



Cliff Walk Commission
DRAFT Minutes
January 20, 2016
5PM: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

Commission Members: Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros, Dave McLaughlin, Bob Power (Chair)

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden

Ombudsman: Bill Corcoran

I. MINUTES from the 11/18/15 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Scott advised that 3-4 vendors attended the pre-bid meeting with specifications provided by Commonwealth. Construction should begin in the spring that will require a pedestrian detour from Narragansett to Webster.

B. Fall maintenance update

Scott advised that the 40 Steps restrooms, closed just before Christmas, were broken into. New fabricated steel plates were installed to prevent further break-ins. The restrooms should be re-opened in Mid-March, weather permitting.

C. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave D. reported that this area and that just north of Rough Point has been smoothed out. This will continue to be monitored to determine if additional work is required.

Bill reported that the rocks on the trail behind Fairholme are evidencing wider gaps and suggested excess granite curbing in the city yard could be placed over the top of this portion to improve safety. Peter suggested that future reconstruction projects could address this situation.

D. Photo Journal documentation/location markers status

Dave M. reported that he is assembling a new team to photograph the work in the spring and is exploring with the Boy Scouts placing mileage markers along the Walk. Scott mentioned that he talked to Christie Gardner (Eagle Scouts) about such a project and has stencils available.

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

A G.R.I.P./EPA grant has been applied for that would fund a demonstration project to install green infrastructure along Marine Avenue. Test holes will be taken to determine the subsurface, however a gas main running through the Goldberg property has been discovered and may have to be re-located. It was agreed that once plans are formalized, they should be presented to the Goldbergs and their attorney, Turner Scott.

F. Trail Marker Program & Maps Status

The two new Cliff Walk maps have been produced and are ready for installation this spring. An inquiry from Peter Rice as to whether a 3rd map could be produced and installed near the bench at the end of Bellevue Avenue was received. This map could include information on returning to downtown via bus or taxi. This would probably require the Bailey's Beach Club's approval. Once the first two maps are installed this spring, the subject can be re-visited. Peter will contact Peter Rice and suggest he contact Councilwoman Leonard to secure her support before proceeding.

G. Mencoﬀ property repairs

Peter provided pictures of work being done intended to shore up the slope. A temporary pedestrian detour was created so as not to interfere with passage along the walk. It was agreed a private letter of gratitude from the CWC be sent to the Mencoﬀ's upon completion of this significant project, all privately funded.

H. Economic Impact Survey

Surveys conducted. Salve Regina's Econometrics class is now analyzing results with a report due this spring.

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

The bench at Bailey's Beach with the laser portrait memorial plaque has been installed.

Locations for two additional benches north of 40 Steps have been marked out; one has been reserved.

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

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

J. Love Locks

City staff removed the locks in the fall yet another 26 have since appeared at the Webster Ave. overlook. City staff will continue to periodically remove the locks with a hydraulic cutter during periodic inspections.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Erosion behind the Breakers

This spring, Scott will contact Jeff Curtis, landscape and property superintendent, to request 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.

B. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea

Re-painted a year ago, the railings are starting to bleed and corrode, rusting the green paint. Scott suggested he and Dave explore installing expansion foam as a pilot project this spring to assess its effectiveness in preventing corrosion.

C. Terms of Office and Election of Officers

After extensive discussion regarding the original founding ordinance for the Cliff Walk Commission and the current terms posted on the city website, Bob offered to meet with Raphe at City Hall to clarify in writing the exact terms of office for the five current commissioners. It was agreed officers should be elected in November, per ordinance.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 6pm.