

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 7:15 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

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

The meeting opened early, after a jovial and bountiful potluck supper. Beth commented on the individual members' contributions to a productive year, which they in turn attributed to her hard work.

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Katherine is preparing the financials for 2015; both revenues and expenditures were below budget. She noted that most renewals were for the previous levels, not at the new higher rates. So far, 173 renewals, compared to 207 at this time last year. We need to increase memberships, particularly of younger members.
- She has sent the new Conservator decals to members renewing by check, acknowledgments to the online renewals will follow.
- She will file MA Form 3ABC before the March 1 deadline, adding the new acquisition of Waban Hill Reservoir.
- Board members agreed that lapsed members should receive a newsletter with note that it is complimentary, together with a renewal envelope.

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** Following Willis Wang's advice that it be filed yearly, members filled out the form. Absent members are asked to fill out and return the form that was included with the agenda.

**Awtrey Dell Property Report:** Pete has been in touch with Mr. Awtrey, who approves the sign, but noted that Sargent Place is a private way, so permission would be needed unless it is posted on his property. Henry agreed to search for a plot plan so this could be done. Katherine asked whether we are responsible for clearing the dell of the many invasives; the Awtrey fund could be used for this. Board members agreed that some would join Pete to walk through and gauge what needs to be done.

**Nahanton Park Woodcock Meadow:** Katherine related the work done since the last meeting. John Regosin worked on the fact sheet (attached the January

agenda). Fund raising has begun; donations will go into a restricted “Woodcock Meadow” fund, to which John and Duane Hillis have each given \$500 as matching grants. Beth expressed the board’s thanks to Katherine for her work, including surveying the site and marking the trees, etc. Thereafter, a MOTION that the board agrees to undertake this project was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Sudbury Aqueduct:** the City will apply for a permit to open the western portion of the aqueduct to the public, as a project to demonstrate the desirability of the greater accessibility to residents of the eastern portion who fear it.

**Invasive Plant Committee:** Katherine reported that at its December 14 meeting the committee decided to focus on some issues:

- Bruce Wenning is eager to work with us. May will be invasives month for NC. He and Katherine will meet on Saturday to discuss the May invasives display at the Library.
- Bruce will speak at the Library on May 31, co-sponsored by Conservators and Green Newton. (Relevant aside: on March 2, Doug Tallamy will speak for Grow Native Massachusetts at the Cambridge Public Library.)
- Bruce will also do another Cold Spring walk in May.
- Ann is working on getting the city’s permission for us to install a self-guided tour of invasive plants in one of the parks, preferably Cold Spring; Carol Schein is supportive, and suggested we submit a proposal, including costs, but pointed out an accessible park is needed for the City to participate. Bruce may build the information kiosk for this; Chris suggested involving high school volunteers.

A meeting of the committee is scheduled for Saturday morning at 10 AM in Cold Spring Park.

- Ann suggested we propose an ordinance requiring landscapers to notify homeowners of invasive on their property. That idea will be discussed further at a future committee meeting.
- Katherine proposed a demonstration area of c. 100 s.f. for removing buckthorn in Cold Spring.
- We may also need some tools; Beth said Home Depot may be willing to donate, she will inquire.

The board voted its agreement with the overall general plan for invasives laid out by Katherine and Ann.

**Preserving the green at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary** George will try to contact some of the Herrick Road neighbors who, after the announcement that the Seminary is up for sale, have formed Friends of Herrick Green to work on preserving the green at the entrance to the property. See

<http://www.friendsofherrickgreen.org/>

**Annual Awards:** Beth asked members to think of possible recipients to discuss at the February board meeting.

**Updates:**

- **Webster Woods:** The Friends of Webster Woods have invited all to their Kick off Event on Thursday, January 13, at 8 PM at 180 Elgin Street.
- **Path on Wilson Property:** Beth has repeatedly tried to contact John Menard for an estimate on the path; she asked him to suggest another landscaper if he is not available.
- **Decals:** The decals are being sent to members with the acknowledgement of renewals.
- **Spring Walks:** Beth is scheduling them, asks for dates. Coordination with Newton Serves was discussed.
- **Charter Commission:** Beth will ask Chris Steele which meetings will be appropriate for us to attend to advocate for open space issues – e.g., organization of Parks & Recs & Conservation & Public Works.
- **Land Trust Alliance Webinars:** Beth will send out the schedules.
- **Students for Newton South:** The executive committee agreed to send the students a letter explaining that we will be in touch about projects in the spring.

**New Business:**

- **June Doin's:** Chris reminded us that we need to begin planning.
- **ESP Program:** Dave announced that on line registration is successful, and 8 of the 9 enrollments thus far came through it.

**Adjournment:** at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 10 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Ann Dorfman, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

**Approval of minutes of the January 13 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following correction and addition:

**Conflict of Interest Forms-** substitute: “Following Willis Wang’s advice that it be filed regularly (every couple-few years), and for any new director immediately, members filled out the form, previously done in 2013. Absent members are asked to fill out and return the form that was included with the agenda.”

**Invasive Plant Committee-** add: “Katherine suggested we reactivate the land management committee. Pete, Katherine, AnnaMaria and Beth volunteered.

**Bill Stevenson:** AnnaMaria added that in response to the minutes, Bill Stevenson had emailed that he has moved to North Carolina and asked to be removed from the mailing list, hence also the advisors.

**Treasurer’s Report:** **Treasurer’s Report:** Katherine reviewed the highlights of the 2015 Financial Statements that she had sent, noting that revenues were on budget, operating expenses were below budget, and no special projects expense funded by the endowment had occurred, resulting in favorable net income before investment income. However investment income was below budget due to timing of the agreed transfers from Money Market into the investment fund, as well as stock market declines at the end of the year. Overall, these items resulted in a near wash, with a variance of \$300. On the balance sheet, restricted net assets had increased with the gifts for Webster Woods and the Woodcock Meadow. She also noted that the 2014 financials required amendment due to a \$3130 error that was found.

Beth noted that total revenues have been trending up since 2012.

A MOTION to accept the 2014 amended statement was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. A MOTION to accept the 2015 financial statements was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Katherine noted that the budget for 2016 will be ready soon, and that the finance committee will meet soon, but not necessarily before the budget is submitted.

Dan spoke of the need to use the funds allotted for projects. Beth agreed, listing the Woodcock Meadow, invasives removal and the kiosk in Cold Spring Park.

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** Two more forms were handed in. Several have yet to be returned.

**Spring Grants: Brooks Mathewson:** Considerable discussion of the grant application for a program at NNHS for students to “Explore the Relative Abundance of Salamanders at Edwards Park” revolved around the possible precedent of paying for the time of an individual provider even though board members and advisors often donate their services. MOTION to agree to fund the grant given two conditions: 1) that our grant will match whatever the PTO gives, up to \$750, and 2) that our check will go to the NNHS to disburse to the grantee was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

**Cabot Park Developments:** Beth was the only person not from the neighborhood included in a meeting on 1/28 in which concerned neighbors discussed their unhappiness with current plans. Beth learned earlier in the day that the City has purchased a 5000 sf property next to the park. The board agreed to continue monitoring the situation.

**Green Budget for Massachusetts:** A MOTION to join those supporting the Green Budget was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**June Doin’:** Eric Olson has agreed to participate again. The timing of the event was discussed; fishing has to be before 9 AM when the canoe/kayak program opens. It was agreed to retain the fishing, and schedule all other events from 9 AM to noon.

