



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**
Wednesday, July 19, 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 and the fencing at the end of Ruggles is complete. A Boston post and chain fence surrounding an adjacent grass area will next be installed and seeded in the fall. Lesley and her team will seed annuals and perennials in the “adopt a spot” location in the spring so as not to disturb the daffodil bulbs.

All that remains of the project is the new fencing at the Overlook, minor cleaning up of cement residue and the removal of detour signs. The trail marker at the Overlook will be re-mounted, not drilled into the concrete. Peter has inquired as to the installation of the two handrails.

B. New signs at Bailey’s Beach

Scott and John met with Bailey’s Beach personnel to discuss the right of way at Bailey’s Beach and agreed on installing 2 signs and one map that would direct the walkers away from the Club House. Scott has mailed the signs to the Warners and now awaits input before installing the new map sign to the east of the bench on Bellevue Avenue, outside the exit/entrance to the Walk. Scott advised that the street circle/median where a temporary bike rack is now located is Bailey’s property but the sidewalk is public.

The shards from the fence that was recently moved are sticking up and posing a potential hazard; the owners have been notified. Either they or the city will cut them down.

In the future, Dave M. will explore codifying the exit/entrance at Rejects Beach as a CRMC right of way. Peter also asked Scott for a copy of the RI Supreme Court decision between the City and Spouting Rock regarding the easement and rights of

way at Rejects Beach. (Herewith attached: <http://law.justia.com/cases/rhode-island/supreme-court/1968/244-a-2d-871-0.html>)

C. Maintenance update; including restrooms

Overgrown vegetation will be cutback in the teahouse area and along the narrowing trail towards the end of the Walk. The Knotweed appearing on the cliff face at the new construction at Webster/Narragansett will have to be carefully eradicated due to the slope's drop-off.

The condition, maintenance and stocking of the restrooms have improved, including the cleaning of the exhaust fans. Check-in logs are kept in the storage area and Scott will give Leslie the key to periodically check for maintenance updates.

Leslie brought up the overflowing of the "big belly" trash receptacles along the Walk, particularly near Webster Ave. John and Scott suggested using the phone app "See-Click-Fix" or contacting the Clean City coordinator directly if such circumstances are observed.

D. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way

Scott has placed a Cliff Walk sign at the Cliff Walk Terrace area. No comments/complaints from neighbors have been registered.

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

Scott and A.I.P.C. met to review the outflow aspect of the Marine Avenue proposed infrastructure project. Sufficient funding for these improvement should be available due to the *Island Waters* EPA grant request that has this project prioritized for consideration.

F. Erosion behind the Breakers

The riprap added to cover some of the goat path trails leading up to the Breakers is preventing further erosion. Additional landscaping will await the completion of the Breaker's landscape master plan.

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. Peter has now bought "sea foam green" galvanized paint samples and will explore removing the rust and painting the corroded areas to determine efficacy. The rusted benches will require different solutions or replacement.

I. Prohibiting Concessions on the Walk

The Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting vending on the Walk and one violator has been told to cease activities. Peter has called the police department when he identified another vending violator. Monitoring will continue through the summer to assess compliance. A mountain bike rider has been seen riding down 40 Steps. This has been reported to the police and will also be monitored.

J. Cliff Walk website

Peter had a good conversation regarding the CliffWalk.org website with Vic Farmer, the site's owner. They will be in contact with one another and cooperate on messaging should circumstances warrant. The Visitor's Center has also posted comprehensive information on the Cliff Walk and John will talk to them about integrating efforts with our trail marker program and changing the Google listed phone number to Discover Newport.

K. Brass markers on Walk near Ledge Rd.

Lesley had advised that she could not 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. A smaller punch with a simply inscribed "CW" could be an alternative.

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

John presented a "Give by Cell" program as a means of making mobile-based electronic contributions to the Cliff Walk. Peter has now asked Dave M. to investigate further.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:15pm.

Next CWC meeting is scheduled for August 16, 5:15pm at the Newport Public Library.