

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 and 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Beth Schroeder, Larry Smith

Also present was guest Mat Calabro.

The meeting began at 7:30 after a convivial and delicious potluck dinner.

**Newsletter:** Beth W. described the new features in the current and future newsletters (book review, features of the Conservator web site). Board members are asked for reviews of relevant books. She had copies of the Winter issue, which had been mailed two days earlier.

**Approval of minutes of December 10 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Report from Waban Hill Reservoir meeting with lawyers on January 6:**

George found both our attorney, Leigh Gilligan, and the City's Bob Willick, impressive in the discussion of the draft the latter had prepared.

Beth was troubled by the possibilities for uses in case the reservoir ceased to exist. ALL of us need to study the draft in preparing to discuss and decide next month on our acceptance of the CR (sent separately). Ruth Barnett, Manager of the Cambridge Savings Bank Newton Center office, has agreed to have the bank serve as escrow agent. Beth thanked Willis Wang for finding our excellent pro bono attorney.

**June 6 Event at Nahanton Park:** Beth has talked with Parks & Rec., where both Commissioner DeRubeis and Judy Dore are enthusiastic. The following activities and volunteers and questions emerged:

7 am - 8 am           **Bird walk(s)** (Pete)

-Should we have two or more walks—one or more groups for adults and one or more groups for adults with children?

7 am - 8 am           **Fishing Competition** (Bill and Mat)—with “awards” for biggest fish, most caught, most unusual catch -Newton no longer issues fishing licenses: that's done through the state. No license is needed for anyone under 16. Questions: Will the

competition be catch and release? -Do the contestants supply their own poles? Do we need extras for those who might not have them?

-What is used for bait? -We need to check with Judy Dore about whether it is okay to fish down the river—away from the dock, and we'll have to encourage the fishing folk to clear out before the canoe/kayak

8:30 am. Time that the bicycling group leaves from the parking lot—there should not be many people coming or going then.

9 am - . . .                    **Kayak/Canoe tours** (Larry)

-How is a tour done? With a lead boat with a microphone so that several nearby boats can hear? Something written?

10 am - 11 am                    **Fern walk** (Don Lubin, Beth S.)

10 am - 1 pm                    **5.3 Mile Hike to Cutler Pond** (Henry)

10 am - 12 pm                    **Invasive Plant Talk and Pull** (Katherine)

11 am - 12 pm                    **Children's Scavenger Hunt** (Jane)

11 am - 12 pm                    **Children's Project**—nature or art (Judy Dore indicated that she has an assistant who might do a kids' project)

11 am - 12 pm                    **Tour/Talk about Native Plants and Trees**

12 pm - 1 pm                    **Picnic lunch**

12:30 pm - 1 pm **Ice cream and ending**

**Audubon Monitoring:** Beth S. said that this year it's Audubon's turn to do the monitoring. *[editor: however, the October 2014 minutes read:*

**Conservation Restriction Review.** The group reviewed plans to monitor 8 areas. It was noted Newton Conservators holds 8 CRs for City property, plus 3 for Conservators property (yet we are monitoring only 8 properties – reconciliation and explanation needed). The group agreed that Directors will do the CR monitoring in 2014 and 2015, and Audubon support will not be needed at least during that period. Next monitoring will be done in Fall 2014. Assignments are:

**Angino – Bill Hagar**

**Crystal Lake – Henry Finch and Robert Fizek**

**Ordway – Dan Greene**

**Dexter Woods – George Mansfield**

**Webster Partk – Ted Kuklinski and Eric Olson**

**Commonwealth Golf Course – Larry Smith**

**Awtrey Woods – Pete Gilmore**

**Wilmerding/Elgin Street – Chris Hepburn. ]**

**Social Media:** Mat offered to run our media; the Facebook site set up in 2012 has 61 Friends. He and Beth W. will work on a strategy for the site.

**Wetlands Report from BU:** Beth asked board members to consider it. Dan Green said the Newton Conservation Commission has recently changed its policy: it will not issue certificates of compliance until two years of growing season show compliance, so the failures the report addresses will not repeat here.

**Updates:**

- **May 6 Annual Meeting:** Bill and Henry volunteered to help with set-up; Dave will also send two ESP members.

- **Membership mailing:** Beth sent the new thank-you notes, which several board members had already received.

**Consideration of priorities:** Beth asked board members to look over the list sent recently (and sent again with these minutes) for discussion next month.

**New Business:**

**Kids in Action Program:** Dan Green spoke of this program in the schools as a possible way to get young people involved. Kids talk to their classes about events in which they have participated. There was agreement to think about events in which kids can take part.

**School Newsletters:** Dan Green (for Mason-Rice) and Beth W. will get our walks listed.

**Newton Cultural Alliance:** Ted said he has contacted them to join.

**Nahanton Park Toolshed Committee:** Mike said he, Beth S., Duane and Peter are on it, to decide on the fate of the existing building. He will lecture about the history of the Almshouses on January 15 at the Durant-Kenrick House.

**Membership for Leigh Gilligan:** Beth S. suggested sending a membership in appreciation for her work on our behalf. The board agreed.

**Massachusetts Realtors** has asked us to put an article about the NC on their web site. The board agreed to do this, and to tell about the Trail Guide and link to our web site; Beth W. will write the article .

**Newsletter:** Beth W. asked board members to send her ideas for significant cover stories for the newsletter as well as the book reviews mentioned at the beginning of the meeting.

**Sewer Work Feb. 11 7 PM meeting:** Alderman Deb Crossley notified us that the Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan (SIIP) will be presented to the Board of Aldermen in "Committee of the Whole," open to the public: at the NNHS Film Lecture Hall.

**Environmental Science Program:** Dave showed the brochure that has come out, for Grade 7 to 10 students.

**Ordway Park snow shoveling:** Dan Green said Kevin Newman will do it.

**Awtrey path:** The Awtreys will contact us to walk the property with them in spring.

**Wilson CR:** we need to do the path this spring.

**Adjournment** at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Draft of the Waban Hill Reservoir CR and Task and Priorities Spreadsheet are attached to the email message transmitting these minutes.



Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred and AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Dan Brody, Mat Calabro, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Beth Schroeder, Larry Smith

The meeting began at 7:50.

**Approval of minutes of the January 13 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Nomination of Mat Calabro to the board:** Beth W. spoke of Mat's great interest and of the great work he has already done for our social media presence. Without further discussion, a MOTION to elect Mat to the board was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Programs and Services Committee Report re Waban Hill Reservoir:** Beth W. reported that the committee had voted to approve the Community Preservation Committee's recommendation of \$980,000 for the acquisition (\$404,800 + \$30,000 escrow for our CR) and the balance for repairs and temporary improvements. At issue for the full Board of Aldermen's discussion will be whether to spend so much for improvements before having a master plan for the site.

**Waban Hill Reservoir Conservation Restriction:** Board members had read the draft, and a MOTION that the Conservators accept the CR was SECONDED and APPROVED, 10-0-2 with two abstentions. Next the CR goes to the State for review. We are fortunate to have had the pro bono work from the very experienced Leigh Gilligan.

