A Remembrance of Eric Reenstierna - Former Conservators' President



It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of Eric Reenstierna, former president of Newton Conservators, on February 5, 2025, at the age of 76, following a courageous two-decade battle with cancer. Eric was a pivotal figure in Newton's conservation efforts, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to environmental protection. His influential leadership spanned several critical roles, including his dedicated service to Newton Conservators as president, board member, newsletter editor, and member of the land acquisition committee. Furthermore, he was a member of the Newton Conservation Commission, where he was directly involved in the regulatory and protective

aspects of environmental stewardship, and of the Newton Community Preservation Committee (CPC), expertly guiding the allocation of resources for vital community preservation projects, with a particular focus on open space.

Eric's tenure on Newton Conservators' board extended from 2001 to 2011, during which he served as president from 2003 to 2005. This period was particularly critical for open space land acquisition, significantly empowered by Newton's adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) under his leadership. Leveraging his extensive experience as a commercial real estate appraiser, Eric was instrumental in leading the Conservators to act boldly in three of Newton's earliest and most significant CPA open space acquisitions. His foresight and expertise played a crucial role in the preservation of the large tract of open space at Kesseler Woods, formerly owned by NStar. He was also a key figure in protecting the city's last working farm, which has since blossomed into the thriving Newton Community Farm, now celebrating its 20th anniversary. In recognition of these efforts, Eric was honored as a co-recipient of our Environmentalist of the Year Award in 2006. His invaluable expertise was further demonstrated in the city's acquisition of the 76 Webster Park property. This strategic move expanded the Dolan Conservation Area by 10% and facilitated the creation of three units of affordable housing.

A memorial service for Eric was held on February 10, 2025, at the Newton Cemetery Chapel. His full obituary, detailing his many other accomplishments, including authoring six novels, can be found at https://www.eatonfuneralhomes.com/obituary/EricRick-Reenstierna. Eric is survived by his wife, Anne, his children, Rhiannon and Andrew, and six grandchildren. His presence will be profoundly missed, and we remain eternally grateful for the legacy he has bequeathed to Newton through his tireless efforts in preserving open space.

Ted Kuklinski