

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
7:30 PM
Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present were Beth Schroeder, presiding; Attending: Beth Schroeder (presiding), AnnaMaria Abernathy, Margaret Albright, David Backer, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Dan Green., Chris Hepburn, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Jane Sender, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson

Approval of the Minutes of June 12, 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine reported that the Federal Tax Return Form 990 is drafted. Also that in the budget approved last month, the \$1500 for invasives, including \$500 for water chestnut removal, was not mentioned, but is included in the "General" expenses of \$2000.

Board admin:

• **Board bios:** Beth distributed the tally of interests members had listed in their bios, using it as basis for committee memberships.

Duane agreed to chair the land acquisition committee

Duane & Katherine will co-chair the invasive plant removal

Whether to solicit advisors' bios by email was discussed but not decided. The board agreed to Beth S.'s suggestion to send the new Trail Guide book to the advisors in appreciation of their help.

• **Dan Brody – bios on website:** the decision was to put the board bios on the Library/Library private part of the website.

• **Meeting attendance standards:** Beth S. quoted from the "Land Trusts Boards" book on the importance of directors' active participation. Following discussion, Jane MOVED that a by-law amendment be proposed at the next annual meeting, that board members be required to attend at least six meetings per year. This was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Conservation Restrictions – Audubon reporting for 2013: following discussion, it was agreed to have Audubon do the report this year, and request that Liz Newlands provide sufficient advance notice so a board member may accompany her to each site, to learn the process so we may do the work in 2014. The next contract with Audubon will specify their reporting in alternate years.

Responsibility for our sites will be assumed by the following, with a back-up where available:

- ❖ Angino Bill Hagar – backup Duane
- ❖ Wilmerding Mike Clarke –
- ❖ Ordway Beth Wilkinson – backup – Beth S.
- ❖ Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Jane Sender – backup – Larry Smith
- ❖ Awtrey Jackie –
- ❖ Prospect Park George Mansfield – backup Margaret Albright
- ❖ Webster Park Ted Kuklinski –
- ❖ Crystal Lake Beth Wilkinson – backup Mike Clarke
- ❖ Wilson Jane Sender – backup Bill - (not needed this year, to be added to the new contract.)

Land Acquisition: the land acquisition committee will review the new and old possible open spaces for acquisition. Duane, chair of the committee, will review the old files that Beth handed to him.

Trails and Signage: Dan Brody said the Conservation Commission has approved placing our QR stickers on the Conservation Commission signs in Norumbega Park, Webster Conservation Area, and the Helen Heyn Riverway. The next stage will be to expand to other sites, and further on, to make more detailed QR stickers for points in the larger sites.

Publicity about the QR stickers was discussed. In addition to an article in the next Newsletter, the Newton Patch and Village 14 sites were suggested, as well as a piece for the TAB.

Beth reported Henry Finch's message, that Joel Barrera and David _____ of MAPC have offered to meet with the Conservators about opening the Sudbury Aqueduct officially to the public in Newton, and that they have invited Henry to attend a July 25 meeting with MAPC and MWRA personnel.

Updates:

• **Nahanton Park:** Mike reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission will agree to use of the park for a temporary fire station, but only with a quid pro quo: a 199 year conservation restriction on the park and \$125,000 for restoration and improvement after the fire station is removed and to remove hazardous waste from the old building at the site. The City is refusing these terms.

• **Kennard Park:** Duane said that Carolyn Kraft is taking the lead and very energetically working on creating a Friends of Kennard Park, with a board of neighbors, and a 503(c)3. Jeremiah Eck has looked over the building, which is in need of major work.

• **Trail Guide Reprinting:** expected soon.

New Business

- **Verizon lot at 91 Court Street:** Earlier in the meeting, Margaret Albright observed that the Verizon lot on Court Street is on the City's Open Space Plan ["91 Court St. - explore current Verizon parking site for potential use as future pocket park." Section 9, p. 11] Two adjoining lots are being considered by a developer for a 40B project with 36 units and 72 parking spaces. Because of the paucity of parking on the narrow street, aldermen are considering taking the Verizon lot for public parking.
- **Reminder: American Chestnut Tree History:** The Conservators are listed as co-sponsors of the August 26 talk by Curt Laffin at the Library, 7 pm.
- **Hammond Pond Geese:** Lynne Kay wrote to Beth S. that "The geese at Hammond Pond need your help!" Mass Audubon had referred her to us. She wants signage and markers to prevent the birds' being run over by construction trucks. Margaret Doris volunteered to respond to her, suggesting she contact DCR or Mass Wildlife.
- **Poison Ivy at Ordway Park:** Beth W reported that it is being done for \$275.
- **Invasives control:** Duane emphasized the need to get more volunteers, suggesting that pulling sessions be promoted as a celebration as a way to attract more young people. Beth S. suggested an ice cream party. He and Katherine as co-chairs of the committee will confer. Discussion continued, on possible uses of the invasives as compost, or garlic mustard pesto, or for biofuel. The NNHS Innovative Lab is working on biofuels and can be contacted. Dan Green will contact someone involved with biomass.
- **Tree Removal at Horace Mann School:** Marc Welch had called Margaret Doris; he has to pull some large trees at the school, and sees it as an educational opportunity, with hope to involve young families and the community – and the Tree Conservancy - in discussion. It is an educational opportunity. Katherine is meeting with Mark soon and will discuss it with him.
- **Interns and no August board meeting:** Beth W. and Dave Backer talked about the two interns' projects during August. It was agreed that a meeting with interested board members will be arranged for them to discuss their work during the month, rather than holding an August board meeting for this purpose.
- **Meeting space:** The cafeteria is too noisy. Beth S. will ask Henry if we may take up his offer to meet at his and Pat's home if George is unable to find a room upstairs in City Hall.

Adjournment: at about 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

7:30 PM

153 Windsor Road, Waban – (Finch/Robinson Home)

Attending: Beth Schroeder (presiding), Ted Kuklinski, David Backer, Mike Clarke, Chris Hepburn, Duane Hillis, Henry Finch, Pat Robinson, George Mansfield, Jane Sender, Katherine Howard, Bonnie Carter, Beth Wilkinson and Michelle Hanss as a representative of the Friends of Houghton Garden.

1. The minutes from July 10, 2013 were approved.
2. Treasurer's report. The current financial statement through June was previously sent to the Board. The Annual Dinner Meeting in May received more sponsor revenue than last year and came out \$2300 better than budget. The necessary non-profit tax form has been filed with the state.
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3. Michele Hanss of the Friends of Houghton Garden introduced herself and explained that Friends of Houghton Garden are still in existence. Houghton Garden is on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Friends received \$230K from city, state and federal sources to restore the Garden about 5 years ago. The Friends have been working with Jennifer Steel, the new Conservation Agent for City. The Chestnut Hill Garden Club maintains the rock garden. The Newton Conservators holds some funds for the Friends. While the Friends do little fund raising, they may have a donor for a boardwalk in the bog area, which will need approval by the Conservation Commission.
3. Board Administration: The Conservators would like to involve the Board of Advisors more in our endeavors, according to the interest of the individual advisors. Beth will circulate a form for discussion that would be sent to the advisors to will indicate their background and interests. The interests of the Advisors would then be listed on the "Directors' only" part of the Conservators website.
5. Conservation restrictions: Liz Newlands of the Mass Audubon Society will be visiting the following areas covered by CRs held by the Conservators:
Tuesday Sept. 24: 8:00 Angino Farm, 9:30 Crystal Lake, 10:30 Ordway, 11:30 Prospect Park, 12.30 Webster Park
Thursday Sept. 26: 8:00 Newton Comm. Golf Club, 10:30 Awtrey, 12:30 PM Wilmerding
The CR on the Angino Farm was discussed with respect to the proposed interior renovations, which presented no problems; however, Chris Hepburn suggested that the porch off the barn might be of some concern. Duane Hillis will coordinate this with Greg Maslow, the Angino Farm manager.
6. Grants Committee – Bill Hagar has automated the grant submission process and will send out reminders for grants applications.
7. Land Acquisition Committee: Duane Hillis indicated that 91 Court St, which is a parking lot owned by Verizon next to its equipment building at 787 Washington St, is on the Newton Open Space Plan as a possible neighborhood park. It was thought that SEB developers might want to acquire or lease this property; but it may not be needed in their current development plan for a nearby area. Consequently, 91 Court may be available for a park, should Verizon decide it no longer needs it.
An area of about 5 acres on Dudley Rd. including a house near Kennard Park and Newton South High is on the market (SR-1 zoning). It is likely to be sold to a developer, so that ways to acquire some of the land for conservation should be sought during the special permitting process.

8. Trails and Signage: QR decals are now on Helen Heyn Riverway.

9. Updates:

- Kennard Park has a new friends group.
- CR for Nahanton Park:- Ouida Young is writing a CR as part of the agreement between the Parks & Recreation Commission and the City to temporarily locate Fire Station 6 on the site of the old almshouse on Winchester St. If the Conservators hold this CR, we will need funds to be able to defend the CR. There will be an invasives pull in Nahanton Pk in October.
- Waban Hill Reservoir: Ted Kuklinski said that the Waban Hill Reservoir working group had submitted a 130 page report that recommends leaving whatever water is supplied by rainfall in the reservoir, but not filling it in with either dirt or water. The Waban Hill Reservoir is in the Open Space Plan, so the planning department recommends buying it as open space. The price from MWRA will depend on whether the use is as open space or as some sort of development.
- Farlow Park: The Friends of Farlow Park are requesting \$587K from the CPA. These funds will be used for Phase II of the Farlow Park restoration project, which includes the restoration of Farlow Pond, an updated irrigation system for the Underwood School Playground and also part of Farlow Park, and the construction of a new bridge over the pond. Phase I included a feasibility study and a well that has been dug, tested and found to have sufficient water to accommodate the Pond and Playground. In addition, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. provided a safety and feasibility study along with a complete set of construction documents and cost estimates for the Pond restoration. Ted moved, Jane 2nd a motion that the Newton Conservators, Inc. support this project, which passed unanimously except for one abstention. This went before the CPC the next evening. [Mike Clarke informed the CPC of the vote and the CPC voted to entertain a full proposal]. Beth Schroeder will send a letter of support to Janet Sterman of the Friends of Farlow Park.
- Intern Presentations: David Backer noted that the two Environmental Science Program Interns, Noah Lerner and Eliana Gevelber had submitted written reports for the Newsletter on the effect of the deer hunt on the tick population and nitrogen and phosphorous in runoff to coastal waters.
- Trail Guide printing. The new Trail Guide is available for \$8.95 and has an ISBN code. Beth thanked Judy Hepburn, Dan Brody and particularly Pat Robinson for all of her design work on both the Trail Guide and Newsletter. As Pat has indicated she can no longer do these, we are looking for a new graphics editor, either another talented volunteer or a company such as Signal Graphics.
- Annual Dinner: Julie McIntosh Shapiro will be the speaker for the annual dinner with \$400 allocated for an honorarium. She will provide a title and an abstract so we can publicize the talk for the dinner.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Beth Wilkinson will speak to Alicia to invite others to participate in representation on this committee.
- A Non-Profit Networking Meeting, which Beth Wilkinson, Jackie Daoust and Margaret Doris will attend, will be held ~~in~~ on September 18, 9:45-11:30 to share ideas and resources among groups.
- *Newton Life* magazine: Jonathan Friedman will be asked to write a feature story about the Newton Conservators for the March issue. This offers an opportunity to publicize our walks, annual dinner, trail guide and almanac. Dan Brody may supply pictures for the article and Jane Sender may be interviewed.

10. New Business

- Duane will work with Jerry Reilly to create a mailing piece to go out with Newton's tax bills for next spring to publicize the Conservators and our events.
- Henry announced the Tour de Newton bike ride on October 6. This is part of Newton's Bike/Walk Week and will have multiple starts from each of Newton's 13 villages. Registration is at <http://bikenewton.org/services/tour-de-newton-registration/>
- Henry will also lead a hike on the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts at 3 pm on October 5th

- Sudbury Aqueduct. The city's Law Office is beginning work on an agreement with the MWRA to increase access and use of this aqueduct for walking. We may be able to add signage to the aqueduct once this agreement has been signed.

Adjourned at 9: 23 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Clarke

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2013
7:30 PM
153 Windsor Road, Waban –Finch/Robinson home

Present were Beth Schroeder, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson

Also present was Jerry Riley.

Approval of the Minutes of September 11, 2013: The minutes were approved as written.

Board administration: The advisor biographies will be taken up in an executive committee meeting.

Conservation Restrictions – Audubon reporting: Liz Newland will have a report in late October. Next year, the volunteers will do this. Reports on the recent site visits with Liz were:

- ❖ Angino Bill Hagar: chickens are back, the barn is being rebuilt, new farmstand, portable toilet, bike rack and cooling box. Bill and Duane will do next year's inspection.
- ❖ Crystal Lake Henry and Robert: beach chairs on the cr path in front of the private home, also beach sand and bushes trimmed, and a water fountain possibly on the cr. – Henry and Robert will study the cr. Also, should there be signage from the bath house to the easement path?
- ❖ Ordway Beth W and Beth S. found asphalt dumped in rhododendron bed, oaks in decline. the property line is not clear. The poison ivy has been sprayed for under \$300. Norway maples need to be thinned. Beth W. will get estimates on needed tree work and mowing.
- ❖ Prospect Park: Margaret Doris and George Mansfield found that the abutting new house does not intrude on the CR. . Norway maple saplings are filling in again since the removal 5 years ago. Ted will get Scouts in touch with Margaret about this work and about creating a path since, there is no sidewalk.
- ❖ Webster Park Ted Kuklinski and Eric Olson found the that there was still debris from the abutting landscaper but it was vastly improved since the last visit. They will contact him again. Norway maple seedlings here, too, may need removing – with permission from ConCom. There is also poison ivy near the new path constructed by Boy Scout Troop 355. Ted mentioned that it would be good to get the Boy Scouts in contact with the new Environmental Planner, Jennifer Steele (sp?). They may also be willing to help with some Conservator projects.
- ❖ Commonwealth Golf Course Larry found erosion under a culvert, which is being repaired; some asphalt dumping on which he will follow up; and a big tree being killed by swallowtail and bittersweet.

- ❖ Awtrey Jackie and Pete Gilmore: covered with ivy and Norway maples; Liz Newlands will research issue of pulling ivy.
- ❖ Wilmerding Jackie and Chris Hepburn: also ivy & Norway maples. Problem: wood chips from the homeowner's trail are falling into the stream.

Grants: Bill has sent the annual letter about our grants to the Newton schools grant coordinator, Elaine Sterzin, and she posted the letter on the school Grants and Resources page and sent copies to science coordinators and principals. The Grants' committee received a grant request from three beekeepers who would like funding and permission to put hives on Newton conservation lands or lands where we have a CR. Their proposal was a combination science study and education program. Discussion found that Ordway Park is too small, and other beekeepers are already using parkland, at their own expense. Bill will send a letter to them declining support at this time, and if they resubmit asking them to expand the educational part, and answer questions on specific sites.

Acquisitions Committee - Duane:

- **70 Crescent Street:** Duane attended a meeting (of the Real Property Reuse Committee?) at City Hall: the City wants to sell the 2.25 acre site for between \$500,000 and \$1M, letting the purchaser take care of possible hazardous waste. The neighbors want open space and retention of the existing tot lot. Robert Fizek has sketched a plan that would have housing abutting the Turnpike serving as sound barrier for the 30% or 40% of the land that would be open and include the tot lot. After discussion, Duane MOVED that we advocate that the land be held by the city and become open space. The motion was SECONDED and unanimously approved, with one abstention. Duane will write and Beth will send a letter to this effect to the Real Property Reuse Committee.
- **91 Court Street:** Verizon can't sell the property and must keep it for parking required despite the absence of personnel in the structure. Verizon could obtain an exception, does not want to fight the City.
- **Dudley Road:** a 5-acre plot is for sale. It is eligible for cluster zoning, e.g., build 2 homes and leave the back 3 acres open, getting tax credit for a CR.
- **Kennard Park:** Carolyn Kraft is working with Friends of Kennard Park for to get 503(c)3.

Flier insert for tax bills: _ Jerry Riley volunteers to help write a 1/3 -page insert about the Conservators for Newton tax bills; he asks for suggestions of responses to "why should you join the Newton Conservators?" Preserving the balance between development and open space was key. **Please send suggestions to him: jerreilly@yahoo.com**

Upper Falls Greenway: Jerry also announced that the creation of Newton's newest park will be noted next Tuesday at 4 PM by a walk with the landscape architect. Construction will begin on Oct. 24.

Annual Dinner: June McIntosh Shapiro will speak about "Seeds, Up Close and Amazing."

Non-profit networking meeting: Another meeting is scheduled for Oct. 16. Lasell students are interested.

Newsletter: The board expressed its gratitude to Pat Robinson, who resigned from her position as Newsletter designer before the last meeting. Absent a volunteer to take over that position, editor Beth W. is authorized to seek a paid graphic designer.

New Business:

• **Harvest Fair is October 20, 10 to 5 PM:** Katherine needs volunteers to man our table. So far, Bill, Pete, Dave, Duane, and AnnaMaria have said they will help. Katherine will send out a schedule for people to fill in their times.

• **Hammond Pond:** Beth S. said meeting on the state of Hammond Pond is scheduled for 5pm on Monday, January 13, in City Hall Room 209. Beth W. reported that in a recent conversation, Alderman Ruthanne Fuller explained that citizens and unless city and state officials work together to devise a plan, little is likely to be done to stop the too-rapid eutrophication of the pond

• **Austin Street Redevelopment:** AnnaMaria read from a guest column by board members of Beautiful Newtonville (BN hereafter) in the Sept. 25 Newton TAB (see attached) Six plans are being evaluated, and Mayor Warren will select a developer. BN is advocating that “appealing well-landscaped public space” be included in the plan, something not included in the current plans. A MOTION was made and SECONDED that AnnaMaria should compose a letter for Beth S. to sign, to be sent to The Planning Department, with cc to the Mayor, the aldermen, and BN, advocating that green space be considered a priority in the planning.

• **Aqueduct Walk:** Henry said that 19 people came to the walk, ranging in age from 89 on down.

Adjournment: at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy,
secretary

Conditions for Success – Proposed Austin Street Development in Newtonville

Guest column **Newton TAB**, Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Succeeding on Austin Street, and beyond
Porcaro, and Joy Huber

By Tim Stone, Janet

The proposed development of Newtonville’s Austin Street parking lot can benefit Newtonville, all of Newton, and future development in The Garden City. Beautiful Newtonville’s analysis stems from our mission as the

nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing Newtonville. We have gauged popular sentiment by listening to local residents and businesses and conducting an extensive public opinion survey to identify the collective vision of Newtonville stakeholders.

Objectives. We believe a successful Austin Street development should enhance a sense of community and ambiance in Newtonville's village center, help local businesses thrive, and support home values while meeting some of Newton's affordable housing needs.

Current Status A City-appointed advisory board of local stakeholders has evaluated six proposals, summarized by the purchasing department. The City is scheduling interviews with the bidders. Based on the stakeholder evaluations, interviews, and other factors, Mayor Warren will select a developer to purchase the Austin Street parking lot from the City to convert it into mixed-use residential and commercial space. The City has asked that the proposals be firm for another 90 days, until Oct 22, but may request another extension.

Our Recommendations:

Maintain downtown parking capacity, calibrate population density with traffic planning. An independent downtown parking/traffic study (accounting for pedestrian, bike, and vehicular traffic on Austin, Walnut, and Washington Streets) must precede any development plan, to account for economic booms, demographic forecasts, and the impact caused by the development itself. Despite the City's RFP allowing development proposals to drastically curtail public parking capacity at Austin St. to 85 spaces, we have witnessed Saturdays when well over 85 cars fill the current lot. Reducing public parking capacity contradicts the wishes of local stakeholders, could be disastrous for beloved local businesses, and could squander public transportation opportunities: the MBTA says it will consider increasing Worcester-Framingham train service at commuter rail stations with sufficient parking capacity.

Establish appealing, well-landscaped public space. In both Beautiful Newtonville's survey and in public forums, residents have said repeatedly that Newtonville needs a greater sense of community through appealing public space that includes more greenery, shade trees, outdoor dining, and benches. A successful Austin Street development thus needs a generous outdoor area accommodating all ages with outdoor cafes, ample greenery, and benches. Current proposals have situated a public plaza at Bram Way and Austin St., much of which will be a shared, vehicular/pedestrian space. This will only work if with minimal vehicular traffic. A traffic study is thus essential for determining the best entry points to Austin St. parking, ensuring the plaza's viability as public space, and minimizing congestion on Walnut St.