**Nominating Committee:** Beth W. told us that Margaret Doris has volunteered to serve, but not as chair. Beth S. said she would serve, but also not as chair. Members are asked to get in touch with Beth W. to volunteer. The committee normally has at least three members.

**Audubon Monitoring:** The board agreed to abide by the decision made in October, that we will monitor this spring, and ask Audubon to monitor in 2016.

**Leaf-blowing Ordinance:** Beth W. read us the message (See below \*) from Jane, who was ill. She believes leaf blowers have a negative impact on open space and

wildlife, and would like the Conservators to speak at the Programs and Services Committee when it discusses a leaf-blowing ordinance on the following Wednesday. After discussion, Beth agreed to draft a statement for board members to comment on, and that Jane might present at the P&S meeting.

### **Report from 2/6 meeting with Jennifer Steel:**

- Saw Mill Brook trail, which Dan Brody had raised as an issue, is Ms. Steel's highest priority trail project. Henry, Ted, and Mike Clarke agreed to consult on the boardwalk construction, for which Beth Schroeder suggested Conservators might use funding we are reserving for projects. Ted's son's Scout troop did this work some years ago. The board agreed that the Conservators will take on the project with Boy Scouts; Henry will design the board walk. The trail needs to be scouted out in April, before leaf break. The rest of the work can be done in stages, to July.
- Jennifer Steel also said she needs an assistant conservation agent/intern for a few hours/week. It will be posted in the next newsletter.
- Invasives pulls: the City will furnish dumpsters for the work, to be arranged with Elaine Gentile and Carol Schein. Ted added that Dolan Pond will again be a Newton Serves project.
- Ms. Steel would like a library program about Newton's conservation areas, such as "10 –Year Vision" or "Future of Newton's Open Spaces." Board members agreed that she would best give the lecture, and Ted suggested having Richard Primack introduce her.

**Social Media:** Mat has created a second NC Facebook page that will be merged with the original one, so the 61 old "likes" will continue, for a total of 92 likes. He has posted some content from our website. How often/much to post was discussed. Mat will post initially, and members should send their content to him for posting.

### **Updates/Reminders:**

**Trails project:** Dan Brody has received some of the reports, awaits some, and needs volunteers for others. He described his collaboration with the City's GIS system in working on our maps.

**Year-end report and budget:** Katherine had sent a message thanking the board as she is occupied with her father's care, and reporting that

1. 2014 financial statements are in process, almost done;
2. She has established the Board Designated Endowment at 144K as of 12/31/14. The 4% spending policy of 5929 will be included in the 2015 budget;

3. The Form 3ABC (reporting our tax exempt property holdings) is due March 1 and will be filed.

**70 Crescent Street:** George reported on the Feb. 4 neighborhood meeting. Neighbors propose the former City Recreation Department headquarters become a passive park, with an open air museum commemorating the neighborhoods lost to the Mass Turnpike. They wish to bring it to the Real Property Reuse Committee, possibly on February 24.

**Annual Meeting:** Beth W. will meet with Robert Warren in two days about the subject for his talk at our annual meeting.

**New Business:**

**Cultural Alliance:** In response to our request to join, Ted has received a message that they are considering whether our organization fits into their “arts” category.

**Adjournment** at 9: 30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

\* Message from Jane Sender:

About leaf blowers – my understanding is that the programs & services committee will hear from the public on the issue next Wed. night. I actually think that the noise from leaf blowers – which often exceeds the level of noise allowed under the Newton noise ordinance – has as much of a negative impact on open space as the snow dumping we have consistently argued against. It impairs one’s ability to enjoy a park and definitely has adverse impacts on nesting birds and other wildlife. They are used in the parks – I hear them constantly over at the cove. Just as snow dumping degrades a meadow and creates a visual blight, the noise from leaf blowers, which is particularly whiney, high pitched and louder than other landscaping machines, degrades the aural environment and severely cuts into the ability of a park visitor to have a pleasant experience.

Some ordinances, like Brookline’s, only restrict them from May to Sept. I don’t think there is actually a proposed ordinance on the table but I could be wrong.

I think the Conservators should be heard from on this issue. I think it is well within our mission of preserving and protecting open space.





Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 11, 2015 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred and AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Dan Brody, Mat Calabro, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Beth Schroeder, Larry Smith.

Also present was Ann Dorfman.

The meeting began at 7:50.

**Approval of minutes of the February 11 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beth W. cited Katherine's report that showed membership income has increased to \$17,000 (not exact no.) as many lapsed members had renewed.

**Budget:** A MOTION to accept the budget submitted by the finance committee was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. (Appended to these minutes.) Special projects will be discussed next month.

**Awards:** Following a brief discussion, the awards were unanimously APPROVED as follows:

- Environmentalist of the Year: Alison Leary for her environmental record and work on the City's plastic bag ban;
- Charles Maynard Johnson Award: Richard Primack for his work on climate change;
- Directors' award: Greg Maslow for his work at the Newton Community Farm.

Beth asked for volunteers to help write the award citations – PLEASE LET HER NOW IF YOU CAN HELP.

**Invasives pulls:** There will be three pulls for Newton Serves on April 26: Dolan Pond with Ted, Heron Bridge with Eric Olson (with the possibility of a change in location after he sees where the need is greatest), and Cold Spring Park with Beth W. Formerly, Katherine has supervised (and often done most of) additional invasive pulls at Nahanton Park, Hammond Pond, and Cold Spring Park during the spring and summer but will not be able plan to do so this year. We will ask board

members and advisors to help. If people are not able to take on some of those locations, they will not be done this year

**Saw Mill Brook Trail:** Ted has spoken with the Scoutmaster who has two Scouts interested in the project and will connect them with Jennifer Steel.

**Nominating committee:** Margaret Doris, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Beth Schroeder have agreed to serve. The current officers have agreed to continue, so the main task is to confirm board members' and advisors' decision to stay on, as well as nominating new board members. The members present agreed to continue.

**70 Crescent Street/ Robin Hood Park:** After a heated discussion, in which Beth S. insisted that the entire site should be open space, Ted MOVED that the Conservators, having discussed their 2013 vote in favor of open space for the 70 Crescent Street site, decided that they still favor maximizing open space, but are amenable to modest-scale affordable housing on the site if that will enable more open space to be preserved overall. The motion was SECONDED and was APPROVED with 12 in favor and 1 abstaining.

**Library Talk:** Jennifer Steel will speak on June 18 about open space. She will be the featured speaker about the Conservation Commission and Parks & Rec., while Beth W. will speak at the end about our activity.

**Grant Applications:** MOTIONS for each of the following were SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED:

- ESP annual request for \$2,000 to provide scholarships
- NNHS intern program at the Community Farm - \$500 stipend
- NNHS Special Ed Trip to AMC Mountain Classroom - \$800 subsidy for 20 NNHS special ed. students' 3-day trip to Highland Center in Crawford Notch.

Mike Clarke asked that in future, the farm's application be more specific about the purpose of the grant.

