



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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**I. MINUTES** from the 6/1/16 CWC meeting were approved.

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles**

New England and Bridge has now mobilized and is staging their work at the overlook. Upon their further inspection, the erosion of the wall appears greater than anticipated. A form liner system has therefore been recommended to replace the natural stone wall and awaits formal RIHPHC approval. The cost should be comparable to the originally planned concrete repairs. 11/16 is the targeted completion date.

**B. Fence encroachment at Bailey's Beach; CRMC status**

Dave M. reported that CRMC has sent a notice of violation to the property owners who then filed an application for approval. It awaits CRMC's next steps. Peter and Dave M. are closely monitoring developments and will be prepared to file a resolution to city council and CRMC if the fence is not returned to its original location. There was consensus that Dave M. now communicate this position to the CRMC.

**C. Summer maintenance update, including restroom cleaning**

There have been some problems with restroom maintenance purportedly taking place twice daily and three times on weekends. City staff is monitoring the situation. Unless improvements are evidenced, a new contract may be bid next year &/or an attendant placed there on weekends.

It was agreed that John invite Pat Segerson to update the Commission on both the parking and restroom situation at 40 Steps.

**D. G.R.I.P. infrastructure project at Marine Avenue**

Scott provided an update on the project, noting that the EPA grant request was not accepted and other funding opportunities will be explored. Revisions are required to the water garden design.

**E. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way**

The request to formalize the Marine Avenue right of way is now with the City Manager and Dave M. will follow up in August.

Erosion at Seaview is a constant problem with new construction increasing water flow that catch basins at the bottom can't fully absorb and often clog. The ultimate solution is to install new catch basins at the top of Seaview to prevent water flow in the first place.

#### **F. Erosion behind the Breakers**

Scott, John, Tanya Kelley and Jeff Curtis have all inspected the eroded area behind the Breakers, the result of which is a combination of those on Cliff Walk climbing the embankment for views and those at the Breakers coming down to look at the walk and ocean.

Near term solutions include

1. Placing a snow fence to let the area naturalize and create a barrier of vegetation.
2. Junipers should be removed in the winter and the view shed restored.
3. Exploring other possible viewing platforms and access points.

John advised that he had discussed the situation with Kaity Ryan of the PSNC and that once the master plan for their new Visitor's Center is complete, Reed Hilderbrand, their design firm, will investigate this area.

Dave advised that there is a \$250K matching grant available from NOA with an application deadline of 8/16/16. He will advise the PSNC of this opportunity.

#### **G. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel**

Dave D. will provide names of those who helped out to Peter who will prepare a thank you note on behalf of the CWC.

Lesley asked that the pavers at the first Tea House tunnel be added to the next agenda for discussion and it was agreed that this, and landscaping behind Rosecliff, be added to future discussions with the NCPS.

#### **H. Economic Impact Study; Next Steps**

John presented the final document to Evan Smith and Kathryn Farrington of the Visitor's Center. The next step is for Dave M. and John to prepare a cover letter highlighting the findings and acknowledging Salve's contribution that would be forward to City Council for their review before publicizing. Scott has forwarded the Director of Public Services and suggested Paul Carroll, Director of Civic Investment, also receive the study. Once done, a press release will be prepared in collaboration with Salve and Peter will then alert Sean Flynn of the Newport Daily News.

Dave M. suggested that interviewing and data collection continue in future years to add to the database.

#### **I. Photo Journal documentation, August 29 w/ Rogers Williams**

Dave will work with students at Roger Williams to photograph the Walk.

#### **J. Location marker painting September 6 w/ Salve Regina**

Dave M. is set to place markers with Salve's students. Scott advised that 3M material could be used and is securing cost estimates.

#### **K. 3<sup>rd</sup> map sign at Bailey's Beach**

John to meet with GM Jack Nolen to determine the concerns their board has regarding placement of the sign at the south end of the Walk.

#### **L. Cliff Walk map for Visitor's Center**

John recommended no longer pursuing at this time as Discover Newport is not interested in handing the map out at the circle due to competition from other maps companies that charge for their maps.

**M. Menco property repairs/thank you**

Peter will draft and send a note to Mr. Menco thanking him for the repairs he's made to his property.

**N. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea**

Given the work backlog, Scott has been unable to attend to this project this summer.

**III. New Business**

**A. Second bench request at Rejects Beach**

A second bench has been requested at the end of the Walk and John will also explore this item with Jack Nolen of SRBA.

**B. Possible addition of second restroom @ Shepherd Ave.**

Before this area is further investigated for placement of a restroom, Dave advised that the city must come to judgment as to whether Shepherd Avenue east of Ochre Court is a city street or under Salve Regina's control. John suggested perhaps a trade-off with Salve could be negotiated should the restroom be placed at the end of Shepherd. Scott offered that, worse case, a portable restroom trailer could be considered if needs require such as this would avoid the cost of running a new sewer line.

**C. Bench rusting at 40 Steps**

Scott advised that the original benches didn't come galvanized, thus the excessive rusting. A winter solution will be to sandblast and re-paint.

**D. Future work/funding opportunities**

Peter suggested Commonwealth be invited to a future CWC meeting to provide an assessment of future restoration needs for the Walk. Dave added that such a review should assume worst-case sea level rise and its potential impact.

**IV. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 6:25pm.