

PRESENT AND FUTURE FRIENDS OF THE WATERFRONT CHALLENGES

The recent loss of Friends of the Waterfront's president underscores the simple fact that our volunteer organization, founded in the early 1980s, is beginning to show its age. The challenges of the Newport waterfront are still ever present and new ones crop up with each new owner/developer who has the latest scheme to "improve" Newport. As experience has shown, rarely is public access high on the list of "improvements"! FOW's continued vigilance is necessary and critical. The FOW mission is unchanged.

WHO WILL CARRY ON OUR WORK IN THE YEARS AHEAD?

The board has received some helpful suggestions from our members, for which we are grateful. Members suggested, for example, the recruitment of volunteers and interns for special projects from like-minded groups, agencies and schools.

We listened to your recommendations and are participating in the Community Outreach at Salve Regina University for students. This will offer us a viable alternative for some of the workload, but it will require a FOW member to coordinate the effort. **Any volunteers?**

To that end, our friends and members can also help considerably by some simple acts: (1) regularly walk the Newport Waterfront, the Harbor Walk and the Cliff Walk or any part thereof, and report any signs of new development or infringement on the public Right of

Way to FOW; (2) attend monthly board meetings as often as possible; and 3) attend the annual meeting.

Jim Perrier initiated an idea to cooperate with another like-minded organization. To that end, we have met with representatives from Clean Ocean Access (COA) and will explore ways we can collaborate with them. You will hear more about FOW/COA **October 16th** at the **2014 FOW ANNUAL MEETING** where some exciting plans for our future will be presented and discussed. **Our waterfront's future depends on your membership!** Thank You -

Officers

Vice President: Dave Wixted
Secretary: Liz Mathinos
Treasurer: Linda Hammer

Directors-at-Large

Vic Farmer
Ruth Kiker
Johanna Vietry
Charles Weishar



FOW Board Members receive support from Senator Jack Reed and Clean Ocean Access Board Members at the recent Jim Perrier Tribute at Mary Ferrazzoli Park. A COA Fundraiser /Open House is scheduled for October 4th at Easton's Beach Rotunda 4:00 to 7:00pm www.openoceanaccess.org

Naval Hospital Land for Sale

FOW Keeps a Watchful Eye on the Status of a Public Walkway at the Navy Hospital

The City of Newport has, on several occasions, openly stated that any development of the Navy Hospital property will provide for a public and accessible walkway along the shoreline of the property. However, before that can happen, the City must negotiate with the Department of Defense for the purchase of the property.

Unfortunately, any attempt to move forward had been delayed for the past 7 months by a second claim to the property by the Narragansett Indian Tribe. As of August 19, 2014, instead, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced that it had removed the claim of the tribe to the

Hospital property.

As a result, the City has once again started to move forward to undertake the required Environmental Phase II Study and a Property Valuation. These contracted studies could take at least 2-3 months to complete. Once they are completed and filed, the City can then move into negotiations with the Navy and the Department of Defense. These negotiations could extend into 2015.

Realistically, no significant decisions will probably be made as to the purchase and development of the property until early next year 2015. Nevertheless, the Friends of the Waterfront, joined by Clean Ocean Access, will continue to monitor the process closely to ensure that any development of the property ultimately contains the promised public accessible walkway.