**Facebook:** Mat said there have been 123 "likes" and 20 to 25 posts on our site before running a demonstration of the site and how to use it.

**Annual Meeting:** Beth W. has spoken with Robert Warren, who will speak about the history of the Trustees of Reservations.

**Newsletter:** Beth asked board members to contribute book reviews, hoping to have one in each issue.

**SOAR 55 Program:** has offered help. We might suggest marketing?

**Updates:**

- **Waban Hill Reservoir CR:** has been approved by the Finance Committee, will go to the full board of aldermen next Monday.
- **Ordway Park:** Beth has responded to Lucia Dolan's post on a neighborhood listserv that was forwarded to us by a member, that the sidewalk does not get shoveled. Beth copied Dan Green on the message and asked him to check with Kevin Newman about the shoveling.

**New Business:**

**MAPC Boston Greenbelt 30 mile hike:** The second annual Boston Greenbelt Walk, a one-day, 30-mile walk largely in parks from Newton to Malden has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015. Henry is the representative for Newton. A MOTION that he be "Henry Finch of Newton Conservators" was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. (see <http://www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org/> for details.)

**Bike Newton proposal for a "bicycle garden" in Newton Centre Playground:** Mike reported on the request to Parks and Rec., which is unlikely to move forward. (For Utrecht's, see <https://vimeo.com/31545084>)

**Adjournment** at 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

<NC Budget 2015.xlsx>  
(File is in the email message)

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

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

The meeting began at 7:40.

**Approval of minutes of the March 11 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beth W. reported for Katherine that the audit committee must meet during April. Taxes are due on May 15, will be filed with an extension on August 15. Transfers from Money Market to 4-in-1 Fund are continuing throughout year as agreed.

**New England Wildflower Society "Climate Change and the Future of Plant Life" Symposium:** Beth reported on the conference she had attended (see <http://www.newenglandwild.org/press/climate-change-and-the-future-of-plant-life.html/>) and board members noted we may keep in mind some of the speakers for future meetings and discussions.

**Facebook boosts?** Mat has asked for \$100 to "boost" our site and to place an ad. A MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**May meeting?** Whether, in view of the work for the June 6 event, to schedule a board meeting in addition to the Annual Meeting was discussed. It was agreed not to schedule one.

**June 6 Event:** the activities and how to organize them were discussed. A map will be posted, flyers prepared, and publicity done, including an ad in West Weekly using the GLOBE grant.

**Annual Meeting:** is under control.

**Nominating committee:** Because Beth Schroeder is taking a leave from board activity, AnnaMaria agreed to join the nominating committee. **What do we say**

Ann Dorfman will be invited to become an advisor. Bill will ask advisors whether they will continue.

**Newton Serves & other invasives pulls:** scheduled are Blue Heron Bridge – Eric; Cold Spring Park – Beth W.; Dolan Pond – Ted. Each need a back-up to join: PLEASE LET BETH KNOW IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER.

**Priorities Discussion:** The board reviewed the list (see appended) and agreed that we do not wish to drop any, rather would like to follow City land use issues and decisions more closely.

Points raised during the discussion:

- Regarding membership outreach, Chris suggested a brief questionnaire be distributed at the annual meeting, asking how the members connect with NC (website, Facebook, Newsletter, Tab?) what they do with NC, asking for help.
- We also need to explain why invasives pulls are important.
- Interacting with Friends groups – possibly with small grants? (e.g. of Brookline Green Space Alliance.)

**Walks:** NC and Historical Newton are co-sponsoring two walks along the Charles: Jerry Reilly will lead the walk on June 14, which will have a major focus on the history, and Dan Brody will lead a walk at a date yet to be announced in the fall that will focus on the natural history.

**June 18 Library event:** We are permitted to sell Trail Guides, so must assure having a supply.

**MAPC Boston Greenbelt 30 mile hike:** Henry said it is arranged (see <http://www.bostongreenbeltwalk.org/> for details.)

**New Business:** Beth reported a letter from Dr. Michael S. Singer regarding the ZBA's action exempting the Cabot Cabot & Forbes Wells Avenue project from the full obligation to pay into the City's tree fund for trees it plans to cut down; he will be referred to the Newton Tree Commission and Conservancy.

**Adjournment** at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

**TASKS PRIORITIES :**

**Internal/Administrative**

Agendas and Minutes  
Treasurer's work and reports  
Budget planning  
Investment planning  
Audit review  
Submitting taxes and financial reports  
Maintaining membership records  
Sending letters and guides to new members  
Membership outreach  
Outreach to advisors

**Community/Education**

Walks  
Newsletters  
    Writing articles  
    Editing  
    Mailing  
E-Bulletins  
Updating trail guide  
    Reviewing maps  
    Editing/Processing guide  
Writing letters of support

**Land Use/Care**

Monitoring our property and city CRs  
Invasive plant pulls  
Annual volunteer day(s) on property  
Work on Waban Hill CR  
Reviewing city's land-use decisions

**City**

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Dan Brody, Mat Calabro, Henry Finch, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

Also present was Agnes Olshansky, who works on eradicating invasives and had met Board members at the June 6 event.

The meeting began at 8:00.

**ESP finances:** Before Dave Backer arrived, the board discussed his request to receive next year's \$2,000 grant now to help the program meet this year's costs because enrollment is low by between 4 and 10 students. Following discussion, the board decided to grant \$1,000 this year, as it had for student stipends a year ago.

**Approval of minutes of the April 8 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beth reported for Katherine, who had sent the Q1 financial statements to the board last week, and who is working on the 990s and the Q2 statement. Board members noted that while fund raising was low in that quarter, most funds come in the fourth quarter. In future, comparing the level at this stage with that of the preceding year was suggested.

Only 44 trail guides were sold in this quarter. They will be sold at the June 18 lecture by Jennifer Steel. Featuring a "trail of the month" was suggested.

**Annual Meeting Recap:** Beth commented that after the difficulty in setting the topic this year, in future the subject should be finalized before committing to a speaker.

Chris found interesting results in the questionnaires members filled out at the meeting. He will present the findings. Meanwhile, Beth revealed that biodiversity was a concern.



**June Doin's Recap:** Eric was the star, and he has told Beth of ideas for more activities. All agreed that we should do it again. Comments:

- Ted noted that publicity was good, and that people came specifically for individual programs that were listed.
- Beth stressed that we need to schedule more activities, some of them stationary interactive exhibits, so there aren't long blank periods. Repeating some several times is one solution.
- A suggestion to feature a park, have a month-long clean-up and possibly 3 events, with June Doin's celebrate the achievements. Friends of Nahanton Park were mentioned as possibly undertaking this work.

**Aqueduct Trail Petition:** Andreae Downs has asked the Conservators to join the MWRA, the League, the Waban Area Council, Newton Bike/Ped, to sign on to a petition of abutters asking the Mayor to join all the other cities west of Newton along the Sudbury Aqueduct to permit citizens to walk on the aqueduct. Board members agreed that the brochure on which they would like to add our logo needs major editing, and that we would not at this time sign on to this document.

