



Newton Conservators

E-Bulletin

Thursday, October 10, 2019

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



Webster Woods!

This has been a very important week for open space in Newton with Mayor Fuller's announcement on Monday about the city's intentions on acquiring Webster Woods by eminent domain if necessary with Community Preservation Act Funding. On October 7th, Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller filed a proposal with the Newton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to authorize the issuance of \$15.2 million in bonds for the purchase of 17.4 acres of land in Webster Woods. Mayor Fuller will be addressing the CPC this evening at 7 pm in the City Council chambers - stop by to hear the most up to date information on this development!

- [Read the Mayor's statement](#)
- [Read the full CPC proposal](#)
- [Newton Conservators enthusiastically supports this proposal](#)
- [Read the Mayor's prior announcement of her plan](#)
- [Learn more about saving the woods](#)
- [Take a walk in Webster Woods with three scheduled Conservators walks](#)
- [Support the Friends of Webster Woods](#)

[The CPC will be holding a public hearing](#) on the proposal at 7pm on Wednesday, November 6th, in the City Council Chamber in City Hall. To support the proposal, you can:

- Attend the [public hearing](#)
- Testify at the [public hearing](#)
- Send your comments to the CPC no later than October 25th by sending an email to aingerson@newtonma.gov

- [Write to members of the City Council](#) and urge them to support the proposal, including the use of eminent domain if it is necessary.
- [Sign the Friends of Webster Woods petition to save Webster Woods](#)

Be sure to read City Council members and candidates' responses to a questionnaire from the Newton Conservators about open space issues including Webster Woods at <https://newtonconservators.org/questions-for-city-council-candidates-2019/>. Come to "Saturday Night at the Races" to meet candidates in person on Nov 2.

Below is our updated list of Fall events! You will find Newton Conservators outdoor activities including a walk along the Aqueducts in Newton, bird walks, a geology walk, as well as three additional walks in Webster Woods. Please come by our booth at the annual Harvest Fair on Oct 20 and maybe pick up a "Save Webster Woods" lawn sign. Also keep up to date on NewCAL with upcoming public meetings listed below and our [website](#). The most recent Newton Conservators Newsletter is available on our website (<https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>). Hoping to see you out and about in Newton this Fall!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 10,
Community Preservation Committee Meeting
Webster Woods Update from Mayor Fuller - 7 to 7:20 pm
Roverside Greenway - Pigeon Hill Trail - 7:20 pm
Newton City Hall - City Council Chambers

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/webster-woods-update-from-mayor-fuller/>

On October 7th, Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller filed a proposal with the Newton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to authorize the issuance of \$15.2 million in bonds for the purchase of 17.4 acres of land in Webster Woods.

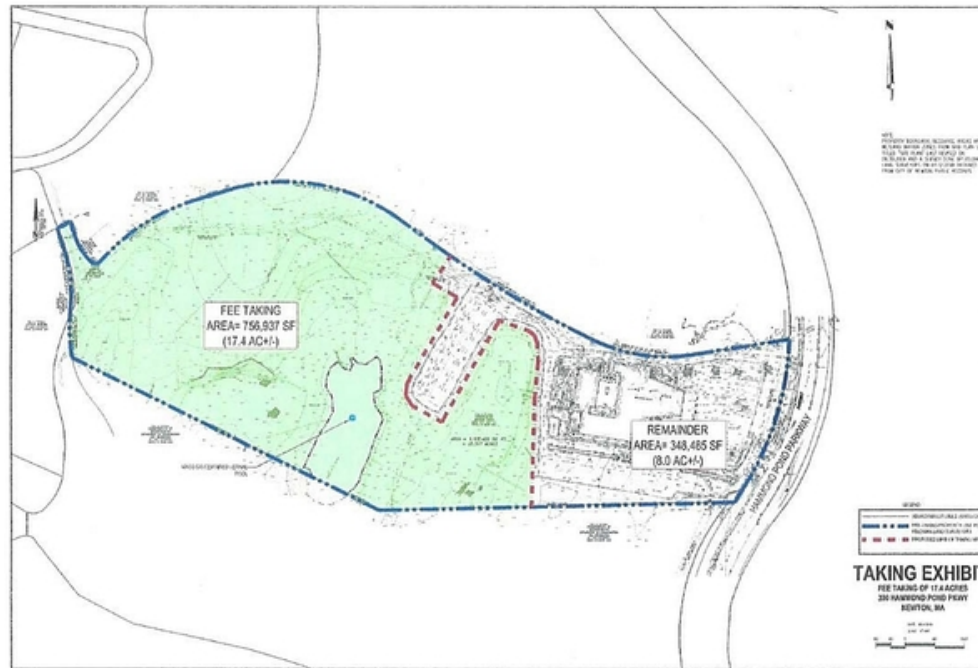
You can read the Mayor's statement here:

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/99407>.

Read the full CPC proposal at

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/99402>.

After the Mayor's presentation, the CPC may ask some questions about the proposal. The CPC will be holding a public hearing on the proposal at 7pm on Wednesday, November 6th, in the City Council Chamber in City Hall.



Following the Webster Woods presentation, there will be a public hearing on the Riverside Greenway - Pigeon Hill Trail project for recreation land rehabilitation and improvements. \$50K from CPC is being requested toward the \$212K cost of 100% design. The project was submitted by the Riverside Greenway Working Group with fiscal sponsorship from the Newton Conservators. Info on this project can be found at

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/cpa/projects/charlesriver.asp#Pigeon-Hill>

Saturday, October 12, 8 am - 12 pm
Brookline Bird Club Walk in Nahanton Park
 Nahanton Park - Winchester Street Lot

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/brookline-bird-club-bird-walk-in-nahanton-park/>

We will search for sparrows and other fall migrants at Nahanton Park and another location to be determined nearer the date of the trip. The leader is Linda Ferraresso. More information can be found at

<https://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/tripevent/nahanton-park-newton-and-other-nearby-locations-2/>



Saturday, October 12, 1 pm to 3 pm

Preparing for the Winter in Webster Woods

Webster Conservation Area - Warren Street Entrance (56 Warren St)

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/preparing-for-the-winter-in-webster-woods/>



Autumn is upon us and the great bird and monarch butterfly migrations are in full wing, but most living things in our local forests and wetlands stay right here in Newton throughout the winter months. Join a Newton Conservators outing in Webster Woods and learn how salamanders and other local amphibians plus turtles, butterflies, tiny kinglet birds, bees, wasps, and many other creatures prepare for and survive a New England winter. Tour leader is Eric Olson, a senior lecturer at Brandeis University, who has a PhD in evolutionary biology and ecology. Walk cell phone: 617-872-9928. Meet at the end of Warren Street. **Please park up Warren a few houses (in the address**

range 40 to 56 Warren), so as not to clog the end of this small dead end street.

Wednesday, October 16, 5 pm - 7 pm

Concert and Picnic at Newton Community Farm

Newton Community Farm, 655 Winchester Street, Newton

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/concert-and-picnic-at-newton-community-farm/>



Enjoy live music from local band, the Circuit Breakers, and good company to celebrate the bounty of the harvest at the end of the season concert picnic night at Newton Community Farm. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket, enjoy the music, connect with old friends and make new ones as we gather to celebrate the bounty of the harvest! More information:

<https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/education/adult-programs/#concert-picnics>

Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 am

Fall Bird Walk at Cold Spring Park

Cold Spring Park, Beacon Street Parking Lot Circle

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/cold-spring-park-bird-walk/>

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. Take an easy walk on fairly fat woodland trails to look for fall migrants like warblers and vireos as well as early winter birds such as White-throated Sparrows and our resident birds such as Northern Cardinals. Park at the Beacon St. parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather,



please call. This walk is cosponsored by the Brookline Bird Club, Trip Leader is Newton Conservators board member and frequent newsletter contributor Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477).

Saturday, October 19, 1 pm
Fall Tree Tour at Newton Cemetery
 Newton Cemetery and Arboretum
<https://www.newcemcorp.org/news-events>



Enjoy a tour with Newton Cemetery arborist Julie Clements as she guides a tour showcasing the interesting variety of Fall colors. The tour will take place rain or shine. Comfortable walking shoes, water, a camera and plenty of questions are recommended. The tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Meet just inside the main gate in front of the office. Parking is available on the Cemetery roads or in the chapel parking lot. For more information, call

617-332-0047 or email fonc@newcemcorp.org. Newton Cemetery is an accredited Arboretum with the Morton Register of Arboreta. The tour is free and open to all. Suggested Donation: \$10. Donations to the Friends of Newton Cemetery are welcome and support arboretum education and care.

Sunday, October 20, 10 am to 4:30 pm
Green Expo 2019 / Harvest Fair
 Newton Centre Green, Langley Road and Centre Street
<https://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/harvest-fair.html>



Visit the Newton Conservators Booth at the Annual Green Expo and Newton Harvest Fair in Newton Center. It's a great way to have a fun

time on a nice autumn afternoon. Look for fun kid's activities at many of the booths in the Green Expo. Kids can learn about Monarch Butterflies and Yellow Spotted Salamanders with free coloring pages and information. We will have the latest on Webster Woods and you can even pick up a free "Save Webster Woods" yard sign at our booth. The Harvest Fair will feature music and entertainment on two stages, food trucks, free pumpkin decorating, crafts, and kiddie amusement rides.

Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Newton Aqueducts Hike
 Starbucks Coffee Shop, 474 Woodward Street, Waban
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-aqueducts-hike-2/>

Join a five-mile hike through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group (there are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)



Thursday, October 24, 7 pm to 9 pm
NewCAL Community Meeting
Newton Education Center, 100 Walnut Street
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newcal-community-meeting-3/>

The City of Newton will be holding a community meeting in Room 111 of the Education Center to discuss the proposed Newton Center For Active Living, or NewCAL. Information about the meeting and the project is available on the NewCAL [website](#). Read the [Newton Conservators position](#) on the siting of NewCAL.



Saturday, Oct. 26, 9:00 am - noon
Bedrock Geology of Newton and Environs
Hammond Pond Reservation, 323 Hammond Pond Parkway
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/bedrock-geology-of-newton-and-adjacent-areas/>



The bedrock geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the south pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story. This trip will not be one of the usual Conservator “walks” since we will need to carpool to different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. If there is time and interest, we may choose to go a bit beyond Newton to view rocks within a volcanic caldera from

that time. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation area-east, at the west end of Hammond Pond off of Hammond Pond Parkway near Rt. 9, behind “The Street” complex – near the movie theatre (see Newton Conservators’ Walking Trail Guide, pg. 35). We will first visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will be about 3 hours. If there is moderate rain or worse, the trip will be cancelled. You can call the leader the evening before if in doubt. Most stops are close to a road, but at one stop we will walk a few hundred yards into the woods, and there is a bit of scrambling to reach the exposure. Trip Leader:



Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137)

Saturday, October 26, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Autumn Comes to Webster Woods

Webster Conservation Area - Warren Street Entrance (56 Warren St)

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/autumn-comes-to-webster-woods/>

Autumn is time for fall foliage in New England. Learn why leaves change color and drop off in October, and how climate change is altering the season. We might even see beautiful witch hazel flowers, the last plant to flower. We will also discuss past land use, and current efforts to protect Webster Woods. Tour leader is Richard Primack, Botany Professor at BU, Cell phone: 857-636-8378. Meet at the end of Warren Street. **Please park up Warren a few houses (in the address range 40 to 56 Warren), so as not to clog the end of this small dead end street.**



Sunday, October 27, 3:30 pm

Halloween Tour of East Parish Burying Ground

Corner of Cotton and Centre Streets

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/events/walking.asp>



East Parish Burying Ground, Corner of Cotton and Centre Streets, photograph by Helen Lutz

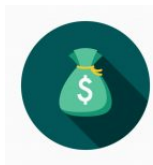
Who says cemeteries have to be spooky? Newton's oldest cemetery, the East Parish Burying Ground, dates back to 1660 and serves as the resting place of Newton's founding families. Learn about Newton's history and explore this community resource as an educator from Historic Newton guides you in this special tour of the art of remembrance, and life and death in Newton. Hear the stories of those memorialized and consider the lives and deaths of those whose final resting places are unmarked. Location: Meet at the

corner of Cotton and Centre Streets; park on Cotton Street. Sponsored by Historic Newton

Thursday, October 31

Deadline to Apply for a Newton Conservators Grant

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/deadline-to-apply-for-a-newton-conservators-grant/>



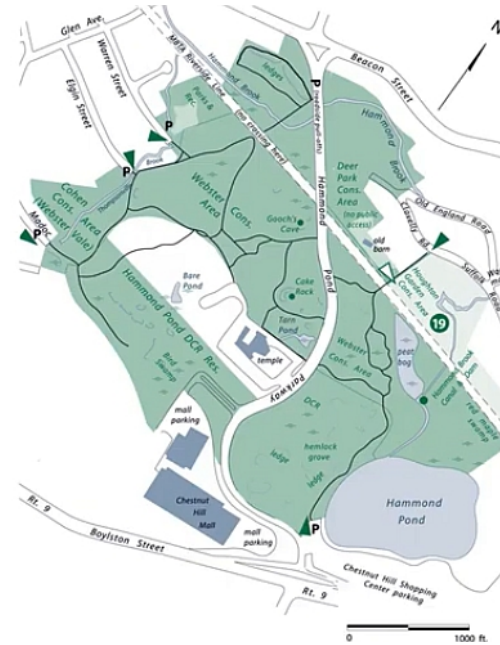
The Newton Conservators provides grants to Newton's schools, educational institutions, groups, and institutions for the purpose of fostering its mission. October 31st is the deadline to apply for a grant this fall. Learn more:

<https://newtonconservators.org/grants-program/>



Saturday, November 2, 1 pm, Rain Date: Sunday, November 3, 1 pm
Webster Woods Trail System
The Shops at Chestnut Hill - Rear Parking Lot (404 Hammond Pond Parkway)
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/a-walk-in-webster-woods/>

Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller has proposed that the City acquire and preserve 17.4 acres of Webster Woods, a portion of the land now owned by Boston College. Join us for a 1.5 mile walk in the woods that will explore the trail system that connects the land Boston College purchased three years ago with conservation land owned by the City and by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. While the trees are still putting on their annual show of fall color, we'll visit scenic features of the woods, including Bare Pond, Gooch's Cave, and Cake Rock. This walk will be led by Dan Brody, who is a member of the Newton Community Preservation Committee and a Newton Conservators director. Please note the meeting location: the rear parking lot of The Shops at Chestnut Hill. At the traffic light on Hammond Pond Parkway 1/4 mile north of Route 9, turn into the driveway for the Shops at Chestnut Hill. Turn left twice to enter the rear parking lot. Park in the section of the lot the farthest away from the parking garage. (Do not park in the Boston College parking lots adjacent to the former temple building.)



Saturday, November 2, 5 pm to 7 pm
Saturday Night at the Races
Newton City Hall - War Memorial Auditorium
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/candidate-event-co-sponsored-by-newton-conservators/>

It's Saturday Night at the Races!! Learn what Newton's City Council candidates want to do for you about open space, local traffic, housing, climate change and more. No speeches or debates, just conversations with candidates running for Ward and Citywide Council seats in ALL races, contested and uncontested. Saturday Night at the Races is a drop-in event, free and open to the public. This event is co-sponsored by the Newton Conservators along with the League of Women Voters of Newton, Green Newton, Livable Newton, Mothers Out Front, Newton Council on Aging and the Newton-Needham Regional Chamber. Questions? Please e-mail info@lwvnewton.org. Remember....think global, vote local on November 5th. This is a great opportunity to come and speak with our candidates. Read the

candidates' responses to questions from the Newton Conservators about open space issues at <https://newtonconservators.org/questions-for-city-council-candidates-2019/>. **Get out and vote on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019!**



Wednesday, November 6
Community Preservation Committee - Public Hearing on Webster Woods

Newton City Hall - City Council Chambers

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/community-preservation-committee-public-hearing-on-webster-woods/>



The Newton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will consider the proposal to authorize the issuance of \$15.2 million in bonds for the purchase of 17.4 acres of land in Webster Woods. You can read the Mayor's statement at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/99407> and read the full CPC proposal at <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/99402>.

This will be a public hearing on the proposal and you are encouraged to attend to voice your support for the acquisition. Written comments or questions for forwarding to the CPC in advance of the November 6 public hearing must be received by Friday, 25 October 2019. Please email comments and questions to aingerson@newtonma.gov. If you cannot meet the October 25 deadline but also cannot attend the hearing in person, please contact program manager Alice Ingerson for assistance.

Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm
Community Preservation Committee - Public meeting on Webster Woods
Newton City Hall - Room 204

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/community-preservation-committee-public-hearing-on-webster-woods/>



This meeting's only agenda item will be CPC deliberations on the Webster Woods funding proposal. To preserve the confidentiality of some supporting information for the proposal, the CPC may conduct a portion of these deliberations in an executive session, which would be closed to the public. However, this meeting will open as a public session, and the CPC will return to a public session for any funding vote(s).

Monday, November 25, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Cold Spring Park Talk
Newton Free Library - 330 Homer Street
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/cold-spring-park-talk/>

Newton resident Alan Noguee will talk about the history and ecology of Newton's beloved Cold Spring Park at this event, sponsored by Green Newton. More information:

<https://www.greennewton.org/event/cold-spring-park-talk/> Also see the Friends of Cold Spring Park Facebook page.



Fall Newsletter - 2019

Our Newton Conservators Summer Newsletter is now available online at <https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Newsletter-2019-Fall.pdf> and all other issues are on our Newsletter page at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters/>.



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

FALL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2019

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Beavers Part II: The Penultimate Eco-Engineer

Editor's Note: In this second installment on the beaver, the Newton Conservators delves into the beaver as keystone species and engineer extraordinaire, exploring its dam-building, ecological significance, and its conflicts with that other engineer — humans.

You can see it from space. It's a 2,790-foot-long dam built by beavers in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Beavers build their dams from stones, mud, and branches. Some of the branches, like



PHOTO: DALE HENRIKSEN

Beavers are huge rodents that use their formidable teeth to

in 1928, a beaver showed up in West Stockbridge. MAS wanted to help restore the beaver population so "three additional beavers were brought from New York and released at Mass Audubon's Pleasant Valley

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willow, sprout and start growing on the dam reinforcing the strength of the dam. Historical diaries record dams so wide and strong you could drive wagons across them. Most dams are usually less than 100 feet long, with exceptional ones reaching 500-600 feet.

According to the Mass Audubon Society (MAS), Massachusetts had been beaver-free since 1750 (trappers extirpated beaver). Then forests reclaimed agricultural land in the early 1900s, renewing the supply of food and dam-building material for beavers. Finally

harvest material for their dams



Google Earth image of the longest beaver dam in the world in Northern Alberta, Canada, courtesy of EcoInformatics International, Inc.

Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox."

Since then, the beavers have spread across Massachusetts and can be found everywhere except Cape Cod. One hotbed of beaver activity is Prescott Peninsula in the Quabbin Reservoir. The Massachusetts DCR has completed over 65 surveys of beaver activity in this area illustrating how beaver populations change without extensive trapping. When DCR started the surveys in 1952, there were two beaver colonies in the Prescott Peninsula survey area. This grew to

Continued on page 2

Check out the interesting articles in this issue:

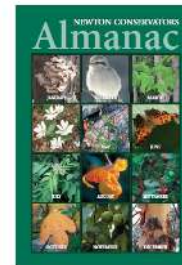
- [Beavers Part II: The Penultimate Eco-Engineer](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [iNaturalist: Sharing Nature](#)
- [A Fable: A Story of Nature in Your Own Backyard](#)
- [Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA](#)
- [Fall 2019 Walks](#)
- [Fall 2019 Invasive Plant Sessions](#)

Membership & Publications!

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 <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/> 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? The Trail Guides and Almanac are also available at your local Newton Bookstores. Shop Local! Our Trail Guide and Almanac make great holiday gifts!



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 in June 1961.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle *NEW! | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$_____ |

Want to make an even bigger impact?
Help us support these conservation areas:

Woodcock Meadow \$_____
Ordway Endowment Fund \$_____
Land Stewardship Areas (Dexter Rd., Bracebridge Rd.)
\$_____

*Contributors at this level receive a copy of the Newton Conservators Almanac. All new members receive Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

☐ I would like to volunteer!
Please email me.

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit NewtonConservators.org/membership.htm to renew/join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)



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