

Cliff Walk Committee

July 11, 2016; 5:30 – 8:00

Wheeler Room, York Public Library

**Approved**      MINUTES

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

Members Absent – Mary Andrews

Others – Dylan Smith, York Planning Director

Public – Mariah Mitchel, David Chase and Cliff Walk Owners representing at least 6 properties including John Finley, Richard Jackson, Will Etheridge, Al Field, Sarah Hill and Jeremy Woods

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

1) **Welcoming Remarks** – Chairman Bob Gordon welcomed Selectman Jon Speers to the meeting. Selectman Speers has been appointed by the BOS as a non-voting member of the Cliff Walk Committee. Selectman Speers will represent the BOS and to provide communication between the BOS and the Cliff Walk Committee.

2) **Minutes of June 13, 2016 meeting.** Elizabeth Bardwell moved for acceptance of the Minutes and was seconded by Ted Little. The committee voted in favor by 6-0.

3) **Comments and Questions from the Public Attendees:** The committee had invited all of the property owners along 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.

- If the public followed the current restrictions for the Cliff Walk per the signage at the Harbor Beach entrance, they would be much more accepting of the CW presence. Key issues are hours of operation, staying on the path, showing respect for the owners by keeping noise levels low and no dogs on the path
- In addition to enforcing the restrictions, more signage is needed at other entrances and exits such as the park entrance and the sewer easement at the current other end
- The owners expressed liability exposure from CW walkers. The fact that the State of Maine provides protection for the owners was not sufficient, they still were concerned about legal cost and the recovery of such. They asked if the Town could help to mitigate this exposure

- They asked “How much of the path did the Town plan to reopen?”
- How much cost was the Town prepared to support safety improvements on the Cliff Walk
- How would the Town deal with properties that were now too close to the Cliff Edge to permit the reconstruction of the path?
- New Owners of properties well beyond the current blockage were concerned about new construction in areas where they had never seen walkers

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

5) **Report on May 4<sup>th</sup> CW Site Walk.** Due to the length of the Public comments session, this report will be reviewed during the August 8 meeting.

6) **Next Agenda – August 8 Meeting.**

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

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