

DRAFT

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

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Octo Barnett, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Jackie Daoust, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Mike Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Pat Robinson, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present were Advisor Duane Hillis and Sarah Barnett.

Approval of the Minutes June 13, 2012: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine distributed and commented on copies of the January-June Income Statement and Balance Sheet (attached).

Open Space Advisory Committee: Mike reported that the major issues we had raised are included in the draft plan. He noted that the changes in the CPA permitting expenditures on existing parks and playgrounds will trigger a flood of proposals from the Parks and Recreation Department. Jane pointed out that July 24 is the deadline for added comments. Board members should look at the draft (see <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/os/default.asp>).

Duane deplored that maintenance is not included in the Plan, citing the example of Florrie's Pathway, which is impassable. Jane mentioned that it is in the plan and that it was one of the first items Juris Alksnitis (Planning Dept) mentioned at the public hearing.

Nominating Committee: Jane said that this is the last year of her presidency, and she would like the nominating committee to report by the end of the year in order to permit an orderly transition. Bill Hagar agreed to chair the committee, with Pete Gilmore, Jackie, Mike and AnnaMaria as members. Also looking ahead, Katherine agreed to book Post 440 for the annual meeting during the first week of May.

Fall Walks: Alison will send a message asking for volunteers for the fall walks. Charles Hansen's request that the Conservators publicize his "Hammond Woods Wednesday evening hikes" was discussed. Alison agreed to arrange having a Conservator go on his next week's outing before we decide.

Wilson Conservation path update: Jane reported that the path has been staked out, and work on clearing the path can begin once the final document is signed.

Invasive Plants Removal Update:

- land based: Katherine had very little help, but did much at Cold Spring Park, Hemlock Gorge and Quinobequin. The Boston volunteers group is eager to help, but needs more advance scheduling than occurred this year. So next year will be much better, with help from them and the new Sports Club/LA at Chestnut Hill.
- river: Larry said progress is being made, slowly. The early ripening of the water chestnuts is shortening the season, which usually goes into end of July/August.

Ordway Park Expenditure: Jane suggested the board authorize Beth to spend up to \$2445, the amount in the Ordway Park Improvement Fund, for work at Ordway, including poison ivy removal, tree work, and signage. A MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

The choice of which of Pat's designs to use for the signs was made by interested board members who remained after the meeting adjourned.

Update on TAB meeting: Beth reported that some 15 representatives of environmental groups attended, including 5 from the Green Decade. The TAB agreed to run only one environmental column per month, so the groups have to take turns. (The editor made it clear that the ads are the main interest, and the reporters are permitted to write about whatever interests them.) Beth will write the first piece, identifying invasives in residents' yards.

Adjournment: at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
September 12, 2012
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Mike Clarke, Jackie Daoust, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Larry Smith.

Also present was Robert Barosso.

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

Open Space Plan finalizing: the draft plan has gone to the Planning Board and the Mayor for approval. The Finance Committee is being asked to approve funding to complete the work.

Crystal Lake and Waterways Regulations: Mike explained that the warm weather has helped produce the algae that led to the early closing of the lake for swimming.

Mike has drafted a document that would put all the existing regulations in one place. It is a start, and the provisions need to be updated. Jane would like it to address environmental concerns about pollution. Mike will submit it to the Parks & Rec. Commission, which must involve the Conservation Commission and the Crystal Lake Conservancy.

Related to this: Parks & Recreation Commissioner DeRubeis desires a new swimming pool, which would be in a park.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine filed the Federal 990 tax returns due on Aug. 15.

Awtrey plans: Jackie reviewed the Audubon surveys of the plot, and found no changes. She did call the Awtreys about a compost pile and garden materials in one area, and they will speak to the neighbors about it. Mr. Awtrey is ready to pay for the sign and the path, and awaits our action on the path. He will pay for the path, but first it needs to be cleared. We may use the Awtrey maintenance fund and/or volunteers. Jackie will look into sign design and consult Pat Robinson.

Invasive Plants Removal Update (Larry): Parks & Rec. Commissioner DeRubeis and Elaine Gentile met with Larry and Beth. They committed to removing debris from Nahanton Park and other Newton Serves collected material. A new policy and process are needed before the next year's NewtonServes, similar to an Adopt-a-Space permit. Although a strong neighborhood effort helped contain invasive

weeds on the Charles River, a big effort is needed to obtain \$1M from the State to remove the water chestnuts.

Update on Hammond Pond boardwalk: The environmental report received by the Newton Conservation Commission was considered insufficient, and an additional report will be considered by the Commission at its Sept. meeting.

Wilson Conservation path update: Jane reported that the CR is done, and only its return from the state is awaited.

Norumbega Park proposed improvements: In lieu of installing a traffic light on Commonwealth Ave, the Marriott hotel has donated \$20,000 for improvements in Norumbega Park. The Conservation Commission proposes path improvement, reinforcement of the heavily eroded bank with the aid of Eagle Scouts, and a memorial to the history of Norumbega Park, possibly an informational kiosk. The Finance Committee will have a hearing on the proposal Sept. 24.

Annual Meeting speaker: Jane announced that Ned Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, will speak at the meeting, which will be on May 1.

Robert Barosso's study of environmental volunteering: For his M.A. at Green Mountain College, Robert is studying environmental groups' volunteering. He asked to interview us to learn "why do we volunteer?" and passed around a sheet for those interested to sign.

Adjournment: at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

October 10, 2012

Newton City Hall Room 203

DRAFT

Attendees: Jane Sender, (presiding), Margaret Albright, Bonnie Carter, Jackie Daoust, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present: Bill Hagar

1. Minutes approved from 9-12-2012 Board Meeting
2. No treasurer's Report
3. Harvest Fair – We have enough volunteers and banner is ready.
4. Dexter Road Leaning Trees – McKinney looked at the leaning trees. He said he would at this time recommend trimming the trees to be precautionary for \$475. Voted yes to appropriate tree trimming money.
5. Crystal Lake – There has been water testing in the lake with alarming results. Perhaps the city does not feel it is necessary to announce publicly because this testing is not conducted where people swim, although these results exceed swimmable limits. We feel that the public should be made aware about high bacteria levels.
6. Nahanton Park – Follow up Volunteer Day Novem`er 10, 2012 confirmed. The City of Newton donated a dumpster for the project.

Newton Conservators and a few volunteers will be trimming back small trees in Woodcock Meadow.

7. Denial of Hammond Pond Boardwalk Proposal – Vote 3-3. “A little victory”

8. Wilson Conservation Restriction – Fully executed

9. Norumbega Park Proposed Improvements – Plan approved.

- Kiosk: What do we need to put in it? Who will design it? Tom Streinfield and Susan were recommended.

- Eroded banks and path maintenance to be completed by the Eagle Scouts

10. Nominating Committee Update – Board members were asked via email if they were interested in the presidential position of the Newton Conservators. No one has decided to step forward at this point.

11. New Business –

- Discounts and Membership cards were mentioned, but no conclusions were made.

- Waltham Land Trust had an interesting word search and articles in their mailing.

- Printing in voting Ballot for the Newton Conservator publicity. Dwayne said he would look into this.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Daoust, acting secretary

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
November 14, 2012
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter,, Jackie Daoust, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, George Mansfield, Pat Robinson, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present: Advisor Duane Hillis and David Backer, executive director of the Environmental Science Program.

Approval of the Minutes for October 10, 2012: The minutes were approved as written, with the added explanation that the denial of the Hammond Pond Boardwalk proposal had been by the Conservation Commission. It is being appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection by the DCR and the Rudyak family.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine filed the Secretary of State's Annual Report on November 1.

Waban Hill Reservoir: The MWRA has declared surplus the 5 acre reservoir. The City would like to acquire it, and is setting up an advisory committee on its possible use. Planning Director Havens will model the timetable for public input on the Reuse Committee model. Beth argued that the Conservators should have a representative on this, as always when a piece of open space is on the table. The board agreed, and Margaret Doris volunteered to serve.

Nominating Committee update: Bill asked board members to contact him with suggestions.

David Backer: David proposed that the Conservators establish two internships, for the ESP's Director (a college student) and Student Director (a high school student). It would attract students to the ESP positions and help the Conservators. Everyone agreed that it is a good idea, and a lengthy discussion of possible uses and arrangements ensued. Margaret Doris suggested work with the schools, which she is already involved. Beth volunteered to take the responsibility of supervising the interns, and offered a scholarship for each intern to take one of NEWFS's courses

(\$60 each). A MOTION to accept David Backer's offer of two internships, with a stipend of \$500 for the director and \$250 for the student director was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Crystal Lake Annual Meeting: Alison reported on the meeting which she and Beth had attended. The water test results for Crystal Lake were very bad. Ed Himlan, executive director of the Mass. Watershed Alliance, described how water gardens can mitigate the effect of runoff.

Nahanton Park Invasives Removal: (Duane)The Nov. 10 effort was a big success. Twelve volunteers filled the gigantic dumpster provided by the City, so the Nov. 17 session is canceled. Next year they will hope to use a chipper, so the dumpster would hold more material.

Solar: Jackie has taken a position as sales representative for Revoluson, a solar (photovoltaic panels) company newly arrived in Newton.

Winter Newsletter: Beth requested that we print the newsletter in color, as she has experimented with showing non-members a color version that she printed from the online PDF vs. showing the B&W version, and found interest in the former much greater. The board agreed to base a decision on the difference in cost. Pat will price the difference for the December newsletter. If it is major, Jane will consult the board via email otherwise it will be printed in color. Beth has a number of articles ready, but if someone wants to add an item, the deadline is the Monday after Thanksgiving (November 26).

New Business:

Conservator insert in water bills: Duane has spoken with Bob Rooney, who seems open to discussing it. The board agreed that an attractive slip should be offered at the discussion.

December board meeting: Pat and Henry agreed to have it at their home again, at 7 PM with dessert/drink pot luck.

Adjournment at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 12, 2012 7
Home of Pat Robinson & Henry Finch
153 Windsor Road, Newton

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

Also present: Advisor Duane Hillis.

The meeting opened at about 7:30 after wine and desserts and conversation.

Approval of the Minutes for November 14, 2012: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine commented on the financials for Sept. 30 that she had sent out. Membership renewals are coming in, so the December statement will look better.

Nominating Committee update: Bill said the committee is working. AnnaMaria added that we are looking for new board members; several names were suggested.

Sign Proposal: David reported that two signs are up at Ordway Park, and so far have drawn few viewers. He suggests that as a next step, rather than starting to work on putting multiple signs in large conservation areas, we begin with putting stickers with QR codes to our web site descriptions on them on the existing signs in small conservation areas. Ours is often the only information available for these sites. Also, the signs would be inexpensive and obtaining permission probably simple. Board members agreed fully, so he and Jane will work together on presenting the proposal to the Conservation Commission.

Hammond Pond Boardwalk update: The DCR has appealed the Conservation Commission's denial, so the issue is now in the DEP's hands, and a decision is expected in the coming weeks. The DCR is not willing to devote part of the \$1M fund to work on the storm water pollution of the pond.

Newsletter: The board agreed with Jane that this was the best newsletter ever, with the color photos as well as the content, even though the preceding one was also excellent. The relation of the E-Newsletter and the E-Bulletin was discussed.

Waban Hill Reservoir: Planning Director Havens would like a Conservator who lives near the reservoir to participate in the working group, but we know of none, so Margaret Doris will serve. The City is interested in the site and exploring possible uses. It was noted this is a lovely open space area, since together the Manet Hill Reservoir/Mt. Alvernia/Waban Hill Reservoir combination constitutes 18 acres of continuous green space.

New Business –

• **Relocation of Dedham St. Fire Station to Nahanton Park:** Duane learned last week that Nahanton Park was one of the sites being considered for temporary use for two years while the fire station is to be rebuilt. Commissioner Rooney met with Duane, Jane, and others about this, and the possibility of putting a CR on the entire park in exchange for this use was raised. The board agreed that this, and only this, would be a condition for granting permission. Rooney said that the park would not be used unless we and Friends of Nahanton Park agreed. The question was to come up at the Dec. 17 Parks & Rec. Commission meeting. [ed: on Dec. 13, Commissioner DeRubeis announced that Nahanton Park was no longer being considered, since time was too short to permit considering a CR.]

• **Kennard Estate:** The future of the Kennard Estate is also on the docket for the Dec. 17 Parks & Rec. meeting.

• **Invasive Weed Removal:** Larry Smith presented the request by the Charles River Lakes District Invasive Plant Removal steering committee for a contribution to continue the work of last summer to contain the water chestnuts. This is the immediate plan, until real control can be obtained if/when the State puts up \$1M for intensive harvesting over three to five years, after which hand pulling would suffice to maintain control. Jane

suggested that starting with the 2013 budget, we allocate \$1500/yr. for invasives control from our Special Projects fund, granting \$500 to support this work on the river, and reserving \$1000 for our work on land based invasives. A MOTION to do this was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED>

• **Newton Cultural Alliance:** Ted proposed that the Conservators join the Alliance at a cost of \$100/year, because we would benefit from the publicity in their events calendars and publications. A MOTION to join was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. (The TAB reported this week that the Alliance had purchased the Allen House.)

Adjournment at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 9, 2013
Newton City Hall Room 203
Newton, MA 02159

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present: Advisor Duane Hillis.

The meeting opened at 7:40.

Approval of the Minutes for December 12, 2012: The minutes were approved as corrected: Dan Brody reported on “Sign Proposal.”

