



**Cliff Walk Commission**

**DRAFT Minutes**

4:30pm, Tuesday, July 31, 2018  
Newport Public Library  
Newport, RI. 02840

**IN ATTENDANCE**

- **Commission Members:** John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros (Chair), Donna Lennox, Dave McLaughlin,
- **City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler, City of Newport
- **Advisors:** Leigh Schoberth, Newport County Preservation Society; Sam Sacco, Salve Regina University
- **Citizen:** Michael Cunningham, Middletown

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from June 26, 2018 were approved with the exception of Item # II. C. – replace “purchased” with “rented.”

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

Due to a lack of response from the contractor, all remaining work, including the replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms, was to have been re-bid. However, due to recent damage to the stone wall at 40 Steps, the project has been put on hold until the wall is repaired this fall. Sufficient retainage exists to fund these projects, should the current contractor be dismissed. Peter J. once again asked that the City staff prioritize the replacement of the hand rails, which now require bracing to support.

**B. Ongoing maintenance issues**

1. Rusted railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: no action
2. Erosion/refurbishment of area behind the Breakers: no action
3. Crack repairs along Walk  
Scott has arranged a meeting with an asphalt repair contractor and the City Engineer to review the cracks along the Walk and how they might best be repaired. Currently there is no funding available for such a project.
4. Damage to wall at 40 Steps  
Scott reported that the contracted mason wants to begin repair work in early September after the busy summer season.

**C. Signage along Walk**

1. End of Bailey’s Beach sign  
The attorney for the owners where the sign would be placed asked Scott to have Bailey’s Beach contact them directly to provide more details as to their request. John will follow up with the GM at Bailey’s and advise.
2. Ledge Rd. Cliff Walk sign  
Now installed. All agreed another way-finder map was not necessary, unless paid for by a third party. However, it may make sense to have a bus stop directional sign posted (bus is seasonal). John will explore.

### 3. Approval of Ruggles Ave. way-finder sign

The digital file is complete. John will be sent to Panier for final production. Sam is exploring adding “you are here” decals to the two way-finder signs on Salve property.

### 4. COA audit of all signage along Walk

Dave informed the CWC that his two volunteers are now completing the audit with results due at the next CWC meeting.

### 5. Renewal of Trail Marker sponsorships

John advised that the three-year historical marker sponsorships end July 31 and that he will be sending out renewal proposals and new solicitations. Donna reported that her Android based phone could not download the *Visit Newport* app. John will investigate.

## **D. Marine Ave. G.R.I.P. infrastructure project**

Nothing to report

## **E. Graffiti, concessions, unleashed dog monitoring**

Vendors were observed by Peter J. and he reported their activity to the PD.

## **F. Brass Markers at southern end of Walk**

Peter and Scott to schedule site visit during Scott’s lunch break.

## **G. Cliff Walk “Ambassador”**

### 1. 2019 Volunteer Program

John is investigating how City Hall handles their city hall greeter program.

### 2. Discover Newport welcome wagon

John reported that Evan Smith, head of Discover Newport, liked the idea of having their mobile visitor center van located at 40 Steps during busy times/days. Next step is to meet to discuss logistics, location and timing for a trial period.

## **H. Fund raising opportunities**

### 1. Give-by-Cell approval to proceed

Peter reported that the City’s IT Director informed him that the Cliff Walk Commission does not meet the Give by Cell’s requirements for a non-profit beneficiary. All agreed that an alternative text-based system would not work as well. Other beneficiaries, including the Open Space Partnership, AIPC, and/or COA might fit their requirements and could serve as a pass-through agent. The City Manager is exploring further. A motion to have any contributions be in \$5 increments and the word “CLIFF” used as the beneficiary identifier was passed, should the Give by Cell program be implemented.

### 2. CWC T-shirts; no action

### 3. New Grant opportunities; no action

## **I. New entrance to the Walk**

John and Dave are exploring contacts who would know about the landscaping being done at Beechwood. The owner would have interest in having access to/from the Walk.

#### **J. Second restroom**

Peter thanked Sam for exploring whether O'Hare could be accessed by the public, however this proved unrealistic for a variety of reasons. However, Salve did agree that a portable restroom near the end of Shepherd Avenue should be possible, however a full facility has now proved too costly. Given that, Scott suggested a traditional port-a-john be used seasonally, but that it be designed with an attractive "shroud" to improve its aesthetics. Kim Salerno, who designed the city's "parkette," could be a source. Any conceptual design would need to be presented to and approved by Salve. Scott and John will explore further.

#### **K. "Adopt Spot" at 40 Steps; no action**

#### **L. Temporary benches at the Overlook; three temporary benches have now been placed at the overlook.**

#### **M. Seaview Ave. run-off and erosion;**

Peter has continued discussions and explorations with city staff and then CRMC on how to improve storm-water run-off in the area and will send Scott minutes from recent discussions.

#### **N. Environmental information along the Walk; no action**

#### **O. Opportunities for recognition on the Walk**

Michael Cunningham introduced himself. He has written to the city suggesting that Sid Abruzzi and the Newport surfing community be recognized on the Walk in some fashion. The CWC expressed reservations about singling out an individual for recognition. After discussions, it was agreed that a suitable way of achieving this would be through the QR Trail Marker program. A special marker located overlooking the waves behind the Breakers and its accompanying code would lead to a dedicated web-page that would provide a cultural history of Newport surfing and accompanying video. Next step is to have Michael submit copy/visuals/video to the commission that would serve as web content.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Bay Walk**

John related that Evan Smith at Discover Newport had asked if there was a way for the Commission to assist in promoting the Bay Walk around Fort Adams as it is an unknown recreational trail. Scott mentioned that this area is a component of the Open Space Master Plan's "Blue & Greenway" and should be viewed as just one part of the plan. As such, the Tree and Open Space Commission, as guardians of the Open Space Plan, should have oversight. All agreed such discussions regarding the Bay Walk should be initiated by DEM and lies beyond the scope and mission of the CWC. John will follow up with both Evan and Maureen of the T&OSC.

#### **B. Public Art**

Scott advised that Dodie Kazanjian, an art critic with Vogue Magazine, is interested in creating and promoting more public art in Newport, focusing on three art installations along the Walk. Scott will be arranging a meeting to explore such an undertaking.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

It was agreed that the next CWC Meeting would be 4:30pm, September 25, 2018 @ Newport Public Library (skipping August). The meeting then adjourned at 5:30pm.