

## DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
September 14, 2011 7:30 PM  
Newton City Hall Room 202

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Robert Fizek, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Eric Reenstierna, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present was Advisor Duane Hillis, Sally Barnett, and for the first item, Ashley Walter, Esq., of Shaevel & Krems.

**Approval of the Minutes of July 13, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Wilson Conservation Restriction:** Ashley Walter described and explained the draft conservation restriction on all but .3 acre of the Wilsons' 2 acre property at 15 Bracebridge Road. The Land Acquisition Committee had met earlier in the evening and voted to approve the CR. Following discussion of access, monitoring details and cost, a MOTION to approve the CR, with some questions still to be resolved, was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Mike Clarke agreed to attend the Sep. 22 Conservation Commission meeting when the CR would be discussed and voted on.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine explained the financials through June 30, which she had emailed to the board days earlier. Revenues are 3% below budget, which is usually corrected in the last quarter. Expenses were as expected; special projects are running positive so far; the annual meeting exceeded expectations, netting \$7000. \$600 for grants remains available. The IRS filings were done in August, and all filings are up to date.

**Mass Audubon Reports:** (Jane) Monitoring at all of the properties will resume in April/May 2012.

**Follow-up on other properties and reporting schedule:**

October: Ordway Park and Crystal Lake issues, Beth. November: Newton Community Farm, Bill Hagar. December: Dolan Pond, Ted. January: Wilmerding, Mike. February: Prospect Park, George. March: Autrey Dell, Eric. April: Golf Course, Jane. The follow up water testing results on the golf course were distributed to the board and all results are within EPA guidelines.

**Open Space Advisory Committee; board priorities:** Ted, Mike, and Jane are participating on the advisory panel, for which the board needs to indicate its priorities. Pages 88-91 of the 2003 Open Space Plan were reviewed, and grades assigned (attached – see grades in margins).

Other sites suggested for consideration were

- Verizon Lot at 91 Court Street, Newtonville : pocket park
- Cheese Cake Brook pathway
- Two Stratford Road parcels adjacent to Dolan Pond
- Goldman Property CR (n. side of trail from Elgin St.)
- CRs on all the City's parks
- Avery Woods CR
- Corner of Sterling & Seward Sts. – a house has been torn down.

The following undertook to investigate questions:

- Margaret Albright will ask Harry Sanders regarding Franciscan/Mt. Alvernia
- George – re Andover-Newton CR
- Ted – Farwell St. – second property

The Open Space Planning Committee's next meeting will be on October 5.

**Nahanton Park Report:** (Jane) The Audubon draft review indicates that having the farm expand as desired would change the nature of the park. Duane recommended that the treed area that was formerly farmed should be cleared and used.

**Chestnut Hill Shopping Center:** (Jane) the recommendation that the parking area be reduced has been rejected.

**Charles River Invasives:** Charles River Invasives: Larry reported on this summer's weed pulling of water chestnuts. This year a DCR Matching Grant allowed the State to hire Aquatic Control Technology to perform hand pulling, assist volunteer efforts and conduct before and after surveys. These surveys will support NOI applications for next year. For the future, private funding in cooperation with CRWA may be a more effective use of limited funds.

**Fall Walks:** Alison has scheduled the walks, which will be on the web site before the Newsletter arrives.

**Annual Meeting Date:** Jane suggested we meet before the crowded end of May-June calendar. It was agreed that we reserve the upstairs room at Post 440 for May 2, if available. [*Katherine reserved the room on the following day.*]

**New Business:**

**Poison Ivy at Saw Mil Brook.** Dan noted that the path is blocked by poison ivy. Jane said the Conservation Commission is working on a policy to permit removing of poison ivy from trails.

**Adjournment:** at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

The Conservation Action Program addresses:

- (1) A clearly delineated governmental policy to further and protect the public's interest in the supply and location of land and water resources in Newton. Such resources may be acquired for public ownership, or as hereinafter listed in this Plan may remain in private ownership and management, but have their public benefits assured in perpetuity by the recording of Conservation Restrictions on such land and water resources pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 184, Sections 31-33 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Conservation Restriction Act;
- (2) Improvements to enhance land and water resources; and
- (3) Management and maintenance of land and water resources.

ACTION PROGRAM

CONSERVATION OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
	MAP CODE  INDEX NO.	FISCAL YEAR				
		03	04	05	06	07
<b>Acquisition by City of Newton by gift or purchase:</b>						
A   Done - Acquisition of West Kessler Woods ("Edison Land" - now owned by N-Star) 9.20 acres bordering on Saw Mill Brook if funds become available, or by negotiation of a Conservation Restriction	58	X	X			
A-   1 of 3 Acquire three remaining lots on Wabasso Street and Forest Grove abutting the Charles River access and pathway when offered for sale	Near 219	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Acquisition by City of Newton by gift, purchase or negotiation of a Conservation Restriction in perpetuity on the following whole or less-than-whole parcels:</b>						
A   No 122 Islington Road - CR to protect steep, wooded, gravel aquifer bordering on Charles River	210	X	X			
A   [need to check] Missionary of Franciscan Sisters / Mt. Alvernia High School Property - CR on wooded portion bordering on Edmands Brook	82		X	X		
?   [DCR?] Temple Mishkan Tefila Woods - CR on whole parcel	83		X	X		
A-   Boston College Law School - Newton Campus - CR to protect small, but rare in Newton, Cambridge Slate outcrop south of Colby Road	80			X	X	

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*Margaret Elling*

*M. Doris will investigate*

?	Hammond Pond - CR to assure permanent public access to Pond across commercially-zoned, privately-owned, parking lot abutting Hammond Pond MDC Reservation. (Temporary access assured by July 17, 1979 Memorandum of Agreement has expired)	Adj to 178	X	X				
	Hammond Pond - CR on vegetated edge of the commercially zoned, south side of the Pond	Adj to 178		X	X			
	Hammond Pond - CR on privately owned residential wooded swamp and uplands on east side of Pond off Longwood Road		X					
	Section 63, Block 37, Lot 13							
	Hammond Pond same area							
	Section 63, Block 37, Lot 14		X					
	Hammond Pond same area							
	Section 63, Block 37, Lot 17		X					
A	785 Dudley Road - CR on western portion of Horst estate abutting Newton South High School property to protect Brighton Volcanic rock formations	50		X	X			
I	Done Andover-Newton Theological Seminary/The Terraces Development on Institution Hill - CR to assure easement for unobstructed view south to Blue Hills	84	X					
A-	600 Beacon Street - CR to protect cliff with geological interest						X	
?	Oak Hill Park Trustees' Woods - CR to protect tree cover, bordering on Charles River floodplain	90		X	X			
?	Marriott Hotel - CR to protect peninsula at north end abutting Charles River.	62	X					
I	Done 76 Webster Park - CR on top of hill overlooking Dolan Pond Conservation Area	3	X	X				

