

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 3, 7:30 PM
Home of Henry Finch and Pat Robinson

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clark, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

The meeting followed a jolly pot luck supper.

New board member: Nyssa Patten was asked to wait outside, while A MOTION to elect Nyssa Patten was SECONDED and unanimously approved. She was welcomed with applause.

Approval of minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said there was little to report; she is processing renewals, which are coming in at approximately the same rate as the previous year.

Membership: The need to fill that position was reiterated. AnnaMaria suggested we track how many new members come through walks and events.

Beth said the "Year of the Bird" post on our Facebook page has had a much larger response than usual. Ken suggested we propose a Conservator photography exhibit at the library, centered on birds.

Annual Meeting Speaker: Ted reported that Peter Alden has agreed to speak. He will discuss possible topics with him.

Annual Awards: Beth described Andre Wilson's work on the Wilson Conservation Area and nominated him to be the Environmentalist of the Year. A MOTION to this effect was SECONDED and unanimously approved. Possible nominations for the other awards were discussed, to be decided at the next meeting.

Nominating Committee: Mike Gilmore volunteered to chair the committee; Bill and Henry agreed to serve with him.

Proposed CR on 173 Otis Street: After considerable discussion of the Land Selection Criteria and this site, a MOTION stating our interest in holding a CR if a pocket park (Rothenberg Park?) is created in the front treed area, with endowment fund and maintenance, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Property of Duane Hillis adjacent to Nahanton Park: Following discussion, the board agreed that Chris and Henry will talk with Duane, while Beth will speak with Alice

Ingerson to learn more about the possibility of the City putting a CR on the back half of the property.

New Webster Woods Advisory Committee: Mayor Fuller has asked Beth to chair the City's committee, which will have an executive committee and a larger advisory committee of 12 to 15 members and will be open to applicants from across the City. She hopes a Newton Conservator member will apply.

Helen Heyn Pathway and Wells Avenue developments: Councilor Crossley has spoken with Beth about the possibility that funding for the Pathway could come in connection with permits on Wells Avenue. It was the sense of the meeting that Beth check with Mayor Fuller, and if there is no objection, she'll draft a letter to the Land Use and Zoning & Planning Committees about it.

Needham St. Area Vision Committee: Beth reported on its opening.

Updates:

- **Two-Bridges Grant Core Group Report:** Several environmental engineers are interested and will put in proposals.
- **Maintenance of Ordway Park:** Lucia Dolan did some raking in the fall (as did Kevin Newman), and Newman has removed snow. Ellen as offered to do monitoring and asked for guidance on the monitoring, so we will do a survey when weather permits.
- **56 Farwell Street:** Ted reported that the January 11 meeting of the Conservation Commission will be primarily about this. He will attend, and other board members would be useful.
- **Newsletter:** The current issue has been widely praised as excellent. Ken explained that the TAB article by Sarah Luria about Bracebridge Rd. will be in the next issue. He is considering using historic maps to show the development of one or more open spaces in the city.
- **CRs and Monitoring:** Dan Brody pointed out that one proposed CR on Flowed Meadow is 1/10 acre (Wabasso St.) and suggested combining several. Maura O'Keefe in the Law Department agrees.
- **ESP Intern:** David is working on the issue.
- **Adjournment:** at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Dan Brody, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present were Peter Barrer and Jean Klugman.

Introductions: Board members introduced themselves, then

- Peter Barrer spoke of his interest in the environment and his activities founding the Community Farm, and currently on the Friends of Webster Woods campaign and recently as the open space representative on the Mayor's transition team
- Jean Klugman is exploring activities for her impending retirement. She described her career as grant writer and activities in the arts community, as on the Council for the Arts, and currently on the Needham Street Area Vision Committee.

Approval of minutes of the January 3 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine reported on several items: our Workers Comp policy for the interns had been audited and the cancelled policy refund received; W-2's were filed for the interns; a 1099 was filed for our graphic designer; the 3ABC for exempt property was filed; the 990-N was filed to the IRS. The next required filing is the Form PC and IRS 990, due to the state by May 15.

Katherine reviewed the 2017 financial statements (a correction to move \$1,000 from "dues" to "gifts" will be made) and the 2018 budget (after discussion the board agreed to increase "Board Development" to \$500). The finance committee had met in the hour preceding this meeting, and had no changes at this time, but plans another meeting next month, after which there will be a full report to the board. It is requested that additional board members join the Finance Committee, which will likely meet in the 6-7pm time slot before regular board meetings. A MOTION to accept the 2017 financial report (with correction) and the 2018 budget (with adjustment) was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

last summer's interns: Ben has been admitted early decision to Brown U., and is applying for a H.D. Thoreau Fellowship; Iris is at Columbia and applying for a Columbia Presidential Global Fellowship to spend next summer in China.

Membership: Renewals are coming well.

CR monitoring form: Chris explained the legal need for a standard form, and following discussion, the draft he had circulated, after minor corrections and changes (see appended), was adopted by a MOTION that was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. How to preserve the files was discussed. An instruction sheet will accompany the form, and a training session is planned for the spring

Annual Meeting: Peter Alden has suggested a walk preceding the meeting. The board agreed to offer in the invitation a walk at the adjoining C.R. Pathway at 5 PM.

Annual Meeting Awards: Following discussion, the Charles Johnson Maynard award, and two Director's Awards were decided and a MOTION was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Requests for letters: Claire Rundelli of the Conservation Department has asked for a NC letter supporting a city grant to the DCR Recreational Trails Grant for hiring an engineering firm to design and construct two sets of stairs from the southwestern terminus of the Upper Falls Greenway—one to the South connecting to the Charles River Pathway and Conservation Area and one to the north across private property to the Upper Falls Playground. Also, Councilor Leary asked for support for legislation sponsored by Rep. Balser, to strengthen Article 97's protections of conservation land. A MOTION to write the letters was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Carlson Woods: Beth distributed maps showing the areas in question (see appended). Following extended discussion, a MOTION that a letter expressing general support for the preservation of open space and awaiting details of Friends of Carlson Woods' proposals, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Margaret offered to draft the letter.

Spring Walks: Two are set, and more need to be scheduled. Bruce Wenning will be asked to repeat his popular Cold Spring Park walk. Nissa suggested winter walks be added, and it was agreed to do so next year.

Cold Spring Park bridge: Bruce Wenning has proposed a bridge across the wetland in the park. Jennifer Steel is interested, and it can be done if Parks & Rec. Dept. recommends it.

Potential work on Helen Heyn Trail: Beth has learned that a group of Wells Ave. companies are forming, and that William James College may be interested in joining us to approach them to talk about funding for the approximately \$500,000 project.

New City Webster Woods Committee and application: Twelve volunteers will be added to the committee; Dan Brody has applied. The deadline for applying is Feb. 9.

Updates:

- **Two-Bridges Grant Core Group Report:** Larry and Henry reported, and Larry distributed copies of Ted Chapman's narrative (see attached). RFPs have been issued for the handicapped-accessible portion of the project. We are now asked to join the new grant proposal. Following discussion, a MOTION to join in this grant proposal was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- **Potential CR on 173 Otis Street:** The lawyer for the owners responded to Beth with "yes" to the idea of further discussion of a pocket park as a precondition for our holding a CR on the property, but he is currently abroad.
- **56 Farwell Street:** Ted reported that at the January 11 meeting of the Conservation Commission, the developer showed a 7.5' path in the plan – this is a major success. Ted is also in touch with the abutting Malloy family. The board agreed to invite the Malloys to our annual meeting.
- **Newsletter:** As reported last time, the TAB article by Sarah Luria about Bracebridge Rd. will be in the next issue, with added graphics. The idea was raised of putting out a one-page monthly report that could be widely disseminated.
- **Grant Application:** Bill reported the annual ESP application for \$2,000 for scholarship. A MOTION to grant this was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.
- **Bracebridge Road project:** The WCVB-TV Chronicle's "Nooks and Crannies" has filmed and edited an interview with Beth; date of airing is not yet known.
- **Hillis property on Winchester St.:** Chris spoke with Duane about putting a CR on the rear half of the lot; Duane agreed to discuss with the agent for the sale; no response yet.
- **Renewable Energy Coalition:** David distributed copies of a statement of "why we are in the coalition" that was requested; after an edit, indicating "our support for the Coalition's efforts to reduce Newton's dependence on fossil fuel" rather than making it "fossil-free as soon as possible", a MOTION to approve it was SECONDED and APPROVED unanimously Beth had met with Ann Berwick about the issue, and Ann will attend our next meeting to talk about the City's aggregation project..
- **70 Crescent Street:** Dan reported that the Conservation Commission had not acted on the proposal, with concern about the high cost and the City acting as sole developer.

New Business:

- **Crystal Lake Task Force meeting January 30:** will discuss improvements to stop erosion at Livingston Cove.

- **Brendan Whittaker:** was Tree warden for the Webster Estate in the 1950s, now in northern Vermont. He is passionate about defending Webster Woods, and in regular correspondence with Beth; he invites the board to visit him in Vt.

- **Paper Mouse** store in West Newton: the owner offers to do a drawing for us.

- **Instagram:** Ellen has started an Instagram site for NC,
<https://www.instagram.com/newtonconservators/> It is linked to our web page.

- **Election of Peter Barrer to the board:** Peter had left. Katherine MOVED that we elect Peter to the board. After very brief discussion, the motion was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

- **Adjournment:** at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

2018 RTP Grant Narrative

Over View

Bike Newton's Two-Bridges Riverside Trails Working Group received a 2017 grant from the DCR-Recreation Trails Program. The scope of that covers the survey and 25% design of a trail over two abandoned railroad bridges connecting Newton Lower Falls and Riverside MBTA Station. This trail segment is part of a larger project is to create a through, multiuse connection from the Blue Heron Trail at Lyon's field in Auburndale to Wellesley, together with a complementary network of foot paths along the river.

