



**Cliff Walk Commission**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
October 19, 2016, 2016  
5PM: Newport Public Library

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden, Bill Corcoran, CWC Ombudsman

**Guest:** Charlie Howard (Newport resident; formerly with Lafarge Cement)

**I. MINUTES** from the 8/31/16 CWC meeting were approved.

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

The wall at stage one (40 Steps) has been completed, revealing additional erosion at its base that has required the full use of the \$150,000 reserve to repair. This entire section will then be completed with permeable stone and seeded. The Ruggles/Breakers area (stage two) will be staged next.

Commonwealth has identified about \$500,000 of additional work in that should be attended to, once source of funding is identified. Scott indicated this would be part of an overall audit of the entire Walk, and prioritized accordingly.

**B. Fence encroachment at Bailey's Beach**

Dave M. was notified by CRMC that a notice of violation was sent to the Warners who in turn applied for a permit for the fence had constructed within the public right of way. CRMC requested the CWC now send a formal letter of complaint along with documentation to the CRMC. This has now been drafted by Dave M., on behalf of Clean Ocean Access and the CWC, and will be reviewed by Peter before submission. It was agreed the complaint also be sent to City Council for their consent calendar. Bill suggested the issue of public safety, due to the encroached area of the Walk, be referenced.

**C. Fall maintenance update and restroom cleaning**

Scott will be calling a meeting for all parties impacted by the poor maintenance of public restroom facilities throughout the city and will be discussing the 2017 contract and new bid for services which will include additional daily cleanings of the 40 Steps restrooms throughout the summer with possibly an attendant on weekends. More immediately, Scott's crew will power wash the facility and inform the current contactor of their ongoing displeasure with their performance.

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

A budget estimate is being prepared; funding opportunities continue to be explored. Peter advised that the AIPC has received a million dollar grant that could be used to fund this project. **Scott and Peter will explore with Tom Ardito of the AIPC.**

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

The Commission resolved that **Dave M. draft a communication to council asking city administration request CRMC designate that the entrance to the Walk as a CRMC legally protected public right of way.**

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

Both short and long term solutions are being considered to deal with the erosion behind the fence of the Breakers. Short term includes working with Jeff Curtis of the PSNC to cut back the junipers and install snow fencing to prevent further erosion. A long-term design solution awaits the completion of the PSNC master landscape plan and identification of funding.

#### **G. Tunnel pathways**

The PSNC will be contacted to explore how best to improve the walkway through both tunnels. A possible solution could include assembling a pressure treated, raised boardwalk as opposed to installing stone or pavers. A French drain could also be explored to prevent flooding in the first place. **Lelsey will contact Curt Genga, Director of Properties, to set up a meeting.**

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

Peter advised that the Study was well received by Council. Both local papers extensively covered the report. The Commission agreed that such a study helps justify future economic investment in trails and open space throughout Newport.

The challenge the Harbor Waterfront Commission has in filling vacancies was discussed and the possibility of merging the CWC with the HWC was raised. **Dave M. to provide Peter with information on the HWC for further consideration.**

#### **I. Photo Journal documentation**

The CWC congratulated and thanked Dave M. for the completion of the updated *Cliff Walk Photo Journal* that now appears on the City website. Peter raised the possibility of using Salve students for additional work and John advised that the Salve students would be available again in the spring to survey additional walkers. **He will contact Dr. Sam Sacco to confirm the CWC's interest.**

#### **J. Location marker placement**

The City has now painted the location markers along the entire walk and the project is nearly complete.

#### **K. 3<sup>rd</sup> Map sign at Bailey's Beach and placement of new bench**

Scott has received an update quote from Panier for the new stand that the Spouting Rock has approved, but the project is on hold until the CRMC officially approves the right of way from Bellevue to Rejects Beach.

Scott advised that he has meet with Dallas Pell regarding the vegetation on the Walk through her property and she has allowed trimming to the fence but not to cut any higher. She also alerted Scott to the fact that walkers are descending to loose riprap and stones to the beach and feels it unsafe, asking if the city would consider placing 8' of fencing, 42" high, to prevent incursion.

Scott will provide further information and pictures for discussion at the next CWC meeting.

**L. Mencoﬀ property repairs/thank you**

Peter read a note that the Mencoﬀs sent to the CWC expressing appreciation for supporting their project and for the work the CWC does, but would prefer their contribution not be publicized.

**M. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea and rusting of benches at 40 Steps**

On hold until City staff time is available to address.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Prohibiting concessions for sales and donations on the Walk**

Bill has forwarded information regarding panhandling and advised that, at present, the City has no ordinance prohibiting such. Selling, however, is regulated, but one can solicit donations for concessions as long as goods are not exchanged for money. Bill felt this could be exposed as a "gimmick" to circumvent city law, and will explore further with City Zoning and Legal and provide the CWC with a recommendation.

**B. Narragansett Parking Revenue**

John will request season ending revenue from Pat.

**C. Bench pad north of 40 Steps**

The City is waiting for what is to appear on the plaque before installing.

**D. Future work/funding opportunities**

Peter will invite Commonwealth Engineering to the November CWC meeting to advise what future restoration work along the Walk that may be required. This could potentially be added to the State's 10 year T.I.P. plan. Scott suggested that consideration be given to widening the asphalt on the Walk from Memorial to 40 Steps and repairing the terrace area outside the Chanler.

**IV. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 6:45pm.

Next CWC meeting will be 11/16/16.