Friends of the Waterfront’s 2015 ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2015, at Seamen’s Church Institute 6:00pm-8:00pm
Guest Speaker Teresa Crean, Sea Grant URI ~ All Invited ~ Light Refreshments Served

ANNUAL WATERFRONT CRUISE SLATED
On The Amazing Grace

Come join Friends of the Waterfront’s Board members aboard the Amazing Grace for an end-of-summer sunset cruise. The cruise is a great way to reconnect with old friends, as well as an opportunity to meet new ones. It is also a perfect way to end a spectacular summer. A professional tour guide will conduct the excursion, pointing out all of the rights of way and various other sights along the Newport waterfront.

Departure is from Oldport Marine on Sunday, September 13th at 6:00pm—Don’t be late! Oldport is located next to Mooring’s Restaurant on America’s Cup Avenue. Tickets are $15 per person and include appetizers with a cash bar. Seating is limited and tickets are sold in advance. Sign up now!

Great Turnout for 2015 Earth Day

FOW and Friends of King Park worked together to make King Park 2015 Earth Day one of the most successful in FOW history. According to Maureen McManus from Clean City, King Park had one of the best turnouts in the City on April 25th with over 30 volunteers.

10 Salve students from the school’s volunteer program worked alongside veteran members of FOW and other local volunteers. The Salve Student team included Zoe Michalopoulos, Samantha Neff, Erika Carragher, Tia Crowther, Tessa Grassette, Christopher Lehrbach, Francesco Biundo, John Cabral, and Nicollette Santiago. We thank them for all their help.

Starbucks on Thames Street donated coffee and Stop and Shop on Bellevue Avenue contributed refreshments for the cleanup efforts. The FOW’s recycled totes were well received by all the volunteers. Everyone worked diligently on a cold spring morning, and King Park was certainly cleaner—and more beautiful—thanks to everyone’s efforts!

SAVE THE DATE
FOW’S 33rd ANNUAL MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the 33rd Annual Meeting of Friends of the Waterfront on Thursday, September 24, 2015, from 6:00-8:00pm. The meeting will be held at Seamen’s Church Institute, 18 Market Square, Newport, RI.

President Johanna Vietry will start the meeting with an overview of last year’s activities followed with a question and answer period.

The business portion at this year’s annual meeting will be the election of the FOW all-volunteer board and approval to changes in the current by-laws. We are also seeking new individuals who have a sincere interest in helping FOW preserve Newport’s public waterfront access. Board members must be able to attend monthly board meetings and commit a few hours each month to current FOW projects.

Following our elections, the guest speaker, Teresa Crean from URI, will present the night’s program. If you are interested in serving on the board and are unable to attend the meeting, email Johanna Vietry at info@newportwaterfront.org.

Newport Harbor Walk Garden Project Launched

FOW in collaboration with URI Master Gardeners work together to educate residents and visitors about public rights of way lining Newport’s iconic harbor while celebrating the beauty and diversity of native Rhode Island plants. This new landscape feature in the heart of downtown Newport and at King Park will help identify public access to the waterfront. See page 3 for information.
Adoption of Public Rights-of-Way

As we turned the calendar into 2015, the final signatures on the memorandum of understanding were signed by CRMC, the City of Newport, Friends of Waterfront and Clean Ocean Access, thereby making the adoption of all 18 rights of way (ROW) official!

A short while later it began to snow, and for nearly 3 months the rights-of-way took on a new look and feel that hadn’t been seen in quite some time. Meanwhile, volunteers from the community got involved to monitor the rights of way, and by February nearly all of the ROWs were assigned to a volunteer for monitoring two times per month.

The adoption program consists of checking each right of way and making sure access is available, whether obstructions exist, and if there are any issues ranging from vandalism, illegal parking or marine debris. More importantly, the program allows people to provide a valuable service to the community that sets the stage for a long-lasting stewardship of the shoreline.

More volunteers are welcome! Due to the overwhelming response to the adoption program, we have decided it would be great to have multiple people assigned to each ROW. The more presence we have at the access points, the better off we will be for expanding the access program in the future.

The long-term goal of Clean Ocean Access in partnership with Friends of the Waterfront is to expand the adoption to include the coastline between the access points. As the sea level rises and intense storms become more frequent, it is increasingly important that our stewardship expands beyond the access point and across the coastline to where the entire recreational value of the coastline exists.

