



Cliff Walk Commission
DRAFT Minutes
June 1, 2016
5PM: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

Salve Regina University: Stacey Carter, Professor Sam Saco.

I. MINUTES from the 4/20/16 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Final Economic Impact Study presentation by Salve Regina

Dave M. provided a brief introduction of the project and expressed hope that this could be the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship with the University. Professor Saco then presented and provided copies of the final Economic Impact of the Cliff Walk. The Commission thanked Professor Saco and Stacey Carter and complimented the students on their outstanding work.

It was agreed that the Commission should review the findings in more detail and agree on next steps at the 7/20/16 CWC meeting, including advising City Council as to the study, suggesting highlights for inclusion on *Engage Newport*, and developing a press release (coordinated with Kristine Hendrickson at Salve). Lesley suggested the study also be presented to Discover Newport.

B. Status of Repairs between 40 Steps and Ruggles Avenue

City Council approved the Commonwealth bid and awarded the contact at their 5/11 Council meeting at a total cost of \$936,248. The contract is now with the City Solicitor for final sign-off.

Construction will begin after July 4 and will require short-term deviation for walkers with appropriate "official" signing as to directions. The Webster area should be Commonwealth's longest occupied staging area.

Peter is working with Bob Fairbanks on drainage work along a long wall at Ochre Point mansion (195 Narragansett), coordinating these repairs with others in this area.

C. New Fence Encroachment at Bailey's Beach

CRMC sent a "notice of violation" to the owners on 5/24. Next steps are in the landowners hands. Peter asked Dave to have CRMC send a copy of the notice for CWC's records.

D. Spring maintenance update

Scott reported that the new automated door locks on the restrooms are now operational and additional back-up units have been ordered.

Dissatisfaction was expressed with the current restroom cleaning. City crew will now supplement the contractor's efforts.

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

Uncertain time-line. State/URI priorities are currently focused on Warwick and West Kingston before Marine Avenue will be addressed. Scott is awaiting final design revisions and the status of a possible EPA grant request.

Dave advised that he will now secure formal City Council for formal Marine Avenue right of way.

F. Status of the other five rights of way

All rights of way signage on Cliff Walk are in place.

G. Erosion behind the Breakers

Scott met with Jeff Curtis of the PS and determined that the primary cause of the erosion is people crowding the fence, both from the Walk and from the Breakers itself. One preventative would be cutting back privet and other invasive vegetation. Other possible, more expensive, solutions would be creating a swale on the Breakers side of the fence to prevent run-off and/or creating a new viewing platform. Scott suggested we ask Trudy Cox for a site meeting to discuss the problem area, which may require contracting a landscape architect. John will pursue via Kaity Ryan at the PSNC.

H. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Lesley reported that the stability of this section has been improved considerably thanks to the efforts of Dave D. and his associates. Peter offered to write a letter of thanks once Dave D. provides the names of the volunteers at the next CWC meeting.

I. Photo Journal documentation

Dave reported that the originally scheduled photo shoot was cancelled due to rain and he will re-schedule.

J. Location marker status

Still looking for volunteers to help paint the 50-60 markers. Possibilities include the Maher Center, Mike Cullen/students from All Saints and Lesley's friends. Dave M. mentioned that he is working with Salve students on their Community Volunteer Day, September 6th. All agreed this was the optimum solution. Dave M., John, and Lesley volunteered to help and Scott will arrange for the materials.

K. 3rd map sign at Bailey's Beach

John will contact Jack Nolen, GM at Bailey's, to determine their reaction to placing a third map at the end of the Walk at Reject's Beach before a new stand is ordered. The only copy change will be to re-locate the "You are Here" arrow.

L. Cliff Walk map for Visitor's Center

John reviewed the idea of a simple tear off map that would be placed at the circle and ticket counter to distribute for free with Cathy Morrison, head of visitor services. Cathy expressed concern that it would compete with the other maps they distribute and would have to appear alongside them in the map rack.

M. Menco property repairs

Peter provided pictures of the repairs and the Commission's site visit. Regrettably, a recent storm washed away some .of the planting material that will have to be repaired. Peter is waiting to hear from Jerry Kirby as to any public acknowledgements &/or a private thank you from the CWC.

N. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea

Scott had nothing to report as of now.

Lesley brought up the issue of the love locks that are now appearing again. Scott will pursue, now that there is a new hydraulic lock cutter available. This topic will now appear under general maintenance.

III. Adjournment

With no other business, the Commission recessed at 6:15 pm.

**NEXT CLIFF WALK COMMISSION MEETING:
July 20, 5pm at the Newport Public Library**