

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday  
January 23, 2019, 7 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Submitted by Ken Mallory

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Robert Fizek, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Daniel Green, Bill Hagar, Ted Kuklinski, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

The meeting began with Beth taking a video of the meeting attendees to send to AnnaMaria wishing speedy recovery from a recent fall on winter ice.

**Approval of minutes from January 9, 2019:**

We delayed approval of January 9<sup>th</sup> minutes due to the absence of AnnaMaria

**Treasurer's Report.**

Katherine reported she had mailed the Form 3ABC due March 1st on the tax-exempt property we own in Newton.

She reviewed the 2018 financial statements that were emailed (attached). Dues and Gifts were better than budget by \$1.3K and better than prior year by \$2K; they have been steadily rising (80% higher) since 2012-2013. Newtonville Books is doing well with Almanac and Trail Guide sales. Grants are close to budget reflecting the accrual of \$1250 owed to the ESP intern who worked in Summer 2018 and was not yet paid. Newsletter costs were down from prior two years reflecting lower page and copy count. Program costs include our half (\$680) of the Peter Kastner memorial bench. Project costs were high with the \$7K spent at Dexter Woods. Lower stock market on Dec 31 resulted in a (\$25K) unrealized loss, and unrestricted net assets were reduced by (\$16K). Restricted fund activity included \$5K of donations to Friends of Cold Spring park, the \$5K grant for Dexter Rd from Carolyn Fine Friedman (the previous owner of 60 Prospect Park and original donor of the property), and Save The Cove new fundraising.

Katherine also mentioned a January \$750 donation to the Land Stewardship fund for Bracebridge Rd; she wrote the usual tax acknowledgment and thanks. Peter Barrer offered to contact the donor to thank and find out more about him. Katherine noted that the LTA has interesting webinars for 2019 and will send out a link to the LTA website.

### **123 Signup Changes**

Katherine reported that in December 123 implemented changes to improve the user experience in making donations and renewing membership. The text is now more tailored to us and users are now able to renew at a higher level. Katherine thanked Dan Brody for reviewing and offering suggestions and requests, many of which 123 was able to implement.

### **Reply from property owner above Dexter Woods**

Letter from Angela O'Neil, owner above Dexter Woods (see attached)

Re: the Dexter Woods property, Beth said we will write to Angela O'Neil, the Prospect Park owner, and suggest that she meet with us so that we can partner in our work going forward. We are going to pass on the suggestion of the type of engineer who could advise her about her house, and then we will continue to plan and work with the rest of the neighbors once we know where the plan with her is headed.

### **Review of Baseline Report and CR for Wabasso and Rogers Streets**

The CPC funding for having the Conservators hold the CRs has been approved by the Finance Committee of the City Council. The Conservators will continue to work on the terms of the CR with the Catherine Farrell of the city's Law Department.

### **Crystal Lake Monitoring Report (Robert, Barbara, Henry)**

The CR team met and the report is in draft form; problems include the signage and the boundary markings, leaves and debris, and there is a question about how whether the fountain area is covered by our CR and what uses are allowed in that area.

### **Newton Community Golf Course (Larry and David)**

The golf course in general is in good shape, but there is evidence of bittersweet and knotweed; also noted a lot of large trees were down, and we are investigating why and how. The only real problems are brush piles that are distributed along the borders of the golf course instead of being gathered in one pile in the center. We should encourage them to plant native plants. There is also some question about the tennis court and its status in the conservation restriction. There was a recommendation to have us visit the golf course in the summer to check algal accumulation and water quality in golf course ponds.

### **Webster Park (Ted, Barbara, Nyssa)**

The Conservators team of Ted, Barbara, and Nyssa did a site visit on October 12, 2018. The site is conservation land and considered part of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area. There is need for clearing trail blockages due to fallen trees, and a need to contact adjacent landowners to be aware of these problems and debris dumping. There was considerable evidence of invasives.

### **X-Cel Education**

Beth and Katherine have rescheduled a meeting with X-Cel nonprofit representatives for February 1. X-Cel Education improves economic opportunity in underserved Greater Boston neighborhoods through accessible, individualized, and free high school equivalency education, post-secondary preparation, and career readiness development. They are interested in paid work to help train students conservation work, primarily invasives removal.

### **Updates**

#### **Website (Dan Brody)**

Dan has just spent a great deal of time and effort on the new website working with Scott Lewis and a group of 5 Conservator volunteers, and he gave us a taste of the new look with a PowerPoint presentation. The consensus is that it looks great. Dan will be working to finalize it over the next month or so with Scott Lewis. Then, it will go live before the entire board and to the general public for suggestions. The board decided to approve an additional payment of \$500 to Scott Lewis for all the time he has put in.

## **Annual meeting awards**

All but one award recipient has been notified, and all were delighted to be honored at the annual meeting. Beth wrote to our Annual Meeting speaker to get everything organized for the meeting including the invitations.