This will also set the stage for moving the Harbor Walk onto the water’s edge. The 2 ½ mile long Harbor Walk was originally conceived by Friends of the Waterfront to prevent the disappearance of public access in the harbor area. These enduring public access pathways can be traced back to colonial times, so if it takes 5, 10 or 15 years, that’s all right. We continue to move in the right direction! If you are interested in adopting a right of way, email Dave McLaughlin with Clean Ocean Access at dave.mclaughlin@cleanoceanaccess.org or info@newportwaterfront.org.

Coming Soon – New Adopt An Access Signs!

Harbor Walk Tours
Planned for 2016

The dinghy planters and the adoption of the rights of way has sparked some well deserved attention along Newport’s waterfront. Due to this sudden interest, the free guided walking tours of Newport’s Harbor Walk are returning in the spring of 2016.

We admit that it will be difficult to follow in past FOW president Jim Perrier’s footsteps, but due to all the current interest in Newport’s waterfront, we will do our best.

If you love Newport history and like being outdoors, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help us with the guided tours.

You can learn from an insider’s perspective some of the historical information and anecdotal stories behind the Newport waterfront. Much of this information comes from the FOW archives and from recorded oral histories of past and present Newports. This material spans over 35 years of FOW research. For more information email info@newportwaterfront.org.

FOW Remembers

While Newporters and visitors are most certainly enjoying our Harbor Walk dinghy planters, Friends of the Waterfront members can reflect on an added dimension. The Perrotti Park boat planter now carries a bronze plaque which was a gift from the City 20 years ago to honor Mary Ferrazzoli, the founder of Friends of the Waterfront, for her work on public access along the Newport waterfront.

The last dinghy planted for the season at Scott’s Wharf sports the name “The Martin Douglass” in honor of Martin’s service as President of FOW. Martin passed away unexpectedly in January 2015. In July, Martin’s family from England and Australia visited Newport for a Celebration of his life. His family was quite touched to see him honored in such a wonderful way.

Friends of the Waterfront also dedicated a bench at Scott’s Wharf in the memory of Jim Perrier, FOW’s recent past president. This now gives Friends of the Waterfront 3 benches and the dinghy planter appropriately claiming these spots for public access.

Some may remember that it was at Scott’s Wharf where the original issue of public access along Newport’s waterfront began. Mary Ferrazzoli founded the Friends of the Waterfront over this original issue.

It is our goal to have benches lining the walkway at this scenic waterfront wharf and to make it as parklike and picturesque as possible. The City currently has a 10-year lease with the Newport Harbor Corporation for the Newport International Boat Show, so there are limitations that must be respected as to what can be placed along the walkway.

Cypress Street (Z-06)  Walnut Street (Z-12)  Brown & Howard Wharf (Z-18)
Van Zandt Street (Z-07)  Willow Street (Z-13)  Lee’s Wharf (Z-19)
Battery Street (Z-08)  Poplar Street (Z-14)  Howards’ Wharf (Z-20)
Pine Street (Z-09)  Elm Street (Z-15)  Sisson’s Wharf (Z-21)
Cherry Street (Z-10)  Goat Island Connector (28-B) (Z-16)  Waites Wharf (Z-22)
Cheestnut Street (Z-11)  Goat Island Connector (28-A) (Z-17)  Spring Wharf (Z-23)
To go from this empty boat to fully planted took two coats of marine paint followed by drilling holes in the bottom of the boat for drainage. A layer of landscape fabric was covered by 300 pounds of gravel and topped with a cubic yard of soil. Dichondra and dwarf morning glory were spread along the edges to spill over the boat while taller salvia, eucalyptus and mountain mint were centered along with ‘whirling butterflies’ to look like sails. Many of the selected plants are RI natives and are also perennials which will winter over in the dinghy.

Early June was windy. The first worry was that the planter wasn’t growing because wind conditions were so bad at Perrotti Park. Fortunately, that turned out to be temporary. With volunteers like John Hole with the Harbor Master staff and Master Gardeners watering daily and fertilizing every other week, Friends of the Waterfront is happy to report that the Perrotti Planter is now lush and thriving.

One week later, the Friends of King Park along with FOW members and Master Gardeners repeated the planting process in a dinghy planter at King Park, the southernmost point of the Harbor Walk. Volunteers from the neighborhood, along with Bob Kozma, the King Park attendant, have kept this planter just as lush as its Perrotti predecessor.