*George Mansfield*

<b>(Need to Check) Acquisition by Metropolitan District Commission by gift, by purchase, or by other negotiation of the following Charles River Pathway Easements or ownership (many of these properties are also listed for possible city easements):</b>						
A	Marcy Land – American Tower Systems portion bordering the Charles River – 0.34 acre	36	X	X		
A	56 Farwell Street – bordering on Charles River 2.8 acres for scenic easement or conservation easement without public access <i>Add 2<sup>nd</sup> property</i>	6	X	X		
	Lasell College Boathouse - land owned by MDC – verify and ensure access rights	231		X		
A	Charles River Country Club access or conservation easement	75		X	X	
<b>Conservation Facility Improvement and/or Development:</b>						
A	<u>Ongoing</u> Continue construction of Charles River Pedestrian Pathway including Williams Street improvements and marsh crossings at Nahanton St. and Wells Ave. in cooperation with MDC	38	X	X	X	X
	<u>Ongoing</u> Implement a passive recreation strategy for appropriate use of Flowed Meadow, an action recommended by the Flowed Meadow Planning Group <u>(Group may be gone)</u>	1, 1A, 91	X			
	<u>Done</u> Development of parking, boardwalks, and access for people with disabilities at Dolan Pond Conservation Area	3	X			
<b>Management:</b>						
	<u>No</u> Identify and map major upland vegetation types on the City's aerial photographic atlas		X	X	X	X
	<u>No</u> Continue the development of a series of field guides, tree guides, and nature guides for use in the City's Conservation Areas		X	X	X	X
	<u>No</u> Support the State Department of Environmental Management P. L. 92-500 Section 314 Program for Lake Management and encourage inclusion of Hammond Pond in the Program		X	X	X	X

*Ted K.*

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
October 12, 2011 7:30 PM  
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Willis Wang, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of the Minutes of September 14, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine distributed the Sept. 30 reports, noting that the endowment had fallen with the decline in the stock market, and that dues and membership contributions are running below the projected sums. Making our 2011 budget will depend on members giving normally at year end renewal time, even if they gave earlier for the anniversary event

**Land Acquisition Committee:** The resignation of Eric Reenstierna was noted with regret. George led the discussion of Conservator recommendations about Andover-Newton for the new Open Space Plan. The board decided that while a CR on the old OSP had been done, a CR on the remaining open space is also desirable.

**Report on Mass Audubon Monitoring of Ordway Park and Crystal Lake**

**CRs.:** Beth read her review of the reports, which she has emailed to the board that afternoon.

- On Ordway Park, she observed that the existing markers are adequate, and that maintenance issues were more important than the additional plaque recommended by the Audubon report. She will meet with Kevin Newman about the work to be done under his contract, and possible additional tasks.

A MOTION to ignore the plaque but approve all the other recommendations of the Audubon report for Ordway Park was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

- Re Crystal Lake: the City holds the CR on the path from the Levingston Cove to the City property, so the Conservators can recommend to the City how to mark the path. The Conservators hold the CR on the 8000 ft.<sup>2</sup> between the residence and the City property. The boundary line between the private grounds and the conservation area is not clear, and should be marked; Beth suggests a line of attractive stones or small granite blocks.

**Update on Wilson Conservation Area:** Jane went to the ZAP meeting which was considering the proposed CR. Because the proposed CR does not include public

access, the ZAP wants a side agreement with the Wilsons to preserve the current access. Alderman Lisle Baker stepped in to confirm this, and to explain that only the not-restricted area would be the basis for calculating future building sizes.

**Annual Meeting Speaker:** Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, with alternate Prof. Doug Tallamy, Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at U. of Delaware will be approached.

**Newsletter:** Beth will be editor of the Newsletter, as part of her overall charge of communications. She plans to have a specific focus for each newsletter, as well as our TAB communications. She and Eric will work together on the next issue. Possible issues for newsletters: budget, development, large trees, Friends' groups, Regarding the mailing of the Newsletter: the board decided that members may opt out of receiving the printed version, rather than asking them to opt in. Copies will not be mailed to those whose membership has expired.

**Riverside:** (Jane) the developer has accepted our recommendations about tying in with DCR paths, and about changes in the internal paths. The scale is also slightly diminished, but she sees no good solution for the traffic dilemma.

**Other developments:** George told us that Newton Centre developments are imminent.

**Tree Conservancy update:** (Katherine)The Conservancy will join the Green Expo Tent, but Katherine would also like a table outside the tent. Plans are to expand tree plantings, hence fundraising.

**New Business:**

**Lecture sponsorship:** (Ted) a new Amherst literary journal, *The Common*, has a photo essay on Houghton Garden, and would like us to co-sponsor a lecture on it at the library. A MOTION to do so was SECONDED and APPROVED.

**Adjournment:** at 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary



**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
November 9, 2011 7:30 PM  
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine reported that we have certification from the Attorney General's office, have filed Form PC with the Secretary of State, and are about to update the list of officers. Next is to draw up the budget for next year.

**Open Space Advisory Committee Update:** The discussion of conservation will be on December 7. Jane initiated a discussion of what specific issues we wish brought up. She pointed out that since the last Open Space Plan of 2007, the main change has been the severity of storms, with their impacts on trees and sewer systems. In view of this, maintenance in general needs to be better, more funding is needed for trees, more infrastructure improvements are needed to relieve stresses on the Charles River and to maintain open spaces. Better access to the aqueducts and the river was also desired.

Community Preservation Committee neighborhood meetings are beginning. Wards 1 & 2 will be discussed at NNHS on Dec. 15, from 7 to 9 PM. Board members agreed on the need, each year, to set aside funds (more than the 10% minimum) for possible future opportunities. I.e., some 20 or 25% of the available amount.

**Land Acquisition Committee – Wilson CR update:** (Jane) The State requires that a site must either represent unique conservation values or offer public access. Work towards a solution continues.