Nominating Committee update: Bill Hagar and AnnaMaria are continuing to work on the search for a new President..

Nahanton Park and Kennard Update: Duane reiterated what was reported in December and additionally reported that the City subsequently declined our offer of a CR on the property in exchange for the use of the park as a temporary fire station. Using the site for the fire station is now off the table. Duane also reported on the Kennard Estate. He attended the December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at which the commissioners discussed the upcoming lease expiration, with no discussion that the building needs to be used in accordance with the Kennard Park trust and with a park purpose. He will talk with residential neighbors of the park and keep working on this.

Treasurer’s Report: Katherine noted that revenues were several thousand dollars below the previous year, despite a \$1,000 gift in December from the Charles River Country Club. But expenditures were also below budgeted amounts. She has received the Certificate for Solicitation from the MA Attorney General’s office, indicating approval of our Form PC filing.

Powder House Hill funds: \$3,100 was donated in 2001 for a proposal by Andy Stern and Doug Dickson, that did not go forward and we have been

holding the funds in a restricted account since then. Upon discussion, a MOTION to donate the \$3100 to the NTC for planting trees, which had been the original purpose of the donation, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. A second MOTION to release the \$1500 pledge back to the Conservators' general fund was also SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED, with thanks to Katherine for her work.

Annual Meeting – possible awardees. Jane mentioned one possibility, and asked board members consider it, and to be thinking about possible candidates, to be discussed at the February meeting.

Spring Newsletter: Beth asked for articles by mid-February. She has a good article on rain gardens, following up on the water issues in the winter issue. She and Katherine are distributing copies of that newsletter to neighbors on Crystal Lake. She will talk with Dave Backer about the intern program and she will feature Ordway Park, to get neighbors more involved. Duane will write about the Nahanton and Kennard issues, and talk to Greg Maslow about an article on food.

Waban Hill Reservoir: Ald. Lisle Baker and Planning Director Candace Havens have asked Ted to officially represent the Conservators on the Waban Hill Reservoir task force since he has significant experience with similar projects. Margaret Doris had kindly volunteered to do this and the board thanks her for that.

Sign Proposal Update: Dan showed a sample of a QR sticker that he proposes to show the Conservation Commission at its March meeting, proposing to put it on three existing signs. If Phase I succeeds, Phase II would have new signs like the one now at Ordway Park.

New Business:

• **Angier School renovation:** Jane announced a public meeting to be held the next day at NNHS; as no one else volunteered, she planned to attend. The long-standing use of playground space for parking was noted.

Adjournment at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 13, 2013
Newton City Hall Room 203
Newton, MA 02159

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

Also present: Advisor Duane Hillis, Jerry Reilly for the Upper Falls Greenway, and for part of the meeting Alderman Deb Crossley.

The meeting opened at 7:35.

Approval of the Minutes for January 9, 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Nominating Committee update: Possibilities about nominations for president and new board meetings were discussed, with a decision about presidency to be made at the next board meeting.

Trail Guides reprinting: Dan Brody suggested that the pages for Chandler Pond, which is in Brighton and not accessible to the T, be replaced with the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, which is partly in Newton and has good T access and a new museum. It was agreed to do this if it can be done before the supply runs out in spring. Jane thinks we should print only enough for a couple of years, so revisions can be made as new sites are added; there was consensus on 500 copies.

Angier School Renovation: Alderman Crossley described the plans for the new school and explained the status of a small triangle that is designated parkland (because a change made in the 1930s did not get properly registered). It has been jointly used for parking by the school and the adjoining park, and will continue to be so used. Also, she described the planned cutting of trees along the MBTA track so parking can go there. She asked the Conservators to write to the Parks and Recreation Commission that the NC approve the plans. Discussion centered on assuring that trees be planted in the park to replace those cut. The board agreed that Jane will write the requested letter.

Kennard Park: Duane reported the formation of the Friends of Kennard Park, with Carolyn Kraft as president. The group will work with the City and the Kennard Trustees in seeking an appropriate tenant. The big question is the extent of work needed on the house, and funding for it.

Annual Meeting – possible awardees. Two director awards were decided, while Environmentalist of the Year and Charles Johnson Maynard award are still being considered. [In 2009, the Maynard award went to David Backer and the Environmental Science Program.]

Spring Newsletter: Beth said it is in fine shape, with many articles submitted already.

Waban Hill Reservoir Update: Ted attended one meeting of the task force at which possibilities were discussed. Last weekend's snowstorm cancelled the second meeting. Most of the members are neighbors, and as representative of the Conservators he is the one outsider. Duane said the Community Farm would love use of a portion of the 5 acres. Whatever is decided must serve some city-wide purpose.

New Business:

• **Upper Falls Greenway Project.** Jerry Riley spoke about the working group's hope to create the 1-mile linear park in a few months, with the aid of the Iron Horse Preservation Society. He hoped the Conservators would get involved with the planning. Duane, Mike, and Beth had suggestions of organizations and businesses that may be useful, and will send him the contact information. Mike volunteered to be the liaison with the group, and Jackie will help with design of the trail.

• **Environmental Land Management program on May 9:** Ted said the Library asked whether we would co-sponsor the lecture by Mary Owen, Extension Specialist at U Mass-Amherst. The board voted unanimously to do so.

Adjournment at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 13, 2013
Newton City Hall Room 203
Newton, MA 02159

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, Mike Clarke, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alison Leary, George Mansfield, Beth Schroeder, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

The meeting opened at 7:35.

Approval of the Minutes for February 13, 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine distributed copies of the 2012 financial statements which she had emailed to the board in February, with the comment that "revenues were below budget by 5.3K, but expenses were low by 6.1K (Grants, Membership development, publications). We spent 5.1K less on special projects, and investments were high by 9.3K (unrealized gain). In total, net assets increased by 9.9K to 173.3K.

Nominating Committee update: Jane congratulated the nominating committee and welcomed Beth Schroeder as nominee for president for next year. Board members then discussed openings on the board and possible new board member nominations, to follow up at the April meeting.

Trail Guides reprinting: Judy Hepburn will prepare the changes to include Chestnut Hill Reservoir in place of Chandler Pond, and the reprints will be ready in two months, or as soon as possible as supplies will run out in less than two months.

Annual Meeting – possible awardees. Two director awards are as agreed in February, and the Charles Johnson Maynard recipient was chosen. It was agreed to omit the Environmentalist of the Year award.

Kennard Park Update: Jane reported on a good meeting with Commissioner De Rubeis, solicitor Ouida Young, Caroline Kraft and others. The group proposes a management survey of the site funded with contributions from the Parks & Rec. Department, the Friends of Kennard Park, and the Conservators as was done for

Nahanton Park, to gather information and decide on next steps. Jane will update the Board as the process moves forward.

