

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

January 25, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Chris Hepburn, presiding, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alice Ingerson, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson and guests Robert Kearns and Todd Macalister.

1. **Welcome.** Chris welcomed the participants at 7:02 pm.
2. **Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) Presentation on Watertown Dam Removal.** Robert Kearns, Climate Resilience Specialist for CRWA made a presentation on the benefits of removing an historic (1634) low head dam on the Charles River in Watertown. (See <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/62917edcb76c4e10868cbb7a79638282>). The current dam is 56 years old and represents a significant water hazard as well as a barrier to migrating fish. A fish ladder would be as expensive and require maintenance. Dam removal would be a one-time cost. The CRWA is soliciting public comment on removing this dam, which is the first dam on the Charles upstream from the harbor. Alice suggested coordination with the Con Com, which has also been asked by the CRWA to support this dam removal. A straw vote was unanimously in favor of supporting the removal if the Con Com has no objections about this project. Chris will draft a letter in support of the dam removal once the Con Com's position is known. Dan G. will discuss this with Chris. Beth may add a presentation on this as an informational webinar.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Chris moved that the minutes of December 28, 2022 be approved. These were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Katherine had previously sent around the financials. For the unrestricted income statement, there was an unrealized loss on investments of (\$77K). But revenues were on budget (helped by several very generous gifts), operating expenses were favorable to budget in most areas, and nothing was spent on special projects including the new trail guide, so the bottom line was just \$34K worse than budget.
For restricted fund activity, we had expenditures of \$6K for Ordway Park maintenance, \$10K for Marty Sender trail matching funds, and \$5K for Save the Cove matching funds. We received gifts of \$1K for Land Acquisition and other funds, \$4.5K for Houghton Garden, \$1K for Save the Cove, and \$7K for the Trails Revolving Fund (as part of the ongoing quiet phase of the fundraising effort for the Trails fund).
Katherine has sent out the required IRS 1099 forms and has filed Form 3ABC with the city. Katherine and the Executive Committee have started work on the 2023 budget. Chris said scholarships compose half of our grants budget, so that this item should be increased. \$1000 should be added to the Annual Meeting budget. The events budget will also be increased by ~\$1000. The Newsletter budget may be increased by \$500. Beth asked whether the event budget could be used for webinars, and the answer was yes. Alice mentioned that Amazon has ended its Smile donation program. The budget will be considered at the next meeting.
5. **Spring Annual Meeting and Speaker Bill** and the Committee are looking into the possibility of using an outdoor facility at U. Mass Mount Ida instead of the VFW site. Alcohol is possible at Mt. Ida and the overall setup cost may be less. On the other hand, we might have to supply our own sound system and screens. Bill thought that it might be possible to have a talk on snakes or owls. Katherine spoke in favor of the owl talk, which was generally accepted. Bill

said that there would likely be a sit-down dinner at ~\$36/plate. Katherine asked for the approval of the board to proceed with the Mt. Ida site on May 24, 2023, saving costs by using the same tent rented for the Mayor's Community Breakfast at the same site that morning. Chris asked for any objections with none voiced. A 5 pm start time was suggested with a 5-6 pm social hour with a cash bar.

6. **2023 Awards.** Two names for Directors' Awards were suggested.
7. **85 Dudley Road.** On Friday, January 13, the Mayor announced that she had chosen NOW Communities/Civico Development as the City's partner in potentially acquiring/developing housing on the parcels that the City has been calling the "Dudley Road Estate." Alice and Beth presented the tentative proposal for the site, as summarized by the Mayor in a recent newsletter. No vehicular access is proposed through the project from Dudley to Brandeis Roads, but a pedestrian path connecting the roads would largely run through paved or developed areas. Beth said that there was little connectivity with nearby open spaces and that ledges constitute most of the proposed open space, which is not likely to be developed anyway. As a result, the project as currently outlined does not appear to be a good use of CPA open space funds, which would be better reserved for future projects with greater public and ecological open space benefits. Alice noted that the housing proposed is of a type Newton badly needs: small, attached ownership units for young families or downsizing older adults. However, the project as outlined seems to be ineligible for Newton-controlled housing funds (CPA and other) because it only meets – and does not exceed 20% -- the number of income-restricted units required by the inclusionary zoning ordinance. Alice thought public comment would likely not be sought on the proposal until public funds are requested for it, at the earliest after the override vote in March. Peter moved to send a preliminary letter from the board to the mayor and planning department expressing our concerns about the current project being portrayed as an open space rather than housing proposal. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **DEIJ Request for Letter for Archaeology Assessment for Dudley Road Estate.** No objections were raised to sending a letter similar to the draft circulated by Chris requesting an archaeological assessment of the Dudley Road Estate prior to construction to provide an opinion regarding whether the proposed landscape changes might impact any likely archaeological resources, and if so, suggest ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate such impacts, particularly with regard to artifacts or landscape features associated with of the Massachusetts people.
9. **Co-Sponsoring Bee Talk with the Library.** Ted contacted the speaker, Lindsay Barranco, from the van Engelsdorp Bee Lab at the University of Maryland who gave assurances that the talk would focus more on native bees including sweat bees. The speaker is doing a master's thesis on ground dwelling bees and has a unique perspective and expertise on both honeybees and native bees – with a current focus more on native bees and their needs. Ted recommended that we cosponsor the talk with the library. This was approved with a vote of 10 affirmative and 5 abstentions.
10. **Newton Override,** The Executive Committee felt that the override issues did not sufficiently address open space for the Newton Conservators to endorse it. Peter said that it would include \$500K/yr for trees. Katherine and Alice said that addressing this single part of the override would likely not have an effect. The vote was 9 against endorsement, 2 in favor and 3 abstentions.
11. **DEIJ Land Acknowledgement.** Peter said that there was a feeling that reading a standard land acknowledgement had lost its impact on our members. It was also not effective in building a relationship with indigenous groups. The DEIJ group proposes instead that we start each

meeting with a personalized acknowledgement from one of our members. Peter read his land acknowledgement for this meeting; Katherine will prepare one for the February meeting. Sam liked the idea as another way to get to know each other better. Pete suggested that we might try to persuade Newton to buy an interest in Newton land in cooperation with an Indigenous group which would then control it. Alice pointed out that in other cases, non-Indigenous allies have assumed Indigenous-controlled land would be used only for activities such as hunting, fishing, or foraging and have objected when Indigenous groups have proposed other uses that they saw as more helpful to their members, such as job-creating economic development or housing. Before exploring actions to restore Indigenous land ownership or access, the Newton Conservators should establish a strong working relationship with Indigenous groups such as the Massachusetts and make sure we can support their full control of the land.

12. **City Tree Ordinance Proposal.** Alice related that the City's Program and Services Committee will not meet on this until February, so no progress has been made on resolving the City Tree Ordinance proposals.
13. **Trails Fund.** Katherine remarked that the committee was in the quiet phase of looking for major donors with some donations having already been made.
14. **Trails Map.** Dan B. and Todd Macalister are working with the City GIS department on developing the new trails maps, which will incorporate photographs. Volunteer or professional help may be needed in doing the layout. Chris said that we would like to discuss the costs of various options in producing the maps. Dan B. previewed an app called Avenza that allows downloading maps from various sources and then showing the viewer's location on them. He also previewed sample maps from the guide. Dan G. said that the Deer Park would have a new entrance on Hammond Pond Parkway.

15. Updates

- a. **Conservation Commission.** Dan G. said there was a large new housing development proposal for the former mulch facility on Route 9 in Newton Centre, which has environmentally disturbed land.
- b. **Webinars.** Beth said that Chris would be doing a geology webinar at the end of April and noted a number of other webinars on the schedule.
- c. **Conservation Restrictions.** Chris related that the CR reports were in and sent to the appropriate City personnel.
- d. **Walks.** Sam said Barbara and she were leading a walk on Sunday in Cold Spring Park along with Newton Pride. Other walks are scheduled for the Spring. A new category of will be "noticing walks," with Conservators members helping residents explore open spaces together, without a specific theme or presentation. She is reaching out to Alan Noguee on pollinator site walks in Cold Spring Park.
- e. **Trails Subcommittee.** Chris, Bill and Dan B. met recently as part of the Trails subcommittee organized by Jennifer Steel. Luis Demorizi said work on Phase 2 of the Marty Sender trail would begin in the spring. Jennifer Steel is working with the Trails subcommittee in trying to coordinate symbols used across the city for parks and conservation maps.
- f. **Newsletter.** Ken related that the timely production of the Spring 2023 newsletter would be challenging because of scheduling problems, so that walks, invasive pulls and other schedules will need to be submitted promptly. Several articles are lined up for the spring newsletter.

16. **Old Business.** Harry Sanders and a group of neighbors called Beth about the Edmands Park skating rink liner causing flooding. He would like it removed.
17. **Adjournment.** Chris adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Coming Events

Feb. 16, Thur. ExCom Meeting, 4pm, Zoom

Feb. 22, Wed. Board Meeting, 7pm, Zoom

May 7, Sun., Newton Serves

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

February 22, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Chris Hepburn, presiding, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alice Ingerson, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

1. **Welcome.** Chris welcomed the participants at 7:02 pm.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Katherine gave her statement of the land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the Newton land we live on and the open spaces we promote and steward are on the traditional, contemporary, and unceded territories of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that their stewardship kept these lands beautiful and healthy, in sorry contrast to what our settler ancestors have done, and we continue to do, to this land and its flora and fauna as we develop and exploit it. Despite all we've done, the land is still very good to us. We need to be more appreciative and better stewards, incorporating lessons of the Native Americans
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Chris moved that the minutes of January 25, 2023 be approved. These were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Katherine presented the annual budget for 2023, which she had previously circulated. It included: a higher budget (\$5K) for Grants; a \$1K cost, net of revenues, for the Annual Meeting; \$2K for general Programs (including webinars and tabling supplies); \$10K in Special Projects for new Trail Guide development and the end of the Amazon Smile program revenue. Barbara moved to approve the budget and financials, which was seconded by Pete and approved unanimously.
5. **Spring Annual Meeting and Speaker.** Bill showed images of the U. Mass Mount Ida site and discussed the physical arrangements. Katherine surveyed the budget for the Annual Meeting with a buffet at a food cost of ~\$37/plate for which we will charge \$45/plate. There will be a cash bar. She hoped to expand the list of sponsors and estimated about 28 free meals and expects to be within budget. Chris said that the room size would allow for sponsors' tables providing nothing was sold on site. The speaker, Norm Smith, will talk on owls.
6. **2023 Awards.** The annual awards were discussed and voted as follows: 1) Barbara moved and Henry seconded that the Environmentalist of the Year be Marcia Cooper of Green Newton, which passed unanimously. Peter Barrow will write the citation. 2) Barbara nominated Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks and Open Space, Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept for a Directors' Award, which passed unanimously. Chris will write the citation. 3) Beth moved that Representative Ruth Balser and Phil Saunders (posthumously), receive Directors' Awards for their work on passage of the Public Lands Preservation Act by the state legislature, which passed unanimously. Beth will write the citation.
7. **85 Dudley Road.** Barbara moved approval of Beth and Alice's excellent draft of the letter containing our concerns about the City's proposal for the Dudley Road Estate for signing and sending by Chris and Bill, which was approved. Alice and Beth suggested that we send the previously approved letter requesting an archeology assessment of the site later, if the development project proceeds.
8. **CRWA Watertown Dam Removal Proposal.** Chris asked for guidance on his letter in support of proceeding with the proposal, which was circulated with the agenda. Mass Audubon has

recommended approval of the removal. The Newton Conservation Commission has decided not to make a recommendation. Alice said that we were supporting further planning on the dam's removal, on which there was general agreement with the provisos already stated such as the feasibility studies and responsible handling of any contaminated sediments. Chris will proceed with sending the letter in support of planning for removal of the dam.

9. **Grant Request.** Bill presented the proposal for the Newton Neighbors Spring Container Gardening Program which would involve building raised bed planters in collaboration with the Newton Community Farm. One hundred participants will be involved with residents of the Newton Housing Authority Horace Mann Complex targeted and with an emphasis on recruiting high school students and local gardeners. Bill moved that we fund this grant at \$750. Voted: 14 yes; no nays or abstentions were registered. Chris noted that it should be clear that the grant was essentially seed funding and should not be viewed as a continuing grant.

