



*Working to preserve open space in Newton for 45 years!*

## *The Newton Conservators*

# NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

[www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

September/October 2006

## CPA TURNS FIVE IN NEWTON

This year, Newton passed the five-year mark in its experience with the Community Preservation Act. The CPA was adopted by the voters in 2001. A lot has been accomplished since then. This article traces some of highlights of the first five years and takes a look ahead at the next five, based on some forward thinking by the Community Preservation Committee.

Adoption of the Act came at a fortuitous time for Newton, enabling the city to take advantage of a number of remarkable one-time opportunities, including the preservation of more than 25 acres of open space at Kessler Woods, the restoration of Newton's three historic burying grounds, the purchase of Angino Farm, and creation of 100 units of community housing. Besides Kessler Woods and Angino Farm, two key milestones for the Conservators, our organization was instrumental in the acquisition of the Forte property at Dolan Pond - a triple win in the form of open space, historic preservation and three units of community housing - and the Wilmerding property that expanded the Cohen Conservation Area off the Hammond Pond Parkway. We also worked to enhance public use of the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area and supported the restoration of Houghton Garden.

The city's adoption of CPA has made possible a broad range of other projects as well—a total of about 50 projects amounting to roughly \$15 million dollars. Details are available in the Community Preservation



- photo by Dan Brody

Committee report for 2006, which you can read at [www.ci.newton.ma.us](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us) (Departments, Planning and Development, Committees, Community Preservation Committee, Projects, FY06 Annual Report).

With the benefit of a five-year perspective, it is a good time to look back on the city's experience with CPA and draw some conclusions as well as identify patterns and trends. Here are some that the Community Preservation Committee thinks are important as it looks ahead to the next fiscal year and beyond:

- **Community Sponsors:** A majority of projects, ranging from large open space and housing projects to pocket parks and classrooms, were sponsored

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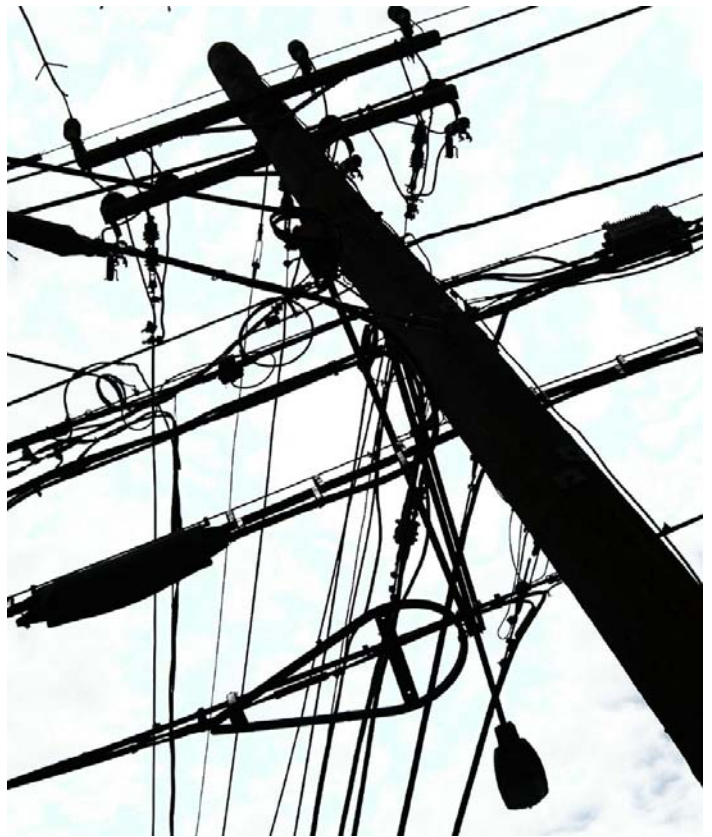
# THE SAD TALE OF A RED-TAIL

Just before noon on December 1, 2005, I received word that a large bird had been found lying by the side of the road at the intersection of Chester St. and Hillside Rd. not far from our house in Newton Highlands. I reached the spot just as the Animal Control Officer, John O'Connell, arrived. As part of his regular duty, he had been on call to inspect and retrieve injured wildlife. At the same moment Carol Stapleton of the Parks and Recreation Department, another bird enthusiast, appeared on the scene.