Donations for the dinghies came from the Washington Square Café & Baking Company, the Maher Center, Chaves Garden, Island Garden Shop, Chase Farm, All Island Landscaping, Agway, Home Depot and Walmart. FOW also wants to thank Ross Freeman, Don Hammer, City of Newport, Friends of King Park and everyone else who volunteered and contributed to the project.

If you want to get involved, you can sponsor a boat, provide a dinghy, or donate plants, soil and fertilizer. You can also support Dinghy Planters with monetary donations. Best of all, please take time to enjoy the beauty these planters add to our waterfront. For more information, email info@waterfront.org.
Green Infrastructure and the Newport Waterfront

University of Rhode Island’s Landscape Architecture students
“Get a GRIP on Rhode Island’s Coast”
by applying green infrastructure strategies to King Park and Spencer Park.

The senior students in URI’s undergraduate Landscape Architecture program, under the direction of Professor Richard Sheridan, focused their 2015 “capstone studio” on redesigning two parks at the southern end of Newport Harbor, and the terminus of the Newport Harbor Walk, using design techniques to remove pollutants from stormwater and withstand flooding from high tides and coastal storms.

The Green and Resilient Infrastructure Project (GRIP) is managed by URI’s Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The effort challenges three municipalities in Rhode Island (Newport, North Kingstown, and Warwick) to explore design techniques that can reduce pollution and manage stormwater from rain events, while considering how tidal inundation from rising seas and coastal storms will impact coastal landscapes. Other project partners include the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association, the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, and Eastern Connecticut State University. The R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, the R.I. Department of Environmental Management, and URI Cooperative Extension are serving in an advisory capacity.

The URI Landscape Architecture students researched “soft engineering” natural and nature-based design techniques, also called “green infrastructure,” as an alternative to managing water flow across landscapes with “hard-engineered” or “gray infrastructure,” typically seen in an urban environment. The class toured King and Spencer Parks in the thick of the heavy snowpack in February, but were also able to see the sites from the water on the Newport Harbor Shuttle after the Harbor thawed in April.

The range of solutions in the student’s design schemes included: wetland, marsh, and shoreline restoration; bank stabilization using coconut-fiber mattresses (a.k.a., coir envelopes); snow fencing to capture sand drifts; green roofs; vegetated filter strips to capture and treat the “first flush” of stormwater; bioretention of stormwater; permeable pavement to reduce runoff; and smaller-scale rain gardens.

The students presented their work at the URI Narragansett Bay Campus to an audience of Newport residents, non-profit groups, local and state decision makers, URI faculty, and state agency representatives. The summary of this work will be integrated into the coastal green infrastructure package developed for the project and delivered to the city of Newport. Teresa will speak on the King Park Project at the Friends of the Waterfront’s Annual Meeting on September 24th. If you live in the old 5th Ward, we encourage you to attend. Teresa will have the student’s architectural drawings from the 2015 project.

Please come and review a new generation’s concepts on how best to preserve the Newport Waterfront!

BY LAWS REVISED:

At the Annual Meeting on September 24th 2015, the membership will be asked to approve a revised and expanded By Laws; the last revision had been approved on May 18th, 2006. Approval will require a 2/3rds majority vote. Please read carefully by way of preparation for voting on the changes. Some of the more significant recommended additions and changes are:

• The duties of the Board of Directors and the Board members are spelled out in greater detail thereby providing greater clarity for specific areas of responsibility.

• Annual elections for officers and members of the Board will be staggered with one half of the total Board elected each year for a two year term. This change will ensure stability and protect against the loss of experienced leadership.

• An article specifically related to “Conflict of Interest” is added. This clarifies the responsibilities of members, officers, directors and the Board having to do with performance and voting when a conflict of interest, which is defined, may exist.

• An article specifically related to “Dissolution of the Organization” is added. This provides for a process whereby Friends of the Waterfront may be dissolved as an organization. It further specifies how any assets shall be legally distributed in accordance with the IRS Internal Revenue Code.

• Special thanks to Paul Steinbrenner, Johanna Vietry and Linda Hammer for their help and advice during the revision process. Any questions, kindly contact Dave Wixted at #840-2246 or at newportwix@yahoo.com

Members, Please see Insert for New Revised By Laws
The images included here are from student Lucas Tucker’s presentation. For his 2015 Senior Capstone project, Tucker proposed: elevation of monuments, structures, and baseball fields above flood levels; treatment of stormwater via roadside bioswales and Spencer Park basins; creation of tidal marsh habitat in low elevations of King Park and Spencer Park; excavation of breachway to replicate historic morphology; preservation of open lawn in higher elevations; creation of a floating boardwalk;

The existing sea wall is retrofitted with a wooden boardwalk and protected on the seaward side by large angular boulders, which also serve as marine habitat in artificial tide pools. The boardwalk floats on pilings with elevated sea levels and the low elevations of King Park become tidal marsh.

Spencer Park becomes a pedestrian gateway from the surrounding neighborhoods to the waterfront and King Park. Cobblestone paths bring visitors from one end of the green space to the other and create a sense of place in Newport. Two stone bridges traverse the low elevation marsh that is created by the breachway connecting Spencer Park to Newport Harbor.
Friends of the Waterfront, Inc.
PO Box 932

www.newportwaterfront.org

Proposed Officers 2015-2016
President: Johanna Vietry
Vice President: Dave Wixted
Secretary: Daphne Forster
Treasurer: Linda Hammer
Directors–at-Large
Casey Farley
Vic Farmer
Paul Steinbrenner
Ruth Kiker
Liz Mathinos
Dave McLaughlin

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Friends of the Waterfront 2016 Annual Membership Dues
☐ Single $5.00 ☐ Family $10.00 ☐ Patron $25.00 ☐ Business $50.00

SIGN UP NOW ANNUAL WATERFRONT INSPECTION CRUISE
I Will, or Will Not [Circle one] Attend the Waterfront Inspection Cruise. Please reserve _____
tickets for me at $15 each. I have included my check in the amount of ____________

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ Zip ____________

Telephone # ________________________ Email* ________________________

Send to Friends of the Waterfront PO 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

I would like to volunteer for future FOW projects ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐

I Want to Donate to the Newport Rain Garden/Planter Project $ ____________

INCLUDE ME ON FOW UPDATE EMAILS * ( Circle )
FRIENDS OF THE WATERFRONT BY LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE
1. The name of the organization is “Friends of the Waterfront Inc.” and its purpose is: to maintain a community organization concerned with the directing and planning of the Newport Waterfront and to educate the public as to means of civic improvement of the waterfront.
2. The key mission elements fundamental to the purpose are to protect public access to the water, to preserve historical uses, rights of way, and waterfront views and to help foster the development of Newport, RI’s shoreline and harbor front areas in ways that maximize public access.

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES
1. Membership in the organization shall be open to all persons who wish to support the purpose of the organization and are willing to actively participate in advancing measures to do so. Members in good standing must pay dues annually and such payments will be received by the Treasurer. The amount of such dues shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting.
2. A listing of Members in good standing will be verified by the Vice President on notification of dues payment from the Treasurer and shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3 - MEETINGS AND VOTING
1. The principal meeting of the organization shall be the Annual Meeting which shall be held at such date, time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. There shall be an Annual Meeting held each calendar year and it shall be open to the general public. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the meeting and shall include the recommended slate of candidates for the Board of Directors, any proposed changes to the By-Laws and any proposed change in dues. Only members in good standing shall be permitted to vote at the Annual Meeting and a majority of members present and voting will be required to conduct business and approve any proposals or elect any member of the Board.
2. The Board of Directors shall hold regular, usually monthly but at least quarterly meetings, open to the general public, at such date, time and place determined by the Board. The presence of a majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct business.
3. The Board shall try to act by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved at a meeting when a quorum is present, actions and resolutions may be approved by a simple majority vote of Directors present, unless otherwise required by the Bylaws. In the event of a tie, the President has the authority to determine the outcome by doubling their vote. Directors may vote by proxy if notice of proxy is submitted to the Secretary in writing or email in advance. A vote by proxy does not count toward the number of Board members needed to constitute a quorum.
4. A special meeting of the Board may be called by the President or any two Directors by written communication (including email) with the Secretary or the President. If necessary, a vote may also be taken by email if more convenient to do so and a separate meeting not feasible. However, such email votes must be approved at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. Should a special meeting be called, the Secretary or President will have the responsibility of arranging the time and place that is convenient to all Directors. Written notice of special meetings shall be delivered via email or regular mail to each Director not less than seven days and not more than thirty days before the date of the meeting. Directors will make every effort to attend meetings in person; in the event that a Director cannot meet at the agreed venue, attendance may be made by phone.

ARTICLE 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1. The Board of Directors shall be the executive authority of the organization and shall consist of the four (4) officers of the organization and at least two (2) but not more than six (6) additional Directors at Large. Officers and Directors at Large shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for a two year term. Terms will be staggered and half of the Board shall be elected each year as determined by the Board of Directors. There will be no term limits for service in any position as an officer or director of the organization.
2. As the executive authority, the Board will carry out the business of the organization, executing policies and taking actions consistent with the By Laws as is deemed advisable.
3. The Board shall meet as often as it deems necessary but at a minimum of once a quarter in each calendar year. Its meetings may or may not be open to the public at the discretion of the Board.
4. In the event of a vacancy, the Board may appoint temporary or acting Officers or Directors at Large to serve until the next Annual Meeting.
5. Each member of the Board shall be responsible for ensuring that their current contact information is on file with the Vice President.
ARTICLE 5- OFFICERS
1. The officers of the organization shall be; President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The President shall preside over all meetings, shall oversee the general activities of the organization and shall represent the organization as appropriate. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall have the authority to appoint special committees as needed while maintaining general supervision of the organization enlisting the services of others in support.
3. The Vice President shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise the duties of the office, become Acting President with all the rights, privileges and duties thereto. The Vice President will also work with the Treasurer to ensure a current list of members in good standing.
4. The Treasurer shall receive and maintain all organization funds, report the financial condition to the Board of Directors and be responsible for the payment for services and for assets purchased. The Treasurer will ensure that an independent accounting is conducted annually in preparation for a report to the membership at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for filing the annual Report for Non Profit Corporations with the State of Rhode Island and the annual filing with the IRS.
5. The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the organization, notify the membership of all meetings and shall handle all correspondence as required. At each meeting, the Secretary, or the person appointed by the President, shall prepare minutes of the meeting. Minutes shall be distributed to all Board members no more than 14 days following each meeting for their review. Board members will then forward approval or disapproval with recommended corrections to the Secretary within 24 hours. On receipt of Board member responses, minutes will then be corrected, if necessary, and placed on the next meeting’s agenda for formal approval.
6. The Directors At Large shall assist the Officers in the governance of the organization. They shall attend Board of Director meetings and shall have an equal voice and vote in all deliberations.
7. An Officer or a Director At Large may provide written notice of resignation which shall be noted and recorded at the next Board meeting. The vacancy, thereby created, may be temporarily filled by Board action at the next regular Board meeting and shall remain in effect until the next annual meeting.
8. The Board may remove an Officer or Director At Large with or without good cause. A properly noticed special meeting to do so may be called in accordance with the procedures set forth in the By Laws. If, after due deliberation, with all due process and constitutional rights respected and after attempts at compromise and required for removal of any Officer or Director At Large.

ARTICLE 6- CONFLICT OF INTEREST
1. No portion of the assets or income of the organization shall provide salary or compensation to any member of the organization and no member shall vote on any measure that presents a personal conflict of interest or provide personal gain or advantage.
2. A conflict of interest is defined as existing when any transaction or arrangement of the organization might benefit the private financial interest of any member, officer or director of the organization. A financial interest exists if the person has, directly or indirectly, through employment, business, investment or family a financial interest, a compensation arrangement, an ownership or investment interest or a potential ownership or investment interest in any entity doing business with the organization.
3. Any member, officer or director must disclose the existence of their financial interest to the Board of Directors who will determine whether said financial interest exists. If, after due deliberation, the Board determines that a conflict of interest does exist, the member, officer or director may neither attend discussion nor participate in voting on the issue.
4. This provision is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to non-profit corporations.

ARTICLE 7- ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS
1. The By-Laws shall be adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership in good standing and in attendance at the meeting at which they are presented.
2. The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership in good standing and in attendance at any annual, regular or special meeting. Thirty days prior to any amendment meeting, the written text of the amendment must be included in the written notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE 8- DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION
1. Any meeting at which dissolution of the organization shall be proposed shall be preceded by written notice to the full membership in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership in good standing present and voting at the meeting.
2. Upon the dissolution of the Friends of the Waterfront, the Board shall oversee the process and ensure compliance with all relevant provisions of the Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation Act and other applicable state and federal statutes.
3. Upon the dissolution, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose.
4. The assets of Friends of the Waterfront are permanently dedicated to a tax exempt organization for the purposes set forth in the articles of incorporation. Upon dissolution, the assets of The Friends of the Waterfront shall, after payment of any debts, be distributed to an organization which is itself tax exempt or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.