

# Thank you, AnnaMaria Abernathy

AnnaMaria Abernathy retired from the Conservators' Executive Committee as of the annual meeting on October 21. Fear not: she is *not* leaving the Board of Directors. However, this is a good juncture at which to share some of the important work she has done (so far) for Newton Conservators and the mission of conservation in our city.

AnnaMaria served as Secretary since 2003. Board member Dan Brody provides a great analysis of her work in that role:

“AnnaMaria has three qualities that have made her an outstanding board secretary: 1) exhaustive knowledge of conservation issues in Newton; 2) skill at accurately capturing on paper the arcane details of board motions and the sometimes rambling thoughts expressed by board members during meetings; and 3) fortitude in maintaining a high level of attention throughout loooooong board meetings.”



AnnaMaria's service to Newton Conservators goes far beyond her work as Secretary. In the late 1960s and 70s, AnnaMaria was instrumental in preserving 13 acres of what had been the historic Norumbega Park, now the Norumbega Park Conservation Area in Auburndale.

AnnaMaria was president of Newton Conservators from 1984 to 1986. During that time, a series of Land Use Forums were held, and the Conservators weighed in on important land use decisions – including the development of what is now Nahanton Park, the Lacy Estate (now the Ledgebrook condos), and the Capasso development adjoining Cold Spring Playground.

In the early 90s, AnnaMaria worked on the boards of both the Newton Conservators and the Newton League of Women Voters to develop standards that strengthened the environmental mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission and set standards for land acquisition. As a result of that work, in 1993 she received both the League's Jane Leighton Award and the Newton Conservators' Environmentalist of the Year award (for land-use activism).

AnnaMaria and husband, Fred, also saved Newton from losing open space to additional cell towers when they shared a study by Harvard students that showed that existing structures were sufficient.

These are only a few highlights from the decades that AnnaMaria has devoted to saving open space in Newton. In addition to accomplishing so much, AnnaMaria is a wonderful friend and colleague. Her unwavering support and high standards make us all better.

Everyone who enjoys our parks and conservation areas all across Newton can thank AnnaMaria for her work to preserve them. Look for her out walking the trails, especially in her beloved Auburndale. ♦

🍃 Beth Wilkinson

## MISSION

### Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 was formed as a not-for-profit organization 59 years ago in June 1961.*

**The Newton Conservators' Newsletter**® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to [articles@newtonconservators.org](mailto:articles@newtonconservators.org). Digitized photographs, maps and diagrams are also welcome.

Editor:	Ken Mallory	617-965-1908
Design/Layout:	Suzette Barbier	617-244-0266
Production:	Bonnie Carter	617-969-0686

Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Sam Jaffe, Michael Clarke, Margaret Doris & Pete Gilmore.