## **Spring walks**

Walks are still in the planning process, we need to have these and a description of invasives pulls ready for the newsletter published in early March. As last planned the walks are as follows:

### Spring walks 2019

Saturday, April 6	Eric Olson and Jon Regosin, Webster Woods walk
Sunday, April 7	Eric Olson and Jon Regosin, Webster Woods walk
Saturday, May 4	Pete Gilmore, Bird walk at Cold Spring Park Co-sponsored Brookline Bird Club
Sunday, May 12	Haynes Miller and Alison Leary, Bird walk at Nahanton Park
Saturday, May 18	Alison Leary, Bird walk along Charles River Path
Saturday, June 22	Don Lubin, Fern walk
TBD	Henry Finch, Aqueducts walk
TBD	Henry Finch, Additional walk

### Summer Walks

TBD	Ted Kuklinski, Dolan Pond walks from Elm Street Farmers' Market
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## **Webster Woods**

Lawyers and appraisers have been hired by the City, and they are off doing their work. In an effort to keep the discussion of how to keep Webster Woods alive in the public's minds, Beth has asked Richard Primack to write an article for the next newsletter focusing on what's in the park that's important to preserve. Eric Olson has agreed to do a walk, but we don't have a date yet. Richard Primack has also agreed to do a walk, day and time to be determined.

### **Newsletter (Ken)**

Ken repeated the report he made at the January 9 potluck gathering outlining scheduled assignments for the spring newsletter due for printing in early March. Barbara Bates will write about beavers, Richard Primack on Webster Woods, Mark Hooker on invasives in Cold Spring Park, Spring walks and invasive pulls, and the president's message.

### **Extension of Upper Falls Greenway**

The talk on January 24 at the library is best way to get an update on this. The talk is entitled “**Creating Greenways Along the Charles River:** Creating new greenways where Newton borders the Charles River would bring outdoor recreational and transportation opportunities to the backdoors of thousands of residents. Ted Kuklinski will bring a camera if no arrangements have been made for a film crew.

### **Upper Falls Greenway**

The Conservators voted to support the extension of the Upper Falls Greenway and have sent out a letter to the Conservation Department.

### **Cold Spring Park (Katherine)**

Friends of Cold Spring Park founder Alan Noguee is working on the fundraising. Improving trails will come first; the Parks and Rec.Dept.. estimates that trail improvement would cost \$60,000. A recent development is the filming of a TV movie series called *Defending Jacob*, based on a book by William Landay, with the setting in and around Cold Spring Park. There is a discussion about getting a contribution from the film's producers for improvements in Cold Spring Park.

### **Riverside Trails Core Group Report (Larry and Henry)**

Henry not present, report will be at next board meeting.

### **New Business**

Ken relayed a request to the board by Greg Maslow of Newton Community Farm to include mention of the Newton Community Farm's 2019 Summer Produce Share Program. Ted Kuklinski volunteered to place a notice in our e-news outreach.

February 27: Board meeting  
May 8: Annual Meeting

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday  
February 27, 2019, 7 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present was Scott Lewis, of Trail Websites, designer of our new web site.

**Website Review with Scott Lewis:** Dan introduced Scott Lewis, and explained the advantages of Word Press, especially that it lets multiple people add content, and that it is compatible with cell phones. He then presented the features of the new web site in 20 minutes, and allowed 10 minutes for questions and explanations by Scott Lewis. Board members cheered at the impressive achievement. The site will probably be operating in a week. Scott and Dan will offer training sessions.

**Approval of the minutes of Jan. 9 and Jan. 23:** Chris pointed out that he was present on Jan. 23. With this correction, both documents were approved.

**Attorney General's Guide:** Beth distributed copies of The AG's Guide for Board Members of Charitable Organizations.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement:** Beth also distributed copies of the Conflict of Interest disclosure statement (see attached) that board members are asked to fill out and return to her.

**Treasurer's Report:** •Katherine's main news was that the Friends of Cold Spring Park have raised over \$9,000, entirely from neighbors.

•The audit committee will meet before the annual meeting; Larry Burdick, Dan Green, Pete Gilmore, and Beth are members; Katherine asked if anyone else would like to join this once-yearly meeting, and AnnaMaria volunteered.

•Katherine has filed the 3ABC form, and will soon file IRS 990/Form PC.

•She asked board members to tell her of projected changes for next year's budget. Newsletter costs will go down assuming a limit of 12 pages per issue and possibly fewer copies, and above all thanks to the fact that our printer has met the drastically lower cost offered by competing printers whom Chris and AnnaMaria had contacted.

**Nominating Committee:** Beth announced that Ted has agreed to become president, with her continuing to help as past president. The executive committee

members are staying on, so the committee's work will be light. Pete, Bill, and Barbara agreed to serve on the committee.

Beth mentioned meeting a woman who is interested in finding business people interested in joining non-profits. The board discussed the pros and cons of having such members. We'll continue the discussion after Beth contacts the woman.

**Grants:** Bill described the application from Friends of the Newton Cemetery for \$650 to pay for a sign at their new Feed a Bee Garden. Following considerable discussion, a MOTION - to respond that we support the application if the plan conforms to our interest in native plants and pollinators and on condition that we have the right to review the signage wording – was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Newton Serves April 28:** Beth said we will work at our three traditional sites. Jennifer Steel responded to a question about clean-up projects with a list from which to choose one. We will continue to talk with her about the possibilities. BU volunteers will again join to work at Cold Spring Park. 8-year old Cub scouts from Allston also want to help and we will reach out to the youth members of the Arlington church who have worked with us for the past two years.

**Annual Meeting:** Given the great interest in coyotes, the board decided to charge \$45 for non-members to attend, while “members and their guests” will continue to pay \$35.

Henry, Barbara, and Peter volunteered to help with set-up at 5 PM. For tear-down, others are needed. Award presenters are needed; please tell Beth if you would like to do the honors for Eric, Don Lubin, Maria Rose & Friends of Kennard Park. To keep reasonable time, the meeting will begin while guests are still eating, and only the EOY recipient will be allowed to speak.

