

Join the Newton Conservators  
to hear

Sagamore Faries Gray and  
Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon  
of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag

.....



<http://massachussettribe.org>



61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

**May 4, 2022**



## *Keynote Presentation*

# **Newton, Land of the Massachusetts**

## *Sagamore Faries Gray and Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag*

Our featured speakers are two distinguished representatives of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, the original people of the Charles River Basin and greater Boston, including Newton.



PHOTO: DAN BRIELMANN

Sagamore Gray will focus on the tribe's long history and association with our region's landscapes. He has worked with local historical societies in both Natick and Newton, has done field research to reveal the enduring traces that indigenous land uses and technology left on the land, and has offered numerous presentations on Massachusetts history.



PHOTO: MICHAEL RICE

Tribal Elder Solomon will connect the tribe's history to present policies and issues. She serves on many advisory boards, including for the Boston Harbor Islands' Stone Living Lab, which develops collaborative approaches to managing climate change. She is committed to using her master's degree in museum studies to bring to the forefront the voices of native communities.





# Newton Conservators, Inc.

## Virtual Annual Meeting



Wednesday, May 4, 2022



7:00 PM

*Business Meeting,  
Award Ceremony and General Program*



## Keynote Speakers

Sagamore Faries Gray and  
Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon  
of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag





## 2022 Awards

### ***Environmentalist of the Year Award***

**Ted Chapman**

*For his energetic and productive advocacy for open space, including improved pedestrian and bicycle connections both within Newton and between Newton and its neighbors. He helped to secure the Newton Community Farm for the City and led efforts to create the Riverside Greenway connections plan. His recent work brought attention to the Greenway and resulted in the submission of successful grant proposals for additional improvements to this important path.*

*His efforts have added important outdoor recreational and educational spaces for others to enjoy.*

### ***Charles Johnson Maynard Award***

**Jon Regosin**

*For his expertise and many years of work protecting endangered and threatened species of plants and animals and his leadership in conserving, enhancing, and rehabilitating wildlife habitat in Newton and throughout Massachusetts.*

### ***Directors' Award***

**Claire Rundelli**

*For her dedicated work as Newton's Assistant Environmental Planner. For diligently supporting the work of the Conservation Commission, administering the volunteer Stewards Program for our conservation areas, helping prepare Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan, shepherding Conservation Restrictions through the government process, and supporting the Newton Conservators' CR monitoring and invasive removal efforts.*

### ***Lifetime Achievement Award***

**AnnaMaria Abernathy**

*For her leadership of Newton Conservators from the late 1960s through 2021 and her invaluable work in preserving and maintaining open space in Newton. For her success in preserving thirteen acres of the Norumbega Park Conservation Area and working to develop guidelines that strengthened the environmental mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission and set standards for land acquisition. Everyone who enjoys the parks and conservation areas in Newton owes a debt of gratitude to AnnaMaria for her work to conserve them.*





NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS

## Presidents' Message

We are finally breaking out of the changing patterns of winter-spring weather into a more consistent growing time of year. We are pleased to have the opportunity to honor our awardees and learn about both our region's history and its future from two representatives of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, whose ancestors lived here for thousands of years before European settlers gave Newton its current name.

This past year, Newton Conservators worked hard to keep our environmental goals intact while developing plans for the future. We thank our member volunteers, board of directors, and advisors for all the hours they invested in preserving and protecting our open spaces and educating people about them.

Our "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice" team has been dedicated to making our open spaces and organization open and welcoming to all and worked on updating our mission, values, and goals. They have been sharing experiences with like-minded organizations in the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

Despite the pandemic, Newton Conservators continued to encourage nature-oriented activities in Newton's open spaces. Our successful and well attended Fall Walk Series included weekend events at Dolan Pond, Houghton Garden, the Charles River, Webster Woods, Cold Spring Park, the Aqueducts, and Webster Woods. This spring, walk leaders Barbara Bates and Samantha Corbin designed walks with experiential games and activities to engage kids and their parents. Recent walks have explored the fauna and flora of Webster Woods, Dolan Pond, and Riverside Park. At Bare Pond, Newton's largest vernal pool, kids learned how animals use camouflage, saw and heard wood frogs, and examined pond creatures under field microscopes.

Our popular Spring and Fall Webinar Series on Wednesday evenings covered such topics as Cold Spring Park, vernal pools, birding,

*continued next page*





## NEWTON CONSERVATORS

owls, salamanders, planting for pollinators, and “Nibbling on Native Plants.” We continue making these webinars available at no charge and post them on our YouTube channel for those who cannot attend “live.”

In addition to continuing support for the popular Environmental Science Program for teens, our Grants Committee also supported the pollinator garden at City Hall and an Eagle Scout in creating an orienteering course at Kennard Park.

We continue to work to limit the spread of invasive species and encourage native ones. Bolstered by added trained volunteers, our invasives team managed an aggressive schedule of public invasives removal events for NewtonSERVES and with other local scout and church groups and built a new reference section on our website for identifying invasive flora and fauna. As an active partner in a new city Pollinator Working Group, we also added to our website a “Pollinator Toolkit” guide to native plants for gardens, installed a demonstration Pollinator Garden at City Hall, supported Story Walks on pollinators and “their” plants at parks throughout the city, held our first MonarchFest, and provided several newsletter articles and webinars on the benefits of native species.

Our expanded website, [newtonconservators.org](http://newtonconservators.org), has become the go-to resource for map, trail, and background information on our local open spaces, current nature-related events, historical information, and much more. Our published Trail Guide is widely used in search of new and interesting places to explore outdoors. The next edition of the Trail Guide, now in development, will include updated maps aligned with the City’s computerized Geographic Information System, add QR codes, and include new open spaces! Our printed quarterly newsletter continues to teem with informative articles by local experts.