**70 Crescent St.** The City’s proposal to build 8 housing units and expand the existing playground on the former site of the Parks and Recreation Department, which the Conservators had supported, was scheduled to be discussed at City Hall the next day, but Beth and AnnaMaria did not recall before which body. A MOTION to reiterate our support if appropriate was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED [*We learned that the Community Preservation Committee was to hear a pre-proposal, so no action was needed at this point.*]

**Nahanton Woodcock Meadow project:** Katherine said work was proceeding as planned. The Parks and Recreation Commission will hear the proposal on Feb. 22, and no problem was foreseen in obtaining approval. If it is approved and weather permits, Marc Welch hopes to remove the 13 large trees before the woodcocks begin mating about March 22. Volunteer days need to be scheduled, and arrangements made for signs explaining the tree cutting.

**Annual Meeting planning and awards:** A number of possible recipients were discussed, and a decision will be made next month. (A list of past award recipients is attached to these minutes.)

**Updates:**

• **Spring Walks and Newton Serves:** we will try to do more publicity. Ann suggested putting up signs at each site advertising the cleanup ahead of time and requesting volunteer help. To add: Cold Spring Park pond clean up. (The current schedule is attached to these minutes.)

• **June doin' again:** Henry suggested adding a mushroom walk, and volunteered to try to get snakes from the Herpetology Club.

• **Decals:** The decals have been sent to members with the acknowledgement of renewals; Beth has more for anyone wishing them.

• **Invasive Plant Committee:** Cleanup dates will be set. Katherine and Beth are meeting with Bruce Wenning and work on the library display cases is proceeding. Regarding the need to replace invasives with native plants, Larry suggested fundraising by asking donors to buy two plants, one for the park and one for themselves.

Five members of the Invasives Committee went to a talk at the Thoreau Institute to hear Dan Jaffe from the New England Wild Flower Society talk about why it is important to plant native plants after invasive plants have been removed from a site.

• **Waban Hill Reservoir:** Carol Schein called Beth to help evaluate the proposers for work to be done on the site; Beth has the RFP.

**New Business:**

• **Pigeon deaths and West Nile Virus: After ten blue jays died in her yard last August and September,** Beth contacted the State Ornithologist, who asked the National Wildlife Service to test two of the birds. The cause of death was West Nile Virus. The large number dying from West Nile Virus may indicate an unusual concentration of the disease. She has asked Eric Olson and Bob DeRubeis whether the shallow shore at Crystal Lake might be the breeding ground, and they consider it to be worth investigating. She will present the issue to the Feb. 23 meeting of the Crystal Lake Task Force.

• **Caterpillar activity:** Beth mentioned Sam Jaffe, a Newton native who heads the Caterpillar Lab in Keene, NH, who may be kept in mind for doing a caterpillar project at some time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

## Newton Conservators **Awards 1981-2015**

### Environmentalist of the Year Award:

- ❖ This award was initiated by the Newton Conservators in 1981 and has been presented every year but one to a local citizen or group who has contributed to improvements in the city's environment.
- 1981 **Betsy Lewenberg** for outstanding work in promoting the Newton recycling program
- 1982 Newton commonwealth Improvement Corporation and **Lisle Baker** for their work in preserving the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course
- 1984 **Helen Heyn** for "unstinting efforts" to acquire and protect Newton's open space legacy
- 1985 **Rita Barron** for conservation work on the Charles River to make it swimmable
- 1986 **Sarah Barnett, Anne Dinsmore, Sharon Francis, Deborah Howard, Joan Lerner and Ann Roesner** for producing Newton's first Open Space Plan in 1973-1974
- 1987 **William Giezentanner** for his design of the Charles River Pathway
- 1988 **Anita Capeless** for work over many years to ensure sensible land use in Newton
- 1989 **Richard Stanley** for creating and directing the Environmental Science Program
- 1990 **Barbara Herson** for her work on recycling programs and Earth Day activities
  - **Carol Morrison** for her long work toward the development of Nahanton Park
- 1991 **Leo Levi** for beautifying Newton through education, trees and flower bulbs
- 1992 **Thelma Fleishman** for voicing open space values on the Conservation Commission
- 1993 **AnnaMaria Abernathy** for land use activism
  - **Theresa O'Halloran** for work on Washington Street Park and a summer boat ride on the Charles River as a model of transportation without cars
- 1994 **Bill Leitch and Betsy Leitch** for leadership in the restoration of Bullough's Pond
- 1995 **Senator Lois Pines** for leadership in environmental issues in the legislature
- 1996 Commonwealth Avenue Task Force: **William Gillitt, Elaine Gentile and Jean Husher** for a successful design for the renovation of Commonwealth Avenue as a linear park
- 1997 **Dianne Dumanoski** for raising awareness about pesticide risks in her book "Our Stolen Future"
- 1998 **Dan Driscoll** for work in making the Charles River Pathway a reality
- 1999 **Louise Bruyn** for her vision in founding and leading the Green Decade Coalition on the occasion of its tenth anniversary
- 2000 **Marty Sender** advocacy and labor in cleaning up the Lakes District of the Charles River and for work on open space issues throughout the city

- 2001 Representative **Ruth Balsler** for leadership in preserving publicly-owned open space across the state and advancing plans for restoration of Hammond Pond
- 2002 **Jim Broderick** and the CPA Alliance for successfully gaining voter approval to fund the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Newton
- 2003 **Martha Horn** for protecting and enhancing Newton's conservation areas
- 2004 **Mayor David Cohen** for his leadership and creativity in the acquisition of Kessler Woods
- 2005 **Doug Dickson** for his active participation in numerous environmental-based causes including the Community Preservation Committee and land acquisition
- 2006 **Jon Regosin, Duane Hillis and Eric Reenstierna** for their key roles in the acquisition of Angino Farm
- 2007 **Dan Brody** for his vision, skill and dedication in building and maintaining the Newton Conservators' web site
- 2008 **Ted Kuklinski, Harvey Epstein & Bill Shaevel** for the preservation of additional open space at Dolan Pond, preservation of a historic house and the first Habitat for Humanity building in Newton
- 2009 Crystal Lake Conservancy: **Robert Fizek and Janice Bourque** for their advocacy for Chrystal Lake
- 2010 Newton Almanac Committee: **Sue J. Avery, Dr. Modestino "Cris" Criscitiello, Laura D. Eisener, Don Lubin, Pat Robinson and Beth Schroeder** for creating and publishing the "Newton Conservators Almanac"
- 2011 Newton Conservators Trail Guide Committee: **Lucy Caldwell-Stair, Pat Robinson, Judy Hepburn and Dan Brody** for creating the revised edition of the Newton Conservators guidebook "Walking Trails in Newton's Park & Conservation Lands"
- 2012 Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), **Executive Director Bob Zimmerman and Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Margaret Van Deusen** who have brought CRWA to the national forefront of urban river restoration, for their 46 years work making the Charles River the cleanest urban river in the nation
- 2013 **Jane E. Sender** for four years as Conservators' President and her work on the Conservation Commission
- 2014 **Walter Bernheimer & Peter Kastner** long time open space advocacy
- 2015: **Ald. Alison Leary** environmentalist, campaign to ban plastic

bags

Charles Johnson Maynard Award

- ❖ The award is given each year to recognize efforts "to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation, and natural resource protection"
- 2003 **Ted Kuklinski**, founder of Friends of Dolan Pond, for his active work as a self-taught naturalist in the City of Newton, starting the Newton Conservators Lecture Series, and creating the seasonal Newton Conservators e-mail newsletter
- 2004 **Stephanie Bacon** for her work toward the reclamation of Hammond Pond
- 2005 **Dr. Modestino "Cris" Criscitiello** for his work as spokesperson for the Newton Conservators portion of the NewTV Environmental Shows, his organization and participation in the Newton Portion of the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count and his many actions to promote awareness of



biodiversity, reclamation of wildlife habitat and protection of our natural resources

