

Celebrating 30 Years of Accomplishments



Friends of the Waterfront (FoW) has a solid record of achievement as a grass roots organization since 1982, when Mary Ferrazzoli, along with many interested citizens, concerned about the rampant overdevelopment along the waterfront, founded FoW. From “Hot Spots” in the 1980s — Scott’s Wharf, Treadway Inn, Inn on Long Wharf to 2012, Washington Street Extension, thirty years of “Bull Dog” tenacity, and FoW is still promoting and protecting public access.

1982 Mary Ferrazzoli (1928-1994) founded the Friends of the Waterfront (FoW). The organization’s primary concern was to save public access to the water because of the overdevelopment of the Newport waterfront.

1982 The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) started

to hold hearings at the Newport City Hall and the Colony House to specifically designate Newport’s public rights-of-way (RoW). Mary Ferrazzoli, Genevieve Mathieson, and others researched and presented testimony on the history of the RoWs. Dr. Elaine Crane, historian, Chair of the history department at Fordham University, was called in to

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FOW Annual Meeting

June 12 at Newport Public Library - Mark Your Calendars!

The FOW Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2011 starting at 7:00 PM in the Program Room (Spring Street Level) at the Newport Public Library. The FOW will provide an update of the year’s activities and will celebrate 30 years of accomplishments on Newport Waterfront topics. Your participation is vital and much appreciated.

Please make a note of it on your calendar.

June 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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give expert testimony. Dr. Crane later published a book, "A Dependent People," about the importance of early commerce and public access on the Newport waterfront. As a result of the hearings, 23 Newport RoWs were designated (these included those of the Point area as well as the inner harbor) and therefore future public access was guaranteed.

1983 At a FoW meeting, Dennis Nixon from URI introduced the concept of a Harbor Walk for Newport. The URI plan was well received, and FoW made a Harbor Walk one of its goals.

During the mid-late 1980s, FoW attended numerous CRMC Hearings and City Council meetings regarding several controversial developments on the waterfront, which were so designed as to preclude public access to the water.

1987 Plans for a development on Waites Wharf by Paul Sullivan was the focus of much contention, which led to Mr. Sullivan holding a ceremony, during which a plaque was placed on a section of the board walk at the end of Waites Wharf, denoting public access for the citizens of Newport.

1988-89 FoW Hired Arlene Violet, a prominent lawyer and former Attorney General, to contest the development of 16

condos on Brown and Howard Wharf, which would block access on a CRMC designated Right-of-Way. Clarification of the dimensions of the RoW and the restrictions in a city agreement was at the center of the controversy. A very questionable ruling by Judge Arruda led to Attorney Violet filing an appeal, which resulted in this project being placed in limbo for eighteen years.

1989 FOW worked to defeat the Planned Unit Development ordinance. This flexible zoning ordinance change, which would have allowed developers to bypass the City's Planning and Zoning Board to meet directly with City Council only, met with stiff opposition from citizens who subsequently packed City Council Chambers, resulting in defeat of this controversial ordinance.

1988 Mary Ferrazzoli was awarded the Antiquarian Award by the Preservation Society of Newport County.

1989 FoW supported efforts to establish the fishing pier at State Pier 9 at the corner of Washington Street and Long Wharf.

1990 The first Newport Harbor Walk was held to point out and call attention

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Earth Day 2012



Image courtesy of Discovery Education's Clip Art Gallery as illustrated by Mark A. Hicks

Friends of the Waterfront celebrated Earth Day, April 14, 2012, with the annual cleanup of Kings Parks and shoreline. City of Newport employees provided gloves, bags, t-shirts, grabbers, and water bottles to all workers. The weather was beautiful, the newly repaired seawall and repaved walk looked great. In addition to City employees, we had nine adults and two children volunteers. Only three people were FoW members! One volunteer was Bethany Borguetta, her husband

and two small kids who did a BIG cleanup/sweeping of the walk. Bethany was our contact for the Green Team at Rogers, but she said we probably didn't get the high school volunteers, because it was vacation week for them. Notices were placed at Salve, also, but no response there. The park was in pretty good shape but quite a few bags of trash were collected. There were many other cleanup venues and dates this year, so Newport should look pretty spiffy.

By Linda Hammer

Friends of the Waterfront 2012 Annual Membership Dues

_____ Single ... \$5 _____ Family... \$10 _____ Patron... \$25 _____ Business... \$50

Membership includes the *Waterfront Watcher* subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Send to Friends of the Waterfront, P.O. Box 932, Newport, RI 02840.

Thank You! Friends of the Waterfront is a tax exempt, non profit
501c 3 corporation. *Your check is your receipt.*

Sign Up NOW for the 31st ANNUAL Waterfront Inspection Cruise

I Will, or Will Not [Circle one] ... **Attend the Waterfront Inspection Cruise.**

Please reserve _____ tickets for me at \$10 each.

Sunday

September 9, 2012

I have included my check in the amount of _____.

4:45-7:00 PM

31st Annual Waterfront Inspection Cruise

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Sunday, Sept. 9th ~ 4:45-7:00 PM

Boarding Time: 4:45 Majestic at Bowen's Wharf
Last year's cruise was a sell-out event.

Make Sure You

Reserve Your Tickets Now!

Questions to Jim Perrier at 847-2576
"Rain or Shine"

Celebrating 30 Years of Accomplishments *continued from facing page*

to troubled "Hot Spots" along the waterfront. On each wharf, a FoW member, knowledgeable of the history and threat to the wharf, was posted to answer questions from the public. Yellow "Bulldog" balloons marked each wharf, and the "Bulldog" quickly became the symbol for Mary Ferrazzoli's tenacity to the cause.

1991 FoW lobbied for the Public Trust Doctrine, publishing a "Friends of the Waterfront Handbook, The Search to Protect Rhode Island's Trust Resources" with a grant from the Alletta Morris McBean and the Prince Charitable Trusts.

1992 Mary Ferrazzoli was presented the Save the Bay Environmental Achievement Award at the Save the Bay annual meeting.

During the mid-to-late 1990s, Vic Farmer led FOW in lobbying for work to be done on the Ann Street and Van Zandt Street Piers. Vic presented photos showing the serious deterioration of the piers to the City Council and lobbied for work to be done as expeditiously as possible. This effort led to Point Association members, Beth and Mike Cullen, forming the Friends of the Van Zandt Pier.

1993 FoW supported efforts by the City to develop a Newport Harbor Management Plan, mandated by the CRMC. Vic Farmer and Martin Douglas researched all the RoWs.

1993 FoW organized 100 volunteers for an Earth Day clean-up at Coddington Wharf.

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1994 At Mary Ferrazzoli's direction, based on the right designated in Section 2-19 of the City Charter, launched a Voter Initiative Referendum. Through petitions, FoW collected the necessary percentage of signatures needed to put the referendum on the November ballot. The voter initiative succeeded and directed the City to survey each RoW and to declare public access for every RoW. As of 2012, this has not yet been done !

1994 Mary Ferrazzoli died on August 2.

1995 To keep FoW viable, Vic Farmer provided leadership and started the Guardian Cadre for "Hot Spots." Members, individuals or couples, selected one of the 23 CRMC-designated RoWs, including other wharves, to monitor. Individuals or couples checked on the status of a wharf and reported back to FoW for action. Research on historical deeds, restrictions, etc. was undertaken. Inez Bliven and Jan Kluth organized Mary's files, with material to be archived at the Newport Historical Society.

1996 Vic also lead the first bicycle tour of the Newport waterfront. Response was positive, with even the Commanding Officer of the Naval Undersea Systems Center joining in the tour.

1998 Vic Farmer created the Cliff Walk website (cliffwalk.com).

2000 FoW and the Coddington Condo Association participated in beautification efforts at Coddington Wharf. The condo owners purchased several benches and improved the plantings in the raised garden bed.

2000 FoW developed and printed the first Newport Harbor Walk guide to the entire walk along the waterfront. This map was distributed at the Gateway Visitor's Center and other locations. An updated map is under preparation for 2012.

2000 FoW continued to assist the City administration of Newport in development of the Harbor Management Plan.

2000 Members of the FoW Board attended and provided substantive support to various agencies and the City of Newport concerning the protection of public access at hearings about the Naval Hospital property about to be declared in excess. (This process is still ongoing in 2012, with the city having already designated public access in their plans to acquire the property.)

2001 FoW lobbied against the project to redesign and enlarge the Treadway Inn (now Newport Harbor Inn) on America's Cup Avenue. The project met City-wide opposition with many concerns about public access to the water as well as its having blocked the view of Trinity Church from the water. Elizabeth Meyer's full page notice in the Newport Daily News helped to defeat the project.

2002 FoW reported to the city administration that the CRMC RoW marker had been paved over on Brown and Howard Wharf. The problem was corrected.

2004 Through Councilor Kate Leonard's efforts, Mrs. Dorrance Hamilton donated money for a section of Harbor Walk at King Park. A ceremony dedicating the Harbor Walk was a major event in FoW's efforts to protect public access.

2005 After twenty-five years of litigation, Scott's Wharf was declared a public right-of-way, a resounding victory for public access. Assistant Attorney General Mike Rubin argued the case before the RI Supreme Court, which resulted in a decision for the State and FoW. Years earlier, Mr. Rubin had asked the Guardian Cadre for assistance in searching through City's archives, through old newspapers, Alderman minutes, etc. for information to help strengthen his case.

2005 FoW board voted to donate funds to help the City repair the deteriorating face of the earthen work fort at Battery Park.

2009 FoW board worked with the Cliff Walk Commission and the City's Parks and Recreation Department on public access to the water

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at Marine Avenue. Agreement was reached in 2007 restoring public access and designating a RoW on Marine Avenue, allowing access to the water, which had been blocked by abutting landowners.



2006 FoW presented an Award to William Casey for the beautiful installation of a section of Harbor Walk around the perimeter of Casey's Marina, adding another wharf where the public can enjoy the Newport waterfront vista.

2006 On the celebration of the 25th year of the FoW organization, Board members decided to produce a documentary. Johanna and Chuck Vietry interviewed and videotaped selected Newporters relating their memories of earlier days on the waterfront. The first showing of this video was the highlight of the annual meeting.

2006 The group worked with the Scenic Roads Commission, and FoW factual data were used in the report to the City Council.

2007 Board members attended a two-day workshop at the International Yacht Restoration School, conducted by the URI Sea Grant program. The theme of the workshop was "What will Newport harbor look like in 2030?" Top concern was public access to the water.

2008 FoW Harbor Walk signage and proposed Harbor Walk route was approved by the City Council. The City's Parks and Recreation Department, under Scott Wheeler's supervision, installed FoW Harbor Walk signs at approved locations on the Harbor Walk.

2008 FoW Board donated funds for the URI Sea Grant program to have Newport harbor surveyed.

2008 FoW Board defended the RoW on Brown & Harbor Wharf from developers blocking access to the water.

2009 FoW, Newport's Planning and Development and Public Services (Parks) Departments completed the landscaping of Lee's Wharf.



2009 FoW presented an Award to Scott Wheeler for the outstanding job of installing FoW Harbor Walk signs and coordination for developing Mary Ferrazzoli Park.

2009 On May 2, the FoW Board held a well-attended formal dedication of Mary Ferrazzoli park.

2010 Newport has a Harbor Walk. FoW worked with URI Coastal Resources Center's Teresa Crean to develop a map and to survey the harbor. Monthly Harbor Walk tours were introduced. URI CRC held a Workshop with architects to study six trouble areas along the Harbor Walk, ending in a presentation at Newport's public library. Teresa Crean and Jim Perrier promoted the Harbor Walk on WADK's radio program.

2010 FoW worked with the Waterfront Commission on its efforts to monitor and clean up the driftways in the Point neighborhood.

2010 FoW presented an award to Teresa Crean for her part in the work of the URI Coastal Resources Center to improve the Harbor Walk.

2010 FoW supported the first "View Point Art" demonstration at King Park as part of Coast Week.

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The Harbor, Ocean Drive, Cliff Walk ...

Friends of the Waterfront Has It Covered

31st ANNUAL Waterfront Inspection Cruise

Sunday Night, Sept. 9th
Be on Time 4:45-7:00 PM
Bowen's Wharf... Tickets in Advance
... See Inside Page.

Friends of the Waterfront's **NEWPORT WATERFRONT WATCHER**

President: Jim Perrier
Treasurer: Linda Hammer
Secretary: Liz Mathinos
Board members: Vic Farmer,
Roy Fitzherbert, Ruth Kiker,
Johanna Vietry, Dave Wixted

Friends of the Waterfront, Inc.
PO Box 932, Newport, RI 02840

This FOW Newsletter is written by
Jim Perrier, President, with assistance from
the FOW board and others.

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NewportHarborWalk.com
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2011 FoW worked with owners of the Pier Restaurant to resolve the issue of patio location in order not to block the designated RoW.

2011 Jim Perrier appeared on television in Cross Path, COX cable channel 18, and produced two shows. The first promoted the Harbor Walk and was followed by the FoW documentary video on the second. Discussion on developing the video documentary for sale started.

2011 The FoW Board wrote letters to CRMC, Newport City administration, and City Council supporting the Ann Street Pier extension and Armory project. Attended CRMC Hearings.

2011 Letters were sent to the City administration, City Council, and Department of the Navy in support of keeping the waterside of the former Naval Hospital facility as open space and to include public access.

2011 The President of FoW, James Perrier, was honored during the State Attorney General's annual Justice Awards Ceremony in December by being given the Pine Award for Environmental Protection. He was singled out for his leadership of FoW in their work to protect public access to the water, preserve historical uses, right-of-ways, waterfront views and to foster maximum public access to the shoreline and harbor.

2012 With another victory for public access, the Washington Street Extension case on appeal in the RI Supreme Court was concluded with the Judge ruling that WSE is a street belonging to the City of Newport.