

Subject:

FW: E-Bulletin - July 9, 2012 - OpenSpace Public Hearing Tonight!



Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin**

Monday, July 9, 2012

... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



Summertime . . .

Hope you are enjoying the summer. An important public hearing takes place this evening at the Newton Free Library (7 pm) on the new **Draft Recreation and Open Space Plan**. Public comments are welcome on this document which will guide Newton over the coming years as to what open space we wish to add and how to use the open space that we do have. Check out other events that might be of interest (especially the summertime walk series from Historic Newton) and catch up on some other late breaking open space news relevant to Newton. The Summer Newton Conservators newsletter has gone out and members should have received it in the mail. It's also online in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/jun12.pdf>. Note: Great White Sharks have NEVER been sighted in Crystal Lake. Keep cool!

Events - Summer 2012

Monday, July 9, 7 pm
Recreation and Open Space Plan Update - Public Hearing
Planning & Development Board Meeting
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free Library (330 Homer Street)

This event is a Public Hearing for the Presentation of the Recreation and Open Space Plan Update to accept public comments and consider approval of the Plan for submittal to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services. The City of Newton has been in the process of updating its Recreation and Open Space Plan, which reflects the City's collective vision for its open space and sets out priorities to enhance and protect its natural and recreational resources. An updated plan is also necessary to make the City eligible to apply for certain State funding programs.

The Draft Recreation and Open Space Plan Update is now available for review online. Please find

the report linked here:

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=45077>. You can also visit the Update's webpage at: <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/lrplan/os/default.asp>.

The Update process has included public participation in a variety of ways. The Recreation/Open Space Plan Advisory Committee has met monthly since fall 2011 to guide the process, review opportunities and constraints surrounding the City's natural resources, establish goals and priorities regarding open space and recreation, and assist in engaging the wider public in the process. A public workshop on March 21, 2012 helped gather input on passive recreation, active recreation, and conservation needs, opportunities, and priorities. In addition, the Committee held an Open Space Public Outreach Survey during Feb. 7 - May 22, 2012, which provided extensive feedback on recreation and open space in Newton.

The July 9th Public Hearing will include a presentation that gives an overview of the Recreation and Open Space Plan Update, allow time for questions and answers, provide an opportunity for the public to give comments on the Update, and conclude with a vote by the Planning and Development Board on approval of the Plan for submittal to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services.

The location of this meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact Alice Walkup at (617) 796-1125; via e-mail at awalkup@newtonma.gov; or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089.

Should you have any questions about the Plan, please contact Juris Alksnitis at jalksnitis@newtonma.gov. For questions regarding the public hearing or the Planning and Development Board, please contact Alice Walkup, Senior Planner Housing and Community Development Division, Planning and Development Department, City of Newton, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459, t: 617.796.1125, f: 617.796.1142, awalkup@newtonma.gov

Wednesday, July 11, 7 pm
Newton Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall - Room 202

The main agenda item is discussion of fy13 pre-proposals and anticipated fy14 proposals from the City of Newton's Capital Improvement Plan. Fy13 pre-proposals submitted include 1) Angino Farm barn: supplemental funding for interior, 2) City Hall: rehabilitation of historic windows, 3) Carr School: rehabilitation of historic windows, 4) Walker Center (Auburndale): historic rehabilitation. The full text of all pre-proposals is online from the link s under "Pending Pre- & Full Proposals" on the Proposals & Projects page of the program website: www.newtonma.gov/cpa. Contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, phone: 617.796.1144 or email: aingerson@newtonma.gov.

Tuesday, July 17, 6:30-9:30 pm
Evening on the Farm
Newton Community Farm

Newton Community Farm cordially invites you to attend their delightful **Dinner on the Farm on Tuesday, July 17 2012 from 6:30-9:00 PM**. Come spend an evening on the farm and enjoy a wonderful dinner (including our farm's veggies) prepared by Chef Ted Craddock. Enjoy the food (click [here](#) for menu), delicious wines, lively conversation, and relaxing music by the Dixie Butterhounds string band, all while watching the sun set over the Farm's beautiful landscape.

