

**Draft Minutes of the Marginal Way Committee
September 5, 2017**

A. ROLL CALL

Members Present- P. Breen, J. Griswold, L. Gillespie, K. Arnold and J. Oliver

A quorum was noted.

Helen Horn, the retired Chair, was present.

A member of the public was present.

B. MINUTES

The minutes of the August 7,2017 meeting of the Marginal Way Committee were approved.

C.TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Marginal Way's Beautification Fund's account was not available and will be reported at the next meeting

D. CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

1) Overview of the Marginal Way

The invasive control program continues. Many native plants have been installed and measures taken to remove or apply treatments to control the existing invasives.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1) Black Swallow Wart POD Picking Day

Black Swallow Wart Pod picking day for the Marginal Way occurred on Saturday morning, August 19th.It was a successful event with 32 volunteers participating. Over 700# of Black Swallow Wart seedpods were picked and transported to the dump for burning. Representatives of the Stewardship Network significantly augmented the volunteer pool.

The US Dept of Agriculture has experimented with the introduction of a moth into the Black Swallow Wart environment to address the spread Black Swallow Wart. Up to now, that plant had no known effective adversary. Initial results of their experiments were that the introduction of this moth produced plant weakness and in some cases, death.

2) Overview of the Marginal Way Infrastructure

The following contains a summary of observations about the infrastructure of the Marginal Way approaching the end of the 2017 season.

a) Unevenness of Paved Walk Abutting the Sparhawk and the Anchorage Inn

The Marginal Way's paved walkway at the north entrance, which leads through

the Sparhawk and Anchorage properties, has an uneven surface and is a potential hazard for visitors.

b) Hole in the Oceanside Green Fence

A hole exists in fence opposite the Dolphin Post.

c) Erosion Control Program

The voters approved an Erosion Control Program for the Marginal Way in June; this task was to be performed by a local contractor as the DPW had failed to perform the required tasks over the past three years.

The prior Town Manager decided to have the DPW execute the proposed program rather than a local private contractor.

d) Maintenance Schedule for the Marginal Way

A team of Town workers has accomplished the weekly maintenance (mowing, cleaning and pruning) of the Marginal Way. Prior Town management made a decision to cutoff the funding for that effort as of Friday September 8th.

The funding for this activity was proposed by the Marginal Way Committee and approved by the Budget Committee in February and the voters in June.

The reduction in funding was not coordinated with the Marginal Way Committee and in view of the heavy pedestrian traffic on the Marginal Way noted elsewhere in this report and the positive image that a clean and well cared for condition of the Marginal Way provides to the visitors, the Marginal Way Committee agreed that the funding for the maintenance of the Marginal Way should be restored through the end of October.

The Committee asked Co-Chair P. Breen to attend the meeting of the Select Board, which followed this meeting and convey the Committee's position that the maintenance efforts on the Marginal Way should be restored and continued through the end of October.

e) Eroded Entrances to the Cedar Grove

The two entrances to the Cedar Grove are sloped, unimproved and the ground surfaces laced with tree roots, which presents a potentially unsafe area for visitors.

f) Path to Plaque Site

The cutoff path, which leads to the plaque site, is unimproved.

g) Runners on the path

Joggers running on the path while heavy pedestrian traffic is present in the daytime results in a disruption of pedestrian traffic flow. A discussion followed that jogging hours during the season could be constrained to early AM and after

6PM.

Other than Item d, no action was taken to act on these matters.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1) Invasive Control Program Activities

Work continues with the invasive treatment programs and the removal of bittersweet along the Marginal Way

The plants placed on the Marginal Way near the O'Leary's property are growing.

2) Citizen Commentary on the Seaside Garden

The state of the flora in the southern section of the Seaside Garden was addressed in the correspondence, which passed between residents and the Marginal Way Committee.

The Marginal Way Committee agreed to form a subcommittee who will examine the viability of those plants in the southern section of the Seaside Garden, which may have been negatively affected by excess watering.

The Committee agreed that if the report from that subcommittee indicates that these plants should be replaced and/or augmented with additional plants or new species, appropriate action would be taken.

3) Trail Grant Project

Preparations continue for going forward with the Revetment Upgrade.

The next task is to select the colors of the rocks, which will replace the top layers of rock in the existing revetment with rocks of similar size, and darker color.

Helen Horn and Jason Jutras have agreed to address the rock color issue. This group will travel to the quarries owned by Shaw Bros and examine potential sources of colored rock, which will be used for the Revetment Upgrade. A report will be generated which details the results of that visit to the quarries.

The Marginal Way Committee agreed that the Revetment Upgrade project is a worthy one as it addresses an aesthetics issue and will not result in the expenditures of any additional funds by the Committee or the Town.

4) Eroded Embankment on the Marginal Way Abutting the Beachmere Inn

The eroded embankment on the Marginal Way, which abuts the Beachmere Inn, has been addressed in prior Committee meetings and a draft engineering study has been developed addressing this problem.

A draft work statement details the requirements for this study including the examination of the problem area and the development of proposed solutions together

with methods, designs, materials and costs associated with a recommended solution.

The Marginal Way Committee and the abutter have reviewed this draft.

Efforts are underway to obtain a quote for the proposed study.

5) Readout from the Marginal Way’s People Counter

The latest readout from the people counter on the Marginal Way showed significant increases in pedestrian traffic on the Marginal Way over comparable period this past summer.

The following Table illustrates the recorded data for the period June through November 2016 and 2017.

	2016	2017
JUNE	1989	NA
JULY	84637	62489*
AUGUST	94276	142203
SEPTEMBER	67380	21167**
OCTOBER	41982	
NOVEMBER	15346	
TOTAL	305610	225859

* JULY count started on 7.6.17

**SEPTEMBER count as of Noon 9.5.17

As can be seen from the Table, the August 2017 total of visitors to the Marginal Way was 50% higher than for August 2016.

Furthermore, if these trends continue for the rest of the year, it is likely that the visitor traffic on the Marginal Way will exceed last year’s walker total.

G. OTHER

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned @ 5:30PM.

The next meeting of the Marginal Way Committee will be held on Monday October 2,2017 @ 4PM at the Dunaway Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Breen
Secretary

