



**Cliff Walk Commission
MINUTES**

January 18, 2017, 2016
5PM: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros (Chair), Dave McLaughlin

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

CWC Ombudsman: Bill Corcoran

Guests: Sean Flynn, Newport Daily News; Valerie Gelb; Pete Rice

I. **MINUTES** from the 11/16/16 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

Peter noted that Mayor Harry Winthrop will serve as City Council liaison to the Commission.

A. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

The reinforcement wall at stage one (40 Steps) has been completed and the area has been seeded. The second stage, reinforcement near Webster Avenue, is now progressing. Scott has requested cost information on a few additional items (fencing and hand rail) that will be funded through existing city funds. The Ruggles/Breakers area (stage three) will then be staged, weather permitting. A permeable paving stone pad in front of the restrooms and small grass area enclosed by a post and chain fence will then be installed at 40 Steps.

Severe erosion has been evidenced near Seaview and the resulting trench will be filled with stone to prevent further deterioration.

B. Cliff Walk maintenance and additional sign at Bailey's Beach

The Commission advised Peter Rice that there are now plans to install a 3rd way-finding, vertical sign adjacent to Bailey's Beach at the south exit/entrance to the Walk. Installation must await resolution of the fence encroachment in the area where the sign will be placed. (Item C.)

C. Fence encroachment at the Warner property

CRMC's hearing on this matter has been postponed to 6pm, February 14 at the State Administration building in Providence. Peter advised that Newport's attorney has requested assistance from the state attorney general in this matter and made a motion that the CWC send a letter requesting Mr. Kilmartin's intervention and active support as well. The motion was approved. Peter will draft this request.

D. 2016 Narragansett Avenue parking revenue/Restrooms

John reported that \$88,700 in parking revenue was generated with operating costs of \$55,673 for maintenance of the restrooms. Additional cleaning (4 times per day) has been contracted for next year. Bill mentioned that the City has also generating revenue from parking tickets along Narragansett. A second pay station will be installed further west on Narragansett in the spring.

John inquired as to whether or not a port-a-john should be placed in the winter when the permanent restrooms are closed. This would be an additional expense and something for the commission to consider, even though Scott indicated the Walk is primarily used seasonally.

E. “G.R.I.P.” infrastructure project at Marine Avenue/Wetmore.

Final graphics are being developed. Grant funding of approximately \$50,000 is being pursued, ideally from the city’s Civic Investment fund or possibly via a recently EPA grant received by the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission.

F. Erosion behind the Breakers

Jeff Curtis of the PSNC has approved placing a snow fence to prevent further erosion on the goat paths leading up to the Breakers fence located south of the overlook. The area north of the overlook, on both sides of the fence, awaits completion of the PSNC’s master landscape plan.

G. Tunnel pathways

Scott reported the PSNC has agreed to assist in placing 16” x 16” stepping stone pavers along the walk through the tunnel so that walkers can avoid water build-up after heavy rains.

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

Nothing to report.

I. Prohibiting Concessions on the Walk

CWC Ombudsman Bill Corcoran is researching and then coordinating with the City Solicitor to provide a point of view for the Commission for its consideration.

J. Memorial Benches update.

All benches have now been installed. There are additional requests for benches, so the CWC will explore additional placement areas in the spring.

K. Brass markers on Walk near Ledge Rd.

Peter asked if there might be some way to have the brass markers more readily identify their avowed purpose of defining the path of the Walk. Various suggestions were made, including stamping the markers with a Cliff Walk logo and/or adding new ones interspersed among the existing markers. Scott will explore whether a punch set exists that would serve this purpose.

L. Capitol improvement and future funding

Peter has had discussions with D.O.T. regarding the funding of future improvements to the Walk that would be determined through a comprehensive land and sea audit of the Walk performed by Commonwealth Engineering.

Peter also asked the CWC members to consider possible opportunities to generate funds for its restricted fund for minor improvements to the Walk.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the CWC adjourned at 5:50pm.