

Cliff Walk Committee

May 9, 2016; 5:30 – 7:30

Wheeler Room, York Public Library

## MINUTES

Members Present – Elizabeth Bardwell, Bob Gordon, Diane Kleist, Ted Little, Bob Luttman, Tom Rose

Members Absent – Mary Andrews

Others – Beth Della Valle, Consultant; Dylan Smith, Town Planner

Public – Mariah Mitchel, Jim Smith, Dennis Glidden, Dorothy Healy and Bette Rose

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

1) **Welcoming Remarks** – Chairman Bob Gordon announced that Ted Little will be reappointed to the CW Committee

2) **Comments and Questions from the Public Attendees:** The committee asked Bette Rose, Chairman of the Friends of the Cliff Walk, how the FOCW planned to support the goals of the Town Committee and what tasks were in planning. The discussion that followed produced a general agreement that the Town Committee would focus on the Landowners on the Cliff Walk while the FOCW would focus on the Public. See paragraph 8, Community Outreach Strategy, for details.

3) **Minutes of April 11, 2016 meeting.** The minutes had been distributed by E-mail last week and Beth Della Valle offered some amendments for clarification. Ted Little moved for acceptance of the amended Minutes and was seconded by Bob Gordon. The committee voted in favor by 6-0.

4) **Executive Session:** Pursuant to M.R.S. 405(6)(C) to discuss legal issues regarding the Cliff Walk moved by Ted Little and seconded by Bob Luttman.

5) **Committee Report for April 25<sup>th</sup> BOS Meeting.** Bob Gordon briefed the Board of Selectman during their meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. He reminded the BOS of the tasks they assigned the committee when it was formed, making sure the Cliff Walk is open to the public and in good repair and addressing concerns of the landowners. Gordon said that the Town Attorney has been attending most of the meetings as the committee considers these owners' concerns. He said, "fortunately, in Maine" there is an excellent statute to protect property owners.

The committee is also preparing a more detailed handout for landowners on the rules, rights and management of the walk. Selectman Speers asked Gordon if he was “generally pleased with the speed with things are transpiring.” He responded, “We got off to a slow start, but we’ve been in touch with a number of property owners, and I think things are going smoothly and with all deliberate speed”

6) **Landowner Concerns.** The Committee reviewed and discussed the key Landowner Concerns about the Cliff Walk. The following is a list of these concerns:

A) Cliff Walkers are not following the posted rules such as:

- Off Hour Use – Too Early & Too Late
- Loud & Rude Behavior
- Not Staying on Path – walking on Owner Lawns, etc.
- Walking with Dogs
- Lighting Fires
- Drinking Alcoholic Beverages

B) No Response to Complaints from the Town by Elected Officials or Police

C) Concern about Presence of the Cliff Walk impacting Property Values, especially an issue when properties are sold or passed to the next generation

D) Property Owners along the Walk do not like to be referred to as Abutters – they are OWNERS

7) **Report on May 4<sup>th</sup> CW Site Walk.** The Site Walk was attended by the entire Committee and Beth Della Valle and Dylan Smith. The group of more than 20 people included several Property Owners, State Rep Patricia Hymanson, representatives of the Friends of the Cliff Walk and members of the public. This event was also well covered by both a reporter and a Photographer from Seacoast Newspapers. The entire group walked from Town Beach to the Barrier Fence to take measure of the status of the Cliff Walk and identify portion of the Walk that needed repair and/or safety enhancements. Some of the group also proceeded to Cow Beach to examine the far side of the Walk.

8) **Community Outreach Strategy.** The Committee members agreed that Outreach was essential to achieve our goals. In discussion with FOCW leadership, we decided to ask FOCW to focus on outreach to the public at large. They will focus on Public Relations and communication to keep the public aware of all the efforts to protect the right to pass on the Cliff Walk. The Town CW Committee will focus on Communication with the landowners to learn and understand their concerns and to clarify the Committee’s goals. The approach will involve one on one meeting as well as small groups of owners.

9) **Schedule for Future Committee Meeting Dates.** The schedule for the rest of 2016 was agreed as shown below. June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 17, November 14 and December 12

10) **Next Agenda** – June 13<sup>th</sup>

- Information Sheets on liability, privacy, maintenance, signage, enforcement of rules
- Continue obtaining and analyzing Landowner Concerns
- Further Development of Outreach Strategy
- Continue Reporting on Site Walk Results

11) **Adjourn.** At 7:15, Ted Little moved to adjourn and was seconded by Elizabeth Bardwell