Rather, a MOTION to write a letter to the Mayor pressing him to sign on was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Henry added the good news that the suit to block opening the rail trail in Newton has been thrown out.

**Ordway and Dexter Woods work:** Nate Cenis pruned the rhododendrons at Ordway for \$150, a generous bargain. Second year work of poison ivy control is also being done at Dexter Woods.

Invasives work at the Awtrey Dell is needed.

**Schedule for review of Audubon-report properties:** We need to review two of the properties each month for this year's review of the properties, which will be done by Audubon next year. Mat will join Beth for Ordway. Beth passed around the schedule for sign-ups, with the following result:

July: Angino Farm (Bill Hagar) and hope for Wilmerding (Chris Hepburn)

September: Commonwealth Golf Course (David Backer & Larry Smith and Ordway (Mat Calabro)

October: Crystal Lake (Henry Finch) and Dexter Woods (George Mansfield)

November: Awtrey Dell (Beth Wilkinson & Pete Gilmore)

**Summer and fall projects:** this discussion is tabled to a future meeting.

**Letters/requests about development projects**

- **Crescent Street** abutter wanted to discuss it further; Beth will talk with her and will tell her that we have taken our position.
- 1521 Beacon St. Project (St. Philip Neri site): the board agreed that this, like Austin Street, is not a Conservator issue.

**Updates:**

- **Waban Hill Reservoir:** Conservators and Mayor have signed the document, and it has gone back to the State, where it is expected to receive approval.
- **Invasives pulls:** Beth read a letter from Carrie van der Laan about the First Unitarian Society's concern about the presence of the invasive plant, black swallow-wort, throughout the city and their new campaign to educate the residents of Newton. A MOTION to add this plant to our invasives program was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**New Business:**

- **Newton Community Farm 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:** Katherine and Beth attended. After having been closely involved with the creation and beginnings of the Farm, and less so in recent years, Conservators and the farm haven't worked together as closely in recent years. Representative of the farm staffed an event at the June Doin', and the two organizations have been talking about more joint events in the future.
- **Cabot Park Expansion:** A letter from Robert Carter, an abutter to Cabot Park, noted that the planned school expansion would take a large section of Cabot Park for parking and that the relocated ball park would eliminate a large section of the area used for passive recreation, and asked the Conservators to engage in the issue. The Parks and Rec. Commission will hold an "informational" meeting on the issue on Monday June 15 at 7 PM. Some members oppose the taking of parkland and questioned the need to increase parking so much; others would like to reduce the area taken and to seek mitigation for what would be lost. The executive committee will research the matter and whether the action would need to be approved by the state legislature and will write to the board if a letter is needed before our next board meeting
- **Meadowscaping for Biodiversity:** Beth reported on a letter from Jean Devine, asking the Conservators to support her proposal to hold a program for children, starting this June, to transform a section of the woodcock meadow in Nahanton Park into a woodland meadow. The board agreed that it is completely unrealistic to think of getting the permissions, etc., for this year.

\* **Village Fairs:** Agnes mentioned the upcoming Newton Highlands Village Fair, and how NC participation would increase our visibility. It was agreed that while it's too soon for this year, it is a good idea for us.

- Henry announced that the **MAPC Boston Greenbelt 30 mile hike** had been a great success, with some 35 to 40 people on the 18 miles between Newton and Lexington. The NC logo was on all the material on the hike.

**Adjournment** at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred & AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Dan Brody, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Chris Hepburn, Larry Smith.

Also present were Ann Dorfman and Glenn Vanaman.

The meeting began at 7:40, with the introduction of Glenn Vanaman, architect, whose background includes membership on the Planning and Development Board and being a founding member of the Community Preservation Committee, and who is becoming familiar with our projects in order to figure out the best way that he can contribute to our overall mission.

**Approval of minutes of the June 10 meeting:** The minutes were approved, with the addition on p. 2 to the Schedule for Review of Audubon-Report Properties, for November: Webster Park (Dolan Pond) (Ted Kuklinski.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine had sent the June 30 statement earlier. Forms PC and 990 are completed and will be sent shortly.

Beth added that she had sent the latest Newsletter to some 100 who had not renewed in November, suggesting they renew.

**Property Reports:**

- **Angino Farm:** Bill distributed copies of his report (attached to the file copy of these minutes) noting the changes that had occurred with the remodeling of the barn. The chickens are Greg Maslowe's, as the Farm is not permitted to own livestock, whereas citizens are. He would like them to be part of the Farm, in view of possible future managers. Chris observed that this should be taken up by the Farm Commission.
- **Wilmerding:** Chris noted that the boundaries of the c. 2/3 acre sloping lot are hard to find. He said while Wilmerding sold the land to the City, it would properly be known as 190 Elgin Street. There was no trash or other problem.

Commonwealth Golf Course and Ordway reports will be in September.

**Report on Questionnaire from Annual Meeting:** Chris distributed the tally from the 28 members at annual meeting who responded. One major thing learned

is that the printed newsletter continues to be important, at least to the largely senior members at the meeting. And a number of members indicated that they are willing to help our efforts.

Responses to the copy included in the Newsletter will be reported. Glenn suggested that we use the Survey Monkey process to make this kind of effort easier.

**Walks:** They are one of our most popular offerings, and we will continue to work to announce them early, in every Newsletter if possible.

**Update on Invasives work and outreach:** Beth told us the The First Unitarian Society is beginning a program to eradicate invasives, and we will try to work with them. Katherine tried to contact two other churches about this, but had no responses so far.

The City is showing some interest, is concerned about the disposal of the material. Margaret Doris is continuing to try to reinvigorate the City's Integrated Pest Management program.

Beth and Ann spoke of the fine 2.5 acre Wellington Park in West Newton, where Japanese knotweed and Tree of Heaven trees are around the edges, which as in many parks, are neglected. They think a pilot project on working with abutters would be useful. The board agreed, and a MOTION to try to move this idea forward was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Once again, Beth volunteered.

Eric Olsen is taking a course to be certified to treat Japanese knotweed chemically, and suggested that we might pay the insurance he would need. The board decided we need clarification about the work.

**Speaker for Annual Meeting (and date):**

- Bill suggested Prof. Kemal Bawa, professor of biology at UMassBoston, world famous on sustainability – most work centered on India.
- Beth sees connectivity among green spaces a bigger issue as climate change hits; this is relevant for open space in Newton. Andy Finton and Scott Jackson of the Nature Conservancy would both speak on this.
- David Foster, director of the Harvard Forest.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 4 or May 11. Katherine will call about the room and the caterer.

Other ideas: Margaret Doris has suggested we do a speaker series. Beth would like a panel discussion re climate change: whether to fight to retain habitat and species, it or accept change as inevitable – or a middle position.