**Ellen as new Walk Coordinator:** Beth announced and the board cheered. Katherine stressed the importance of the protocol for spring walks leaders: to bring a sign-up sheet and copies of publications. The board agreed to print 250 copies of the spring walks schedule that we will distribute at libraries and shops.

**Mass. Land Conservation Conference:** Beth, Nyssa, Barbara and Ken are going. If other board members would like to attend, they should register before March 8; cost will be covered.

**Meeting with X-Cel nonprofit representatives:** Beth and Katherine met with them, and were impressed by their work, training disadvantaged youth for good jobs in the conservation field. . They would like us to let them work with us in return for a donation. Following discussion, a MOTION to donate approximately



\$500 in return for four students working with us for two days was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

## **UPDATES**

- **Bennet Walkes**, our former intern, is a finalist for a Doris Duke Conservation Program fellowship, to be fulfilled during his summers off from Brown University.
- **ESP intern from 2018:** Dave thanked us for the help we gave to intern Miles Welbourn, described his work for the City and for ESP. He will now be paid \$1250 as agreed: \$1000 from NC and \$250 from Dan Green.
- **Webster Woods:** Beth reviewed some recent developments. BC has fenced the rear parking lot, and received permission for heavy equipment to use the parkway, as the prohibition for them does not apply to abutters. The Exec. Committee is scheduled to meet on March 4.
- **City CRs:** The drafts for Wabasso and Rogers Street are back at the state.
- **CR Monitoring:** Chris exulted that the last two reports are done, and thanked the monitors; he will get the reports off to the Conservation Commission, the Parks and Rec Department, the board at the Community Farm, and the golf course administrators.
- **Dexter Woods:** Beth has asked to meet with Angela O'Neill after March 12.
- **Newsletter:** Ken described the upcoming Newsletter, which will include articles by Barbara Bates and Mark Hooker, who is an active member of our invasives team.
- **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry said the presentation on Jan. 24 is now on the group's website and on the Conservator Facebook page.

## **New Business:**

- Parks and Rec. Commission: has two new members, both interested in artificial turf for playing fields, and Al Cecchinelli may be named for Ward 1. There is a new opening for the Ward 3 position. Board members will try to find an open space advocate who is interested in filling the seat.

**Adjournment:** at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday March 27, 2019, 7 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present were Scott Lewis, of Trail Websites, designer of our new web site and Mark Hooker.

The meeting began at 7:10 following an hour web training session by Scott Lewis, who left at its conclusion.

**Approval of the minutes February 27:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine has filed the IRS 990-N. She described the changes to the budget, primarily the expected \$40,000 expense for Dexter Woods, of which she has budgeted half for this year. As a result of several reductions (see Newsletter, grants), a net asset reduction of \$9100 will be takeout of excess unrestricted assets. Chris noted that the finance committee had approved the budget, whereupon a MOTION to approve the budget was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Trail Guide Project Director:** A volunteer has come forward; Beth, Dan Brody and Ellen will meet him next Thursday morning.

**Awtrey Dell Developments:** Beth reported that the Awtrey property had one on sale and had been bought immediately by a family which had included in its bid \$10,000 for maintenance of the Dell. They would also like to buy the Dell if possible. After considerable discussion, a MOTION by Chris to investigate the possibility of transferring the Awtrey Dell to the new owners was SECONDED by Barbara and unanimously APPROVED.

**Newton Serves April 28:** In addition to our three traditional sites, Beth explained that a new project had been added: 20 volunteers from the Unitarian First Church in Chestnut Hill will remove invasives around Houghton Garden.

**Annual Meeting:** The following award presenters volunteered: Dave Backer for Environmentalist of the Year to Eric Olson; Chris for Charles Johnson Maynard Award to Don Lubin; Beth and Peter for Directors' Awards to Maria Rose and the

Kennard Park group. The board also agreed to invite several guests who have worked closely with us over the past year

**Walks Flyers:** Beth passed around the 250 copies of the walks flyer for board members to place in public places such as banks and the two local libraries.

**Walk with Historic Newton on Sept. 15:** Beth said she had sent board members' suggestions for walks to Clara Silverstein of Historic Newton, who suggested a joint walk either in Cold Spring Park or on the Riverside trail. The board agreed that the latter was more pertinent, and Larry agreed to lead the walk with other members of the Riverside Trails group.

**Farm Seedling Sale May 18 & 19, 12 to 3 PM:** Bill agreed to work on May 18, and Ellen will cover the 19<sup>th</sup>. A second volunteer for each day would be welcome.

**Farmers Markets:** Katherine will not run our participation this year; she pointed out that most shoppers are repeat customers. She suggested we participate in Village Days instead.

## **UPDATES:**

- **Nominating Committee:** Advisors still have to be contacted; the slate of officers is settled.
- **Website training:** Dan said the training session was great; he will send a message with instructions for using the site. The board thanked Dan warmly.
- **Dexter Woods:** Beth, Katherine and Ted will meet with Angela O'Neil on Friday.
- **CR for Wabasso St.:** The CR has been written by the Law Dept.; Lee Gilligan has made suggestions, which have been commented by the law dept. and EEA. Beth and Katherine will review the suggested changes, which appear to be minor.
- **Crystal Lake plan and Roger St. CR:** A newly revised version of the plan for Levingston Cove was presented at the Crystal Lake Working Group, which Beth attended. After additional changes are made, the plan will be presented at the April meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission, which will vote on the plan in May.