Newton Serves – invasives removal projects. Katherine had prepared a schedule for invasives pulls. In addition to Newton Serves, help will be solicited from Boston Volunteers and IdealList (high school students). The completed list will be published separately from the spring walks, which are in the current Newsletter. Whether to add the Charles River invasives work led by Larry Smith– both as project and to link our work with CRWA– was discussed

Spring Newsletter: Beth Wilkinson reported that Bonnie had mailed it that morning. Jane observed that it is terrific and keeps getting better and better.

Waban Hill Reservoir Update: The task force was meeting across the hall at same the time, hence no report.

New Business:

• **Grants Committee report:** Bill described the four requests that had been received:

- Environmental Science Program: \$2000 request for scholarships
- NNHS: Greening the NNHS campus \$750
- Franklin School: Spadefoot Toad restoration project, for talks to the three 3rd grade classes by Dr. Bryan Windmiller, beginning the year's project. \$500
- NNHS: Algae Farm grant proposal. \$350.

The ESP proposal and the Algae Farm proposal were approved with no discussion. The Greening NNHS was considered overly ambitious, so portions totaling \$500 were approved. After considerable discussion, the Franklin School request was also approved, for a total of \$3500.

Adjournment at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 10, 2013
Newton City Hall Room 203
Newton, MA 02159

Attending: Jane Sender (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Jackie Daoust, Margaret Doris, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Beth Wilkinson.

Also present was Duane Hillis

The meeting opened at 7:35.

Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said the budget is in draft form. She has filed the 3ABC Forms with the Assessor's office, and will file for an extension to August for the Form PC filing.

The audit committee met on Monday, and the audit passed. It was noted that procedures for acknowledgments will be standardized. Larry Burdick has prepared the audit letter for annual meeting.

Nominating Committee update: Bill announced that Chris Hepburn has agreed to join the board. Duane was invited to rejoin the board, and agreed, to general applause. Several other inquiries are still in process. Bill will prepare the list of board and advisors for the annual meeting.

Trail Guides reprinting: If changes can't be made for a new edition, a small reprinting will be ordered to avoid running out.

Annual Meeting:

- Centerpieces: Margaret Doris agreed to prepare them again.
- Welcoming table: Larry and Sandi Smith and Jackie will handle it, with help as needed.
- Awards – Beth Wilkinson will prepare and frame the certificates.

Kennard Park Update: Duane reported that Jeremiah Eck had walked through the house and park to assess conditions. Caroline Kraft is continuing to work

onarranging the management survey. Alice Ingerson encourages putting Kennard on the CPA calendar.

Nahanton Park again: Jane reported that the temporary use of Nahanton Park for a firehouse has come up again, hence the issue of the CR in exchange for two years' use by the fire department. She and Duane were to meet the next morning with Commissioner DeReubis and Solicitor Ouida Young. Jackie offered to help with the project and will join them.

Newton Serves – invasives removal projects. Katherine explained the arrangements with Newton Serves, Boston Volunteers and others, and distributed the schedule of invasives pulls this spring– see attached. She hopes board members will participate.

Waban Hill Reservoir Update: The task force was meeting across the hall at same the time to discuss the alternative plans – see Ted Kuklinski's April 10 messages to the board describing them.

New Business:

- **June Newsletter:** Beth solicited suggestions for themes. Discussion of public/private partnerships, features about Friends of parks groups, and bees came up.
- **Grants Committee:** Bill described a request for \$750 from the Franklin School for a Gardening for Good project. After discussion, a MOTION to grant \$425 for the gardening tools and composting bin was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- **Environmentalist of the Year Award:** Bill asked Jane to step out of the room, then proposed that the board replaced Jane's Directors Award with the Environmentalist of the Year award. A MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and enthusiastically unanimously APPROVED, after which Jane was invited back into the room and informed. She was very appreciative.

Adjournment at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec'y.

Newton Conservators Invasives Pulls - Spring 2013



The Newton Conservators is Newton's land trust and open space organization and sponsors walks and activities in the spring and fall. Please note that the activities meet at different times. Some are weather dependent; please call leader if in doubt. There is no charge for attending our trips and activities. Check out our website at www.newtonconservators.org for updates to this schedule.

Summary of Dates - all are half day sessions. See details below.

Sat Apr 20th 8a Nahanton Park Invasives Pull
Sun Apr 28th 9a Cold Spring Park Garlic Mustard Pull (NewtonSERVES)
Sun Apr 28th 9a Dolan Pond Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES)
Sun Apr 28th 9a Charles River Walk/Blue Heron Bridge Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES)
Sun May 5th 8a Nahanton Park Invasives Pull #2
Sun May 5th 2p Sawmill Brook Garlic Mustard Pull
Sun May 12th 9a Cold Spring Park Garlic Mustard Pull #2
Sun May 19th 9a Houghton Garden/T track Garlic Mustard Pull
Sat Jun 8th 9a Hammond Pond Invasives Pull
Sun Jun 9th 9a Cold Spring Park Garlic Mustard Pull #3
Sun Jun 16th 9a Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, April 20, 8am – 12 noon

Nahanton Park Invasives Pull near 507 Winchester Street Newton MA 02461

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm>

Many native habitats, including grassland, and open woodland habitats are all threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and may negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park is one of many of our open spaces suffering from infestations of non-native, invasive plant species, including black swallowwort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, and black locust seedlings. Join us in preserving the beauty and diversity of this special park by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot off Winchester Street. Leaders are Jackie Daoust (908-303-4339) and Duane Hillis (617-964-2123).

Sat Apr 28th, 9 am – 12 noon

Cold Spring Park Garlic Mustard Pull (NewtonSERVES Project) 1200 Beacon Street Newton MA 02461

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm>

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard (see notes below). We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).

About Garlic Mustard: Garlic Mustard is a native of Europe brought here in the 1800s as a medicinal and garden herb; it now has official plant invader status. It has invaded our backyards, parks, forests and conservation areas, quickly covering vast areas, including low light forested areas, shading out other plants, chemically altering the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and altering the habitat for native insects such as butterflies. But in areas where it is just starting to invade, it only takes a small amount of effort to eliminate it. It is a biennial very easily identified and pulled when the second year plants are flowering in April/May. If not pulled, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds later in the season that will become first year plants the next year, and also remain as viable seeds for several more years. Because the seeds stay so viable, the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste.

Our efforts have proved very effective – showing that Garlic Mustard can be controlled with easy hand pulling, vigilance, and determination. The areas we have worked on are much improved and require only periodic visits to

catch stragglers to avoid re-infestation. However, the areas we have NOT worked on have become worse – more help is needed to expand the effort and get these areas under control.