We found the bird with wings spread open, lying immobile on the grass just beneath a telephone pole. It was a full-grown Red-tailed Hawk with no obvious sign of injury. Its feathers were intact, and it did not appear sickly or emaciated. Within a few inches from the bird lay the body of a gray squirrel, also appearing intact but completely lifeless. Carol immediately noted that the inner eyelids of the hawk, the so-called "nictitating membranes," were tightly closed, entirely obscuring both eyes, a pattern not expected in birds killed by gunshot or collision with windows, but one she had seen in birds electrocuted by exposed power lines.

Immediately overhead, strung from the pole, were several wires including those carrying live current. We postulated that the hawk, having just seized the squirrel, had carried it aloft for a short distance and, attempting to land on or near the pole, first settled down on one of those wires. Perhaps in its struggle to cling to the wire with its prey in its talons, the bird had torn through some worn insulation around the wire exposing both itself and the squirrel to a lethal jolt.

We also discovered that the bird had an aluminum band around its left leg bearing the number 1207-75625. We therefore decided to hold the bird in cold storage pending identification of the bander. That number was forwarded by e-mail to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the agency which oversees the North American Bird Banding Program.



- photo by Mark Dooling

In short order we received word that the hawk had been banded by Norman E. Smith at his site near Ponkapoag in the Blue Hills area of Massachusetts on September 25, 2004. Smith, who has been studying raptors for many years, had captured, banded and released the bird on that date. We learned that it was at that time in juvenile plumage, indicating that it had been born earlier in that same year. With Carol's help, the bird was transferred back to Norman who examined it further. When he folded back the feathers just above the talons, he noted evidence of burns on the soft tissue there. This confirmed our impression that the bird had died by electrocution.

Across the nation, electrocution via power lines has resulted in the death each year of literally thousands of raptors, including eagles, ospreys, and many other species. Legislation was passed in the late '90's requiring power transmission companies to modify their lines and towers in such a way as to reduce the possibility of contact with live wires or with voltage gaps of the type which can deliver a lethal charge. Although such structural improvements have been made in many areas of the country, the problem has

not been completely solved, and many raptors, like our poor Red-tail, have continued to succumb in this way.

Last November, at the Conservators lecture on “Living with Wildlife in Newton” the focus was on how residents of the city could avoid unpleasant encounters with wild turkeys, Canada geese, coyotes, etc. living in our midst. Our poor Red-tail’s story represents the other side of that coin – the hazards that many forms of wildlife experience in living with us!

- M.G. “Cris” Criscitiello

## BURYING THE WIRES: WHAT’S IT WORTH?

What is extremely ugly, is very unsafe, and is dangling in front of everyone’s front yard?

Look up, on the pole at the end of your driveway: it’s the overhead wires.

Under state law, the electric and telephone companies (here in Newton, that’s NStar and Verizon) were granted a monopoly right to install utility poles and wires on public property. That made a lot of sense back in the day when people desperately needed electric and phone service. But that was then. There’s no shortage of services today. Even the briefest upward glance at any Newton intersection reveals a dark tangled web of electric, telephone, fire department, and most recently, the thick ropes of cable TV and internet providers.

Why not just put all that stuff underground?

Drive down any main street in Boston or even a few fortunate parts of Newton, and you can see the profound benefit of removing this subtle but pernicious blight from the landscape. So why not do it everywhere?

Simply, the utilities inform us, because undergrounding is expensive. And because under

state law, although a town can compel the utilities to underground their wires, they can’t make them absorb the cost. Since NStar and Verizon, by law, are off the hook, that unfortunately leaves some combination of resident and business taxpayers, scarce government grants, and private individuals and businesses to foot the bill.

