



**Cliff Walk Commission
Meeting Minutes**
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
5:15pm: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Ombudsman: Bill Corcoran

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

Preservation Society of Newport County: Leigh Schoberth

Public: Bob Sharkey

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 11/15/17 were approved.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 Economic impact survey w/ Salve Regina

Salve Regina Professor Sam Sacco discussed his upcoming econometric class that will update the 2016 Cliff Walk Economic Impact Survey with new data collected the past spring, summer and fall and asked if the CWC had any additional input. Suggestions included getting a better estimate as to total number of walkers and developing a closer relationship with Salve and the Newport Preservation Society that would demonstrate the value and role of the Walk to these institutions. Dave M. will be meeting with the class on 1/22 to provide background on the Walk and should Sam have any questions regarding the Preservation Society, Leigh offered to serve as his contact. John mentioned that the Trailer Marker plate at McAuley Hall is missing and Scott will order a replacement. As an afterthought, Bill Corcoran suggested that Salve and the Preservation Society, perhaps joined by a citizen concerned about the Walk, serve as an advisory board and have a seat at the CWC meetings. Bill also suggested that the HEZ/Boys & Girls Club might be interested in a program that would have a shuttle bus drop off/and pick-up at the Walk. Dave M. will explore.

III. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

Repair work has stopped for the winter. Remaining items include replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms on Narragansett and the installation of two hand rails, one on the north side of Webster Avenue and one at the south side of Narragansett Avenue. These may be fabricated by a local vendor and installed by city staff

B. End of Walk at Bailey’s Beach – location sign status and request for 4th sign at Ledge Rd.

The new locator sign at Bailey’s Beach has been ordered and will be installed in the spring. All agreed a sign at the end of Ledge Rd. and perhaps Marine Ave. are desirable, but that a funding source must first be identified. The Trails grant could be one source, but the priority is the funding of the new brass markers for the trail portion of the Walk. Bill C. suggested we investigate the status of the blue street signs along the Walk, some of which are missing.

C. Maintenance Issues

1. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea

No action taken

2. Restrooms

Scott reported that the interior of the restrooms will be painted with an epoxy paint that should prove more durable. Bids will be solicited, and work will be completed in the spring. John mentioned that a flowering Adopt a Spot at the grass bed to the east of the aggregate surface was to be explored with Lesley. John will follow up. Scott mentioned that an Adopt a Spot agreement with Salve to monitor the end of Marine Ave. was signed.

3. Erosion behind the Breakers

Next steps involve placing snow fencing around the remaining goat paths to the north of the viewing platform. This, and additional work, await completion of the Breaker’s master plan.

D. Marine Avenue G.R. I. P. infrastructure project; Seaview; Cliff Terrace; Bailey’s Beach exit/entrance; other rights of way

The infrastructure project at Marine Ave. remains the first alternate project from the Aquidneck Island Waters grant. Peter and Scott will be attending the next AIPC meeting to assess current status. Dave M. reported no further action on the remaining rights of way.

E. Concessions on the Walk: on-going monitoring

Peter has discussed how responsive the Newport Police have been when any problems on the walk were evidenced. It was agreed to invite one of the officers to a future meeting to discuss problems that occasionally arise on the Walk.

Discussion was held regarding the advisability and complexity of installing monitoring cameras with a warning that that the area is being monitored for littering, unleashed dogs, bike riding, etc. This will be further explored with the City Manager and at a future CWC meeting.

F. Fund raising opportunities

John provided the CWC with possible fund-raising opportunities, some of which will be discussed the City Manager on 1/23 before the CWC decides to further pursue, including the possibility of allowing concessions at 40 Steps. Scott and Peter expressed concerns about a commemorative brick program.

G. D.E.M. and R.I.D.O.T. “TIP” program; green economy bond, long term improvements to the Walk

No action.

H. Coordination of Google website with Discover Newport:

It was agreed that the phone number for Discover Newport - (410) 849-8048 - be used on the Cliff Walk.com website maintained by Vic Farmer for inquiries other than maintenance. Peter will request of Vic accordingly.

I. Possible new entryway/exit to the Walk

This subject will be raised by Peter and Dave at their upcoming discussions with the City Manager. The PSNC expressed that it would be impossible to create a new entrance to the Walk from their abutting properties.

J. Second restroom exploration

This subject will be raised by Peter and Dave at their upcoming discussions with the City Manager, including ‘ownership” of Shepard Ave., the east end of which is the most desirable site for a second restroom. Scott mentioned there may be a possibility to install smaller units on the south side of Narragansett, opposite the current restrooms.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next CWC Meeting: 5:15pm, February 21, 2018 @ Newport Public Library