Sunday, April 28th, 9 am – 12 noon

Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project) 76 Webster Park Newton MA 02465

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm>

Meet at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Street parking is available there and at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands in off-trail corners of the property, and a few patches of rosettes in previously worked areas. Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. Crews also removed nearly every knotweed stem from one area but knotweed removal takes years to complete, and each time it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Leader is Ted Kuklinski (617-332-7753).

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Sunday, April 28th, 9 am – 12 noon

Garlic Mustard Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project) near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St Watertown MA 02472

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm>

This is the fifth year working along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest. We will again mix in some general nature study so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Super Stop & Shop parking lot in Watertown (700 Pleasant St) at the corner furthest from the store. This spot is directly in front of you as you enter the parking lot from Pleasant Street. There is a path entrance there. Turn left and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Trip leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).

Additional driving/parking directions: Newton residents who know this pedestrian bridge often reach it via Albemarle Road that runs along Cheese Cake Brook and dead-ends at the Charles. Note though that homeowners prefer that visitors avoid parking right at the end of Albemarle, the cars of dog walkers and others often occupy those spots; let's not add to the congestion on this narrow roadway terminus. Either 1) park a block or so back on Albemarle, there are plenty of spots but you need to pay attention to the parking signs; 2) park just around the corner on Nevada Street and walk the last stretch to the River; 3) best of all but farther to go, drive over to Watertown and park in the southeast corner of the Stop and Shop parking lot; street address is 700 Pleasant St. There you will see an entrance to the Charles River Greenway, take the path downstream to the bridge. If you are early enjoy the view, if you are late and we are not at the bridge call but also walk across the bridge and then downstream toward Bridge Street, you will find us. Eric Olson Field phone is 617-872-9928.

Sunday May 5th 8am – 12 noon

Nahanton Park Invasives Pull #2 (Repeat visit) near 507 Winchester Street Newton MA 02461

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm>

Many native habitats, including grassland, and open woodland habitats are all threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and may negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park is one of many of our open spaces suffering from infestations of non-native, invasive plant species, including black swallowwort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, and black locust seedlings. Join us in preserving the beauty and diversity of this special park by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot off Winchester Street. Leaders are Jackie Daoust and Duane Hillis.

Sunday May 5th, 2 pm – 5 pm

Garlic Mustard Pull at Sawmill Brook Park opposite 120 Vine Street Newton MA 02467

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm>

Sawmill Brook Park is a lovely long natural trail that connects Newton to West Roxbury. It is starting to have garlic mustard infestations at its entrances and along Lagrange St and Wayne Road borders. We will spend a few hours pulling at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrolling previously worked areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. Leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).

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Sunday May 12th, 9 am – 12 noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #2 (Repeat visit) 1200 Beacon Street Newton MA 02461

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm>

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leaders are Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c) and Eric Olson 617-872-9928.

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Sunday May 19th, 9 am – 12 noon

Houghton Garden/Webster Garlic Mustard Pull opposite 210 Suffolk Rd Newton MA 02467

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm>

Last year we began to tackle a new infestation near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods and near the deer park. Help us keep garlic mustard out of Houghton Garden!

In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. Leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).

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Saturday June 8th, 9 am – 12 noon

Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond near 309 Hammond Pond Parkway Newton MA 02467

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm>

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. Knotweed is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull. But like the magic brooms in Disney's "Fantasia" Sorcerer's Apprentice, any small root fragments we leave behind will spring back to life the following year. Government scientists are seeking biological control agents for this species in Asia but until and unless they find some, we are stuck controlling the plant by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway adjacent to pond and near the "lower mall". Leader is Eric Olson (617-872-9928).

Additional driving instructions: the site borders a parking lot right at Hammond Pond. This Pond is located just north of Route 9 (Boylston Street) and just east of Hammond Pond Parkway near the Chestnut Hill Mall. Google "Map Hammond Pond, Newton, MA" and you can see both a standard map and air photo of the Pond. Note the small parking lot to the west of the Pond; look for us in the northwest corner of this lot. Field phone is 617-872-9928.

Sunday June 9th, 9 am – 12 noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (Repeat visit) 1200 Beacon Street Newton MA 02461

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm>

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard (see above notes). We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. Leader is Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).

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Sun Jun 16th 9a- 12 noon

Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Garlic Mustard Pull near 2 Ellis Street Newton MA 02464

<http://www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm>

Last year we expanded our efforts to control beginnings of infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also in the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the GM out of these beautiful parks! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the parking lot at corner of Quinobequin Rd and Ellis St at Rte 9 intersection. Leaders are Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard (617-527-1796 h, 617-721-2571 c).

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NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting
May 1, 2013
7:00 PM
American Legion Post 440
Nonantum, MA

The evening events began at 6:00 o'clock with social gathering, silent auction, and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner.

Jane Sender gave the President's report, appended to the file copy of these minutes.

During the business meeting, Lawlor Burdick presented the audit committee report and Katherine Howard the Treasurer's report, copies of which were on each table; they are appended to the file copy of these minutes

Bill Hagar presented the nominating committee report:
The Nominating Committee moves the following slate of Officers and Directors:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Beth Schroeder |
| Vice-President: | George Mansfield |
| Treasurer: | Katherine Howard |
| Secretary | AnnaMaria Abernathy |
| Past President: | Jane Sender |

Board Members

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Margaret Albright | Maurice (Pete) Gilmore |
| David Backer | Dan Green |
| Octo Barnett | Bill Hagar |
| Dan Brody | Chris Hepburn |
| Larry Burdick | Duane Hillis |
| Bonnie Carter | Ted Kuklinski |
| Michael Clarke | Ted Kuklinski |
| Jacqueline Daoust | Alson Leary |
| Margaret Doris | Pat RobinsolLarry Smi6h |
| Henry Finch | Willis Wang |
| Robert Fizek | Elizabeth Wilkinson |

A nomination to elect the slate was seconded and unanimously approved.

The advisors were listed on sheets at each table:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Lisle Baker | Burton Elliott | Anne Pearson |
| Rodney Barker | Bart Hague | Richard Primack |
| John Bliss | Judith Hepburn | Eric Reenstierna |

Lee Breckenridge
Lucy Caldwell-Stair
Michael Collora
Modestino Criscitiello
Douglas Dickson

Peter Kastner
William Leitch
Don Lubin
Eric Olson

Jon Regosin
Bill Shaevel
Verne Vance
Brian Yates

Jane Sender announced the following awards, and the recipients received framed copies.

Environmentalists of the
For 4 years of environmental
President and her Work on the

Charles Johnson Maynard

Award: Eric Olson

*For his commitment to the
removal of Invasive Plants to
preserving Newton's
Biodiversity*

**Directors' Award: Norman A.
Richardson**

*For his Decades of Exemplary
Service on the Newton Conservation
Commission*

Following the business meeting, Dr. William (Ned)
Friedman, Director, Arnold Arboretum, and Arnold
Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology,
Harvard University, spoke on "The Evolution of Big,"
what it means to be a tree.

