

Newton Conservators - Treasurer's Report on 2013 Finances

Newton Conservators had another year of strong financial results, while solidifying land trust activities, advocating for parks, battling invasive species, expanding our newsletter, and conducting the popular walks program.

The year began with \$173 thousand of unrestricted net assets. Operations had a deficit of (\$3) thousand, after expenses of conservation restriction monitoring and reprinting trail guides. Investment values increased by \$20 thousand, so in total, unrestricted net assets ended the year \$17 thousand higher, at \$190 thousand.

2013 revenues were \$15 thousand, comprised of membership dues, gifts, and map sales. Operating expenses were \$17 thousand, which included \$3 thousand for grants, awarded to the City's Environmental Science Program for scholarships, Franklin Elementary School for a gardening project and a watershed stewards program, and to Newton North High School for an algae farm and an environmentally friendly learning lab. Another \$3 thousand went to reprint an updated Trail Guide. In addition, normal operating expenses included Ordway Park maintenance, insurance, newsletter, and membership development.

Special project expenses included continued monitoring and enforcement of our conservation restrictions, with the Conservators directors partnering with and learning from Mass Audubon, which had established the baseline assessments in 2010. Board designated funds (\$1.5 thousand) to support Powder House Hill improvements were returned to unrestricted status, as that project is not moving forward.

Investment income and unrealized gains increased net assets by \$20 thousand in 2013, due to a strong stock market. Our investments continue to be split among a stock index fund, a Money Market account, and Treasury notes.

In total, the sum of operating income, special projects, and investment income led to a surplus of \$16,692, increasing our unrestricted net assets to \$190,055. Restricted assets increased from \$58 to \$59 thousand, with the transfer of Powder House Hill tree planting funds offset by new contributions for the Upper Falls Greenway project.

Total net assets, unrestricted and restricted, ended 2013 at \$279 thousand, about \$20 thousand more than the previous year.