



Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.

October 2013

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you so much for your continued support. We appreciate all you do for Nahanton Park.

As you may have read recently in the Newton Tab, late last fall, there was a proposal to temporarily relocate Fire Engine 10 from Dedham Street (where it is currently housed) to the Winchester Street entrance of Nahanton Park. The purpose of the relocation, which is expected to last around 18 months, was to allow for reconstruction of the Dedham Street station.

After much discussion, the Friends took a position against this proposal. The City decided to look elsewhere but could not find any other suitable location. It was a complex issue for the City, as some of the original funding for Nahanton Park renovations was from the Massachusetts Urban Self-Help Program which restricts any changes to the Park. In addition, all park land is protected by Article 97 which states, in part: "It is the policy of EOEPA and its agencies to protect, preserve and enhance all open space areas covered by Article 97 of the Article of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Friends of Nahanton Park and Jane Sender, then president of the Newton Conservators, proposed consideration of a temporary fire station only if a permanent Conservation Restriction could be placed on the Park to protect it from any future development or other uses not consistent with current uses.

This summer, the Parks & Recreation Commission agreed that this would be a good compromise as long as funding is put in place for restoration once the fire station leaves the site, a recommendation that requires approval from the Board of Aldermen. We would prefer a Conservation Restriction that would preserve the Park forever, but we are willing to accept a Conservation Restriction that will preserve the Park, in its current form, for 199 years. This fall, Jane Sender will represent the Conservators on the working group which will draft the CR document. Others wishing to offer comments should contact her at janesender@verizon.net or Duane Hillis at friends@nahantonpark.org.

We're pleased to report that our invasive removal efforts continue. Last November, we had a very successful day of clearing out invasives and scrub from Woodcock Meadow, opening it up so that in the spring, the woodcocks would have plenty of room to perform their mating ritual—and they did! This past spring we had another invasive pull in the lower gardens removing mustard garlic, buckthorn and multi-flora roses. This fall, we hope to continue clearing scrub in Woodcock Meadow. If we rent a chipper, we can fit more material into the dumpster. Last year the City generously sponsored our dumpster, and we hope they will this year; if not, that signals an additional expense for us, along with tools and bags. Unfortunately, the City did not remove the larger trees (more than 8" in diameter) as we requested, but we will continue to work on this.

In order to protect Nahanton Park, a unique neighborhood treasure for now and in the future, we hope you will renew your annual membership or join us and become a new Friend of Nahanton Park!

The enclosed donor card offers an opportunity, beginning with a \$25 membership, to be kept updated on important issues relating to our Park as well as the occasional notice about activities and walks. Filling out your email address on the card will help us keep you informed in a timely manner. The Friends is a 501C non-profit, and all contributions are tax deductible.

We look forward to hearing from you and to maintaining our Park's accessibility to all, including the many species of wildlife, who delight in Nahanton Park's varied splendor.

Sincerely,

Duane Hillis
President