



Cliff Walk Commission Minutes
 October 21, 2015
 5PM: Newport Public Library

In Attendance:

- **Commission Members:** Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros, Bob Power (Chair)
- **City of Newport:** Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden
- **Ombudsman:** Bill Cochrane
- **Others:**

Salerno	Kim	Newport Planning Board
Rubinoff	Pam	CRC
Power	Bob	Newport Cliff Walk Commission
O'Grady	Christine	Newport City Planner
Kerr	Meg	Clean Water, GI Coalition
Kelley	Tanya	Newport Wash. Sq. Ad. Comm. And Planning Board
Gardiner	Kristie	Energy and Environment Commission
Euer	Dawn	Newport Energy and Environment Comm. Bike Newport
Downer	Dave	Cliff Walk
Crichton	Sam	Sea Level Rise Project - City of Newport
Clagher	Kerry	Newport Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Comm.
Carson	Lauren	Newport Energy and Environment Comm. State Representative, District 75
Ardito	Tom	AIPC

I. MINUTES from the 9/16/15 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Revised plans have been presented to and reviewed by the City. Adjustments include fencing that has been adjusted to provide access to the ocean at Ruggles and a new design for the restroom plaza, featuring grey lock permeable stone where the walkers queue alongside an enclosed grass area with a Boston Common post and chain. Next step is for Commonwealth to present plans to CRMC for approval on November 3 and then to request bids in December.

A second pay by plate station and/or pay by phone is being explored for the next parking contract to be negotiated in 2016.

B. End summer maintenance update

Ongoing.

C. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave M. and Dave D. to gather a work group together to secure the loose stones.

D. Photo Journal documentation/mileage markers status

Dave M. to have taken a team out to photograph the Walk on September 8. Dave to also contact the Boy Scouts regarding placing mileage markers.

E. CRMC rights of way at Marine Avenue and others, including Green Infrastructure

The CWC passed a resolution that encourages any responsibly sanctioned community organizations to adopt legal rights of way along the Walk. Clean Ocean Access has done so with the sponsorship of Marine Avenue, which the CWC endorses.

F. Trail Marker Program & Maps Status

The two new Cliff Walk maps have been produced and Panier has shipped stands for installation. John is exploring a brochure that will be a joint undertaking with Discover Newport. Bob suggested Sherman Publishing might be interested in supporting as well.

G. Menco property repairs

Peter advised that work should begin shortly. A temporary pedestrian detour will be created so as **not to interfere with passage along the walk.**

H. Economic Impact Survey

Surveys conducted. Salve Regina's Econometrics class will analyze results in January, with results shortly thereafter.

I. New memorial benches at Bailey's and for Lori and John Adams

The new memorial bench sponsorship form and policy is now posted on-line. <http://www.cityofnewport.com/home/showdocument?id=9256>. John suggested Salve be contacted to be informed of the policy, as they are considering adding benches.

J. Love Locks

Bob advised that locks would be removed during the winter. The policy will be to prohibit them in the future.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Miramar Warning sign

Bob suggested a warning sign be placed after the Menco property warning of the more difficult terrain ahead. Scott suggested if the commission felt it appropriate, wording should be developed and the city will order and place.

B. Salve Regina Landscaping

Bob and John met with Salve to discuss their intent to landscape areas on their property and add new signage regarding the University. Salve will review their final plans with the commission as a courtesy. Longer term, possibilities of providing additional amenities along the walk that would also relate the Salve story were discussed.

C. Daffodil Planting

The new bulb-planting machine was used to plant 20,000 bulbs on the waterside of the Walk at O'Hare Hall.

D. Green Infrastructure Presentation:

The Cliff Walk Commission welcomed visitors from various environmental organizations who reviewed a two-year initiative, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for green infrastructure techniques that would employ landscapes to mimic nature in storm water management. Their applicability to City improvements, regulations and Newport's comprehensive land use plan now being written were discussed.

The City has partnered with the URI Coastal Resources Center & RI Sea Grant program, and Warwick and South Kingstown, to educate community decision makers and use pilot sites to demonstrate the efficacy of these techniques, as well as apply them to regulatory and financial systems. Marine Avenue at Cliff Walk has been chosen as an initial pilot project.