



**Cliff Walk Commission**  
**Approved Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 27, 2018  
4:30pm: Newport Public Library

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**Citizens:** Peter Rice; Leigh Schoberth, Preservation Policy Associate; Riley Kilmer, Hinkley Allen Law firm.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from February 21, 2018 were approved.

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. Status of final repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles**

Remaining work includes the replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms by the contractors and new handrails at Narragansett and Webster, which will now be installed by City staff this spring.

**B. Various new signage**

1. The sign at the end of the walk at Bailey's Beach has been installed.
2. The requested exit signs at this location are also in place. Scott will meet with the Bailey Beach GM to determine if they have additional requests/concerns, once the summer season begins.
3. Additional way-finding signs at Ledge, Ruggles, perhaps Marine Ave. will be considered. Each new sign will cost \$1,712 plus \$150 for graphic updates, a total of \$1,862. The CW restricted fund now totals \$1,592. The CWC asked the Warner's attorney if they would consider funding the new sign, since they recommended one be placed at Ledge Road. Attorney Riley Kilmer will investigate.
4. A complaint had been received by City Council about how rugged the trail becomes south of Ruggles. In response, Scott has installed two signs warning of rocky terrain ahead.

**C. Maintenance issues**

1. Discussions were held regarding sand piling up on the Walk at the southern end, adjacent to Bailey's Beach. The City will periodically remove the sand, but the City's Beach Manager should explore permanent solutions with Bailey's Beach Management.
2. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea. No action.
3. Restroom painting. City Council has approved \$23,400 for an all epoxy painting of the interiors. Scott presented color options to the Commission. White was selected for the walls/ceiling and a dark green quartz color for the flooring. Restrooms will be opened April 6, weather permitting.
4. Erosion behind the Breakers. No action.

**D. Marine Avenue G.R.I.P. infrastructure project; other rights of way.**

Newport's application for GRIP funding just missed receiving EPA funding a few years ago. The application will now be re-submitted. Peter J. asked if he could facilitate the process.

**E. Concessions on the Walk, unleashed dogs and surveillance camera**

Peter J. reported that adding a surveillance camera at 40 Steps is now being investigated by the PD. Concessions, graffiti and unleashed dogs will continue to be monitored and enforced by the PD.

**F. New brass markers near Ledge Rd.**

Scott advised that new stamped brass markers and their installation would cost more than expected. He has reviewed the portion of the Walk near Ledge Rd. that should be, has or had been marked. Scott recommended straightening the "trail," removing the markers that are no longer on such a trail, adding epoxy cement to those remaining and adding just a few new markers (much less than the 17 originally envisioned). Given labor involved, this is a longer-term project.

**G. Fund raising opportunities and other issues; result of meeting w/ City Manager and Peter J.**

Peter J. is awaiting City Manager response to the "Give by Cell" program. Other issues that are pending:

1. *I survived Cliff Walk* T-shirts on the Walk. TBD.
2. Any hospitality guide/restroom attendant(s) would be dependent on self-funding, (or perhaps on a volunteer basis). Peter J. awaits response from the City Manager on Give by Cell and will then suggest necessary funding be derived from parking meter revenue.

**H. D.E.M. and R.I.D.O.T. "TIP" program; green economy bond, long term improvements to the Walk**

No action.

**I. Possible new entryway/exit to the Walk**

The subject was raised and agreed to with the City Manager.

**J. Second restroom exploration**

Peter will meet with Bill Hall (Salve Regina's Vice President for Administration/Chief Financial Officer) to discuss the possibility of constructing a second restroom near the end of Shepard Ave. and the Walk. In conversations with Scott, Salve mentioned that the public is already using the restrooms at the O'Hare Academic Center and perhaps simple signage directing them would suffice.

**K. Discover Newport phone number on CW site**

Vic Farmer will add the Discover Newport phone number for inquiries on his CliffWalk.com website.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. HEZ/Boys & Girls Club visits to the Walk**

Dave is working with the Boys & Girls Club to explore options for the summer.

**B. Adopt (a) Spots**

**1. Clean Ocean Access at Marine Ave/Belmont Beach**

Dave M. is securing support from *Protect our Wildlife* group and Salve students to regularly monitor and clean-up this area.

## **2. Flower beds at 40 Steps**

*Newport in Bloom* is exploring the feasibility of planting and maintaining annuals in the larger chained off area in front of the restrooms. Other options could be via Salve and/or the Bellevue/Ochre Ct. Neighborhood Association. John awaits response from Newport in Bloom.

The other daffodil flower bed next to the wall has been seeded. Either the daffodils will be cut back after regeneration or John will attempt to plant wildflower seed to determine if such flowers could survive along with the daffodils.

## **C. Invitation to PSNC and Salve to regularly attend CWC mtgs.**

According to Scott, Bill Hall is receptive to assigning a staff person to attend future CWC meetings. The CWC will raise this issue again at the April CWC meeting that will be held at Salve.

## **D. Removal of graffiti at Miramar**

Removing the graffiti can only be done at low tide. Since it's on concrete and difficult to access, it will simply be painted over when weather permits. An even larger and more apparent swatch of graffiti has been painted near Easton's Beach. Peter J. mentioned that if future culprits are apprehended, a request could be made of the sentencing judge that any financial restitution be allocated to the restricted Cliff Walk fund.

## **E. Overlook and benches**

John will explore the possibility of public art in this location as an alternative to benches. All were encouraged to assess this area of the Walk as well.

## **F. Cracks in the Walk**

Peter offered to explore crack sealing of certain areas of the Walk with Bill Boardman. (See C. – 4.)

## **G. Seaview Ave. Run-off and Erosion**

Peter J. advised that the storm run-off at Seaview Ave. and the Walk will soon be remediated by a generous offer by the owners of the home from which the run-off flows. Work by Kirby-Perkins will repair the erosion, seal the run-off and install new concrete on the Walk.

Peter J. advised that he and Bob Fairbanks will explore other storm water management issues, given concerns about inoperative drains in the area.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Dave M. advised that the next CWC meeting will be at Salve when the econometric students will present an update of the Cliff Walk Economic Impact Survey. The meeting must end by 5:55pm, since a 6pm meeting with COA and Salve regarding public access to the shoreline as a function of economic justice will immediately follow. Dave M. will serve to introduce and moderate the transition of meetings. A press release on these meetings has been sent.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

**Next CWC Meeting: 5:15pm, April 18, 2018 @ TBD, Salve Regina Univ.**