Catherine Farrell, working in the Law Department for the CPC, sent us a draft of a CR for the Rogers Street property at Crystal Lake. In January, the board decided that the clause allowing "without limitation the installation, construction, demolition and maintenance of fences, gates, parking areas, buildings, and kiosks

for public recreational purposes, charging fees for use of the Premises, and including as necessary, regrading and reshaping of the land for public recreational activities” is counter to the notion of a conservation restriction. Beth reported that she had discussed that clause with Bob DeRubeis and Carol Stapleton of Parks and Rec and with Janice Bourque of the Crystal Lake Conservancy. We will wait to hear more from the Law Department.

• **Riverside Trails Core Group Report:** Larry reported: “The Riverside Greenway Working Group met with CivicMoxi to tour the trails project and how it connects to the Riverside development. We met with three prospective trails building companies to preview the site for RFP to build the Pony Truss Trail based on specifications developed by AMC. That work is funded for completion before the end of 2020. The Greenway proposed to replace the northern lanes of Commonwealth Ave. from Lyons Park to the river may be able to be combined with the reconstruction of the Route 30 bridge over the Charles River and a project in the Town of Weston to construct a pathway along Route 30 to Natick. Options are being investigated.”

• **New-Cal Center planning:** Beth explained the concept, and that the City is looking for for a 2-1/2-acre site, most likely in a park or playground. The board agreed that it is opposed to that idea

• **Grant to Newton Cemetery:** Katherine received a thank-you letter; we will ask the Cemetery for a display at annual meeting. We hope the ESP will also display.

• **Parks & Rec. Commission:** Beth is discussing the Ward 3 position with a possible nominee.

### **New Business:**

• **Library Display:** We have been invited to put a display in the Atrium cases in June. Ken and Ellen are working on it and will report in April.

• **Celebration of Rachel Carson Day:** on May 14 at 3 PM in City Hall; Beth, Ted, Ken and David will attend.

• **499 Winchester Street Hearing on April 2:** Chris reported on the petition for a special permit to build 4 single-family homes in two attached condos on a 1-acre lot on which the former home of Duane Hillis stands. These would be 35’ tall, and a major intrusion in this quiet corner of the park. The Conservators were able to object to a previous plan because its sewer line would have run through the park; this is now avoided. Chris urges individual members to attend the hearing to

express their opposition. *[For the Planning Department memorandum, see <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/96095>]*

• **Walk with Audubon Society along Charles River:** Barbara proposed co-sponsoring a walk/paddle along the Charles with the Audubon Society. She will work with Walks Coordinator Ellen and Larry to look into the possibility.

**Adjournment:** at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday April 24, 2019, 7 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Beth Wilkinson, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Ellen Gibson-Kennedy, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith.

Also present was Todd Macalister, who has volunteered to manage the new Trail Guide project

**New Trail Guide Project Manager Todd Macalister:** Board members introduced themselves to Todd, who told us about his work at Charles River Instructional Systems and experience in designing guides.

**Approval of the minutes March 27:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Treasurer's Report:** AnnaMaria read Katherine's report: The audit committee met on Apr. 11 and found no concerns with the 2018 statements. Updates to the treasurer's procedures were accepted. Katherine thanked audit committee members Larry Burdick, Beth, Pete Gilmore, and Dan Green.

The main points of the Q1 financial statement, which had been emailed, were noted, and MOTION to approve them was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Form PC/990 was emailed for board review and did not need to be formally approved.

**ESP grant:** In connection with the treasurer's report, Beth noted the \$2350 available for grants, and that we traditionally grant \$2000 for Environmental Science Program scholarships. Following brief discussion, a MOTION to grant \$2000 for ESP scholarships was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Walks Coordinator:** Ellen has had to withdraw from this assignment, which will be listed again. In the meantime, Beth will fill the position.

**Annual Meeting:**

- Pete said 16 of the advisors had been reached; Doug Dickson is moving away. At the annual meeting, Pete will acknowledge his long, excellent work on behalf of open space in Newton.
- A \$250 contribution from the JCC arrived after the program had been printed; the

information will be pasted in.

- Bill said that Don Lubin will have a fern exhibit at the meeting.

**Newton Serves April 28:** Our 4 sites are covered, with a significant number of volunteers.

**CRs with City:** Beth reported that the Wabasso CR is ready to go to the PC for approval at the end of the month. Kessler CR is under way; a May 2 meeting is scheduled with Alice Ingerson, members of the Law Department, Ted, Katherine, and Beth. Work continues on the Rogers Street CR. Beth and Ted will meet with Bob DeRubeis and Carol Stapleton on May 6.

**Monitoring:** The list was passed around for scheduling.

**CPA Coalition:** would like NC to endorse the bill to increase State funding for the CPA, and for individuals to do so, at [SaveCPA.org](http://SaveCPA.org). A MOTION to endorse the CPA Coalition was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

Beth next spoke of the **Public Lands Preservation Act** that needs renewing. It would put more power into Article 97; we had already agreed to renew our support.

**LANDSCAPE software:** Ken showed a promotion of the software for documenting CR monitoring, as well as invasives work, at a cost of \$600/year. Discussion indicated that it is most likely suitable for larger land trusts; that free software is available for essential functions, and that the system Chris has set up works for us. A small group will do a free trial of the software to make a final evaluation.

**Library Display:** Ken showed examples of possible displays for the two cabinets that we will have for the month of June, and asked for suggestions. He and Ellen will prepare the display.

**Mayor's Breakfast:** Five board members will attend: Beth, Bill and Dottie Hagar, Ted, and David Backer.

**Dr. Gegear's pollinator talk for Grow Native:** Beth and Ellen heard him in Cambridge, found him excellent, and to consider for a Library talk or for annual meeting. Beth distributed copies of his pollinator list that Ellen Katz had reworked.

**UPDATES:**



- **Webster Woods:** Beth said committees are working on appraisals and strategy.
- **Website:** Dan Brody gave an update about the website, which is now up and running. See \*appended
- **Historic Newton walk on Sept. 15:** t This walk on the proposed Riverside trails will be led by Larry, Henry, and Ted Chapman.
- **X-Cel group working on May30 & 31:** the location is yet to be chosen
- **Awtrey:** A problem with the deed to the property is delaying the sale.
- **Dexter Woods:** Beth, Katherine, and Ted met with the O'Neills, who raised the issue of their 30' sewer easement through our site. No other action items came out of the meeting.
- **499 Winchester Street:** AnnaMaria said the minutes of the April 2 hearing\*\* detailed significant opposition including from NC board members; the hearing was continued awaiting more information, with no date set. \*\*See <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/96396>
- **Parks & Rec. Commission:** we still seek a pro-open space candidate for the Ward 3 position.
- **Conservation Commission:** Soon there will be two openings on the Con Com. Beth will talk to one or two proposed candidates.
- **Cold Spring Park:** Beth reported that Katherine had served as the location assistant to protect native plants during the filming of the movie *Defending Jacob*. For that work and Bruce Wenning's earlier guidance, the producers are donating \$500 to the Conservators. For use of the park, they are also donating \$20,000 to the City for improvements to Cold Spring Park.
- **Farm Seedling Sale:** Bill will work on May 18. If possible, on May 19 our materials will be with Nissa at the Green Newton table.

### **New Business:**

- **Riverside Development:** Mark Development's project manager would like to present to the board plans for a \$3M Riverside Park at the site. Following discussion, it was decided to invite a brief presentation.
- **Levingston Cove:** the Parks & Rec. Commission discussed the renovation plan on Monday, will vote on it at the May meeting.

- **1114 Beacon Street:** A vernal pool has been found at the site of a proposed development.

- **Ordway Park:** Dan Green said the Ordway house has been sold, and survey markings are visible, so this is a good time for us to install permanent markers. Dan will do so.

- **Paper Mouse offer:** Ted reported that the owners have offered to hold a watercolor workshop at Dolan Pond as a fund raiser for NC.

**MOTION for Beth:** Bonnie Carter moved for a vote of gratitude to Beth for her five years of extraordinary service, which was unanimously acclaimed.

**Adjournment:** at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary

\*Re WEBSITE: All directors can log in to the Board Library part of the page to see some of the materials (such as old financial reports and tax filings) that were on the password-protected part of the old website.

On the advice of our website consultant, Scott Lewis, we plan to move other materials to a Google Drive system. We'll use this system to store more confidential materials, such as Quickbooks backups and membership lists, as well as collaboration documents such as monitoring reports. Barbara Bates has been working diligently to get this system operational, but still has some work to do.

Directors who would like to be able to post materials to the website should contact Dan to be set up as "contributors" to the site. Ted is already doing this for E-Bulletins, Katherine for invasives pulls, and Ken for the Newsletter.

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday June 26, 2019, 7 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Ted Kuklinski, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

Ted noted that in response to board members' requests, we would try to close in time for members to hear the Democratic debates at 9 PM.

**Approval of minutes for April 24 and May 29:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine said she will report in July.

**Dexter Woods:** Katherine explained that we had estimated and the board had approved an expense of \$40K for the work, to be done in two successive years. Nate Cenis of Bartlett has bid \$21,000 for the work to be done in two stages, but \$19,500 if done all at one time. The board agreed to go with the latter proposal. Because Cenis has done much work on this, some of it pro bono, no other bids will be sought. Katherine, Ted, and Beth will organize a meeting with neighbors during July. Meanwhile Katherine will work on garlic mustard at the site and invited others to join her.

**NewCal Siting:** Ted circulated the statement of the Conservators' position that he had drafted. After a couple of minor changes, a MOTION to approve the statement in general, with the final version to be worked on by the executive committee, was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. (see attached).

**Fall Walks:** Beth said several are scheduled, and a few more could be used. Bill will do his on Sept. 27, Chris at the end of October. A Hemlock Gorge walk will be worked on, possibly with the Friends of Hemlock Gorge.

**Updates:**

**Webster Woods:** Dan described the results of 13 responses to his straw poll; he assured us that he used it only to guide him in the discussion at the CPC, that he did not distribute it or suggest it represented the views of the board. He distributed copies of a proposed motion. Following discussion, a MOTION to approve a softened wording (see attached) was SECONDED and approved by a vote of 12 to 1.

**CPA Funding Legislation:** Ted will write to thank Senator Creem for her work on the bill that improves the CPA funding. Individual board members are encouraged to write on their own. (See attached letter to the TAB for details)

**Riverside:** AnnaMaria reported on the previous evening's hearing for the project before the City Council's Land Use Committee. It included a mention of \$6M for open space; the video suggested this was largely for a playground on MDC land below the site. Since the Riverside Trails Core Group is having meetings with the developer, it was decided not to invite Mark Development to a board meeting.

**499 Winchester Street:** Chris reported that a developer has bid \$2.3M and hopes to build without a special permit.

**CRs for Rogers Street, Kessler:** They are making good progress. We must put in a request to the CPC for funding them and Wabasso; this has been agreed on and the documents prepared for us.

