



**Cliff Walk Commission
MINUTES**
November 16, 2016, 2016
5PM: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden; Bill Boardman, City Engineer

Guests: Charlie Howard, Newport resident; Jim Onysko, Commonwealth Engineering and Consultants, Inc.; Robin Main, Hinckley Allen

I. **MINUTES** from the 10/19/16 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Report from Commonwealth Engineering: future Cliff Walk structural needs

At the invitation of Chair Peter Janaros, Jim Onysko of Commonwealth Engineering presented a range of future work that could further stabilize the integrity of the Walk, beyond the current repairs underway. Photographs of each of the indicated areas were provided and reviewed. The next step would be to conduct a full audit of the Walk with documentation and estimated costs of prioritized areas most in need of repairs. The CWC thanked Jim and Commonwealth for their investigation.

Peter mentioned that he has had discussions with D.OT. regarding future repairs and will continue to explore possible funding for an audit. Peter also discussed how the public could donate to the Walk in some manner with the City Manager, who felt it a good idea, providing there was a suitable collection method.

B. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

The reinforcement wall at stage one (40 Steps) has been completed, revealing additional erosion at its base that required the full use of the \$150,000 reserve to repair. This work has now been completed with permeable stone and seeded. The Ruggles/Breakers area (stage two) will be staged next, but not until spring. Peter asked for an updated schedule of future repairs from Commonwealth.

C. Fence encroachment at the Warner property

Robin Main of Hinckley Allen, introduced herself. She is representing the Warners to whom a notice of violation was sent by CRMC regarding the encroachment of their new fence unto the Walk's easement at the southern end of the Walk.

Ms. Main has been monitoring developments regarding the case and inquired as to whether there is a definition or specific information of the Walk's width along its easement at the Warner's property. Scott advised that the easement along the Walk has been historically defined over time and has been preserved and documented by the CWC as to existing conditions via a photo journal that is publicly accessible. The new fence (which replaced the Warner's previous fence) was built into the easement and where RIDOT had recently installed asphalt.

Ms. Main asked if the CWC would be willing to work with her client to resolve the issue. The CWC stated that due to the significant narrowing of the path as a result of the new fence and the resulting impediment of those accessing the trail and the beach - along with public safety concerns (i.e., emergency vehicle/personnel accessibility) - their recommendation, as outlined in their complaint and agreed to by City Council, must stand.

D. Fall maintenance update

Scott reported that his crew will be rototilling and putting up a pole and chain fence at 40 Steps for Lesley's *Adopt a Spot* garden bed which will initially be planted with daffodils.

E. Additional 40 Steps Pay Station

Pat Segerson has included a second station as part of the city's bid for next year.

F. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way

Cost estimates have been provided and forwarded on to The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. Possible funding may come from a recent grant awarded AIPC, however it is primarily focused on reservoirs and water quality.

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

Grant funds may be available from funds left over from another project. Scott to advise.

H. Erosion behind the Breakers

Jeff Curtis of the PSNC has approved of the City placing a snow fence and enhancing the meadow on the goat paths in the spring. This winter, the junipers will be removed by the City.

I. Tunnel pathways

Scott and Lesley advised that the next step was to meet with Curt Genga and Katie Ryan of the PSNC to discuss possible fixes.

J. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea and rusting of benches at 40 Steps

Nothing to report

K. Prohibiting Concessions on the Walk

CWC Ombudsman Bill Corcoran is coordinating with the City Solicitor to provide a point of view for the Commission to consider.

L. Memorial Benches update

Scott awaits decision as to the engraving on the bench just north of 40 Steps.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017 Restroom maintenance contract

The City's purchasing agent has prepared a checklist of items to include in a new maintenance contract. Mary Street parking is also going to a pay and display so that a single restroom attendant can be hired and rotated between the restrooms there, (cleaning 3 times per day) and at 40 Steps (4 times per day).

John reported that net income of approximately \$47,000 was generated from the pay and display station. Peter requested that year-end total revenue and operating costs be provided and John will secure.

B. Brass markers on Walk near Ledge Rd.

Peter questioned the effectiveness of the brass markers embedded in the rock around Ledge Rd. and suggested their purpose should be defined.

C. Election of officers

The following Commission members were unanimously re-elected to their positions:

- Peter Janaros, Chair
- Dave McLaughlin, Vice Chair
- John Hirschboeck, Secretary

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Next CWC Meeting: 5pm, January 18, 2017 @ Newport Public Library

(December 21 meeting cancelled)