

Cliff Walk Committee
November 30, 2015; 5:30 – 7:30
York Senior Center – 36 Main Street, York Beach

MINUTES

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

Members Absent – None

Others – Beth Della Valle, Consultant; Dylan Smith, Planning Director; Mary Costigan, Town Attorney;

Public – Mariah Mitchel, Deb Etheredge, Jim Smith

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

I) Chairman Gordon and Members of the Committee welcomed Mary Andrews and Diane Kleist to their first meeting of the committee. Members of the Public introduced themselves to the committee

IV) Review and approval of the minutes from the meeting held on October 28, 2015. Tom Rose commented on the section of the minutes that discussed the Mission of the committee. He pointed out that these discussions did not include a key portion of the Mission – “addressing concerns of abutters”. The committee agreed that this would remain a key factor of the Mission.

V) Revisit meeting time and frequency. The committee discussed various alternatives for now concluded that a monthly schedule on Mondays starting at 5:30 was the best compromise. However, the meeting location was not resolved. The Members were in favor of using the York Public Library. However, that facility is already very busy and has very limited availability when the library itself is closed. Mary Andrews said that the Grant House was now being used by some other committees and should be considered. Some members were concerned about limited access to the Grant House. Diane Kleist volunteered to work with Steve Burns to obtain the best access to either of these options. Beth Della Valle suggested that the committee assign someone to handle logistics. The committee decided to wait for Diane’s report before proceeding to appoint a logistics person.

II) Executive Session: Pursuant to M.R.S. 405(6)(E) to discuss with its attorney the Board’s legal rights and responsibilities and legal issues regarding the Cliff Walk

III) Comments or Questions from the Public: Jim Smith (one of the founding members of “Friends of the Cliff Walk”) presented the Committee with a list of recommendations for their consideration. These included the need for public access to the Cliff Walk from Town Beach to Cow Beach including portions where the Walk has been washed away. He said that the public should have the right to pass along the ocean in those washed out sections. Jim also said that consideration should be given to the property owners abutting the Cliff Walk. Other members of the public said that they were attending to listen and learn about the Cliff Walk Committee.

VI) Discuss Committee's Web page: The committee will develop the content that will be available to the public in the Town Committee section of the York Web Page. The content will include, as a minimum, the charter, meeting agendas, meeting minutes and a schedule of future committee meetings. Beth Della Valle said that Town Staff will do the data inputting and that Dylan Smith will help set up the formats.

VII) Background Information: The Committee discussed the information already available and decided that we needed to digest the existing documentation and determine what gaps needed to be filled in the future.

VIII) Coastal Access Grant: Beth Della Valle explained that Federal money was available to support issues such as habitat restoration. These funds could be used to support projects to improve the existing walk with safer access, better maintenance and landscape architectural upgrades. Grant funds have to be matched by the Grantee at a ratio of 1:4 (a \$30,000 grant would have to be matched by York with \$7500). This option needs to be considered quickly because the applications are due in June and the Town matching funds need to be included in York's 2016 budget.

IX) Consider forming workgroups to address current concerns such as Appropriate level of maintenance, Appropriate signage and Enforcement of use rules: The Committee discussed some of the options for workgroups and decided to develop a list of options to help us determine the priorities. Elizabeth Bardwell volunteered to prepare a list of Cliff Walk Issues that we could use for a discussion at our next meeting.

X) Next Meeting/Agenda: The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 5:30-7:30 pm. The location is still uncertain at this time, but Diane Kleist is working with Steve Burns to finalize the location. The meeting following this has been tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2016

January 11, 2016 Agenda

- Draft Outline and Timeframe to Adopt Strategy for Cliff Walk and Identify Resource Needs
- Executive Session
- Comments or questions from Public
- Meeting Location Report – Diane Kleist
- Approve Minutes of November 30, 2015
- Schedule Meeting with BOS
- Develop list of Meeting Dates
- Presentation of Cliff Walk Issues – E. Bardwell
- Web Page Status Review

XI) Adjourn at 7:20 pm