



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**

4:30pm, Wednesday, May 22, 2018
Newport Public Library
Newport, RI. 02840

IN ATTENDANCE

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

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, City of Newport

Citizens: Leigh Schoberth, Newport County Preservation Society; Donna Lennox, Peter Rice

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 18, 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 to be installed by City staff. Peter J. encouraged City Staff to prioritize these actions prior to the start of the busy season.

B. End of Walk at Bailey's Beach and other signage

1. Additional way-finding signs at the ends of Ledge, Ruggles, and perhaps Marine Ave. are under consideration. Each new sign will cost \$1,712 plus \$150 for graphic updates, a total of \$1,862. 2. John had 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. Scott reported that the Warner's would now like to speak to someone on the commission when they are in Newport. Scott will arrange a meeting among the Warners, Scott and John. As a short-term option to the way finder sign, a simpler sign with just the Cliff Walk logo could be installed on a light pole at the end of Ledge Rd. Scott and Peter J. will explore this area and report back to the CWC.

3. The CW restricted fund now totals \$1,592. Scott suggested he may have enough funds to pay for the difference (+\$270) for a new way finder sign at the end of Ruggles should the Warner's not be interested in funding.

4. John suggested that sponsorship advertising on the QR code signs is overdue for renewal and that he will contact the current advertisers. Peter R. reported that the QR code at 40 Steps (#3), is mistakenly for Vinland (#6). John will investigate.

5. Dave M. COA will undertake a complete audit of all Cliff Walk signage this month.

C. Maintenance issues

1. The City's Beach Manager will remove sand that has piled up on the Walk at the southern end, adjacent to Bailey's Beach.

2. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: no action.

3. Erosion behind the Breaker: no action.

4. Peter J. and Bill Boardman and will be exploring means of repairing the cracks along the Walk.

5. The non-functioning utility pole at 40 Steps has been reported to National Grid. Scott will follow up.

6. Scott mentioned that the barrels behind Rosecliff need replacing and requested Leigh investigate.

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

Newport's application for GRIP funding has been denied but is now one of the first alternates should funding remain. Dave M. reported that a homeowner reportedly stated that Marine Avenue was not an authorized right of way. Dave M. will re-examine the existing public right of way ordinance and Peter J. will inquire about this issue further with the homeowner's attorney.

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

Adding a surveillance camera at 40 Steps is being investigated by the PD. Concessions, graffiti and unleashed dogs will continue to be monitored and enforced by the PD. Summons will now be issued for unleashed dogs.

F. New brass markers near Ledge Rd.

Scott and Peter J. will explore the existing brass marker trail at the southern area of the Walk and report back to the rest of the Commission as to findings/recommendations.

G. Fund raising opportunities

1. *Give by Cell* next steps are being investigated by City Staff. A question arose regarding whether contributions are tax deductible. Dave M. will research.
2. Discussions were held regarding hiring a Hospitality Guide/Ambassador for the summer (perhaps weekends only) that would be funded from the parking fund or serve as a volunteer. This individual could also assist in monitoring the parking meters and pay stations and perform head counts of Walkers.

H. Grant Opportunities

Nothing to report.

I. Possible new entryway/exit to the Walk

1. As no obvious new entry/exit points can be identified, Dave M. and John will now contact a representative of Larry Ellison's to see if there might be a possibility of including such a right of way as part of the future landscaping of the restored Beechwood.
2. Leigh reported that the barbed wire at the tea house will soon be taken down

J. Second restroom exploration

Peter and Scott met with Jared Coleman head of building and trades at Salve Regina regarding placing a seasonal, portable restroom trailer near the end of Shepard Avenue and the Walk, or, alternatively, using the existing facilities within O'Hare Academic Center. Jared will further explore this issue with Bill Hall, Salve Regina's Vice President for Administration/Chief Financial Officer and Scott will provide estimated costs for a portable restroom. Leigh will inquire as to whether the restrooms at the new Breakers Visitor Center could also be used for this purpose.

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

Dave is assembling a summer/fall activity with the Boys and Girls Club that includes Cliff Walk visits during the summer.

L. "Adopt Spot" at 40 Steps

John reported that *Newport in Bloom* does not have capacity to plant and maintain annuals in the larger chained off area in front of the restrooms. Scott reported that the ground staff at Salve is also investigating the opportunity but are short of staff at this point. All agreed that the spot would need professional maintenance. John will continue to explore.

M. Removal of graffiti at Seaview Avenue embankments

A large swatch of graffiti has been removed from the seawall near Easton's Beach. Dave M. will ask the manager at Easton's Beach Snack Bar if he could turn his video security camera to this area at night.

N. Overlook public art opportunities

John is exploring the possibility of temporary public art in this location as an alternative or addition to benches. Scott advised that he was approached by someone who wanted to create public art. This topic will continue to be explored.

O. 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 explored other storm water management issues, given concerns about inoperative drains in the area. They will be soon meeting with Rob Shultz to point out the problems with the current storm water basins.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Invitation to PSNC and Salve to regularly attend CWC mtgs.

The CWC unanimously voted on having sitting Commission representatives from both Salve Regina (Samuel Sacco) and the Preservation Society of Newport County (Leigh Schoberth). Other possible additions discussed including NRF and Walk adjacent neighbors.

B. House Bill # H-7978

The CWC resolved to support House Bill # 7978 (“right of footway”) with a recommendation to the City Council that they support the resolution as well, with a copy to the state attorney general.

C. Environmental, educational markers along the Walk

All agreed the concept for placing interpretive environmental markers along the Walk was worth exploring via Q-coded markers, similar to the historical markers currently in place. This subject will be investigated further.

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

Accepted.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Next CWC Meeting: 4:30pm, June 26, Newport Public Library, Stride Room