

March 2, 2007

Charles McMillan, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mr. McMillan & CPC Board:

Since last summer I have collaborated with other members of our community to seek a permanent resolution to land/water use conflicts at the public swimming facility; and to take actions to secure a more functional, adequate, and comfortable water recreation and open space at Crystal Lake for the benefit of our entire Community.

Our proposition has sought to make this possible by the purchase of the unoccupied property at 20 Rogers Street. Our Petition calls upon the City of Newton to "apply all possible means..." to acquire the property. It has been signed by over 400 citizens and its message has drawn additional support from several Aldermen, the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Council, The Newton Conservators, and members of the Friends of Crystal Lake. We have all come to better understand the special qualities and importance of our one "Great Pond" and recognize the immediate benefits and potential in adding this uniquely situated property as 'passive recreation' space to the existing recreation facility.

The Owner of 20 Rogers Street has expressed a willingness to sell the property to the City, but has been unable to complete negotiations to determine a reasonable sale price and a secure agreement leading to that end. We also now understand that the property has significant legal encumbrances that would make a conventional transaction highly improbable.

Given these circumstances the Mayor has initiated the process to leverage the purchase by eminent domain. We all regret the necessity for this action, but understand that it is perhaps the only practical way to expedite this acquisition.

Therefore, we request that the Community Preservation Committee accept and approve the application to have the City purchase and acquire this property with CPA funds. This is a unique opportunity to provide sorely needed additional Open Space and controlled access to the Lake for all Citizens of Newton; and should be the first essential step towards a renewed, environmentally sound, and truly viable Crystal Lake recreation area. We do this for the perpetual benefit of our neighborhood, our Village, and our City. This is a unique situation, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fizek, Architect
And Citizens for a Better Lake



Newton Conservators, Inc.

PO Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459
www.newtonconservators.org

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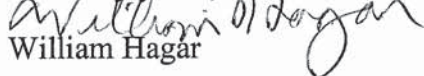
Subject: Purchase and Use of Property at 20 Rogers Street by the City

We support the purchase of the property at 20 Rogers Street in Newton Centre. It is appropriate time for the City together with the Community Preservation Community to provide City and State funds to purchase this property. We would suggest that no structure be rebuilt on the parcel of land, and the open waterfront area used for additional beach space; perhaps, with a kayak and canoe area at the far edge from the swimming area. The Conservators are for increased open space visualization, and passive recreational activities on Crystal Lake. Acquisition of this important piece of property would augment and enhance lake activities for years to come.

The Newton Conservators are in favor of the purchase of open space in Newton especially with support funding from the Community Preservation Act, which uses matching funds from the State. The Conservators would like to see the property on Rogers Street be left as open space devoid of any houses or sheds. It is important to have long lines of sight for proper open space vista for residents and passersby. Proper stewardship of Crystal Lake would provide access for lake and swimming activities to countless present and future Newton residents. It is essential that the City set in motion processes leading to the purchase of 20 Rogers Street.

We support the efforts of Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council, The Newton Parks and Recreation Commission, other conservation groups, and the mayor for making an application under the Community Preservation Act to obtain this essential piece of property in the restructuring of Crystal lake.

Sincerely yours,


William Hagar

President, Newton Conservators

Robert Ricchi

Subject: **Crystal Lake property**
Date sent: **Fri, 19 Jan 2007 14:42:51 -0500**
From: **"Rosenfeld, Lisa \(\HOU\)" <Lisa.Rosenfeld@state.ma.us>**
To: **<rricchi@newtonma.gov>**

Dear Mr. Ricchi - As a Crystal Lake neighbor, 2 blocks away, and a past VP of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Council, I am writing to inform you and all the members of the CPC that I strongly support purchasing the property abutting Crystal Lake presently being offered by Pat Hannon to the City at a reduced price. It is a once-in-a lifetime chance to improve on a precious Newton all-season resource that is used and enjoyed by so many. Please make this a priority and proceed in negotiations.

Thank you very much,
Lisa Rosenfeld
168 Allerton Road
Newton, MA 02461

77 Lakewood Road
Newton, MA.02461

March 5, 2007

Charles McMillan, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mr. McMillan & CPC Board:

We write to support Mayor Cohen's request for Community Preservation Act funding to purchase the property at 20 Rogers St. in Newton Centre. This action is the only practical way to expedite this acquisition and to allow the City to return the beach area at Crystal Lake to public use. As you know, the property has been allowed to fall into disrepair and due to safety concerns, the public has been unable to use a large section of the Lake.

We urge you and the other members of the Community Preservation Committee to accept and approve the application to have the City purchase and acquire this property with CPA funds. This is a unique opportunity to provide sorely needed additional Open Space and controlled access to the Lake for all citizens of Newton; and will be the first step towards a renewed, environmentally sound, safe and truly viable Crystal Lake recreation area.

We believe that this purchase will be for the perpetual benefit of our neighborhood, our village and our city. This is a unique property and a rare opportunity that should not be missed or delayed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob and Beth Capstick