One of these existing foot trails "The Pony-truss Bridge Trail" runs from the terminus of the two-bridges trail at the Riverside MBTA station, down a steep bank to the connector road, and then downstream along the bank of the Charles River approximately 2000 feet to reach a tunnel that crosses under the MBTA Commuter Rail Worcester Line at the site of the historic Riverside Depot. At foot marker 1600 the trail runs by the recently renovated Recreation Park 'Pony Truss' Footbridge that crosses the Charles at Riverside Park; just upstream from this junction is where most of the trail renovation is needed.

The history of this trail is unknown. The trail is visible on a map 1875. Subsequent construction of the current Lower Falls Branch of the Boston & Albany Rail Road through what is now part of the MBTA maintenance facility at Riverside, created a steep slope above the trail causing the trail to migrate closer to the river. There is significant wear and tear along the trail with evidence of multiple attempts to reinforce the bank above and below the trail. Two streams that emerge from culverts running under modern Riverside MBTA station cross the trail. Where the trail crosses the spillway of the first stream, an opportunity to experience running water cascading into the Charles exists most of the year.

The trail terminates at a tunnel which was the underpass at the old Riverside Depot in Auburndale on Charles Street. The tunnel is temporarily closed and will require renovation to restore it to safe condition. Closing of this tunnel has created a public safety concern, since pedestrians now cross the rail tracks.

Beyond the tunnel at Charles and Riverside Street, parkland owned by the DCR and the LaSalle College Boat house, managed by Community Rowing. The Charles River is forded here by the Recreation Road "Stringer" Footbridge, which connects to a DCR Trail running thru the MWRA land in Weston to Recreation Rd that crosses Rt.128 to reach the Leo J. Martin Golf Course. At Recreation Park, Recreation Rd. intersects with the Connector Road that crosses the Charles making a loop back to Riverside. This segment from Riverside MBTA station to the LaSalle boat house will become a fully accessible trail once the Riverside Bridge is renovated. Rep. Kay Khan from Newton earmarked funds in recent infrastructure bill for the footbridge renovation.

From the boat house two options exist to reach The Norumbega Recreation Area and the current terminus of the Charles River/Blue Heron Trail at Lyons Field in Auburndale. The

first is Charles St. and then a street grid in Auburndale. The second is over the historic Pigeon Hill carriage road that reaches Oakland Ave and the Canoe Kayak rental site on Commonwealth Ave (Rt. 30). The state and city of Newton have entertained options to

provide safe pedestrian crossing of this busy road for decades.

Goals of this Grant Application

One: Renovation of the Pony-truss Bridge Trail. This historic trail is in danger of falling into the river in its mid-section near the Pony Truss Bridge

Two: The surveying and design of the Pidgeon Hill Rd as accessible path from Riverside Street to Oakland Ave.

Community Engagement

As we have lived with this project over the last year, it is clear that the ultimate goal of this effort faces numerous hurdles, structural and political. To reach these goals a collaboration with multiple stakeholders will be required. The Two Bridges-Riverside Working Group created by the coming together of Bike Newton, the Newton Conservators and residents of Lower Falls and Auburndale, forms the nucleus of this effort. A vital element of our strategy going forward is the creation of an advisory committee of elected officials, local and state agencies, and residents of Auburndale and Lower Falls, including abutters. A kickoff of our Advisory group was held on January 6th, 2018. At the suggestion of members of the Wellesley Trails Committee on the advisory committee, we have introduced a request to the City of Newton Conservation Committee to create a city-wide trails committee to help coordinate the creation and maintenance of Newton Trails.

Public Private Partnership

The efforts of the working group have been promoted and supported by the input and fiscal support of one of our members A Greener Greater Boston Fund of the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Foundation. Specifically:

1. A Greener Greater Boston fund is contracting an engineering firm Structures North, with expertise in the restoration of historic stone structures to prepare a plan and cost estimate for the repair of this tunnel. It is anticipated that given the public safety issues the MBTA will undertake this repair.
2. AGGB funded the analysis of the Pony-truss Bridge Trail by Andrew Norkin, the Director of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Trails and Recreation Management.
3. AGGB requested the cost estimates for the Pidgeon Hill Rd study.
4. AGGB will hire a firm to complete a feasibility study and 10% design of the accessible routes from Riverside to Lyons Field. This should be completed by the summer and will provide additional information about the Pidgeon Hill Rd option





Pony-truss bridge trail near footbridge (top); the spillway (lower)





MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Mike Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present was Barbara Bates.

Ann Berwick: The co-director of sustainability for the city explained the Power Choice Program and asked for our support in advocating for citizens opting for 100% renewable energy in their electric supply.

Approval of minutes of the January 24 meeting: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said there were no changes to the report. The finance committee (Chris, Dan Brody, Dan Green, Katherine, and Beth) met before our meeting. They adopted a committee structure: five members, appointed by the president, to include at least three board members. Chris will be chairman. They reviewed the investment policy, and propose changing a few words, which will be sent to the board for review and vote on adoption at the March meeting.

Mass. Land Trust Conference March 24 Beth circulated the program for the conference, asking board members who plan to attend to let her know. The fee (\$50 until March 9, \$70 after) is reimbursable by NC.

New Two-Bridges Grant Proposal: The Solomon Foundation proposes a study to extend the path to link to Lyons field I Auburndale. The Conservators are asked to be the fiscal sponsor, using \$15,000 put into an account by the Greener Greater Boston Fund to pay for expenses until they are reimbursed by the DCR. Following discussion, Chris MOVED that we agree to be fiscal sponsor for the grant application; the motion was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Nahanton Park Task Force: The City law department is pressing forward with the Parks and Rec. Department toward the CR on the park. Among the working group will be Chris and Bill, so NC will have a say in shaping the CR.

Annual monitoring sign-up: Chris circulated the list; new members will be paired with experienced ones. We will do at least one demo session before the first property is monitored.

Land Stewards' meeting and ACROSS program : Ted, Beth, and Katherine had attended and reported on the meeting at the Parks & Recreation headquarters (2/13/18). Jennifer Steel and Claire Rundelli (Jennifer's assistant) would like to work more with the NC on maps, the ACROSS program, vernal pool certification, and a trail through Kesseler Woods (funds available). The City also has funds (from Comm. Golf Course and also from Deferred Maintenance Fund) for projects like benches and trash barrels that we might be able to draw on. .

NNHS Sustainability class project: Two students from Anndy Dannenberg's sustainability class at North will take on the project we've previously discussed with the Library to remove loosestrife from the swale and to remove the burning bush from the parking lot; the Conservation Commission has approved. The students will do the work in April and May.

Spring Walks: Beth circulated the list. With added text about NC, it will be a one-page flier that will be widely distributed around the city. Walk leaders will distribute the NC information card at their walks.

Membership: Nissa, Ellen, Katherine and Beth met. Katherine reported on their discussion:

- possibility of a higher level membership, e.g., \$200 President's Circle, with free Almanac for higher-level membership
- more member benefits
- a discount card for selected stores
- personalized thank-you calls for donations
- Farmers Market presence
- op-ed in TAB

A program with Sam Jaffe, either for members only or at the Library, was discussed; also a photography walk, possibly led by Brooks Mathewson.

Crystal Lake: The City's Crystal Lake Task Force is working on an erosion project at Levingston Cove; Beth will attend the next meeting on April 1.

Updates:

- **Chronicle:** A brief segment of the piece on 15 Bracebridge Rd. aired; (*The entire piece is on the NC Facebook page*

<https://www.facebook.com/NewtonConservators/videos/1101137840027374/>)

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- **Annual Meeting and Awards:** all the awardees have accepted; Beth circulated a draft of the citations.

- **Webster Woods Committee:** the executive committee has met twice; the larger panels will have approximately 15 members.

- **56 Farwell Street:** Ted and Beth attended a ConCom meeting in February dealing with Farwell and the developer team showed a little more of the design but there were many unanswered questions and requirements that they needed to still clarify. It was decided to put the next session for Farwell off until Mar 15 in order for them to get their documents and requested information together. Some discussion with the neighbors to Farwell ensued afterwards outside the meeting. The abutting neighbors to the east may attend our annual dinner meeting in May.

- **Two Bridges Grant Core Report:** a mid-March meeting is planned.

- **Newsletter:** Ken plans to get it out on Friday. He would welcome volunteer copy-editors.

- **City CRs and Monitoring:** Katherine said the City would like us to give a cost for taking on the City CRs. There could be some 30, of which four are in process. Beth and Katherine met with Ouida Young in the City's Law Department and reached a tentative agreement for monitoring funds for 15 years, to be reviewed at 10 years, and agreement to arbitration in case of disagreement. For now, the NC finance committee suggests \$10,000 for each of the four, plus a pool of \$20,000 for all, also to re-negotiate every 10 years. A suggestion that we ask for 10% as overhead was added. A MOTION to accept this proposal was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

- **70 Crescent Street:** Dan Brody said disagreement about the housing part continues.

New Business:

- **NSHS grant inquiry:** a biology teacher at NSHS has asked whether we might grant support for a "Green Space" in a dark hallway. Green Newton has proposed that we match their contribution; instead, the board agreed to await whether a student project that fits our criteria is proposed.

- **ESP Internship:** Dave Backer will submit a proposal in March.

- **Adjournment:** at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Mike Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present was Catherine Green, Dan's daughter, who is interested in working with us. She will start out by helping her father to check on Ordway Park, joining the group that monitors Ordway, and helping Ken to proofread the newsletter.

Approval of minutes of the February 28 meeting: The minutes were approved after noting a correction, on p. 2, in "Annual monitoring sign-up" delete "and will send a Google sign-up document for members to join."

Treasurer's Report:

- Katherine asked for board approval of the minor wording changes to the Conservator investment policy; a MOTION to approve them was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. The revised Investment Policy will be on the board-only page on the website.
- At Katherine's call for a third member to join the audit committee, Pete Gilmore volunteered. Audit committee will meet in April.
- For future treasurers use, she has written up the treasurer's procedures. which are now on the website board-only page, along with several Excel files used to produce the financial statements and the IRS 990/Form PC filings..
- She will write a newsletter article about using charitable contributions to fulfil Required Minimum Distributions from retirement accounts.

Grants Program: • Bill distributed copies of the application from NSHS for \$1,000 for its "Green Space at Newton South" project (*see attached description of the project.) Following discussion, a MOTION to grant \$500 was SECONDED and APPROVED, with one abstention.

- Dave described his effort to obtain a paid internship with the City's engineering department for a former ESP leader who would be a valuable addition to his staff for this summer. He requested a \$1,000 grant to supplement other sources; Dan Green offered to add \$250 personally. A MOTION to grant \$1,000 if an internship materializes was SECONDED and APPROVED.

Spring Walks Flier and Fall Walks: Beth distributed copies of the flier listing the walks for members to place around the city. 500 were printed for this experiment.

Brooks Mathewson will do a photo/bird walk in fall. Pete will do a bird walk (with unlimited participation, unlike the photography walk) on Oct. 13 (rain Oct.14) in Cold Spring Park. Others are planned.

Membership/volunteer ideas: Beth described Sam Jaffe/s offer to do an event in May or June/July, and various possibilities were discussed; Beth will follow up with him.

Ellen distributed copies of a suggested change to our membership form, which she will send to the board (see attached). Board members like the livelier format and approved the addition of a \$250 membership, for which a copy of the Almanac will be given.

MLTC Conference report: Ellen, Ken, Nyssa, and Beth reported on the sessions that they attended. Beth spoke with vendor Scott Lewis of Trail Websites, who offers to scale our web site for better use by mobile users. Dan Brody pointed out that the maps already work well with cell phones, but he will follow up to learn whether this may be an affordable way to shift our site to the Word Press platform, which will be easier to have multiple people making updates.

Meeting with Ouida Young about City CRs: Beth presented the board's proposal (see February 28 minutes) to Ouida Young, who will bring it to the attention of the powers that be and get back to us.

Updates:

- **Carlson Woods/Mt. Ida:** Beth will write to Mt. Ida President Barry Brown that the Conservators would like to participate in discussions of their selling other open space parcels on their property. Dan Green explained two of the proposed homes are in the buffer zone, and the Con Com approved the plans.

Annual Meeting and Awards:

- Brendan Whittaker has again sent \$70 to invite two students to the annual meeting; the board decided to add two more, to invite four students involved in the environmental programs at both high schools that are receiving Directors' Awards. Board members also expressed interest in Mr. Whittaker's invitation to visit him in Vt. this summer.
- Beth distributed copies of the award presentations, and volunteering to do the honors were :
 - Pete for the Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Cris Criscitiello
 - Katherine for the EoY Award to André Wilson
 - Dave for the Directors' Award to Anndy Dannenberg
 - Eric Olson will be invited to give the Directors' Award to Mita Bhattachara.

Webster Woods Committee: The Mayor's committee has been formed; Beth is chair of the executive committee; on the advisory committee are Directors Peter Barrer and Dan Brody and Advisors Eric Olson and Richard Primack. Beth and Richard Primack will discuss Webster Woods on the Newton League of Women Voters' NewTV program in mid-April.

- **56 Farwell Street:** Ted reported there was no action at the last Con Com meeting. Action is expected at the next meeting, on April 5.
- **Two-Bridges Grant Core Group Report:** Larry said this may be called the Riverside Trails project. They are now seeking a second DCR grant. Jonathan Yeo, the City's COO, has asked Beth whether Newton should have a trail committee. Mike Clarke, Larry, and Henry will talk with Mr. Yeo.
- **Kessler Woods:** Katherine joined Jennifer Steel and the Chestnut Hill Realty (developer) property manager Tim Dolan in a walk through of part of the site to review trail possibilities. There is \$75,000 from the developer available for trails. The site is full of invasives. One concern is that the developer wants to put an iron fence and large sign "Hancock Estates" at the corner of Vine and Lagrange, which is conservation land. Another concern is how to make connectivity to the Brookline St/Lost Pond side; it seems it would require passage over a brook, but Jennifer thinks the \$75K would not pay for trails and a bridge. A follow-up site visit, from the Brookline St. side, is planned.
- **Newsletter:** The spring issue was praised. Ken said that Dan Jaffe will write a piece for the summer issue about plantings on land cleared of invasives. He is reaching out to photographers about a photo exhibit at the Library to promote our work.

New Business:

- **Newton Rotary Club:** Julia Malackie received 50 chestnut oak seedlings from the Rotary after speaking there; she will give several to us. Also, Sara Pollock, who organizes talks for the Rotary, would like a Conservator to speak. Katherine volunteered; also, Dave Backer volunteered to speak about the ESP.
- **Crystal Lake:** The Crystal Lake Working Group is meeting to review the Weston and Sampson proposal to mitigate the erosion at Levingston Cove. At Carol Stapleton's invitation, Beth attended the first session and will attend the next one on April 4. A public hearing will be scheduled soon.
- **Ware's Cove:** Chemical treatment is needed again, and neighbors need to contribute matching to the DCR grant proposal. The Steve Regan fund that Conservators have been holding will be used, and neighbors would like to make their new contributions through NC. Katherine is willing, and asked whether the existing fund can still be used. If a new fund should be used, Larry suggested "Save the Cove," which has been used in the past.
- **Adjournment:** at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

* Brief Project Description of NSHS “Green Space at Newton South”

We have recently converted a former hallway seating area into a large planter. The layout for the space was produced by the design team at Winston’s Flowers. Winston’s also provided the installation in early January of 2018. The principal asked me to redesign this space after several difficult years where students made some “poor choices” in this area. This space is located right between the 2 wings that house most of our biology classrooms. In order to recreate this space, I felt it needed a whole new look and that look involved creating an indoor green space. The proposal includes several educational opportunities for the students.

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Peter Barrer, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Mike Gilmore, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten.

Also present was Barbara Bates.

Approval of minutes of the March 28 meeting: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine reported that the audit committee (Burdick, Gilmore, Green, Wilkinson) had met and found everything in order. She had sent to the board the Form PC 2017 filing (which includes the IRS 990EZ), and the quarterly financial statements ending 3/31/18. There being no questions, a MOTION to accept the quarterly statements was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Annual Meeting • Details and volunteer tasks were settled; native plants will be centerpieces. Eric Olson will present the award to Anndy Dannenberg rather than to Mita Bhattachara, who will receive hers from Richard Primack. Mayor Fuller will attend the meeting and be asked to make a brief presentation. Dan Brody suggested that in future we skip the April meeting rather than the May meeting, given the current schedule. The board agreed with this change.

Monitoring training field trip to Awtrey Dell: Awtrey Dell was chosen, the June date to be determined by Doodle poll.

Bracebridge baseline monitoring must be this year. Three bids will be solicited.

Chestnut oak seedlings: Beth has received 5 tiny seedlings from Julia Malackie, four will eventually be planted in Ordway Park and Dexter Woods.

Fall Walks: will be in the summer newsletter. Several are scheduled – see attached.

Ordway event: The board agreed to a fundraising event for Ordway neighbors suggested by Dan Green, counting on him to choose a date and to issue invitations.

LWVN NewTV program taped on 4/19: The program with Beth and Richard Primack went well; it will be aired regularly and be online.[see <https://newtv.org/recent-videos-community/120-the-league-presents/5011-websters-woods-and-the-newton-conservators>]

Updates:

• **Invasive pulls:** Katherine said the first one was canceled because of weather, from now they are scheduled for every week-end. A group from Sallie Mae, Wells Avenue, contacted us to volunteer work on the Blue Heron Path. Katherine will work with them.

- **Web Site:** Dan Brody and Beth met with Scott Lewis, who designs websites for land trusts, and who would transfer our site to Word Press, a newer system with many advantages. He asked that our board members fill out a questionnaire – see included with these minutes and please return to Beth.
- **Flier for spring walks:** Many of the 500 have yet to be distributed. Board members took more to place. Fewer will be printed next time.
- **Crystal Lake:** Beth reported that Weston & Sampson, working for the Parks and Rec Department, has presented two possible plans for Levingston Cove to the City's Crystal Lake Working Group. Funding for the initial design work was obtained from the state by the Crystal Lake Conservancy. The source of funding for the implementation is not yet clear. There will be a series of community meetings starting in May.
- **Webster Woods Committee:** Beth said that the full panel met for the first time on April 2 and that work is going well. A pre-proposal to the CPC is the next step. Kathy Cade will represent the Conservation Commission on the panel.
- **NNHS sustainability class project:** Beth, Katherine, and Nyssa met with the two very interested students. They will research the history of the library swale and its watershed and also help to remove purple loosestrife from the swale and burning bush shrubs from the rest of the library property.

A group of 8 students from both high school will attend the annual meeting, with Brendan Whittaker's contribution paying for two.

- **56 Farwell Street:** The Malloys are coming to our annual meeting. The plan for six houses will be approved at the Conservation Commission on April 26 but will require additional permits/approvals from the City.
- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** no report, but Katherine will attend a neighborhood meeting on April 26.
- **Newsletter:** Ken listed articles planned for the summer issue. He also showed numerous photos from which board members helped choose 12 for an exhibit at the Library.

• **Adjournment:** at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

Brooks Mathewson photography walk
Haynes Miller
Pete Gilmore Bird Walk –CSP

Saturday, October 6
Saturday, October 13
Sunday, October 14

Other options:

Bill Hagar	Canoe and Kaak --September
Chris Hepburn	Geology
Henry Finch	Aqueducts

Web site questionnaire:

DRAFT

MINUTES

Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 27, 2018 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Peter Barrer, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Mike Gilmore, Dan Green, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larr Smith.

Also present were Judy Hepburn, Ellen Katz, and Norm Richardson, members of the Conservaiton Commission, with Jay Werb; Alan Noguee and Caroline Green.

Presentation on Vernal pools: Ellen Katz explained the role of vernal pools with a PowerPoint presentation and explained the proposed vernal pools ordinance, with handouts that had been sent to the board previously. Following a brief discussion, a MOTION that the Conservators support and endorse the proposed ordinance was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. They framers would like a lawyer to review the language, and received suggestions about this and about strategy for public support.

Presentation on Cold Spring Park trail: Alan Noguee explained his long connection to the park, the deterioration of the trail, and Parks and Rec's plans for the park, which do not include the trail. He is circulating a petition, also on <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/755/408/024/fix-the-cold-spring-park-trail/> requesting the City Council and Parks & Rec. to restore the trail. Discussion centered on whether we should advocate for all trails, or start with Cold Spring Park and use it as a model. Ted pointed out the importance 1) of including it in the 2020 Open Space Plan; 2) getting email list of volunteers, for which Parks & Rec will cooperate supplying material; 3) noting that CPA funding might be possible. Beth added that REI has grants for trails. Discussion focused on the need to get more parks advocates on the Parks & Rec. Commission; *[ed: Peter Kastner is disabled and the Ward 8 seat is vacant.]* Noguee asked for volunteers to Friends of Cold Spring Park; Mike, Robert, and Ted responded.

Approval of minutes of the April 25 meeting: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine has received the Certificate for Solicitation from the Attorney General's office. Annual meeting broke even, thanks to \$2500 from sponsors and \$400+ gifts, which made possible the invitation to numerous young people.

Election of Barbara Bates to the Board: Beth reported Barbara's interest in joining the board. Numerous accounts of her activity and general admiration led to a MOTION that

Barbara Bates be elected to the board, which was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

Website review: Beth suggested a committee be formed to move the process. She, Ken, Ted, and Margaret volunteered; Dan Brody will be included, and it was suggested that Ellen be invited to join.

Awtrey CR training session: Chris thanked those who participated in the Awtrey monitoring and distributed copies of the general directions for monitoring, previously sent to the board. He listed the complete relevant files, which Ted will put on a Google Drive. Chris hopes monitoring will be complete by Oct. 15, followed by written reports and presentations to the board. He added that we should invite representatives from the City to join the monitoring sessions. Beth recommended that we do another all-board monitoring each year, as the Awtrey session was fun and interesting.

City CRs: Beth said that Ouida Young has brought a lawyer to work one day/week to write the CRs on City conservation areas and parks. She is preparing a petition to the CPA for funding the Conservators' monitoring of City CRs on the terms we had proposed {see minutes for Feb. 28, 2018.}

Webster Woods CPC discussion on July 10: Beth said the proposal will be discussed on July 10, when our attendance would be good; but that it will be crucial for the September 13 hearing.

Farmers' Markets: Katherine said the NC and the Newton Tree Conservancy have agreed that each organization will staff two Farmers Markets per month, once at each location. Katherine urged board members to indicate their availability (even if it is zero) on the Doodle polls she has sent:

(Saturday/ElmSt. <https://doodle.com/poll/zma7e462uzgxavsk>

Tuesday/CSP <https://doodle.com/poll/99rw9pkfv7n2v66s>)

Fall Walks: are listed in the summer Newsletter. A possible volunteer walks coordinator has contacted Beth.

Updates:

- **Spring invasive pulls:** Katherine aid some were well attended, but we are not making enough progress on the invasives.
- **Spring Walks:** were well attended. Pete distributed copies of his report on his bird walk with the Brookline Bird Club, which had 31 participants and listed 44 species seen.
- **Annual Meeting:** Members agreed that it went too long, and discussed possible changes: Starting the meeting during dinner; having head tables go through the line first and beginning meeting when that group finishes; reversing the awards order, with EOY at end, and the only one permitted to speak; referring to the list on each table and not

naming each board member orally; presenting a video of the award ceremony instead of in person; having each awardee line up to be ready when preceding one finishes.

Ted observed that the walk preceding the meeting was well attended, and board agreed that it is a good idea to institute a bird walk before future meetings.

- **Bracebridge Road:** Beth reported on the memorial service for Richard Wilson. The property is on the market, and bids are reported to have been received

For the baseline survey of the CR, Audubon has bid \$4,000. The NEWFS is interested, and will submit a bid.

- **Envi. Sci. internship:** Dave Backer said the intern, Miles Welbourn, is at work for the City, digitizing old plans, doing surveys, et al. He will be an ESP leader, and probably work for the City again in August. Katherine said she will send NC's \$1,000 grant and Dan Green's \$250 contribution to the City, to be paid to Miles.

- **Potential Ordway Event:** Beth and Dan Green will work on a date, a Sat. or Sun. afternoon after October 10.

- **Crystal Lake:** George reported on what he sees as an overly ambitious plan for Levingston Cove presented by Weston & Sampson at a Parks & Rec. Commission meeting. He saw "a lot of hardscape" and organized activity for the small area; most people want more natural area. There will be two more meetings on this, and the board decided to weigh in after the next iteration of the plan. Meanwhile there is no money for it. The plan did not address the CR path; we have asked the Law Department to investigate whether the home owners can have the "Private, Keep Off" sign on the lake side of the path.

- **Webster Woods Committee:** Beth said that the full panel met for the first time on April 2 and that work is going well. A pre-acquisition pre-proposal has been presented to the CPC. Kathy Cade will represent the Conservation Commission on the panel.

- **56 Farwell Street:** Dan Green reported that neighbors have lodged an appeal to the DEP or Superior Court against the Con. Com.'s approval of the plan.

- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry reported that a 25% design plan for the Two-Bridges portion of the trail is expected by fall. The committee has met with Mayor Fuller and had talked with neighbors; they hope for a community meeting soon. Henry added that the project is expanding; the Mass Pike widening in the area will impact the site; and the group has informed planners for the Riverside site about planning for trails. The group hopes to meet soon with DCR officials to discuss options for paths in the golf course. Additional community meetings are planned for the fall.

- **Newsletter:** Ken said “Building Resiliency” has received good comments. He is working on the submission of 12 photos for a Library exhibit; if accepted, more will be added.

New Business:

- **Dexter Woods:** a large oak has fallen; the City has removed the portion from the street, but the remaining huge trunk remains, parts of it 6 to 8 feet above ground, and must be removed. The board agreed that we need a plan to deal with the site’s expenses, and a committee will work on it: Beth, AnnaMaria, Nyssa, **Nyssa suggested Ellen be added – but I won’t put in minutes – you may want to ask.**

- **Eagle Scout Project:** Aiden Farrar envisages a bridge across the small stream between 1 and 5 Wells Ave. to connect the Helen Heyn Riverway path piece of the Nahanton park trails and requests advice and funding. Henry, Mike, and Chris will meet with him. For funding, Beth will bring in the William James College, which abuts this spot.

- **Washington Street Corridor:** Ted explained the background of planning and community outreach by the Principle Group hired by the City with a \$500,000 contract. He urged board members to respond to the Newtonville Area Council’s questionnaire that he will send out, and pointed out that we will need to participate in the planning; he will represent us.

- **Adjournment:** at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

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

Approval of minutes of the June 27 meeting: The minutes were approved after minor corrections, principally at "Monitoring Process:" for "Awtrey monitoring" substitute "Awtrey CR training session."

Treasurer's Report: commented on the financial statements that she had sent to the board: they are pretty normal; little has been spent on special projects yet, but major expenditures are ahead. A donation of \$200 designated "I would especially guide my donation to Edmands Park maintenance if possible;" she has contacted him to confirm we can accept this gift for general purposes, and is waiting to hear back. The payment to the City Hall/ESP intern will be out of grants, leaving \$500 unspent.

She will renew the Chamber of Commerce membership, as George will participate actively.

She has updated the NC profile on Guidestar.org, and suggests board members take a look.

Parks & Recreation Commission opening: Ward 8: It is important that an open space advocate fill this opening; please send suggestions to Beth quickly.

Website review: The board agreed to ask Ellen to join the committee (Beth, Ken, Ted, Margaret, Dan Brody.) Dan indicated the committee would meet soon.

CR Monitoring: Chris asked board members using the DropBox material to download the files, and not to save changes to the originals in the DropBox. Possible ways to preserve these records were discussed; in addition to the website copy, a paper version must be included. Monitoring teams are asked to notify City agencies in charge of properties and invite a representative to join them.

Dexter Road: Following discussion, a MOTION that the Conservators should not volunteer to pay the deductible for expenses to repair damage from our trees to abutters' property was SECONDED and unanimously approved.

City CRs: No progress to report on the four CRs being worked on. Nahanton Park is not among them, as a survey and an advisory group are needed first.

Webster Woods: The proposal to the CPC to fund the legal work and an appraisal for acquisition has been filed.

Fall Walks: Six walks have been scheduled.

Updates:

- **Newsletter:** Several board members have volunteered to see that copies at City Hall get put out.

- **Helen Heyn Trail/Eagle Scout Project:** Henry, Mike, Chris, and Beth met with Aiden Farrar about his bridge proposal (see attached sketch.) Aiden has obtained permission from the land owners, and requests funding. Henry has offered to help him, but he has not heard back. After lengthy discussion, the sense of the meeting was that we don't have enough information to act on at this time. Bill Hagar was to contact Aiden about submitting an application for a grant.

- **Spring Invasives pulls:** Katherine said they have been poorly attended. Anndy Dannenberg may include pulls as part of her sustainability program at NSHS. Getting Scouts involved next year was discussed.

- **Bracebridge Road:** The property has been sold. A bid from NEWFS to do the baseline survey is awaited. The board approved Beth's suggestion that the new owners be given a year's membership in NC.

- **Envi. Sci. internship:** Katherine reported on the intern's work; when he has finished, she will pay \$1250 to him directly, as the City has requested, and issue a Form 1099.

- **Ordway Park:** the potential Ordway Event awaits Dan Green. Katherine said Ordway needs monitoring, clean up, and invasives pulls. She is working with the City water department to create a spigot for watering. She noted that a neighbor has complained about downed branches.

- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Good progress has occurred with the Riverside Greenway Working Group. Preliminary approval and recommendation for funding was received from DCR for the "Pony-truss Trail Restoration, Pigeon Hill Trail and Riverside Depot Tunnel Access and 25% Design" grant for pathways from the end of the Blue Heron trail at Lyons Park to Riverside station. The group presented their ideas to DCR Commissioner Leo Roy, Rep. Kay Khan and other state trails officials at the Lasell Boathouse. This was followed by a boat ride on the river to view of the project area. Several public meetings are planned for the fall to gather public input and present preliminary plans. A meeting is scheduled with Commissioner Roy in August to discuss

possible alternatives for the Leo J. Martin Golf Course property as part of the trails system which will connect to Wellesley's trails.

- **Nahanton Park Bridge:** Henry and Chris will oversee the building of the bridge at Nahanton Park on September 15th.

- **Farmers' Markets:** Our Aug. 4 and 21 obligations are covered. Katherine asks members to sign up for September, using these doodles:

Saturday/Elm St:

<https://doodle.com/poll/zma7e462uzgxavsk>

Tuesday/CSP

<https://doodle.com/poll/99rw9pkfv7n2v66s>

New Business:

- **Bench for Peter Kastner in Nahanton Park:** Judy Dore suggested the idea. Chris said that Friends of Nahanton Park offers to pay \$750 of the \$1500 cost. The board agreed that donations to NC in memory of Peter be used toward the cost.

Mike suggested that the path in the new Newton Highlands Playground be named for Peter, if no part of Nahanton Park can be found to name for him.

- **Olivia James:** a jewelry designer, has expressed interest in getting involved. Beth will meet with her.

- **Friends of Hemlock Gorge:** Brian Yates asked that we publicize the Friends of Hemlock Gorge August 7 event; Ted will put it on the Ebulletin once full information is available.

- **QR Codes on Conservation and Park land:** Dan Brody has reminded Parks and Rec. of their intention to add QR codes on their lands, as has been done on Conservation land.

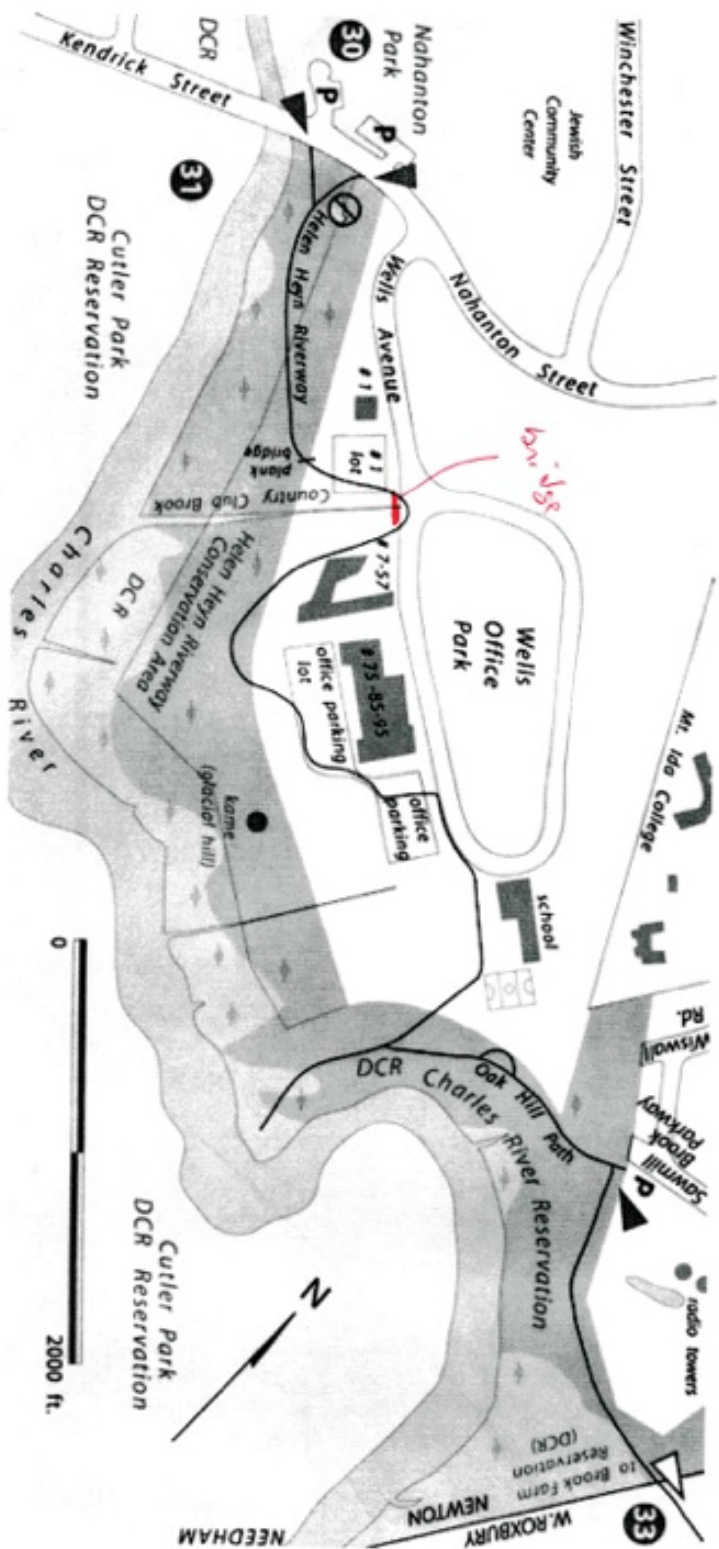
- **40% Power Choice:** Ken asked board members to consider signing the letter to the mayor in favor of increasing Newton's share of renewables in the city's Power Choice contract.

- **Adjournment:** at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

32 Helen Heyn Riverway



MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Peter Barrer, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Larry Smith.

Also present was Alan Noguee for the Friends of Cold Spring Park.

Approval of minutes of the July 25 meeting: The minutes were approved as written. [However, two corrections should have been noted: the Envi. Sci.Intern received a Form 1099,1099, not W9; and under Farmers' Market : Doodles, not Googles.]

Treasurer's Report: Katherine said a report will come after the end of the quarter.

Friends of Cold Spring Park: Alan Noguee showed slides of the work done the previous Sunday and thanked Eagle Scout Alex Rivero and Boy Scout Troop 9 of Waban for taking on that project. The Friends of Cold Spring Park plans to become a 501-C3 organization; meanwhile they would like the Conservators to be their fiscal sponsor to accept donations. Following discussion of how long it is needed, a MOTION that NC accept donations for FOCSP for up to two years was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Dexter Woods status and work with Leigh Gilligan: Beth reported that four trees have been cut down, and the tree that fell was removed. Lee Gilligan has written to Dan Claflin explaining that NC is not liable for his expense, and that the surveyor will return to determine the boundaries of our property. New England Wild Flower Society's Bud Sechler will come next Friday, October 5, at 10 AM to give an assessment of possibilities for the site if most of the trees are removed. Board members are invited to come.

CR Monitoring: Chris spoke again about the monitoring and permanent archiving of CRs. He asked that the first person listed organize each group. He reiterated the instructions and asked that the reports be sent to him and to Beth.

Peter presented the completed report on Waban Hill Reservoir (done by Peter and Nyssa), which was hailed as a model. The main observation was that much growth on the walls – removed two years ago but now back - is damaging the structure.

Barbara, Dan Brody , Ken, and Nyssa will work on the problem of archiving the material.

City CRs connected to CPC: Because payment for holding these three CRs is a one-time grant that cannot be renegotiated, the executive committee recommended \$20,000, 20,000, and 10,000 for Rogers Street, Kessler Woods, and Wabasso respectively. Reasoning that invested properly, these sums will suffice for monitoring indefinitely. (For CRs on properties not acquired with CPA funds, grants will be renegotiable.) Following discussion, a MOTION to propose the 20-20-10 sum, with agreement to put it into an investment account, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Nahanton Park CR: Larry said there have been two meetings of the Nahanton Park working group. Ouida Young will try to draft a new version of the CR with provisions about dumping of snow and brush after major storms. Discussion centered on how to set a high trigger for permitting that possibility.

Webster Woods CPC hearing: Beth reported that the hearing went very well; \$100,000 was approved to hire legal counsel and other experts to assist the City in acquiring the wooded portion of the land. Board members are urged to attend the hearings to approve this (ZAP on Oct. 10, Finance on Oct. 15).

Meanwhile, BC has received a building permit and begun work for a closed container to store road salt for all BC's properties, an open compost storage bin, and underground holding tanks for stormwater runoff. The only possible opposition lies in the need to obtain permission from the DCR to transport heavy equipment on Hammond Pond Parkway. Beth undertook to write to the DCR requesting this not be granted. Other board members may also write to the DCR.

Harvest Fair in Newton Centre October 14: AnnaMaria called for board members to step up, so Katherine and Beth are not to take on this in addition to all they do. A sign-up sheet was passed around with good result.

Fundraiser a Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Thursday Nov. 8: Chris suggested this fundraiser, as the restaurant contributes 20% of its take to NC on that day. Discussion of whether the environmental damage of "coal fired" disqualifies the choice concluded in a MOTION to do it which was SECONDED and approved, with one abstention. The publicity will be via email and the E-Bulletin.

Interaction with Anndy Dannenberg's class: The NNHS teacher about sustainability is requiring each class member to participate in a community conservation project, and would like Beth to speak to the class again this fall. Katherine reported that two students will be attend the Hemlock Gorge/Quinobequin invasives pull on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Updates:

- **Website:** Dan Brody reported that Scott Lewis of “Trail Websites” is ready to sign a contract with us to move our web site to his Word Press site for an initial cost of c. \$900 and annual cost of \$500 (currently we pay \$350). He cited a number of advantages: moving from a currently obsolete site to one that is widely used, with the possibility of distributed management. A MOTION to undertake the change was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Ellen, Barbara, Beth, and Ken will work with Dan on this.
- **Board member e-mail list:** The list was checked, and all except the 3 members who were not present are confirmed.

• **Fall Invasives pulls:** Katherine noted that fall invasive sessions are for the first time formally scheduled in our fall newsletter. The session today, with volunteers from Eagle Investment Systems (located across the river in Needham), along Quinobequin Road to remove black swallow-wort and Japanese knotweed, was fun and successful, and represents a first partnering with CRWA which hopefully we will do again. Future sessions are 9/29 at Hemlock Gorge, 10/14 at Woodcock Meadow, and 10/21 at the CSP buckthorn demonstration area. The Needham High science teachers have asked for additional sessions this fall as last year's sessions were noted by students as the highlight of the course.

• **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry and Henry reported that the meeting in Auburndale was well attended, and showed a map detailing the possible routes. A panel discussion is planned for January 24 at the Newton Library.

• **Farmers’ markets:** Katherine is glad that this major time commitment will soon be over for the year. Board members who have worked there agree that it is worth doing, as we get a few new members, introduce our issues to many, and sell copies of the Trail Guide as well as milkweed seeds that Beth has collected and put in bags.

Ted displayed a Newton Conservators t-shirt model, to be discussed in October.

• **Ordway Park:** Beth has met with a neighbor of the park who would like lighting and a trash can for the park. Board member agreed that trash pickup should be done without having a can there, and the neighbor will contact the city about street lighting.

The Ordway fundraiser event for neighbors will be considered for next spring.

• **New Bracebridge Road owners:** Beth will meet them soon. They will be invited to the monitoring by the NEWFS in October.

• **Peter Kastner bench:** Chris noted that more than half the \$1500 needed has been received; the location needs to be decided. Katherine said \$1100 has come in.

• **Nahanton Park Bridge building:** Henry, Larry, Ken, and two contractors completed the work in an hour and 45 minutes, with only steps left to add. It is a great success.

- **Helen Heyn Trail/Eagle Scout Project:** no more response was received.
- **Newsletter:** Ken was congratulated on the excellent issue. The Canada Goose article was especially praised.
- **Photo Exhibit:** The Library turned down the project, but we have been offered the special exhibit spaces for June 2019. Ken, Beth, and Ellen will work on two foci for it.

Regan Fund: Katherine noted that per the understanding with the board that the Regan Auburndale Cove Rehab Fund would be used for upcoming cleanup of Ware's Cove and that we would continue to take donations for this purpose, she had transferred the remaining Regan funds (\$2730) to DCR for use as matching funds, and is accepting new donations (with "Save The Cove" in the memo line) that will become additional matching funds.

New Business:

- **JCC query:** Elizabeth Kaplan of the JCC asked Beth whether NC would do an educational event with their afterschool students next June. Board members are interested in doing an event consisting of a variety of nature walks.
- **Climate Vulnerability Preparedness Workshop:** Beth received an invitation from the Conservation Department to send a designee to attend an October 29 workshop; Dave Backer will attend.
- **Adjournment:** at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Approval of minutes of the September 26 meeting: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Katherine reported on the 9/30/18 statements. In the last quarter, the balance (\$2730) of the Regan Fund was paid to DCR as match for cove clean up, and new contributions of \$750 have come in; the effort has been re-named "Save the Cove." Dues are on the low side year to date but as always much depends on the success of the upcoming year end membership renewals. Tree work at Dexter Rd. of \$6100 was paid in October so is not yet reflected in the statements. The statements show an unrealized gain on investments, but subsequent decline and volatility of the stock market may wipe out the gain. The Secretary of State's Annual Report, due on Nov. 1, had been filed. Beth added that dues have been down the past two year after more than doubling from 2015 to 2016; she will analyze the data for next month.

CRs for Rogers and Wabasso Streets: Beth said the Community Preservation Committee will act on these CRs at its December meeting, for which we need to submit the filing documents (see attached) by early November. The executive committee had agreed to consider the City's offer of \$15,000 for Rogers and \$5,000 for Wabasso, with \$10,000 to fund enforcement for these and the other CRs to follow. The pre-proposal requirement has been waived. Leigh Gilligan will review the draft of the letter; during discussion, "and other" was added to the 2nd ¶ of the letter and the bottom of the filing document. The status of an 8' strip of Wabasso St. needs to be settled before the CR can be completed. A MOTION to accept all the documentation for the CPC was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Dexter Woods: Board members have received the NEWFS interim report (see attached). Beth and Katherine took soil samples as it recommended, and sent them to the State for analysis. Carolyn Fine-Friedman and Beth were to talk the next afternoon, and board members suggested possible approaches to current need as well as a maintenance fund for Dexter Woods. Next, Beth will contact the owners of the Prospect Park property above our parcel.

CR Monitoring: Chris reported on Ordway Park, monitored by him Dan Green, and Katherine. Caroline Green also attended the monitoring session. Dan Green will follow up on an encroachment by a utility wire on Grant St. attached to a tree in the park. To determine whether Norway maples at Gibbs St. are on Ordway property, survey is needed; this may occur as the property in question is for sale. Chris said the park is much improved since last year. Chris also did Elgin Street. It, too, looks better than last year, as a fallen tree is gone and the culvert has been cleaned out. But foul smelling doggie bags on a nearby bench need attention; he will try to have the City install a bin specifically for dog feces at the end of Elgin Street.

Chris hopes the remaining sites will be monitored promptly, and that the reports, with signature, be sent electronically.

Annual Meeting Speaker: after discussing the suggestions that had been received (see attached), the board heard TWO MOTIONS: One with Maguranis as first choice, Windmiller second choice; the second motion was to for Kelly Gill as third choice. Each motion was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

AWTREY DELL: Beth reported that Mrs. Awtrey died in March, and Mr. Awtrey is moving soon. Following discussion, the board agreed that the sign which has been [PPL Account] : Inbox Message...(1)ready for some time should be put up now.

Fundraiser at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza Nov. 8: One city councilor and one candidate have indicated they will attend. The board decided to reserve for 20 at 7 PM. Publicity was discussed; it will be by email and by Facebook and other web sites.

Membership Renewal Letter: Members discussed the issues and achievements to feature.

Dates for meetings in Nov. and Dec. and annual potluck: Katherine explained that our November 28 meeting can be at the usual Waban Library site. Instead of a December meeting, a potluck will be on January 9, followed by the regular January 23 meeting. 2019 meetings are scheduled for Tuesday Nov. 26 and Dec. 19 if necessary.

Updates:

- **Website:** Dan Brody reported that Scott Lewis of "Trail Websites" is making progress.
- **Webster Woods:** The \$100,000 that the CPC approved has been approved by the Zoning & Planning, Finance, and entire City Council, and a lawyer has been hired. So far, BC has not begun the work for which it obtained a building permit. The full Webster Woods panel will meet on Nov. 14. Richard Primack will speak about Webster Woods on Nov. 13 at "Newton Inspires" at NSHS.
- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry and Henry reported that work is progressing. Katherine attended the last meeting and offered that NC will hold contributions to the group. A community information meeting will be held on Nov. 4, 4 pm, at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center.
- **Bracebridge Road:** Beth had a most pleasant meeting with the new owners, the Fiete family, and walked the path with them. They are eager to make the stakes and signs less visible, and concerned whether logs above the path are needed to halt erosion; this will be revisited after the winter.
- **Harvest Fair:** Chris and Barbara had a good time during their time at the fair.. Some BC students came by; they have 100 signatures on a petition opposing the construction at Webster Woods, and are collecting more. They are interested in working with us on invasives et al.
- **Fall Invasives Pulls:** Katherine said the pulls were successful. On Monday 10/29 at 8am she will meet with more classes from Needham High at Woodcock Meadow, and last Thursday she worked with another Needham class; they are studying invasive plants in the classroom. It was suggested they could be invited, with the educational posters they have created, to our annual meeting. NNHS students in Ms. Dannenberg's Sustainability class have also participated in some pulls (she requires them to do some relevant public service), but the class has not yet studied a invasive plants. Beth will speak to the class on November 9, and will talk about invasives.

- **Climate vulnerability plan:** David reported on the meeting he attended the previous evening, which was very well attended. He urged board members to sign the petition for Newton's default energy choice to be 40% above the State mandate of 13% for the initial contract. He will send board members the web sites and information about a December 5 public meeting of the public facilities committee.

- **"Hello Washington Street":** Ted arrived from a still ongoing large public meeting about planning for the Washington Street corridor from Newton Corner to West Newton for the next 10-20 years. Open space issues were numerous: demand for pocket parks, possible decking for parks over the Mass Pike at Newtonville and West Newton, improving existing parks.

- **Conservator T-shirt or hat:** Ted presented a t-shirt and caps as possible means to improve name recognition and to reward members. Having t-shirts for invasive pulls or at farmers' markets was discussed, and caps for all Conservator activities. Ted agreed to bring 2 or 3 caps with embroidered logo to the next meeting/

New Business:

- **The Western Greenway 5K trail walk and run:** Beth showed the Waltham Land Trust's announcement of this as a model for getting visibility.

- **Adjournment:** at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy



Officers

Beth Wilkinson, President
Chris Hepburn, Vice President
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary
Katherine Howard, Treasurer

Board of Directors

David Backer
Peter Barrer
Barbara Bates
Dan Brody
Mat Calabro
Bonnie Carter
Michael Clarke
Margaret Doris
Henry Finch
Robert Fizek
Ellen Gibson-Kennedy
Maurice Gilmore
Daniel Green
William Hagar
Ted Kuklinski
Ken Mallory
George Mansfield
Nyssa Patten
Larry Smith
Willis Wang

Advisors

Margaret Albright
Lisle Baker
John Bliss
Lee Breckenridge
Larry Burdick
Lucy Caldwell-Stair
Michael Collora
Douglas Dickson
Ann Dorfman
Bart Hague
Judith Hepburn
Alison Leary
William Leitch
Don Lubin
Brooks Mathewson
Eric Olson
Anne Pearson
Richard Primack
Eric Reenstierna
Jon Regosin
Patricia Robinson
Jane Sender
William Shaevel
Willis Wnag
Bruce Wenning
Brian Yates

November 2018

Newton Community Preservation Committee
Planning & Development Department
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear CPC Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators attests that our nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization agrees to accept and to hold permanent deed restrictions on the following properties owned by the City of Newton:

20 Rogers Street (Crystal Lake)

and

30 Wabasso Street (in Flowed Meadow Conservation Area).

Our acceptance is conditional upon receiving a total of \$30,000 for monitoring the land and for enforcing the restriction in perpetuity. Those funds will be allocated as follows: \$15,000 for Rogers Street, \$5,000 for Wabasso Street, and \$10,000 for a joint enforcement account (one enforcement account for these and other CPC properties).

We request that the money be pooled into one payment amount that our organization can invest to help ensure that there will be sufficient funds in perpetuity to cover our expenses associated with Wabasso and Rogers Streets. We will use those funds only for monitoring or enforcement on those two properties, will account for the funds separately, and will submit documentation to the City Solicitor for all expenses incurred in that work. The Newton Conservators will submit our monitoring reports to the Conservation Department and to the Parks and Recreation Department if appropriate.

Sincerely,

Beth Wilkinson, President

Katherine Howard, Treasurer

on behalf of the Board of
The Newton Conservators

City of Newton



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program FUNDING REQUEST

☐

PRE-PROPOSAL

☒

PROPOSAL

(For staff use)
date rec'd:

Last updated October 2018.

Please submit this completed file directly – do not convert to PDF or other formats.

For full instructions, see www.newtonma.gov/cpa or contact us:

Community Preservation Program Manager,

City of Newton Planning & Development Department, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

aingerson@newtonma.gov

617.796.1144

You may adjust the space for each question, but the combined answers to all questions on this page must fit on this page.

Project TITLE	Funding to Hold Conservation Restrictions on Newton CPA-Funded Land Acquisitions			
Project LOCATION	Full street address (with zip code), or other precise location. Site titles below are links to project webpages.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 20 Rogers Street (Crystal Lake) – acquired 2007-10 as recreation land ♦ 30 Wabasso Street (Flowed Meadow Conservation Area) – acquired 2007 for open space 			
Project CONTACTS	Name & title or organization	Email	Phone	Mailing address
Project Manager	Beth Wilkinson, President, Newton Conservators	bethwilkinson@mac.com	617.966.7491	14 Trowbridge Street, Newton, MA 02459
Other Contacts				
Project FUNDING	A. CPA funds requested: \$30,000	B. Other funds to be used: \$0	C. Total project cost (A+B): \$30,000	
Project SUMMARY	Explain how the project will use the requested CPA funds.			
<p>The Newton Conservators are requesting this grant for the costs permanently associated with holding, monitoring and enforcing permanent conservation restrictions on the two properties listed above, which the City of Newton previously acquired with CPA funds for open space and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>The City has already granted the Conservators similar restrictions on other open space or outdoor recreation properties acquired with CPA funds in Newton, as required by the CPA statute [MGL Ch. 44B. Section 12. (a)]:</p> <p>“A real property interest that is acquired with monies from the Community Preservation Fund shall be bound by a permanent restriction, recorded as a separate instrument, that meets the requirements of sections 31 to 33, inclusive, of chapter 184 limiting the use of the interest to the purpose for which it was acquired. The permanent restriction shall run with the land and shall be enforceable by the city or town or the commonwealth. The permanent restriction may also run to the benefit of a nonprofit organization, charitable corporation or foundation selected by the city or town with the right to enforce the restriction. The legislative body may appropriate monies from the Community Preservation Fund to pay a non-profit organization created pursuant to chapter 180 to hold, monitor and enforce the deed restriction on the property.”</p> <p>Funds should be appropriated to the Planning Dept. for this grant. Among other provisions to be mutually agreed, the grant agreement should allow these funds to be held directly by the Conservators. The Conservators will use the funds only for monitoring or enforcement on those two properties, will account for the funds separately, and will submit documentation to the City Solicitor for all expenses incurred in that work. The Newton Conservators will submit our monitoring reports to the Conservation Department and to the Parks and Recreation Department if appropriate.</p>				

You may adjust the space for each question, but the combined answers to all questions on this page must fit on this page.

Project TITLE	Funding to Hold Conservation Restrictions on Newton CPA-Funded Land Acquisitions		
USE of CPA FUNDS	OPEN SPACE	or	RECREATION LAND
Acquire	✓		✓

PROJECT BUDGET	
Uses of Funds	
20 Rogers Street – monitoring (est. 1.02 acres)	\$15,000
30 Wabasso Street – monitoring (est. 0.12 acres)	\$5,000
enforcement funding	\$10,000
D. TOTAL USES (should equal C. on page 1 and E. below)	\$30,000

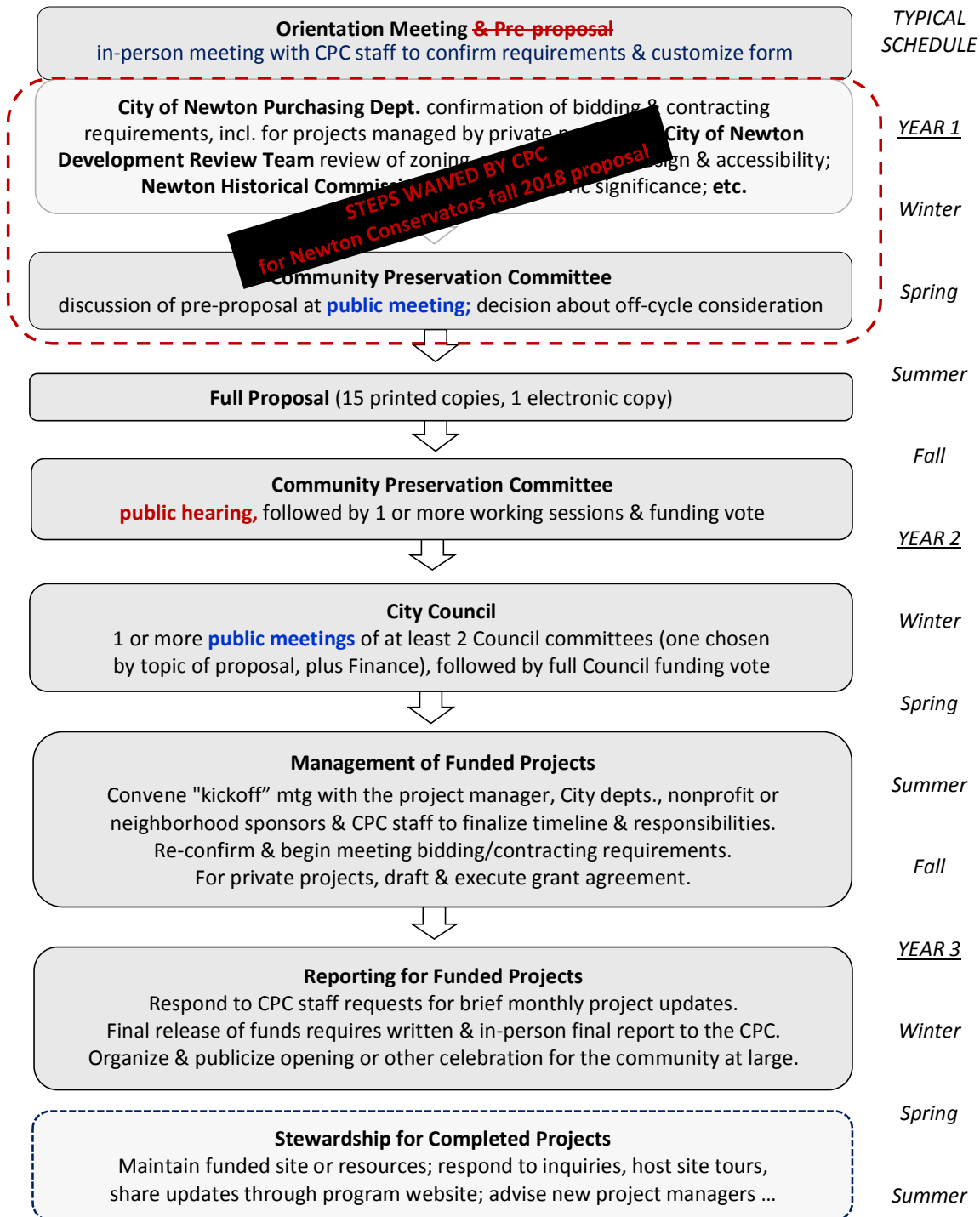
Sources of Funds	Status (requested, expected, confirmed)	
CPA funding	Requested	\$30,000
E. TOTAL SOURCES (should equal C. on page 1 and D. above)		\$30,000

Project TIMELINE	Phase or Task	Season & Year
	full proposal submitted & CPC funding vote	fall 2018
	City Council consideration of CPC recommendation	fall-winter 2018

↓ Check off submitted attachments here.		
REQUIRED	PHOTOS & MAPS	of sites involved <i>CPC staff can provide photos & maps.</i>
	SPONSOR FINANCES & QUALIFICATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	
	from Newton Conservators:	
	cover letter confirming Board of Directors agreement to hold permanent deed restrictions, briefly explaining internal procedures for use of these funds	
	summary of most recent annual operating budget (revenue & expenses) or financial statement (assets & liabilities)	
	from City of Newton:	
agreement by City commissions with custody of these each properties to grant the required permanent deed restriction to the Conservators		<i>CPC staff will ask the commissions to verify this.</i>

**Newton, Massachusetts Community Preservation Program
PROPOSAL & PROJECT PROCESS** last updated
May 2016

See separate process for housing development projects.



Dexter Woods Ecological Assessment

Dexter Woods is a ¼ acre property that consists mainly of a fairly steep slope comprised of a variety of exotic and native trees, and a mostly exotic understory. Canopy and subcanopy trees comprised of *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple), *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Pinus strobus* (white pine), *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), *Taxus baccata* (English Yew), *Gleditsia triacanthos* (honey-locust), *Prunus serotina* (black cherry), *Tsuga canadensis* (eastern hemlock), and *Carya glabra* (pignut hickory). The shrub layer was entirely comprised of exotics, including *Lonicera morrowi* (Morrow's honeysuckle), *Lonicera maackii* (Amur honeysuckle), and *Euonymus alata* (burning-bush). A patch of *Eleutherococcus pentaphyllus* (five-leaved-aralia) occurs at the top of the slope outside the property boundary.

The herbaceous layer is sparse in the wooded areas, with only an occasional *Phytolacca americana* (American pokeweed). Norway maple has the ability to emit allelopathic chemicals from its shallow rooting system, which will prevent other plants from growing, and the uptake of water from the soil, which accelerates erosion. Pokeweed can tolerate disturbed soil, which explains this species presence in the understory. Invasive shrubs, such as the bush honeysuckles, can also tolerate disturbed soil. There are no oak seedlings in the understory, despite a large white oak on an adjacent property in the canopy, and a few top heavy red oaks.

A larger diversity of plants occur at the base of the slope where the area is quite disturbed, being next to the road. The plants that occur here reflect the disturbances. Abundant invasive and exotic plants occur here, such as *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed), *Hedera helix* (English ivy), *Commelina communis* (Asiatic dayflower), *Vinca minor* (lesser periwinkle), *Chelidonium majus* (greater celandine), *Rubus alleghaniensis* (blackberry), *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose), *Celastrus orbiculatus* (Asian bittersweet), *Euonymus alata* (burning bush), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper), *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), *Hemerocallis fulva* (orange day-lily), *Glechoma hederacea* (gill-over-the-ground), *Echinochloa* sp. (barnyard grass), *Ulmus* sp. (elm), *Erechtites hieraciifolius* (American burnweed), *Rumex longifolius* (yard dock), *Gleditsia triacanthos* (honey-locust), and *Artimisia vulgaris* (mugwort).

It should be a priority to control and potentially eradicate *Acer platanoides* from this property. Controlling this species would be the first step in controlling an accelerated rate of soil erosion for this area. Controlling other invasive shrubs such as *Lonicera* sp. (*maackii* or *morrowii*) and *Euonymus alata* (burning-bush) in this area is also recommended. The larger sugar maples (*A. saccharum*) should be retained, along with the American beech (*F. grandifolia*) and pignut hickory (*C. glabra*). However, it appears that most of the *Quercus rubra* trees are not healthy, and represent a risk to humans. Therefore, these should probably be removed. In addition, a few of the white pines are dying as well, and several have been choked by the bittersweet. In addition, Newton Conservators will work with the upslope neighbors to get permission to remove some invasive plants and dying trees from their property.

Mapped soils for this area include Paxton-Urban land complex 3-15% slope, and Canton-Charlton-Urban land complex 5-15% slope. Paxton-Urban soils are on crests of glacial till uplands and drumlins. Canton-

Annual Meeting Speaker suggestions

-**Experienced meteorologist** to speak, particularly when I think of the UN climate impact report that just came out and Hurricane Michael. Maybe someone from NBC10/NECN which is in Needham (Willis Wang)

-**Bryan Windmiller of Grassroots Wildlife Conservation and Zoo New England** would be good. He has been involved in rescuing and raising wild turtles. Also how about Newton resident and Brandeis professor **Dan Perlman**? (Jon Regosin)

-**Kelly Gill, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation** I saw her speak at the Grown Native Mass lecture in 2015 (Cambridge Library) and she was excellent. She is an expert on arthropods (insects and also soil invertebrates) and gives a terrific hour long presentation. *see article: <https://xerces.org/2018/05/15/from-the-field-trees-for-bees/>* (Barbara Bates)

-**Steve Small and conservation restrictions** - how they work and how they are paid for (Lisle Baker)

-**John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer for town of Belmont, member of Project Coyote**, and speaker for how to live with coyotes. (Chris Hepburn)

- **Sam Jaffe of The Caterpillar Lab**, who had an exhibit at Annual meeting last year.

MINUTES
Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:00 PM
Waban Library Center
1641 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Robert Fizek, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present for the first agenda items was Larry Burdick.

Larry Burdick on Nahanton Woods and Friends of Kennard Park: Larry explained the background of the Nahanton Woods Condominium CR Trust since 1979, its current board, and its current plan to have its eastern boundary surveyed. Next he described Kennard Park and the activities of the Friends of Kennard Park (founded in 2014), beginning with the Sculpture Park event of 2016. The move of the Parks & Rec. Department into the Kennard House has been excellent for the land and the house.

Appointment of Marc Welch as Deputy Commissioner of Parks & Recreation Department was announced in relation to the above discussion.

Approval of minutes of the October 24 meeting: The minutes were approved as written, after minor typo corrections.

Treasurer's and Finance Reports: Katherine reported that the large bill for tree work at Dexter Woods has been paid. She prepared for the Finance Committee that had just been held. Chris reported for the committee (with Larry Burdick and Dan Brody, with Beth in attendance). The committee finds everything in order, and recommend continuing the current investment policy. It noted that some change may be needed for Dexter expenses.

CPC-backed CRs for Rogers and Wabasso Streets: Beth said the Conservation Commission public hearing on the funding will be on December 11. Leigh Gilligan has volunteered to work on these also.

Baseline documentation for 15 Bracebridge Rd.: After many postponements for bad weather, the work is scheduled for the coming Friday at 11:00 AM. Beth has bought metal markers to replace the wooden stakes identifying trees.

Dexter Woods: Soil test reports showed extreme acidity and heavy metals, explaining why only pokeweed flourishes in the understory. Only huckleberries and blueberries would grow. Anndy Dannenberg's students are interested in working there with us. A webcam to document wildlife was discussed.

Membership renewal letter: has gone to the printer.

Daylighting South Meadow Brook at Northland Site: Dan displayed an 1886 map that showed most of the Northland development site at Oak Street was a pond. He offered to write a letter to the developer with copies to the City Council and Planning Dept., expressing our hope that as much as possible of the brook be daylighted. A MOTION that he write urging Northland to daylight as much of the stream as possible and to maximize open space on the site was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Beth will send us the schedule of special permit hearings before he Land Use Committee.

Meeting with Allison Crosbie: Chris reported a very successful meeting with Carol Schein's successor as Open Space Coordinator. She is eager to work with us. The board agreed to invite her to a meeting next spring.

Mayor's Giving Tuesday Proclamation: Ellen and Beth attended the meeting of local non-profits.

Monitoring presentations:

Newton Community Farm: Ken reported for the team with Chris and Barbara. The chicken coop had been rebuilt on the same footprint, no other major changes. The future of the orchard is uncertain. The reviewers signed the report and will file it.

Awtrey Dell: Barbara reported. All the invasives noted in the four previous reports are still there more abundantly. The sign is available to be posted when Mr. Awtrey can be reached. The offer in 2007 by another abutter to add to the Dell was never acted on. Barbara questioned our use of the property. Peter responded that we need a plan, to prioritize our holdings, and he offered to serve on a **subcommittee about our responsibilities**. Nissa, Barbara and Ken volunteered to join him; the committee will meet before the next board meeting.

Solar Cells in the Library Parking Lot: Beth explained that she was asked to attend a meeting about this the next day, and will do it, clearly as an individual and not in her role as NC president. After considerable discussion of the desirability and of whether it is a NC issue, a vote on whether the Conservators should be involved resulted in 8 nays, 5 yeas, and 5 abstentions.

Conservation Coffees: Ann Dorfman has suggested to Beth that we follow the example of Concord, having all conservation-minded groups in the city meet informally each month. The board concurred that we are interested and ask her to investigate further.

Annual Potluck on January 9: will be at Henry's home; no December meeting, and regular January 23 meeting.

Updates:

- **Climate Vulnerability Plan:** David reported that some 25 people attended the Oct. 29 meeting on which he reported in an email this afternoon. The Mayor has decided Newton will opt for 46% renewable energy over the state mandated 14%, making it most ambitious in the state. A Public Facilities hearing on the plan is scheduled for Dec. 10. In response to the request to publicize the information, it was the sense of the meeting that this is not a major Conservator issues, but that the Newsletter will describe the Newton Power Choice.

- **Annual Meeting Speaker:** John Maguranis, of Project Coyote, has agreed to speak on May 9.

- **Website:** Dan Brody reported that most of the migration to the new web site is done. After the website subcommittee does further review of the new site, he will share it with all board members for their review.

- **Newsletter:** is being worked on.

- **Webster Woods:** The advisory panel has met with the newly hired lawyer. To keep the issue foremost, Beth will talk with Ellen Meyer about the possibility of a library talk about some aspect of Webster Woods.

- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry reported that the Working Group has been meeting with the design firms, city and state officials, CRWA, and Mark Development to develop options and cost estimates for the trail design. A panel discussion about the project is scheduled at the Newton Library on January 24 at 7 pm.

New Business:

- **Winter Walks:** Beth reported that there is interest in having winter walks, possibly on skis or snow-shoes. This will be looked into for next year.

- **Sudbury Aqueduct:** Councilor Andreae Downs would like to petition the Mayor to open the section of the Sudbury Aqueduct between the Greenline tracks and Rt.9/Echo Bridge. The board is supportive of the project, especially given the Conservators' long-term involvement of walks along the aqueducts.

- **Adjournment:** at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary