

Minutes of the Marginal Way Committee
September 11, 2023 at 3:30PM
In Person - Ogunquit Firehouse

A - ROLL CALL- Members Present: Joan Griswold, Elaine Cooper, Susan Olson Drisko, Louesa Gillespie, Jane Greene, Gail Brother and Paul Breen. Joyce Fletcher and Joanne Resta were absent and excused. A Quorum was noted.

B - MINUTES - Paul Breen

The minutes for the meeting of the Marginal Way Committee held on July 31,2023 were approved with comments.

C - CHAIR REPORT

1. Repair Operations

The RFP, which provides for going forward with operations to correct damage to the Marginal Way from the storms of 2018, has not been released.

2. Plaque Designating the Marginal Way on the List of Historical Places
Discussions continue on the design of the new plaque to be installed on the Marginal Way recognizing its listing on the National List of Historical Places. The new historical plaque will be 21X15 inches. Attachment 1 is a sketch of the new plaque. The new plaque will be located north of the Chase plaque. Attachment 2 shows the proposed location. The new plaque is estimated to cost no more than \$5,000 including installation and refinishing of existing Josiah Chase dedication plaque.

3. Seaside Gardens

The Town Manager has been invited to our next meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the status.

D - OLD BUSINESS

1. People Counter – Gail Brother

The People Counter totals for July 2023 and August 2023 were 64,721 and 75,540 respectively. Attachment 3 is the People Counter Report for July 2018 to 2023 and Attachment 4 is the People Counter Report for July 2018 to 2023.

2. Volunteer Hours - Gail Brother

The volunteer hours for the month of July and August 2023 were 148 and 373 respectively. Attachment 5 is the FY24 Volunteer Hours. The value of volunteer hours for gardening and weeding is estimated at \$50 /hr., which is comparable to the costs incurred by landscaping contractors and their crews.

3. Trail Monitor Program - Elaine Cooper

This month, the Trail Monitors completed 18 sessions, volunteered 25 hours and collected 54 gallons of trash.

4. Weed Warriors – Susan Olson Drisko

The Weed Warriors continued in their efforts in maintenance of the plants and shrubs on the Marginal Way. 118 hours of weeding time were volunteered in August, including our annual pod day. The Weed Warriors worked 26 hours at managing 4 gardens along the path.

5. Marginal Way Blast - Jane Greene

The viewership of the Marginal Way Blast was reported to be 200 individuals over the past few months. This level was judged to be representative of an initial offering of a local news source to the public.

6. MWPF News - Louesa Gillespie

The dedication of Plaque #6 will be held on the morning of September 23 at the plaque site.

E - NEW BUSINESS

1. Visitor Complaint - Joan Griswold

The clearing of the knotweed on the Marginal Way in front of the fence of the Sparhawk, the Anchorage and the Beachmere Hotels has been delayed due to a legal question regarding the ownership of the land in these parcels. Permission is being solicited from the owners of the abutting properties to resolve this issue.

2. Signage – Elaine Cooper

A Committee was set up by Elaine Cooper, with assistance by Louesa Gillespie and Joyce Fletcher to review the existing signage on the Marginal Way and make recommendations for new signs. Signs will be updated to reflect social changes and for conformity and clarity.

3. Visit from Rensselaer County (NY) Master Gardeners – Joan Griswold
The Committee will host 52 members of the Rensselaer County (NY) Master Gardeners. The group will tour the restoration projects on the Marginal Way and address how we use native plants. The group will be divided into smaller groups with Elaine Cooper, Susan Olson Drisco, Susanne Williams and Joan Griswold each leading a subgroup.

4. Saco Bay Coastal Conference – Joan Griswold
The Chair will attend the Saco Bay Coastal Conference on September 27 where new ideas for coastal erosion and restoration in Maine will be discussed.

5. Sustainable Tourism Webinar – Joan Griswold
Joan attended a webinar entitled "Destination Stewardship: Reimagining the Purpose of Tourism in Outdoor Communities" and has suggested that the committee view it for its relevance of the Marginal Way and Town of Ogunquit.

6. Prospective Speaker – Joan Griswold
David Spahr, author of "Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Canada," has been identified as a prospective speaker at a future presentation sponsored by the Committee.

F – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Committee's liaison with Select Board, Selectwoman Carole Aaron, interacted with the Committee during this meeting.

A resident expressed thanks for the Committees' work.

G - ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.

The next meeting of the Marginal way Committee will be held on Monday, October 2 at 3:30PM in person on the second floor of the Firehouse.