**Report on meetings with Jennifer Steel:**

- **Kessler Woods** development is moving forward, and owes \$75,000 and some property as open space to the City. At issue is whether the City will own the land, necessitating having the Conservators hold the CR, or – as the City wants, having the developer own the land so the City can hold the CR. The board agreed that the City should receive the land, as the multiple owners may succeed the developer.
- **Aqueducts:** James Freas, the acting director of Planning Dept., has written in reply to the letter from the board, stating that they wish to go forward. Only Newton has not responded to the MWRA's offer to open the Sudbury Aqueduct to the public. More details about a four-stage process suggested by the City will be shared after we actually receive the letter.

**Updates:**

- **Cabot Park:** Beth brought the issue of part of Cabot park potentially being taken for school parking to the attention of aldermen, who spoke against that proposal at the Conservation Commission. As a result, a subcommittee was formed. Beth was appointed to the subcommittee; and – after a first meeting – it appears that other parking spaces were found and the park will not be diminished. The board cheered Beth's efforts.
- **Waban Hill Reservoir CR:** The state has approved the CR, and the deed has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and the City is sending the \$30,000 check for monitoring to us.
- **Trail Guide Project:** Dan said it's close, with a few more trails needing to be walked – he asked that volunteers who signed up to complete the process.

**New Business:**

- **Minutes and Agendas:** Advisor John Bliss suggested that instead of sending the minutes and agendas via email, they be posted on our web page alone. The board agreed that timeliness required the email of the minutes come first; and that agendas are not normally posted on organizations' web sites, and would not be relevant after the fact.
- **Fox News:** FoxNews sent a message requesting that we nominate an environmental volunteer in exchange for the chance to receive up to \$30,000 to the environmental nonprofit of the winner's choice. The board voted not to participate in the process.

**Adjournment:** at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Dan Brody, Matt Calabro, Bonnie Carter, Ann Dorfman, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

Also present were Agnes Olshanski and Richard Barrett,

The meeting began at 7:35, with the introduction of Richard Barrett, new to the area who works in Newton and is interested in our work

**Approval of minutes of the July 8 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Board Changes:**

- Beth Schroeder resigned from the board because she is dissatisfied with the Conservators, particularly over the Crescent Street controversy. Beth thanked her for all that she did for the Conservators and accepted her resignation.
- Ann Dorfman: Beth recounted Ann's work in the founding Newton's recycling program and career as recycling and waste management director in Needham and Concord, as well as her major contribution to our invasives work, for which she has built an ingenious sign to post at Conservators' work sites (see attached). A MOTION to elect Ann to the board was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Ann arrived shortly afterward, and was welcomed to the board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine told us that next week she will go to Germany for six weeks. Forms PC and IRS990 have been filed. The Escrow account for the Waban Reservoir CR has been received and deposited in a Cambridge Savings Bank account. She will do the quarterly statements in November.

**Insurance Review:** Questions about a planned Riverside Walk suggested a review of our insurance. Katherine distributed copies of our policies and went over the details, which confirmed that we have the appropriate coverages (appended to these minutes.)

**Property Reports:**

- **Commonwealth Golf Course** (David Backer and Larry Smith): Larry distributed copies of his report (attached to the file copy of these minutes). Conditions were generally good. Larry questioned the cutting of all brush (instead of leaving some along the fences) as this left no pathway for wild life. Some invasives and trash were seen, and the Club authorities notified.

David and Larry suggested that golf course employees be trained about invasives; the board approved this idea.

Katherine noted no mention of chemical runoff, and the need to test again. The board agreed and decided that we need to report this to Jennifer Steel for follow-up.

- **Ordway Park:** Condition was good, only some general litter; some overhanging branches; a beech on the verge of falling; path woodchips could use refreshing from any cutting; the rock wall looks good; only one poison ivy plant remains; tree of heaven colony where p.i. had been needs eradication; rhododendron in good shape, Nate Cenis volunteers to remove the two ungainly branches. Recommendation: a morning volunteer session to do clean-up. Ann noted that desirable ground cover should replace the tree of heaven area.

**Farm event on September 20 and Harvest Fair on Oct. 18:** Beth circulated sign-up sheets for volunteers. AnnaMaria will send it around to board members who may still join in.

**Fall Walks:** Beth circulated the list of six fall walks, which will appear in the newsletter.

**Speaker for Annual Meeting May 4, 2016:** Beth observed that invasives are a big issue, and board members agreed to her suggestion of inviting Brian Connelly, former State Botanist in the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

**Webster Woods and Temple Mishkan Tefila:** Congregation Mishkan Tefila has reached a tentative agreement to sell its 24 acres of land in Chestnut Hill to Boston College for potential administrative office and parking uses in May 2016. The large back portion lies between the Webster Conservation Area and the Hammond Pond DCR Reservation and includes Bare Pond, the beautiful vernal pond and interesting geological features. Mishkan Tefila has been a good steward of the land, and we would like to ensure that the land continues to be preserved. Beth described at length the issues, positions of various players, and possible outcomes. She also circulated copies of a letter Prof. Richard Primack had sent to the Conservators urging action to protect the land. Of immediate



concern is the item docketed for next Wednesday's Zoning and Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen, about City acquisition or protection of the land.

After considerable discussion of Beth's draft of a letter, a MOTION that Beth get her letter and that from Richard Primack to the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor into the Friday packet was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

If the item is confirmed to be on the docket, as many board members as possible will attend, and individuals volunteered to get in touch with each of the members of the ZAP before Wednesday.

### **Updates:**

- **Cabot Park:** The revised Cabot School plans intrude less into the park, but still take away a portion for a playground and half the land necessary for a line of 28 cars at the edge of the park land. Beth is discussing with city solicitor Ouida Young whether Article 97 of the State Constitution applies, and will meet with her and CFO Maureen Lemieux again on Friday. Most importantly, Beth said that there will be hearing of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the Aldermanic Chamber at 7:00 pm on September 30. Both the new modified plan with less parking and the earlier version with an additional lot for 28 cars will be presented. It is important for all of us to be there to present our views.

### **New Business:**

- **Integrated Pest Management Committee:** Thanks to Margaret Doris' efforts to revive it, Commissioner DeRubeis is restarting it. Commissioner DeRubeis asked Beth to be a member of the Commission, and she accepted. The first meeting will take place this month.

- **Permission to quote from a NC Newsletter:** Beth received a request from longtime member Ethan Bolker to use a quotation about Newton's trees (from a newsletter article by John DeMiceli) for a problem in a mathematics textbook, giving credit to the NC, and Beth granted it.

**Adjournment:** at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

①



Conserve-A-Nation<sup>SM</sup>  
 Newton Conservators, Inc.

