



Mark Armstrong, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

April 27, 2021

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

We are writing to you in support of the current proposal outlining the improvement project for Levingston Cove. For years Crystal lake has served as the crown jewel of Ward 6, a place for families to gather, a recreation spot for generations of Newtonians, and a calm oasis and respite in a sometimes-chaotic world.

As Councilors who have been deeply committed to preserving the quality and accessibility of Crystal Lake, we are thrilled with the proposed improvements to Levingston Cove. This small lakefront enclave is a reflection point for Newton's residents, and in its current state has not only suffered from erosion but offers limited accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The proposed project is impressive and designed to mitigate several concerns, beginning with enhancing the experience of visitors by providing adequate space for current programming and ensure accessibility for all. In addition, the project will put into place important environmental and ecological protections for the lake. It will ease the slopes adjacent to the road to mitigate erosion. It will work to capture stormwater and reduce phosphorous loads into the lake, preventing the persistent algae bloom seen summer-to-summer. The park improvement design is innovative, and it will be the first of its kind in Newton, improving and enhancing current uses while preserving the water quality of the lake and protecting the cove.

Thank you in advance for considering our letter of support. We are dedicated to ensuring Crystal lake continues to be the crown jewel of Ward 6 and enjoyed by all for years to come. We are hopeful with a funding commitment from the CPC the City can move forward with this innovative and environmentally necessary project.

Sincerely,

Brenda Noel  
Ward 6 Councilor

Alicia Bowman  
Ward 6 Councilor-At-Large

Vicki Danberg  
Ward 6 Councilor-At-Large



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Mark Armstrong, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee  
City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

April 16, 2021

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

As someone who has been deeply committed to preserving the quality and accessibility of Crystal Lake, I write to you in support of providing the necessary funding for improvements to Levingston Cove. This small lakefront parcel is a treasure for all of Newton's residents, and it is in need of improvements.

This project will enhance the experience of visitors by providing adequate space for current programming while putting into place important environmental and ecological protections for the lake. It will ease the slopes adjacent to the road to mitigate erosion. It will work to capture stormwater and reduce phosphorous loads into the lake water, preventing the persistent algae bloom seen summer-to-summer. The park improvement design is innovative, and it will be the first of its kind in Newton, improving and enhancing current uses while preserving the water quality of the lake and protecting the cove.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please commit the necessary funding to move forward on these improvements that will be a wonderful addition to our community for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth B. Balsler".

Ruth B. Balsler  
State Representative



**SENATOR CYNTHIA STONE CREEM**  
MAJORITY LEADER  
First Middlesex and Norfolk District

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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May 6, 2021

Mark Armstrong, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I write in support of providing necessary funding for the Levingston Cove Improvement Project. This small lakefront parcel in Newton requires improvements in order to preserve the quality and accessibility of Crystal Lake.

The park improvement design is creative and will be a first in the City of Newton. It improves and upgrades current uses of the park while protecting the cove and preserving the water quality of the lake. This project will add important ecological and environmental protections for the lake; mitigate erosion by easing the slopes adjacent to the road; capture storm water; and reduce phosphorous in the lake, preventing algae formation which has been a problem for years. Visitors' experiences will be augmented by the availability of space for current programming.

Thank you for your consideration to lend your support to the Levingston Cove Improvement Project. It will enable the Newton community to further their enjoyment of Crystal Lake, ensure accessibility and put in place protections for the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Stone Creem".

Cynthia Stone Creem  
State Senator



April 19, 2020

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Michael Clarke, Secretary  
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Community Preservation Committee  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02458

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

Crystal Lake is certain one of the most popular and beloved open space areas in Newton and draws users from across the city. Levingston Cove is an important component of our Crystal Lake public area which is important for passive recreation and providing citizen access to the lakefront. However, the area has degraded quite a bit in recent years due to erosion - affecting accessibility to what should be a real showcase of passive recreation in Newton.

The Newton Conservators Board of Directors recently reviewed plans put forth by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and voted to recommend support the department's application for funding before the Community Preservation Committee toward improvement measures at Levingston Cove.

We believe that the plan will facilitate safe pedestrian passage and accessibility throughout the site, provide better opportunities for passive recreation, enhance the scenic views and provide seating to enjoy them, improve the fishing experience, reduce erosion and stabilize the landscape with native plantings, provide better control of stormwater and help improve the water quality of Crystal Lake.

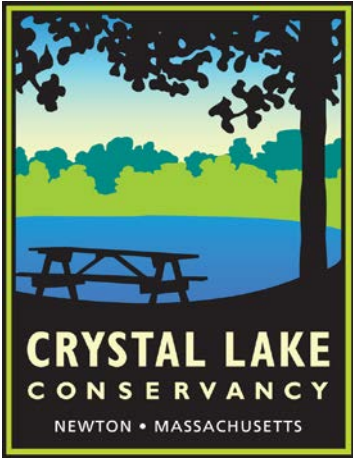
We hope that the Community Preservation Committee will look favorably on the application for this project which will ultimately provide necessary, aesthetic, and functional improvements to Levingston Cove for the benefit all citizens of Newton.

Sincerely,

*Ted Kuklinski*

Ted Kuklinski  
President, Newton Conservators

*president@newtonconservator.org*  
617-763-3470 m



P.O. Box 610038, Newton Highlands MA 02461 [CrystalLakeConservancy@gmail.com](mailto:CrystalLakeConservancy@gmail.com)

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May 7, 2021

Mark Armstrong, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee  
City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

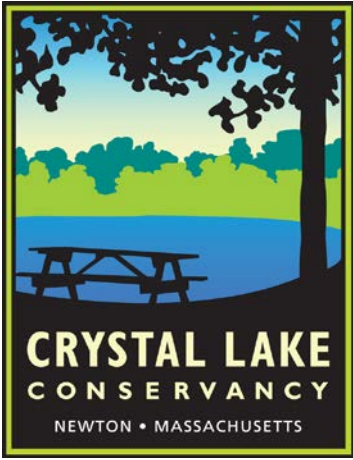
Dear Community Preservation Committee,

The Crystal Lake Conservancy was organized specifically as a long-term steward of Crystal Lake. We have been committed and focused on a healthy lake and its watershed for the past 10 years. During this time, we have been testing and acquiring vital data across the lake and from the coves regarding clarity, temperature, bacteria, nitrates, ammonia and phosphorus. One of our concerns has been runoff from the streets and watershed that allows unwanted pollutants and nutrients to run into the lake with little natural filtration.

Levingston and Cronin's Coves are greatly utilized, and this heavy use has created challenges between accommodating people while maintaining the shoreline. Levingston Cove is unusual in that it has an expanded cove area. The fishing area is actively utilized while at the same time accommodating joggers, strollers, dog walkers, people using wheelchairs and other pedestrians as they try to move safely by the fishermen. Additionally, the land pitch at the sitting area is subject to erosion and runoff damage. Newton Parks and Recreation and Culture Department along with Newton's Environmental Engineer, Maria Rose, have tried numerous types of restoration to no avail. We believe the plans create a more sustainable and safe area for fishing and pedestrians without sacrificing access to the lake. The proposed landscaping combines the re-engineering of a new slope for improved maintenance and reduction of runoff while providing additional sitting areas and better access to the lake.

Parts of Levingston Cove once had a lovely grass lawn. This open area has been enjoyed by multigenerational lake lovers. During the pandemic, it has been a highly used gathering place for people who live nearby and who come from other parts of the city. After a heavy rain, the combination of the velocity of the surrounding street water that jumps the curb and the lack of adequate grass or plantings to slow and absorb the pollutants and nutrients contributes to run-off directly into Crystal Lake. The proposed plans provide mitigation for this problem by creating terracing and rain gardens that will help absorb the runoff before it gets to the lake itself. The proposed sitting areas and walkways will allow people with mobility challenges to sit in this area and to enjoy improved access to the lake.

One of the many enjoyable activities for people is the ability to get close to the water's edge. Concepts for redesigning the cove's immediate shoreline were recently presented. While a small number of plantings may help improve the



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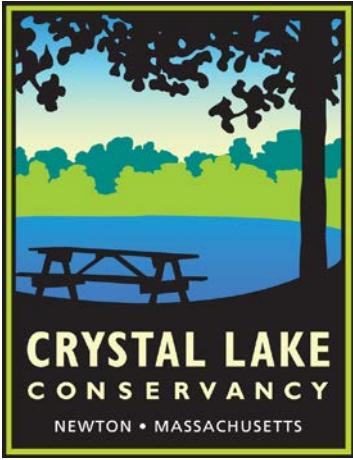
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shoreline, it is important that the plans ensure that people can continue to access the water's edge. Plantings must not create a barrier wall of foliage. Stabilization of the shoreline is important but access to the lake for all users should be maintained. The suggested stones and rocks at the shoreline are an unnatural feature that could limit enjoyment and safety for lake visitors. We look forward to working with the Parks, Recreation and Culture department to ensure a balance between environmental stewardship and maintaining excellent public access at Levingston Cove.

The plans before you are a synopsis of two years of meetings and input from the City's Crystal Lake Working group, Newton Parks and Recreation and Culture Commission, multiple advocacy groups and the general public. We believe that with the revisions as noted above, they provide an innovative but practical restoration of Levingston Cove. It is important to ensure Crystal Lake is accessible to many more generations by slowing eutrophication of the lake. This plan is a step in that direction. Please commit the necessary funding for these improvements. This will be a wonderful addition to our community for all residents and visitors to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Janice Bourque and Schuyler Larrabee  
Co-Presidents of the Crystal Lake Conservancy



P.O. Box 610038, Newton Highlands MA 02461 [CrystalLakeConservancy@gmail.com](mailto:CrystalLakeConservancy@gmail.com)

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Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic  
5 Bellingham Street  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

Lara Kritzer, Program Manager  
Community Preservation Committee  
City of Newton  
Newton, Massachusetts

Re: Levingston Cove Improvement Project

May 10, 2021

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

I would like to express my support for the Levingston Cove Restoration project, but with one caveat: that public access to the shoreline of the lake at Levingston Cove must be maintained.

I support the parts of the plans that increase and improve access to the lake at Levingston cove at the fishing wall, at the terraced banks, and on the various paths with their benches and improved accessibility. Clearly, we should support methods to mitigate runoff of rainwater and to reduce erosion, such as the proposed rain gardens, strategic terracing, implementation of swales, and features like retaining seat walls. These are all good things, and they should be vigorously supported.

However, I cannot in good conscience support anything in these plans that would exclude or make people feel unwelcome to use the lake as they have done in recent years. The current plans include a barrier of plantings blocking access to 80-90% of the shoreline. A dumping of gravel and stones is proposed to cover the remaining section of water access. In effect, water access would be substantially limited by the proposal, perhaps close to 100%. The intent of these physical barriers to exclude people is obvious and they must be removed from the plans.

Many of us were happy to see all of the smiling faces, the paddleboards, the colorful rafts and floaties, and the sound of voices of different ages and different languages at Levingston Cove last summer. And in spite of the diversity of increased uses at the lake, the water quality last year was the best it has been in recent memory.

We must continue to have an inclusive and welcoming city in Newton. Let's support the good aspects of the plans for Levingston cove that mitigate run-off and reduce erosion while also preserving access to the lake for all types of users.

Thank you,

Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic