

# Annual Meeting 2022



**NEWTON  
CONSERVATORS**

**Working to preserve  
open space in Newton  
since 1961**

**NewtonConservators.org**

## Welcome!

# 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

## May 4, 2022

Newton Conservators' Co-President Chris Hepburn introduced the 61<sup>st</sup> annual meeting by acknowledging that Newton and the open spaces that we promote and steward are located on the historical current and unceded territories of the Massachusetts. "We acknowledge that the Massachusetts people's stewardship of this land kept its ecological communities vibrant, strong, and interconnected for thousands of years. Newton Conservators hopes to build authentic relationships with the Massachusetts, and we recognize that there is much work to be done. Our simple land acknowledgment is only our imperfect first step."

The annual meeting was held online because of the persistence of Covid cases in our area.

Chris thanked our annual meeting sponsors for their generous support of this event. These include Paddle Boston, Lalor and Patricia Burdick, Crystal Lake Conservancy, the Village Bank, and Lucy Caldwell-Stair.



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller was the first speaker, remarking on the extraordinary group of awardees and thanking the leadership of the Conservators for all their good work. "Preserving, protecting, and increasing the amount of open space is vital to Newton's future," she said "and it was a pleasure working with so many of you." She also acknowledged the keynote speakers for the evening,

Sagamore Faries Gray and Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts tribe at Ponkapoag, saying "it is a thing of beauty that you are here for us to learn from. You and your tribe have done so much to be stewards of this land, and I know we still have so much to learn from you."

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Nominating committee chair, Pete Gilmore, presented the slate of officers and directors, and it was voted on and elected by the membership. Pete said that Chris Hepburn and William Hagar will continue as Co-Presidents, Alice Ingerson will continue as Vice President, Michael Clarke as Secretary, Katherine Howard as Treasurer, and Ted Kuklinski as our Past President. The Board of Directors consists of David Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody,

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**Annual Meeting Sponsors**

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

**PADDLE BOSTON**  
CHARLES RIVER CANOE & KAYAK

Nahanton Paddler - Platinum Sponsor  
Paddle Boston

**Crystal Lake Swimmer - Silver Sponsor**  
Lalor and Patricia Burdick  
Crystal Lake Conservancy  
The Village Bank

Newton Community Farm Harvester  
Lucy Caldwell-Stair

**CRYSTAL LAKE CONSERVANCY**  
NATURE • MASSACHUSETTS

Bonnie Carter, Samantha Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, and Beth Wilkinson.

## 2022 NEWTON CONSERVATORS' AWARDS

### Environmentalist of the Year



The Environmentalist of the Year Award, first presented in 1981, goes to the individual or group that has made the greatest contribution to the protection of Newton's environment. The award this year goes to **Ted Chapman**. As described by Conservator Co-President Bill Hagar, "Ted has been a force in environmental advocacy for the past two decades..."

Ted deserves this award for his energetic and productive advocacy for open space, including improved pedestrian and bicycle connections both within Newton and between Newton and its neighbors, and for his helpfulness to secure the Newton Community Farm for the City and to create the Riverside Greenway connection plan."

### Charles Johnson Maynard Award



The Charles Johnson Maynard Award is given each year to recognize efforts "to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation, and natural resource protection." Charles Johnson Maynard was a well-known naturalist, ornithologist, author, and publisher who was born and lived in

Newton from 1845 until his death in 1929. The 2022 award was presented by Conservator Co-President Chris Hepburn to **Jonathan Regosin** "for his expertise and years long 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.

Jon has been instrumental in recent work to reclaim Woodcock Meadow at Nahanton Park as a grassland habitat for breeding woodcocks. He also leads educational nature walks, particularly to our vernal pool areas. Jon played an important role in the acquisition of the Angino Farm in

Newton and is an advisor to and a past board member of the Conservators."

### Directors' Award



The Directors' Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the preservation of open space in Newton. This year's award presented by past Newton Conservators' President Ted Kuklinski went to **Claire Rundelli**, Newton's Assistant Environmental Planner. Claire

is recognized for diligently supporting the work of the Conservation Commission, administering the volunteer Stewards Program for our conservation areas, and helping prepare Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. She is also recognized for shepherding Conservation Restrictions through the government process and supporting the Newton Conservators' CR monitoring and invasive removal efforts.

### Lifetime Achievement Award



This award was presented by past Newton Conservators' President Beth Wilkinson to recognize **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. AnnaMaria was also recognized for her success in preserving 13 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. As a result of that work, she received both the League of Women Voters' Jane Leighton Award and the Newton Conservators' Environmentalist of the Year award (for land-use activism in 1993). As noted by Beth, "everyone who enjoys the parks and conservation areas in Newton owes a debt of gratitude to AnnaMaria for her work to conserve them." ♦

✿ Ken Mallory