



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, October 25, 2019

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



Webster Woods and More!

You've heard a lot about Webster Woods lately. If you want to see what all the fuss is about, take advantage of a great [free nature walk tomorrow \(Sat. Oct 26\)](#) in Webster Woods at 1 pm with renowned BU Professor Richard Primack - see details in our Events below. You will surely come away with a greater appreciation of this magnificent stretch of local forest and vernal pool and why it should be preserved.



See the latest on Webster Woods efforts in the section below and please be sure to sign the [online petition to Save Webster Woods!](#) Another [trail walk at Webster Woods](#) will take place the following Saturday (Nov 2) at 1 pm.

Please note that the proposal for the city to acquire goes to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) on Wednesday, Nov 6 at the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7 pm. Email comments on the Webster Woods proposal are due today to aingerson@newtonma.gov.

And tomorrow morning at 9 am, we have a [Geology walk](#) in nearby Hammond Pond Reservation with BC Professor Chris Hepburn. Weather is expected to be great for both events so please join us!

Further below is our full updated list of remaining Fall events! Be sure to check out the responses to our candidates questionnaire after the Events listing.

Hoping to see you out and about in Newton this Fall!

Webster Woods

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.

- [Sign the Friends of Webster Woods Petition to Save Webster Woods](#)
(currently at over a thousand signatures on change.org!)
- [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 Webster Woods](#)
- [Take a walk in Webster Woods with 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 today 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 City Council candidates in person on Nov 2.



Upcoming Events

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 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 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>

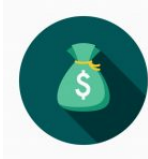


Who says cemeteries have to be spooky? Newton's oldest cemetery, the East Parish Burying Ground, dates back to 1660 and serves as the resting place of Newton's founding families. Learn about Newton's history and explore this community resource as an educator from Historic Newton guides you in this special 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/>

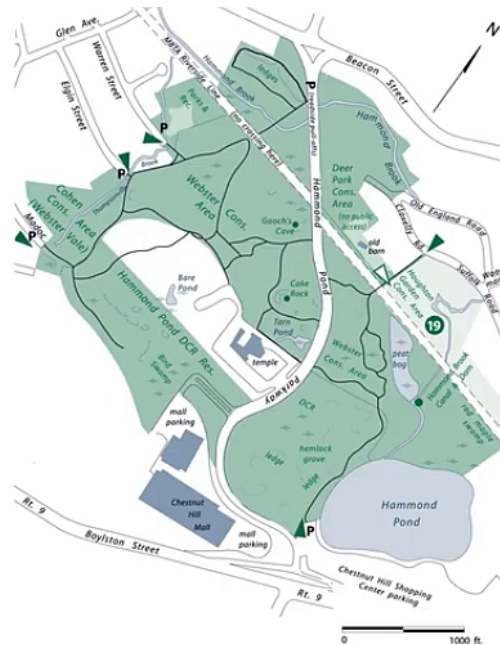
It's Saturday Night at the Races!! Learn what Newton's City Council candidates want to do for you about open space, local traffic, housing, climate change and more. No speeches or debates, just conversations with



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, 7 pm

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.



Newton Conservators Candidate Questionnaire Responses

The mission of the Newton Conservators is to promote "the protection and preservation of natural areas ... for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation." As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, the Newton Conservators organization does not endorse political candidates. However, we consider it part of our mission to inform the public about the positions of candidates on open space issues.

On September 25th, we emailed a questionnaire to every candidate for Newton City Council, and told them that we'd distribute their answers after responses were tallied on October 15. The questionnaire and replies appear on this page of our website:

<https://newtonconservators.org/questions-for-city-council-candidates-2019/>

To date, we have received replies from a majority of the active candidates for the Newton City Council. The replies can be found in a PDF formatted file on a link from the above web page. Candidate responses are grouped first by Councilor at Large and then by Ward Councilor positions, and then in Ward order. A table of contents will make it easy to find any particular councilor's

response. Any additional replies or modified replies received between now and Election Day will be added to the website page.

We encourage you to take a look at the responses of the candidates to inform your voting in the Newton City Council elections on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Please take any other opportunities to learn more about the candidates in person, in debates, candidate websites or social media, meet the candidate events, or in the press or local television. The Newton Conservators are cosponsoring a free public event "Saturday Night at the Races" with six other organizations on Saturday evening, November 2 from 5 to 7 pm where you can have conversations with city council candidates in both contested and uncontested seats.

Participating in our elections is one of the most important duties of a citizen and will make a great difference in the future of our "Garden City."

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/>.



NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • FALL 2019

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Brooks Mathewson

Eric Olson

Richard Primack

Eric Reensliema

Jon Regasin

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Jane Sender

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Beavers Part II: The Penultimate Eco-Engineer

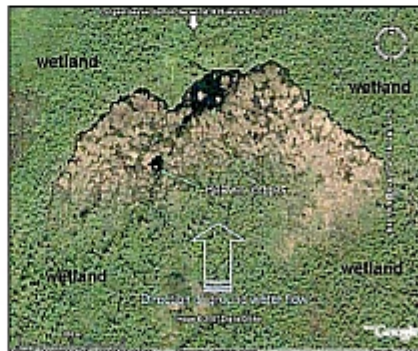
Editor's Note: In this second installment on the beaver, the Newton Conservators delves into the beaver as keystone species and engineer extraordinaire, exploring its dam-building, ecological significance, and its conflicts with that other engineer — humans.

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 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



Beavers are huge rodents that use their formidable teeth to 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.

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 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](#)

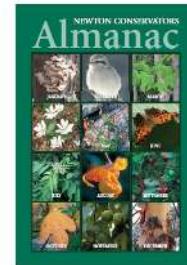
- [Fall 2019 Invasive Plant Sessions](#)

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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