



**Cliff Walk Commission  
Minutes**

4:30pm, Tuesday, September 25, 2018  
Newport Public Library  
Newport, RI. 02840

**IN ATTENDANCE**

- **Commission Members:** John Hirschboeck, Donna Lennox, Dave McLaughlin. By phone: Peter Janaros (Chair)
- **City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler, City of Newport
- **Advisors:** Sam Sacco, Salve Regina University
- **Citizen:** Peter Rice, Chris Horley

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from July 31, 2018 were approved.

**II. CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

Due to a lack of response from the contractor, the contract for repairs has been terminated. Remaining work, including replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms, will be 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 completely repaired. The handrails must still be added and braced by City staff.

**B. Ongoing maintenance issues**

1. Rusted railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: no action

2. Erosion/refurbishment of area behind the Breakers:

With the Breakers Visitor Center project complete, John expressed hope that the PSNC could turn their attention to improving the area behind the Breakers, as considerable erosion is evidenced. John will inquire as to Leigh as to where the project stands. Scott and his crew will remove the old junipers and other invasive woody plants.

3. Crack repairs along Walk: pending

4. Damage to wall at 40 Steps

Scott reported the re-building of the wall is nearly complete and looks better than ever.

5. Trimming along Walk

David M. read a letter expressing concern that pollinating plants were overly trimmed. Scott said this was due to the fact a winter cut-back never took place and a recent severe cut was necessary in order to clear the Walk for heavy summer traffic. Dave will respond to the inquiry.

**C. Signage along Walk**

1. End of Bailey's Beach sign

Scott met with the GM at Bailey's and finally resolved the location of the sign, now placed outside of the Bannister home before the end of the Walk. Scott awaits a signed agreement from the Bannister's attorney and will then notify the Warners of the resolution.

## 2. End of Ledge Rd. Bus sign

It may make sense to post a directional sign to the bus stop (bus is seasonal) and John will explore with RITPA.

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

The digital file is complete. John has sent to Panier for final production. It was agreed not to install until the spring.

Sam has added “you are here” decals to the two way-finder signs on Salve property. The Commission thanked Sam for his efforts, mentioning that one of the decals is now missing.

## 4. COA audit of all signage along Walk

Dave informed the CWC that his two volunteers have completed the photo audit. Their final report should be available at the October CWC meeting and will now accompany the Photo Journal of the Walk.

## 5. Renewal of Trail Marker sponsorships

John advised that the three-year historical marker sponsorships ended July 31 but didn't send out renewal proposals and new solicitations until it was apparent the malfunctioning app was sufficiently repaired. John reported that the QR code at Anglesea is missing. Scott will order a replacement.

### **D. Marine Ave. erosion**

Scott is investigating installing a “dip and rise” water shedding mechanism that would require CRMC consent.

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

John reported a rise in the number of stickers on signs and receptacles along the walk. Scott will send out crew on an as available basis, as there is no longer a Clean Cities coordinator. Peter J. has heard from a city councilor concerned about unleashed dogs.

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

Scott will add epoxy to the markers that are eroded. If there's a future significant capital expenditure, this project will be explored for improvement.

### **G. Cliff Walk “Ambassador”**

#### 1. 2019 Volunteer Program

Peter has discussed both this program and item # H. with the City Manager and will report back at the next CWC meeting.

#### 2. Discover Newport welcome van

John reported that the mobile visitor's center van evidenced significant traffic when placed at the end of Narragansett Ave. and the program undoubtedly will continue beginning next summer. Many of the visitors requested a map of the Walk, which isn't offered at the van. A version of the Cliff Walk map that's on the pedestal markers could be distributed to those inquiring but selling the map could be a problem. Scott suggested a PDF file of the map appear on the Cliff Walk website for downloading. John will follow up with Vic, Discover Newport and Citi-maps. Further discussion on printing hard copies of the map for next summer is warranted.

### **H. Fund raising opportunities**

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

Given that the Cliff Walk Commission does not meet the Give by Cell's requirements for a non-profit beneficiary, Scott reported that the Open Space Partnership via the Aquidneck Land Trust, could serve as the pass-through fiscal agent. He and Peter will meet with the City Manager to discuss further. In addition, the City's finance department reported that a “donate button” could be placed on various websites with funds directed to the Cliff Walk's restricted fund. Further discussions warranted.

2. CWC T-shirts; pending agreement to the ambassador program. (# G-1)

3. New Grant opportunities; no action

**I. New entrance to the Walk**

John and Dave are still exploring contacts who would know about the landscaping being done at Beechwood. Nothing to report.

**J. Second restroom**

It was agreed at the July CWC that a traditional port-a-john be seasonally placed at the end of Shepherd Ave., but that it be designed with an attractive “shroud” to improve its aesthetics. To that end, John and Scott met with Kim Salerno to review designs. She will present a recommended version at the October CWC. It will then need to be presented to and approved by Salve and then city council.

**K. “Adopt Spot” at 40 Steps**; no action

**L. Temporary benches at the Overlook**

Three temporary benches have now been placed at the overlook. Scott recommended four permanent benches (with backs) now be installed. The Commission agreed.

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

Utilities are replacing two high velocity catch basins at the top which would eventually carry water under the Walk. Bob Fairbanks will draft an application for the City to review and submit. to CRMC to secure permitting.

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

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

The surfing community reported back that they did not want a special trail marker located behind the Breakers with information on surfing in Newport. The CWC has now closed out this inquiry.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RI Magazine “Best of” Award**

The Walk has received two awards from RI Magazine: *Best Hike in Rhode Island* and *Best Free Activity in Newport County*. Discover Newport has ordered the two awards. A photo will be taken of CWC members outside the Chanler.

**B. Erosion at the bottom of the 40 steps**

Chris Horely reported there’s significant erosion at the bottom of the steps and was asked to take pictures for the Commission’s review. This will be added to the October agenda.

**C. Parking and restrooms**

Peter Rice discussed the lack of paid parking further west on Narragansett and the condition of the hand dryers in the restrooms. These items will be added to the October agenda.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

It was agreed that the next CWC Meeting would be 4:30pm, October 30 @ O’Hare Hall on the Salve Regina campus in the Center for Business Outreach conference room, #127, next to the Jazzman Café.

All adjourned at 5:30pm.