



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
5:15pm: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 19, 2017 were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

Panels have been poured at the overlook. This portion of the Walk should be open for Memorial Day weekend. Quotes have been received for the black, galvanized vinyl fencing at the overlook along with a stair handrail, but the estimates are excessive and options will be explored. Additional “plaza like” work on the roadway at the end of Webster is pending.

The last component of the repairs will be the installation of a permeable stone mat in front of the restroom; the stone has been delivered and awaits installation. Scott has managed to secure funding for the Boston post and chain fence that will surround an adjacent grass area.

The Commission discussed the proposed new fence at the sea wall at the end of Ruggles/Anglesea, including the challenge of providing continued access for fishermen and surfers while improving safety. Dave and Peter will be meeting with Bill Boardman to review the project.

B. (Omitted)

C. Maintenance update; including restrooms

Discussion took place as to the condition, maintenance and stocking of the restrooms. Scott has followed up regarding cleaning the floor and walls. Check-in logs will be kept in the storage area and Leslie will periodically check for updates.

D. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way

Erosion at Seaview and the challenge of mitigating water flow among the different buried utilities was discussed. Dave M. would like to add a “water management project” at Seaview to a grant submission list he is compiling through Julia Forgue/Dept. of Utilities, the lead on the *Island Waters Project*. To date, the City has not submitted any requests themselves.

The Cliff Terrace access point was discussed. This should be an officially designated right of way, and will be added to the list for follow-up with CRMC. Leslie knows one of the property owners and will inquire as to the history of the access. Scott will place a Cliff Walk sign at this area and the Commission will then monitor reactions from the neighbors, if any. Dave M. suggested Peter ask Bill Boardman as to any plans for re-paving Cliff Terrace and Cliff Avenue which could address runoff from these streets.

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

Peter and Dave M. are monitoring the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission *Island Waters* EPA grant request that has this project listed for consideration, with determination due soon. Dave M. advised that the water quality outflow at Marine Avenue has tested poor and this should give further impetus to funding the infrastructure project.

F. Erosion behind the Breakers

A few strips of riprap have been added to cover some of the goat path trails leading up to the Breakers to improve drainage. This area has also been seeded and taped off. Further landscaping will await the completion of the Breaker’s landscape master plans.

G. Tunnel pathways

Due to workload, City staff has been unable to purchase and place the pavers but maintains the project on its follow-up list.

H. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea. Bench rusting at 40 Steps

Peter, David M. and Leslie have all explored the corroded railings, and it appears that metal plugs placed in eroded holes have rusted. The short-term solution is to brush remove the rust and galvanize paint the corroded areas. Peter and Leslie will explore appropriate “bridge green” materials.

I. Prohibiting Concessions on the Walk

Peter has called the City Solicitor and will continue to seek his input, advising the rest of the Commission as to his findings.

J. Memorial Benches update

The consensus of the Commission was that there are a sufficient number of benches along the Walk and no more should be added.

K. New sign at Bailey’s Beach & deteriorated/corroded fence

John suggested once the re-located fence is installed back to its original location we should inspect the entire area and discuss options (new map, fence, etc.) that would then be presented to Bailey’s Beach management.

L. Brass markers on Walk near Ledge Rd.

Lesley will locate a large metal punch to experiment with stamping discs that would be installed along the rocky portion of the Walk along with the existing disc markers.

M. D.O.T. and future repairs to the Walk/fundraising

Scott will be applying for appropriate grant opportunities later in the spring, especially the D.E.M. trail grant and the Green Economy bond. Peter offered his assistance.

Regarding other smaller, less capital-intensive funding opportunities, John offered to explore means of making mobile-based electronic contributions to the Cliff Walk's restricted fund that could be explanatory signage at 40 Steps. This would also be featured on the current Trail Marker app connecting to PayPal or another service, potentially tying into a mobile pay for parking.

N. Re-appointment

Peter asked that Dave Downes discuss applying for re-appointment to the Commission with the Mayor.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:40pm

**Next CWC Meeting was moved to 5:15pm, June 28, 2017
@ Newport Public Library**