



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**

4:30pm, Wednesday, April 22, 2018
Salve Regina University
Newport, RI. 02840

IN ATTENDANCE

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

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, City of Newport

Citizens: Sean Flynn, Newport Daily News; Chris Reeves, Portsmouth; Peter Rice; Samuel Sacco, Salve Regina University; Leigh Schoberth, Newport County Preservation Society

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from March 27, 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 installed by City staff.

B. End of Walk at Bailey's Beach and other 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 and John expect to hear from the Bailey Beach GM to determine if there are additional requests/concerns, once the summer season is underway.
3. Additional way-finding signs at Ledge, Ruggles, and 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.

John has asked the Warner's attorney if they would consider funding a new sign at the end of Ledge Rd., since this was originally suggested by the Warners. Attorney Riley Kilmer said he will investigate. If sufficient funding is not secured, Peter J. suggested a simple way-finder sign on a light pole at the end of Ledge Rd. might suffice.

4. If anyone notes that a blue street sign is missing, it should be reported to John. Dave M. offered to perform a complete signage audit this summer.
5. John will request that Maureen Cronin send a press release highlighting the two new way finder signs on the Salve Campus and that the restrooms are now open for the season.

C. Maintenance issues

1. The restroom painting at 40 Steps has been completed.
2. 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. Scott will contact him and ask that he address this issue directly with Bailey's.
3. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: No action.
4. Erosion behind the Breaker: No action.
5. Peter J. has talked to Bill Boardman and his new deputy about repairing the cracks along the Walk.

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

Newport's application for GRIP funding will be re-submitted. Dave M. will inquire of CRMC as to its status. Other opportunities were discussed and will be explored by Dave M. and Peter J.

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 previously recommended straightening the "trail," removing the brass 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). Peter J. has also investigated the area and suggested he and Scott now review the area together and report back to the rest of the Commission as to findings/recommendations.

G. Fund raising opportunities

1. Give by Cell next Steps
2. Souvenir T-Shirt
3. Camera Monitoring
4. Hospitality Guide/restroom attendant for the summer

All await response from City staff.

H. Grant Opportunities

Nothing to report.

I. Possible new entryway/exit to the Walk

1. The subject has been raised with the City Manager; no action or solutions evident at this point.
2. Leigh reported that the barbed wire at the tea house will be taken down

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 Avenue and the Walk. Since the public is already using the restrooms at the O'Hare Academic Center, perhaps simple signage directing them to O'Hare would suffice.

K. HEZ/Boys & Girls Club visits to the Walk

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

L. “Adopt Spots”

John has asked *Newport in Bloom* to explore 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*.

M. 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.

N. Removal of graffiti at Miramar and Seaview Avenue embankments

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.

O. Overlook; public art opportunities

John is exploring 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 to determine how its aesthetics might be improved.

P. Seaview Ave. run-off and erosion

Work by Kirby-Perkins has repaired the erosion, sealed the run-off channel and installed 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.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance by City Counsel of resignation of Lesley Brooking Elms.

Lesley’s letter of resignation has been submitted to Council.

B. Motion to move CWC meetings to 4:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month

Accepted.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Salve Regina then presented the findings from the second Economic Impact Survey. The CWC thanks Professor Sacco and the students for their outstanding effort and contributions to the future of the Walk.

Next CWC Meeting: 4:30pm, May 22, Newport Public Library