- 2006 **Frank Howard** for his work to help develop a disease-resistant strain of the American Chestnut
- 2007 **Beth Schroeder** and the Survey Team of the Land Management Committee's for their detailed study of the plants and animals that inhabit Newton's conservation lands.
- 2008 **Charles Wagner** and the Cheesecake Brook/Eddy Street Project Committee for their efforts to improve and preserve Cheesecake Brook
- 2009 **David Backer** for his leadership of the city's Environmental Sciences Program, a summer program of environmental field study for dozens of Newton teens
- 2010 **Elaine Gentile**, Director of Environmental Affairs, City of Newton for her successful implementation of single stream recycling
- 2011 **Duane Hillis and Suzette Barbier** for their work re-energizing the Friends of Nahanton Park and overseeing and making sure the park is protected
- 2012 State Representative **Kay Khan, and George Kirby and Sean Roche** of the Newton Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force for their effort to restoration of the Newton Lower Falls Pedestrian Bridge
- 2013 **Eric Olson**, founder of the Newton Invasives Task Force, for his commitment to the removal of invasive plants to protect Newton's biodiversity
- 2014: **Pete Gilmore** for walks, photos and writings about birds
- 2015: **Prof. Richard Primack**, innovative work on climate change & educating public on it

#### Director's Awards:

- 2001 **Richard Staley**, for his many years on the Conservation Commission, in recent years as chair
  - Alderman Lisle Baker for his work in negotiating conservation restrictions on properties along the eastern shore of Hammond Pond
  - Alderman Richard McGrath, posthumously, for work leading to the removal of Rumford Avenue incinerator, capping the landfill and reclaiming the land as part of the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area
- 2002 **Alex and Ginny Wilmerding** for the gift of a conservation restriction on land adjacent to Webster Conservation Area
  - CHP Trust for the gift of a conservation restriction along the shore of Hammond Pond
- 2003 **Chestnut Hill Garden Club** for their stewardship of the Houghton Garden
- 2004 "Walking Trails" Map Guide Team: **Lucy Caldwell-Stair, Judy Hepburn and Pat Robinson** for creating a guide to Newton's open spaces
  - **Maxine Rosenberg**, retiring science coordinator for the Newton Public Schools, for her years of dedicated service to the environmental education of school children
  - **Lucille Riddle**, retired animal control officer, for 25 years of service and devotion to her work with animals.
- 2005 **Bill Shaevel** participation as "Legal Counsel to the Newton Conservators" including legal work on the recent acquisition of 76 Webster Park
  - **Joan and David Rosenberg** for the work on the renewal of Ordway Park (WAS THIS AWARD GIVEN OR NOT? – not listed on web site)

- 2006 **Jim Broderick** for his work to establish the Ordway Park Endowment Fund and his many years devoted to overseeing and maintaining Ordway Park
  - **Tony and Pam Awtrey** for the generous gift of property in a dell through which Hyde Brook flows in Newton Corner.
- 2007 **Katherine Howard** for her work to preserve and protect trees in Newton and her essential work as Treasurer of the Newton Conservators
  - **Martha Horn** for her continual input and activity to maintain open space in Newton as a remarkable civil servant and active conservationist
- 2008 **Anne Pearson** for her interest in the environment, her knowledge of environmental activities, her work on the Grants Committee and her tireless efforts in maintaining our membership lists
  - **Marc Welch** for his work on numerous levels that has kept Newton as green as possible with a careful selection of trees and overall maintenance of flora in general
- 2009 Alderman **Lisle Baker** for his long-time work on behalf of open space interests, most recently involving a conservation restriction for the Commonwealth Golf Course, to protect it as open space in perpetuity
  - **Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, City of Newton, for her enthusiastic support of Newton's recreation opportunities and her dedication to the citizens of Newton, especially the children swimming at Crystal Lake**
  - **Sue Avery**, head of the Land Management Committee for her leadership of a group created detailed records of species present in Newton's major open spaces
- 2010 **Patricia Rand and Penelope Caponigro** for their care of Newton's public spaces: the Newton Center Garden, the traffic island on Lake Avenue, the Arthur English garden in Newton Highland, the planters along Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands, the gardens in front of city hall and the Newton Free Library
- 2011 **Frank and Deborah Howard** for their lifetime of service to the Conservators, to conservation and to Newton
- 2012 **Eric Reenstierna** for his commitment to open space protection in Newton. His skills were crucial to the success of the Dolan Pond-76 Webster Park project, Kessler Woods and Angino Farm.
- 2013 **Norman A. Richardson** for his decades of exemplary service on the Newton Conservation Commission
- 2014: **Andree and Richard Wilson** for protecting a place of great beauty, and Bud Elliott (in memoriam)
- 2015: **Greg Maslowe**, suburban farmer educator

**Newton Conservators  
Spring/Summer Walks**

- Walk by Charles with Duane Hillis                      Sunday, February 28
- Eric Olson's Vernal Pool Walk                      Saturday, April 2 (Rain--3)
- Waban Hill Reservoir walk--Carol Schein                      Saturday, April 9  
(Rain--10)
- Quinobequin walk with Maureen Reilly Meagher                      Saturday, April 23

**Newton Serves    Sunday, May 1**

**Annual Meeting    Wednesday, May 4**

- Haynes and Leary Mother's Day Bird Walk                      Sunday, May 8
- Pete's bird walk in Cold Spring Park                      Saturday, May 14  
Henry's Aqueduct Walk                      Sunday, May 15
- Richard Primack's Webster Woods Walk                      Sunday, May 22
- Invasives walk in Cold Spring Park—Bruce W.                      Sunday, June 5

**June Doin'    Saturday, June 11**

- Don Lubin's fern walk in Houghton Garden                      Saturday, June 25  
(Rain--26)

**Yet to be scheduled**

- Henry's aqueduct walk

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine has filed the 3ABC form and the 2014 PC amended to reflect the revised financial statements, and plans to file the 2015 PC form before the May 15, 2016 deadline (otherwise will request the standard 3 month extension.)

**Annual Meeting and awards:** Beth has written to last year's sponsors, and we've already heard back from two of them. Following discussion, a MOTION to approve the following awards was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED:

Environmentalists of the Year: Jon Regosin and Marc Welch and the Woodcock Meadow team [this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time for Regosin – 2006 Angino Farm acquisition was to him & Duane & Eric Reenstierna.]

Charles Johnson Maynard Award: NNHS teacher John Gwynn and NSHS teacher John Orrin for work with student environmentalists

Directors' Award: Leigh Gilligan, for work on the Waban Hill Reservoir CR.

**Riverside Rail Trail support:** Brandon Schmitt, Director of the Wellesley Department of Natural Resources, has written asking us to express support for the rail trail between Riverside and Wellesley. Beth will write reiterating the board's past vote of support.

**122 Islington Road:** Jennifer Steele has written to Beth that the home is currently unoccupied, asking what we know about it. This site has top priority for a "CR to protect steep, wooded, gravel aquifer bordering on Charles River." We will renew our efforts in this matter and confer with Ted Kuklinsky, who talked with the son of the owner in the past.

**Waban Hill Reservoir:** Beth, Carol Schein, and Ruthann Fuller were appointed to read and rate the eight proposals that have been submitted. The interviews with the firms that submitted the proposals will be held on Friday, and the bids will be opened at the end of the day. The final selection should be made by the end of next week..

Margaret Doris volunteered to contact participants in last year's event who left their email addresses. She will also inquire whether Girl Scouts might take on the scavenger hunt as a project.

**Newton Serves:** Katherine listed the projects we have signed up for await her list. Beth also received a letter offering 25 National Guard members for one day's work. The board agreed that Beth inquire about their kind of work and equipment, to determine whether they could help with invasives, possibly in Cold Spring Park.

**Preserving the Green at Andover Newton Theological Seminary:** George has talked with one of the Friends of Herrick Green, who have asked for our help. They have had no encouragement from the city councilors for the ward. The board agreed to invite them to make a brief presentation at our April 13 board meeting.

**Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference April 2:** in Worcester. Beth passed the program around; she and Katherine plan to attend.