We continue to support the owners of permanently protected conservation land by holding and monitoring Conservation Restrictions (CRs), to guard against problems such as encroachment and dumping. Newton Conservators currently holds CRs on eight city-owned properties and one private property. Additional





## NEWTON CONSERVATORS

CRs on Kessler Woods and Webster Woods are in process with the City Law Department, with another planned for Nahanton Park. Our volunteer teams visit these sites annually and report back to the landowners about current conditions and recommended maintenance or enforcement actions.

Pedestrian and bicycle paths help to knit Newton's open spaces and parks into citywide and regional networks. We are proud to partner with the Riverside Greenway Working Group (RGWG), the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the City of Newton in developing new — and in some cases restoring old — trail connections along the Charles River. In June, we celebrated the grand opening of the beautifully restored Pony Truss Bridge and Trail. As part of their special permit for a mixed-use development at the current Riverside MBTA station, Mark Development has agreed to provide \$3 million towards portions of the Riverside Greenway. We have also supported many other DCR projects, including the proposed Commonwealth Ave roundabout and carriage lane proposals near the Marriott (on the former site of Norumbega Park), a trail along Quinobeguin Road, and the pedestrian- and bike-friendly redesign of Hammond Pond Parkway. We worked closely with the Chestnut Hill Association and Conservation Commission to support a major project at historic Houghton Garden in Chestnut Hill, which included hydro-raking, vegetation clearing along the stream, new accessible paths, and planting restoration. We continued planting to restore our Dexter Woods hillside property in Newtonville and have improved plant and trail maintenance in our lovely Ordway Park in Newton Centre.

Hopefully, this brief discussion of Conservators' activities over the past year will set the stage for others to join us and help protect and enjoy our environmental blessings. As Rachel Carson reminded us: *“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”*

*Bill Agar*     *Chris Hephum*



**PADDLE**  
BOSTON  **CHARLES RIVER**  
CANOE AND KAYAK



**NAHANTON PARK &  
NEWTON HISTORIC BOATHOUSE**

Hourly Rentals · Shuttled Trips  
Moonlight Canoe Tours · Birthday Parties

Visit us in Newton, Somerville, Waltham, Boston,  
Cambridge, & Medford or contact us about boat  
sales, instruction, and custom outings.

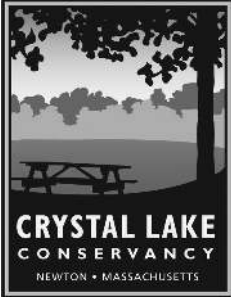
***PADDLEBOSTON.COM***  
*(617) 965 5110*

FOLLOW US @PADDLEBOSTON





Compliments of Lalor and Patricia Burdick



The Crystal Lake Conservancy supports and thanks the Newton Conservators for their protection and preservation of natural areas.

**Please considering joining us.**  
[www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org](http://www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org)

*Your Village. Your Bank.*

*Thank you for your commitment to  
preserve and protect Newton's open space.*



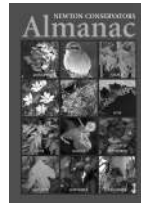
Auburndale • Newton Highlands • Newtonville  
Nonantum • Waban • Wayland • West Newton  
[www.village-bank.com](http://www.village-bank.com) • 617-527-6090  
Customer Care Center 617-969-4300

Member FDIC  
Member SIF

**It's Spring. Get outdoors!**

*Purchase Newton Conservators publications  
by clicking on "Resources" at  
<https://newtonconservators.org/>. Almanac  
is \$19.95 + shipping, and the Trail Guide is  
\$8.95 + shipping.*

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.



*Thanks very much to our friends for their  
generous and continuing support!*

**SPONSORS**

*Nahanton Paddler — Platinum Sponsor*

Charles River Recreation

*Crystal Lake Swimmer — Silver Sponsor*

Lalor and Patricia Burdick

Crystal Lake Conservancy

The Village Bank

*Newton Community Farm Harvester*

Lucy Caldwell-Stair



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**

**2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**YES! Please renew/accept my tax-deductible  
membership at the level checked below:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Director's Circle  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member   | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodcock Meadow \$ _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordway Endowment Fund \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Stewardship (e.g., Dexter Rd., 15 Bracebridge Rd.) \$ _____ |   |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS  
PO Box 590011  
NEWTON CENTRE,  
MA 02459

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc.  
To join or renew your membership online, click on "Get Involved" at  
<https://newtonconservators.org/>.



Photo: Ken Mallory



Photo: Beth Wilkinson



Photo: Lauren Dadekian



### **Officers 2022**

Bill Hagar, *Co-President*  
Chris Hepburn, *Co-President*  
Alice Ingerson, *Vice President*  
Michael Clarke, *Secretary*  
Katherine Howard, *Treasurer*  
Ted Kuklinski, *Past President*

### **Board of Directors**

David Backer  
Peter Barrer  
Barbara Bates  
Dan Brody  
Bonnie Carter  
Samantha Corbin  
Margaret Doris  
Henry Finch  
Maurice Gilmore  
Daniel Green  
Ken Mallory  
George Mansfield  
Nyssa Patten  
Larry Smith  
Beth Wilkinson

### **Advisors**

AnnaMaria Abernathy  
Margaret Albright  
Lisle Baker  
John Bliss  
Lee Breckenridge  
Lalor Burdick  
Lucy Caldwell-Stair  
Michael Collora  
Ann Dorfman  
Bart Hague  
Alison Leary  
William Leitch  
Don Lubin  
Brooks Mathewson  
Eric Olson  
Richard Primack  
Eric Reenstierna  
Jon Regosin  
Patricia Robinson  
Jane Sender  
William Shaevel  
Diane Tillotson  
Willis Wang  
Bruce Wenning

