



Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.

October 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you so much for your continued support of Nahanton Park.

Last November, we honored Duane Hillis, our president for the past 30 years, by planting an oak tree with a plaque in his honor near the Winchester St. entrance. We wish Duane well in his retirement and move to western Massachusetts. At our annual meeting on June 30th, Chris Hepburn agreed to continue for another year as president. The rest of the board also remains the same with Suzette Barbier as Vice President, Donna Cohen as Treasurer and Judy Hepburn as Secretary.

We continue to be involved in working toward the City-promised Conservation Restriction for the park that was part of the package allowing the firehouse to be temporarily located in the park four years ago. While this process has been slow, it is moving forward, although there are still many steps to be taken. Chris, our president and Beth Wilkinson, president of the Newton Conservators, have been asked to sit on a small working group that includes Bob DeRubeis, the Parks and Recreation Commissioner, to work with the City's legal department to produce a draft CR for the park. Once the draft is available, it will be circulated to interested parties for feedback. Before obtaining a CR, it will eventually have to be approved by the City Council and the State, so this will not be a speedy process. It will also necessitate a new survey of the park boundaries, which hopefully can be done this fall.

On Sept. 15th, Chris Hepburn, working with Henry Finch, a Newton Conservators' board member and architect, finally realized a 3 year-long project to build a small temporary bridge across the creek at the end of Florries path. At this juncture, the large dip in the path fills up with water in spring or in flood conditions, making it difficult or impossible to continue on the path along the Charles River that eventually ends in the upper gardens. We had nine volunteers including two generous contractors. Thanks to the tools, advice and skills of our volunteer contractors and all of the other volunteers who helped, the bridge was completed in record time. Thank you all!

Once again, Katherine Howard spearheaded an invasive pull on June 23 in a different section of woods abutting Woodcock meadow. This is all part of the Woodcock meadow restoration project. A great group of hard-working volunteers showed up including some families with young children. A tremendous amount of garlic mustard was pulled that day as well as bittersweet and buckthorn removed. On Sunday, October 14, from 10:00 - 1:00, Katherine has organized another invasive pull in Woodcock meadow. We hope you will join us. Many thanks to Katherine and all the volunteers for their hard work.

Sadly, Peter Kastner, a fierce advocate for open space, one of our founding members and a past president, died this year. We will be donating funds in combination with the Newton Conservators to honor him with a plaque and a bench at Nahanton Park.

A Boy Scout project to build an information board near the Nature Center at the Nahanton Street entrance, supported by the Friends, was recently completed. The bulletin board is well built and was much needed. Check out the useful information posted there.

In order to protect the unique neighborhood treasure that is Nahanton Park, now and in the future, we hope you will renew your annual membership or join us and become a new Friend of Nahanton Park. Feel free to inform and invite like-minded friends to join as well.

The enclosed donor card offers an opportunity, beginning with a \$25 membership, to be kept updated on important Park issues, activities and public walks. Providing your email address on the card will help us keep you informed in a timely manner. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and all contributions are tax deductible.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Hepburn, President

Suzette Barbier, Vice President