

Newton Conservators - Treasurer's Report on 2015 Finances

Newton Conservators had another good year, with continued improved membership growth. Unrestricted net assets remained at the \$193 thousand level from the prior year.

2015 revenues were \$22 thousand, comprised of membership dues, gifts, and map sales. Operating expenses were \$22 thousand, which included \$5 thousand for grants, awarded to the City's Environmental Science Program for scholarships, Newton's two high schools for a wilderness education and a greenhouse project, and Newton Community Farm for its internship program.

Beginning unrestricted net assets reflect amendment of the 2014 statements to correct \$3 thousand of overstated revenues/assets. During 2015 we transferred to operations \$6 thousand of 4-percent-spending-policy income from the board-designated endowment, intended to fund special projects; there was no such expense in 2015, as conservation restriction monitoring was again done by the volunteer directors (Mass Audubon will continue to check our monitoring work every 2-3 years). The unspent \$6 thousand driving this operating gain will accumulate on the balance sheet and be used for future special projects.

Investments earnings did not offset the spending policy transfer, due to a down stock market at year end and to the gradual timing to rebalance to the investment policy asset allocation (60% domestic equity, 25% international equity, 15% bonds). Investment income after the \$6 thousand transfer to operations was \$(6) thousand, bringing the total change in unrestricted net assets back to break even, so unrestricted net assets remained at \$193 thousand. Of the \$193 thousand, \$148 thousand is the board-designated endowment, \$6 thousand is the accumulated spending policy amount (which will grow and be used to fund special projects), and \$39 thousand is undesignated.

In sum, results showed a surplus from operations and an overall breakeven in unrestricted net assets, which remained at \$193 thousand. Restricted assets increased from \$55 to \$60 thousand, due to Webster Woods and Woodcock Meadow donations. Total (not net) assets also increased by the new \$30 thousand escrow for the Waban Hill Reservoir (this asset is offset by an equal liability so does not impact net assets). Total assets, unrestricted and restricted, ended the year at \$311 thousand, an increase of \$35 thousand from 2014.