**Parks and Rec Commission vacancy for Ward 3:** Barbara Bates will provide contact information for a possible candidate for it or for the Conservation Commission, and Ted will follow up.

**Library Display:** Kudos to Ken and Margaret Ford for the very successful exhibit; Ken distributed some copies of a photo showing it.

**Newsletter:** At the PO for a week, so far not yet delivered. Ken succeeded in keeping it to 12 pages, crediting Suzette for helping to achieve this.

**Seedling Sale 6/1/19:** Nyssa said it was very successful; the board agreed to resume attending both days.

**Cold Spring Park event 6/3/19:** Katherine said more than 120 attended, and 60 on Henry's walk. Two new members joined. Ted has a video of the talks, which will be posted on our YouTube channel.

**Highlands Village Day 6/9/19:** George, Margaret Doris and Chris staffed it, and confirmed the decision to attend all village days, where new people are met, in contrast to Farmers' Markets. A problem with our tent led to the decision to put the "booth" on the agenda for July.

**CR monitoring for the coming year:** Chris said the Google site is now up, thanks to Barbara and Dan. Barbara distributed a sheet explaining how to log on (see attached).

**Offleash for Norumbega:** Ted reported plans are underway for the approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre park at the corner of Comm. Ave. adjoining the Marriott.

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

Dear Mayor Fuller and City Officials,

The Newton Conservators have been helping to acquire and preserve open space in Newton for 58 years. Lately, we have been closely following the progress of the NewCAL project to provide a new community recreational multigenerational center.

Many of our members would likely appreciate such a facility in Newton. However, in recent site evaluations, the locations have been narrowed to 24 locations, a majority of which are currently public open space land.

The Newton Conservators are not in favor of the use of existing open space park land where green space is replaced with hard scale and buildings. This position is strongly in alignment with our mission statement:

*“Newton Conservators Inc. promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, park lands, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton for scientific study, education, and recreation. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.”*

We believe that the site selection process and criteria need a fresh look. Parklands are always the “easy” choice for finding land for development, but these are precious natural areas, certainly in short supply in Newton. The city should look harder at some of the other choices in the original list and perhaps modify its criteria.

Here in Newton, the “Garden City”, converting our existing open space into buildings and parking would result in a lot less “Garden” and a lot more “City.”

Best regards,

Ted Kuklinski

President, Newton Conservators

At its June 26 meeting, the Newton Conservators' board of directors voted to encourage the Mayor in her efforts to preserve the portion of Webster Woods west of Longitude 71.178387\* that is owned by Boston College.



DRAFT Letter to the Editor for Newton Conservators

May 31, 2019

TO THE EDITOR: Thank you Senator Creem for protecting CPA

As the group dedicated to the protection of Newton's open space, plant habitat, and wildlife, the Newton Conservators thank Newton's own Senator Cynthia Stone Creem for working tirelessly across multiple legislative sessions to reform the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding mechanism. Her hard work has paid off this year.

The idea behind CPA is simple: municipalities save locally raised funds, and the state pitches in a percentage match collected from fees assessed at the Registry of Deeds. However, the workability of CPA as a preservation tool is threatened as the program has become larger and more popular. Today, 175 Massachusetts cities and towns are enrolled in CPA, and the state match has dwindled from 100% to just 11%.

In 2000, Newton Conservators was a leader in the CPA Alliance that led Newton to be among the first cities in Massachusetts to adopt the CPA .

Thanks to our small, 1% surcharge on property taxes and the matching funds from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, Newton preserved land at Kessler Woods and Crystal Lake and acquired the last working Farm in the city, now the Newton Community Farm .

Since the funding mechanism has not been updated since 2000, the program is at risk. Improving the CPA funding mechanism is critical for major projects such as the preservation of the Webster Woods.

Senator Creem's bipartisan proposal would raise the match to approximately 30% in 2020 through a one-time increase in the Registries of Deeds recording fees. It has recently been adopted in the Senate's budget agreement and is expected to travel to the Governor's desk for signature.

We thank Senator Creem for advocating for this much needed increase in the state match for CPA and encourage swift enactment of this critical proposal on Beacon Hill. With these funds, Newton and other CPA members can continue to make concerted progress toward meaningful community preservation.

Logging onto the Newton Conservators' Google Drive (as of June 26, 2019)

Go to the [Newtonconservators.org](http://Newtonconservators.org) website



Scroll to bottom of screen and click on "Board Access" in lower right corner:



Enter the board user name and password:



Notice the green hot link "Board Archive on Google Drive" and click on it:



Follow the directions you find there (click on appropriate green hot link for you):





Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday September 11, 2019, 7 PM – 9:25 PM  
Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban

Present were Ted Kuklinski, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, Dave Backer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of minutes for July 24:** The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katherine reported that she has received the Certificate of Solicitation; that Save the Cove collected \$5,000 to qualify for a DCR matching grant; And the application has been submitted to the CPC for \$50,000 to extend the Riverside Trail project. The Dexter Road work's expense will be in the Sept. 30 statement. And the Finance Committee will meet at 6 PM on Oct. 23, before the 7 PM board meeting.

**Committees:** Ted distributed cards asking members to list their activities related to the Conservators to help him prepare committees and assignments.

**NewCAL:** Whether the NewCal should be located on the hardscape at Albermarle Park was heatedly discussed for almost an hour. Differences of opinion were too great for a Conservator statement at the September 19 NewCal meeting. individuals will express their own opinions.

**Annual Meeting speakers and awards:** to discuss next month

**Friends of Cold Spring Park:** Katherine reported that the FOCSP have raised approximately \$10K. Alan Noguee and Parks and Rec are working on a RFP for trail improvements. The application for 501c3 status is progressing; Katherine will serve as treasurer.

**CRWA:** Emily Norton, president of CRWA, is interested in interacting with the Conservators.

**Updates:**

- **Webster Woods:** Beth told us that the executive committee will meet on Monday, the full panel next Wednesday, so news is expected.
- **CR monitoring for the coming year:** Chris asked members to download the material for their assignments and reminded them to contact the owners of the land to

accompany them on their inspection. He will send the list of city officials to contact re city land CRs.

- **Dexter Woods:** Beth reported that 27 trees were removed, followed by removal of smaller plants. Enough trees remain to warrant the name “Dexter Woods.” Beth has written up the history of the project and will send it to the board. Next a design and planting plan are needed; two landscape architects have turned down the request to provide pro bono work. Barbara suggested asking “Grow Native Massachusetts” to partner with us.

- **Parks & Rec. commission vacancy:** Because an appointment seems imminent, Ted has sent a name to the Mayor and Commissioner DeRubeis, and the candidate has submitted his application. . A MOTION that the board recommend this candidate for the Ward 3 position was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

The Conservation Commission is asking for nominations of alternate members.

**J.C. Giraldo Podcast Proposal:** Ted has spoken with Giraldo; he will do a podcast about monarch butterflies and the Conservators.

- **Fall Walks and Events:** This Sunday’s tour of Riverside Trails with Historic Newton will probably have a large attendance; Nyssa will assist Larry.

- **Pharmacy volunteers:** has been cancelled.

- **Stewards/Conservators:** Ted and Katherine met with Jennifer Steel and Claire Rundelli. They would like Conservators to cooperate and take over the land steward program. Luis Demorisi, the new Open Space Coordinator for the Parks & Rec. Dept. will attend our October meeting; possibly Jennifer and Claire will also come.

The Open Space Plan may still need funding for a consultant to do the time-consuming task of compiling data for it. The Conservators should be actively involved in updating the plan.

- **Marketing/Outreach:** Margaret Doris and Katherine will represent us at the Sept. 22 Newtonville Village Day. Also Sept.22, Beth and AnnaMaria will do the Farm Festival. Ted and Nyssa will work at the Oct.20 Harvest Fair. No one was available for Sept. 15 Upper Falls Village Day. Ted has repaired the Conservator tent for the time being.

- **Newsletter:** 450 copies were printed, and only 30 remain. The board discussed the need to have more copies available for later distribution. Chris recommended that the free copies at the Library be replaced by a 2-page statement, since many citizens see no

need to join the Conservators while they have the free copies. AnnaMaria asked about the marginal cost of printing additional copies.

**New Business:**

- **Pollinator garden in pocket park near Crystal Lake:** While removing black swallow-wort and trying to preserve the native milkweed in the pocket park off Centre Street, the volunteers expressed interest in creating a pollinator garden—and possibly a more formal park—there. Volunteer Sarah Solomon suggested applying for a Newton Cultural Council grant to fund the pollinator garden. Ted suggested possibly also applying for other grants.
- **Questionnaire to candidates:** Dan described the Waltham Land Trust questionnaire to candidates, and suggested we do one. Beth and Barbara volunteered to help him compose one.
- **Friends of Edmands Park:** a member of the group contacted Ted about improvements
- **Vernal Pool at Four Corners:** Mike told us about this pool, and the board agreed it should be listed.
- **Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce membership:** The \$295/year membership is up for renewal. Since we have not taken advantage of possibilities from it, the board agreed with Katherine to let it ride for now.

**Adjournment at 9:20 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

AnnaMaria Abernathy, secretary

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Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday October 9, 2019, 7:00 PM – 7:20 PM  
By teleconference

Present were Ted Kuklinski, presiding; Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Mike Clarke, Henry Finch, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Beth Wilkinson.

**Webster Woods:** Dan Brody moved that the board approve the statement on Webster Woods that had been endorsed by the Executive Committee. Henry Finch seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. (Mike Clarke was not on the call at the time of the vote.)

Ted noted that several directors had written to him prior to the meeting to indicate their support for the statement: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Peter Barrer, Bonnie Carter, Margaret Doris, Robert Fizek, and Dan Green.

**Adjournment at 7:20 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

*Dan Brody*

Please note the next board meetings will be at the Waban Library on:

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019
- Tuesday, November 26, 2019
- Thursday, December 19, 2019

Minutes for Newton Conservators Board of Directors Meeting  
 Wednesday November 26 2019, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Waban Library

Present were Ted Kuklinski, presiding; AnnaMaria Abernathy, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Bonnie Carter, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

**Approval of Minutes for Oct. 23, 2019.** The minutes were approved as written. Thanks to Pete Gilmore for taking minutes for the October meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Katherine) \$20,000 from the Solomon Foundation had been received for the Pigeon Hill project. The finance committee met preceding this meeting and recommended that \$15,000 be moved from undesignated net assets to the board-designated endowment spending policy account. The committee also reviewed the budget and will bring it to the board. A MOTION to move \$15,000 from undesignated net assets to the board-designated endowment spending policy account was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED.

**Solomon Foundation Grant for Trails Fund & Marty Sender Path – Mass Trails Grant:**

Ted reported that Herb Nolan has suggested we set up a trails fund with a year-end grant from the Solomon unanimously APPROVED.

Ted Chapman led a tour of the Marty Sender Path (Forest Grove Road from Islington Rd. to traffic circle in Waltham). He will work with Luis Demorizi to create an application for funding via a Mass Trails Grant (which requires 20% match in funds or volunteer time).

**Membership Letter:** Ted will send a draft of the renewal letter to the executive committee shortly; Bonnie will arrange a mailing party.

**CRWA Cheesecake Brook:** Emily Norton, head of CRWA, says they are interested in naturalizing Cheesecake Brook. A meeting next Monday, Dec. 2, 2 PM at the CRWA HQ with Aquatic Scientist Lisa Kumpf will discuss the project; Ted and Pete and possibly Henry will attend, and others are welcome. Jen Steel and Maria Rose should be invited.

**NSHS Table for Volunteer Recruitment (Thu 12/5 10:45-12:30):** Ted will go, invites another volunteer to join him, and invites suggestions of projects for students.

**Open Space Plan:** (Ted). The City has engaged the Conway School for Landscape Design to work on the new OSP. The Mayor has appointed Beth to represent the Conservators on the committee that will help in the project. A MOTION to approve Beth Wilkinson's appointment was SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED. Beth will also pursue her own mission to have the city adopt a structure that will provide equal oversight for all wooded open spaces, whether they're in parks or conservation areas).

**Updates:**

- **Annual Meeting Speaker:** Ken reported that one possible speaker is not available. Henry will speak with Alan Noguee; Pete will speak with Sam Jaffe, and Beth suggested we consider Mary Holland, author of *Naturally Curious*.

- **Webster Woods:** The City Council's Nov. 25 vote of 22/0 to approve the taking of the WW by eminent domain was cheered and Dan Brody's analysis and history of the Woods was lauded, and the future was discussed. Council will vote on Dec 2 and may approve based on recent Committee of the Whole vote. We may need a strategy going forward depending on continuing opposition.

- **Newsletter:** Ken explained that it is being prepared, is entirely about Webster Woods, with two articles – Dan's Edwin Webster letter and Eric Olson's description of his recent walk (and President's Message)..

- **Riverside Trails (Pigeon Hill Report):** (Larry and Henry) The Riverside Trails group has met with the neighbors, and after explanations, found no opposition. The 25% design for the bridge at Lasell boathouse is done. Jennifer Steel has walked the Pony Truss trail. The Pigeon Hill application for \$50,000 will be discussed at the Finance Committee on Dec. 9; Katherine will attend.

- **Dexter Woods:** (Beth) Beth and Katherine met with Robert Hanss. He proposed a \$500,000 plan, so we will proceed to plant shrubs without such expertise.

- **CR Monitoring:** (Chris) Most of the monitoring is done, some of the reports still need to be written up. The Golf Course still needs to be done. Dan Green reported that he helped a surveyor install rebar survey stake markers showing the boundaries of Ordway Park with the adjacent house and has put photos of their location on the CR website for future reference.

- **CRs for Kessler, Webster Woods:** (Ted) The Finance Committee approved the \$15,000 for Conservators' CR monitoring; Council Committee of the Whole approved \$15K for CR for Webster Woods.

- **Parks & Recreation Commission / ConCom slots:** (Ted) The Parks & Rec. Ward 3 position has been filled by Midge Connelly; Mark Feldhusen will be an alternate on the commission. No appointments to the ConCom but alternate slot is available.

- **Events:** The Cold Spring Park lecture the preceding evening was well done and well attended, as was the Nov. 2 Candidates' Night at the War Memorial in City Hall.

Upcoming: Dec. 5 – NSHS Volunteer Recruitment: see above.

Dec. 8, 2 PM – 11 AM to 2 PM – Stewards' work day – at Kessler.

Dec. 11, 6:30 PM –at Williams School –re pedestrian bridge next to Lasell Boathouse.

Dec 15, 7 Am – Christmas Bird Count

Jan. 30, 7 PM - Century of Parks & Rec (Mike Clarke– cosponsor w/ Historic Newton)

- **Podcast – JC Giraldo:** Ted did a podcast on monarch butterflies and the Conservators on Nov. 7 – see <https://circularpodcast.org/2019/11/07/ep-10-the-real-monarchy-monarch-butterflies-and-milkweed/> Chris suggested we invite Mr. Giraldo to our annual meeting.

- **Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG):** (Ted) The Beta Group that had won the design contract but estimated \$450,000 for construction, so the work will be done inhouse using the Beta plans as a guide.

- **December Meeting/January Meeting/Potluck:** (Ted) If no urgent need arises, we will cancel the Dec. 19 meeting; the potluck will be on Jan. 8, and a regular board meeting on January 22.

**New Business:**

- **Tot Lot on triangle:** (Ted) Mike Clarke put forward a neighbor's request to put a tot lot on the Cochituate Aqueduct at a triangle plot at Waban Avenue and Alvin Street. This is desired by the neighbors. Following a discussion, the board concluded it is not open space we need to be involved with at this time.

- **Falconry on Nahanton Park:** Chris has responded negatively on behalf of Friends of Nahanton Park to the person wishing to do this

- **Pro Bono lawyer:** Ted asked for suggestions of a pro bono lawyer for NC now that Leigh Gilligan is on the Conservation Commission.

**Adjournment at 9 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
AnnaMaria Abernathy, Secretary