*Full details on the awards and the speech in the
Summer 2013 issue of the Conservators' Newsletter.*

AnnaMaria Abernathy,
Secretary (not at the meeting)

President's Speech/Report:

7 pm Welcome everyone. Dinner is served – please help
yourselves and we will start the program at 8pm

8pm

Welcome and Remarks

Thank you all *very* much for joining us tonight. I would like to
acknowledge our Public Officials who are with us – Aldermen Ruthanne



Year: Jane E. Sender
leadership as Conservators'
Conservation Commission



Fuller, Vicky Danberg, Deb Crossley.....Ald Lisle Baker. Thanks for joining us.

We have a *great* program for you tonight. We are excited to honor people who do extraordinary work to improve the health and biodiversity of Newton's natural environment . And we are honored to have a great speaker – Prof. Ned Friedman – the Director of the Arnold Arboretum.

But first, I am very excited to talk a little about our accomplishments this year.

I am most proud of what our board members Beth Wilkinson and Pat Robinson have achieved with our newsletter. First, Beth has expanded our vision by reaching out into the community and publishing articles by prominent Newtonites –on serious topics. Second, Pat Robinson creates a simply beautiful product. We maintain our staples – such as wonderful articles on gardening and birding –and taking it all to a new level. We are getting a lot of attention for this and its exciting.

Secondly I am very proud of the progress we continue to make working with the City and with our Friends groups to take care of our parks and conservation areas. Special thanks goes Duane Hillis, Peter Kastner, Michele Hanss, Harry Sanders, Carolyn Kraft and Ted Kuklinski for this work. Thanks goes also to Carol Schein and Bob DeRubeis, Carol Stapleton and Judy Dorr of Parks & Red for being great partners with us. Also, in addition to organizing and strengthening friends groups, special thanks goes as it does every year to Katherine Howard and Eric Olson for organizing invasives removal volunteer efforts in the parks. I also want to thank Jackie Daoust and Duane Hillis in particular for their continuing work on invasives at Nahanton Park.

A couple more thanks -to Dan Brody for his great idea about placing QR Codes Codes on conservation area signage and to Pat Robinson for the design. Those with a smart phone and QR Code reader can put it on the sign and go right to the trail guide map on our Conservators' web site. It's a very cool thing and if you don't have a QR code reader, download the app and try it out. Thanks also as always to Dan for his work as our webmaster – the website looks great.

Our spring and fall walks are always a favorite –thanks to Pete Gilmore, Eric Olson, Lucy Caldwell Stair, Alison Leary, Bill Hagar, Octo Barnett, Don Lubin and Henry Finch for leading these great walks and events this year.

Thank you Bonnie Carter for your mailing parties and your wonderful good humor.

We are in the process of printing a new and updated version of our popular Walking Trails guide – thanks to Lucy Caldwell-Stair, Judy Hepburn, Pat Robinson and Dan Brody for this work.

I am very excited not only to have David Backer, Executive Director of the Environmental Science program as a new board member, but that we will have two Environmental Science Program interns working with the Conservators this year. Beth Wilkinson and David will be supervising the interns and it is a great opportunity for all of us to do some interesting things.

Last, thank you Larry and Sandy Smith, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Beth Wilksinson, Katherine Howard and Margaret Doris for putting together this meeting tonight.

Now a little Bit of Business

Our Treasurer's reports, auditors reports and nominating committee reports are on your tables. Thank you Katherine Howard, Larry Burdick, Margaret Albright Peter Kastner and Bill Hagar for preparing these reports.

The Chair of our Nominating Committee, Bill Hagar, will now present the report of the *nominating* committee. Please stand when your name is called. Bill?

May I ask for a motion from the Secretary (Bill) to cast a single vote for the slate?

Second?

The slate has been elected.

Thank you. Beth Schroeder, our new president is here. Beth would you like to say a few words?

Now to our awards.

Our first award – our Charles Johnson Maynard Award – is given to “recognize efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation and natural resource protection”.

It goes to Eric Olson and the award will be presented by Katherine Howard.

Our next award – our Directors Award – goes to Norm Richardson

Norm and I serve together on the conservation commission. Norm has served for decades and year in and year out has devoted his considerable knowledge,

intelligence and concern for the environment to this effort. There is no one I know who is more knowledgeable about the wetlands impact of development here in Newton. I have learned a great deal from Norm and am proud to serve with you.

Our final award our Environmentalist of the Year Award -goes to me.

George and Beth?

Thank you all very much. I want to tell a quick story about what I think being an “environmentalist” is about. Week before last on the day we were all asked to stay at home because of the terrible events of the marathon bombings I went for a walk in Flowed Meadow conservation area to see if I could distract myself and find some birds. I was stunned to find a very rare migratory bird – a yellow throated warbler. It was very exciting for me and over the next few days many birders from all over the state came to our Flowed Meadow to see it. Many commented on how we had more migratory birds at Flowed Meadow than at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the gold standard in Eastern MA for spring migration. Because of us – the Conservators – a place for this migratory bird exists here in Newton. But not only that, I got the gift of finding something wonderful and special on a terrible day. So what we do is important and I am proud to get this award and to have been your president. And with that I would like to introduce our speaker, Professor Ned Friedman

Professor Friedman is the Director of the Arnold Arboretum and Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard. I heard the lecture he gave on Darwin’s Abominable mystery a few years ago and was truly transfixed. Tonight he will talk about the origin of trees. Let’s welcome Professor Friedman.

Thank you Professor – that was great. Goodnight everyone, I hope you have enjoyed the evening.

LALOR BURDICK
180 DUDLEY ROAD
NEWTON CENTRE, MASSACHUSETTS 02459

To the Board of Directors of Newton Conservators, Inc.:

The Newton Conservators' Audit Committee, consisting of Lalor Burdick, Margaret Albright and Peter Kastner, met with Katherine Howard, Treasurer, on April 8, 2013. The Committee verified the Balance Sheet accounts by reconciling beginning and ending balances and by checking transactions during the year. The Committee paid particular attention to the Cash and Investments accounts and verified that entries were properly supported. We believe the statements published by the Treasurer present fairly the condition of the organization and wish to thank her for the time and effort she has expended on behalf of the Newton Conservators.

The Committee discussed various filings with the City of Newton, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Internal Revenue Service and believes that the Newton Conservators is in compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Lalor Burdick, Chairman
Margaret Albright
Peter Kastner

Newton Conservators - Treasurer's Report on 2012 Finances

Newton Conservators had another year of strong financial results, while solidifying our land trust activities, advocating for parks, battling invasive species, expanding our newsletter, and carrying out our popular walks program.

The year began with \$164 thousand of unrestricted net assets. Operations came close to breakeven, including expenses for conservation restriction monitoring. Investment values increased almost \$11 thousand. In total, unrestricted net assets ended the year \$9 thousand higher, at \$173 thousand.

2012 revenues were \$15 thousand, comprised of membership dues, gifts, and map sales. Operating expenses were \$14 thousand, including \$3 thousand for grants, awarded to the City's Environmental Science Program for scholarships, to Oak Hill Middle School for a gardening project, and to Newton South High School for a gardening project and a wetlands exploration project. In addition to grants, normal operating expenses included Ordway Park maintenance, insurance, newsletter, and membership development.

Special project expenses included the continuation of the formal and regular monitoring and enforcement of our conservation restrictions, with help from Mass Audubon which had established the baseline assessments in 2010. These activities continue with Conservators directors monitoring each site, with review and technical support from Audubon.

Investment income and unrealized gains increased net assets by almost \$10 thousand in 2012, due to a strong stock market and recovery. We continue to have most of our investments in a Money Market account and in Treasury notes.

In total, the sum of operating income, special projects, and investment income led to a surplus of \$9,857, increasing our unrestricted net assets to \$173,363. Restricted assets, which had little activity other than \$1 thousand drawn from the Regan Fund for a memorial bench and park improvements, stayed steady at \$58 thousand.

In summary, total net assets, unrestricted and restricted, ended 2012 at \$259 thousand, about \$9 thousand more than the previous year.

Newton Conservators, Inc.
Unrestricted Income Statement
Calendar Year 2012

| | CY2012 | Prior Years | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | CY2011 | CY2010 | CY2009 | CY2008 | CY 2007 |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Dues - Members | 11,130 | 12,800 | 15,870 | 15,560 | 14,629 | 17,511 |
| Gifts - Members | 3,190 | 2,115 | 1,685 | 2,493 | 1,430 | 2,820 |
| Credit card fees | (153) | (185) | (165) | (139) | 150 | - |
| Escrow interest (on Golf Course escrow) | 130 | 143 | 69 | | | |
| Almanac sales (offset to exp in prior yrs) | 81 | | | | | |
| Trail Guide Sales | 669 | 1,379 | 1,079 | 884 | 725 | 344 |
| Total revenues | 15,047 | 16,253 | 18,539 | 18,797 | 16,933 | 20,675 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Annual Meeting - net cost | 1,082 | 1,179 | 1,003 | 1,662 | 2,469 | 1,027 |
| Board Administrative Expenses | 462 | 207 | 779 | 410 | 398 | 360 |
| Board Development | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dues | 400 | 550 | 400 | 405 | 375 | 405 |
| Fees | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 50 |
| Grants | 3,327 | 4,390 | 3,020 | 4,900 | 6,534 | 3,748 |
| Insurance | 3,390 | 3,285 | 3,295 | 3,239 | 3,086 | 3,001 |
| Publications & Publicity - Almanac | - | - | 5,850 | 5,850 | - | - |
| Almanac sales | - | (452) | (1,214) | (3,269) | | |
| Publications & Publicity - Trail Guides/Brochures | - | - | 3,727 | | | |
| Membership Development | 987 | 1,240 | 2,812 | 1,939 | 1,759 | 882 |
| Newsletter | 2,191 | 1,813 | 2,348 | 3,394 | 1,872 | 1,793 |
| Ordway Maintenance | 1,196 | 1,145 | 980 | 1,665 | 710 | 822 |
| Programs | 165 | (100) | 165 | - | 200 | 500 |
| Website | 255 | 191 | 191 | 191 | 208 | 96 |
| Total expenses | 13,529 | 13,524 | 23,432 | 20,461 | 17,685 | 12,684 |
| Net income from operations before special projects | 1,517 | 2,729 | (4,893) | (1,664) | (752) | 7,991 |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS | | | | | | |
| General (CLC, prior yrs 1K CLC, 2K Nahanton, Bike; DCR Bridge \$4K; Crystal Lake \$15K) | 328 | 1,000 | 3,100 | 100 | 20,077 | 260 |
| Conservation Restriction (CR) Monitoring, Signage | 2,155 | - | 4,800 | | | |
| Land Acquisition Program (research) | - | 542 | | | | |
| Annual Mtg 50th anniv. sponsor/auction revenue | - | (9,502) | | | | |
| Annual Mtg 50th anniv. extra expenses | - | 2,138 | 350 | | | |
| Total special projects | 2,483 | (5,822) | 8,250 | 100 | 20,077 | 260 |
| Net income from operations | (966) | 8,551 | (13,143) | (1,764) | (20,829) | 7,731 |
| INVESTMENT INCOME AND GAINS | | | | | | |
| Interest - Checking | 4 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 17 |
| Interest - Money Market | 15 | 12 | 52 | 633 | 2,980 | 4,968 |
| Interest - Transfer to restricted (Ordway Endow.) | (1,212) | 103 | (1,128) | (1,632) | 2,335 | (866) |
| Interest - 4-in 1 Fund | 1,988 | 1,896 | 1,617 | 1,455 | 1,971 | 1,882 |
| Interest - Treasury Bills | 403 | 144 | 422 | 513 | 1,093 | 2,191 |
| Unrealized Gain (Loss) - 4-in-1 Fund | 9,623 | (2,981) | 7,757 | 12,270 | (28,558) | 2,539 |
| Total investment income | 10,822 | (819) | 8,729 | 13,246 | (20,165) | 10,730 |
| Total changes in unrestricted net assets | 9,857 | 7,731 | (4,415) | 11,482 | (40,994) | 18,462 |
| Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets | 163,506 | 155,775 | 160,189 | 148,707 | 189,701 | 171,239 |
| Plus: change in unrestricted net assets | 9,857 | 7,731 | (4,415) | 11,482 | (40,994) | 18,462 |
| Ending Unrestricted Net Assets | 173,363 | 163,506 | 155,775 | 160,189 | 148,707 | 189,701 |

Balance Sheet - Newton Conservators - As of 12/31/12

| | 2012 | | | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/11 |
|---|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Balance | Balance |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Citizens Bank Checking | 5,025 | 2,997 | 870 | 8,893 | 22,157 |
| Accounts Receivable at 123Signup | 815 | | | 815 | 907 |
| Post Office; Golf Escrow | 417 | 27,348 | | 27,765 | 27,543 |
| TOTAL Cash and AR Assets | 6,257 | 30,346 | 870 | 37,473 | 50,606 |
| Fidelity 4 in 1 Index Fund (Mkt Val) | 79,867 | | 8,666 | 88,533 | 76,922 |
| Fidelity Money Market | 55,289 | 32,977 | 9,577 | 97,843 | 86,827 |
| Treasury Notes | 22,550 | | 2,447 | 24,997 | 25,000 |
| TOTAL Investments | 157,706 | 32,977 | 20,690 | 211,372 | 188,749 |
| 60 Prospect Park Lot B; Awtrey Lot A | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Ordway Park | 10,900 | | | 10,900 | 10,900 |
| TOTAL Property | 10,900 | - | 2 | 10,902 | 10,902 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 174,863 | 63,323 | 21,562 | 259,747 | 250,257 |
| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | | | | |
| Bd Design Powder House Hill; Golf Escrow | 1,500 | 27,348 | | 28,848 | 28,862 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & BRD DES. | 1,500 | 27,348 | - | 28,848 | 28,862 |
| NET ASSETS | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 173,363 | | | 173,363 | 163,506 |
| Weeks Field | | 4,750 | | 4,750 | 4,750 |
| Powder House Hill | | 3,127 | | 3,127 | 3,127 |
| 60 Prospect Park; Awtrey Lot A | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 60 Prospect Park Maint. Fund | | 3,283 | | 3,283 | 3,758 |
| Awtrey Lot A Maint. Fund | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Friends of Houghton Gardens | | 4,740 | | 4,740 | 4,690 |
| Ordway Park Endowment | | | 21,560 | 21,560 | 21,560 |
| Ordway Park Improvement Fund | | 2,445 | | 2,445 | 2,445 |
| Ordway Endow. Interest | | 4,900 | | 4,900 | 3,688 |
| Regan Fund | | 2,730 | | 2,730 | 3,870 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 173,363 | 35,974 | 21,562 | 230,899 | 221,395 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | 174,863 | 63,323 | 21,562 | 259,747 | 250,257 |

Changes in Restricted Net Assets

| | 12/31/2012 | | | CY2011 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Temporary | Permanent | Total | Total |
| Balance at beginning of year | | | | |
| Weeks Field | 4,750 | | 4,750 | 4,750 |
| Powder House Hill | 3,127 | | 3,127 | 3,127 |
| 60 Prospect Park; Awtrey Lot A | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 60 Prospect Park Maint. Fund | 3,758 | | 3,758 | 3,758 |
| Awtrey Lot A Maint. Fund | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Friends of Houghton Gardens | 4,690 | | 4,690 | 4,690 |
| Ordway Park Endowment Fund | - | 21,560 | 21,560 | 21,460 |
| Ordway Park Improvement Fund | 2,445 | | 2,445 | 2,445 |
| Ordway Park Endow. Interest | 3,688 | | 3,688 | 3,791 |
| Regan Auburndale Cove Rehab Fund | 3,870 | | 3,870 | |
| Total | 36,327 | 21,562 | 57,889 | 54,022 |
| Changes during 2012 | | | | |
| Regan Auburndale Fund expenses | (1,140) | | (1,140) | |
| Friends of Houghton Garden donation | 50 | | 50 | |
| 60 Prospect Pk tree expenses | (475) | | (475) | |
| Ordway Endow. Interest earned | 1,212 | | 1,212 | (103) |
| Total | (353) | - | (353) | (103) |
| Balance as of 12/31/12 | | | | |
| Weeks Field | 4,750 | | 4,750 | 4,750 |
| Powder House Hill | 3,127 | | 3,127 | 3,127 |
| 60 Prospect Park; Awtrey Lot A | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 60 Prospect Park Maint. Fund | 3,283 | | 3,283 | 3,758 |
| Awtrey Lot A Maint. Fund | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Friends of Houghton Gardens | 4,740 | | 4,740 | 4,690 |
| Ordway Park Endowment Fund | | 21,560 | 21,560 | 21,560 |
| Ordway Park Improvement Fund | 2,445 | | 2,445 | 2,445 |
| Ordway Park Endow. Interest | 4,900 | | 4,900 | 3,688 |
| Regan Auburndale Cove Rehab Fund | 2,730 | | 2,730 | 3,870 |
| Total | 35,974 | 21,562 | 57,536 | 57,889 |

DRAFT

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.
Minutes of the Board Meeting
June 12, 2013
Newton City Hall Room 203

Attending: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, David Backer, Bonnie Carter, Jackie Daoust, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Chris Hepburn, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

The meeting opened at 7:35. with welcome to new board members David Backer and Chris Hepburn, and to Duane Hillis, returning to the board.

Approval of the Minutes for April 10 , 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine commented on items in the First Quarter report and the budget, including the following:

- \$3300 is for reprinting the trail guides
- Newsletter expense is higher because color printing has been added
- Under "Special Projects:"
 - a January board vote released Powder Hill's \$1500 back to the general fund
 - \$2100 for conservation restriction monitoring may be decided on.

A MOTION to approve the budget was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Annual Meeting: Board members agreed to again have an early May date. Katherine will inquire whether the Post 440 room is available for May 7. Beth commended the organizers of this year's meeting for its all round excellence.

Board bios and Conflict of Interest statement: Beth Schroeder asked for the bios and conflict of interest statements from members who had yet to do them. Members approved her suggestion to put some details on the Library/Library site accessible only to board members.

Land Trust Boards Book: Beth strongly recommended that members read the book she had sent out; the pdf is attached again to these minutes.

Kennard Park Update: Duane said the committee is still working on putting together a board and obtaining 501(c)(3) status. They are considering having an Audubon study done.

Nahanton Park CR Update: (Duane) The firehouse/CR issue will be discussed at the Parks and Recreation Commission on Tuesday [corrected to Monday.] After discussion, a MOTION “to support the Friends of Nahanton Park position, asking the City to do its best to obtain a CR on Nahanton Park in exchange for the temporary location of the fire station to the park, and to offer to hold the CR – with the City providing the needed financing for maintaining the CR” was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Duane will ask Jane to present the statement.

Waban Hill Reservoir Update: Ted said the recommendations of the committee that has been meeting for 6 months will be out shortly. All agreed that the City should acquire the site. The majority of the committee were neighbors who want the least possible activity.

Wetland grant letter for Global Program: Beth had written the requested letter of support to the Parks and Recreation Commission for the NNHS Global Program which the Conservators had supported with a grant two years ago.

ESP interns’ work: Dave reported that the ESP director, Noah Lerner, is interested in invasives work, on the relationship between deer and tick populations. the ESP student director, Eliana Gevelber is working on fertilizer and runoff effects.

New Business:

- **Invasives pulls:** Katherine asked for help with the last garlic mustard pull of this season – this Sunday, June 16, at Hemlock Gorge from 9 to 12. Few volunteers have been at the recent sessions this year.
- **Board meeting location:** Room 203 is to be converted to an office and will no longer be available. We have been assigned the only space available, the cafeteria. George will investigate with Shawna Sullivan whether a room might be available on other Wednesdays.
- **American Chestnut Tree History:** The Conservators are listed as co-sponsors of the August 26 talk by Curt Laffin at the Library, 7 pm.
- **Environmental Planner position:** Anne Phelps is no longer in the position; *uris* Alksniti is temporarily replacing her while a permanent replacement is sought.

Adjournment at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, sec’y.