10. Updates

- a. **Newton Tree Ordinance Group (TOG).** Katherine said Programs and Services (P&S) is still studying the two proposals and hopes to come up with a consensus proposal to vote on. Both proposals aim to slow the rate of tree removal caused by construction. Currently homeowner occupied lots are exempt, but in either proposal this would change whether for new construction or for other purposes. P&S may take comments from interested organizations as early as March. There is a separate public tree ordinance for public property; Newton is 80% private property. Developers are using the "occupied lot" exemption to circumvent the private development tree ordinance by saying that they are the occupying homeowners. Trees that are certified as diseased or nonviable would be exempt. Trees felled for new construction would not be exempt. Under debate is tree removal for the ecological health of the property such as Norway maples, tree of heaven (ailanthus), lantern fly infestations etc, which would require an arborist certification. Payments in lieu of replacement trees collected under the ordinance might be used to hire consultants to help evaluate ecological plans. Katherine asked whether this was a Conservators' issue. Barbara indicated that the problem needed an overall forestry plan, rather than making decisions one tree at a time. Peter suggested the formation of a small group to draft a proposal that would include ecological considerations. The Board did not seem inclined to comment on details of the two proposals but asked to review an outline of a new section intended to encourage long-term, ecological restoration or management. The TOG of Beth, Alice, Katherine and Peter will try to draft a statement.
- b. **Trails Revolving Fund Fundraising Subcommittee.** Peter related that the initial quiet fundraising had gone well, and the subcommittee is ready to move to the next phase.
- c. **Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC).** Beth said that the PRC noted how helpful the CR reports were, including the need to advance the Nahanton Park CR. Levingston Cove should reopen in June. There is a proposal in P&S that artificial turf on playing fields should be banned. PRC has made it clear that if artificial turf is banned many more playing fields would be needed, which might impact park open space.
- d. **Webinars.** Beth said that Chris would give a geology webinar at the end of April and that four webinars were ready for the spring including one on whether small animals are introverts or extroverts and one about the Wild Seed Project, which advocates planting for habitats. Barbara indicated that it might be possible to have an event with animals at U Mass Mount Ida if it were cosponsored with the veterinary tech school there.

- e. **Conservation Restrictions.** Chris related that the CR reports were in and sent to the appropriate City personnel.
 - f. **Walks.** Sam has nine walks so far for the spring with the likelihood of three more. Barbara and Sam have three kids walks lined up and will be testing the “noticing walks”. The Street business organization adjacent to Hammond Pond is coordinating on graphic design, publicity, etc on the Earth Day cleanup at the pond. Stores at The Street may be amenable to donating a percentage of sales on designated days.
 - g. **Events.** Chris is circulating a list of the events in Newton that the Conservators are organizing or may be participating in, which is at the end of these minutes.
 - h. **Newsletter.** Ken will be travelling soon and would like all Spring Newsletter submissions in as soon as possible. The Spring Newsletter should be posted and sent to print in two weeks. The Summer Newsletter will print in May for early June delivery.
 - i. **Mass Land Trust Meeting.** Nyssa said that it is signup time for the next Massachusetts Land Trust Meeting and that the Conservators will reimburse directors who attend for the \$40 registration fee.
11. **Old Business.** Bonnie said she had old newsletters missing from the website. Peter volunteered to post them.
12. **Adjournment.** Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators – Events list for Spring 2023 (Draft 5, 2-28-2023)

Combined Master List of all events scheduled:

[Miscellaneous events, Tabling Events, Webinars, Walks, Invasive pulls (IP), Annual Meeting]
March 8, Wed. Bee talk in Library series, 7pm, Zoom (co-sponsor)
March 19, Sun 10-12 (IP) Edmands Park bittersweet (Carol, KH)
March 26, Sun (tentative - check first) 10:30-12 (IP) Webster Woods – EcoPledge
April 2, Sun. Aqueduct walk (Henry Finch) 2-4pm
April 8, Sat., Kids: Cold Spring Park 10-11:30am
April 19, Wed., Webinar: The Stories the Rocks Tell , 7 pm, Zoom
April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon & Tabling Event
April 23, Sun., Earth Day at City Hall – Tabling event 10 am– 4pm
April 23, Sun 9:30-11 (IP) Cold Spring Park (CSP). (Alan Noguee)
April 23, Sun., Webster Woods walk- Richard Primack 2-4pm
April 29, Sat., Kids: Hammond Pond 10-11:30 am
April 30, Sun 9:30-11 (IP) Sawmill Brook (KH)
April 30, Sun 12-1:30 (IP) Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, Church of Good Shepherd, KH)
May 6, Sat., Noticing Webster Woods – 10:30am-noon, Barbara
May 6, Sat 1-3 - (IP) Upper Falls Greenway. (Katherine Howard and Mark Hooker)
May 7, Sun 9:30 - 12 (IP) Cold Spring Park (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun 9:30 - 12. (IP) Dolan Pond. (Ted Kuklinski). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun 1-3 - (IP) Houghton Garden (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun - Trail Maintenance – Nahanton Park (Dan B) NewtonServes
May 9, Tues 1-3 (IP) Cold Springs Park (KH & Alan Noguee)
May 10, Wed., Webinar: Rewilding Our Communities for Climate Resilience, 7 pm, Zoom
May 13, Sat., Dolan Pond Bird Walk, 7- 9 am, Ted
May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —Tabling event
May 13, Sat 1-3 - (IP) Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am
May 14, Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP) Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
May 14, Sun 2-4 (IP) Blue Heron Bridge
May 20, Sat., Kids: Dolan Pond 10-11:30am
May 20, Sat - 9:30-12 - (IP) Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow) (Katherine Howard)
May 20, Sat., Cold Spring Park Walk – w/ Friends of CSP (Alan N. and Pete) 1-2:30 pm
May 21, Sun., Birding at Cold Spring Park (Pete) 8-10 am
May 21, Sunday, Waban Village Day —Tabling event
May 24, Wed., Annual Dinner Meeting, 5pm-9pm
May 27, Sat - 9:30 (IP) Cold Spring Park (Nyssa Patten)
May 28, Sun 9:30 – 11 (IP) Houghton Garden (Michele Hanss, KH)
May 28, Sun 12-1:30 (IP) Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, KH, Church of Good Shepherd)
June 3, Sat 9 - 12 - (IP) Hammond Pond knotweed (Mark Hooker)
June 4, Sun - 9:30-12 - (IP) Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
June 4, Sun 1-3 (IP) Hemlock Gorge (Mark Hooker)
June 6, Tuesday 1-3 – (IP) Cold Spring Park (Alan Noguee)

June 7, Wed., Webinar: How small mammal personalities may shape forests under climate stress, 7 pm, Zoom

June 11, Sunday, Newton Highlands Village Day —Tabling event

June 11 Sun., Hemlock Gorge Walk, Katherine – w/Friends of Hemlock Gorge 10-12am

June 15, Thur., Webinar: Gardening for Habitat, 7 pm, Zoom

June 17, 9:30-11:30 - (IP)Dolan Pond knotweed (Ted Kuklinski, KH)

June 17, Sat 2-4 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Katherine Howard)

July 1, Sat 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park,BSW, wisteria (Katherine Howard)

July 2, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (Katherine Howard)

July 4, Tues., Kids Fest —Tabling event

July 8, Sat - 9:30 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

July 9, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

Tabling Events – separate list

April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon & Tabling Event

April 23, Sun., Earth Day at City Hall – Tabling event 10 am– 4pm

May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —Tabling event

May 21, Sunday, Waban Village Day —Tabling event

June 11, Sunday, Newton Highlands Village Day —Tabling event

July 4, Tues., Kids Fest —Tabling event

Webinars – separate list

Wednesday, April 19. Webinar: The Stories the Rocks Tell , 7 pm, Zoom

Wednesday. May 10. Webinar: Rewilding Our Communities for Climate Resilience, 7 pm, Zoom

Wednesday, June 7. Webinar: How small mammal personalities may shape forests under climate stress, 7 pm, Zoom

Thursday, June 15. Webinar: Gardening for Habitat, 7 pm, Zoom

Walks – separate list

April 2, Sun., Aqueduct walk (Henry Finch) 2-4pm

April 8, Sat., Kids: Cold Spring Park 10-11:30am

April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon/ with Tabling

April 23 Sun., Webster Woods walk– Richard Primack 2-4pm

April 29 Sat., Kids: Hammond Pond 10-11:30am

May 6 Sat., Noticing Webster Woods, 10:30am - Barbara

May 13, Sat., Dolan Pond Bird Walk, 7- 9 am, Ted

May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am

May 20 Sat., Kids: Dolan Pond 10-11:30am

May 20 Sun., Cold Spring Park walk-w/ Friends of CSP (Alan & Pete) 1-2:30pm

May 21, Sun., Birding at Cold Spring Park (Pete) 8-10am

June 11 Sun., Hemlock Gorge walk, Katherine – w/Friends of Hemlock Gorge 10-12 am

Invasive Pulls (IP) – separate list

March 19 Sun 10-12 (IP) Edmands Park bittersweet (Carol, KH)

March 26 Sun (tentative - check first) 10:30-12 (IP)Webster Woods – EcoPledge

April 23 Sun 9:30-11 (IP)Cold Spring Park (CSP). (Alan Nogee)

April 30 Sun 9:30-11. (IP)Sawmill Brook (KH)
 April 30 Sun 12-1:30 (IP)Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, Church of Good Shepherd, KH)
 May 6 - Sat 1-3 - (IP)Upper Falls Greenway. (Katherine Howard and Mark Hooker)
 May 7 Sun 9:30 - 12 (IP)CSP (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
 May 7 Sun 9:30 - 12. (IP)Dolan Pond. (Ted Kuklinski). NewtonServes
 May 7 Sun 1-3 - (IP)Houghton Garden (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
 May 9 - Tuesday 1-3 (IP)Cold Springs Park (KH & Alan Noguee)
 May 13 - Sat 1-3 - (IP)Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
 May 14 - Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
 May 14 – Sun 2-4 (IP)Blue Heron Bridge
 May 20 - Sat - 9:30-12 - (IP)Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow) (Katherine Howard)
 May 27 - Sat - 9:30 (IP)Cold Spring Park (Nyssa Patten)
 May 28 - Sun 9:30 – 11 (IP)Houghton Garden (Michele Hanss, KH)
 May 28 - Sun 12-1:30 (IP)Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, KH, Church of Good Shepherd)
 June 3 - Sat 9 - 12 - (IP)Hammond Pond knotweed (Mark Hooker)
 June 4 - Sun - 9:30-12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
 June 4 - Sun 1-3 (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Mark Hooker)
 June 6 - Tuesday 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park (Alan Noguee)
 June 17 - Sat 9:30-11:30 - (IP)Dolan Pond knotweed (Ted Kuklinski, KH)
 June 17 - Sat 2-4 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Katherine Howard)
 July 1 - Sat 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park,BSW, wisteria (Katherine Howard)
 July 2 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (Katherine Howard)
 July 8 Sat - 9:30 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)
 July 9 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard) Gorge walk, Katherine – w/Friends
 of Hemlock Gorge 10-12 am

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

March 22, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Chris Hepburn, presiding, Peter Barrer, David Backer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alice Ingerson, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson.

1. **Welcome.** Chris welcomed the participants at 7:02 pm.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Alice gave her statement of the land acknowledgement:
We acknowledge that the Massachusetts people and their nonhuman relatives have lived with the land and waters of the city now known as Newton, Massachusetts for thousands of years, and that the Massachusetts never ceded this place to the ancestors of the people who now claim to own it.
At our 2022 annual meeting, Massachusetts Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon and Sagamore Faries Gray spoke to us about honoring this history through our future actions:
Elizabeth asked us to think about “how we can be in a reciprocal relationship with nature, neither using it as a resource, nor seeing it as something static to protect.” She urged us to see this relationship as a “continuous flowing,” in which “we give to nature as frequently and as much as we take from nature.”
Faries reminded us that human beings “are a problem that is not sustainable, and we all need to work together to fix the problem, regardless of where on the planet our Indigenous ancestors are from.”
I hope the Newton Conservators can help to realize this vision by building truly reciprocal relationships with both nature and people, no matter where our ancestors are from.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Mike moved and Barbara seconded that the minutes of February 22, 2023 be approved. These were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Katherine said that she had sent around the IRS 990 and Form PC for board review. She related that she had changed the 2022 financial statements assets and liabilities by \$79 to reconcile to the golf escrow, with no net impact on the statements, and that the final statements will be available on the board page on the website. It is time to file Conflict of Interest (COI) statements and Directors will receive the forms soon. Larry Burdick will step down as the Audit Committee chair after this year's meeting, and we are looking for a replacement. Contributions in memory of John Bliss have been arriving.
5. **Spring Annual Meeting and Speaker.** The slate of officers for the Annual Meeting will include: Alice, President and Nyssa, Vice President. Barbara, Henry and Bill are on the Nominating with Pete as the chair. Bill related that the plans for the meeting were coming along well. Six sponsors have responded positively, and three donations have already been received. Elizabeth Saunders will be accepting a Directors' Award for her father Phil Saunders (posthumously) and his sister and mother will also be attending. We have received funding for two Newton North students to attend.
6. **Grants.** Bill presented a proposal for \$2500 from the Environmental Science Program to fund partial scholarships for the summer. David said that full tuition was \$2495. Barbara moved to approve the proposal, which passed unanimously.
7. **Updates**
 - a. **Dudley Road Estate.** Chris noted that Barney Heath, the Director of Planning for the City, thanked Chris for his letter expressing our concerns. Alice suggested and it was the sense of the meeting that it was time to send a letter about an archeological assessment of the site and that it be circulated to groups that may have an interest in the history of the site.