September 1, 2015

**Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.**

4530 Walney Road, Suite 200  
 Chantilly, VA 20151-2285  
 Office 703.397.0977 | Toll Free 800.298.7373 | Fax 703.397.0995

Certificates, Policy Questions & Changes      **Nawal Nasser**  
 Account Manager      703.547.6286  
 nnasser@alliant.com

Claims      **John Budds**  
 Claims Representative      703.397.0977  
 jbudds@alliant.com

**Premium Summary** **Alliant**

POLICY TYPE	POLICY PERIOD	POLICY PREMIUM	Annual Premium
Commercial Package <i>Property Gen. Liability, Crime</i>	01/01/15 to 01/01/16	\$ 1,049	1,049
Umbrella	01/01/15 to 01/01/16	\$ 850	850
Volunteer Accident <i>Covers the Directors</i>	01/01/15 to 01/01/16	\$ 414	414
*Director's & Officer's and Employment Practices	01/01/15 to 01/01/17	\$ 2,404* <i>2 year</i>	1,202
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,717</b>	<b>3,515</b>

②

**Commercial Pack**

②

Alliant

Insurance Carrier: Federal Insurance Company (Chubb)  
Policy Number: 35352049  
Policy Term: 01/01/2015 to 01/01/2016

**PROPERTY COVERAGE**

Deductible: \$1,000

The deductible shown above applies to all coverages, unless a specific deductible is show following a coverage.

**PREMISES SUMMARY**

Premise #1: 84 Fenwick Rd, Waban (County of Mindlesex), MA 02468

*normal for org's like us to pick a home address*

**PREMISES COVERAGES**

**LIMITS OF INSURANCE**

**Premise #1/Building #1**

EDP Property on Premises

\$1,500

*low because NC has very little property*

3

**Commercial Package**

Alliant

**GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE**

COVERAGE	LIMITS OF INSURANCE
General Liability <i>Who is Insured: organization, Directors, Employees, Volunteers, Real Estate Managers</i>	
General Aggregate Limit <i>(Products and Completed Operations subject to General Aggregate)</i>	\$2,000,000
Advertising Injury and Personal Injury Aggregate Limit	\$1,000,000
Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000
Medical Expenses Limit	\$10,000
Damage to Premises Rented to You Limit	\$1,000,000
Non-Owned and Hired Car Liability <i>— Covers directors' <del>vehicles</del> personal cars</i>	
Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000

*For sizing:*

PREMISE	DESCRIPTION	EXPOSURE BASE
	Clubs-Civic, Serv., Social	100 Members
	Vacant Land (Easement) <i>includes golf course, Waia-Hill Reserve</i>	84 Acres
	Vacant Land (Owned) <i>= 1.4 total, rounded</i>	1 Acres
	Employers Non-Owned - Corporations	10 Employees
	Hired Car	\$2,500 Cost of Hire

*GL covers us at any location  
does not have to be a listed property*

*just used  
for sizing our  
org, along with  
our financials*

**CRIME COVERAGE**

COVERAGE	DEDUCTIBLE	LIMITS OF INSURANCE
Employee Theft	\$1,000	\$10,000



4

# Umbrella

Alliant

4

Insurance Carrier: Federal Insurance Company (Chubb)  
Policy Number: 79756660  
Policy Term: 01/01/2015 to 01/01/2016

### LIMITS

- A. Excess Coverage Other Aggregate Limit (as applicable)
- B. Umbrella Coverages Aggregate
- C. Products/Completed Operations Aggregate Limit
- D. Advertising Injury and Personal Injury Aggregate Limit
- E. Each Occurrence Limit

### OPTION ONE

- \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,000
- Included
- \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,000

This policy is based on the following underlying coverage:

General Liability (repeated from prior page)  
Carrier: Federal Insurance Company

**Limits:**

- Each Occurrence Limit \$1,000,000
- General Aggregate \$2,000,000
- Products/Completed Operations Aggregate Limit Included
- Advertising Injury/Personal Injury Limit \$1,000,000

### Hired & Non-Owned Automobile Liability:

**Carrier:**  
Federal Insurance Company

**Limits:**

- Each Accident \$1,000,000

# Volunteer Accident

Alliant

5

Insurance Carrier: Federal Insurance Company (Chubb)  
Policy Number: 66000282  
Policy Term: 01/01/2015 to 01/01/2016

Insured Persons - All Volunteers of the Policyholder - *covers the directors, not the general public attending an event*  
**COVERAGE** **LIMITS OF INSURANCE**

### Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit

\$ 75,000 per person

Accidental:	Benefit Amount
Loss of Life	100% of 75K
Loss of Speech and Loss of Hearing	100%
Loss of Speech and one of Loss of Hand, Loss of Foot or Loss of Sight of One Eye	100%
Loss of Hearing and one of Loss of Hand, Loss of Foot or Loss of Sight of One Eye	100%
Loss of Hands (Both), Loss of Feet (Both), Loss of Sight or a combination, of any two of Loss of Hand, Loss of Foot or Loss of Sight of One Eye	100%
Loss of Hand, Loss of Foot or Loss of Sight of One Eye (Any one of each)	50% of 75K
Loss of Speech or Loss of Hearing	50%
Loss of Thumb and Index Finger of the same hand	25%

### Primary Medical Expense Coverage

\$ 15,000

### Aggregate Limit of Insurance Per Accident

\$1,500,000  
*i.e. if multiple people were injured*

6

Directors & Officers

Alliant

6

Insurance Carrier: Federal Insurance Company (Chubb)
Policy Number: 68013564
Policy Term: 01/01/2015 to 01/01/2017

LIABILITY COVERAGE SECTIONS

Combined Maximum Aggregate Limit of Liability for Claims each Policy Year: [X] Yes [ ] No

Combines Maximum Aggregate Limit: \$1,000,000

Applicable to:

- Directors & Officers Liability and Entity Liability
Employment Practices Liability

EXTENDED REPORTING PERIOD

Additional Period: 1 year
Additional Premium: 75% of Annual Premium

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY and ENTITY LIABILITY COVERAGE SECTION

Max. Aggregate Limit for this coverage section for all claims ea. policy year: \$1,000,000
Sublimit for all Excess Benefit Transaction Excise Tax: \$100,000

- Retention Amounts: (Deductible)
D&O Insuring Clause 1 Indiv. Non-Insured Liability None
D&O Insuring Clause 2 Indiv. Insured Liability \$1,000
D&O Insuring Clause 3 Entity Liability \$1,000

Pending or Prior Date July 28, 2004

Defense Outside the Limits of Liability: [ ] Yes [X] No

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY COVERAGE SECTION

EP covers the volunteer directors too, not just employees.
Max. Aggregate Limit for this coverage section for all claims ea. policy year: \$1,000,000

Sublimit for all 3rd party claims each policy year \$1,000,000

- Retention Amounts: (Deductible)
EPL Insuring Clause - Employment Practices Liability Coverage \$1,000
EPL Insuring Clause - 3rd Party Liability Coverage \$1,000

Pending or Prior Date
Insuring clause 1 July 28, 2004
Insuring clause 2 July 28, 2004

Third Party Liability Coverage purchased: [X] Yes [ ] No
Defense Outside the Limits of Liability: [ ] Yes [X] No

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Dan Brody, Mat Calabro, Ann Dorfman, Henry Finch, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

Also present was Cassie Bosco, landscape architect.

The meeting began at 7:35, with the introduction of Cassie Bosco, who is interested in our work.

**Approval of minutes of the September 9 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine referred to the Sept. 30 financials that she had sent, noting the decline in the stock market. She has received the Certificate for Solicitation from the Attorney General's office.