Reservations cost \$50/person for the general public and \$40/person (a 20% reduction) if you are or become a Friend of the Farm (click [FOF](#) for information). They expect 40 - 50% of the cost to be tax

deductible. Make your check payable to Newton Community Farm and send it to the farm office at 303 Nahanton Street, Newton MA 02459. This popular event will help fund our education and outreach programs and NCF's food pantry donations. Unfortunately, we are unable to have a rain date for this dinner. In the unlikely event we must cancel, you can request a refund or convert your reservation to a contribution. For more information or any questions, please contact Jerry Regosin at 740-503-2669 or jregosin@aol.com.

Thursday, July 19, 5-7:30 pm
Volunteer Invasive Water Chestnut Removal Project
Charles River Watershed Association

This July, there is an exciting volunteer opportunity helping to stop the spread of invasive water chestnuts in the Lakes area of the Charles River. The water chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, grows very densely and can choke the water in shallow sections of the river and along the shoreline, severely limiting light (a critical element of aquatic ecosystems), decreasing oxygen in the water, and preventing boat passage. In order to prevent water chestnuts from spreading, the plants need to be removed before they drop their spiky seeds into the river, which occurs in early August.

The summer 2012 water chestnut removal program is now in full swing! So far, many enthusiastic volunteers have helped clear large areas of the river, and there are hundreds of additional volunteers signed up to help later in the season. Between the mechanical harvester, individuals, public, and private groups that have participated, we have collected over 19,600lbs of water chestnuts - great work! We still need more help in removing these harmful weeds, so please sign up and lend a hand! By volunteering your time, you can make a difference and have a positive impact on the river, as well as enjoy a fun-filled day out on the water! All are encouraged to participate, and no experience is necessary. Thursday, July 19th from 5:00 - 7:30pm still has spaces available.

Please email the [Water Chestnut Coordinator](#) or call 781-788-0007 x235 to sign up for a date. If you would like to schedule a corporate group or private event, weekday morning and afternoon time slots are available from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm. For more information regarding this project as well as other exciting volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.crwa.org/events/waterchestnut.html>.

Sunday, July 22, 2 pm
Mt. Ida College: A Gilded Age Country Estate in 1913
Historic Newton Walk Series
Mt. Ida Parking Lot, Carlson Avenue

Mt. Ida's magnificently sited campus is the former 230-acre estate bought for Robert Gould Shaw II by his prominent, wealthy parents. Today the baronial Shaw Hall, grandiose polo pony barn, and other structures still suggest what life must have been like for the "Social Set." Come take a look and hear Shaw family stories about Lady Astor, copper mining fortunes, and Italian immigrant Crescenzo Angino of Newton Community Farm. Meet in Mt. Ida's parking lot on Carlson Avenue. Enter the campus by turning off Dedham Street near Brookline Avenue, going past residential housing on Carlson Avenue and up to the college gate. Park in first lot on the left, halfway up the hill. For further info please visit www.historicnewton.org.

Sunday, August 12, 2 pm
The Hobart Estates: Commonwealth Avenue and an Olmsted Subdivision
Historic Newton Walk Series
Grant and Commonwealth Avenue

The Olmsted-designed subdivision centered on Hobart Road was developed in conjunction with the Newton Boulevard (now called Commonwealth Avenue). Learn about the suburbanization of Newton, suburban landscape design, and the evolution of domestic architecture on this tour led by Historic Newton intern Tom McGinley. Meet at the northeast corner of Grant and Commonwealth Avenue (the Carriage Road). For further info please visit www.historicnewton.org.

Sunday, August 26, 2 pm

Auburndale: Development of a Commuter Suburb

Historic Newton Walk Series

The United Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock Street, Auburndale

Journey back to the 19th century as this tour explores how the railroad, land speculators, and local institutions transformed Auburndale from an agricultural community to a commuter suburb.

Longtime Auburndale residents Caroline and Larry Schwirian lead this tour. Meet at The United Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock Street, Auburndale. For further info please visit

www.historicnewton.org

Sunday, September 9, 2 pm

The Abolitionist Colony at West Newton Hill

Historic Newton Walk Series

Captain Ryan Park, Washington and Cherry, West Newton

As a burgeoning suburb of Boston in the mid-nineteenth century, West Newton attracted a disproportionate number of intellectuals, writers and abolitionists, many of whom lived within close proximity of one another on the Hill. Join Historic Newton intern Tom McGinley for this tour, passing through the heart of their community. The first leg is a fairly steep climb up Highland Street. Meet at Captain Ryan Park, corner of Washington and Cherry. Parking can be found in the lot between Cherry and Elm Streets. For further info please visit www.historicnewton.org

Sunday, September 23, 2 pm

Building the "Pike" in Newton Corner

Historic Newton Walk Series

Centre & Vernon Streets, Newton Corner

Driving around the rotary, have you wondered what Newton Corner was like before the turnpike extension came through? Join local resident Bob Carleo who worked as a private engineering consultant on the project for a tour complete with then-and-now comparisons and inside stories about constructing the road. You'll never see the area in the same way again! Meet in the park at the corner of Centre and Vernon Streets. For further info please visit www.historicnewton.org

News

Newton Conservators Newsletter

The latest edition of the Newton Conservators Newsletter can be found at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/jun12.pdf> and it contains the following stories including coverage of our annual Meeting in May:

- Building Blue Cities® in the Charles River Watershed
- [President's Message](#)
- Maintenance of CC Properties
- Native Communities
- Ferns of Newton

- Ideas & Opinions
- In the Neighborhood

President's Message by Jane Sender

Our [Annual Meeting](#) in May was truly memorable. The keynote speaker, Professor Douglas Tallamy, had a very important message, which affected many in the audience. His message was this: "Because we humans have disrupted natural ecosystems in so many ways and in so many places, the future of our nation's biodiversity is dim unless we start to share our landscapes with the plants and animals that evolved there." He asks us to take a look at our own yards and gardens and ask ourselves what the connection is between our own plants and the larger ecosystem. He tells us that the trees and plants that host our native caterpillars are most important because they are the most valuable food source for species of concern, like migratory birds. He has provided [a list of plants](#) and their relative value for hosting caterpillars to help us make choices.

.... (find the rest at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/report2012.htm>)

Help Design the Upper Falls Greenway Park!

Calling all conservators! Conservators Jerry Reilly and Deb Crossley (Alderman) are recruiting other Conservators to help design a park. The old railroad line behind Needham St will soon become Newton's newest park, the Upper Falls Greenway, and we're inviting you to help design it. Planning is already underway to create the new mile long linear park next spring. Using the proceeds from salvaged steel rails, we can create a pedestrian and bicycle trail through the mostly wooded right of way. All sorts of people are already involved in the project, everyone from engineers, to aldermen, to neighbors.

So far the focus has been on the technical, legal, and heavy construction aspects of the project. But we expect proceeds to be sufficient to begin to define and prepare gathering and gardening areas along the trail and provide a few benches as well. It's time to begin thinking of the park itself! We'd like to recruit interested members of the Newton Conservators to help us make plans for the vegetation in particular and other park details as well. Over time, we'd like community involvement in identification and removal of invasive species, and to identify, protect and re-introduce native species, perhaps to serve as a learning garden. No specific skills are necessary, just an interest in the project.

If you'd like to join in this effort, send an email to ParkDesign@UpperFallsGreenway.org. As soon as we've got a core group together we'll set up a meeting and get the ball rolling.

Riverside Station Update (source: Riverside Neighbors)

On June 26th the Land Use committee of the Board of Aldermen held a Conceptual Plan Review meeting for the proposed development of the Riverside MBTA Station site. At this public meeting, BH Normandy presented a review of the proposed site and traffic plan. After the presentation, members of the Board and public provided feedback about the plan, that can inform further development of the project. NewTV video recorded the meeting and it has been airing on the Government Channel. The meeting can also be viewed on demand via the NewTV website at <http://www.newtv.org/video/gov-programs/land-use-committee-riverside-conceptual-review-june-26-2012>.

75 residents were in attendance and two dozen people spoke on behalf of our neighborhoods. The Board, developer, and city staff, listened carefully to our concerns regarding the potential impacts from traffic, school, and sewer/stormwater that could adversely affect our quality of life and change the future character of our neighborhoods.

The developer provided the city with a copy of the slide presentation, which is attached. The developer previously submitted preliminary materials, including a rendered site plan, project statistics, and open space plan. These documents can be found on at www.riversidestation.info
Key numbers from the site plan materials:

- Office: 225,000 sq.ft., 571 garaged parking spaces.
- Residential:
 - 290 rental units (16 studio, 157-1br, 105-2br, 12-3br), 443 garaged parking spaces.
- Retail: 20,000 sq.ft., parking in MBTA garage.
- Community: 8,000 sq.ft., parking in MBTA garage.
- Total: 588,000 sq.ft., 1,014 garaged parking spaces, 14 surface parking spaces.

You can submit written questions and comments to the Planning Department via email at Riverside@newtonma.gov, by July 10th. The Planning Department will consolidate all of the oral and written questions and comments received into a report that incorporates responses and analysis from the developer, peer reviewer and Planning Department. Contact the Riverside Neighbors group at riversideneighbors@gmail.com.

Concern Over Endangered Species Act in Massachusetts!

The Massachusetts Legislature is considering revisions to the state Endangered Species Act (MESA) which would result in an effective repeal of endangered species protections in the Commonwealth. On June 14, the Joint Committee on Environment approved Senate Bill 1854, An Act relative to land takings (filed by Senator Gale Candaras). The bill will place impossible and unprecedented requirements on the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) to be completed in 7 months - effectively undoing current protections for the 435 species of native animals and plants at risk. The bill will also inject uncertainty, delays and conflict in the project review process, plus up-end long-standing appeal procedures and case law putting DFW on different footing than every other agency in the Commonwealth. To help protect Massachusetts' endangered species, tell your state Representative and Senator: The bill in question is SB1854. Check out the following link for more information: <http://www.massaudubon.org/news/newsstory2.php?id=2003&type=news>

News on the State Budget Environmental Items (source: Mass Audubon)

This week the legislature sent [their final budget](#) to the Governor for his review. Overall, environmental programs did fairly well, although funding is still well below pre-recession levels. The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is funded at \$150,000. Riverways/Division of Ecological Restoration is funded \$24,000 over the initial Fiscal Year 2013 proposal, the Department of Environmental Protection received an additional \$900,000, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Parks an additional \$2M. DCR is also now better able to retain revenue from its facilities. The budget also includes the full [Community Preservation Act \(CPA\) legislation](#), including the long-awaited changes to recreation rules and a \$25 million transfer from the state's FY2013 budget surplus to the statewide CPA Trust Fund. Although this budget includes the \$25 million transfer just one time, in the fall of 2013, legislative leaders have indicated their intention to provide \$25 million from the state's budget surplus in future years, as well. (Ed. Note: The governor signed the budget Sunday and it is not clear which provisions may have been vetoed.)

Citizen Scientists - Mass Wildlife Needs your Help with Bats and Turkeys

Bats -- Because Massachusetts and other northeastern states have lost thousands of bats due to White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal infection, MassWildlife is continuing its annual appeal for bat colony reports from property owners who may have a summer colony of 10 or more bats. Please provide the location (street address), type of structure where the bats reside, number of bats in the colony, and your contact information by calling (508) 389-6360 or emailing mass.wildlife@state.ma.us.

Turkeys -- You can help MassWildlife count turkey broods (families) between now and the end of August. Fill out [a brood survey form](#) at www.mass.gov/dfwefe/dfw/wildlife/facts/birds/turkey/turkey_brood_survey.htm indicating the number hens, number of poults, their size compared to the adult hens and the town where you saw the flock. Mail that information to Turkey Brood Survey, DFW Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Newton Conservators Sponsors

The Newton Conservators appreciate the generous contributions of our sponsors and friends on the occasion of our annual dinner. We are indebted for their contributions, which will help to defray land acquisition and other costs.



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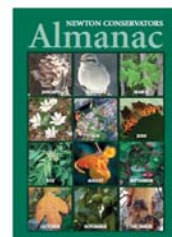
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Lucy and Tom Stair
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Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to dolanpond@aol.com or emailist@newtonconservators.org. The current edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to dolanpond@aol.com.

Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend (new members get a trail guide as well)! Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online?



Mission: 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 organization was formed as a not-for-profit 50 years ago in June 1961.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)



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