

Cliff Walk Committee

August 8, 2016; 5:30 – 7:00

Wheeler Room, York Public Library

Approved MINUTES

Members Present – Elizabeth Bardwell, Bob Gordon, Diane Kleist, Ted Little, Jon Speers and Tom Rose

Members Absent – Mary Andrews, Bob Luttman

Others – Dylan Smith, York Planning Director

Public – David Chase and Cliff Walk Owners and Abutters representing at least 4 properties including Virginia Richard, John Finley, Richard Jackson and Meg Nichols

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

1) **Welcoming Remarks** – Chairman Bob Gordon welcomed the Members of the Public and especially the Owners of properties that traversed or abutted the Cliff Walk.

2) **Minutes of July 11, 2016 meeting.** Ted Little moved for acceptance of the Minutes with a correction of a misspelling of a name and was seconded by Elizabeth Bardwell. The committee voted in favor by 5-0.

3) **Comments and Questions from the Public Attendees:** The committee had invited all of the owners of property traversed by the Cliff Walk to attend the Cliff Walk Committee meeting in either July or August. The objective was to provide an opportunity for the owner community to ask questions and provide comments on the issues and improve communications between the Town and the CW property owners. During the ongoing discussion the owners provided the following commentary and questions.

- Most of the property owners commented on the poor communication between them and the Town. They did not understand the Committee’s Mission (Including the proposed new length of the Walk and the expected Improvements in Safety and Maintenance), the proposed use of Easements for public right of way and the timeline for these changes.
- The property owners specifically asked for e-file copies of the following:
 - Cliff Walk Committee Charter
 - Proposed Amendment of Cliff Walk Ordinance
 - Connor’s Property Easement
 - Proposed Cliff Walk Easement Model

The owners provided their E-mail contact information in order to receive this information

- The owners said that they were present in order to protect their rights and to work out a solution. They expressed the concept that the Town was punishing the “good guys” when the discussion about Easements was raised.
- The owners expressed liability exposure from CW walkers. The fact that the State of Maine provides protection for the owners did not satisfy them, they still were concerned about legal cost and the recovery of such. They asked if the Town could help to mitigate this exposure.
- The owners also mentioned that there no parking available at the current northern end of the Cliff Walk and that walkers should be notified that the Walk was a round trip. Perhaps the sign at the start of the Walk should indicate that there were no exits available.
- Diane Kleist reported that one owner had complained of “Excessive cutting by the Town maintenance activities”
- David Chase offered some suggestions to clarify the proposed amendment to the Cliff Walk Ordinance
 - In amendment 4, Domestic Animals – change to “no dogs except service animals as defined by ADA”
 - In amendment 5, Hours of Operation - change to “not earlier than sunrise until not later than sunset”
- Elizabeth Bardwell took the action item to supply the owners in attendance with the documents requested in addition to a copy of the Friends of the Cliff Walk Newsletter from December 2015. This last document explained the formation of the Cliff Walk Committee. (These documents were distributed on August 23, 2016)

4) **Executive Session:** This session was not needed at this time.

5) **Report on May 4th CW Site Walk.** Due to the length of the Public comments session, this report will be reviewed during the September 12 meeting.

6) **Next Agenda – September 12th Meeting.**

- Report on May 4th CW Site Walk
- Continue with Property Owner Questions & Commentary

7) **Move to Adjourn.** Elizabeth Bardwell moved and Bob Gordon seconded.