**Land Stewards:** Jennifer Steele is hosting a gathering the stewards for conservation areas on March 20; Katherine and Dan Brody are among them.

**Updates:**

• **Woodcock Meadow project:** Katherine reported that Phase 1 has been done by Marc Welch's City crew: 17 or 18 huge trees were removed, and volunteers followed up on Sunday. Another follow-up session will be scheduled for March 20 or 26. The meadow is being transformed.

Woodcocks are mating now; Chris will meet interested members at the meadow to observe the flight of the males on Saturday, March 12, at 6 PM.

• **Cabot Park Update:** Beth described the City's revised plan and the one put forward by neighbors, which would relocate the gym so no parkland would be taken. The City does not accept the plan, but may give it a hearing. Parking has not been addressed. Should I append the plans? Sure.

The neighbors would like us to weigh in again; Beth will write a new letter stating that we are pleased that the turnaround in the park is eliminated, and hope more can be done.

• **Crescent Street:** Beth sent a letter reiterating our support of the plan being adopted.

Adjournment: at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 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, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Larry Smith.

Also present were James Kasper, Natasha Staller, and Phil Warburg from Herrick Road, and Harriet Robbins from The Terraces, all representing the Friends of Herrick Green, and horticulturalist Bruce Wenning, who works with us on eradicating invasives.

**Preserving the Green at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary:** Mr. Warburg presented the history and current situation of the 22-acre site. The Friends of Herrick Green hope to preserve the 2+ acre green, which is weakly protected only by a viewshed easement between Andover Newton and Hebrew College, which the two parties can easily dismiss. The Friends of HG look to the Conservators for guidance. Beth will send them a statement that they may use our name as a supporter. The importance of publicity was stressed, and we will do a Newsletter piece as well as giving coverage on our web site and e-Bulletin. After they left, board members also agreed to as individuals in support on their web site, <http://www.friendsofherrickgreen.org/> .

**Group events: National Guard, Nahanton Park, Episcopal Church group:** Beth added that a youth group from a Newton Episcopal church (whose leader is a student at Newton South) has also asked to participate in invasives eradication project that doesn't conflict with their Sunday morning meetings. The Envirothon group from Newton North also expressed interest in participating in a pull and in talking with some of our members about their experiences in removing invasives. We need a policy on how to respond to such requests. We agreed that we should urge groups to join our scheduled pulls. Bruce Wenning expounded on his experience at Audubon with this issue, and the conclusion that scheduling special events for such groups is not practical use of our time.

**Approval of minutes of the March 9 meeting:** The minutes were approved after correction of editing errors on p. 2: **Newton Serves** delete "await her list." **Land Stewards:** insert "for" after "gathering." **Cabot Park Update** delete 4<sup>th</sup> line.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine reported that the Audit Committee had met the previous evening (she, plus Larry Burdick and Beth) and approved the Q1 financial statement sent to the board last week. The budget is similar to last year's, with the addition of the Audubon CR monitoring that is scheduled for this year. She will submit the Forms PC and 990 (also emailed to board last week). A MOTION to accept the proposed budget for fiscal 2016 was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

**Annual Meeting:** Beth distributed drafts of the award citations for review. Volunteers to make the presentation are Bill for the Maynard awards, Dave for the Environmentalists of the Year, and Beth for the Directors' Award. In addition, AnnaMaria will say a few words about Jim Broderick, who died in February.

**June Doin':** Chris distributed a tentative schedule of events, and planning continues.

**Newton Serves:** is on May 1. It is hoped that many board members will participate in the three invasives pulls and the clean-up of the pond in Cold Spring Park that Katherine has scheduled.

### **Updates:**

- **Woodcock Meadow Project:** Katherine reported that 80% of Phase 1 is done. Some invasives remain to be pulled. The woodcocks are enjoying the meadow. Board members are invited to meet Chris at the bench in the meadow on Sunday evening at 7:30 to see and/or hear their performance.
- **Cabot Park:** Beth said planning is going well: the turnaround in the park is eliminated, and some hardscaping is removed.
- **122 Islington Road:** George will investigate at City Hall about the situation.
- **Land Stewards gathering:** Beth said it was a good meeting, with many participants eager to be politically active for conservation in addition to volunteering on their areas.

### **New Business:**

- **Grants:** At Bill's suggestion, Dave expressed his request for a grant, as in the past, of \$2,000 for the Environmental Science Program. This year enrollment is up and he foresees staying within the budget. A MOTION to grant \$2000, contingent on receiving a formal request, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Adjournment: at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

NEWTON CONSERVATORS, Inc.  
Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting  
May 4, 2016, 8:15 PM  
American Legion Post 440  
Nonantum, MA

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

Beth Wilkinson opened the meeting, noting that copies of the Audit Committte Report and of the Financial Statement were on each table. (copies attached).

She gave the report on the year's activities and challenges (see summary in the attached program). Next she asked AnnaMaria Abernathy to present the Nominating Committee Report (see attached) on behalf of the chairman, Pete Gilmore who was in Europe.

AnnaMaria noted changes: Chris Hepburn succeeds George Mansfield as vice-president, and warm thanks were expressed to George, who will continue to be involved as a member of the board. Two of our advisors have moved away: Chris Criscitiello to Quincy, and Verne Vance to Virginia. AnnaMaria also spoke about Jim Broderick (see attached) who passed away in February.

There being no nominations from the floor, a MOTION to elect the slate was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED, whereupon the president directed the secretary to cast one ballot to elect the officers.

The awards were presented as follows:

Dave Backer presented the Environmentalists of the Year award to John Regosin, Bob DeRubeis, Marc Welch, and the Forestry Team and the Woodcock Meadow Team for their work to reclaim he open space of Woodcock Meadow at Nahanton Park for the annual flights of the American Woodcock.

Bill Hagar presented the Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Thomas Gwin and Jon Orren for their work at Newton North andNewton South High Schools to educate and to inspire the next generation of Newton's conservationists and scientists. And

Beth Wilkinson presented the Directors' Award to Attorney Leig Gilligan for contributing her time and legal expertise to create the Waban Hill Reservoir conservation restriction and for her helpful guidance throughout the acquisition process.

Beth next introduced Bryan Connolly, Assistant Professor of Biology at Framingham State U., who gave an illustrated lecture about invasive plant species in our region.

The program closed at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy,  
Secretary



Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson  
153 Windsor Road, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said the annual meeting income, with generous sponsorships, netted \$100 over expenses. The Form PC has been approved and certificate of solicitation received. The Friends of Webster Woods account has been active; Rory Altman has been funding it, and has donated another \$1,000 to the Conservators.

**June Doin:** Chris described the schedule (see attached) and reiterated the need for more volunteers on Saturday, particularly in the afternoon. So far the following will be working: Ann Dorfman, Henry, Pete, Katherine, Beth, and AnnaMaria.

**Annual Meeting Recap:** Beth stressed the need to be thinking of an excellent speaker for next year. The board agreed to again invite students from the two high schools (this year Beth invited 4 from each HS; this should be a NC expense.) Katherine has reserved the same space and the same caterer for May 3, 2017. Chris wondered whether dessert made with invasive weeds might be possible. (See Eattheinvaders.org.)

**Newton Serves Recap:** Dan had 4 or 5 volunteers at the Cold Spring Park pond; they got all that can be brought out without heavy equipment. Newton Serves had more volunteers than last year for invasive pulling.

**Invasives Month Recap:**

- Katherine has held 10 events, with 2 more upcoming, and 1 or 2 people at each.
- The Library display cases were good – and much work for Katherine and Beth.
- Bruce Wenning's Library talk on invasives had moderate attendance by very committed citizens.

**Intern situation:** Beth explained that two were available, but we couldn't arrange it for this summer. This underscores our need for new board members who will be willing to work on projects such as this. Chris suggested that the list of all NC members board

members be made available to the board members, so that they can consider possible nominees.

