



Cliff Walk Commission Minutes

January 21, 2015
Newport Public Library

- **Commission Members in Attendance:** Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Dave McLaughlin, Peter Janaros, Bob Power (Chair)
- **CWC Ombudsman:** Bill Cochrane
- **For the City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler: Tree, Parks and Building supervisor

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the 12/17/14 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Status of repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Commonwealth Engineering will soon meet with the city to review the scope of work, which included addressing cliff erosion south of 40 Steps and repairs to the masonry at the overlook. Additional identified work includes the steps at Webster, stone dust at the overlook and the fixing the sidewalk leading from Shepard to the Breakers gate. Once this design phase is complete, the job will be put out for bid. Additional dollars are available through other projects that came in under budget to accomplish further erosion prevention &/or cover bids that come in over estimate. Construction would begin late summer/fall 2015

A. Trail Marker, sample post presentation

Conner Flynn presented a sample trail marker post to the CWC. All approved, subsequent to determining the standard ADA accessible height. This will feature a QR code on top and placed at the beginning of the Walk to determine durability/appearance. Conner will work with Scott to determine where, how high and when to plant the initial marker, which the scouts will then install in concrete, along with a small plaque on back of the first marker indicating it was Conner's eagle scout project. It was agreed that if possible, engraving on the front of the markers themselves be avoided and all information be contained on the QR code at the top of the post. Each of the 16 stops along the Walk will feature its unique QR code/URL.

B. Cliff Walk T-Shirt designs

Maureen Cronin presented an updated Cliff Walk logo and three new designs as alternatives to the "falling man" graphic that appears on the Walk's caution signs. Since the supplier "Tee Spring" allows multiple designs to be sold and the new designs were appealing, all could be used for on-line sales via the CW website and new app. The "photo graphic" designs will be further explored by Worldways to determine the optimum, variety of scenes, including one from the air. It was agreed the photo(s) should appear on the back, with the wording "Cliff Walk, Newport RI" on the front. One photo should have particular appeal to Salve students/parents. In addition, John will contact the City Manager to assess what his concerns were with the "falling man" visual.

C. Big Belly Trash Receptacle "wraps"

Discussion was held regarding placing graphics on the newly installed trash receptacles along the Walk. Consensus was that due to cost and possible vandalism, these should not be pursued.

B. Mencoff Property status: City/CRMC recommendation

As agreed, John has sent a letter to the Council affirming the CWC's support for the plans.

C. Permanent toilet facilities; closing schedule

Scott advised that the new restrooms, since they aren't fully heated, were kept open as long as possible and earlier than the porta johns and won't be open again until early April. This is the case with all city run restrooms. Bill suggested the CWC could explore a grant that would provide a heating system (solar, propane, electric) that would allow the restrooms to remain open through the Christmas holidays.

Peter advised that he has talked to Pat Segerson, Transportation Supervisor, about the new parking system and regulations at Narragansett and how it was enforced. John suggested that the receipt one receives state that there is no need to return to the car.

D. Routine maintenance update

Scott said that once the current leaf removal program is complete, the fall winter trimming would take place after the holidays.

E. New benches

Two new benches are going in just north of 40 Steps. There is one additional request for a bench, perhaps at Rosecliff.

F. Restricted Funds

John advised that there currently is a balance of \$5,750 in the fund, but that most of this will go to pay for the Trail Marker app development and implementation. An additional \$2,750 will be required to pay for the four maps and stands. John hopes to generate these funds via selling additional sponsorships on the various points of interest on the Trail Marker app and he will be approaching the Preservation Society, Salve and NRF, all of which have expressed interest. John will forward a draft of the map for everyone's comments.

G. Miscellaneous

Dave McLaughlin forwarded the following information, in abstentia:

1. Photo documentation/mileage marker

"For the photo journal, I am working on re-building a team to help finish the task. We took over 200 pictures but some did not include GPS locations and others missed key features. I need to find the right people to help out, it was good to get the freshman class out on the cliff walk but it was not a long-term project, I'm working with Kathleen to try to make this happen."

3. CRMC right of Ways

"For the CRMC right of ways, I have a note into Kevin at CRMC. This stuff takes time. I have a huge list of CRMC related topics (Marine Avenue, Cliff Avenue, Easton's Point, New legislation, Harbor access points) and I know Kevin is working on it; some of it has some challenges at CRMC so I have to be patient. I hope this is OK. I had an initial discussion with Mike about the LER for Cliff Avenue and we are going to re-convene early next year."

4. Cliff Walk Foundation

"For the cliff walk foundation, the idea is that we use the Cliff Walk Logo and create support levels so that business can donate and show the logo at their storefront. This will eliminate the commercialism concern that people have about having individual businesses or organizations

having specific logos. The reality is that we can't have 1700 logos on the cliff walk but we do have that many businesses on the island, so I think this is a good idea. I think this is really part of the topic of having a budget; it is also the approach I'm trying to use for Clean Ocean Access."

It was agreed that Dave should be present to discuss how the Foundation idea would be implemented and sustained.

5. No Smoking ordinance

"For the smoking ordinance I provided a copy of ideas to Scott, still need to provide a draft resolution to Joe, had a good talk with John and now working on building momentum in Portsmouth."

Scott then advised that he has provided information to the Director and staff for background support to the drafting of a no smoking ordinance, which would cover all city parks, beaches and trails. This was patterned after the city of Portland's ordinance.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps: design phase and bidding status
- B. Routine maintenance update
- C. Photo documentation/mileage markers
- D. CRMC right of Ways
- E. No Smoking Ordinance
- F. Trail Marker Status
- G. Cliff Walk T-Shirt designs
- H. Restricted Funds
- I. Permanent Maps for the walk

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cliff Walk Foundation
- B. "What's out there Weekend": May 8-10.