



**Cliff Walk Commission
Minutes**

4:30pm, Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Newport Public Library
Newport, RI. 02840

IN ATTENDANCE

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

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, City of Newport

Advisors: Leigh Schoberth, Newport County Preservation Society; Sam Sacco, Salve Regina University

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from May 22, 2018 were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Status of final repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

Due to lack of response from the contractor and quality of their work, all remaining work, including the replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms, will be re-bid. Sufficient retainage exists to fund these projects. Peter J. asked that the City staff prioritize the replacement of the hand rails, which now will require bracing to adequately support.

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. Scott will now contact the Warner's to arrange a meeting along with John to discuss their possible funding of a new sign and other issues of concern to them. As a short-term option to the way finder sign, a simpler sign with just the Cliff Walk logo has been installed at the end of Ledge Rd.
2. Scott met with Jack Nolan of Bailey's Beach and agreed that a sign on the walk, 150 feet from the exit, could direct walkers from exiting left to Bailey. This awaits approval of the homeowner/attorney.
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.
4. John suggested that sponsorship advertising on the QR code signs is due for renewal and that he will contact current and prospective advertisers with a new proposal. To date, 450,000 downloads of the VISIT NEWPORT app have taken place.
5. Dave M. COA has undertaken a complete audit of all Cliff Walk signage this month.

C. Maintenance issues

1. The City's Beach Manager has rented a "Dingo" to remove sand that has piled up on the Walk at the southern end, adjacent to Bailey's Beach. Bailey's GM and the City's Beach Manager are exploring more permanent sand management issues.
2. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: no action.
3. Erosion behind the Breaker: no action.
4. Peter J. and Bill Boardman will explore means of repairing the cracks along the Walk.
5. The non-functioning utility pole at 40 Steps has been repaired.

6. Scott mentioned that the barrels behind Rosecliff need replacing and will coordinate with Leigh and the PSNC regarding replacements.

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 funds remain from the Island Waters grant (administered through the AIPC), after approved projects are complete.

E. Concessions, graffiti, unleashed dogs and surveillance camera(s)

The sale of concessions, graffiti and unleashed dogs will continue to be monitored and enforced by the PD. Summons will now be issued for unleashed dogs. The police are exploring installing a monitoring camera at 40 Steps. 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.

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 and supply information from Give by Cell regarding the topic.
2. Discussions were held regarding hiring a Hospitality Guide/Ambassador for the 2019 summer (perhaps weekends only) that would be funded from the parking fund or serve as a volunteer. This individual could also assist in monitoring parking meters and pay stations and perform head counts of Walkers. This could be a volunteer position, similar to the greeters at City Hall. Scott suggested that Discover Newport might be interested in having a satellite van with information on the Walk and other city attractions. John will explore and report back.

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 attempt to 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.

J. Second restroom exploration

Sam reported that he, Peter and Scott met with Jared Coleman head of building and trades at Salve Regina and Kristine Hendrickson, Salve Regina's Associate Vice President for University Relations, regarding placing a seasonal (July/August) portable restroom trailer near the end of Shepard Avenue and the Walk. There was general agreement as to placing portable facilities at the end of Shepherd during July and August, beginning in 2019. As costs for a restroom trailer are high (+\$3,000/wk. without water), an alternative would be a porta-john, perhaps with a fabricated housing that would enhance its exterior appearance.

Leigh advised that only those who would be purchasing PSNC tour tickets should be using the restroom facilities at their new Breakers visitor center. Scott suggested that information on the CW QR code could be included at the center.

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

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

L. “Adopt Spot” at 40 Steps

If a garden bed is to be explored, the spot would need professional maintenance. John will continue to search for parties that might be interested in adopting this area. Due to restoration of the wall damaged in a car crash, nothing could be done until the fall at the earliest.

N. Overlook public art opportunities

John reported that he has been unable to identify artists or organizations that would like to create temporary public art at the Overlook as an alternative or addition to benches. It was agreed that three 6’ benches that Scott has in inventory could be placed there on a temporary, trial basis (without plaques).

O. Seaview Ave. run-off and erosion

Work by Kirby-Perkins 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 and then met with Rob Shultz of the Utilities Dept. to point out the problems with the current storm water basins. As a result, the City will propose they clean out the existing basins, repair and replace inoperative basins and add a new 18’ pipe down the slope to improve flow, ideally connecting to the current pipe running underneath the Walk.

P. Economic Impact Survey: next steps

Sam will have his next class in spring ’19 explore getting a better estimate of the total number of visitors to the Walk.

Q. Environmental information along the Walk

This item will be held for further review, but there was general agreement no signs/stands be used for this purpose but be treated in the same manner the current historical QR codes are.

R. House Bill # 7978 “right of footway” resolution

This bill has been approved by the House and awaits Senate approval. The bill helps protect access to and from the Walk.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome to Donna Lennox as new member on the Commission

B. Damage to 40 Steps area due to car crash

Bartlett has replaced the damaged posts and chains. “Masonry by Raphael” will reconstruct the wall. Work will commence in early September.

C. Recognition opportunities at Ruggles and Cliff Walk

There was general agreement that Cliff Walk signage should not be used to recognize individuals. This item will be continued to the July meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 5:50pm.

Next CWC Meeting: 4:30 pm, Tuesday, July 31, 2018 @ Newport Public Library