Katherine also told us that we would be receiving an email invitation to register for website members-only access from the Trust for Public Lands.

**Facebook:** Matt reported that boosts to our Facebook page some 200 new followers since Oct. 2.

Though the Oct. 3 and 4 birdwalks were featured on Facebook, only Pete and Haynes went on both. Oct. 3 was very rainy, but not Oct. 4. Better publicity is needed. Suggestions included putting up signs before the event, co-sponsoring with other groups, and posting where to learn of inclement weather cancellations.

**Upcoming walks:** details on Facebook: **Saturday, Oct. 17, 1 PM:** Walk along the Charles River at Riverside; **Saturday Oct. 24, 9 am:** Bedrock geology of Newton and adjacent areas.

**Property Reports:**

• **Crystal Lake** (Henry Finch and Robert Fizek): Henry suggested the possibility of putting a low planting or other barrier between the easement path and the house, as it is very close. Also a sign still needs to be installed at each end of the path; Henry and Robert will undertake to do this.



**Renewal Material** : Beth asked for comments on the draft of the renewal letter that she had circulated. Katherine suggested strengthening the description of membership's benefits.

After considerable discussion, a MOTION to raise dues for the first time in 10 years, and to add a student rate of \$15 was SECONDED and APPROVED. Thus dues will be

Individual: \$35 (\$10 increase)	33% of our members
Family: \$50 (\$15 increase)	25% " " "
Sustaining: \$75 (\$25 increase)	20%
Donor: \$100 ( \$25 increase	4%
Patron: \$125 (\$25 increase	18%
Student: \$15	

**Speaker for Annual Meeting May 4, 2016:** Brian Connelly has agreed to be our speaker.

**Webster Woods:** Beth reported at length about the discussions of the Friends of Webster Woods. They plan to hire a volunteer coordinator to help with membership and publicity.

Eric Reenstierna and Alderwoman Danberg see "a need for the Conservators to bring an offer to the Temple to purchase their land, as an alternative to selling it to BC." The board discussed the pros and cons and decided not to act on this.

George reported that at a meeting with Jeff Goldman, a representative of the Trust for Public Land has indicated interest in helping.

The board agreed that Beth should continue to work with the Friends of Webster Woods.

Friends of Webster Woods will lead a **walk of the Webster Woods on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 AM. Meet at 180 Elgin Street.**

The Friends of Webster Woods would like someone to videotape the walk, in case the area becomes closed off by BC; Dave Backer and Ted volunteered.

**Cabot Park:** The board discussed at length Beth's draft of a letter to the Parks and Rec. Dept. The letter noted that after their vote on the "no lot inside park" plan, the Commissioners told the Public Buildings Department to come back with

another request if they found that the school still needed additional parking in the park; it requested that the Commissioners not approve such a request. The board concluded by approving the letter unanimously.

**Harvest Fair Oct. 18:** A request for more volunteers to man our table met no response, and will be sent to other board members.

**Conservation Restriction on Nahanton Park:** Now that the Fire Dept. has moved out, this needs to move forward; Beth will ask Lee Gilligan, the lawyer who provided pro bono work for the conservation restriction on the Waban Hill Reservoir, whether she will help with it.

**Grants:** discussion of offering grants to Friends groups was deferred to next month.

**John Regosin suggestion for Nahanton Meadow:** John would like to do a project in the woodcock meadow. He asked for a group to walk through the meadow with him for an initial analysis on this: Katherine, Larry, Chris, and Ann volunteered; Duane Hillis will also be invited.

**Ordway Park Volunteer Work Day:** Katherine will try to schedule a day with Nate Cenis, with Dan Green to mobilize neighbors.

**Updates:**

- **June Doin:** Chris will head committee to work on a simpler program, possibly between 11 AM and 3 PM.
- **Wilson Path:** Beth was to meet John Menard, an independent contractor who builds paths for the Conservation Commission, the following day to discuss the work that needs to be done.

**Adjournment:** at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Bonnie Carter, Ann Dorfman, Henry Finch, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

**Approval of minutes of the October 14 meeting:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition:** Beth distributed information about the coalition (see attached), which she had also sent to the board on Oct. 19, when board members agreed via email that we should join. NC is the first non-regional group joining this regional coalition. A MOTION to join the coalition was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. At Beth's suggestion, Green Newton is also joining.

**Lecture series/Andy Finton talk:** Beth explained the background of a suggested invitation to Andy Finton, director of conservation science for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. After discussion, the board agreed that he be invited to speak at our 2017 annual meeting if he was available on that date, else in the library lecture series.

**Student Volunteers/programs:** Beth and Margaret Doris had met with an enthusiastic group at the Volunteer Day at NSHS. The students seem to mostly talk to us. The board decided to invite them to meet with some of us in January or February, possibly with pizza at NSHS. In this connection, Dave mentioned the February 8 Camp Survey Fair.

**Spring Walks:** They should be scheduled in time to be in the next Newsletter. How to publicize them better was discussed, e.g., pairing with the Newton Historical Society about Echo Bridge or historic Webster.

- Beth reported that Maureen Riley Meagher would like to do a walk on Waban Hill Reservoir.
- Kay Khan would like to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newish bridge downstream from the Riverside T Station; the board agreed that this should be a separate event, not part of the walks series.

**Newsletter:** Kay Khan's article and Jerry Riley's description of the Riverside Path will be featured. Ken Kimmel wrote an article about Webster Woods for it and also decided to submit that article to the Tab, where it will appear first.

**Webster Woods:**

- The Friends of Webster Woods ask whether we would hold funds for them, as they don't plan to apply for 501c3 status. After discussion, a MOTION to engage in discussion with the Friends of Webster Woods about collecting funds on their behalf was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- As requested by the Friends, Dave and Annie Cole have shot a narrative video of the site.
- The Conservation Commission received a report about a sewer leak at Temple Mishkan Tefila. They are working with the City's Health Department to oversee repair of the leak, which has gone onto Newton conservation land.

**Nominating Committee:** Chris and AnnaMaria volunteered to serve, and Beth will ask Bill Hagar to join once more.

**Invasives:** Having a kiosk in Cold Spring Park to educate the public about invasives was discussed, and Ann stressed that an educational program is needed, including a section on the NC web site. Katherine proposed that a committee plan over the winter; Eric Olson, Larry Smith, Katherine, Ann, Beth, and Bruce Wenning were named. It should connect with the IPM program. Henry asked that the non-natives we cultivate in our gardens should also be considered.

**Publicity/visibility:** (new business) Chris suggested that we distribute car window decals, or possibly sell a mug; the Crystal Lake Conservancy's mug was shown. The sense of the meeting was that Chris will research and obtain decals showing our logo and "protecting open space," that will be sent out with renewal thank you notes.

**Updates:**

- **Cabot Park:** Parks & Rec approved plans as written by Ouida Young; they do not expect that additional parking will be requested .
- **Nahanton Park CR:** The CR will be for the entire park. Lee Gilligan has volunteered to write it, and Cambridge Savings will hold the escrow account.
- **Wilson Path:** John Menard had walked the site with Beth. Jennifer Steel wishes to relocate the path, apparently unaware that this is not subject to City decision; Beth will talk with her.

- **Harvest Fair:** Two new members joined, and 4 trail guides were sold; many passers-by learned about Webster Woods and invasives.

**Ordway Park Volunteer Work Day:** Katherine and Nate Cenis worked alone, and got much done.

- **Chris' Oct. 9 Geology walk:** was a success; Eric Olson has put a report on his Facebook page: see

[https://www.facebook.com/eric.olson.121/posts/1072756499409832?comment\\_id=1073040009381481&offset=0&total\\_comments=3&comment\\_tracking={%22tn%22%3A%22R0%22}&pnref=story](https://www.facebook.com/eric.olson.121/posts/1072756499409832?comment_id=1073040009381481&offset=0&total_comments=3&comment_tracking={%22tn%22%3A%22R0%22}&pnref=story)

**Property Reports:**

- **Awtrey Dell:** Pete is working on the sign for the path.

- **Webster Park (Dolan Pond):** Ted distributed his report (attached). He has become a steward of Dolan Pond, the first to respond to Jennifer Steel's call.

**Adjournment:** at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary



6 Beacon St., Suite 1025, Boston, MA 02108  
Jack Clarke ◇ 617-523-8448 ◇ [jclarke@massaudubon.org](mailto:jclarke@massaudubon.org)  
Steve Long ◇ 617-532-8367 ◇ [slong@tnc.org](mailto:slong@tnc.org)  
[www.massadapt.org](http://www.massadapt.org), @mass\_adapt; #massadapt

Massachusetts, along with other states and nations, has a two part approach to combating the effects of human-induced rapid climate change: mitigation and adaptation. On the mitigation side, Massachusetts has been recognized for three years in a row by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy as the number-one state in the nation for

its leadership in energy-efficiency policies. We applaud this achievement and recognize that it is largely the result of statutory requirements.

We now suggest that just as the Commonwealth statutorily requires Green House Gas emission reduction targets through *The Global Warming Solutions Act*, and a Renewable Portfolio Standard through *The Green Communities Act*, so too should Massachusetts have statutorily required policy and planning requirements on the adaptation side of the climate change equation.

The Massachusetts Climate Change, Coalition strategy is as follows:

1. Executive: Work with the Baker administration in advancing EEA's recommendations as contained in the *Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report* (Sept. 2011.)
2. Legislative: Draft, file and lobby for passage of: *An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change (S.1979/H.752)* as filed by Senator Marc Pacheco and Representative Frank Smizik. The Senate passed the bill in July 2015 and it is now before the House Committee on Ways and Means (attached.)
3. Coalition: establish and build a coalition of diverse stakeholders (attached.)
4. Public education and outreach: Coalition members to use traditional and social media, including their own internal media tools.

**Jack Clarke** □ *Director of Public Policy* □ **Mass Audubon** □ **6 Beacon St., Suite 1025, Boston, MA 02108-3815** □ **617-962-5187**  
[jclarke@massaudubon.org](mailto:jclarke@massaudubon.org)

## Property Report on Webster Park

### Notes

The 76 Webster Park parcel is reflected in the new signs posted at the Dolan Pond Conservation Area

The Irene's Bluff Trail has contributed a lot to usage of the 76 Webster Park addition.

The Conservators Newton SERVES project in the spring helped to keep the trail open. The trail is currently in need of some maintenance to cut back some growth across the trail (e.g raspberry).

A later invasives pull helped to clear out late blooming Garlic Mustard.

There is poison ivy along and just off the trail, particularly around the benches.

The benches are in good shape.

The trail itself could use additional chipping (perhaps as part of Newton SERVES if the GM is late).

The back area does not appear to have additional debris from the neighboring landscapers.

The back area in adjacent Dolan Pond does not appear to have the usage from landscaper employees that it had in the past.

There does not appear to be problems with litter or debris from the housing component of the property.

The fence dividing the housing portion from the open space portion is leaning a bit but is generally structurally sound.

Aside from the path, the property has experienced overgrowth.

Deer have been seen in Dolan Pond Conservation this year and deer ticks were found on the 76 Webster Park parcel.

Ted Kuklinski has been designated a park steward for the Dolan Pond Conservation Area under Jennifer Steel's stewardship program. This will allow selective trail maintenance on an ongoing basis.

Submitted by Ted Kuklinski, <sup>Nov</sup>October 11, 2015

DRAFT

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Dan Brody, Mat Calabro, Mike Clarke, Ann Dorfman, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Larry Smith.

**Approval of minutes of the November 11 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following correction: under “Spring Walks” in line 4, delete “Waban Hill Reservoir,” replace it with “Quinobequin Road.”

**Treasurer’s Report:** Katherine said the renewal letters had gone out, and so far 60 renewals – 40 checks and 20 via 1-2-3 – had been received. Many members did not renew at the new higher rate for their former level.

**Pot Luck Dinner in January?** Board members like the idea; it will be real pot luck, without assigning dishes: 6:00 PM January 13.

**Invasives Plant committee:** will meet on Monday, December 14, 7 PM at Katherine’s home. Members are Eric Olson, Larry Smith, Katherine, Ann, Beth, and Bruce Wenning.

**Decals:** Chris explored and has ordered 1000 decals for \$523; they will be sent to members with acknowledgments of dues.

**Expanding grants program?** After discussion, it was agreed to publicize the grants program to “Friends” groups. As these have always been eligible, no change in policy is needed.

**Charter Commission:** board members agreed that environmental concerns should be considered in the Commission’s review. Dan Green agreed to tell Commission Chair Rhanna Kidwell about our interest and our involvement in the City’s business through the 9 CRs we hold.

**Updates:**

• **CR for Nahanton Park:** Lee Gilligan is on board to review the City’s draft. Larry Smith reported that she’s also interested in helping with Webster Woods.



- **Webster Woods:** Mayor Warren says he is actively interested in acquisition of the rear portion. Much is still undefined. The Conservation Commission will be the applicant to the CPC for funding.
- **Spring Walks:** Beth asked that members send their plans early, in time for the spring Newsletter and publicity. Pete plans a bird walk at Cold Spring Park on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 am.
- **Nominating Committee:** Pete Gilmore volunteered to join the committee.
- **Cabot Park:** no further word.
- **Jon Regosin project:** awaiting response from Jon.
- **Path on Wilson property:** the path siting will be unchanged; Beth is awaiting an estimate from John Menard.
- **Event with Students:** It was agreed that combining with the Feb. 8 event is is not advisable; another date will be chosen.

**New Business:**

- **Kennard Park:** Dan Green reported that the Conservation Commission is discussing restoring the orchard at Kennard Park. The Parks and Rec. Commission office is now in the building.
- **Environmental Science Program:** Dave reported that ESP payments can now be online, and that organization for the year is well under way.
- **“Square” for credit card payments:** Beth asked whether we should get this gadget, which will facilitate purchases of our publications at events. The consensus was that we should.

**Adjournment:** at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary