



Cliff Walk Commission Minutes

June 17, 2015

5PM: Newport Public Library

Commission Members in Attendance: Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros, Dave McLaughlin, Bob Power (Chair).

For the City of Newport: Scott Wheeler: Building and Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden

Resident: Bruce Leish, 72 Webster St., Newport RI

I. MINUTES from 5/20/15 CWC meeting were approved

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

The agreement with Commonwealth Engineering is on the next city council docket, with approval contingent upon \$346K in funding confirmed from the state, which must first receive approval from the Park Service. Due to the state's tardiness, fall construction does not appear likely.

B. Spring maintenance update

Mowing of the daffodils will begin the week of June 22.

C. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave has asked for volunteers to assist in the repairs, although the assessed damage is minor.

D. Fencing resolution

New fencing has yet to be installed on the property between Bailey's Beach and Ledge Road. Bob has met with the owner and advised she seek CRMC approval before proceeding with any work to ensure the fence does not intrude into the Walk's right of way. This was also communicated via a motion forwarded to the City.

E. Photo Journal documentation/mileage markers status

Dave has scheduled photography for the Journal on July 6. Dave will contact the Eagle Scouts (Glen Gardner, Scout Master), regarding updating the mileage markers.

F. CRMC right of way at Marine Avenue and Green Infrastructure Resolution

Dave has met with CRMC. They will now propose formal, Z-24 code legal documentation for the right of way. A sign indicating such has already been installed.

Related to Marine Avenue are the *Green Resilience Infrastructure Projects (GRIP)*. Scott attended a conference on the subject at URI and suggested that plans for a pilot program at Marine Avenue, once design details are refined, be presented to the Commission. Scott indicated that before the project proceeds much further, the attorney for the adjacent landowner be contacted regarding plans. Dave volunteered to contact Sarah Atkins to advise of areas that would require further action/investigation before proceeding.

G. No Smoking Ordinance

Approved by the Council. Scott has ordered 100 8”X 8” signs that will appear on the Walk, parks and along beaches throughout town. Peter suggested a minor change to the cigarette illustration that Scott will implement.

Dave inquired as to whether the city has an inventory of all the signs throughout the City. The City Engineer is in charge of signage and periodically updates them to latest standards. Dave volunteered to explore this city-wide issue further.

H. Trail Marker Program & Maps Status

John advised that the program is in use, however additional sponsorships have not been sold. He asked that commission members forward any suggested sponsor opportunities. To that end, John will forward communication regarding the sponsorship opportunity. John also advised that he has yet to finalize copy for the two permanent maps but will do so by the next Commission Meeting.

I. Menco property repairs

Peter advised that he met with Bob Fairbanks to discuss the rock profile design. Engineers will be taking test bed drillings and will have flagmen alert walkers as to the testing. Bob will advise when the test drillings will take place.

J. Economic Impact Survey

Dave met with Stacey Carter of Salve Regina to review the questionnaire and suggested to her that an Executive Summary be prepared. Given the limited and non-projectable scope of the survey (40 max) plus limited funds to expand beyond that sample, Dave suggested we simply allow them to conduct the survey and report the results to us. If desired, we can then expand the survey. John suggested the survey be limited to out of town and first time visitors to learn how they first heard of the walk, what they liked, didn't like, whether they used the new trail market app program and what else they visited in Newport. John will send the survey out again to commission members for final input.

K. Pavers in “wait in line” pathway to 40 Steps Restrooms

Scott advised that the terms of the HPHC grant and CRMC approval for the landscaping in front of the restroom required permeable soil and pavers would not be allowed. Agreement was reached that low rise Boston garden type chains and bollards could surround the area that is now compressed, hard packed dirt due to the many walkers milling about the restrooms.

Bruce Leish, a local landscape architect representing the Bellevue/Ochre Pt. neighborhood, suggested alternative concepts that could include low maintenance, hardy plantings that could be driven over and through, should emergency and service vehicles be required.

Scott advised that due to pending construction in the area, it should be at least 9 months before any revisions/additions to the dirt plaza will be undertaken. The small plot of grass running parallel to the walk, east of the plaza, area could then be planted as a neighborhood “adopt a spot.”

John suggested that Bruce be invited back once construction is completed to discuss possible adopt a spot alternatives at the plaza area.

Next CWC Meeting: July 15, 5pm: Newport Public Library