Webster Park: Ted said the Habitat project is close to winding down. The dedication will be in April or May. The final fund-raiser will be on March 19, with Jimmy Tingle. \$12,000 remain to be raised, of the \$400,000 goal.

March 2 Tree Event: the need for publicity was mentioned. Katherine hopes many of us will be able to attend. [See <http://www.newtontreeconservancy.org/>]

Adjournment: at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

NOTE: the Draft Master Plan for Crystal Lake that was mentioned in the January minutes can now be found at <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/crystallake.htm>

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 11, 2009 7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Room 202

Present: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sue Avery, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, Jane Sender, Willis Wang.

Alderman Lisle Baker was also present briefly, and Jamie Boneparth came to observe for part of the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7:30.

Newton Commonwealth Golf Club CR and Escrow Agreement: Alderman Baker said that aside from possibly a few typos, the documents seemed fine to him. The base line documentation will be ready soon, when the survey of the land will be done after bare ground is visible again. The City has agreed to the \$30,000 escrow. Jane and Willis added that Jason Rosenberg will be the disbursing officer of the money, which will come from the trust for the golf course. Our obligation includes monitoring the use of pesticides. Jane MOVED that we adopt the escrow agreement and the conservation restriction. The motion was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Land Stewardship and Management Committees: Beth reported the decision to combine the two committees for regular week-end monitoring walks, as Jane and Larry Burdick have been largely doing it alone. They would like other board members to join them in these walks. They will begin on May 9, at 8 AM, and continue on the second Saturday of each month, through November. Following discussion, it was agreed to invite the advisors to join in this effort, as well as announcing the plan to the general membership and inviting those with relevant expertise to volunteer.

Abutter and appreciation letters: Beth suggested that when we find dumping on our properties, we send a friendly “dear neighbor” letter to those responsible for it. For violations on city property, we should inform Anne Phelps. Ted suggested we develop a form to use, making it easier to keep track of events, and Larry suggested we post the form on our web site, so neighbors can use it.

Beth also suggested we send letters of appreciation to citizens who beautify public spaces; it was noted that the Newton Pride Committee also does this.

Wilson Property: Ted said that he, Henry, and Eric had been invited to visit the property, which interrupts both the Cochituate and the Sudbury Aqueducts. They don't see possibility for a trail along the former, but do see possibility for the latter. After considerable discussion, Ted agreed to draft a letter to the Wilsons, possibly asking for a board visit in May.

22-24 Winter Street, Newton Upper Falls: Jamie Boneparth had been told by a neighbor to come to Room 202, without any knowledge of the Conservators; he voiced the concern of neighbors in this Historic District about rumors that "condo-like" developments were being considered, and asked for help in view of the historic feel and the environmental cost.

Rails-to-Bridge Update: There will be a community meeting on March 23, 7 PM, at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street. Henry reported that he had received an e-mail from a Mr. Hayes to the effect that the vocal opposition is from a minority, while more residents favor the project.

Creem CPA Amendment Update: Jane has reviewed it, and finds that the main change seems to be permitting the use of CPA funds to rehab parks that were not acquired with CPA help. Following discussion, the consensus was to remain neutral on the issue. Mike proposed that if the amendment passes, we should lobby the CPC to request that the City contribute half of such grants.

Grants Committee: Bill reported that the committee has approved the two school gardening projects, Lincoln-Eliot Community Garden, requesting \$750 (of a total \$5550 budget) - Ward School Helping Harvest Garden, requesting \$1400 (of a total \$3760 budget). Discussion centered on the request for a larger percent of the total by the War School, which is in an affluent community compared to Lincoln Eliot. In view of our limited budget for grants this year, a MOTION to grant \$750 to Lincoln-Eliot and \$1000 for Ward was SECONDED and approved, with one abstention.

Nature Photo Contest: Everyone liked Jane's suggestion that we run a nature photo contest, starting this spring, and having 3 categories – kids, adults, professionals. Numerous suggestions followed:

- ask members for photos to use in our almanac
- ask Newtonville Camera to sponsor it
- limit to photos taken in Newton conservation areas.

Jane asked members to send her other suggestions about it.

Rescheduled Tree Lecture: Ted confirmed that it has been rescheduled for Monday, May 18. He will ask the library to co-sponsor it, for wider publicity.

Jean Husher on new Logo: Beth read a gracious letter from Jean Husher, who created our original logo, congratulating us on the new look and mentioning her activities in the Conservators. See the letter appended.

Brian Whittaker wrote to say that he would like to contribute a book review to our newsletter at a future date. He reminisced in his note how welcome Ted Kuklinski made him feel when he gave a lecture with Dan Perlman several years ago.

Trails Committee: Henry has spoken with Bob White, chairman of the Wellesley trails committee. The group has marked the Sudbury Aqueduct in Wellesley, among others. He suggests we mark the section from Echo Bridge to Beacon Street, connecting with Wellesley at Route 16, with ¼ mi. of road between, and dreaming some day of connecting instead at the bridge at Route 128. Wellesley uses small aluminum markers costing \$1.00; we could put them on telephone poles and on light poles; for the latter we need to request city permission. Dan Brody suggested putting the information on our web site, and using bigger markers with the trail's name at the ends of the trail.

Henry explained that marking the Cochituate Aqueduct will be more difficult, as two private properties interrupt the trail. He will work on locations for markers.

Approval of the minutes of February 18: The minutes were approved after correction of the list of Environmentalist of the Year recipients by the addition Robert Fizek and Barbara Wales.

Land Trust Alliance: Jane explained that the Alliance is putting together an insurance product. We will register for \$250, the amount for our size. If enough trusts subscribe, they will raise additional \$4 million. This will ease our costs and concerns about insurance.

April Board meeting at Henry's home: the executive committee will see about rescheduling, as April 8 is the beginning of Passover.

Other Business: Ted distributed fliers for Habitat for Humanity's fund raiser on March 19, reminding us that this is for the project we helped bring to fruition. See the attachment.

Adjournment: at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

and sundry from home

I was much a part of the Conservators' Board in the 1980's & 90's, even serving as president for a couple years!

Again, congratulations on the Newsletter's new look and for the good looking logo!

Best wishes
Jean M. Husher

Feb 25, 2008

Dear Conservators + Pat Robinson -

I like your new logo and masthead very much!

I was the designer of the original one on the request of Laurie Mother who helped get the organization started back then in the 1960's. At the time I was home with 4 small children, but did some art work for various

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Featuring Comedian

Jimmy Tingle

Thursday, March 19, 2009

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of laughter with comedian **Jimmy Tingle**, network TV humorist and social commentator and winner of several “Best of Boston” Awards. Proceeds will benefit **Habitat for Humanity** and support the completion of the 2-family home Habitat is building in Newton.

- **Silent Auction**
- **Live Music** by local musicians **Damian Israel Shiner** (guitar) and **Anne Marie David** (piano).
- **Doors open at 7:00 for the Silent Auction;** show starts at 7:30
- **Come early for best seats!**

Memorial Hall at Newton City Hall

Intersection of Commonwealth and Walnut
Handicap accessible
Lots of free parking

Tickets \$25 in
advance; \$30
at the door



For Tickets and Information:

Online sales:

<https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/641495>

Phone orders: 866-811-4111

www.habitatboston.org

617-423-2223 (for additional information)

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 22, 2009 7:30 PM
Home of Henry Finch, 153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sue Avery, Larry Burdick, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Frank Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Larry Smith, Willis Wang.

Bob Persons and Harry Sanders were also present.

The meeting opened at 7:35.

Approval of Minutes of March 11: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine reviewed the first quarter financial statements, pointing out among other things, a \$10,000 decrease in assets largely because of early grants and insurance payments. Investment accounts have some \$5000 in unrealized losses.

Katherine also reported that she has inspected the contents of the safety deposit box and begun archiving documents on disk. A MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Nominating committee: suggestions for new members: two suggestions were made that will be followed up.

Land Acquisition Committee -Wilson Property update: Henry reported there is no news; he will give the Wilsons a call.

Land Management Committee: Golf Course Update: Willis reported that the issue of the conservation restriction is awaiting action by the City law department.

Christina Street railroad bridge: Larry pointed out the existence of this bridge, which is in very bad shape. Mike Clarke undertook to investigate its ownership and status.

Riverside Park: Bob Parsons explained that the bridge at Charles Street is part of the DCR bridge project. It is still blocked by fencing. He suggests we send a letter to DCR about removing barriers to access. A MOTION that the Conservators send a letter to DCR, with copy to MWRA, was SECONDED and APPROVED. Bob will send Jane a copy of the letter he has sent, on which to base her letter.

Land Trust Conference Report: Larry Burdick reported on the conference, focusing on the session about accreditation. Obtaining it is a long arduous process,

undertaken mainly by larger organizations that have paid staff to do it. The Trustees of Reservations is offering a grant \$15,000 to obtain accreditation. It costs \$2,500 to apply, plus \$3,000 yearly to belong. Larry thinks the Conservators is too small for this, but it may be useful to assess ourselves. It was agreed to look into this further.

Stewardship Schedule: Jane reminded us that she has sent it to us (see appended); she hopes members will join her and Larry in the Saturday inspections, an enjoyable task.

Annual Meeting: the agenda was reviewed. Ted will introduce the Crystal Lake Conservancy; Bill will introduce Richard Primack and David Backer; Beth will introduce Carol Stapleton and Sue Avery; Jane will introduce Lisle Baker.

As in the past, Doug Dickson will prepare the award certificates and recipients of grants in the past year will present their projects at the side of the hall. Jane will send a notice to the TAB.

Warren Street update: Peter reviewed the current situation: a developer of a site at the end of Warren Street, which is one entrance to the Webster Conservation Area, wants permission to dead-end the street and erect a noise barrier fence against Green Line sound, in return for landscaping and planting native vegetation. The Engineering Department has confirmed that none of this can be done without City permission. Private fence on public land, access to the Conservation Area, handicapped access and parking are some of the issues. Octo will continue to monitor and keep the board informed.

Other business:

- **Dog Parks:** Harry Sanders has been following the deliberations and decision of the Off Leash Task Force. The dog park established for Cold Spring is a trial, with a sunset clause at year's end. Harry's interest is in Edmands Park, where many neighborhood dog walkers are cleaning up and working to eradicate invasive species, particularly bittersweet. Harry is awaiting a response from Marc Welch, the City tree warden, about permission for volunteers to do this; liability is also an issue. Harry would like Conservator involvement. (Ted has been active on the dog park question from the beginning. His wife has recently filed an application for Norumbega Park to become a dog park; AnnaMaria noted that residents of the neighborhood, who usually file such applications, are not aware of this.)

Jane said that, while she loves dogs and has one, the destructive impact of off-leash dogs on wildlife and native vegetation is a Conservator concern, and that we need to investigate whether the Conservators should take a position regarding dog parks.

To start, Mike Clarke will report on the Parks and Recreation Commission's evaluation of the Cold Spring experiment in the coming months.

- Long Horned Beetle brochure: Ted circulated a brochure that a NNHS student has prepared about the dangers of this. Ted and Katherine agree in proposing that the Conservators and the Tree Conservancy jointly offer \$50 towards printing the brochure for distribution at the May 18 Tree Lecture. He offered a MOTION to this effect; it was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

- Trash at Cold Spring Park: Katherine reported on emails she has received from a resident complaining about noxious trash in one are of the park; other board members spoke about the grave problem in other portions of the park.

- Bike Newton: Ted said that Bike Newton Rally and Ride is asking us to co-sponsor the May 17 event for \$100. A MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

- Ordway Park: Bonnie commented that a tree in Ordway Park is in desperate straits, and asked about maintenance. We own the park and have funds for its maintenance. Sue said she and Beth cleaned up the park last year. Katherine said that Kevin Newman has worked there as needed but has submitted no bills of late. Sue will go to evaluate the situation and appropriate action will be taken

Nominating Committee Report: Bill noted that Beth plans to step down as president, and inquired about nominations. AnnaMaria responded that the committee has met and will nominate Jane Sender to ascend to president and Alison Leary to become vice-president. Katherine and she will continue in their posts.

Adjournment: at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

APRIL 14 e-mail from Jane Sender:

Dear Board Members and Advisors,

Our 2009 stewardship monitoring program is beginning in May. These are interesting, short, fun outings which provide a chance to look at our properties and make sure everything is as it should be. Some of these properties are conservation restrictions, and some are of land owned in fee simple. I hope you will join this important activity.

I have attached three of our monitoring reports from last year. You will find the address of the property and what the monitoring entails in those reports.

Here is the schedule. We will meet at the properties at 8:30am, walk the property and take notes and pictures. Reports to the City of Newton will be filed for the CRs as we did last year.

Saturday, **May 9, 2009** Wilmerding, 180 Elgin Street, Newton

Saturday, June 13, 2009 Webster Park, 76 Webster Park

Saturday, July 11, 2009 Angino Farm, 303 Nahanton street

Saturday, August 8, 2009 Crystal Lake

Saturday, September 12, 2009 To be determined

Saturday October 3, 2009 Ordway Park

Saturday, November 7, 2009 Awtry

Saturday, december 5, 2009 Propsect Park

I will send a reminder a few days before the scheduled dates. I look forward to seeing you!

Jane Sender

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Newton Conservators
at the American Legion Post 440
295 California Street, Nonantum
Wednesday, May 27, 2009

The business meeting opened shortly after 7 PM, after a social hour that began at 6:15 PM.

The following are summarized in the June/July/August issue of the Newton Conservators' Newsletter (attached to the file copy of these minutes):

The Treasurer's Report by Katherine Howard
The Audit Committee Report by Lalor Burdick
The President's Report by Beth Schroeder
The Nominating Committee Report by AnnaMaria Abernathy

The Nominating Committee Report was approved with the unanimous election of the following slate:

President: Jane Sender
Vice-President: Alison Leary
Treasurer: Katherine Howard
Secretary: AnnaMaria Abernathy
Past President: Beth Schroeder

Board Members

Margaret Albright	Maurice (Pete) Gilmore
Sue Avery	Dan Green
Octo Barnett	Bill Hagar
Dan Brody	Frank Howard
Larry Burdick	Peter Kastner
Bonnie Carter	Ted Kuklinski
Michael Clarke	Eric Reenstierna
Margaret Doris	Larry Smith
Henry Finch	Willis Wang

Advisors

Nancy Avery	Burton Elliott	Richard Primack
Lisle Baker	Bart Hague	Jon Regosin
Rodney Barker	Judith Hepburn	Frances Seasholes
John Bliss	Duane Hillis	Bill Shaevel
Lee Breckenridge	Deborah Howard	William Stevenson
Lucy Caldwell-Stair	Lawrence Kaplan	Roger Swain
Michael Collora	William Leitch	Verne Vance
Modestino Criscitiello	Don Lubin	Brian Yates
Douglas Dickson	Anne Pearson	

Following the election, the awards were given, as reported in the Annual Meeting Program (attached to the file copy of these minutes.)

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Following the meeting, Professor Richard Primack of Boston University spoke on “Climate Change Comes to Thoreau’s Concord.