- b. **Newton Tree Ordinance Proposals.** Alice met with Marc Welch about the ordinances and will meet with the Tree Ordinance Group about the proposals on Monday.
- c. **Parks and Recreation Commission.** Beth has met with two members of the PRC about an ecology sign for Levingston Cove. Beth said that the Gath Pool proposal was recommended by the CPC. Dan B. said that the combined proposal for Gath was for about \$20M. An adjacent playing field will not be expanded into Avery Woods.
- d. **Trails Fund.** Katherine & Peter felt it was time to contact donors.
- e. **Trail Guide.** The Conservators' Trail Committee met with Dan and Tod. Dan has sent around a questionnaire for directors to respond to. Dan said that they were now looking for recommendations for the format of the guide. Webster Woods will have a four-page spread with a fold out map. Some other areas are under consideration for two-page spreads. The new guide will have a separate insert map for the Aqueduct and Blue Heron Trails. Features such as geology, history, rock climbing, etc. will be noted for some areas. Margaret asked whether the guide would include accessibility features. Dan said that the guide would note accessible trails and will probably indicate trails that may not be ADA accessible, but that might be reasonable for those with disabilities. Dan felt that the City is committed to making areas as accessible as possible and the trail guide is being developed with help from the City's ADA Coordinator and the City's GIS personnel. Dan has sent an email out for comments on the Guide and asked for members of the Board to please respond. Alice noted that pedestrian access to the Aqueduct Trail is being addressed.
- f. **Webinars.** Beth has posted the Webinar schedule in the Newsletter and on the NC Website.
- g. **Walks.** Sam said that Henry would lead an Aqueduct Walk on April 2. A Cleanup day near Hammond Pond and the Street shopping area will be on Earth Day April 22; The Street will provide trash bags, gloves, and a recycling area.
- h. **Invasive Pulls.** Katherine related that there would be a pull at Webster Woods on Sunday with the BC EcoPledge group. Boy Scouts will do an invasives pull led by Larry Smith and possibly Mark Hooker at Hemlock Gorge on Sunday, April 29.
- i. **Events.** Chris has circulated a list of events including those needing people to work at our table at several events for the spring (see attached). Margaret asked for volunteers for the tabling events. Sam volunteered to help set up a sign-up sheet for tabling events.
- j. **Report of City Trails Committee March Meeting.** Chris said that the Committee was considering what should be placed on City maps including accessibility indicators. The Marty Sender Trail Phase II went out for bids which may cause a change in the scope, but the hope is that work will be finished on Phase II by the end of June. Dan B. said that there was movement toward completing bridges that would extend the Upper Falls Greenway over the Charles and over Rte. 128. Chris said that Jennifer Steel was working on developing a consistent signage for trails in the area.
- k. **Mass Land Trust Meeting.** Nyssa and Alice will attend the Mass Land Trust Meeting on March 25. Samantha will also attend with her employer Sudbury Valley Trustees.
- l. **Needham-Newton Corridor.** Chris said the Mass DOT is having a Zoom session on the Needham-Newton Corridor at 6 pm on March 23.

8. **Adjournment.** Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Coming Meetings.

April 20, Thur. ExCom Meeting, 4pm Zoom

April 26, Wed. Board Meeting, 7pm Zoom
May 7, Sunday, Newton Serves
May 24, Wed., Annual Banquet

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators – Events list for Spring 2023

Combined Master List of all events scheduled:

[Miscellaneous events, Tabling Events, Webinars, Walks, Invasive pulls (IP), Annual Meeting]

April 19, Wed., Webinar: The Stories the Rocks Tell , 7 pm, Zoom
April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon & Tabling Event
April 23, Sun., Earth Day at City Hall – Tabling Event 10 am– 4pm
April 23, Sun 9:30-11 (IP) Cold Spring Park (CSP). (Alan Noguee)
April 23, Sun., Webster Woods walk- Richard Primack 2-4pm
April 29, Sat., Kids: Hammond Pond 10-11:30 am
April 29 Sat 9-12 (IP) Hemlock Gorge
April 30, Sun 9:30-11 (IP) Sawmill Brook (KH)
April 30, Sun 12-1:30 (IP) Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, Church of Good Shepherd, KH)

May 6, Sat., Noticing Webster Woods – 10:30am-noon, Barbara
May 6, Sat 1-3 - (IP)Upper Falls Greenway. (Katherine Howard and Mark Hooker)
May 7, Sun 9:30 - 12 (IP)Cold Spring Park (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun 9:30 - 12. (IP)Dolan Pond. (Ted Kuklinski). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Houghton Garden (Katherine Howard). NewtonServes
May 7, Sun - Trail Maintenance – Nahanton Park (Dan B) NewtonServes
May 9, Tues 1-3 (IP)Cold Springs Park (KH & Alan Noguee)
May 10, Wed., Webinar: Rewilding Our Communities for Climate Resilience, 7 pm, Zoom
May 13, Sat., Dolan Pond Bird Walk, 7:30- 9:30am, Ted
May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —Tabling event
May 13, Sat 1-3 - (IP)Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am
May 14, Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
May 14, Sun 2-4 (IP)Blue Heron Bridge
May 20, Sat., Kids: Dolan Pond 10-11:30am
May 20, Sat - 9:30-12 - (IP)Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow) (Katherine Howard)
May 20, Sat., Cold Spring Park Walk – w/ Friends of CSP (Alan N. and Pete) 1-2:30 pm
May 21, Sun., Birding at Cold Spring Park (Pete) 8-10 am
May 21, Sunday, Waban Village Day —Tabling event
May 24, Wed., Annual Dinner Meeting, 5pm-9pm
May 27, Sat - 9:30 (IP)Cold Spring Park (Nyssa Patten)
May 28, Sun 9:30 – 11 (IP)Houghton Garden (Michele Hanss, KH)
May 28, Sun 12-1:30 (IP)Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, KH, Church of Good Shepherd)

June 3, Sat 9 - 12 - (IP)Hammond Pond knotweed (Mark Hooker)
June 4, Sun - 9:30-12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
June 4, Sun 1-3 (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Mark Hooker)
June 6, Tuesday 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park (Alan Noguee)
June 7, Wed., Webinar: How small mammal personalities may shape forests under climate stress, 7 pm, Zoom
June 11, Sunday, Newton Highlands Village Day —Tabling event
June 11 Sun., Hemlock Gorge Walk, Katherine – w/Friends of Hemlock Gorge 10-12am
June 15, Thur., Webinar: Gardening for Habitat, 7 pm, Zoom
June 17, 9:30-11:30 - (IP)Dolan Pond knotweed (Ted Kuklinski, KH)
June 17, Sat 2-4 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Katherine Howard)

July 1, Sat 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park,BSW, wisteria (Katherine Howard)

July 2, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (Katherine Howard)
July 4, Tues., Kids Fest —Tabling event
July 8, Sat - 9:30 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)
July 9, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

Tabling Events – separate list

April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon & **Tabling Event**
April 23, Sun., Earth Day at City Hall – **Tabling event** 10 am– 4pm
May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —**Tabling event**
May 21, Sunday, Waban Village Day —**Tabling event**
June 11, Sunday, Newton Highlands Village Day —**Tabling event**
July 4, Tues., Kids Fest —**Tabling event**

Webinars – separate list

Wednesday, April 19. Webinar: The Stories the Rocks Tell , 7 pm, Zoom
Wednesday, May 10. Webinar: Rewilding Our Communities for Climate Resilience, 7 pm, Zoom
Wednesday, June 7. Webinar: How small mammal personalities may shape forests under climate stress, 7 pm, Zoom
Thursday, June 15. Webinar: Gardening for Habitat, 7 pm, Zoom

Walks – separate list

April 22, Sat., Earth Day event – Hammond Pond (The Street sponsor) 9-noon/ **with Tabling**
April 23 Sun., Webster Woods walk– Richard Primack 2-4pm
April 29 Sat., Kids: Hammond Pond 10-11:30am
May 6 Sat., Noticing Webster Woods, 10:30am - Barbara
May 13, Sat., Dolan Pond Bird Walk, 7:30- 9:30am, Ted
May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am
May 20 Sat., Kids: Dolan Pond 10-11:30am
May 20 Sun., Cold Spring Park walk-w/ Friends of CSP (Alan & Pete) 1-2:30pm
May 21, Sun., Birding at Cold Spring Park (Pete) 8-10am
June 11 Sun., Hemlock Gorge walk, Katherine – w/Friends of Hemlock Gorge 10-12 am

Invasive Pulls (IP) – separate list

April 23 Sun 9:30-11 (IP)Cold Spring Park (CSP). (Alan Noguee)
April 29 Sat 9-12 (IP) Hemlock Gorge

April 30 Sun 9:30-11. (IP)Sawmill Brook (KH)
April 30 Sun 12-1:30 (IP)Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, Church of Good Shepherd, KH)

May 6 - Sat 1-3 - (IP)Upper Falls Greenway. (Katherine Howard and Mark Hooker)
May 7 Sun 9:30 - 12 (IP)CSP (Katherine Howard). **NewtonServes**
May 7 Sun 9:30 - 12. (IP)Dolan Pond. (Ted Kuklinski). **NewtonServes**
May 7 Sun 1-3 - (IP)Houghton Garden (Katherine Howard). **NewtonServes**
May 9 - Tuesday 1-3 (IP)Cold Springs Park (KH & Alan Noguee)
May 13 - Sat 1-3 - (IP)Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
May 14 - Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
May 14 – Sun 2-4 (IP)Blue Heron Bridge

May 20 - Sat - 9:30-12 - (IP)Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow) (Katherine Howard)
May 27 - Sat - 9:30 (IP)Cold Spring Park (Nyssa Patten)
May 28 - Sun 9:30 – 11 (IP)Houghton Garden (Michele Hanss, KH)
May 28 - Sun 12-1:30 (IP)Quinobequin (Ann Ritchie, KH, Church of Good Shepherd)

June 3 - Sat 9 - 12 - (IP)Hammond Pond knotweed (Mark Hooker)
June 4 - Sun - 9:30-12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
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June 17 - Sat 2-4 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge (Katherine Howard)

July 1 - Sat 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park,BSW, wisteria (Katherine Howard)
July 2 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (Katherine Howard)
July 8 Sat - 9:30 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)
July 9 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

April 26, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Chris Hepburn, presiding, Peter Barrer, David Backer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Margaret Doris, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Katherine Howard, Alice Ingerson, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson and guest Jon Regosin.

1. **Welcome.** Chris welcomed the participants at 7:00 pm.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Sam gave her statement of the land acknowledgement: I want to thank the land for all it has provided for me physically, mentally, and emotionally. I also want to thank the indigenous peoples, who were the first stewards of this land, for all they have done and continue to do for our planet. I hope to continue to learn and work toward preserving what has meant so much to me.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Mike moved that the minutes of March 22, 2023 be approved. These were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** The financials through March 31 were previously circulated. Katherine said The NAV for the Fidelity Multi Asset Fund was up 6.8% from 12/31/22, so there was a large unrealized gain of 18K, some of which transferred to Ordway and CR Monitoring funds. The Annual Meeting shows \$2K better than budget, which is purely a timing issue with receipt of sponsorships and only some expenses in. Nothing has been spent yet on the new Trail Guide, or on any special projects, so they all show as favorable to the budget. She also reported that (1) the IRS 990 and MA Form PC were filed and the MA Certificate for Solicitation was received; (2) the list of donors who gave in memory of John Bliss would shortly be forwarded to Tamara Bliss; (3) the Golf Escrow agent Charlie Platt is now on board; (4) the Audit Committee is meeting on May 3; (5) for next year, we will need a new Audit Committee chair.
5. **Spring Annual Meeting.** Bill related that the plans for the annual meeting were set and that our first outdoor meeting should go well. David verified that there would be a table for the Environmental Science Program.
6. **Nomination Committee.** The slate of officers for the Annual Meeting includes: Alice, President; Nyssa, Vice President; Katherine, Treasurer; Mike, Secretary, and Chris and Bill as Past Co-Presidents.
7. **New Volunteers.** Sam presented the new online Conservators Volunteer Application, which will reside on the volunteer page of the website. This was considered to be an important item in recruiting new volunteers and members. The procedure for referring volunteers to mentors and orienting them was also discussed. Sam will circulate the form for comment.
8. **Events.** Margaret and Sam presented the event sign-up sheet, which she had previously circulated.
9. **Open Space Inventory.** Jon Regosin presented a proposal for a renewed open space inventory using iNaturalist so that an online record of the flora and fauna at open spaces in Newton could be accumulated and available through our website. Ted, Chris, Barbara and others attested to the value of the project. Jon suggested that we cooperate in doing "bioblitzes" at various Newton sites to begin populating the biodata. Alice and Barbara saw the potential for involving families, scout groups and others in Conservators' projects which might yield volunteers and members. Barbara moved that we make this a program of the Conservators which would

include a webinar on iNaturalist, possibly a table at the annual meeting and a schedule of events, which passed unanimously. Jon and Sam will work on the details.

10. **Newton Tree Ordinance Proposals.** Alice, Katherine and Beth have circulated a draft letter suggesting that the current provision in Newton's tree ordinances for the City to waive some requirements for tree removals that benefit other trees on the same site be expanded to actions that support the "ecological health and resilience of the site as a whole." There was some discussion of how City staff would evaluate requests made under this provision, and how to ensure follow-through over trees' long-life spans. Dan G. moved and Barbara seconded a motion to approve sending the letter, which passed unanimously.
11. **Newton-Needham Trail Planning.** Chris asked for a volunteer to serve on the Newton-Needham Trail Planning group planning for extending the Upper Falls Greenway. Bill volunteered.
12. **Anti-Rodenticide Proposal.** Katherine had circulated a package sent to P&S about the ecological effects of rodenticides that are killing raptors. Newton is considering a proposal to ban anticoagulant rodenticides, which requires a home-rule petition to accomplish; Arlington is further along in this process. Newton is already using a birth-control method along with gas treatments (carbon monoxide) of rodent burrows. Katherine suggested that the conservators monitor this and possibly take a position on it. Katherine and Margaret will assist in writing letters to the appropriate city departments.
13. **Updates**
 - a. **Mayor's Breakfast.** The Conservators currently have a half a table at the Mayor's Breakfast but would like to have a full table of eight. Katherine moved and Barbara seconded that we also spend \$150 to buy an ad in the program.
 - b. **Mass. Land Trust Meeting.** Alice, Nyssa and Sam reported on sessions they attended at the Mass. Land Trust meeting. Alice described some of the sessions on the conference's main theme of combining land conservation and affordable housing. She reported that the IRS has issued new rules on tax deductions for CRs and that some cities have raised the possibility of extinguishing CRs through eminent domain. Sam attended a seminar on developing "old growth" forests through ecological restoration, which involved strategic tree removal to allow selected trees to grow larger. Nyssa related a talk about extending access to the outdoors particularly for people who felt uncomfortable in the outdoors. The Barnstable land trust talked about creative ways of involving people with nature.
 - c. **Trails Fund.** Peter and Katherine are contacting donors in the quiet phase of the campaign and will also be contacting Directors.
 - d. **Parks and Recreation Commission.** Beth said that there was more CPA funding for playing fields.
 - e. **Conservation Commission.** Dan G. said that the deer park now had an opening in the fence to enter. Alice noted that, in response to one Newton resident's request to the Conservators for landscaping advice, Jennifer Steel had recently provided a list of "ecologically oriented" landscape designers who have recently interacted with the Conservation Commission.
 - f. **Webinars.** Beth stated that we had a wonderful first webinar delivered by Chris on Newton's geology. The second webinar is on May 10 with Hannah Lewis on Rewilding our Communities for Climate Resistance.

- g. **Walks.** Sam said the cleanup on Earth Day at Hammond Pond was a success. There is a kid's walk this Saturday. There will be 12 walks this year for which help is needed with at least three.
- h. **Invasive Pulls.** Katherine said there will be a pull at Hemlock Gorge. The Chinese running club will assist again at removing invasives from the Upper Falls Greenway. A honeysuckle popper has been purchased for removing invasives.
- i. **Newsletter.** Ken indicated that the summer newsletter will be printed in early June. Marc Welch may write an article about the need for arborists. The issue will also include an article about the award winners at the annual meeting.
- j. **Newton Community Farm Open House.** Chris said that board members were invited to the NCF Open House on May 6 and that we have scheduled this as a tabling event.
- k. **No May Board Meeting.** Because of the annual meeting, there will be no May board meeting.
- l. **New Tent.** Ted mentioned that the Exec Com is considering a new tent with our name and logo inscribed to serve at tabling events.

14. **Adjournment.** Chris adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Coming Meetings.

May 7, Sunday, Newton Serves

May 24, Wed., Annual Banquet

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators – Events list for Spring 2023

Combined Master List of all events scheduled:

[Miscellaneous events, Tabling Events, Webinars, Walks, Invasive pulls (IP), Annual Meeting]

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May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —Tabling event
May 13, Sat 1-3 - (IP)Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am
May 14, Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
May 14, Sun 2-4 (IP)Blue Heron Bridge
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July 9, Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

Tabling Events – separate list

May 13, Sat., Family Fun Fest Day —**Tabling event**
May 21, Sunday, Waban Village Day —**Tabling event**
June 11, Sunday, Newton Highlands Village Day —**Tabling event**
July 4, Tues., Kids Fest —**Tabling event**

Webinars – separate list

Wednesday, May 10. Webinar: Rewilding Our Communities for Climate Resilience, 7 pm, Zoom
Wednesday, June 7. Webinar: How small mammal personalities may shape forests under climate stress, 7 pm, Zoom

Thursday, June 15. Webinar: Gardening for Habitat, 7 pm, Zoom

Walks – separate list

May 13, Sat., Dolan Pond Bird Walk, 7:30- 9:30am, Ted
May 14, Sun, Mother's Day Bird walk – w/ Friends of Nahanton Park 8-10:30 am
May 20 Sat., Kids: Dolan Pond 10-11:30am
May 20 Sun., Cold Spring Park walk-w/ Friends of CSP (Alan & Pete) 1-2:30pm
May 21, Sun., Birding at Cold Spring Park (Pete) 8-10am
June 11 Sun., Hemlock Gorge walk, Katherine – w/Friends of Hemlock Gorge 10-12 am

Invasive Pulls (IP) – separate list

May 13 - Sat 1-3 - (IP)Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail. (Ted Chapman, KH)
May 14 - Sun 9:30 –12 - (IP)Saw Mill Brook (Katherine Howard)
May 14 – Sun 2-4 (IP)Blue Heron Bridge
May 20 - Sat - 9:30-12 - (IP)Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow) (Katherine Howard)
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July 1 - Sat 1-3 – (IP)Cold Spring Park,BSW, wisteria (Katherine Howard)
July 2 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (Katherine Howard)
July 8 Sat - 9:30 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)
July 9 - Sun 1-3 - (IP)Hemlock Gorge, BSW (Katherine Howard)

Newton Conservators' Annual Meeting
May 24, 2023, 7-9:30 PM
Annual Meeting

Participants: *Board Members.* Chris Hepburn and Bill Hagar, presiding, David Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Samantha Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Dan Green, Pete Gilmore, Alice Ingerson, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson. *Guests.* Mayor Fuller, Marcia Cooper, Luiz Demorizi, Ruth Balser, Lucy Saunders, speaker, Normaan Smith, other members and guests.

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement.** Outgoing Co-President Chris Hepburn welcomed the audience to the Conservators' first outdoor annual meeting and called on the Conservators' incoming president Alice Ingerson to give the land acknowledgement. Alice spoke about the work of the board's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee over the last several years and quoted some important points made at the Conservators' 2022 annual meeting on Zoom by our then guest speakers, Massachusetts Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon and Massachusetts Sagamore Faries Gray. Elizabeth asked us to think about how we can be in a "reciprocal relationship" with nature, "neither using it as a resource nor seeing it as something static to protect." She urged us to see this relationship as what she called a "continuous owing" in which "we give to nature as frequently and as much as we can take from nature." Faries reminded us that human beings have become "a problem that is not sustainable," and that "we all need to work together to x the problem, regardless of where on the planet our ancestors are from." We're hoping that the Newton Conservators can help to build truly reciprocal relationships between culture and people, no matter where our ancestors are from.
2. **Mayor's Remarks.** Mayor Ruthanne Fuller also spoke about the concerns of the Massachusetts and other native peoples. Mayor Fuller described Green Newton President Marcia Cooper, recipient of the Environmentalist of the Year Award, as "the epitome of somebody that does this important work by creating communities who work with her." She called directors' award winner Luis Perez Demorizi, the city's Director of Parks and Open Space within the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, "extraordinary in his knowledge, his emotional intelligence and his belief in conservation, and recreation and doing it in the right balance." She commended State Representative Ruth Balser for her long record of open space advocacy, and Phillip Saunders, Jr, organizing on behalf of the Public Lands Protection Act as a permanent, lasting legacy across the Commonwealth. Finally, Mayor Fuller thanked Newton Conservators' co-presidents Chris Hepburn and Bill Hagar for their leadership of the past few years.
3. **Co-Presidents' Message** The Co-Presidents' message was delivered by Bill Hagar. We welcome you to our first outdoor annual meeting in the history of the Newton Conservators. It is inspiring to celebrate with all of you, both members and new supporters. We relish the fresh air and open-space tent environment provided for us by the Mount Ida Campus of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We thank Mayor Fuller and her staff for the opportunity to use this space protected from the rain. We acknowledge that this land was and is the homeland of the Massachusetts people and hope

to live up to their example by sustaining healthy, resilient ecosystems into the future, with your support! Preserving and maintaining open space is still our major priority in this, our 62nd year. As an all-volunteer organization, Newton Conservators relies on many individuals and on partnerships with other organizations to help protect the environment and allow all to enjoy nature's beauty. We work closely with the City of Newton by holding Conservation Restrictions (CRs) on many city-owned parcels of land. Our volunteer teams conduct yearly monitoring visits and report back to the relevant city department about current conditions and recommendations for maintenance or enforcement. We have a "jam-packed" schedule of nearly a hundred activities this year, including webinars, walks, invasive pulls, village days, and other activities. We hope to connect all people in Newton to nature and our open spaces and to welcome visitors from elsewhere. From the fall of 2022 through the spring of 2023, we offered eight free webinars on wide range of topics, including light pollution, native plant ordinances, Newton's street trees and buried streams, identifying animals by their winter tracks, invasive "jumping worms," and Newton's geological history. We first began offering webinars in the fall of 2020 because of the Covid crisis, but we have continued them because of the strong attendance and interest. Most of these special presentations are available on our YouTube channel for those who could not attend the original presentations. Many of our walks attract participants of all ages, with six recent walks targeted specifically for children. The walks and birding activities cover most areas of Newton, including Dolan Pond, Houghton Garden, the Charles River, Nahanton Park, Cold Spring Park, the Aqueducts, and Webster Woods. As the Covid crisis recedes, we can now come together more often and enjoy all types of indoor and outdoor activities. Our published Guide to Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Areas is widely used by people searching for new and interesting places to explore outdoors. We are in the planning stage of creating a new, updated version of this treasure, using maps aligned with Newton's computerized Geographic Information System. [Bill Hagar and Chris Hepburn].

4. **Election of Officers & Directors.** Pete Gilmore presented and moved the slate of officers and directors, which was seconded by Barbara Bates. The slate of officers and directors is: President: Alice Ingerson; Vice President: Nyssa Patten; Treasurer: Katherine Howard; Secretary: Mike Clarke; Past Co-Presidents: Chris Hepburn and Bill Hagar. Directors: David Backer, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Samantha Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Maurice Gilmore, Daniel Green, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, George Mansfield, Larry Smith, and Beth Wilkinson. The slate was approved unanimously by Newton Conservators members present.

5. **Awards.**

Environmentalist of the Year Award. Peter Barrer presented the Environmentalist of the Year Award to Marcia Cooper, President, Green Newton, for her enthusiasm and devotion to a sustainable world for future generations, for thoughtfully inspiring Newton students to join and lead local environmental actions, and for consistently building Green Newton as a widely trusted source for guidance to green the home and fight the climate crisis.

Directors' Awards. Chris Hepburn presented a Directors' Award to Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks and Open Space, City of Newton for his impressive effectiveness in making tangible improvements to Newton's parks and open spaces. He was also recognized for his skilled management of multiple projects, from design through construction, for his assistance with the Conservators' monitoring of conservation restrictions, and for helping the community reimagine how open space can function better for the public.

Alice Ingerson presented the second Directors' Award to Ruth Balser, State Representative, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for her continuing advocacy for open space in the Commonwealth and support of the mission of Newton Conservators. She was also recognized for her persistent co-sponsorship and ultimate success in the Massachusetts Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA), which was signed into law on November 17, 2022. For more than two decades, Representative Balser worked for the adoption of the PLPA, to reinforce Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, which mandates no net loss of publicly-owned parklands without a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

The final Directors' Award went posthumously to Philip Saunders, Jr., Organizer, Public Lands Protection Act. For more than twenty-five years, Philip Saunders, Jr., was an enthusiastic and tireless advocate for the PLPA, which would codify as law the state's "No Net Loss" policy for public lands. He and Representative Balser worked as a team to accomplish that goal. Phil educated and organized open-space activists in many communities to help pass the legislation. He wrote what he called "Cliffs Notes" about the law and shared that knowledge with everyone who would listen. Sadly, Phil did not live to see this policy enacted into law, but he was active in promoting it until the final months of his life. Alice Ingerson presented the award to Phil's daughter Elizabeth, his wife Lucy, and daughter Cathy.

6. **Featured Speaker.** Norman Smith, Raptor Specialist from Mass Audubon, presented a captivating slideshow of the work he has done over the years observing, capturing, banding, and relocating Snowy Owls at Logan International Airport. He described how his work with children who think out of the box shattered some longstanding beliefs about the lives of owls, and informed practices around the world on how to protect and manage these magnificent creatures. He showed how this project developed in an unusual way to include research on Saw-whet Owls. His slides, sense of humor, and depth of knowledge were remarkable. He ended the evening with a live and moving presentation of an orphaned seven-week-old Great Horned owl.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Clarke with thanks to Ken Mallory, who wrote the Newsletter article on the Annual Meeting on which these minutes were based, and Alice Ingerson, Katherin Howard, Chris Hepburn, Bill Hagar, Barbara Bates and Peter Barrer, who contributed to the article.

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

June 28, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, chairing, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, George Mansfield, Nyssa Patten, Larry Smith, Beth Wilkinson and guest Tod Macalister.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants at 7:02 pm.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Pete gave his statement of the land acknowledgement: The Newton Conservators acknowledges that the land in the City of Newton, known to the Massachusetts people as Nonantum, was never fairly obtained from the Massachusetts people. The Newton Conservators hope that we, and our fellow citizens of Newton, will learn to live in harmony with the land, the flora and the fauna of this place. Our neighbors, The Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, understand what this means in real terms. We hope to learn from them and from the land itself.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** This quarter's financials will be available after June 30. Katherine reviewed the income and expenses from the Annual Meeting, noting a gratuity of \$360 was paid to the catering staff for their exceptional help during the inclement weather, and \$200 extra (for \$500 in total) was paid to Norman Smith's Snowy Owl project (both items approved by Executive Committee). We have asked UMass for an adjustment to the bill given the issues with cash bar and food running out, and do not yet know the outcome of that, but even without any adjustment, the slight net loss on the meeting would be well within the budget we had established.
4. **Annual Meeting.** Alice reviewed the evaluations of the Annual Meeting. Sam noted that the evening was cool, windy and rainy. Alice responded that the flaps for the sides of the tent that would have protected from the weather would have had to be ordered and installed in advance (at quite a large expense). Barbara suggested that we query Mt. Ida as to whether they would be willing to host the event outdoors again. A straw vote revealed an inclination to hold the meeting outdoors, but a final decision was postponed until the July Board meeting.
5. **New Board Member.** Chris moved that we invite Jon Regosin to join the board. Jon has previously served on the board, participated in a number of our events and is recently retired. He has also started a new nature project (citizen science BioBlitzes) which involves the Conservators. He is willing to serve on the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Tabling Equipment.** Chris said that we needed new equipment for our tabling events such as a new tent with our current logo. Alice suggested that we form a group to assess the need and costs, which would report back by the July meeting. Chris, Bill, Sam, Ted, and Alice volunteered.
7. **DEIJ.** Peter Barrer proposed a new tagline to go with our logo "A nonprofit citizens group connecting people to Newton's open space since 1961." This was referred back to Peter and the DEIJ team to include "preserving open space" and streamline the wording. The DEIJ committee proposes to review and report to the Board every six months, instead of continuing to meet monthly and present a semiannual report to the board. The DEIJ team feels that they have accomplished a lot, but there is much to do. Accomplishments include having Indigenous people speak at our annual meeting, figuring out ways of making thoughtful land

acknowledgements, highlighting the importance of connecting people to open spaces rather than simply protecting open spaces.

Meeting separately has been useful to generate ideas and initiatives. The focus has now shifted to membership: broadening membership, increasing membership, designing a ladder of engagement to move people toward Board membership, and the challenge of gaining participation from more constituencies. (Consequently, a membership subcommittee is proposed; see next item.)

The DEIJ team now wants to roll its momentum into larger Board responsibility. Ideas and proposals for DEIJ will come from Board members and will be discussed at Board meetings. The Board has a continued commitment to DEIJ issues, and we will use a DEIJ (diversity, equity/accessibility, inclusion, justice) lens when designing and assessing policies, events and approving internships, grants, and contracts. The board meeting protocol should include discussions of how DEIJ perspective applies to items under consideration. Peter asked the board to continue our commitment to DEIJ and to apply a DEIJ perspective throughout what we do. Alice suggested that the Executive Committee flag 1 to 3 appropriate items for DEIJ discussion on the board agendas. The vote for this was 13 for with three abstentions: Chris, Bill and (because he joined the meeting partway through this discussion) George.

8. **Membership and Recruitment.** Alice expressed concerns about our shrinking board and relatively inactive membership. Sam suggested ways we might fulfill these recruitment needs. Sam referred to a descriptor of board member qualifications and responsibilities that was previously circulated for consideration. Sam sought more participation in forming the approach to recruitment and better describing the qualifications for board members and screening potential candidates. Barbara cautioned about a general request for board members who may not have already participated as volunteers in some of our programs. Sam felt that it was necessary to outreach to new populations for recruiting volunteers and potential new directors. Sam and Nyssa will form a membership subcommittee and return in September with new input from others including Beth, Alice, Katherine, Jon, and Ted.
9. **Trail Guide.** Todd Macalister reviewed recent work on the Trail Guide including work from a hired consultant graphic designer and production professional who helps with the overall look of the guide. As examples he referred to the differences between one-page and two-page treatments of open space sites, which he has posted online. An additional \$125 cost for Greg Lippert's design services to date over the previously approved \$1000 was approved, and Katherine will pay the \$1125 now. Todd said that the guide was entering a new phase that will require an additional \$395 for design soon, and that he would present this and an updated budget in July.
10. **Green Coalition Proposal.** Beth described Janice Bourque's (Crystal Lake Conservancy) proposal to form a coalition of local environmental groups to gain a broader dialogue of how to get support for environmental issues in Newton. Beth suggested that an unofficial working group to meet perhaps quarterly could attain the same goals. Beth and Alice will talk and explore the idea with Janice and report back.
11. **Grant Application for a Mini Pollinator Garden at Elm St Playground.** Bill reviewed a proposal for \$350 from potential Eagle Scout Freddie Deng for a pollinator garden in West Newton Common. The project is already well underway. Issues discussed included scouts' growing knowledge about pollinators and plants, public education and signage, and the maintenance plan. The requested funds are mainly for plant materials. Ted said there was a QR code at the site referring to our website. The \$350 grant was approved with 7 votes in favor, 3

opposed (Barbara Bates, Katherine Howard, Pete Gilmore), and 3 abstaining (Beth Wilkinson, Nyssa Patten, Alice Ingerson). The Grants Committee was asked to clarify its process for recommending proposals at an upcoming meeting.

12. Updates

- a. **July 4th Tabling.** Alice said that volunteers are requested for our booth at the Fourth of July event at Albemarle Playground.
- b. **Tree Ordinance.** Alice noted that the Program & Services Committee was holding a public hearing (simultaneously with this Board meeting on 6/28/23) to hear the submitted petition for “no exemptions” to the ordinance. We expect that P&S will continue with its recommended draft, which does include exemptions, and will hold a session for comments in July or August.
- c. **Trails Revolving Fund.** Peter, Katherine, and Beth have been contacting donors in the quiet phase of the campaign and will also be contacting Directors. Pledges have exceeded expectations for the quiet phase.
- d. **Webinars.** Beth said we had a very good Webinar season and that three of four webinars are in place for the fall. John Regosin will talk about his bioblitz in September.
- e. **Walks.** Sam is lining up walks for the fall. Katherine said the Hemlock Gorge walk was successful with 15-20 participants. Sam is arranging a collaborative walk with the Friends of Cold Spring Park for the fall. John Regosin is organizing walks for his bioblitz effort.
- f. **Invasive Pulls.** Katherine said the session at Dexter Woods was effective and that there will be more pulls at Hemlock Gorge
- g. **Newsletter.** Ken said that the current newsletter was mailed and is now arriving.
- h. **Marty Sender Trail.** Chris said there were no bids on Phase II improvements to the Marty Sender Trail due to timing issues, but DCR has approved an extension of the grant so that the current funds will be available for the next proposal window.

13. **Adjournment.** Alice adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators – Events list for July 2023

July 19, Tues 4:30 Ex-Com
July 26, Wed 7:00 Board Mtg
Sep 19, Tues 4:30 Ex-Com
Sep 27, Wed 7:00 Board Mtg.

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

July 26, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, chairing, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Bonnie Carter, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Jon Regosin, Beth Wilkinson, and guest Tod Macalister.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants including new director, Jon Regosin at 7:04 pm.
2. **Minutes.** Barbara moved that the minutes of April, May and June be approved. Ken seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Land Acknowledgement.** Mike gave his statement of the land acknowledgement: Living in this land that first greets the sun, where we raised our children, steward land, trails and gardens, canoe Crystal Lake and the Charles, we recognize that we do so on the unceded land of the Massachusett and are aware of the dishonesty, biased courts and even genocide that have given invading nations suzerainty over the Massachusett. In harmony with the perspectives of the Newton Conservators I read a few lines from a Native American poem.
Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.
Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.
Open the door, then close it behind you.
Take a breath offered by friendly winds.
They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.
Acknowledge this earth, who has cared for you, since you were a dream.
["For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet" by Joy Harjo \(Muscogee/Creek\)](#)
Native American Poet Laureate Joy Harjo
4. **Treasurer's Report.** This quarter and financials through 6/30/23 were previously circulated. Katherine said that the Annual Meeting bottom line is \$549 better than presented at the last meeting: UMass/Mt Ida gave us a 15% courtesy adjustment on the food cost due to the glitches we experienced, while also charging \$300 more for the gluten free cookies put on every table. The Annual Meeting line ended \$1340 better than our budget. There is a large unrealized gain of \$32K due to the NAV of our Fidelity investment going up (12% since 12/31/22, and 4.9% from 2/31/23). The statement reflects \$1125 paid for Trail Guide work from Special Projects/Spending Policy Board Designated Endowment. Revenues and most expenses are close to budget, so the bottom line is an increase of \$27K of net unrestricted assets. Restricted funds show the Trails Revolving Fund gifts of \$18K and market value growth of Ordway Endowment Interest and CR Monitoring fund. Katherine indicated that the Executive Committee had reviewed the directors' Conflict of Interest submissions, and did not find any significant issues or items of concern. Katherine reported on the quiet phase progress of the Trails Revolving Fund. Another \$10K was just received from the Solomon Foundation, bringing the total in the fund to \$44K. It was discussed that there will still be a public phase of fundraising in the fall.
5. **Annual Meeting.** Alice presented the option of Allen House for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Katherine said that Allen House did not yet know its schedule. Post 440 has availability for May 15, 22 and 29, and our \$100 deposit there has been moved tentatively to May 15. Options for DEIJ catering services were mentioned. Katherine felt we should also focus on ideas for a speaker and asked for suggestions to be forwarded

6. **Tabling Equipment.** Chris presented a proposal for a new 8'x8' canopy tent and tablecloth for tabling events which would display our logo, website address, tagline and name and would cost \$1327. A cart and sandbags with Velcro straps to hold down the poles are included. Alice moved to approve the purchase of the tent, which passed with 12 votes and one abstention. Katherine abstained because she felt the current tent was adequate.
7. **New Tagline.** The executive committee recommended the tagline "Preserving Open Space & Connecting People to Nature". Alice moved that we approve "Preserving Open Space and Connecting People to Nature since 1961," which passed unanimously (the "since 1961" can be omitted in situations where a shorter tagline is needed).
8. **Trail Guide.** Dan B. said we had \$10K in the budget for the new trail guide, sufficient to cover the next phase of spending, which is up to \$4000 for production preparation. Katherine pointed out that the \$10K was a placeholder and that we did not yet have a complete budget. Tod said the design phase was done and that more work was needed in the production preparation phase before a complete budget could be presented, particularly with preparing the maps for printing. Barbara moved and Ken seconded a motion that we allocate no more than \$4K (in addition to the \$1125 already spent) for the production preparation phase, and that we obtain a new Letter of Agreement for this phase. This passed unanimously.
9. **Grants.** Bill presented the Friends of the Newton Cemetery's request for \$800 for labeling 70 trees in the cemetery/arboretum. Barbara noted that there are three types of trees one of which is specimen trees. Two refer to different maps and another with handwritten tags. Barbara and Katherine requested to know what material the tags would be made of and how long would they should last. Barbara moved to let the Executive Committee fund the grant, if the Committee felt that the material used would be durable. Katherine seconded. The vote was 12 in favor with Chris abstaining because of the cost.
10. **Pollinator Garden Tour.** Ted said that the city pollinator group wanted to have a pollinator garden tour that would include Cold Spring Park, City Hall and Wellington Park on the afternoon of September 10. During the discussion he received good suggestions on how to improve the logistics of the tour. Ted asked if the Conservators wanted to sponsor the tour. Chris moved and Barbara seconded sponsorship, which passed unanimously.

11. Updates

- a. **City Trails Committee.** Chris noted that Luis Demorizi of PRC said that the City received a grant for additional plantings on the Marty Sender trail. The Pigeon Hill trail has been damaged by heavy equipment. The City is concerned about vandalism of plantings at Norumbega Park and fires, trail bike and other types of damage at city parks and conservation areas. PRC will have two new part time Rangers to monitor some parks. Jennifer Steel and Nicole Banks want to raise awareness about the vandalism and are willing to write a Newsletter article about this. Ken noted that Jennifer and Nicole had already submitted an article for the fall Newsletter.
- b. **Newsletter.** Ken is waiting for the schedules of webinars, walks and invasives sessions before formatting the fall newsletter.
- c. **Tree Ordinance.** Programs and Services will receive public comments on the version of the Tree Ordinance that P&S supports at its meeting on August 16. Alice intends to participate, using the comment letter that Conservators previously submitted.
- d. **Conservation Restriction Monitoring.** The signup sheet for the 2023 fall CR monitoring

is online in the board Google drive CR monitoring folder. Revised directions and the 2023 monitoring form are also available in this folder. Directors are requested to sign up.

- e. **Webinars.** Beth has five webinars lined up for the fall starting with Jon Regosin.
 - f. **Walks.** Barbara has offered to organize a walk for all ages. Pete will lead a birding walk. Final write ups of walks are due before the end of the second week in August.
 - g. **Invasive Pulls.** Katherine said she will have a list ready for the Newsletter.
 - h. **Bioblitz.** Jon said the Cold Spring Park bioblitz was well attended and the one at Dolan Pond had 2 groups of very engaged kids. If people have contacts with schools it would help in involving children. Alice suggested contacting PTO presidents. Sam suggested the environmental science student participants might be a useful resource.
12. **Old Business.** Bonnie said that Linda Morison and Lynn Scheller would hold the Mailing Parties, but without a large table to fit six people. The Waban library may be a possible site for this..
13. **New Business.** Representatives of the “Friends of Chestnut Hill Reservoir” have contacted us about how they might best organize their group. Alice has already sent some links as to friends groups that might be helpful and circulated the email.
14. **Adjournment.** Alice adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Newton Conservators – Events list for July 2023

Sep 9, Sat, 9-10 am Bioblitz, Nahanton Park

Sep 19, Tues 4:30 Ex-Com

Sep 27, Wed 7:00 Board Mtg.

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting
September 27, 2023, 7-9 PM
Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, chairing, David Backer, Peter Barrer (until about 7:30 pm, so he did not participate in votes starting with item #10), Barbara Bates, Michael Clarke, Margaret Doris, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Jon Regosin and Larry Smith.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants at 7:04 pm.
2. **Calendar Review.** Alice briefly reviewed upcoming meeting and tabling events. Ken agreed to do the next land acknowledgement.
3. **Minutes.** Peter moved that the July minutes be approved. Katherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Land Acknowledgement.** David gave his statement of the land acknowledgement:
We acknowledge that the Massachusett people and their ancestors have lived with the land and waters of the city now known as Newton, Massachusetts for thousands of years. The Massachusett never ceded these lands that we and our predecessors took for granted.
We should continue to try to build truly reciprocal relationships with both nature and people, through our work with the Newton Conservators and our own personal lives.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Katherine requested an Audit Committee Chair and new members. The Trails Fund received a \$200 gift.
6. **Trails Fund Update.** Peter said we had reached our goals for the Revolving Trails Fund and that the fund raising has gone better than hoped. He requested that all Directors contribute.
7. **Privacy Policy.** Ted proposed that we modify our privacy policy so as not to share the e-mail or postal addresses of members or program participants, unless they have granted permission upon registering. This passed unanimously.
8. **Tabling.** Alice solicited help for tabling events in October such as the Upper Falls, Newtonville Village and Indigenous People's Days and the Harvest Fair.
9. **Board Membership.** Alice outlined the need for more Directors. Chris moved and Barbara seconded that Ted approach Kim Devore, the "Monarch Lady," a potential candidate he knows fairly well, and invited her to attend a Board meeting, sharing with her the desired qualifications and activities for Board members from the organizational blueprint. This passed unanimously.
10. **Annual Meeting.** Alice presented a list of possible speakers for the Annual Meeting for discussion. She had grouped the names into broad topic areas. Of these, the Board expressed the most interest in the topics related to plant biodiversity and pollinators, based partly on the very strong public interest in the recent Pollinator Garden Tour. Katherine said she would re-send the full list to the Board and ask for further written comments or thoughts by a week or so after this meeting. Alice requested additional members for the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee; Bill had previously volunteered, and Ken also volunteered. Because of the concerns about Covid, Alice also solicited opinions about indoor versus outdoor meetings. Alice moved the Scandinavian Living Center for consideration, which allows for a mixed indoor/outdoor venue, that Barbara seconded. The vote in favor of this location was nearly unanimous, with Bill abstaining.
11. **Membership Committee.** Nyssa talked about fostering volunteer recruitment with recruits working up the ladder of engagement to Directors and Officers. Margaret suggested offering free memberships to people who would be likely to participate in our programs. Events for

members only might also be attractive to some as might be members discounts at some vendors. Developing a system for contacting people who have indicated interest in our endeavors and finding channels for engaging their interests would be helpful. Engaging grantees and Environmental Science Program participants to talk about their posters at tabling events was suggested, as was volunteer participation in CR monitoring groups.

12. Updates

- a. **Conservation Restrictions Monitoring.** Chris noted that the signup sheet for CR Monitoring was available online and briefly covered the instructions for the annual reports.
- b. **Webinars.** Barbara said that the webinars were off to a good start and Jon was thanked for delivering the first webinar.
- c. **Invasives.** Katherine expressed concern about the spread of black swallowwort in Newton. She is doing a session with the Boston College Eco-Pledge group in October. She hopes to make the invasive sessions more effective by using targeted herbicides and will come back to the group with a proposal. Barbara said that this would be particularly helpful at Awtrey Dell and Dexter Woods.
- d. **Bioblitzes.** Jon said that two of the bioblitzes had been rained out, but that the next one is at Nahanton Park on the coming weekend.
- e. **Newsletter.** Ken noted that the fall newsletter was out and that some articles were in for the winter newsletter.
- f. **NLWV Candidates Forum.** Alice requested moderators for the Newton League of Women Voters Candidates Forum. No Directors were available but there was a consensus that we should co-sponsor the event. Margaret said her daughter would volunteer, and she would put her in touch with the organizers.
- g. **Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC).** Chris said that Ahron Learman is the new assistant for Luis Demorizi. Ted suggested that we approve PRC listing of NC programs, such as the Monarch Butterfly Festival and the bioblitz at Nahanton park. Ted moved that we allow PRC to list our events, which passed unanimously. Ted also asked if the Board would approve a general policy of cosponsoring programs with PRC. Several Board members thought we should approve cosponsorship only on a case-by-case basis. Alice asked Ted to seek a short-written outline of PRC's expectations about what cosponsorship would generally mean, for discussion at a future Board meeting. Jon noted that invasives were present in the Woodcock Meadow in Nahanton Park and that PRC was considering scarifying areas in the meadow to encourage the growth of native plants.
- h. **Conservation Commission.** Dan G. noted that the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course would be coming to renew their permit to remove invasives and to use herbicides to control them in and near wetlands. Katherine briefly explained that she would like to present at a future Board meeting a proposal to fund the training and insurance costs required for her to get a herbicide application license.
- i. **City Trails Committee.** The City Trails Committee will no longer meet regularly. Individual groups will meet for specific projects. PRC and the Planning Department will continue to apply for grants to improve trails.
- j. **Quinobequin Road.** Katherine attended a group that included State Rep. Ruth Balser and DCR Commissioner Brian Arigo about implementing plans to improve the environment in the Charles River Reservation along Quinobequin Road.

- k. **Mass Trails Grant.** Katherine noted that the application deadline for the Mass Trails Grants was approaching. Chris said that there was a request for funding to extend the Upper Falls Greenway across the Charles into Needham.

13. **Adjournment.** Alice adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Board & Executive Committee Calendar, September- December 2023

Wed 27-Sep-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board
Wed 18-Oct-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm
Wed 25-Oct-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board
Wed 15-Nov-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm
Wed 22-Nov-2023 usual day full Board moved to Wed AFTER Thanksgiving
Wed 29-Nov-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board
Wed 13-Dec-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm
Wed 20-Dec-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board
Wed 27-Dec-2023 usual day full Board moved to Wed BEFORE Christmas

TABLING

Oct 1 (Sun) 11 am – 2 pm Newton Upper Falls Village Day
Oct 8 (Sun) noon – 4 pm Newtonville Village Day
Oct 9 (Mon) 11 am – 5 pm Indigenous Peoples Day (Albemarle Field)
Oct 15 (Sun) 11 am – 4 pm Newton Centre Harvest Fair (Green Expo)
Oct 20 (Fri) 10 am – 2 pm Boston College EcoPledge Harvest Fest

PROGRAMS

Sept 23 (Sat) 10 am - noon Hammond Woods Bioblitz (late season pollinators and more)
Sept 28 (Thurs) 7 pm Webinar: Why we should remove the Watertown Dam
Oct 1 (Sun) 8-10:30 am Bird Walk at Nahanton Park
Oct 18 (Wed) 7 pm Webinar: Springers and Singers: The Art and Science of Observing Orthoptera
Oct 22 (Sun) 8-10 am Birding at Cold Spring Park
Nov 2 (Thurs) 7 pm Webinar: Rodenticides in Birds of Prey in Massachusetts
Nov 4 (Sat) 10 am Exploring Webster Woods - A Walk for All Ages
Nov 9 (Thurs) 7 pm Webinar: Why Are There So Many Turkeys? (Talking All Things Turkey)

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting
October 25, 2023, 7-9 PM
Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, chairing, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Michael Clarke, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Dan Green, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Jon Regosin, Larry Smith and Beth Wilkinson.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants at 7:04 pm.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Ken gave his statement of the land acknowledgement: Living in Newton, the land of the Charles River and its many other natural resources, we acknowledge that our city is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett and that we need to respect and honor their history. As part of that respect, we need to listen to the words of Massachuett tribal elder Elizabeth Solomon “to think about how we can be in a reciprocal relationship with nature, neither using it as a resource nor seeing it as something static to protect.” She urged us to see this relationship as a “continuous flowing,” in which “we give to nature as frequently and as much as we take from nature.” It seems fitting to end this land acknowledgment with a poem that reflects this idea called “Speaking Tree” by native American, Joy Harjo of the Creek Nation, the same poet whom board member Michael Clarke referenced in *his* recent land acknowledgment.

Speaking Tree

The deepest-rooted dream of a tree is to walk
Even just a little way, from the place next to the doorway—
To the edge of the river of life, and drink—

I have heard trees talking, long after
the sun has gone down:

Imagine what would it be like to dance
close together
In this land of water and knowledge . . .
To drink deep what is undrinkable

Ted agreed to give the land acknowledgement at the November meeting.

3. **Consent Agenda.** Barbara moved that the Newton Conservators Board adopt a trial period using a “consent agenda” process to free time on our agenda for more substantive discussions. The “Consent Agenda” will be voted without discussion unless a director has a question about something within it.
The “Consent Agenda” would normally contain the following items plus any other uncontroversial items the Executive Committee places in it: Minutes and written status reports/updates (e.g. walks, webinars, invasives, finances, BioBlitzes, newsletters, Parks & Rec, ConCom.)
4. **Minutes.** Barbara moved that the July minutes be approved. Henry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Treasurer’s Report.** Katherine related that the major activity in Q3 was \$14K of additional Trails Revolving Fund donations, and donations from our directors are still coming in. Our Fidelity index fund had a 4% decline in NAV from 6/30 to 9/30, so we lost \$12K of the Unrealized Gain that we had as of 6/30 (it went from \$32K to \$20K). In Q3 we had some board expenses (Zoom), a grant (tree labels for \$800), Fall newsletter costs, and purchase of tent for \$1300 (Programs), and tabling event registration fees (Programs). Regarding Dues and Gifts,

Q4 (December) is when we usually get the bulk of our donations. It remains to be seen whether the donors who have been so generous with Trails donations will continue to make large gifts at year end.

6. **Membership.** Ted related that a potential new member, with whom several directors have already had favorable conversations, may attend our next meeting.
7. **Annual Meeting.** Beth has talked with Uri Lorimer, Director of Horticulture at the Native Plant Trust, about pollinator gardens and native plants. He said that he or Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation in the same organization, would talk at the annual meeting. Katherine said that the capacity of the room at the Scandinavian Center was limited to 80 for a sit-down dinner. LaSalle University has a limit of 90 for a sit-down dinner. We have recently had over 100 attendees. As Post 440 can accommodate many more in this format, Barbara suggested that we use Post 440. After further discussion, the Board agreed unanimously that Katherine should consult with Post 440 and our past caterer to find possible dates in May that can be offered to our annual meeting speaker.
8. **Grants.** Bill reviewed previously circulated summaries of awarded grants and noted how the standards now included how the project would be maintained over time. Posters by grantees have become an integral part of the Annual Meeting. Alice thought we should review the process we are using to attract and assess grants. The process could be opened to more actively and broadly attract proposals related to open space, nature, and education. Nyssa suggested that we form a working group of directors to work with the grants committee to determine how best to operate with respect to grants. Chris, Alice, and Jon volunteered to join the grants committee members Bill, Nyssa and Ken to propose something for discussion at the December meeting. At Bill's request, Nyssa will schedule meetings for this working group.
9. **Invasives.** Katherine moved that the Newton Conservators: "Support an application by Katherine Howard (and potentially others) to become a licensed herbicide applicator for Newton Conservators, with coordination/permission as needed from City of Newton ConComm, PRC, and IPM." Henry seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The rationale for this is that NC current invasives management efforts are not succeeding, including on our own properties. We have insufficient person-power and growing threats from invasives are reducing biodiversity on both NC properties and public spaces. The inability to chemically treat means that we cannot deal with larger shrubs and medium trees. For example, we repeatedly remove the small buckthorns manually, while the larger trees above them, too big to extirpate, continue to fruit and fuel the invasion in vast numbers (cutting them down without chemical treatment is not recommended as it often leads to more growth and a larger infestation).
The initial and recurring funding required to implement this recommendation are: A one-time cost to obtain a license, estimated at \$600; an exam and license fees of \$100 each, study materials of \$90, and an optional workshop at \$170, totaling \$460 as well as other startup costs such as storage containers. Recurring costs are estimated at \$1600 including insurance at \$1290 annually and license renewal at \$100, 6 hrs Continuing Education (~\$100), supplies and chemicals.
10. **Avery Woods.** Dan related the history of Avery Woods (~3-4 acres of woods remaining) and how the Woods have been gradually reduced in size to fulfill the needs of the Day Middle School. Consequently, he suggested that we request a meeting with the mayor to discuss the city's obligations with respect to the donation of the woods and the possibility of granting a Conservation Restriction to the Conservators on the remaining woods. Monitoring funding

might have to sought from the CPA. Since the City is not obligated to grant this CR because the parcel was not acquired with CPA funds, the City might see a request for monitoring funds as a disincentive to grant a CR. The portion of the original Avery Woods to be placed under a CR would have to be surveyed. Dan will talk to Jennifer Steel about possibilities for proceeding. Luis Demorizi may have to be consulted as to whether a survey has already been done. Dan will work with Beth to assemble a brief report or draft letter for the next meeting.

11. Updates

- a. **Membership Committee Report.** Nyssa reviewed the Committee's descriptions of volunteer positions that might be needed. These include: Biodiversity Survey Volunteer, CR Monitoring Volunteer, Invasive Plant Removal Volunteer, Outreach and Tabling Volunteer and possibly a Pollinator Toolkit (Word Press/HTML) Volunteer. Suggestions for future descriptions included help with updating more complex portions of the website, such as the Pollinator Toolkit, or with translating portions of our website into other languages.
- b. **Conservation Restrictions Monitoring.** Chris said that the CR monitoring was going well and cited the work of Nyssa and Peter in particular. There is a working file on the website for CR monitoring in process for use by the teams and another file for the submitted MS Word reports that Chris will edit and convert to PDFs.
- c. **Webinars.** Beth said that three of the five webinars are completed and went well. She is looking for ideas for webinars for the spring season. Alice suggested a topic on native land conservancies. Alice suggested a possible future webinar with the Wampanoag Native Land Conservancy on Cape Cod.
- d. **Newsletter.** Ken is trying to get articles in by the end of November for the winter issue and at the end of February for the spring issue.
- e. **Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC).** Beth hoped for progress on developing a beekeeping policy for PRC.
- f. **Beekeeping.** There was a conversation about beekeeping on conservation land. Both the ConCom and PRC are drafting rules for their lands. Jon pointed out that licensing public lands for private use is an open space issue. Barbara requested more information and Peter agreed. Beth, Jon, and Nyssa volunteered to follow the issue and report back to the board.

12. **New Business.** Katherine said that we need to have permanent boundary markers at our properties, particularly Dexter and Autrey. Henry volunteered to research options for materials and installation methods.

13. **Adjournment.** Alice adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Board & Executive Committee Calendar, September- December 2023

Wed 15-Nov-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm

Wed 22-Nov-2023 usual day full Board moved to Wed AFTER Thanksgiving

Wed 29-Nov-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board

Wed 13-Dec-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm

Wed 20-Dec-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board

Wed 27-Dec-2023 usual day full Board moved to Wed BEFORE Christmas

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

November 29, 2023, 7-9 PM

Online – Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, chairing, David Backer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Michael Clarke, Sam Corbin, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Nyssa Patten, Jon Regosin, Beth Wilkinson and guest Emily Polcaro.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants at 7:05 pm and noted that the next meeting will be on December 20.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Ted gave his statement of the land acknowledgement: There has been a bit more attention recently to the relationship of land to our Indigenous Peoples with the recent movie “Killers of the Flower Moon” and the earlier book on which it is based. It’s about the 1920’s organized killings of members of the Osage tribe. Robert DeNiro plays the character of the evil William King Hale who wanted to take control of the Osage wealth and oil rich territory at all costs. In his speech at an awards ceremony the other day, Robert DeNiro cited a quote from another famous actor that a lot of us older board members will remember the star of many westerns. “The Duke, John Wayne, famously said of Native Americans, ‘I don’t feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves.’” What a misguided attitude that reflects. Remember that the local Massachusetts tribe here was pushed out to Natick. Our organization’s purpose is to preserve and protect our open space. We have come to realize just how precious it is and how much better our native Americans knew how to take care of it. Newton Conservators is grateful for the beauty and sustenance that the land provides for humans and the other creatures with whom we share the Earth. We acknowledge the Massachusetts stewardship of this land that kept its ecological communities vibrant, strong, and interconnected for thousands of years and hope to work with them as we strive to maintain and restore our open space. Henry agreed to give the land acknowledgement at the December meeting.
3. **New Social Media Volunteer.** Sam introduced Emily Polcaro, who is a junior at Boston Latin School and is familiar with social media. The board welcomed her to the meeting. Later in the meeting it was the consensus that, since her posts would be representing the Conservators, that Sam, Ted and Beth should review her social media posts before the actual posting.
4. **Consent Agenda.** Alice reviewed the consent agenda and asked if anyone wanted to remove items from the agenda. Barbara moved the consent agenda, which passed unanimously.
 - a. **Minutes of October 25 (previously circulated).**
 - b. **Treasurer’s Report.** Katherine filed the Secretary of State Annual Report before the 11/1/23 deadline. It’s time to start working on the 2024 budget; please let Katherine know of any change requests (so far areas of change include possible increase to Grants budget and herbicide applicator license/insurance). December-January is renewal processing time; in January we’ll finalize the budget, get out 1099s, and renew Zoom (hopefully with a Techsoup discount) and renew our URL, changing to an annual URL renewal (or maybe biannual).
 - c. **CR Monitoring (Chris & Katherine)** From Chris: As of 11/25/23 all the City and private properties have been surveyed and all but one have completed reports and are available in the Drive CR file. A final report is still needed from Webster Park. Once these are in, Chris will start sending them to the owners with a formal letter. Of the Conservator properties, Ordway has been surveyed. From Katherine: monitoring visits completed for Dexter and Awtrey, Katherine will write up

Dexter and Barbara will write up Awtrey. From Katherine: Bruce Bradford of Everett M Brooks has been requested again to confirm boundaries at Awtrey. Katherine will follow up with Henry to meet at Dexter (and hopefully later at Awtrey) about marking the boundaries in a more permanent fashion.

- d. **Grants Program.** (Bill and Nyssa). Comments and suggestions are solicited from all Board members with early Nov. 2023 deadline. First meeting of working group is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2023.
- e. **Invasives** (Katherine). Katherine is still investigating herbicide applicator issues and costs. MassAudubon said our cost quotation is about half of what they pay so maybe it's reasonable. Native Plant Trust is moving away from directly doing such work, and towards being in an advisory role only. I am told that the Waltham Land Trust invasives team depends on the city to follow up to apply herbicide, and it is not a satisfactory arrangement. Work at Woodcock Meadow: Jon Regosin and Katherine worked with PRC to establish 3 small (6'x12') test plots to scrape the too-thick thatch off to try to get other native meadow plant species to germinate. PRC did the work on Sat Nov 4. We will add educational signage soon, but the Friends of Nahanton Park provided information in their year-end letter so hopefully no adverse reaction. Jon and Katherine will follow up with some seeds now and plants in the spring
- f. **Membership Committee** (Nyssa, Sam). Website has been edited. Volunteer positions have been posted on external sites and we have already had 21 responses. Sam has interviewed two applicants so far: Emily a high school student in Boston for social media, and Ashley a professional photographer for the photography position. Both are very interested! Sam recommends to onboard both people. The committee plans to reconvene and meet with the Systems Group to talk about how best to organize and use contact information we have for members and participants.

Sam has done 2.5 hrs of screening calls with potential volunteers. Four were volunteers for invasive plants, three for photography, one for walks and one for online media posts about Conservators' programs. Another mentioned that she may want to eventually join the board. Two volunteered to help with the Newsletter and Bulletin and interviewed with Ken and Ted. About half were interested in more than one volunteer position. Ken noted Beth's 2019 article about what the Conservators do as useful information for the volunteers.
- g. **Newsletter** (Ken). The winter newsletter is now ready for the printer. Depending on the printer's availability, we plan for a mailing party on December 5 or 6 with Lynn Scheller and possibly Bonnie Carter. Featured in the winter newsletter are articles by Julie Hopkins, Communication and Outreach Manager with Lisa Kumpf, River Science & Restoration Program Manager of the Charles River Watershed Association, talking about the case for removing the Watertown Dam, and an article by George Kirby entitled "The Community Way Forward-A Green Connector for Newton and Needham." Board members Michael Clarke and Pete Gilmore have also contributed articles, with Michael talking about the history of winter sports in Newton and Pete reviewing the book *The Brilliant Abyss* about the ocean and global warming. The final article celebrates the opening of Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake. The next newsletter comes out in the spring of 2024 and is scheduled to print at the end of February. Any ideas for the spring are welcome. At the meeting, Ken said that he had received the hard copy of the newsletter and had emailed the e-copy.
- h. **Walks** (Sam). Main/discussion agenda includes need for on-site walks coordinators and an update on potential new volunteer. Newton Community Pride's/Newton Conservators winter fest walk is January 27th at 10 am. Sam plans to continue as the walks coordinator but, as she

does not live nearby, cannot attend most of the walks and will need people to help out at the individual walks. Ken and Barbara volunteered to help at walks they could attend.

- i. **Bees on Public Land.** This group has met once. Compiling a spreadsheet summarizing relevant scientific literature and looking at how nearby municipalities regulate bees (on private and/or public lands). We also reviewed the current status with respect to Newton Parks and Conservation lands. The group will reconvene in early December and will likely be ready to report back to the board in early 2024. Beth had previously suggested changes regarding beekeeping to Parks and Rec that Ahron at PRC will discuss with her.
 - j. **Tree Ordinance Group** (Alice, Beth, Bill, Katherine). Alice reminded the City Council, esp. Programs & Services Committee (P&S), twice more of our recommended language.
 - Nov 8: P&S was expected to but did not vote on a final version WITHOUT our recommended language.
 - Nov 30: ordinance on the agenda for final P&S mtg in 2023.
 - Nov 20, two new Council docket items for tree ordinance, from
 - Councilors Malakie & Norton - would remove all exemptions.
 - Mayor/Marc Welch - haven't seen this, but probably doesn't remove all exemptions.Unlikely these can be referred to committee and returned to Council for vote this year, so they will probably be re-docketed in Jan. for action by the new Council, which will be very different from the current one.
 - k. **Trail marking at Kennard Park/Lost Pond.** Dan Brody's draft letter to the Brookline Conservation Commission was provided with the agenda attached as a separate document.
5. **Annual Membership Mailing.** The mailing party for the Annual Membership Mailing will be at Henry's house Dec 2 at 10 am.
 6. **Annual Meeting.** The speaker was offered Thursdays May 9 or 16 for the meeting, but he has not yet responded with his preference. Alice asked for suggestions for potential sponsors. Ted suggested that Green Newton had many sponsors for their events who might be willing to also sponsor our Annual Meeting. Barbara suggested Rotaries and real estate businesses. Chris suggested a committee to get new sponsors.
 7. **Avery Woods Conservation Restriction.** Dan suggested writing to the Mayor to clarify the legal status within the City of the Avery Woods i.e. which department "owns" it, before seeking a CR. A CR on the Woods would also require a land survey. Barbara wondered who might be our allies on getting a CR. Dan suggested the PRC but said that the Assessor's office holds that the Avery property was never subdivided implying there was no property to assign to the PRC. Katherine suggested that the subdivision should be made before seeking a CR. Alice noted the recently proposed zoning modifications and changes in the City Council that might occupy the Mayor's time in the near future. Several suggested discussing this with a lawyer, possibly one of our advisors at an opportune time, before proceeding.
 8. **Cosponsoring Events.** Alice queried whether membership information would be shared when events are cosponsored with other organizations such as the PRC, friends groups, orienteering groups, the Newton Library, etc. Barbara suggested that we can accept free publicity for events, but cosponsorships should be done by the board on an *ad hoc* basis.
 9. **Updates**
 - a. **Christmas Bird Count.** Ted announced the Christmas bird count on Dec. 17.
 - b. **Hemlock Gorge Stone House.** Katherine said that DCR would restore the Stone House at Hemlock Gorge in Wellesley.
 - c. **Grants.** The Grants Committee is having a pre-meeting on Dec. 6.

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10. Adjournment. Alice adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clarke

Board & Executive Committee Calendar, September- December 2023

Wed 13-Dec-2023 4:30 pm NC Exec Comm

Wed 20-Dec-2023 7 pm Newton Conservators Board

Wed 27-Dec-2023 usual day full Board moved to Wed BEFORE Christmas

Newton Conservators' Board of Directors Meeting

December 20, 2023, 7-8:45 PM

Online - Zoom Meeting

Participants: Alice Ingerson, Chair, Peter Barrer, Barbara Bates, Dan Brody, Margaret Doris, Henry Finch, Pete Gilmore, Bill Hagar, Chris Hepburn, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, Ken Mallory, Nyssa Patten, Beth Wilkinson.

1. **Welcome.** Alice welcomed the participants at 7:05 PM.
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** Henry gave his statement of the land acknowledgement. I've always been fascinated by two things, since I was little, and that is this concept of living off the land; of surviving the difficulties of how to keep alive with just the things around us; of making it through the winter. This sort of led me to be fascinated by Native American culture. And yes, there is a tremendous amount that we can learn from it. The sad thing is that so much of it has been lost. In the last few decades, there have been attempts to recover it, to learn it. That is a wonderful direction. I'm generally optimistic. I see Massachusetts with seven million people, and almost all of our food, almost all but not all, comes from thousands of miles away. In some ways that allows us to protect the land but it demonstrates the difficulty of surviving and protecting the land at the same time. I don't have a solution but recognizing how the land was generally managed before Europeans is valuable knowledge to try to understand and use.

Bill Hagar agreed to give the land acknowledgement at the January meeting.

3. **Calendar Review:** Alice reported that we go back to normal weeks in January. She also noted a lot of milestone things for the annual meeting do overlap with tabling events. We'll have to get enough people to cover all of this, and if something has to give probably the tabling events will give way. Alice will need help in recruiting sponsors for the annual meeting like banks and real estate businesses. A small group will be organized to help with this.
4. **Consent Agenda:** Katherine filled in a Treasurer's report that did not make it into the Consent Agenda. About half of the renewals and year-end gifts are in already, about \$10K, with another \$10K needed to meet our budget for the fourth quarter. That should not be a problem. With

Alice, Katherine has reworded the responses we send out for credit card and check payments for the above. In January we need to renew our domain name, as Scott Lewis recommends we do it annually, so it does not get forgotten. Katherine will renew that along with the Zoom subscription. She reports that we are running low on the almanacs and she will look into the cost of printing more copies. This will come up in a future board meeting.

Alice asked if anyone wanted to remove any item from the consent agenda, for later discussion. There were no takers. Peter Barrer moved to accept the consent agenda and Ken Mallory seconded the motion. This was approved unanimously.

The Consent agenda is enclosed below in this document.

5. **Minutes:** Alice asked for someone to act as secretary for the next few meetings as Mike has some family health issues in progress. Pete agreed to serve in this role
6. **Annual Meeting Updates:** Beth reported that she had reminded our keynote speaker, Michael Piantedosi, of the two dates that we asked him to choose between and has not heard back from him. She has also asked him for a sketch of his talk, a short bio and a photo. The last time she communicated with him it took him quite a while to get back to her. Beth reported that the Native Plant Trust has moved their headquarters and they have a new executive director. In the midst of these changes he probably views an event happening next May as not a pressing issue. Alice then reminded us that knowing his information could provide us with useful ammunition for potential sponsors. There was also some concern expressed in the Executive Committee that Michael may not have fully grasped what was being asked of him. Alice suggested organizing a Zoom meeting with Michael, and Beth responded that she would see Alice to pick a date for this. Alice then asked if anyone had contacts with potential new sponsors like banks and real estate offices. Katherine responded that she had a Rotary Club contact. Peter has a business relationship with a woman in the Waban office of the Bank of America.
7. **Remembering George Mansfield:** George's obituary suggests donations be made to his daughter's supplemental needs trust. A contribution of \$250 was suggested. Katherine thought we do more, since he was a member of our board. Chris brought up the idea of providing a

bench along the shore of Crystal lake. Alice thought we might do this in cooperation with another organization that George was involved in, like the Friends of Crystal Lake. We would follow the wishes expressed in his obituary and also cooperate in getting the bench. The public land along Crystal Lake that was 20 Rogers Street is going to be designed. We might work with the design people to include some remembrance of George there. Ted has a piece about George in the most recent ebulletin. Ken will put an article in the next Newsletter. The \$250 contribution to George's daughter's trust was unanimously approved. George was involved in the Newton Highlands village affairs. There was talk of naming the Highlands village day after George. An alternative to a Crystal Lake bench could be something in the Highlands. Sometime in the next month George's name as a board member should be taken off the website and our letterhead. Alice will take care of the letterhead, Peter the web site.

8. **Potential New Board Members:** Henry suggested Jeremy Freudberg. Since he is president of the Newton Highlands Area Council, he is busy. Henry will just ask him, without pressuring him. Ken suggested Shannon Ames. Margaret pointed out that the city might have a problem with this as Shannon is an employee of the city. Ted brought up the two recent city counselors, Deb Crossley and Alicia Bowman. Alice agreed to approach Alicia first. Ted suggested Andreae Downes as a possible advisor, and if Alicia can't be on the board, perhaps an advisory role would suit her. Katherine asked Ted about Brenda Homan-Walker. Ted agreed to stay in touch with her and bring up the possibility of being on our board. Katherine agreed to speak with Anndy Dannenberg after Anndy's family issues have calmed down. Beth brought up the desirability of reestablishing contact with Newton teachers.
9. **Membership Committee Updates:** There is an update in the Consent Agenda. Sam reported 15 new membership applications, for a total of 30 to date. She is brining these folks on board with personal phone calls. Some of these will be completed in 2024. Jon Regosin will work with Sam to coordinate a mix of experienced iNaturalist users with new comers for the bioblitzes. Barbara suggested contacting the scouts to help with the bioblitzes. Katherine suggested Alan Noguee and the Friends of Cold Spring Park as contacts with the scouts. Those folks have been working together already. Beth remarked that Alicia Bowman was a scout leader. Katherine pointed out that having under 18 volunteers now requires more insurance to cover molestation issues. She is contacting our insurance agent to gain some clarity on this. Alice brought up Green Newton and David Backer's Environmental Science Program as two

- organizations that work with underage students. Sam thought that a policy relating to virtual volunteers might be easier to implement. Others were skeptical. Margaret spoke to the issue of emails becoming public record, so Sam should keep an archive of emails she sends. Barbara suggested that a solution is to always use the “walks” site for emails with young volunteers.
10. **Grants:** Alice asked the Committee to remind us of what they put in the consent agenda. Nyssa reported that she was incorporating various suggestions from board members about the grants solicitation process. Barbara asked whether putting a ditto in the spreadsheet that Nyssa makes available, when we see someone else’s suggested procedural suggestion. Nyssa will set up a box for such dittos.
 11. **Goals for 2024:** Alice gave some examples. Recruit two new board members. Complete the grants solicitation process and implement it. Support Katherine’s application for the professional herbicide license. Collaborate with a couple of other community organizations in recruiting members and volunteers and to suggest we do joint walks, or cooperate in supporting a grant. Dan added getting the new trail guide out in 2024. Either we pay for a professional to take care of getting the maps into the right format for the printer, or have a volunteer do it. Sam said she has been recruiting photographers, some of whom may have software to do this. This will require a budget item for 2024. Chris suggested translating parts of our web site (e.g. pollinators and invasives for gardeners) in several appropriate languages. Sam has experience that this is a formidable undertaking and so should be paid for by professional. She suggested a widget that gets AI to translate for you. Barbara suggested we ask Scott if he knows of such a widget. She said there are widgets that help visually or hearing impaired folks with the web site. Katherine will add it to the systems committee list for January.
 12. **City Counselors:** Katherine is meeting with the new city counselors as a board member of the Friends of Cold Spring Park. Should we do something similar? Alice suggested a welcome packet would serve for this. Katherine will put together such a packet. Barbara suggested inviting them to go on our Winter Fest Walk on Jan.27.
 13. **Winter Seed Sowing Workshop:** Ted reported that Ann Dorfman and Alan Noguee have put together a workshop to take place on Saturday, January 20, or the next day. The method is to use plastic milk jugs as mini greenhouses. Ted looked into the use of the Nature center at Nahanton Park. Shannn Ames will investigate whether this facility is heated during the winter. Ted requests that we co-sponsor this event. Sam

- agreed to help with registration through our web site. Katherine will contact the Waban Starbuck's for used milk jugs; Margaret the Newtonville one and Ted or Ann Dorfman will contact the Auburndale one. Katherine moved that we cosponsor and allow a budget of up to \$150. This passed unanimously.
14. **Pot luck Dinner:** Henry will host on January 17 at 6:00 PM at his house. He will set up a Google spreadsheet for all to volunteer different dishes, taking care to not duplicate others offerings. The Executive Committee will meet via Zoom before the pot luck on the 17th. Henry then showed two photographs of the footbridge that we installed along Florie's Path in Nahanton Park. It was surrounded by water, the trail beyond being under water, and the bridge amazingly not floating to an awkward place. He then showed a video of the torrent of water going over Cordingly Dam in Lower falls.
15. **Adjournment.** Alice moved to end the meeting at 8:43 and this was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Gilmore

Items for Newton Conservators Board meeting “consent agenda”		(2+ pages)
SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER 2023 :	EXEC COMM: DEC 10 (MTG DEC. 13)	
	FULL BOARD: DEC 17 (MTG DEC 20)	
<i>Please type or copy & paste text into this table – each space will grow to fit your text. If you need more than a few lines or want to include images, you can also post a separate file in this Gdrive folder.</i>		
<u>Conservators programs, projects</u>		
Minutes (Mike)		
Attached to this list as a separate document.		
Treasurer’s Report (Katherine) – quarterly financial statements will be attached as a separate document		
Bioblitz (Jon)		
CRs - Monitoring (Chris)		
<i>from Chris:</i> All the City and privately owned properties have now been surveyed with the reports all received. Thanks to everyone who helped get this accomplished this year. I hope that you realize that by our doing this and not Audubon or other organizations, it saves the Conservators thousands of dollars each year. A wonderful contribution by all. These will be officially sent to the owners with formal letters soon.		
Grants (Bill, Nyssa)		
Grants has met once. We had a very productive discussion concerning the feedback from the Board. We are in the process of making summaries and forming recommendations for Board approval. We will meet again next month to further discuss. In the meantime, Board input is still welcome in this file , on these headings, or others people would like to suggest:		
Deadlines	Application (form, process)	
Other funding (matching fund requirements or encouragement)	Criteria	
Working with other Orgs (mostly for outreach)	Showcase / examples	
Advertizing/Outreach	Follow Through	
Board Input (on each application)		
Invasives (Katherine)		
Media & Publicity <i>incl. e-bulletin, website, YouTube, social media</i> (Ted, Beth, Sam – others?)		
Membership Committee (Nyssa, Sam)		
Volunteer Update: Amelia (potential assistant editor for newsletter) has been working with Ken, Emily (“potential” social media assistant) has been accepted per November’s meeting but steps have not been take to get her started given hesitations about her being under 18, 11 new people have applied since our last board meeting - calls have been/will be scheduled (I will not be conducting calls from 12/23-1/2 but will schedule calls for after so we don’t loose interest.		
Photo Storage Inquiry: Accessing our photos is currently a challenge. Google Drive will not let Sam/others copy, paste, or move photos unless you download them and save to your computer. Storing them on our website distorts the photo quality as well. Do we know of any work arounds? Are our photos encrypted? Sam suggests creating dropbox since it will be much easier for our photography volunteers to send us photos, and then the social media person will have easy access too.		
Next meeting is in January: Goal setting for 2024		

