

Cliff Walk Committee

October 17, 2016; 5:30 – 7:00

Wheeler Room, York Public Library

Approved MINUTES

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

Members Absent – Mary Andrews and Jon Speers

Others – None

Public – Garret Lillie and Mariah Mitchell

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

1) Welcoming Remarks and Announcements – Chairman Bob Gordon opened and reminded members of the committee that the Cliff Walk Committee operating budget (\$1000) had been voted down along with most of the smaller Town Committee budgets in last election in May. Bob said that the Committee has not incurred any cost to the Town during the current fiscal year and that he would ask Selectman Jon Speers for a transfer of funds to cover any expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year.

3) Minutes of September 12, 2016 Meeting. Ted Little moved for acceptance of the Minutes and was seconded by Diane Kleist. The committee voted in favor by 6-0.

4) Public Comments and Questions. Garret Lillie is a York High School student and he was attending this Committee meeting in support of the APALS course. This program is designed to teach the students how Town Government functions from the smallest Town Committees to the major decisions by the Board of Selectman and the Town Manager. Garret presented the concept, details and approach of APALS. The teacher in charge of this program is Jeff Barry. Garret will collect the Agendas and Minutes from our Committee and use these details in his final report to YHS.

5) Review and Discussion of Possible Talking Points with Cliff Walk property owners. The Committee discussed a summary of Talking Points for the Owners based on an easement approach:

An easement protects the Cliff Walk forever.

Access is not subject to the whim of any future owners

An easement specifically protects the owner from liability. The Town assumes this liability

The Town assumes responsibility for maintaining the Cliff Walk

The easement details the rules and regulations regarding Cliff Walk use and enforcement of the rules. We have also addressed animals on the path along with limiting noisy music and other sounds. We have further limited the hours of operation and stressed that this is a walking path, barring motorized vehicles, bikes, skates and skateboards

This is a win-win for everyone. The Town gets the Cliff Walk protected and accessible, and the owners get the Town sharing responsibility for maintenance, security and liability.

6. Suggestions for further Committee actions on talking points. The November elections will include a proposed new ordinance for the Cliff Walk that will include more limited hours of operation and limit animals except for Service Dogs. Approval of this ordinance will demonstrate that the Town is proceeding to act on owners issues to make life along the Cliff Walk much more tolerable.

To this end the Committee will prepare a letter to Cliff Walk Owner Community to summarize the Committees efforts to accommodate the owners while continuing public access. Bob Luttmann will prepare a rough draft of this letter for a Committee review during our next meeting on November 14, 2016.

7. Report on Maintenance Issues. The Committee discussed both Maintenance and Repair issues on the Cliff Walk and since the BOS has transferred town responsibility for these issues to Parks and Recreation, we decided to invite Mike Sullivan to our next meeting to discuss the details on what needs to be done, how to interface with the owners and prepare budgets for these activities.

8. Executive Session: Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) to discuss legal issues and real estate matters regarding the Cliff Walk. Moved by Ted Little and seconded by Diane Kleist.

9. Next Agenda – November 14th. Including Review of Letter to Owners and Discussion with Parks and Recreation Department on Maintenance and Repair on the Cliff Walk

10) Move to Adjourn. Ted Little moved and Bob Gordon seconded.