

**MARGINAL WAY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2011 - 6:00 PM
DUNAWAY CENTER**

A. ROLL CALL

The following Members were present: P. Breen, H. Horn, J. Oliver, L. Rioux, L. Gillespie, J. Griswold and D. Barton. A new member of the Committee, P. Hanscom, was introduced.

A quorum was noted.

The following Consultants were excused:

B. Linney and A. Hussey.

Four residents were present to present their views on the Committee's work.

B. MINUTES

The minutes of August 1, 2011 the regular meeting and the minutes of the special meeting on the August 14, 2011 were approved with the correction of typographical errors.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

L. Rioux reported that as of 7/31/11, the balance in the Marginal Way Beautification Fund was \$90,385.80. No outstanding bills were reported.

D. CHAIR REPORTS

1. Preparation for Hurricane Irene

The passage of Hurricane Irene produced no new problems for the Marginal Way other than a concern that some of the trees on the path were dying. Further examination showed that this was the result of salt spray from the storm and the judgment was that these trees will recover next spring.

A representative from FEMA called the Chair to ask if the Marginal Way suffered damage from the storm. This request was referred to the Town Manager.

The lifeguards reported that additional sand had been deposited on the Little Beach from the storm.

2. Current Conditions on the Path

A large amount of foot traffic has been observed on the Marginal Way. One observer reported recently that the number of pedestrians on the Way averaged in season 900 per hour during mid day. Note was made that this amount of foot traffic accelerates the erosion and wear on the pavement.

3.Misc.

With the exception of the continuous theft of the “protect the 100 year old cedar signs”, vandalism on the Marginal Way was noted to be minimal.

A number of unauthorized signs had been posted on the Marginal Way that advertised the Dog Park. These were removed.

4.Illegal Cutting of Town Plants

A meeting was held with the Code Enforcement Officer to discuss the illegal cutting of plants on town property near bench #7. Note was made that there is provision for access from property adjacent to the Marginal Way. The CEO suggested that a rail fence could be installed to indicate the boundary line between the abutter’s property and the Marginal Way. The Chair opted to delay a decision on the fence.

Additionally, the lifeguards had asked that their surfboards be stored at that location temporary during their shift.

The Committee agreed to defer action on this item and conduct further discussions with the CEO.

5. Maintenance Requests

With the exception of two paving areas on the Marginal Way, the scheduled Maintenance projects have been completed.

Discussion addressed the need to repave the Marginal Way as the existing width of the pavement had eroded to a nominal 3’ in places with many areas having succumbed to erosion with the result that many areas on the Way are dangerous to traverse. The town should be asked to institute an incremental repaving program to correct this problem. Action was deferred on this item until the next meeting.

Discussion addressed the relatively high cost of having Patten perform landscaping tasks on the Marginal Way. No action resulted.

E Citizen Input

A letter from Marilyn Eimon was read which complained about the use of Vinyl fence near a planting in front of the Beachmere Inn. The fence had been installed to protect

newly installed plants by the Beachmere. As a result of a town request, the fence was removed.

The discussion continued over the addition of flat rocks near a Committee promoted wall in the same area, Discussion revealed that the wall was not requested by the Beachmere but was installed by the Town to eliminate erosion. The addition of the flat rocks was done to soften the look. The Committee agreed to defer action on this item until the next meeting.

F. Dr. Hussey/Geology Issues

Dr Hussey was not present for this meeting so the discussion of the geology lectures will be deferred until the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on the presence of vegetation in the retaining wall at the Little Beach. The consensus was the vegetation should be removed. Final action will be deferred until the next meeting

G. Sign Committee

1) Geology Sign

A scale view of geology sign was shown to the Committee: a few comments resulted; one that the proposed sign had a wealth of content but the text was too small to be viewed by observers. A suggestion was made that the heights of the final geology text match that used in the full sized Bird sign. Examination of the small text on the full sized Bird sign indicated that the height of the characters was 1/4". Comparison to the height of the small text used on the Geology sign to that existing small text on the scale drawing of the Geology sign will give a value for the expansion need to make the text on the Geology sign visible by observers. The graphical drawings should be expanded by the same value employed on the text, and then the actual size of the final Geology Sign can be determined. A suggestion was made to replace the employed font with one which has a cleaner look.

A second comment was that the sign message was too complex and should be replaced with a sign presenting a Geology 101 educational thrust. In response, the theme of the proposed Geology educational sign is to create of the story of the formation of the local geology through the ages and to this end the sign was developed. Dr Hussey uses this material when he delivers geology lectures on the Marginal Way and uses the rock structure of the Marginal Way to illustrate the Kittery Formation rock structure on the Marginal Way as a visual aid in his presentations.

The proposed location of the Geology sign was discussed with a suggestion to cluster the educational signs in one place on the Marginal Way. The Committee did not concur and agreed that the new Bird sign should be repositioned at its original location and the Geology sign be positioned in the triangular shaped parcel near bench #33. Details on the type of mounting posts and the display angle of the sign will be addressed at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to go forward with the Geology sign.

Final approval of the Geology sign will be discussed at the next meeting.

A Tidal pool educational sign remains to be developed.

2. Bird Sign

The full scale drawing of the proposed Bird sign had been shown at the August meeting and resulted in a number of concerns: first, the color range was very subdued and did not match the original color suite, second, artifacts were created at places in the image where environment damage on the original image had been picked up by the scanning process and third, some members noted that due to changes in the migration patterns, some of the seabirds illustrated may not reside in the area.

The vendor was contacted and enacted a shift in the color palette, which more closely matched the original. Graphic corrections were overlaid to cover the artifacts.

A section of the final corrected image (about 8"x10") was fabricated on a sample of the final sign material (Fossil) and this was shown to the Committee. The Committee agreed that the corrections would satisfy their concerns. The Committee further agreed that the birds illustrated on the revised Bird sign would be appropriate for display and they granted approval to manufacture the sign using the Fossil process. The cost of the manufacture will be a nominal \$1000 and it will include hangers to mount the sign to the to be procured support posts.

The original sign sponsor, LLBean, was contacted and asked for a donation to cover the cost of manufacture. They refused thus their logo will be removed from the new Bird sign. Jim Oliver made a gracious offer to cover the cost of manufacture. A logo of his choice will be provided on the new sign and a date of fabrication added to the image.

H. Monuments

The Committee discussed the results of the recent vote to install a memorial bench and plaque in the triangular shaped plot near bench #33.

After long discussion, there was agreement that a means of recognition needed to be in place to acknowledge large donations to the Marginal Way.

Concern was voiced that the recently approved memorial might not be in the proper location and the installation might conflict with the aesthetics employed in the Marginal Way environment.

No vote was taken to reconsider the prior approval and as the meeting had extended to three hours, the Committee agreed to further discuss the prior decision at the next meeting and devote a majority of the time on this matter.

The discussion next month will address three options: to proceed with the approved memorial bench and plaque at the prescribed area, authorize 4 new plaques at the bridge or cluster the new memorial within the Monument area. Concepts will be developed and discussed at the next meeting and a final decision made on this matter.

I. New Business

A resident commented that the Marginal Way had changed its natural look and feel of the Marginal Way by virtue of addition of the pillars at the new bridge and memorial plaques on the bridge, the potential installation of additional memorials and the installation of maintenance free benches and stones under the benches to minimize erosion.

A discussion ensued which addressed these concerns. Note was made that the original proposals were described at a public meeting, the concepts delivered with graphics and text and these items were approved by vote of the Committee. No negative public comments were received.

Another concern expressed by a resident that the south end of the Marginal Way is obstructed by large rocks positioned in Billy's parking lot in Perkins Cove. These rocks apparently had been placed on town owned land and the rock obstructions presents a danger to individuals trying to enter the Marginal Way. This is a long standing issue and should be resolved by the Town.

The Committee thanked the residents for their inputs and comments on the presented matters.

J .Other

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday October 3 at 6PM in the Dunaway Center.

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully,

Paul Breen

Secretary