Last winter’s edition of this newsletter featured several articles about Newton’s “wire blight.” Many readers responded by going to the Web site of the City’s undergrounding task force, [www.NewtonUndergrounding.com](http://www.NewtonUndergrounding.com), and sending in supportive comments like, “I’m so glad someone is doing something about this. It’s bothered me for years!” or “I want to help. Sign me up for a survey team.” So we clearly have lots of support for this concept. Now we need some plans for paying for the undergrounding.



Here in Newton, realistically, the new high school will be “first at the trough” for any new city funding. Our Task Force on Undergrounding Utilities has been working with the City and a group of creative business owners on Needham St. for them to self-

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### *Burying the Wires (continued from page 3)*

finance undergrounding, over time, through what is called a "Business Improvement District." They see undergrounding, with the planned reconstruction of Needham St., as a key component for improving their properties' value. This strategy can potentially work in other commercial areas like village centers.

But what about our residential neighborhoods? Somehow, residents are going to have to pay. We need to start getting a sense of what sort of method Newton citizens will be willing to support. Here are the possibilities the Task Force has identified:

- Adding a 2% surcharge on the electric, phone, and cable bills of all Newton customers, which will be used to fund specific undergrounding projects. If your average monthly bill is \$100 (or \$1200 per year), your cost would be \$24 per year. This system has been used to fund partial undergrounding in Bedford, Canton, North Andover, and other Massachusetts towns. Adding similar surcharges to telephone and cable costs might end up costing the average person around \$100 per year.
- Assessing a fee for issuing certain building permits. All new building permits for residential renovations that are over \$50,000 would be required to include undergrounding of utilities from the pole to the house. The estimated cost for this would be about \$1500 per property. This includes converting electrical at the pole to underground (\$250), trenching (approximately \$750, or \$25 per foot), converting electrical systems at the house (\$250), and sidewalk repair (\$250). This program could be voluntary, but strongly encouraged, for building permits under \$50,000. Building permits for entirely new dwellings would be assessed an undergrounding fee, which would cover the costs of undergrounding to that residence based on the level of service it requires.
- Attaching an "undergrounding fee" as part of a property sale transaction. The "Undergrounding Property Transfer Fee" will be the smaller of either \$2,000 or 0.5% of the transaction price. Utilities must be undergrounded from the street to

the residential property within 60 days of the property sale transaction.

The most likely way of achieving undergrounding - and this is admittedly, and sadly, a long shot - is through the development of competition - *i.e.*, municipal power companies. Concord, which has a municipal power company, has been able to accomplish undergrounding at a much lower cost than seems possible by working with NStar and Verizon. People from Lexington have been working hard for several years to get a bill through the legislature that would make the formation of municipal power companies possible (see [www.massmunichoice.org](http://www.massmunichoice.org)) only to have the bill—widely supported across the state—sent to “study” for the second time a few months ago. The decision was taken by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications—who are recipients of donations from NStar and Verizon. (Note: Ruth Balser was a co-sponsor of the legislation to allow “muni’s”.) Our Wellesley neighbors, with their municipal power company, enjoy both substantially lower monthly rates and a program to underground more and more of the electric grid. For contrast, just check out Walnut St. and Lincoln St. in Newton Highlands versus Wellesley Center.

Hence the question—“What’s it worth to you, to not have to look at this?” Would you be willing to accept a 2 percent surcharge on the utility bills to fund the undergrounding of a road or two every few years? Or starting a fund through an undergrounding fee associated with every major renovation? An obligation to a home buyer to underground from the street to the house at the time the house changes hands? These are the sorts of alternatives other cities and towns have implemented to start combating the blight overhead. Let the task force know how you feel about these alternatives, or what other suggestions you might have for making progress with undergrounding, by sending your thoughts to [chair@NewtonUndergrounding.com](mailto:chair@NewtonUndergrounding.com).

- Mark Lohr

*(Mark Lohr is a Member of the Newton Task Force on Undergrounding Utilities)*





- photo by Dan Brody

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF

- The South Newton Homeowners Association has organized as a voice for land protection in the neighborhood between Route 9 and Newton South High School. The neighborhood is motivated by word of a proposed multi-family development of one large tract. The Association hopes to develop an alternate proposal for the land, which borders the Paul Brook and is marked by steep outcrops of puddingstone.
  - The Conservators' Land Management Committee, working with a group of about a dozen members, has inventoried Newton's major open spaces and some of the smaller ones, as well. The group visited each site and recorded the growth there, as well as animal species observed. On occasion, the group found neighbors using open spaces as places to dump branches, leaves, and yard waste. The inventory is important as advice for the city in management of our public land.
  - The Land Management Committee, under Beth Schroeder and Cris Criscitiello, has developed a proposal to remove invasive trees and encourage native growth at the site given to the Conservators recently on Dexter Road near Laundry Brook.
- The site is home to a hawk, among others. Much of the growth there is Norway maples. The proposal will be discussed at the Conservators' September Board meeting (September 27, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.). If approved, work could begin within months.
- In an unrelated story, nature itself removed one large tree at Dexter Road, in the process bringing down power lines and damaging a neighbor's car. It is unfortunate that nature couldn't wait until we implemented land management. This incident reminds us that open space protection involves all the same issues as ownership of any property. We do carry insurance.
  - From the "one good turn" department: last year, Pam and Tony Awtrey made a gift of a half acre of wooded land at "The Dell," the hollow where Hyde Brook rises in Newton Corner. A neighbor with a home on a similar parcel that slopes down from a road into the hollow has contacted the Conservators about making a similar gift.
  - In August, the Conservators' NewTV team aired a production about the Newton Angino Community Farm. It was a visit by Cris Criscitiello, as the farm manager, Greg Maslowe, showed him the greenhouse, fields and barn where the Community Supported Agriculture subscribers pick up their produce. Liz Gleason, a summer intern from Williams College, also told about students receiving summer instruction.
  - In June, the Green Decade Coalition presented an Environmental Leadership award to the Newton Conservators. The award recognized the work done by the Conservators in the acquisition of Angino Farm. Duane Hillis was present to receive the award. Also attending were Bill Hagar, Ted Kuklinski, and Doug Dickson.
  - Green Decade has scheduled a lecture by Ross Gelbspan about global warming in September; a solar home tour and a class, "How to Save the Earth," in October; and "Insulating Your Older Home" and a tour of a retrofitted, energy-efficient Newton Centre home in November. For more, go to [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org).

# TWO GREAT PLACES: THE CHARLES AT NORTH STREET

Cross the Charles River at North Street on the north side of the city. Look east down the river bank. Past the industrial buildings on the right, at a bend with woods and riverfront growth, you will see a stretch of river frontage that remains as green space, part of the Charles River wildlife corridor.

On this stretch of the Charles, in the cool of a late spring afternoon, alewives migrate up and over the Watertown Dam, pursued by stalking night herons. A visitor here is likely to find blue herons, ducks, and birds of prey. The Cheesecake Brook flows into the Charles at a site not far downstream. A new pedestrian bridge crosses the Charles, linking walking trails on the Newton and Waltham sides.

The Charles River is Newton's most important open space. The river forms much of the city's boundary, from Nonantum through Albemarle to Auburndale, up through Lower and Upper Falls, to the broad wetlands off Wells Avenue on the city's south side. Of the Conservators' five Fall Walks (see Walks schedule with this issue), four are on or along the Charles. In the 1990s, on this stretch of the Charles in Newton, Waltham, and Watertown, the MDC installed the Greenway trail on land that it had owned for decades. The trail opened up the riverfront to a bigger public and today is heavily used by bikers, joggers, dog walkers, and neighbors out for a stroll.

Some stretches of the riverfront, through the foresight of state agencies like the MDC, were protected years ago as open space. Others were developed, and public access is not available, except by water. Here at North Street, the industrial uses on the Newton side remain as the successors to buildings that were installed in the early industrial era, when the river was more important for power, transport, and a means for disposal than it was for open space.

The parcel on North Street beyond the industrial buildings contains about two acres, with long frontage

on the river. This parcel is important. It has been a priority parcel on Newton's Recreation and Open Space Plan for decades.

The state no longer has funding available for acquisitions. But the state provides matching funds to communities that adopt the Community Preservation Act. The Conservators hope for CPA funds and for the willingness of the owner to see this land preserved as open space.

- *Eric Reenstierna*





## BARE POND

Webster Woods is part of a hundred-fifty-acre open space in the middle of our city. It is on the west side of the Hammond Pond Parkway and the south side of the Green Line of the T. If your only view of this area is from your car window, you are missing a wonderful variety of scenery. Park and enter on foot. Enjoy Castle Rock, Gooch's Cave, and acres of woodlands with ponds, streams, wetlands, and trails.

In the center of the woods is Bare Pond, supposedly named for the practice of youngsters swimming there, bare, long ago. This is a Vernal Pond (one of the very few in Newton). It has water only in the winter and spring and is dry during the summer and fall. Because there is no year round water, the pond lacks fish; instead it has organisms that thrive without fish to eat them. In the spring, you may find amphibians such as salamanders and frogs. When the pool is full you may also see ducks and, if you are lucky, a turtle and frogs.

Thompsonville Brook runs through the western part of Webster Woods. The brook begins in the Webster Vale (which was saved from development thirty years ago by action of the citizens of Newton). The stream joins Hammond Brook and continues through Newton, flowing into City Hall Pond, Bulloughs Pond, and then eventually the Charles River.

On the over five miles of paths, you may see kids playing or folks out for a stroll, walking their dog. You can see part of Newton's history in the remnants of stone walls left over from years ago when this land was both farmed and used for raising sheep. You can imagine how much effort must have been required to clear the fields of the rocks and build the walls. You almost certainly will see squirrels, a variety of birds, and, with luck, a deer or a coyote in the distance.

In the winter, Webster Woods is a beautiful place to walk, cross-country ski and snowshoe. In the spring, Marsh Marigolds and Lady Slippers can be found. In the summer, amateur recreational groups use the area. The New England Orienteering Club has an annual event. On the day of the event, you will see runners using a map and compass, trying to locate the markers (called "controls") that have been hidden. There are different courses for individuals of different skill levels. For each course the object is to find all the controls in the shortest period of time. Another activity is Geocaching. Small boxes are hidden, the GPS coordinates of the boxes are published, and the challenge is to find the boxes.

Webster Woods is owned in part by the state and in part by the city. Bare Pond itself straddles land of the state and a last remaining parcel of about ten acres that is in private hands. The Conservators work with land owners to help protect remaining, important open spaces like Bare Pond.

- text and photos by Octo Barnett



## *CPA Turns Five (continued from page 1)*

by community organizations. Groups like the Newton Conservators, CAN-DO, the Newton Historical Society and Friends of Albemarle have become community partners with the CPC. Beyond demonstrating support, broad-based community participation carries the additional benefit of promoting wide agreement about project scope and value.

- **Balance of Interests:** The balance of spending among the four CPA funding categories has been reassuring over the first five years. No interest area has dominated. In many cases, it has been possible to accomplish more than one purpose with a single project (as in the case of the Forte property). In addition, the CPC has been conscious of balancing the impact of CPA funds on villages and areas throughout the city.
- **Leverage:** In addition to receiving the full 100% state match in each of the first five years, the city has leveraged a significant multiple of private and public money with CPA funds. Most of this money would not have been available to the city if CPA were not there to fill funding gaps for community housing, match state historic and recreation grants, and encourage private groups to raise their own funds.
- **Planning:** Broad-based planning and longer-term thinking has been a byproduct of the CPA in Newton. With dedicated funds available to spend for specific purposes over a period of years, the CPC has encouraged and benefited from long-range plans for recreation facilities and city-owned buildings to identify funding priorities. With diminishing funds, there will be a continuing need for city commissions, boards and departments, along with community groups and organizations, to define priorities with even greater clarity.
- **Phase-one studies:** The CPC has funded phase-one studies to enable applicants to better prepare restoration and preservation proposals. More “studies” have been approved than there is CPA money available to cover over the next several years, using early estimates of downstream costs

as a basis for projection. Recognizing that not all projects will come to fruition, the Committee will give weight to these projects as it considers the range of applications before it.

- **Declining funds:** Commitments made over the first five years, combined with the projected decrease in the state match beginning around fiscal year 2009, will mean a tighter budget and reduced number of projects approved in future years. Annual bonding costs for projects like Kessler Woods and Angino Farm will eat up a portion of future revenues. Also, the Committee has commitments to multi-year projects such as the burying grounds, homebuyer assistance and Stearns and Pellegrini Parks. The CPC anticipates important new requests for funding in all project areas. This will require a tight focus on projects of significant priority with, at the same time, an effort to remain open to projects of exceptional value to the community.
- **Multi year projections:** Large-scale or complex projects often require several years to complete. For this reason, the CPC has chosen to break some projects into separate funding phases. For example, the burying grounds project has four phases, the Flowed Meadow project has five phases, the Stearns and Pellegrini project has three phases, etc. Other projects have been bonded, requiring repayments over multiple years. These commitments enable the Committee to plan ahead with greater certainty. A three-year budget has been created, making a variety of assumptions about revenues, state matches and funding priorities.

So what can we expect for the next five years of CPA in Newton? In terms of the involvement of key community organizations like the Newton Conservators, funding of important projects across all funding categories, and leveraging other funding sources, the CPC anticipates results that are just as impressive when we take a look back in 2011. But there will be some important differences. Unless the Legislature finds a way to replenish the state-matching fund, which is declining as more communities opt into CPA and as the housing market recedes (the fund is supported by deed-filing fees), the amount of money available to spend in each fiscal



year will fall. Bond payments and other long-term commitments will also put a squeeze on available funds. That means fewer projects will be approved and the competition for funding will become much more intense. Some great projects will not be funded at all or they will have to wait for future funding. Organizations like the Conservators will need to make their case in very compelling terms in order to get even the best projects approved by the CPC and the Board of Aldermen.



- photo by Octo Barnett

We can also expect new ideas and approaches to develop as the Community Preservation Committee turns over in the next three years. Term limits built into the ordinance enabling the CPC will require replacement of original CPC members beginning in 2007 and continuing into 2009. Change can be good, but the Conservators and others will need to monitor this process carefully and offer its input regarding suitable candidates to ensure that its perspective is represented among new committee members.

Finally, groups like the Conservators will need to be very clear about their own spending priorities and communicate those priorities directly and regularly to the CPC and the Board of Aldermen. In the next five years of CPA in Newton, it won't be enough to take

advantage of market opportunities as they present themselves. This means looking ahead to identify and cultivate a climate of receptivity for projects, presenting a clear and compelling outline of community benefits for targeted opportunities. Such an exercise should parallel and feed into the city's own update of its Open Space and Recreation Plan, due in 2007, as well as the annual and long-term CPC planning process.

This translates into a three-part agenda for the Conservators:

- (1) work to replenish the state CPA-matching fund,
- (2) influence the appointment of CPC members who share our view of CPA funding priorities, and
- (3) plan and convey open space priorities for the next 3-5 years.

Acting on this agenda will lead to results that reflect our best hopes while avoiding the agony of missed opportunities.

- Doug Dickson

*(Doug Dickson is a Member and former Chairman of the Newton Community Preservation Committee and a Past President of the Newton Conservators)*

## MISSION

### Newton Conservators, Inc.

The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.

A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

*The Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 45 years ago in June 1961.*

# FROM THE EDITOR: WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

The Conservators have been a force for conservation in Newton for decades. Before the city had a Conservation Commission, it had the Conservators advocating for open space. Our sponsorship of lectures, walks, and grants for education for years has helped people appreciate nature. The arrival of the Community Preservation Act five years ago led to some of our greatest successes.

But success can bring its own challenges. For us, it has meant that some of the very activities we initiated have drained away people-power. Angino Farm is a wonderful addition to the fabric of the city. Some of us divide our time now between conservation and the farm. NewTV gave us an opportunity to bring the city's open spaces into our neighbors' living rooms. Some of us now split our volunteer time between conservation and NewTV. Some of us have split our time between the Conservators and the same CPA that empowers us. All these activities help us do so much more than we ever did. But we are only as many as we ever were. We are spread wide. Spread wide and spread thin. When it comes time to tackle the kinds of projects that have brought us where we are, we find that fewer of us have as much time to give. Volunteers have only so much time.

What is perhaps our biggest challenge comes to us from our success.

One solution is to grow this organization. We need volunteers! We need people who can take a project and move it through. We need people who want to see the aqueducts turned into bike and walking trails for a larger public, to work with Henry Finch from our board, who has already laid the groundwork. We need someone from Auburndale to help make Flowed Meadow into the park that it can be, one that welcomes the public. Projects like these can seem daunting. Where does a volunteer start? That's where the Conservators come in. We have learned how to get from start to finish. It isn't a lack of know-how that will slow us down. It is a lack of volunteers.

A second solution that would help us advance projects is to expand our use of CPA funds. To date, we have accessed the CPA primarily for the actual costs of land acquisition. When it comes to doing the preliminary work that needs to be done by lawyers, appraisers, architects, surveyors, and engineers, we tend to look for *pro bono* help or to take on the work ourselves. But other organizations have taught us that the CPA is available with funding for this preliminary planning work. Significant design and legal work is required to bring a project like the aqueduct trails to the point where the real work of installing markers at the trail heads can begin. The Conservators may find it advisable to hire professionals in design and other fields, with CPA funds, rather than spend years attempting to do this work on our own.

Newton depends on the Conservators to bring open space projects to the table. These projects are fulfilling for us as we do them. They are fulfilling when they are done, and we can say, we helped our city that way. Important open spaces may be lost if we are unable to do what we have learned to do, to secure agreements with land owners, to work with our partners at the city and at other non-profits. We have the expertise. We have the CPA. More than anything, we need one thing.

We need volunteers!

**The Newton Conservators Newsletter**© is published five times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc. Issues usually appear in mid-February, April, June, September and November. Deadlines for these issues are the fifth of each month in which an issue is scheduled to be published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor: Eric Reenstierna  
Production: Bonnie Carter

Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Octo Barnett, Lois Biener, Dan Brody, M.G. "Cris" Criscitiello, Doug Dickson, Mark Dooling, Bill Hagar, and Mark Lohr. Thanks also to Douglas Leith for his excellent proofreading.

## Meeting Calendar

**Newton Conservators Board** meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm, usually in a City Hall meeting room or the City Hall cafeteria.

**Angino Farm Commission** meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Community Preservation Committee** meets the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Conservation Commission** meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Parks and Recreation Commission** meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in City Hall Room 209.

**Urban Tree Commission** meets the third Friday of every month at 7:45 am in City Hall Room 202.

**Aldermanic Committee on Community Preservation** meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7:45 pm in City Hall Room 222.

## In Memory of Carol Lee Corbett



Carol Corbett passed away in August. Carol was battling disease for over a year, keeping her condition a secret. This was Carol: a person who did not want sympathy, but continued her work in the political arena and for the Newton Conservators.

Carol was in charge of the Conservators' annual dinner. She was a co-chair of the Conservators' Grants Committee. She was adamant about providing scholarships for students attending the Environmental Science Program. Carol Corbett always spoke her mind. She will be remembered for her stewardship of many of the successful programs of the Conservators.

We will miss Carol.

- Bill Hagar

**If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2006, now is the time. Please renew today!  
And consider a tax-deductible gift to support our work!**



*Celebrating 45 years  
of open space advocacy  
in Newton*

### Newton Conservators Membership Form

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459 • [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org)

- YES, I'd like to start/renew my one-year membership with the Newton Conservators to help preserve open space in Newton. I'll receive informative newsletters and emails and be invited to participate in guided tours of local conservation areas, lectures, and other programs and activities.
- I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support the work of the Newton Conservators: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Please do not share my name and address with other groups.

#### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Individual member \$25
- Family member \$35
- Sustaining member \$50
- Donor \$75
- Patron \$100

*All amounts are tax deductible*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to **Newton Conservators, Inc.**

September/October 2006 Newsletter



# *The Newton Conservators* **NEWSLETTER**

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