



Cliff Walk Commission Minutes

November 18, 2015

5PM: Newport Public Library

In Attendance:

- **Commission Members:** Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros, Bob Power (Chair)
- **City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden
- **Ombudsman:** Bill Cochrane

I. **MINUTES** from the 10/21/15 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Revised construction plans were presented and approved by the City. Adjustments include fencing that has been adjusted to provide access to the ocean at Ruggles and a new design for the restroom plaza, featuring grey lock permeable stone where the walkers queue alongside an enclosed grass area with a Boston Common post and chain. Plans have now been presented to CRMC for final approval and then go out for bids in December. Construction should begin in the spring and will require a pedestrian detour from Narragansett to Webster.

A second pay by plate station and/or pay by phone will be explored for the next parking contract to be negotiated in 2016. An estimate has been requested should the city wish to install in the spring, before current contract expiration. Part of this review will be a "pay by phone" feature:

<https://paybyphone.com/locations>

B. Fall maintenance update

Minor leaf sweeping has been done. Final fall maintenance awaits the end of the leaves dropping.

C. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave M. noticed a marked improvement in the smoothness of the path. Dave D. to gather a work group together to secure the loose stones.

D. Photo Journal documentation/mileage markers status

Dave M. reported no progress has been made.

E. CRMC rights of way at Marine Avenue and others, including Green Infrastructure

Dave M. stated that the paperwork for legal designation of the Marine Avenue right of way has been prepared for CRMC's approval next month. Cliff Terrace access is also a current right of way, but there was agreement that a legal filing with CRMC should be deferred since public access has been allowed but that investigation as to its legal status should be explored.

F. Trail Marker Program & Maps Status

The two new Cliff Walk maps have been produced and are ready for installation. Bob Power suggested that since winter is approaching, installation be deferred until next March. All agreed. An inquiry from Peter Rice asked if a 3rd map could be produced and installed at Bailey's Beach. This would require the club's approval.

G. Mencoﬀ property repairs

Peter advised that work shoring up the slope has begun. A temporary pedestrian detour was created so as not to interfere with passage along the walk. Work should be completed this fall.

H. Economic Impact Survey

Surveys conducted. Salve Regina's Econometrics class will analyze results in January, with results shortly thereafter.

I. New memorial benches at Bailey's and for Lori and John Adams

The bench at Bailey's Beach has been approved with the laser portrait memorial plaque. Once complete, the bench will be ordered with installation planned for mid-December.

The new memorial bench sponsorship form and policy is now posted on-line.

<http://www.cityofnewport.com/home/showdocument?id=9256>.

Additional benches north of 40 Steps will be marked out and offered to the public.

J. Love Locks

City staff has begun removing all the locks and will continue to do so periodically with a hydraulic cutter during monthly inspections. The height of the fence near Webster and the overlook will be raised 4" with new fabric fencing this fall.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Heating of the Restrooms at 40 Steps

A small oil filled electric heater has been installed which will allow the restrooms to remain open late into December, or until pipe freezing becomes an issue. They will be re-opened by April 1.

B. Erosion behind the Breakers

Scott recommended that the Commission request that the Preservation Society cut back the vegetation and/or create some type of erosion control so that the Breakers is visible from the second level of the rest area. Jeff Curtis, landscape and property superintendent at the PS, will be approached for his cooperation in this exploration.

C. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea

Re-painted a year ago, the railings are starting to bleed and corrode, rusting the green paint. Funds don't exist for repainting but it was agreed that Dave should explore a more permanent solution along with the engineering department at URI.

**The Commission agreed to cancel its December Meeting.
The next CWC meeting will be January 20th at the Newport Public Library**