



**Cliff Walk Commission  
Minutes**  
February 17, 2016  
5PM: Newport Public Library

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members:** 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 1/20/16 CWC meeting were approved.

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps**

Scott advised that construction bids for the work have been received, with a low bid of \$781,254 - significantly higher than Commonwealth's base estimate of \$600,000. The low bid excludes \$154,004 in additional work, which was also bid, bringing the grand total to \$936,248.

\$600,000 has been previously secured from the historic grant and a request of DOT to cover \$282,000 in remaining Hurricane Sandy funds has been filed by the city. The balance needed to complete repairs would be drawn from other city repair funds with Council approval.

**B. Winter maintenance update**

Scott had nothing to report.

Dave M. advised that a CRMC permit for the fence installed at the Pell property was applied for and received. He will forward a copy in order that the limitations placed on the owners can be reviewed by the CWC.

**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 by Dave Downes 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 has now assembled three teams to begin photographing the work in the spring. Scott has approached three Eagle Scouts about placing mileage markers along the Walk as one of the city's spring projects and is waiting to hear back.

**E. G.R.I.P. green infrastructure project at Marine Avenue**

Test holes were taken to determine the subsurface and no bedrock was hit down to 5 feet at the location. Soils samples were sent off for review and designs and concept plans featuring rain gardens are now being explored, ideally without an outflow pipe. Swales, along with asphalt curbing, will be installed at Wetmore and Marine Avenues to capture run-off that would be diverted to the series of rain gardens. A gas main running through the Goldberg property will be re-located. The Goldberg's attorney, Turner Scott, has been apprised of developments by Bill.

#### **F. Trail Marker program & maps status**

John advised that the new Cliff Walk brochure that will be distributed free at the Visitor's Center is in design and should be available for review in April.

The two new Cliff Walk maps and stands that have been produced are ready for installation this spring. Peter J. talked to Peter Rice regarding his proposal for a 3<sup>rd</sup> map to be installed near the bench at the end of Bellevue Avenue and they agreed to review the first two maps and their impact before requesting a third. Mr. Rice's primary concern was providing guidance to those who exit the Walk at its Bellevue terminus who have no idea how to return to town. This may not require a full map, but perhaps simple directions.

#### **G. Menco property repairs**

Peter advised that work is proceeding per plan with completion scheduled by Memorial Day. A private letter of gratitude from the CWC will be sent to the Menco's upon completion of this significant project, all privately funded.

#### **H. Economic Impact Survey**

Dave met with Salve Regina's Econometrics class that is now analyzing data with a final report due by April.

#### **I. Erosion behind the Breakers**

Scott will contact Jeff Curtis, PSNC landscape and property superintendent, to request the Preservation Society create some type of erosion control and repair the goat paths behind the Breakers this spring.

#### **J. 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>.

#### **K. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea**

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

### **III. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 5:35pm.