**Conservation Commission:**

• **Letter about knotweed along the Charles:** the land stewards for the Riverwalk area that the American Tower Co. leases from the City wrote to Beth, asking that the Conservators act to stop the regular mowing of the knotweed, as they believe it may spread the knotweed. The board agreed that Beth should respond to them and that Katherine will solicit advice from Eric Olson and Bruce Wenning about whether mowing is a problem.

• **Presentation by Rob Warren for the Trustees of Reservations:** Chris said it was a general expression of interest in being involved in one of our open spaces, e.g., offer to improve entrances to parks. They are interested in Kennard. Beth said that Carolyn Kraft and the Friends of Kennard Park are working hard to raise funds, would like us to participate, and have asked Beth to speak at an event.

**Updates:**

• **National Guard project:** 25 National Guard members will pull invasives at Cold Spring Park on June 25. Katherine will meet with their representative this week, and she and Beth will be there on the 2th. Having a couple more board members there on work day would be a great help.

• **Path on Wilson property:** Beth reported on a harsh letter from Mr. Wilson about the lack of progress, and her response. Erosion of the proposed site requires a new look. She, Henry and Pete will set up a meeting with members of the Wilson family later in June.

• **Woodcock Meadow Project:** only 2 volunteers helped at a recent session, hence small progress was made.

• **Cabot Park:** The Cabot School Building Committee on June 2 voted unanimously to stand by its April decision, which Conservators had decided we could live with.

• **Webster Woods:** The land is now owned by BC. Beth noted that her "Save Webster Woods" sign gets many comments, and several board members asked to get signs.

• **122 Islington Road:** The owner has no plans to sell. He is well informed about conservation and historic preservation restrictions. There is no issue at present.

• **Herrick Green:** Friends of Herrick Green have an article in our next Newsletter. They have asked us to hold their funds. Katherine is willing, on the same conditions as the Webster Woods group is observing. Dan suggested we include a time limit. A

MOTION to agree to hold the funds for up to two years (renewable) if they agree to our terms was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**New Business: Nahanton Woods CR:** The Conservators have a seat on the Nahanton Woods CR Board. Larry Burdick has long filled this position, and we need to formally reappoint him at this time. A MOTION to write a letter to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Adjournment: at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary



# June Doin'

## Celebration for Families at Nahanton Park Saturday, June 11th

Rain or Shine!

*Registration near Nahanton Street entrance to the park.  
All events are free — except for the Canoe and Kayak Rentals.*

**Meet at or near the Nature Center for all events.**

- 10:00 am - 11:00 am ..... **Bird Walk** *led by Pete Gilmore*  
**Identifying Invasive Plants** *led by Katherine Howard and Ann Dorfman*
- 10:30 am - 11:00 am ..... **Basic Canoeing Demo** *led by Larry Smith*
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ..... **Woodcock Meadow Restoration Project** *led by Jon Regosin*  
**Hike along Helen Heyn Riverway (2 miles)** *led by Henry Finch*  
**Fly Tying Demo** *led by Rolly Johnson and Bill Hagar*
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm ..... **Basic Canoeing Demo** *led by Larry Smith*
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm ..... **Fern Walk and ID Session** *led by Don Lubin*  
**Nature Walk: Bugs to Trees\*** *led by Eric Olson*
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ..... **Tree Climbing Demonstration\*** *led by Eric Olson*
- All Day Events ..... **Canoe & Kayak Rental available at special rate for registrants** *(see [www.paddleboston.com](http://www.paddleboston.com) for info)*  
**Planting Bean Seeds\*** *in recycled flower pots to take home*



- Cookies and organic juice boxes courtesy of our sponsors.
- Bring a picnic lunch to eat in the Nahanton Park picnic area.

\*Events especially suitable for children. For more event details, see [NewtonConservators.org](http://NewtonConservators.org).

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 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, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith.

**Approval of minutes of June 8 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following corrections: under **June Doin**, add Dave Backer and Larry Smith; under **Intern Situation, line 3**, delete “board members.”

**Treasurer’s Report:** Katherine reported on the June 30 financial statements that she had sent the board. In general, results were as expected for this time of year. Grants have approximately \$2300 left for the year. Programs shows \$400 overspent, only because June Doin and National Guard expenses were included; this sort of activity will be listed elsewhere next year. Audubon CR monitoring, budgeted for this year, is still expected to be done later in the year.

**Annual Meeting speaker:** Beth suggested we consider several whom she heard of a NEWFS meeting: , and Bill suggested Kamal Bawa, who might make a good team with Richard Primack; Sam Jaffe was also named. Beth will send the descriptions to the board, for us to vote in September.

**Audubon CR monitoring:** Beth is working on engaging Mass Audubon for this year. Unfortunately, Liz Newland, who did the work in past, is no longer with Audubon.

**June Doin Recap:** Chris observed that we didn’t have as many participants as we’d like, and we agreed that the effort exceeded the result – even though three new members joined. We discussed whether September might be a better time, and other possible activities, such as scavenger hunt, and where fishing might be permitted. A decision is deferred to the September meeting.

**Fall Walks:** We need someone to take over organizing the walks, as Beth has been doing it since Alison Leary left the board. If a board member is interested, he or she should let Beth Know.

The deadline for submitting fall walks is August 15: please send your proposals to Beth for the time being. Chris reminded us that the leaders should have NC brochures to distribute at the walks; a packet including membership forms, such as we used in the past, is suggested. The password-protected part of the Conservators’ website contains material for leaders.

**Publicity and Outreach:** We need to find someone who will work to photograph and publish events on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and possibly Village 14.

In a discussion of possible topics, Henry suggested advocating to change zoning so that hardscapes on private property don't count as open space . AnnaMaria suggested we meet the new Planning Director, Barney Heath, as soon as possible. Pete, Dan Green, Chris, George, and AnnaMaria said they would like to join Beth for the meeting.

**Invasives Plans:**

- Katherine reminded us of the volunteer work session at the Woodcock Meadow of Nahanton Park this Sunday, from 12 to 3 PM.
  - The National Guard work at Cold Spring Park on June 25 was a success. To thank them and express interest in repeating this community service day in the future, Beth and Katherine will write to the two National Guard leaders.
  - Some expenses have been incurred for invasives-related activities: four spicebush plants for the Blue Heron Bridge area for \$96, National Guard lunch and supplies for approximately \$120, and approximately \$50 for “buckthorn baggies” (a new technology available for killing buckthorn). As there will likely be small additional expenses, Katherine asked for up to \$500 to cover these items and the Board approved this reallocation from the special projects budget. In future, invasives activity will be specifically budgeted.
  - Black swallow-wort is everywhere, and pods are forming. Echo Bridge at Ellis Street has been mowed once and Katherine has requested DCR to mow it again. She will contact Carrie van der Laan to get the word out again to the Unitarian Church membership.
  - Katherine asked Dan Brody to set up a page on our website for invasives information and the various flyers we have done. He will do so and Katherine will provide the content and materials.
- **Co-sponsorship of Nov. 21 Library talk by Prof. Joe Elkinton:** Katherine asked that we co-sponsor the talk with Green Newton and the Tree Conservancy. A MOTION to co-sponsor the event was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. (see the Boston Globe article at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/06/29/that-not-rain-falling-your-tent/H5zxNwcZIJ6sOKazI2aZ7K/story.html>)

**Updates:**

- **Wilson Path:** Beth's recent repeated efforts to schedule a meeting with the Wilsons have been unsuccessful. Since two trees have died, the family has suggested that the path could now be sited off the slope.
- **Webster Woods:** BC will do nothing for one year.

- **Herrick Green:** Dan Green has heard that one “due diligence” is in process from a private buyer.
- **Waban Hill Reservoir Planning:** Mostly close neighbors have been involved in the two meetings so far. They want little or nothing to be done; Beth urged a couple of general interest projects to support wildlife and native plants at the site. She urges NC members to attend the meeting that is to be scheduled for late September, to urge action.