**Angino Farm Update:** Bill recounted the history of the farm and showed current photos. He sees no need for signage desired by the Farm, since the outline is clearly defined.

**Nahanton Park Management Plan:** Jane summarized the recommendations in the plan sent to the board last month. She proposed asking Audubon for a proposal to supervise the removal of invasives and restore habitat in the park, overseeing the work which would be done by mainly by volunteers.

**Annual Meeting Speaker:** Jane has been in touch with Prof. Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* and other works, known as an excellent speaker who would attract a large audience including people from outside Newton. His fee is \$1000 plus expenses. A MOTION to authorize up to \$2000 to have him as speaker was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Newsletter:** (Beth) The deadline for the December issue is Friday (11/11). Beth has received a number of articles, including one from Alderman Ruthanne Fuller about the budget for Conservation maintenance, which has been \$25,000 each year since 1983. A reminder to renew membership will be included.

The mailing party for the renewal letter will be Monday, Nov. 14. It will be sent first class.

**Harvest Fair and Tree Conservancy report:** (Katherine) 23 Trailguides and 2 Almanacs were sold at the fair.

The Tree Conservancy is receiving applications for the 2012 plantings, many more than the number of plants available.

A propos trees, Katherine that Sunday's Tree Conservancy Newton Cemetery walk was successful with 35 participants.

**Mixed Use amendment to the Comprehensive Plan:** George reported that the report recommending amendments passed unanimously at Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting, to his surprise. It includes important planning standards for large developments such as at Riverside.

**New Business:**

• **Hammond Pond Boardwalk:** the current version of the DCR proposal puts on the back burner remediation for stormwater issues at the pond, and the City has sent a written comment that issues regarding the health of the pond must be a first concern. The proposal is on the Conservator web site (<http://www.newtonconservators.org/hammondproposal.htm>) Another hearing will be held.

• **Newton Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Resolution:** Alison asked the board to support the resolution, which she was emailing to us, and will be discussed when members have read it.

• **Brush dumping in the aqueducts:** Pete raised the issue and Henry is going to check to see whether the brush has been removed.

- **Election result:** George suggested we reach out to the new aldermen. Jane agreed to do it, and to send them a trail guide.
- **Crystal Lake Conservancy request:** (Bill) The Conservancy has applied for a grant of \$3,000 “to help cover the costs of creating educational material for the public on how to help reduce any contaminants into Crystal Lake.” Upon discussion, a MOTION to give \$1,000 from the Special Projects funds was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- **Mailing Party:** Bonnie invited members to her home at 9:30 AM on Monday to mail the renewal letters.

**Adjournment:** at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
December 14, 2011  
Finch/Robinson home  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, , Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present were Advisor Duane Hillis and environmental specialist Jacqueline Daoust

**Approval of the Minutes of November 9, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said that membership renewals are coming in steadily.

**Open Space Advisory Committee Update :** (Jane) The committee met the previous week. Public meetings will be held in January. Our board will see the draft plan and will vote on it before it is adopted.

**Land Acquisition Committee – Wilson CR update:** (Jane)The preparation of the CR is in the final stages. awaiting state approval.

**Nahanton Park Management Plan:** Jane was to meet the following day with Marc Welch, Carol Schein. Judy Dorr and Duane Hillis regarding implementation of the recommendations. Audubon will prepare a plan to be carried out mostly by volunteers. It was the sense of the board to consider contributing to the project.

Beth noted that help with invasives is needed also at Ordway Park.

**Houghton Garden Event:** Ted has been involved in organizing the January 10 event at the Library, "Discovering Houghton Garden." Daniel Jackson has asked for a grant to pay for reproducing historic photographs to be used for his talk. As co-sponsors, the board heard a MOTION to approve \$150 for this; it was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Newsletter:** (Jane and Beth) The Newsletter has received much positive comment, especially about the underfunding for conservation lands. Members agreed to try to

have an article in each newsletter on one Conservation Commission land. Also proposed was an issue on funding of Parks and Rec. land.

**Riverside changes:** (Jane) The Ward 4 aldermen have docketed a proposal, for rezoning that would permit only one office tower, 290 housing units and reduced commercial space.

**Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution:** Alison distributed drafts of a letter to the Mayor and the aldermen, and of the resolution the letters ask the City to adopt. The LWVN and Green Decade have supported it. After considerable discussion of the vagueness and utility of a toothless resolution, as well as not wishing to seem in opposition, a MOTION to send a brief statement giving the Conservators' backing – without detail – was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Dolan Pond Monitoring:** Ted distributed copies of his description of the Audubon monitoring report on the Webster Park Conservation Restriction (appended to the file copy of these minutes). To the main recommendation, that the boundaries be surveyed and clearly marked, Ted proposed to drive rebar in place of the existing impermanent wooden stakes. We should also follow the recommendations to clear overgrown paths and stop landscapers dumping.

**New Business:**

- **Signs:** (Dan Brody) Dan described the color coded Wellesley pagh signage, and demonstrated a QR code sign that could be posted for smart phones to identify locations. Amid general interest, Jane suggested we create a sign for Ordway Park, for which no permit is needed, as a demo.

- **Kennard Park:** Duane described the plan of the Parks and Recreation Commissioner to rent the Kennard Estate for two years to the School Department for office use by a grant program entitled "The Newton Partnership" (TNP). About 12 staff members would have offices, and hold meetings with other staff and parents. The rent would be #1000/mo. which includes all utility costs and construction of an accessible entry. Left empty for some years, the house was used to be rented as a private residence, with the income to be used for maintenance of the Park. It currently needs one million dollars of repairs. The ordinance establishing the park called for it to be administered by a board of trustees consisting of the commissioner of public buildings, the commissioner of parks and recreation, and the chairman of the Conservation Commission. This board does not seem to be active in this matter. Discussion centered on the precedent this change would establish, and the deleterious effect on the park.

A decision was reached to write a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission stating that this decision needs to go through a public hearing process

- **Waltham Land Trust proposal to co-sponsor a history/bird walk in March** was reported by Ted Kuklinski. A MOTION to agree was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- **Land Acquisition Chairman:** Jane announced that Mike Clark will chair the Land Acquisition Committee, replacing Eric Reenstierna.

**Adjournment:** at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
January 11, 2012  
Newton wCity Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Octo Barnett, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Peter Kastner, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present were Advisor Duane Hillis and Sarah Barnett.

**Approval of the Minutes of December 14, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said that memberships are coming in well, though income remains a little below budget. But expenses have been below budget, so the balance is ok.

**Jacqueline Daoust :** Jane read from Jacqueline's resume, and board members who spoke with her at the last meeting praised her. A MOTION to elect her to the board was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Nahanton Park Management Plan update:** A discussion of the Newton Community Farm's proposal to combine farming and 10 community gardens in the ½ acre western plot of the lower gardens (see attachment) concluded with the sense of the group that all favor the proposal, but would like more than 10 community plots and perhaps review after one year.

**MWRA proposal for aqueduct access:** Henry attended the MAPC's December 15 meeting. The MWRA head, Frederick Laskey, explained that while the mission is to provide water, the MWRA is working on an agreement to permit public uses, i.e., to formalize what already exists for the Sudbury Aqueduct. None of this is relevant for the Newton portion of the Cochituate Aqueduct, as none of it belongs to the MWRA.

**Land Acquisition Report:** Mike had emailed his report on the Wilmerding CR on January 6. There seem to be no problems at the site but Mike is talking with the neighbors about the fallen tree.

**CPA Community meeting on Jan. 24:** Jane will attend and state the Conservators' recommendation that fixed amounts be set aside each year, to be available when an opportunity arises.

**CIP discussions:** Duane had studied the CIP proposals and noted numerous entries for the Kennard House. The CIP will be discussed in conjunction with the budget in April, so Conservators have time to think about it. Katherine pointed out that tree planting needs to be included, and Jane said that the Open Space Plan should also be brought up in conjunction with the CIP.

**Houghton Garden Event Report:** All who had attended agreed that it had been a great success, interesting and enjoyable, with some 110 attendees. Ted will investigate use of some of the photos on the Conservator website, as well as possible airing of his video of the event.

**New Business:**

- **Co-sponsorship of an event:** (Ted) The Library has asked us to co-sponsor with it and the Green Decade a lecture in April, on the subject of water. The board agreed.

- **Riverside Project:** AnnaMaria brought up the public meeting that the full board of aldermen has scheduled for February 2, “to hear public comments that may inform the continued work of the [Zoning and Planning] Committee and staff.” Jane noted that our concerns had been stated in her August letter to the EEA and were noted in the EEA’s certificate for the EIN. George observed that it doesn’t hurt to remind the aldermen, so AnnaMaria agreed to reiterate the Conservators’ concerns at the meeting.\*

**Adjournment:** at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

\* Also a community meeting will occur on January 29, at the United Parish of Auburndale, hosted by the RiversideStation Neighborhood Coalition; all Ward 4 aldermen will attend.



Newton Community Farm  
Proposal to Nahanton Park Working Group  
Farming and Community Gardening in Nahanton Park lower gardens  
12/19/2011

**Introduction**

NCF proposes to begin implementing the Community Gardening recommendations of the Audubon Society report dated October 2011 by combining farming and community gardening in the marginally used portion of the Lower Gardens of Nahanton Park.

We believe the proposal will be attractive to the City of Newton because it incorporates a low cost, low risk way to demonstrate the feasibility of improving Community Gardening operations along the lines recommended in the Audubon report. If the experiment is successful, Newton will be in a much better position in the future to apply the recommendations to the heavily gardened areas in the Lower Garden and the Upper Garden. Without such a demonstration, it will be extremely difficult to make the recommended operational changes. If they can be implemented, the changes will result in dramatic improvements in the appearance and use of the Community Gardens.

Partnering in the proposed manner will enable NCF to farm additional space, which it would use to improve crop rotation and make more of its produce available to the local community.

**Outline Details**

Area involved: Area 2 of the lower community gardens (see illustration below)

Term: 5 years, renewable if agreeable

**Responsibilities of NCF**

Site improvements:

Remove all interior fencing, brush, trees etc.

Contribute up to \$5,000 for fence for rodents, deer, people. Include locking gate.

Prepare entire area for farming and gardening

Stake out ten community garden plots inside the fence

Management: Annual tilling and soil management including soil fertility testing and compost additions

Yearly evaluation: NCF will lead an evaluation of the program at the end of each year of its operation.

Water use: NCF will pay for city water it uses, as measured by a meter.

**Responsibility of City**

Advertise plot availability, manage applications and fees, provide fence lock keys to gardeners.

Improve water supply pressure to lower garden

Install water spigots inside fence: one for community gardeners, one for NCF

Dispose of interior fencing, brush, trees etc. removed by NCF

Remove scrub and trees in corner of Meadow in accordance with Audubon recommendation, which will permit view lines of the fenced area from the road.

Provide for remainder of fence cost

Participate in yearly evaluation

**Issues to be discussed**

Details of fence design to be worked out for cost, appearance and effectiveness.

Accommodation of current gardeners within the proposed area. Within the proposed area we have identified two plots that are actively gardened, in which the current gardeners may wish to continue to have the use of their soil. If requested we will relocate as much as 400 sf of soil, to a depth of eight inches, to the community garden plot area within the new fence.

NCF Option to terminate. NCF may terminate the agreement on January 1 of any year of this agreement.

**Preliminary proposed rules for the 10 community garden plots**

Community garden rental fees to be determined by the City

Fixed seasonal dates of opening and closing

Entire area tu

rned over each year

No interior fences

Organic methods

No permanent structures

No perennials

No weeds (neglected plots will be turned over by NCF)

Gardeners not following rules will not be renewed the following year



**NAHANTON PARK PROPOSED FARMING AREA**

Scale: red line = approx 100'

**AREA 2. "MARGINALLY USED COMMUNITY GARDEN AREA"**

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
February 8, 2012  
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Mike Clarke, Jackie Daoust, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present was Advisor Duane Hillis.

**Approval of the Minutes January 11, 2011:** The minutes were approved as written, with correction of the heading.

**Nahanton Park Management Plan update:** A meeting on the coming Friday including Jane, Jackie, Marc Welch, Carol Schein et al. will map out the removal of invasives. Welch hopes to obtain equipment enabling him to remove large trees in-house, without outside contractor.

The Community Farm presented its proposal to the Parks and Rec. Commission, which is not taking it up. (Jane, ok?)

**Welcome Jacqueline Daoust to the board:** Jane welcomed Jackie, who briefly told about her background and her interest in environmental affairs and conservation. She and Henry will collaborate to set up a Conservator Facebook page.

**Annual Meeting:** Jane said Prof. Tallami is on board as speaker; copies of his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, will be available for sale.

Some ideas for awards were discussed. The board will have to decide at the March meeting, so members are urged to think about nominees.

**Kennard Park Update:** Jane has been named the Conservation Commission's Trustee of the Kennard Park Trust. A meeting with others involved concluded not to continue renting to the School Committee when the lease expires in 18 months, and to seek a proper use for the house. Duane praised Jane and Peter Kastner for having achieved this resolution, while Jane pointed to Duane as responsible for bringing attention to the misuse of the property. All agreed that this was a triumph.



Duane asked us to consider whether we favor restoring the fruit trees on the land, and whether the Farm, which is interested in more fruit trees, should be involved.

**Parks and Rec. Department (P&R DEP) centennial and Open House:** on Wednesday, February 29, from 10 to 4 PM, P&R Dept. will hold an Open House at its new office at 124 Vernon Street (the former Newton Corner Library). Mike found that the centennial of the Department is also to be celebrated: the Enabling Legislation for the P&R Dep. was signed on March 18, 1912, and the first meeting held on Apr.26, 1912.

**Recreation and Open Space Survey & CPC questionnaire:** Mike informed us that the City committees have put these online.

The OSP Survey: <http://newtonma.gov/planning/cdbg/openspace.html>

CPA Survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYFZCDH>

**CR Monitoring report on Prospect Park/Dexter Rd.** George distributed copies of his report (appended to these minutes). As noted by the Audubon report, the boundaries are not marked and no sign identifies the land. One abutting property had been razed that morning, and the house on the other side is empty, so identifying the lot lines is urgent; Henry volunteered to inquire at the Special Services Department at City Hall whether there are survey reports.

**Treasurer's Report, 2012 Budget:** Katherine reported that Form 3ABC has been filed with the City. She went over the Income and Balance Sheet that had been emailed to board members, and presented the proposed 2012 Budget, (also emailed, and attached here). There were no questions, and a MOTION to accept the budget was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Mass. Land Trust Coalition Meeting- March 24:** Jane reported the executive committee's decision to pay the registration of any board member who wished to attend; Jackie indicated that she would go.

### **New Business:**

- **Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force:** The group has asked Conservators to place an ad in the map they are preparing. Board members agreed to a \$100 ad.
- **Newsletter:** Beth asked for submissions for the mid-March issue before February 24. The Spring Walks schedule needs to be included, as well as preview of the annual meeting.
- **Purgatory Cove:** Larry announced that State Rep. Stanley has obtained funding for hydro-raking the cove, to be completed during June.β

**Adjournment:** at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**Report on Prospect Park/Dexter Woods Open Space Parcel**  
submitted by George Mansfield, 2/08/12

**Description:** This is one of the three parcels of land owned in fee by the Newton Conservators. It is also subject to a conservation restriction (CR), held by the owners of an adjacent parcel. This land was acquired in 2004, and the CR was placed on it simultaneously. The CR was granted “in perpetuity,” but it does not appear to have been approved by the State and so is not a truly permanent CR. Its only provision is that the land “shall remain in an open and natural state, and no building or other structure shall be constructed, maintained or used on the Premises.” This restriction does not apply to a 30-ft wide sewer easement crossing the property near its northern end, containing a sewer connection serving the property at 60 Prospect Park. The owners of that property (the holders of the CR) have the right to “enter upon and maintain said easement” and “install, maintain, and replace and/or repair pipes through said sewer easement.”

The lot is 10,000 sq.ft. in area, and is a long narrow parcel about 50 ft. deep with about 200 ft. of frontage on Dexter Road off Walnut Street in Newtonville. It abuts three developed single-family residential lots, one each on its north, west, and south borders. It slopes steeply up from Dexter Road to its rear (west) boundary, and except for a small portion of fairly level land within about 15 feet of the Dexter Road frontage, it is only accessible from the neighboring properties. It is assessed for \$181,200, but it is not a buildable lot because it does not meet minimum lot area requirements. As pointed out in the Mass Audubon evaluation, its boundaries with the abutting residential lots are not well defined, either by surveyors’ marks or visually, as the edges of those lots have similar “natural” characteristics to the Conservators’ property.

**History:** In 2004, the former owner of the property at 60 Prospect Park, Carolyn Fine Friedman, subdivided that property and donated this parcel to the Conservators. She noted that she could have also subdivided her property to create a larger, second building lot. However, her intent for the stewardship of this property was clear from a portion of the letter she sent to the Board in 2004:

*“This eastern facing bedrock outcrop that has met the morning sun’s rays before the time Europeans first graced American shores, now is no longer a formidable obstacle to development... We must do all we can, wherever we can, to change the tide of humanity’s impacts and preserve nature’s life giving balances. My vision is to see this land permanently protected, not just for its dramatic rocky face and its community of living and natural things, but because saving it is a symbol of optimism for the preservation of all of nature both in Newton and beyond.”*

In 2007, a study of this property by the Conservators’ Land Management Survey Team identified the many species of trees and wildflowers and other groundcover on this site, both native and invasive. They recommended increasing diversity of plants and removing invasives, as well as maple saplings that crowd out soil-retaining vegetation necessary to prevent erosion on the

steeper portions of the slope. They also reported that dead limbs from the mature trees had fallen on neighbors' properties and on a car on Dexter Road, and that the sewer line on the property had backed up from tree roots and overflowed. The report implied that these issues required action by the Conservators, but the CR seems to make it clear that the sewer line maintenance is the abutter's responsibility. It has been reported that the Conservators at that time did take action to prune and/or remove trees that appeared to be compromised. The report also suggests that both the faculty and students in the Environmental Science Program at Newton North High School and the Dexter Road abutters who benefit from this neighborhood open space resource should be encouraged to be partners with the Conservators in improving and maintaining the property.

### **Current conditions:**

Since my observations at this site have occurred in mid-winter, I cannot fully evaluate or even identify most of the vegetation on the site. It is dominated by tall, mature hardwood trees. Tall fir trees frame the vista from Dexter Road as well, but these appear to be on the adjacent property to the west. The ground has thick leaf cover, with some, but not many, fallen limbs. There are two large trees on the site that appear to be dead or dying, one each near the eastern and western boundaries, and these should be evaluated. As the Audubon survey reported, the boundary markers cannot be found, although along most of the western (upper) portion of the site, several trees are marked by orange surveyors' tape. These appear to be reference points, and not the indication of the property line. There was no visible rebar, although it apparently was placed there at one time by the Board. From the aerial photos, the terrace behind the house on the adjoining western lot (60 Prospect Park) appears to be about 15 ft. off the property line. Most of the yard waste and other debris in this area seems to be on neighboring lot(s), although there are some concrete blocks on or near the southwest corner of the property.

Fallen limbs (some likely from trees on the Conservators' land) and undisturbed leaf cover partially obstruct a stairway climbing the slope on the edge of the adjacent property to the north (15 Dexter Road), the only route to easily access this property from Dexter Road. This home is currently unoccupied, and I was told by a neighbor that the owners are living out of state and a family member oversees the property. Again, there is no clear demarcation, by markers or landscaping, between this property and the Conservators' land.

On the southern side of the site, the 1950's split-level home (39 Dexter Road) was also vacant on my first visit, and today I found it was in the process of being demolished. There is an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission covering this work, as it is within the jurisdictional area of Laundry Brook on the opposite side of Dexter Road. The requisite silt barriers appear to be in place, but there are no property boundary markers visible. Similarly, on this side of the site, the distinction between this property and the Open Space is not clear. Although the Demolition Permit states that its purpose is to replace the dwelling with a new single-family house, a building permit has not yet been issued. The former house site was on the southernmost portion of the lot, but a new home could be sited much closer to the Open Space.

The eastern boundary of the site is Dexter Road. Here the land is relatively level, and it is the only portion of the site where there is visible litter, including some food waste. Most of this is probably within the 6-ft. shoulder of the City's right of way. There is no sidewalk or curb. There are also a considerable number of saplings growing within this right of way, although the 2007 survey reported that the City Tree Warden intended to clear out this area. The ground ivy identified in the Audubon Report is most prevalent in this area. Neighbors also reported that there is a considerable planting of day lilies that beautifies this area in the summer.

**Threats:** It appears that the transitions that currently are or likely to occur in the properties to the immediate south and north of this parcel could change the character and appearance of this green pocket considerably, and not be in keeping with Ms. Fine Friedman's vision. Larger houses could be sited closer to this parcel. Land could be cleared up to the property lines (or inadvertently beyond them), fences erected, outbuildings built, etc. Access to the land which is possible today (although not legally provided) could be closed off. The Conservators should monitor these properties and possibly contact their owners to see if consideration can be given to minimizing impact on the Open Space when changes proceed on their properties.

Another threat to the appearance of the Open Space may have come from the opening of a new direct entrance to the athletic facilities at Newton North at the corner of Dexter Road and Hull Street, only a few hundred feet from the property. Use of this route going to and from North may be contributing to the accumulation of litter along the property frontage.

**Opportunities:** Ms. Fine Friedman's vision of this property was admittedly symbolic, and did not pretend that this would be a resource that many would "use" for its open space/recreational value, or that it was significant in and of itself. However, if it can be kept in its current, very natural state, it could serve as a small piece of a much larger and more significant series of natural areas that are important resources for people in this section of Newtonville and Newton Center. It is just one block from Bulloughs Pond, and closer than that to a 1+ acre parcel of City-owned open space at the corner of Dexter Road and Walnut Street that contains Laundry Brook, featuring a series of waterfalls. There is a walking trail around three sides of Bulloughs Pond, with a number of benches providing great vistas. There is also access to the Laundry Brook land, although it is mostly undeveloped. The Bulloughs Pond trail connects with the Commonwealth Avenue carriage way path, which is a form of linear Open Space stretching from Boston to Weston. At the other end of Dexter Road, the public has access to Newton North and all its playing fields and facilities (creating both an opportunity and a threat).

The Conservators should consider whether Dexter Woods should be identified and improved in a small way to serve as a "waypoint" in this long stretch of linear open space. We could, for example, conceive of clearing out the saplings along the eastern frontage (with the City's help), making the "dramatic rocky face" and the tall trees more visible and notable. We could install a small identifying sign—giving the Conservators more visibility as well. We could increase the ground plantings in the level area, augmenting the day lilies, perhaps, with less invasive species. We could consider installing a bench (perhaps on City land or on the sewer easement so to not conflict with the CR), probably similar to the backless benches at the corner of Dexter Road and Bulloughs Park, and see if the City would place a trash receptacle nearby (and empty it regularly). In doing any or all of this we should reach out to our neighbors, not only the immediate abutters, but also the neighbors directly across the street (who arguably could benefit most), the Bulloughs Pond Association, and Newton North. And we shouldn't forget that Mayor Warren and his family also live in this immediate neighborhood!



Newton Conservators Inc.  
Unrestricted Income Statement  
Budget for 2012

	2012 Proposed Budget	2011		Prior Years				
		CY2011 Actual	CY2011 Budget	CY2011 Var.	CY2010 Actual	CY2009 Actual	CY2008 Actual	CY 2007 Actual
<b>REVENUES</b>								
Dues - Members	16,000	12,800	16,000	(3,200)	15,870	15,560	14,629	17,511
Gifts - Members	2,000	2,115	2,000	115	1,685	2,493	1,430	2,820
Credit card fees	(200)	(185)	(200)	15	(165)	(139)	150	-
Escrow interest (on \$27.4K golf escrow)	120	143	120	23	69	-	-	-
Almanac sales (offset to expense in prior yrs)	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trail Guide sales	1,400	1,379	1,000	379	1,079	884	725	344
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>20,320</b>	<b>16,253</b>	<b>18,920</b>	<b>(2,667)</b>	<b>18,539</b>	<b>18,797</b>	<b>16,933</b>	<b>20,675</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Annual Meeting - net cost	1,570	1,179	1,500	321	1,003	1,662	2,469	1,027
Board Administrative Expenses	500	207	500	293	779	410	398	360
Board Development	250	-	250	250	-	-	-	-
Dues	550	550	450	(100)	400	405	375	405
Fees	100	75	100	25	75	75	75	50
Grants	5,000	4,390	5,000	610	3,020	4,900	6,534	3,748
Insurance	3,390	3,285	3,300	15	3,295	3,239	3,086	3,001
Publications & Publicity	1,000	-	500	500	5,850	5,850	-	-
Almanac sales (move to Revenue for 2012)	-	(452)	(1,000)	(548)	(1,214)	(3,269)	-	-
Publications & Publicity - Trail Guides/Brochures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,727
Membership Development	3,000	1,240	3,000	1,760	2,812	1,839	1,759	882
Newsletter	2,000	1,813	2,000	187	2,348	3,394	1,872	1,793
Ordway Maintenance	1,500	1,145	1,500	355	980	1,665	710	822
Programs	500	(100)	500	600	165	-	200	500
Website	260	191	250	59	191	191	208	96
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>19,620</b>	<b>13,524</b>	<b>17,850</b>	<b>4,326</b>	<b>23,432</b>	<b>20,461</b>	<b>17,685</b>	<b>12,684</b>
<b>Net income from operations before special projects</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>(4,893)</b>	<b>(1,664)</b>	<b>(752)</b>	<b>7,991</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>								
General (prior yr 1K CLC, 2K Nahanton, Bike; DCR Bridge \$4K; Crystal Lake \$15K)	3,000	1,000	4,000	3,000	3,100	100	20,077	260
Audubon CR monitoring	2,100	-	-	-	4,800	-	-	-
Signage (if no grant)	1,500	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Land Acquisition Program (research)	1,000	542	5,000	4,458	-	-	-	-
Annual Mtg 50th ann. sponsor/auction revs	-	(9,502)	(7,500)	2,002	-	-	-	-
Annual Mtg 50th ann. extra expenses	-	2,138	1,860	(278)	350	-	-	-
<b>Total special projects</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>(5,822)</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>10,182</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20,077</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Net income from operations</b>	<b>(6,900)</b>	<b>8,551</b>	<b>(3,290)</b>	<b>11,841</b>	<b>(13,143)</b>	<b>(1,764)</b>	<b>(20,829)</b>	<b>7,731</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME AND GAINS</b>								
Interest - Checking	10	7	10	(3)	7	8	14	17
Interest - Money Market	40	12	500	(488)	52	633	2,980	4,968
Interest - Transfer to restricted	(200)	103	(1,000)	1,103	(1,128)	(1,632)	2,335	(866)
Interest - 4-in 1 Fund	1,500	1,896	1,500	396	1,617	1,455	1,971	1,882
Interest - Treasury Bills	150	144	300	(156)	422	513	1,093	2,191
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - 4-in-1 Fund	-	(2,981)	-	(2,981)	7,757	12,270	(28,558)	2,539
<b>Total investment income</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>(819)</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>(2,129)</b>	<b>8,729</b>	<b>13,246</b>	<b>(20,165)</b>	<b>10,730</b>
<b>Total changes in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>(5,400)</b>	<b>7,731</b>	<b>(1,980)</b>	<b>9,711</b>	<b>(4,415)</b>	<b>11,482</b>	<b>(40,994)</b>	<b>18,462</b>
<b>Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>163,506</b>	<b>155,775</b>	<b>155,775</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>160,189</b>	<b>148,707</b>	<b>189,701</b>	<b>171,239</b>
<b>Plus: change in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>(5,400)</b>	<b>7,731</b>	<b>(1,980)</b>	<b>9,711</b>	<b>(4,415)</b>	<b>11,482</b>	<b>(40,994)</b>	<b>18,462</b>
<b>Ending Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>158,106</b>	<b>163,506</b>	<b>153,795</b>	<b>9,711</b>	<b>155,775</b>	<b>160,189</b>	<b>148,707</b>	<b>189,701</b>

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

March 14, 2012

Robinson/Finch home, 153 Windsor Road, Newton

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mike Clarke, Jackie Daoust, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Alison Leary, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present was Advisor Duane Hillis.

**Approval of the Minutes February 8, 2012:** The minutes were approved as written, with the correction under “New Business” replace “Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force” with “Bike Newton.”

**Annual Meeting:** Jane reported the executive committee’s recommendations, and after brief discussion, a MOTION was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED for the following awards:

- Environmentalist of the Year: CRWA, for restoration of the river in Newton;
- Charles Johnson Maynard Award: The Lower Falls Bridge Restoration Team (Kay Khan, George Kirby, Sean Roche.)
- Directors’ Award: Eric Reenstierna.

Mike Clarke agreed to chair the nominating committee again.

**Open Space Advisory Committee update:** Jane urged board members who haven’t yet responded to fill out the survey, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TH3M3BB> also accessed easily through the web site. She also recommended attendance at the public workshop on Wednesday, March 21, from 7 to 10 pm at the Newtonville Senior Center.

**Newton Serves April 29:** Conservators have listed four projects for the day.

**Dexter Road Update:** George and Henry are continuing to investigate whether a survey is findable. It was agreed that if not, we should order one quickly, since construction on one abutting site is proceeding.

**Facebook Page:** Jackie has created the page, but not yet published it. She will arrange that items can be sent to her or Henry for posting.

**Grant Applications:** Bill listed the six proposals that had come in. The board agreed unanimously to again grant \$2000 to the Environmental Science Program, for scholarships; also \$645 requested by the Oak Hill Middle School for expansion and continued growth of their garden; and \$325 to Newton South High School for

its sustainable agriculture program. After discussion, it was agreed to send the other three applications back for evaluation by teachers.

**Transportation Forum Co-sponsorship:** Alison presented the LWVN's request to co-sponsor the Parking and Transportation Forum on May 17, along with the Green Decade, the Newton Free Library, New TV, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce. A MOTION to do so was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Newsletter – editorial policy and name:** After warmly praising the current issue, the board discussed Beth's suggestion that we adopt a policy that manuscripts submitted for publication may be edited. The board agreed; the policy will be stated in the newsletter. Beth also solicited nominations for a catchier title than Newsletter.

**Geology of Newton copyright:** Judy Hepburn has alerted Jane that the entire booklet is posted on the City's web site. She recommends that Jane write a letter granting permission and requesting that the statement "Copyright by Newton Conservators, Inc. 1973" be included. The board agreed.

**Lyons Field Concession Stand:** Mike reported that the Newton West Little League had brought a proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission to build a permanent concession stand on Lyons Field, with permanent sewer and water connections. He indicated that the proposal will go forward to a public hearing. AnnaMaria recounted past requests and additions, noting that in the Commission's 2011 Information Manual, on the page detailing *POLICY GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF LAND USE CHANGES*, the only two photos are of the Lyons Field Dugout and "Fences, Batting Cage, Dugouts, and Grandstand." The board reviewed the commission's policy (adopted in 1993, appended), and concluded with A MOTION, which was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED, to oppose the erection of a private structure for profit on public land.

**New Business: Winchester Street Alms House Toolshed:**

Mike distributed copies of his 31 page history of "Newton's Almshouses 1731 to 1964" and gave a lively summary. While the only remaining structure was built in 1937-38, the foundations of older buildings are visible; because of its history the site is worthy of preservation. A MOTION to endorse the nomination of the Almshouse Landscape at Nahanton Park to the National Register of Historic Places was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Adjournment:** at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**“Policies and Procedures for Approving Alterations of Parks and Recreation Land by Private Persons or Organizations:** All petitions for construction of any type of structure or physical alteration to parks or recreation land must be deemed by the Recreation Commission to be in the long term interest of the City of Newton Commission

In making its decision, the commission must take into consideration the potential adverse effects that the proposal will have on the environmental and economic parameters surrounding it.”

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
April 11, 2012  
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Jackie Daoust, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of the Minutes March 14:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said the audit committee would meet on Monday, April 16.

**Steve Regan Fund Authorization:** A request was received for \$1200 from the Regan Fund being held by the Conservators, for a bench. To permit installation before June, Jane and Katherine approved the payment, subject to board approval. A MOTION to approve the payment was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Annual Meeting:** Jane said everything is on track. After discussion, it was agreed that Newton High School students interested in Prof. Tallamy's talk would be invited, paying the standard \$35.

**Open Space Advisory Committee update:** Jane said some 350 had responded to the questionnaire. A majority of the comments related to maintenance issues.

**Newton Serves April 29:** Jackie reported that a group of 30 from Boston are volunteering to work together at one site; Dolan Pond was selected, and will be removed from the Newton list.

**Dexter Road Update:** George showed copies of a survey that Larry Burdick sent. It shows no encroachment on the south side, where a new house is being built. After discussion, a MOTION that George contact the surveyor Bruce Bradford for clarification of his survey was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Lyons Field Update:** Jane has suggested the request for a concession stand go to the Conservation Commission before it can be taken up by Parks & Recreation.

**Ordway Park Sign Update:** Dan will discuss QR codes with Pat and Beth. Katherine noted that a group of Tree Conservancy members is eager to identify trees in Cold Spring Park and has found a firm that will put the codes on trees.

**Envirothon Sponsorship:** a MOTION that the Newton Conservators be the official sponsor of the NNHS Envirothon team was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. No duties or costs are associated with this.

**Grant:** The “Wetlands Exploration & Identification” proposal from NSHS was discussed. A MOTION to approve \$250 with questions was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Wilson Conservation Restriction:** Jane announced that all signatures have been obtained.

**Hammond Pond Boardwalk:** As we were adjourning, Beth came from the DCR meeting about the proposed Hammond Pond boardwalk and described the current proposal.

**Adjournment:** at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**DRAFT**

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
June 13, 2012  
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Mike Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, Willis Wang, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of the Minutes April 11, 2012:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Aqueduct walks:** Alicia Bowman, the City's volunteer Pedestrian Coordinator, met with Beth and Mike. Alicia plans a meeting in October with groups interested in the aqueducts, and would like a Conservator to lead a walk on that day. The board agreed, pending knowledge of the date.

**Environmental groups & TAB:** Marcia Cooper, president of the Newton Green Decade, has set up a of all Newton environmental groups meeting with the new editor of the TAB for June 29. Beth agreed to attend on behalf of the NC and the Tree Conservancy.

**Open Space Advisory Committee, CPA legislation updates:** (Mike) The board discussed the two versions of CPA eligibility expansion being discussed in the Legislature.

The Open Space Advisory Committee meets again in June. Jane and Mike agreed to review the prioritized list developed by the Conservators recommended to the OSA Committee, with a view to setting aside a significant sum in the range of \$4 to \$5 million for possible acquisition or CR when opportunities arise.

**Wilson Bracebridge Rd. CR:** The 5 foot path has been laid out by the surveyor, and needs to be cleared; Larry and Mike will assess the work and decide whether they can do it or look into possibly offering it to Eagle scouts as a project.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine distributed copies of the March 31 financial statement; there had been little activity. The annual meeting came in under the budget of \$1570, as revenues from sponsors offset the greater-than-usual speaker expenses. The annual Federal 990 Tax returns will be due on August 15.

**Newton Serves Update:** Ted reported that the Boston Volunteers had been very successful at Dolan Pond. Discussion about the Newton Serves outcomes

suggested that instead of relying on a single Newton Serves day we might schedule more individual projects, and call on the Boston Volunteers again.

**Lyons Field Update:** Jane reported that despite her and several others' opposition, the construction of a permanent building at the park by WNLL, title to which will be held by the City, was approved by the Parks & Rec. Commission. [7 *voted pro*, *Andy Stern abstained*]

**Integrated Pest Management Committee:** Margaret Doris said this committee has long been inactive, and the citizen positions vacant. She agreed to write to the Parks Commissioner on behalf of NC urging new members be appointed. Mike will bring it up with the Parks & Rec. Commission.

**Hammond Pond boardwalk update:** A habitat study to be performed by Mass. Audubon Extension Service has been agreed to by DCR and the Conservation Commission to assess the environmental impacts of the floating boardwalk. The next hearing is scheduled for the third Thursday in July.

**MWRA Aqueduct decision:** (Mike) Space along the aqueducts will be made available in coordination with the communities involved, i.e., the details will depend on each city or town. [*an informative site is:*

<http://www.mwra.com/projects/access/aqueducts/aqueducts-maps.html>]

**Crystal Lake private docks:** Mike wants to know whether there are standards for private docks on Crystal Lake, as many are ugly.

**Grants Committee Report:** Bill proposed that we grant the \$107 for Matthew Kwan's revised proposal for one photovoltaic alternate energy source. Since he should have graduated, a MOTION to fund the project contingent on the project having been completed was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Bill will contact the faculty advisor. [*The advisor confirmed that Kwan is continuing the work over the summer and that his professors at Tufts next year know of it and are interested.*]

**Brooks Matthewson Lecture:** co-sponsored by NC and the Library on June 21 will be illustrated with his photographs, on the ecological interdependencies between birds and trees.

**New Business:** Larry reported that the Invasive Plant Removal Project harvester is functioning. A briefing would take place at CRWA headquarters on June 14.

**Adjournment:** at 9 PM

Respectfully submitted,



AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary