



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
5:15pm: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

Citizen: Josh Betts

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 28, 2017 were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

The installation of a permeable stone mat in front of the restroom is taking place. A Boston post and chain fence that surrounding an adjacent grass area will be installed next. Lesley can now proceed with planting annuals and perennials on the west side of the stone wall's "adopt a spot."

Improvements have also been made to the end of Webster leading to the Walk. All that remains of the project is the new fencing at the end of Ruggles and the Overlook and a handrail at the adjacent steps at Webster. The trail marker at the Overlook will be re-mounted, not drilled into the concrete. The contractor needs to remove concrete splashes on the signs, specifically at Webster.

John suggested that there could be an opportunity to enhance the appearance of the large concrete slab at the overlook (plantings, statue, memorial bricks, etc.)

Dave M. asked about an audit of the work, primarily from the water. Scott referenced the ongoing inspections he and Bill Boardman have made and all felt comfortable with the final product.

The subject of the suntan dispenser at 40 Steps provided by the Melanoma Foundation as a trial program was discussed. Concern was expressed as to future maintenance by the restroom custodians, the mess the lotion leaves and the cost of future re-fills. This test case will be monitored.

B. (Omitted). This item will now appear on the July agenda.

C. Maintenance update; including restrooms

Knotweed is appearing on the cliff face at the new construction at Webster/Narragansett and will have to be carefully eradicated due to slope's drop-off.

The condition, maintenance and stocking of the restrooms have improved. Scott will follow up regarding the hand dryers that periodically burnout once the city's budget freeze is lifted. Check-in logs are kept in the storage area and Leslie will be periodically checking for updates.

D. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way

The Cliff Terrace access point was discussed. This should be an officially designated right of way and be added to the list for follow-up with CRMC. Scott will place a Cliff Walk sign at this area and the Commission will then monitor reactions from the neighbors.

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

Scott, 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.

F. Erosion behind the Breakers

The riprap added to cover some of the goat path trails leading up to the Breakers and the short term caution tape appears to be preventing further erosion. Additional 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 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

The Council has passed an ordinance preventing solicitation on the Walk. Thanks to Peter for doggedly pursuing. This item will continue to be monitored.

J. New sign at Bailey's Beach & deteriorated/corroded fence

With the fence re-located back to its original location, it was agreed that John, Peter and Scott should now meet with Jack Nolen (Bailey's Beach) and invite the Warners to explore placing a new horizontal directional sign/map to the east of the bench on Bellevue outside the exit/entrance. John will arrange with Jack; Scott with the Warners. Scott advised that the street circle/median where a bike rack is now located is Bailey's property but the sidewalk is public.

Dave M. suggested this could be an ideal time to designate and codify the entrance as a CRMC right of way and will explore further.

K. Cliff Walk website

Peter raised the issue of the CliffWalk.org website that is owned by Vic Farmer, not the city. CWC has no responsibility for its content and this will be communicated to City Council. Dave M. will forward contact information to Peter who is interested in discussing status with Vic.

L. Brass markers on Walk near Ledge Rd.

Lesley had advised that she could not locate a metal punch to experiment with stamping discs that would be installed along the rocky portion of the Walk along with the existing disc markers. This will remain an open item.

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

Peter has discussed trail grant opportunities with Lisa at DEM who has offered her assistance in applying.

John is exploring means of making mobile-based electronic contributions to the Cliff Walk with 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." If agreed to, the mechanism would need to be approved by the City Manager/Council and funds sent to the CWC restricted fund.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:40pm