



**Action today so future generations can continue to enjoy ocean activities.**

November 7<sup>th</sup> 2014

Grover Fugate  
Executive Director  
Coastal Resources Management Council  
Stedman Government Center - Suite 116  
4808 Tower Hill Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

Hi Grover

On behalf of the Aquidneck Island organization Clean Ocean Access in reference to CRMC File Number 2014-08-008 Clean Ocean Access approves the plans as listed with the following reservations that will be shared with the City of Newport and Department of Transportation. We do not feel that a public hearing is required but other citizens may request one.

The proposed plans for this section of the cliff walk introduces a level of fortification that is similar to the type of protection that exists from the 2<sup>nd</sup> tunnel to the natural high elevation rock that exists in front of Rough Point. This will provide a similar hardscape environment such that storms and sea-level rise will have an equal opportunity of causing damage, as opposed to leaving this area as the least protected and subject to the wave energy and run-up that is dispersed from the more protected areas. As we look for long term solutions for coastal protection, the concept of preserving natural beauty and primitive ruggedness needs to be considered, particularly as natural buffers.

The usage of geo-reinforced soil and planting covering the 4-ton armor stone will retain the natural characteristics of the bluff providing that it stays in place. It is important that the RIDOT and City of Newport coordinate repair and maintenance efforts in the event that a storm erodes the geo-reinforced soil and planting.

The proposed cliff walk path created with grouted stone placed at the existing grade with some exposure of the 4-ton armor stone should be done in coordination with the City of Newport to make sure the accessibility, signage and risk are understood. This short stretch of the walk has been a scramble over a cobble-pebble beach for a long time. The transition from the northern path to this area with visible walkway may incur additional traffic into a zone that abruptly ends at Rough Point with no easy egress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. McLaughlin", with a horizontal line underneath.

Dave McLaughlin  
Executive Director

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