**New Business:**

- **Lower Falls to Riverside Pathway:** Henry reported that the MAPC is pushing for it; the project is still in Land Court, as one neighbor opposes it. The court ruling seems to be going against him.
- **Aqueduct access:** Henry also returned to the fact that the MWRA is encouraging public access to its aqueducts, and that only Newton and Sherborn have not yet signed on. A MOTION that Beth update our letter to the Mayor urging him to act was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. The board agreed that we get an update on the City’s position when we meet Planning Director Heath, then ask our membership to write to the Mayor. The board also agreed that Beth will wait to write to the Mayor until after the meeting with the Planning Director.
- **West Nile Virus Newsletter article:** Dede Vittori has written to Beth praising the article and the Conservators.
- **Trail Guide Reprinting:** Katerine said some 150 copies remain, a six-month supply. The board agreed to have 500 more printed for 18 months more, until a new edition is ready.

Adjournment: at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred & AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said the next statement will be Sept. 30, so asks that any expenses to reimburse should come in this month. She reported that she engaged members of the NNHS Envirothon team to help with invasives work when no volunteers came; the cost was \$600, and was a useful learning experience for the students. This kind of expense will be a line item in the budget next year.

**New volunteer:** Beth met Cecelia Pless, a 2015 college graduate eager to do environmental work, who had seen us mentioned in a TAB article. She is eager to learn, and would like to join a board. Beth will invite her to some of our events, with an eye to either board membership or an internship.

**Annual Meeting speaker:** Board members rated the four suggested names, so if the #1 suggestion isn't available for our meeting date, the others can be asked in succession.

**Audubon Surveys - assignments:** Amber Carr, from Audubon, has told Beth she can do our monitoring at the end of October/early November. The Waban Hill Reservoir will be added to our list of CRs. As before, one of our members will join heron each visit, in preparation for doing it without Audubon next year. As before, the following have agreed:

Golf Course	Larry
Crystal Lake	Henry
Dexter Woods	George
Ordway	Matt
Elgin	Chris

Katherine volunteered to do Waban Hill Res., with Beth as assistant, and the following will be asked to do

Angino Farm	Bill
Awtrey Dell	Pete
Webster Park	Ted and Eric



**Trail Guide reprinting:** Katherine learned that the cost to reprint 500 copies is \$2800, for 1000 it is \$3500. After discussion, the board decided on 1000 copies, as the new edition may not be ready in 18 months.

**Report on meeting with Planning Director Barney Heath:** Beth said it was a very good session; Chris, George, Dan Brody, Katherine, and AnnaMaria participated. We presented information about our properties assembled by George, and a good exchange of information and ideas ensued.

**Trail wheelchair:** After the meeting with Mr. Heath, Beth encountered the new ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, who told her Newton already has a beach wheel chair (but location is not known), and that a trail wheelchair would be a good addition. Commissioner DeRubeis is in favor; the Commission on Disabilities already has a grant, so a proposal for the project would be viewed positively. Beth will do the necessary work, and asked whether she should do it as an individual, or whether the Conservators wish to back the project. A MOTION to support the project was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

**Open Space Representative to the Community Preservation Committee:** Mike Clarke says he has had more than the permitted two three-year terms and he wishes to step down. Because a city-wide representation is desirable, the new open space member preferably should come from Ward 5 or 6, but it is not required. Board members are asked to consider the job or to suggest someone, and let Beth know.

**Film by e-awakening:** Bruce Wenning, of the Ecological Landscape Assn., has recommended that the group make a film about the Conservators – possibly Woocock Meadow, Cold Spring Park, or our walks. Beth has looked at the group's films, and they are good. Doing it would require time by us; the board indicated that we are interested, and would like to know more; Beth will follow up.

**Review of Membership List:** A printed list is making the rounds of board members, so they may look for possible new board members, and also to think of possible new members who are not on the list and whom they can recruit to join the NC.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 to 9 PM – Waban Hill Reservoir planning session at Durant Kenrick House (Neighbors want nothing there; we should go, advocate for at least some planting and benches.)
- Sunday, Sept. 25, 11 AM to 3 PM – Community Farm Festival – kids' activities are sought; Margaret Doris has volunteered with a project; Dave Backer & AnnaMaria will join her for part of the time. Please inform AnnaMaria if you can spend an hour also.
- Also Sept. 25, 9AM to 12 PM – invasives project at Saw Mill Road

- Wed., Oct. 5, 4:30 to 5:30 PM – Beth will speak at Kennard Park, “Preserving Newton’s Open Spaces.”
  - Sunday, Oct. 16, noon to 4 PM – Harvest Fair. The board decided we would not be in the Green Expo area
  - Monday, Nov. 21, 7 PM – Prof. Jo Elkinton Library talk “Gypsy Moths & Winter Moths – NC & Green Newton co-sponsor.
- 
- Wed., January 18 – Brooke Mathewson would like us to co-sponsor a salamander talk. We agreed to do so if no stipend is involved.

### **Updates:**

- **Woodcock Meadow Project:** Katherine said the Forestry Dept. will do another session removing trees; she will mark the trees this week-end. Bruce Wenning, who is a licensed applicator, offers to apply herbicide to the stumps if the City insurance will cover him. Katherine has requested an opinion from the Park and Rec Dept. and the Integrated Pest Management Committee.
- **Wilson Trail:** Beth reported that she and Mike Clarke had a good talk with the family; a new location has been laid out; Bill Shaevel will look into what permits may be needed; Henry will look at the site to determine what work is needed.
- **Webster Woods:** Beth said the City seems to be talking of an “easement” – which would not necessarily protect the land. We are being kept informed.
- **Herrick Green:** Katherine reported that the group has spent \$7500 on legal fees so far and is collecting exact amounts to cover the cost; she awaits word from their financial person.
- **Cabot Park:** Chris attended the Historical Commission meeting that approved the current plan as a fait accompli. The claim is that only 3’ of the park land are taken for the access road, in addition to having part of a playground on park land.

### **NewBusiness:**

Dave announced that 2017 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Environmental Science Program, and events are being planned.

Adjournment: at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred & AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

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

**Approval of minutes of the September 14 meeting and Open Space Rep. to the Community Preservation Committee:** The minutes were approved with the following correction requested by Mike Clarke: replacing “Mike Clarke says he has had more than the permitted two three-year terms and he wishes to step down” with “Mike Clarke related to Beth that he is now serving past the two three-year term limit for a CPC member and suggested that this might be a good time for the Conservators to recommend a possible replacement to the Mayor.”

**Andree Wilson** died on Oct. 16. Beth and AnnaMaria went to the gathering at the home on the following day to express condolences on behalf of NC.

**Membership brochure and renewal letter:** Pat Robinson will update the membership costs on the brochure. Dave Backer suggested we look to the NNHS Graphics program for a bid, as Signal Graphics would charge \$500 for 500 copies. Beth described the different renewal letters to be sent (members new this year, other members, ex- members) and one inviting to membership, which board members can use to recruit new members after they look over the list of members that is being passed around (not emailed, to maintain members’ privacy.)

**Treasurer’s Report:** Katherine commented on the September financial statements that she had sent to the board (also attached to these minutes). They are normal, as 70% of membership dues regularly come in during the last quarter. She has filed the Annual Report to the Secretary of State, due on Nov. 1 We have received the 1,000 Trail Guides that have been reprinted.

**Audubon Reports:** Beth reported on her discussions with Audubon’s Amber Carr about the cost estimates. The new survey for Waban Hill Reservoir represents \$4500 of the \$7700 total. After discussion, the board agreed to go forward with the survey this year, and to charge the \$4500 to the escrow fund for Waban Hill Reservoir.

Amber Carr proposed three possible dates for the site visits: the board member who will have to accompany her to their respective sites (present were Katherine, Larry, Chris, Bill, and Pete) agreed on Thursday Oct. 27, with Thurs. Nov. 3 as rain date.

**Upper Falls Greenway:** Dan Brody explained that the end of the new Upper Falls Greenway is uphill some 20' from the Charles River Pathway. An estimate of the cost for a connecting path is between \$10,000 and \$20,000. He suggests we may consider contributing to it as one of our projects. Katherine noted that some \$1500 still remains from Phase 1 of the Upper Falls Greenway Project. Discussion included comparison with the box stairway on the Cochituate aqueduct at Eliot St. that Andreae Downs is pursuing. We decided to ask Andreae for a map to help us understand the location of the stairway and the type of stairway that would be most appropriate.

**Signage and trails on Conservation Lands:** Dan Brody next described the signs that Jennifer Steel has had installed at all 50 sites in the City, and the QR codes that he prepared and affixed to them (see example attached). Next he hopes the Parks and Rec. Dept. will accept them for their lands. The board applauded Dan for this great work.

Dan also described the work he is doing, using the City's GIS Receiver, to record trails that proceed from our conservation lands into other jurisdictions, so they may be included in the next edition of the Trail Guide and on the City's maps. Doug Greenfield, the City's GIS Administrator is working with Dan on this

For the new trail guide, Dan needs someone to help with the text and layout over the coming year. Beth will insert a box in the next Newsletter asking for volunteers for this and for help with the Newsletter.

A propos signs, Pete said he has the **Awtrey Dell** sign showing our easement, but he has not succeeded in arranging with Mr. Awtrey on the location. Dave Backer suggested that building the path could be undertaken as an ESP project this summer.

**"The Street" Proposal (Chestnut Hill):** Dan Green described the projects. The Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over the two buildings (7800' restaurant and 1800' snack bar) proposed for the parking lot abutting Hammond Pond. Considerable discussion expressed our concerns, which Beth will communicate to the Con.Com for its November 10 meeting, which will continue the discussion. Several Conservators should plan to attend that meeting; the comments by three of us at the September 20 meeting may have helped raise some questions by the Con Com. The entire project also needs approval from the Land Use Committee.

**Upcoming:**

- Monday, Nov. 21, 7 PM –Prof. Jo Elkinton Library talk "Gypsy Moths & Winter Moths – NC & Green Newton co-sponsor.
- Wed., January 18 – Brooke Mathewson talk on salamanders – NC co-sponsor

**Updates:**

- **Woodcock Meadow Project:** Katherine said Phase 2 of the work will be done – the Forestry Dept. will remove the black locusts, and NC will pay \$450 to have the stmps painted, as has been approved by the IPM advisory committee. IPM is functioning!
- **Wilson Trail:** the family will talk with us sometime soon to settle the location.

**NewBusiness:**

- **Gas Truck Leak at Crystal Lake:** Beth reported that the City's Hazmat team did a remarkable job of catching the 40 gal. leak at the first storm drain, so no leak into the lake.
- **Grants:** Bill asked whether in our announcement we might raise the usual upper limit for grants to \$1000. The board concurred

Adjournment: at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Inc. Unrestricted Income Statement YTD 2016 Jan- Sep 2016									
YTD 2016 Actual	YTD 2016 Budget	YTD 2016 Variance	BUDGET 2016 Budget	Prior Year Actuals					
				2015 Actual	2014 Actual	CY2013 Actual	CY2012 Actual		
<b>REVENUES</b>									
Dues - Members	4,375	8,500	(4,125)	<i>even by Q unless noted</i> 1/8 Q1-3;1/2 Q4	17,000	16,305	14,245	10,309	11,130
Gifts - Members	1,448	1,750	(302)	1/8 Q1-3;1/2 Q4	3,500	3,470	3,941	3,595	3,190
Credit card fees	(163)	(113)	(50)		(150)	(151)	(121)	(169)	(153)
Misc. (escrow interest, AmazonSmile, etc.)	154	188	(34)		250	274	102	41	130
Almanac sales (offset to exp in prior yrs)	67	150	(83)		200	120	80	200	81
Trail Guide Sales	608	1,500	(892)		2,000	1,594	1,033	1,029	669
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>6,489</b>	<b>11,975</b>	<b>(5,486)</b>		<b>22,800</b>	<b>21,611</b>	<b>19,280</b>	<b>15,005</b>	<b>15,047</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
Annual Meeting - net cost	(136)	-	136	<i>all Q2</i>	-	(574)	1,129	(1,819)	1,082
Board Administrative Expenses	663	450	(213)		600	576	430	569	462
Board Development	-	75	75		100	-	-	-	-
Dues	100	300	200		400	400	400	400	400
Fees	60	56	(4)		75	50	75	75	75
Grants	2,750	3,750	1,000		5,000	4,800	2,650	3,775	3,327
Insurance	3,575	3,575	-	<i>all Q1</i>	3,575	3,517	3,161	3,503	3,390
Almanac, Guide, Brochures	-	-	-		-	-	-	3,272	-
Membership Development	137	1,875	1,738		2,500	2,402	3,106	1,285	987
Newsletter	6,917	6,375	(542)		8,500	8,337	8,647	4,187	2,191
Ordway Maintenance	845	1,125	280		1,500	1,030	2,920	1,410	1,196
Programs	1,514	525	(989)		700	737	-	-	165
Website	-	300	300	<i>all Q2</i>	300	298	298	291	255
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>16,426</b>	<b>18,406</b>	<b>1,980</b>		<b>23,250</b>	<b>21,574</b>	<b>22,817</b>	<b>16,949</b>	<b>13,529</b>
<b>Net income from operations before special projects</b>	<b>(9,937)</b>	<b>(6,431)</b>	<b>(3,505)</b>		<b>(450)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>(3,537)</b>	<b>(1,943)</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>									
Income from Board-Designated Endowment	4,380	4,380	-		5,839	5,929	-	-	-
General (prior yrs CLC, Nahanton, DCR Bridge)	65	750	685	<i>General</i>	1,000	-	-	792	328
Conservation Restriction (CR) Monitoring	-	1,575	1,575		2,100	-	-	2,100	2,155
Land Acquisition Program (research)	-	750	750	<i>Land acq. program</i>	1,000	-	-	-	-
Property Maintenance beyond donor funding	-	750	750		1,000	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-		-	-	-	(1,500)	-
<b>Net Income from Board-Designated funded special projects</b>	<b>4,315</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>3,760</b>		<b>739</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>2,483</b>
<b>Net income from operations</b>	<b>(5,622)</b>	<b>(5,876)</b>	<b>255</b>		<b>289</b>	<b>5,966</b>	<b>(3,537)</b>	<b>(3,335)</b>	<b>(966)</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME AND GAINS</b>									
Interest - Checking	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	4
Interest - Money Market	17	8	10		10	7	10	10	15
Interest - 4-in 1 Fund	754	2,775	(2,021)		3,700	4,257	2,899	2,213	1,988
Interest - Treasury Bills	38	30	8		40	77	38	229	403
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - 4-in-1 Fund	10,379	2,025	8,354		2,700	(4,219)	4,471	19,501	9,623
<b>Sub-total investment income before transfers</b>	<b>11,189</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>6,351</b>		<b>6,451</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>7,418</b>	<b>21,954</b>	<b>12,034</b>
Interest - Transfer to Ordway Endow.	(908)	(375)	(533)		(500)	17	(624)	(1,926)	(1,212)
Less: board designated endowment spending policy transfer to operations	(4,380)	(4,380)	-		(5,839)	(5,929)	-	-	-
<b>Total investment income after transfers</b>	<b>5,901</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5,818</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>(5,789)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total changes in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>(5,793)</b>	<b>6,073</b>		<b>401</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>3,256</b>	<b>16,692</b>	<b>9,857</b>
<b>Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>193,488</b>	<b>193,488</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>193,488</b>	<b>193,311</b>	<b>190,055</b>	<b>173,363</b>	<b>163,506</b>
<b>Plus: change in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>(5,793)</b>	<b>6,073</b>		<b>401</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>3,256</b>	<b>16,692</b>	<b>9,857</b>
<b>Ending Unrestricted &amp; BD Net Assets</b>	<b>193,768</b>	<b>187,695</b>	<b>6,073</b>		<b>193,889</b>	<b>193,488</b>	<b>193,311</b>	<b>190,055</b>	<b>173,363</b>

See separate attachment for page 2



Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of Fred & AnnaMaria Abernathy  
45 Islington Road, Auburndale

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Larry Smith,

**Approval of minutes of the October 20 meeting.** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Renewals have begun to come in.

**Holiday Potluck:** The board agreed to have a potluck holiday celebration at 6:30 PM, preceding the December 14 meeting,

**Meeting with Parks & Rec about QR signage at parks** as well as at conservation areas. Commissioner DeRubeis and Carol Schein are in favor. The Conservation Department areas already have QR codes that link to our website. In addition, Jennifer Steel has consulted with Dan Brody and Beth about having the list of conservation areas on the Conservation Department's/City's pages go directly to the listings on the NC site. In order for that to work, we will need to do a minor re-design of our pages and add some of the detailed statistics from the Conservation Department.

**Nahanton Park:** Whether and how to memorialize the Almshouse history is a contentious issue; the board decided it is not an open space question on which we need to weigh in. The Friends of Nahanton Park are eager for the CR to be finalized; it awaits action by the Parks and Rec and Law departments.

**Upcoming events:**

- Nov. 10: The Conservation Commission will discuss "The Street" proposal; Beth will attend the meeting.
- Nov. 21, 7 PM –Prof. Jo Elkinton Library talk "Gypsy Moths & Winter Moths – NC & Green Newton co-sponsor.

**Updates:**

- **Annual Meeting speaker:** Andy Finton has agreed to speak.
- **Box stairway on Cochituate Aqueduct:** the board postponed deciding pending more definite information; Henry will ask Andreae Downs.
- **Wilson trail:** As soon as the Wilson family reaches final agreement, a revised survey will be done to show the location of the new path.



- **Audubon surveys** went very well, even on the tight schedule. Amber Carr will return to document the findings. The board discussed possible uses of Dexter, and how this related to the question of

**What does it mean to hold a conservation restriction – what are the responsibilities?**

Following discussion, we agreed

- that board members will review the past Audubon reports for “their” properties and confirm whether their recommendations have been followed, and where necessary, forward them to whoever is responsible;
- to make a chart describing ownership and facts such as escrow accounts for each CR;
- for Awtrey, to build the path and put up the sign.

**Updates, cont.**

- **Film by E-awakening:** \_ Bruce Wenning wishes to meet with Beth and Katherine about this.
- **Woodcock Meadow project:** Katherine reported that Phase 2 of the forestry work at the Woodcock Meadow has been done; more will need to be done in future.
- **Membership brochures:** 500 copies of the revised brochures will be printed by the Newton North Print Shop for a modest cost.

**NewBusiness:**

- **Trail camera:** Beth asked whether a trail camera that she’d donate might be good for the Conservator web site – possibly located at Ordway Park. The board liked the idea.
- **Crescent Street Project:** Mike said that the City has submitted a preliminary proposal to the CPC.
- **City Archives:** Mike reported that the City archivist is retiring, and the Head Librarian wants to take over the Newton Room for an expanded children’s room. The archives would go to the small A/C utility building where they would be difficult to access.

Adjournment: at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 7:30 PM  
Home of Henry Finch  
13 Windsor Road, Waban

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

The meeting began at 7:30 PM, following the 6:30 holiday potluck.

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

**Newsletter photo contest:** Beth reported great response to the name-the-place photo contest in the winter Newsletter, initiated by Dan Brody. He now asks others to take over providing photos.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine will develop a budget after the bulk of renewals are received. She has a question about how to structure the budget for recurring expenses, i.e., property maintenance and special projects. She will reconvene the finance committee either by email or for a meeting. Beth stressed the importance of having maintenance as a separate recurring category to help ensure that it will be done each year.

Katherine also reported that the Friends of Herrick Green have requested their \$4490 to be disbursed to them, toward partial reimbursement of their legal expenses, and this has been done.

**Conservation Restrictions on Parks and Conservation Areas:** Beth brought up the Wilsons' concern about preserving the future of the aqueducts as open space. Jennifer Steel has asked the City law department to start the process of putting CRs on all the conservation areas. The executive committee recommended that as soon as Nahanton Park CR is settled, we should press for putting CRs on all the parks, and the board agreed.

Earlier this year, Beth learned that the City is considering letting the Kessler developer own the conservation land, with the City holding the CR, rather than keeping the land and asking the Conservators to hold the CR. The reason for this may be the impression that we request too large an escrow fee, based on the \$30,000 for Waban Hill Reservoir. Beth told both the Conservation Department and the Parks and Rec. Department that we are open to other arrangements. Katherine suggested that

we request a pro bono legal opinion about potential ways to have needed funds for monitoring without large sums from the City. She also reminded us that Alice Ingerson suggested that we return to the CPC for funds to support other city properties that we monitor.

**Nominating Committee:** The current officers agree to continue another year, so the nominating committee's task is only to find new board members and to contact the advisors. Bill Hagar volunteered to be on the committee. Other board members are requested to consider joining; please contact Beth.

**Work on 15 Bracebridge Road:** The needed survey has been done, and Bill Shaevel has offered to write the note to accompany the new map that will be registered at the Registry of Deeds. On Sunday, December 11, Katherine led a team of Conservators and neighbors working with Andre Wilson to remove invasive plants from the wooded portion of the property. Also, Dan Brody will create a page for the property on our website.

**Chamber of Commerce:** George will investigate what membership entails, and report in January.

**Cold Spring Park Project:** Russ Cohen, naturalist forager, is willing to lead a foraging walk in Cold Spring Park, on condition that we replace buckthorn with native plants. The Cold Spring Park committee will meet in January to discuss this and the project as a whole.

**Work with high school students:** Beth attended the Student Volunteer Fair at NSHS. Twelve students signed up to volunteer with us, but none were available for the clean-up at 15 Bracebridge Road last Sunday.

**Updates:**

• **Audubon monitoring:** Amber Carr has finished the visits and is writing her report.

• **Nahanton Park:**

Decisions about the entrance await information about what funds may be available.

The Parks & Rec. subcommittee will make a list of the funds available from different phases of the project.

The CR still awaits action by Commissioner DeRubeis.

• **Woodcock Meadow Project:** Katherine said another work session is planned for January or February. They will ask Marc Welch about the tree work that wasn't completed last time.

• **“The Street” proposal (Chestnut Hill):** The next City Council land use committee hearing will be in January; the petitioners have withdrawn without prejudice the proposal for the two new buildings, planning to submit new proposals for these.

- **Helen Heyn Walkway project:** Henry and Dan Brody will confer about this.

**New Business**

<sup>a</sup> **Avery Woods:** Dan Brody suggested we add cleaning up Avery Woods to our Newton Serves projects, in addition to the invasives projects we do each year.

- **Crescent Street Project:** The CPC will hold a hearing on January 12 on the proposal for “affordable housing and community park” at 70 Crescent Street. Following brief discussion, a MOTION to resubmit our letter of February 21, 2016, in support of the project was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**New Path from Cold Spring Loop trail to Zervas School:** A proposal for a short extension of a trail in the park provide a short cut for students to avoid busy streets was described. Henry will walk it to assess it and report back.

Adjournment: at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary