



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Mondat, November 25, 2019

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



Photo of Webster Woods by John Chadis (c) 2019

Tonight - Webster Woods AND Cold Spring Park!

This evening (**Monday, November 25, 2019**) we have an unusual confluence of open space happenings with City Council discussion of **Webster Woods at 6:30 pm in City Hall** (earlier than we posted in the last e-Bulletin as 7 pm) There is also a wonderful lecture on **Cold Spring Park at 7 pm across the street at the Newton Free Library**. In addition, the City Council Finance Committee will be considering the Newton Conservators funding for Conservation Restriction monitoring of Kessler Woods! Note the updated events below - all in all, a very busy night!

Events

Monday, November 25, 6:30 pm
Webster Woods - City Council "Committee of the Whole" Meeting
Newton City Hall - Room 205 OR City Council Chamber (TBD)

At 6:30 pm the Newton City Council will meet in a "Committee of the Whole" session to discuss the Webster Woods proposal which was recently recommended

by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The agenda for the meeting can be found at:



<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/100230>. The full document is quite long since it also includes the recommendations of the CPC and the original proposal and support letters.

This meeting is open to the public, however the President of the Council may request the Committee enter into an Executive Session in accordance with the Provisions of Chapter 30A, sec 21(a) (3) & (6) for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of Webster Woods. This portion of the discussion would not be open to the public. It is uncertain as to how long the discussion will be. Other committee meetings are scheduled afterwards.

The agenda lists the meeting as taking place in Room 205 but there is a chance that the meeting could take place in the larger City Council Chamber. Fitting all 24 members of City Council, CPC members, other city staff, and members of the public could be a bit crowded in the smaller Room 205 space. If you are attending, getting there earlier would be wise and make sure you check to see where the meeting actually is happening.

The City Council may further discuss and vote on Webster Woods next **Monday evening, December 2**. Because of the upcoming consideration by City Council, communication with city councilors is of utmost importance. Many councilors have weighed in favor of the acquisition before the recent election in our questionnaire: <https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Candidate-Responses.pdf>. Call or write to City Councilors - contact info is available at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/boalisting/default.asp>. Emailing to citycouncil@newtonma.gov is an easy way to communicate with the entire council!

Monday, November 25, 7 pm **Cold Spring Park: A Green Oasis in the Heart of Newton** **Newton Free Library**

This event will feature two experts discussing Cold Spring Park.

Alan Noguee will talk about the many faces of the park— a 67-acre green oasis in the heart of Newton, with a great diversity of habitats and ecosystems. He will discuss its history and problems, and describe how the Friends of Cold Spring Park is addressing them. Alan is a career environmental advocate, having worked for 40 years to clean up our energy systems. He spent 17 years with the Union of Concerned Scientists, most recently as Director of Climate and Energy Strategy and Policy. He established the Friends of Cold Spring Park to help preserve, protect, and improve it.



Eric Olson will talk about the ecology of one of the most fascinating habitats in Cold Spring Park, the red maple swamp. Few people in Newton are aware of the extent of this habitat, and fewer still of the efforts underway to rescue it from an aggressive invader, the glossy buckthorn shrub. Eric is an ecologist at Brandeis University, where he teaches field biology among other environmental courses. His habitat restoration successes include the conversion of a mowed campus hillside into a wildflower meadow that is in regular use by Brandeis biology classes. He has been a frequent leader and participant with Newton Conservators' invasive plant pulls. The event is organized by Green Newton and cosponsored by the Newton Conservators. [More](#)

information: <https://www.greennewton.org/event/cold-spring-park-a-green-oasis-in-the-heart-of-newton-talk/>

Monday, December 2, 7 pm
City Council Consideration of Webster Woods
Newton City Hall - Council Chamber



If the City Council Committees recommend Webster Woods on November 25, it is possible that City Council would vote on acquiring Webster Woods at this session of City Council. It would require a 2/3 majority of the Council (16 out of 24 Councilors would have to approve. Watch for further notice as the date draws closer. Showing of support by emails or letters ahead of time, or attendance at the actual meeting is encouraged.

Sunday, December 15, 7 am (5 am for Owling)
Annual Newton Christmas Bird Count (CBC)
Meet at 1 Raeburn Terrace, Newton Highlands

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/join-the-audubon-christmas-bird-count-2/>



This year's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Newton takes place on the Ides of December starting around 7 am. After all, the early birder gets the birds counted! This is the 120th year of the CBC and helps to measure changes in population of our avian species (and perhaps more global trends such as climate change). Perhaps you have heard that North America has lost more than 1 in 4 birds in the last 50 years. How do we know? Partially from the annual Christmas Bird Count! See

<https://www.audubon.org/news/north-america-has-lost-more-1-4-birds-last-50-years-new-study-says>

In Newton, birders will meet at 7 am at 1 Raeburn Terrace in Newton Highlands (Raeburn is off Hillside which is off Walnut). Owlers (the real early birds) usually meet at the same location at 5 am. The group usually hits a few good spots and tries to call in the owls. At 7 am, groups will be formed to go off to various open spaces throughout the city to count all the birds that they see. The most common question of course is "how do you know you don't count the same bird twice?" Well you can't know for certain but we try our best! Beginners are welcome to accompany some of the more experienced birders (bring binoculars and dress warmly).

Most of the counting is done in the morning. You are welcome to join the counting even for a short time if you like. Tallies are made by afternoon and consolidated with tallies from other areas within a 15 mile Greater Boston count circle. Your questions about the count can probably be answered at <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-> If you are interested in joining the count this year, please email Pete Gilmore(petegilmore79@gmail.com).

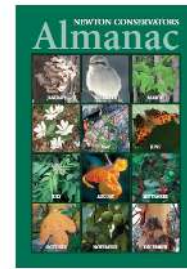
Membership & Publications!

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.*



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:

- \$250 Directors' Circle ***NEW!**
- \$125 Patron
- \$100 Donor
- \$75 Sustaining Member
- \$50 Family Membership
- \$35 Individual Membership
- \$15 Student Membership
- 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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