



Cliff Walk Commission
Approved Minutes
April 20, 2016
5PM: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

Commission Members: Lesley Brooking-Elms, Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros (Chair), Dave McLaughlin

City Ombudsman: William Corcoran

Salve Regina University: Stacey Carter, Nicole Grosser, Garvin Jones, Kasey Walther

I. MINUTES from the 3/16/16 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Economic Impact Study Presentation

Students from Salve Regina University's Introduction to Econometrics class presented preliminary findings from a survey done to determine the economic impact of the Cliff Walk. The Commission complimented the students and their outstanding work. The next step is to meet on April 28 at Salve for the final presentation.

B. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Scott has advised the CWC that formal bid/award approval will be on the May 11 City Council docket. As reported in March, 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 had been previously secured from a historic grant and \$271,182 in funds exist with DOT that have been earmarked for the Walk and a new cooperative agreement has been reached with DOT. Any remaining funds necessary for the completion of the project will be covered with other city repair funds.

As a result of these delays, repairs will postponed until fall so as not to interfere with summer traffic.

Peter advised that he had discussed with Bill Boardman the fact that drainage work along a long wall at Ochre Point mansion (195 Narragansett) is also planned and that it should be coordinated with these repairs.

C. Photo Journal documentation/Location marker status

Dave M. reported that he has recruited a group to assist in photographing and documenting all sections of the Walk for an update of the Photo Journal. They will begin their work in the next few weeks.

Scott has the stencils; thermally applied 3-M reflective tape would be purchased.

John has contacted Glenn Gardner to see if the Scouts might be interested in assisting and also freshening up the QR code marker posts.

D. G.R.I.P. green infrastructure project at Marine Avenue & Other Rights of Way

The EPA grant to implement the project is moving forward. A revised conceptual plan is pending.

Dave M. now has paperwork on five other rights of way to the Walk from CRMC to file with the City. The next step is for the City Manager to secure Council approval for a resolution adopting all rights of way among Clean Ocean Access, the City and CRMC.

E. Spring maintenance

The 40 Steps restrooms locking mechanisms are fixed and the restrooms open.

F. Erosion behind the Breakers

The primary cause is attributed to runoff from the Breaker's back lawn, aggravated by foot traffic from those going up the slope to view the mansion. Jeff and Scott will investigate and observe the extent of the run-off when it rains. The subject of additional vegetation that would assist in retaining the water was discussed as a less costly first step.

There was also discussion about creating a permanent viewing platform for photographing the Breakers, perhaps applying a permeable paving solution similar to that being explored in front of the restrooms at 40 Steps. CRMC approval for any alternations will be necessary. Old wooden stairs with plastic sheeting will be removed. No one knows where the steps came from. As a next step, Scott and Jeff will review the situation, advising the Commission as to their findings and recommendations.

Leslie provided pictures of the flooding at the Tea House tunnel. It was agreed that stepping-stones held by a light foundation should be placed along the tunnel to assist safe passage.

G. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave D. reported that he and a crew from the Fire Department smoothed out and filled holes on this part of the Walk. This will continue to be monitored by Dave to determine if additional work is required. The Commission thanked Dave and his team for the work involved.

H. Trail Marker program & maps status

John advised that the new Cliff Walk brochure is being discussed with the Visitor's Center. These should be ready for the summer season.

The two new Cliff Walk maps and stands have been installed. All expressed a desire to install another map at the end of the Walk at Rejects Beach. John will explore costs and timing.

I. Menco property repairs

Peter and Scott reviewed the project site and 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.

J. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Fence Encroachment at Bailey's Beach

Dave M. provided pictures of a new fence that has been installed at the end of the southern end of the way that obviously encroaches upon the Walk's right of way, 18" in from the former fence line. It's doubtful that the owner has secured CRMC approval but David will investigate further with CRMC.

John advised that the annual Daffodil Days Celebration at the Chanler is scheduled for April 21 from 6-7:30pm. All Commission members are encouraged to attend. This event is part of the 3rd Annual Daffodil Days Festival and includes activities on Cliff Walk and other programs in conjunction with the Tree Society's Arboretum Week.

B. Election of Officers

The CWC unanimously voted for Peter Janaros to fill the role of Chairman and Dave McLaughlin as Vice Chair due to current vacancies. The regular election of officers will be voted in November 2016.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Due to availabilities, the Next CWC Meeting has been moved to June 1, 5pm at the Newport Public Library.

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 6:10pm.