

**COASTAL ACCESS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

**Mission Statement:**

The Coastal Access Improvement Committee (CAIC) was established January 19, 2021. The CAIC serves as an advisory body to the Town Council on matters concerning both preservation of existing shoreline access and the expansion of physical access by the public. The Committee focuses on the identification of public Rights of Way to the water and works to improve accessibility, create maintenance plans, and upgrade public infrastructure around coastal access sites.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Advise and make policy recommendations to the Town Council regarding improvements and management of coastal access sites.
2. Maintain a working relationship with the Planning Board regarding developmental impacts within coastal areas and adherence of the Town Comprehensive Plan.
3. Identify, catalog, and develop areas of public access to the shoreline through the investigation of the legal status of existing and potential public access sites and ROWs.
4. Maintain a working knowledge of the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and its authority under the Coastal Zone Management Act.
5. Maintain constant awareness of the importance and value of the coastal regions within the Town and the need for expanded and improved access as a right of Town residents and visitors to the Town.
6. Communicate and work with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the Department of Environmental Management to maintain existing facilities, physical conditions, safety, and aesthetic qualities of public access sites in Narragansett.
7. Work with State Agencies to ensure that public access sites are protected from environmental degradation, overdevelopment, and privatization.
8. Seek funding assistance for the improvement and expansion of public access sites and surrounding areas.

**Regular Business Meeting Time and Location:**

All Regular Business Meetings of the CAIC were held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:15 pm in the Large Boardroom at Narragansett Town Hall except for the November Meeting which was held in the Small Boardroom.

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**Membership:**

The Coastal Access Improvement Committee (CAIC) is comprised of nine (9) Members, including one (1) Member of the Town Council, one (1) Representative from the Planning Board, one (1) Representative from the Conservation Commission and six (6) Members of the public, appointed in three-year staggered terms. All Members are voting Members.

The Members of the Committee are as follows: Cynthia Zerquera-Martin - Chairman, JA Macfarlan - Vice Chairman, Kallie Longval - Secretary (replacing Michael Millen - resigned), Deb Kopech - Town Council Representative (replacing Jesse Pugh as Town Council Representative), Mark Brady - Planning Board Representative (replacing Robin Plaziak - not reappointed), Brian Grieve - Conservation Commission Representative (replacing the late Richard Nassa), Rachel Weisz-Smith, Anthony Colombo, and Jesse Pugh. Nominations and Elections of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary were held on June 21, 2023, all Officers unanimously reelected.

**Attendance:**

Ten (10) Regular Business Meetings were held from January 2023 to December 2023. No Meetings were held in February and March 2023 due to lack of Quorum (awaiting new Appointments by Town Council). Minutes to all Meetings were posted within 48 hours to Town and State websites. Meeting attendance is listed below:

Cynthia Zerquera-Martin - Chairman	Present at 9 meetings, absent at 1
JA Macfarlan - Vice Chairman	Present at 8 meetings, absent at 2
Kallie Longval - Secretary	Present at 9 meetings, absent at 1
Deb Kopech - Town Council	Present at 9 meetings, absent at 1
Mark Brady - Planning	Present at 6 meetings, absent at 3 (nonconsecutive - 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting April 2023)
Brian Grieve - Conservation	Present at 5 meetings, absent at 3 (nonconsecutive - 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting May 2023)
Rachel Weisz-Smith	Present at all 10 meetings
Anthony Colombo	Present at 8 meetings, absent at 2
Jesse Pugh	Present at 7 meetings, absent at 2 (1 <sup>st</sup> meeting April 2023)
Richard Nassa - Conservation	Present at 1 meeting, passed away
Robin Plaziak - Planning	Present at 1 meeting, not reappointed by Town Council
Michael Millen	Resigned effective January 2023

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**Highlights and Accomplishments:**

The Coastal Access Improvement Committee began the year with 3 (three) vacant seats due to the resignation of Michael Millen, the nonreappointment of Robin Plaziak to the Planning Committee, and the death of Richard Nassa on the Conservation Commission which made Quorum troublesome, but CAIC commenced at fully capacity effective April 2023 with the Town Council appointments of Jesse Pugh (Committee Member), Mark Brady (Planning Representative) and Brian Grieve (Conservation Commission Representative).

- Shoreline Access Bill

Although not a CAIC Accomplishment directly, many Committee Members worked to ensure that the Shoreline Access Bill was passed by the General Assembly which clarifies where the public can access the Rhode Island Shoreline - up to 10 feet landward of latest high tide swash line. The Shoreline Access Bill was signed into law by Governor Dan McKee in June 2023.

- CRMC ROWs Stewardship

**Jun. '23** - CAIC installs CRMC signage at CRMC C3 - Calef at Louise Avenues as per the executed Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Permission from the CRMC Adopt An Access Program to CAIC. Despite CRMC designation in 1981, this CRMC ROW lacked physical marking as a Public Access point for 42 years.

**Jul. '23** - DPW installs new CRMC signage at CRMC C2 - Pilgrim Avenue as per the executed Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Permission from the CRMC Adopt An Access Program to Surfrider Foundation. Previous signage was vandalized/removed.

**Oct. '23** – CRMC C12 Foddering Farm Road Extension adopted by CAIC through the CRMC Adopt An Access Program, Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Permission submitted to CRMC for execution. Request made to Town Manager Jim Tierney to add parking next to this CRMC ROW. Currently, there is no street parking allowed on Harbour Island.

- Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island Town Beach Coastal Access

**Jan. '23** - CAIC recommends continuation of this program in perpetuity, Recommendation is read by Town Council into record, Town adopts policy in perpetuity, Town website updated with new policy.

- Accessibility at Town Beach

**Jun. '23** - Ms. Wheelchair Rhode Island Autumn Rain Johnson speaks to Town Council, IDEA Committee, and CAIC about lack of accessibility at Town Beach. Better equipment and better trained staff are requested from Parks and Recreation.

**Nov. '23** - CAIC champions for better Accessibility at Town Beach for Town Beach Workshop in December 2023.

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- Affordability at Town Beach

**Jan. '23** - Town Council Representative to CAIC Deb Kopech works with Finance Director Christine Wilson and Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Kershaw to examine Town Beach Enterprise Fund as it applies to Town Beach fee increases. Enterprise Fund is adequately funded. No Town Beach fee increases were made for the Summer 2023 season.

**Nov. '23** - CAIC proposes a program to Town Council to offer reduced fee/free walk on passes to Town Beach for Low Income Town Residents.

**Dec. '23** - Town Council Representative to CAIC Deb Kopech to advance Low Income Town Resident Beach Fee Proposal to Town Council during January 2024 Beach Policies and Fees Town Council Agenda Item.

- Jerusalem Coastal Access

**Jul. '23** - Private beach signs and hand constructed barriers reported in Jerusalem despite passage of Shoreline Access Bill.

**Sep. '23** - Jerusalem residents request clarification of public access location, CAIC investigates status of application to CRMC for Designation of CRMC ROW at Ocean Avenue Extension (under review), CAIC requests dune signage be placed by DEM to discourage dune foot traffic. Newly hired CRMC Coastal Geologist Emily Hall is drafting policy on snow fencing for dune protection and restoration to be published some time in 2024.

- Narragansett ROW Database Development

**Aug. '23** - Discussion regarding multiple Town owned and private ROWs and the need to centralize ROWs data into a single source for reference. Currently, this information is segmented into CRMC ArcGIS, RI Coastal Access, plat maps, DEM publications.

**Dec. '23** - Data collection tools will further this initiative into 2024.

- CAIC Recognition by CRMC

**Dec. '23** - CRMC creates Community Leader Advisory Group for Equitable Shoreline Access, Chairman Cynthia Zerquera-Martin is appointed by CRMC to serve on this statewide 12 member team.

**Ongoing Projects:**

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- Rose Nulman Park

**2022 to present** - Rose Nulman Park closed by private owner. DEM/CRMC to explore options. CAIC will continue to monitor.

- Mumford Road Application for CRMC ROW Designation

**2022 to present** - Application to CRMC for ROW Designation response still pending with CRMC, Plat ROW still blocked by abutting resident former Town Councilor Rick Lema. CAIC will continue to monitor.

