

# Friends of the Waterfront's NEWPORT WATERFRONT WATCHER

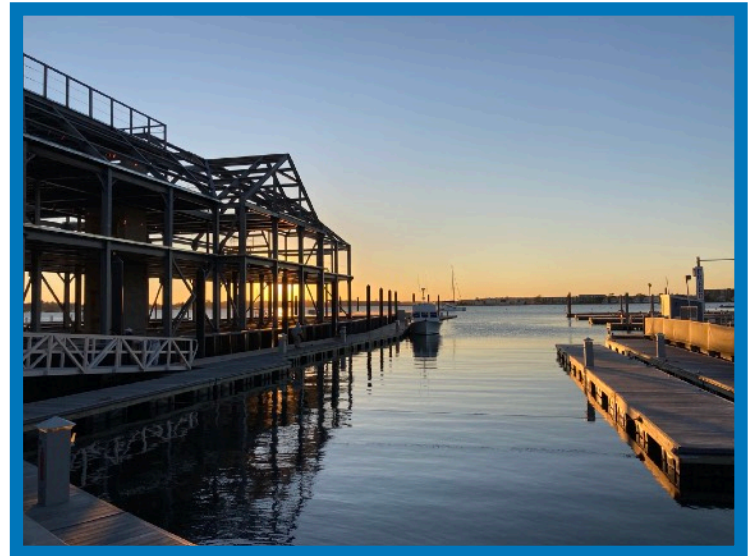


Vol 38 issue 1 © FOW PO Box 932 Newport, Rhode Island 02840 [www.newportwaterfront.org](http://www.newportwaterfront.org)

## Letter from the President

As always, I am amazed at how quickly time passes - and now 2025 marks FOW's 42nd year. So many people have contributed to our efforts in the past and we are fortunate that a great number of folks have stepped up to help us in the present. There is so much to do (and watch), and we couldn't accomplish as much as we do without the extra help - so, thank you. There's always room for more - more members, more monitors, more helpers and more donations. If you don't have the physical time to give to our cause - please know that even a \$10 yearly membership is helping us. (We have made it easier by now accepting credit cards. Please go to our website [www.newportwaterfront.org](http://www.newportwaterfront.org) to join or donate.) We are faced with an ever changing waterfront and the next 2 years are going to see some significant alterations. Perrotti Park, Newport Harbor Hotel, Perry Mill, Waites Wharf and King Park will all reshape the waterfront as we know it. FOW is actively involved and honoring our mission to preserve and promote public waterfront access. If you were unable to attend our annual meeting last month, I hope you will find this newsletter informative and I'm optimistic it will encourage you to support us! (All donations are tax deductible)

Lynda Stevenson



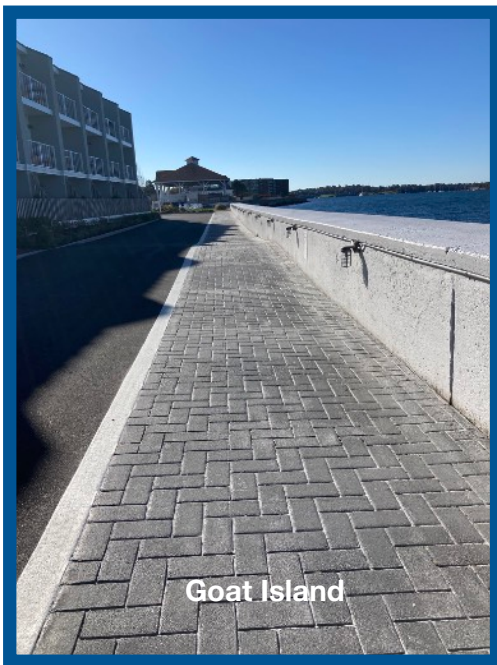
Construction continues on Perry Mill. We await additional details from the developer to address the much anticipated extension of the harbor walk.

## **Steve Land, Newport Harbormaster, was guest speaker at FOW annual meeting in December**

Attendees of our annual meeting, held at the Marriott Hotel, heard Steve Land discuss the plans for rebuilding the Elm St. Pier, the proposal for new docks and a new Harbormaster building at Perrotti Park and the extension of Ann St. Pier. Elm St. Pier work is expected to begin this winter. Perrotti Park, which needs to have the failing bulkhead replaced, could begin this winter but more likely will be next winter. The work is slated to be done only during colder months so as not to interrupt seasonal services. And additionally, after a 12 year legal battle, the City will be adding 210' floating docks to extend Ann St Pier.



FOW worked with the City and the new owners of 96 Washington St. to restore the Cherry St. right of way. This provides public access down to the water.



**Goat Island** has continued to see improvements by the Newport Harbor Island Resort Hotel. A much nicer path has been added to the western side of the property. New harbor walk signs have been installed. The perimeter public access here is lovely and the newly remodeled hotel is worth a look. There is also public access at the docks - both a dinghy dock and touch & go dock are provided.

**Newport Harbor Hotel** on America's Cup Avenue was purchased last year by TPG, an affiliate of the Procaccianti Companies. FOW has contacted them and is hopeful they will provide new waterfront public access when their plans are submitted for renovations of the hotel and marina.



FOW is happy to report that Hammetts Wharf Hotel and Casey's Marina have both honored our request not to store boats and/or docks in the harbor walk. Having an open dialogue and building relationships with the property owners is an important part of FOW's work.

Scan QR code to donate or join!





## **Brown & Howard Wharf**

FOW is concerned that certain conditions aren't being met in regards to public access. We've passed on our concerns for further investigation. The photo below shows a vehicle parked over the walkway- obstructing the right of way. Records also indicate a public dinghy dock is missing.



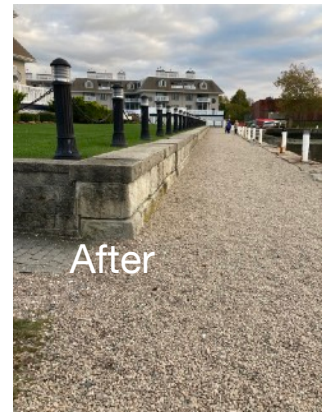
## **Waites Wharf**

The proposal from Harbour Realty Assoc. and owner Mr. Thomas Abruzese is currently scheduled to be heard at the March Planning Board Meeting. The new application has fewer hotel rooms and adds two residential buildings to the property. A restaurant and wedding venue also remain in the plan. FOW has met with the applicant's attorney to ensure the current public access is protected and enhance additional access where possible.

## **Wellington Resort**

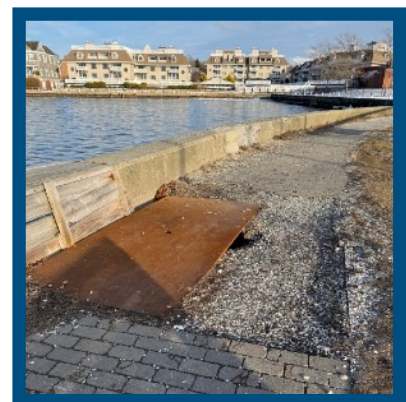
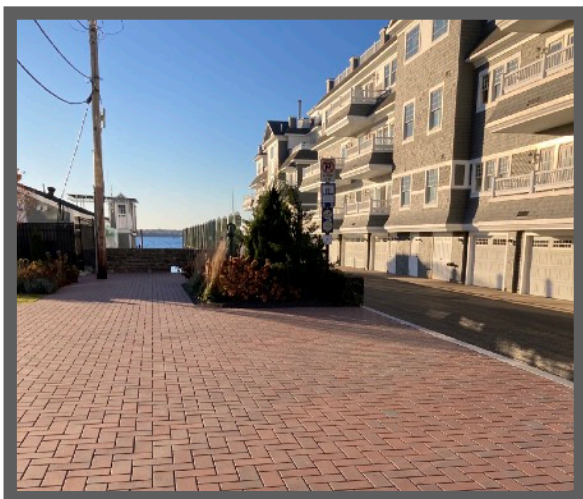
If you haven't been to the walkway behind the Wellington Resort recently, we are happy to share that they have added the much needed gravel and the path is now restored. Fun fact - when we posted this on our FB page, it got more views than anything we've ever posted.

The new Gardiner House Hotel is now open on Lee's Wharf. The project included adding a sidewalk to the street, removing an electric panel that had been placed in the right of way and re-surfacing the area to be ADA compliant. There were several private events last summer where the hotel closed off the public area. We have discussed this with them since they are required to give prior notice to the City and FOW. Closure is only allowed on the walkway behind the hotel abutting their lawn - not the Lee's Wharf ROW. We will continue to monitor.



## **King Park**

As we've shared in the past, King Park will be undergoing some major renovations to address the flooding issues. Last year a tidal gate was installed and the City expects this Fall for work to begin on the shoreline restructuring. As noted by the photo below, the wall and walkway continue to deteriorate.



Friends of the Waterfront was busy in 2024 with a number of community events. We participated in the Earth Day clean up, hosted the Summer Concert series in King Park, had a booth with rock painting at Sail Newport's Community Day event and attended the City's Paddlefest. We also set up a scavenger hunt along the waterfront and partnered with FabNewport bringing over 50 local children for tours along the harbor walk. Tours included stops at the Marriott Hotel, Harbormaster's office, Oldport Marine and IYRS.



**Come walk with us!**

We are planning a February guided harbor walk to be followed by hot chocolate and conversation. It will be a 1 1/2 mile walk from Mary Ferrazzoli Park to King Park. Please follow us on FB for date and time. Members will receive an email with details.



Big thank you to **Clarke Cooke House** and **Newport Restaurant Group** for donating \$50 gift cards for our annual meeting.

**Upcoming events:**

- February- Guided Harbor Walk - Date TBD
- April 26th - King Park Earth Day Clean up

**News Flash- our website now accepts credit cards!**  
**[www.newportwaterfront.org](http://www.newportwaterfront.org)**

**Friends of the Waterfront Annual Membership Dues**

Friend \$10.00    Family \$20.00    Patron \$50.00+    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes the **Waterfront Watcher** newsletter subscription

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Send to Friends of the Waterfront, PO Box 932, Newport, RI 02840 Thank You!

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