Design a structure that complements iconic buildings and unites the cityscape. Residents feel deeply concerned with the size and style of many of the proposed structures. The optimal structure will enhance the historic charm already present in the village, and help unify the two sides of the downtown split by the Mass Pike.

Design for independent establishments. Design commercial space to attract independent businesses, not banks and service industries with no local connections and no incentives to contribute to civic pride. For example, a fledgling restaurant scene has begun in Newtonville, but growth is hindered by inadequate space, since full service restaurants require at least 2,000 square feet to remain viable. Residents repeatedly ask for independent shops and restaurants, not banks, nail salons, and chains. Even leaders at bank chains have lamented the profusion of banks, chain stores, and service industries.

Establish a 100% open meeting policy, engage the community. The Austin Street project will dramatically impact residents, local businesses, and property owners. Community input must be incorporated in the evolving plan, which the City cannot present to local residents and businesses as a fait accompli. Furthermore, Newton residents have a right to be present at meetings where key deliberations and information gathering occurs about

the future of our villages. As with most City meetings, procedural protocols can maintain order and not impede process.

Ensuring sale proceeds are reinvested in Newtonville. Local representatives have recommended that all funds from the sale of Austin St. be reinvested in Newtonville (Austin St. RFP #13-51, Attachment-C), without other funds being rescinded. A net-positive reinvestment in Newtonville will meet the infrastructure needs of the development and the village center while benefiting residents and businesses, who will be negatively impacted by construction.

We believe these elements will establish a productive model for future development in Newton, enhance our village, and fulfill a reasonable portion of the city's affordable housing needs.

Beautiful Newtonville is a non-profit 501©3 pending organization committed to revitalizing Newtonville. Its survey-based report is available at www.beautifulnewtonville.org

Tim Stone, Janet Porcaro, and Joy Huber are members of the board of Beautiful Newtonville. Huber was a member of the City-appointed advisory board of local stakeholders that evaluated the six Austin Street proposals. Huber and Stone are candidates for Newtonville's Area Council.

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
 Wednesday, November 13, 2013
 7:30 PM
 153 Windsor Road, Waban –Finch/Robinson home

Present were Beth Schroeder, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Jacqueline Daoust, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Katherine commented on the financial statements through 9/30 that she had emailed two days before. As in other years, only ¼ of the annual revenue has come in at this time; ¾ comes in the last quarter; year-end renewals and marketing are very important. The stock market increase raised the endowment by 6.6%. Grants of \$3775 have been distributed, of the \$5,000 budgeted.

Conservation Commission of Trail Guide maps: As Dan Brody recommended, the Con.Com web site that uses our maps cites the Conservators and gives information on how to purchase the Trail Guide.

Scheduling monthly Conservation Restriction reports: Beth S. proposed we continue past practice of reporting on one CR each month. Board members agreed on the following tentative schedule:

December	Angino	Bill and Duane
January	Ordway	Beth and Beth
February	Commonwealth Golf Course:	Larry and Jane
March	Awtrey	Jackie and Pete
April	Prospect Park	George and Margaret Doris
June	Crystal Lake	Henry and Robert
July	Wilmerding	Jackie and Chris
September or Oct.	Wilson	Jane
Nov.	Webster	Ted and Eric

Grants: Bill has received no new requests yet, but his announcement has been posted in the schools. Dave mentioned that ESP will request \$2,000 next year, as in the past.

Fiscal sponsorship of Upper Falls Greenway funds: Following discussion on whether the project is consonant with our mission, a MOTION that the Conservators accept donations on behalf of the Greenway, and that we require an annual accounting, was SECONDED and unanimously approved. Jerry Riley will do the bulk of the work involved in receiving, tracking, and acknowledging contributions. Fundraising is expected to be limited to the beginning of the

project, so a 501c3 will not be pursued. The Northland Corporation has donated \$3,000, and funds for the trail will also come from the sale of the tracks by the Iron Horse Preservation Society.

Acquisition Committee:

- **70 Crescent Street:** Alderman Susan Albright has informed Duane “There wasn't time to schedule another meeting this termIt seems that the Committee is studying/will study 3 options - giving the property back to Parks and Recreation - for what use we do not know. Continue to proceed to create housing with our without moving the existing playground. There will most likely be a meeting in January.” -Duane has asked for a meeting of the Real Property Re-use Committee with the planner, Alexandra Ananth. He will communicate with us about it.
- **91 Court Street:** no news since last month; Verizon is not selling.
- **Nahanton Park CR:** Ouida Young has told Duane she is working on the fire station and a statutory CR for the park; the City will not create an account for the Conservators to deal with possible violations, but will assume responsibility for dealing with them.
- **Aqueducts:** Henry has spoken with Jennifer Steele, the new Newton environmental planner. Apparently a public hearing to hear neighbors’ views on what will be permitted on the Sudbury Aqueduct is being planned, though the question was raised whether a public hearing is needed; the same rules will apply to the Cochituate aqueduct, which the City owns. Henry will write an explanation of what is proposed, and a description of what Wellesley has done.
- **Dudley Road:** a 5-acre plot is for sale. It is eligible for cluster zoning, e.g., build 2 homes and leave the back 3 acres open, but a developer is looking to build attached multiple units in the back. . The neighbors are considering purchasing the latter.
- **Kennard Park:** Carolyn Kraft and Friends of Kennard Park are proceeding with obtaining 501(c)3 status. They are also contracting for an Audubon survey.
- **122 Islington Road:** Duane agreed to ask Jane about the Conservation Commission contacting the owner about a CR, as the property will probably be sold.

Ordway Park Update: Beth W. reported that Nate Cenis of Cedar Lawn Tree has given her an estimate of \$1700 for 3 man/days (charging for 2, the 3rd one free) for needed tree work. Kevin Newman, who has been unreachable, would continue to do the routine mowing. She offered to send the details for the board’s opinions. The sense of the board was to go ahead with Cenis, who also does pro bono work for the Tree Conservancy.

Harvest Fair recap: Katherine reported that we sold 4 trail guides, and got one new member. The passers-by awareness of the Conservators make it worthwhile.

Flier insert for tax bills: _ Duane will inquire whether our regular flyer can be used.

Annual Dinner: Beth S. gave details about Julie McIntosh Shapiro, who will speak about “Seeds, Up Close and Amazing.” She is a fine photographer, and currently works at the Harvard University Herbaria as Team Leader of the GPI (Global Plants Initiative).

Newsletter: Beth W. reported that Suzette Barbier has agreed to design the newsletter for \$30/hour, less than half the going commercial rate. Kevin Dutt will write about snow removal, and Dan Green has been asked to write about Jennifer Steele.

Hammond Pond: the meeting with Ruthanne Fuller on the state of Hammond Pond has been changed to Thursday, January 23, 2013, at 5 PM in Room 209.

New Business:

- **Trail guides:** Lynn Scheller has asked for trail guides to sell at the Newton Highlands Congregational Church Advent market on Sunday, Dec. 8; she will give profits to the Conservators. Katherine will help her.
- **Election consequences:** Alison is resigning from the board, as she has been elected Ward I Alderman. Margaret Albright has been elected to the School Committee.
- **Membership Committee:** A new membership renewal letter will be written by the committee (Margaret Doris, Duane, and George) with help from Beth Wilkinson. The board agreed to include the Tree Conservancy appeal again. AnnaMaria suggested the possibility of sending the December newsletter with the renewal material in a single first class mailing, instead of the two (one first class, the other bulk non-profit).
- **November 19 lecture:** Ted reminded us about the lecture co-sponsored with the Green Decade: "Sustainment Gardening in a Green World" with Master Gardener Peter Coppola, Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm at the Library.

Adjournment: at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy,
secretary

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
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7:30 PM
153 Windsor Road, Waban –Finch/Robinson home

Present were Beth Schroeder, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Duane Hillis, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

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

Grants Committee: Bill reported there has been no applications for the current period.

Angino Farm cr report: Bill said the report was good. The new deck on the roof of the barn was noted; it is deemed not counter to the terms of the cr. The outside cooling container will be moved into the barn when it is completed. Chicken are back this year, to help with insects and to provide eggs for the family; eggs are not being sold as part of the farm production

Acquisition Committee:

• **70 Crescent Street:** Duane has written to the Real Property Reuse Committee that the Conservators wish to be involved in the planning. The proposed Myrtle Baptist Church housing (7 units) will impact the area, which argues for open space here. For background, see the attached Planning Department memorandum. Duane explained that the P&R department had declared 62,000sf of the site surplus (not including the 37,000sf playground), so it went to other departments to see if anyone wanted it, which they did not, so it went to the planning department who prepared various schemes to sell it for the most money. Since P&R department kept the playground part of 70 Crescent there was a meeting of the Real Property Re-use to review the latest plan for the site which was to sell the 62,000sf to a developer for residential, but keeping the 37,000sf in tact where it was for a playground. The Re-use committee was surprised to have a room full of people, who were not allowed to speak, and members of the committee such as Greer Swiston spoke up that Planning needed to take another look at the whole site, not just the question of moving the playground. That meeting ended without a decision and there will be another meeting about it on January 28. At one of the P&R Commission meetings there was discussion about keeping the whole site as open space, or even active recreation.

• **91 Court Street:** Duane reiterated that Verizon will not sell the plot that is on the open space plan. The site for which 25 units are currently proposed (replacing two existing houses) is not an issue for Conservators.

Updates:

• **Nahanton Park CR:** We are told the draft is ready. Meanwhile, blacktop has been laid for the fire station.

• **Dudley Road:** The acquisitions committee discussed this before the regular board meeting, and the board agreed that this is a topic to be discussed with Candace Havens and Jennifer Steel, as well as with the neighbors. Dan Green did not feel the back land will be developed.

• **Ordway Park:** Beth Wilkinson reported that Nate Cenis told her spreading the woodchips would be bad use of his men's time, and suggested volunteers to this. Henry and Mike and Dan Green (with his kids) volunteered.

Flyer for tax bill: The law department opined that inserts have to be concerned with a municipal project. Duane and George will confer on whether an insertion to the water bills would have the same requirement, and whether the NC role in holding cr's for the City qualifies for water bill insertion.

Membership mailing: will take place next week.

Jennifer Steel and Conservation Commission Stewardship Program: This is on the new Conservation Commission Environmental Planner's agenda. The board agreed that several members will draw up an agenda and ask to meet with her. Both Beths, Duane, Chris and AnnaMaria indicated interest.

New Business:

It was agreed to have a holiday pot-luck at the January meeting, to begin at 6:30 PM.

The board agreed to Eric Olson's request for a \$60 grant for attendance at a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary



Setti D. Warren
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Candace Havens
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2013
TO: Real Property Reuse Committee of the Board of Aldermen
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development *CH*
 Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner for Current Planning
RE: #384-11(4); Disposition of 70 Crescent Street
MEETING DATE: September 24, 2013
CC: Josh Morse, Acting Commissioner of Public Buildings
 Bob DeRubeis, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation
 Bob Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

In response to questions raised at the Real Property Reuse Committee public hearing held on February 26th and Working Session on April 11th, 2013 the Planning Department is providing the following information for the upcoming working session.

PETITION #384-11(4)

70 Crescent Street

Declaration of the playground as surplus. The playground is approximately 37,000 square feet in area, and the remaining land available for development is an estimated 62,000 square feet. At the previous review, the Committee discussed the possibility of declaring the playground surplus so as to better integrate it into any prospective development on the City-owned land. To date, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation has declared surplus only that portion of the site upon which the buildings are located for the benefit of the Myrtle Baptist Church, which has direct access to the playground and is its primary user. Both the JAPG and the Planning Department recommend that new development on the site improve access to the playground, which is a well-used amenity. The Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as neighbors concur that the playground and tot lot should remain, and should be equal to or larger than the existing playground. They further recommended improvements such as additional trees, benches, play areas for older children, accessible walking paths to various points of entry, links to the Commuter station and possibly a basketball court. The Board can choose to maintain the playground in its general size, location, public use zoning and municipal ownership structure. Alternatively, should the Board choose to add this parcel into the surplussed development parcel the playground would likely be rezoned to match the development parcel and then subdivided and transferred back to the City in order to maintain its status as tax exempt. The playground parcel could then be restricted with an easement in order to assure public use of this portion of the site.