- Camp Cronin

**Apr. '23** - City of Providence Capital Improvements Project Manager issues Project Summary Report for Camp Cronin, much of the land parcel has been given to DEM, retaining only the buildings. Exterior repairs are complete, continuation of this project is dependent on the new administration.

**May. '23** - Correspondence received from Robert Egan, abutter to Camp Cronin, voicing concerns about further development. Egan correspondence deferred to Town Manager to resolve with City of Providence. CAIC will continue to monitor.

- State Pier #5 Monahan's Dock

**May. '23** - DEM State Pier #5 Monahan's Dock still in disrepair, Town Manager to work with DEM to resolve. CAIC will continue to monitor.

- Mouth of the Narrow River

**Nov. '23** - Foth Engineering presents initial findings to Narragansett Town Council for relief of channel constriction at the Mouth of the Narrow River, had delivered only 3 of the 10 parts of the requirements of the RFP.

**Dec. '23** - Sediment sampling results expected in January 2024, Town Council to determine next steps based on the report. CAIC will continue to monitor.

**TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT  
CRMC DESIGNATED RIGHTS-OF-WAYS  
STEWARDSHIP AND PARKING**

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AS OF DECEMBER 2023**

CRMC C1 – Knowlesway Extension

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Narragansett Conservation Commission
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Manny Andrews
- Limited parking

CRMC C2 – Pilgrim Avenue

- CRMC Adopt An Access – RI Surfriders Foundation
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – RI Surfriders Foundation
- Parking available 5 am to 9 pm

CRMC C3 – Calef at Louise Avenue

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Narragansett Coastal Access Improvement Committee
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Vetted unsuitable for program
- Parking available 5 am to 9 pm

CRMC C4 – Under Investigation

- CRMC has not yet found record of this designation, possibly Mumford Road

CRMC C5 – Black Point

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not considered for program, DEM owned
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Not considered for program, DEM owned
- DEM/DOT Collaboration with Friends of Black Point/Narragansett Surfcasters
- Parking available 24 hours a day

CRMC C6 – Bass Rock Road

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Coastal Society, URI
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Coastal Society, URI
- Parking available 24 hours a day

CRMC C7 – Conant Avenue – Parking available 5 am to 9 pm

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Narragansett Surfcasters
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Narragansett Surfcasters
- Parking Available 5 am to 9 pm

CRMC C8 – South Ferry Road

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Two Brothers Quality Painting
- Parking available 24 hours a day

CRMC C9 – Hazard Avenue

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- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Middlebridge School
- Parking available 24 hours a day

CRMC C10 – Pettaquamscutt Avenue

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Vetted unsuitable for program
- Development concerns at 0 Wilson Drive ongoing
- Limited parking

CRMC C11 – Conanicus Road

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Teresa Guido
- Limited parking

CRMC C12 – Foddering Farm Road Extension

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Coastal Access Improvement Committee
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Vetted unsuitable for program
- No parking

CRMC C13 – Newton Avenue

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Two Brothers Quality Painting
- Parking available 24 hours a day

CRMC C14 – Wandsworth Street

- CRMC Adopt An Access – Not currently adopted
- Conservation Commission Adopt A Spot – Vetted unsuitable for program
- Limited parking

**TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT  
CRMC DESIGNATED RIGHTS-OF-WAYS  
OPEN APPLICATIONS ON FILE WITH CRMC  
AS OF DECEMBER 2023**

There are eight (9) open Applications for CRMC ROW Designation Under Review by CRMC:

- Glenwood Avenue
- Succotash Road

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- Mollusk Road
- Island Road
- Ocean Avenue
- East Shore Road #1
- East Shore Road #2
- East Shore Road #3
- Mumford Road

There are an additional seven (7) open Applications for CRMC ROW Designation Under Review by CRMC for which more information is necessary to process:

- Cedar Island Road
- Sand Hill Cove – southerly side
- Ocean Road
- Boston Neck Road
- Josephs Ramble
- Anawan Drive
- North Cliff Drive Extension

**COASTAL ACCESS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024**

**ALL MEETINGS HELD IN LARGE BOARDROOM  
NARRAGANSETT TOWN HALL**

- Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:15 pm



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- Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 6:15 pm
- Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Zerquera-Martin  
Chairman  
Coastal Access Improvement Committee  
Town of Narragansett  
January 17, 2024