

Wiggley Bridge and Causeway

Property and Facilities Inventory

This document is one of a series of staff reports to document important information about properties owned and utilized by the Town of York. It is an attempt to compile and make available relevant information about properties to ensure the institutional knowledge is not lost over time.



January 27, 2021

WIGGLEY BRIDGE AND CAUSEWAY

Location: Wiggley Bridge and its causeway are located between Lilac Lane (Maine Route 103) and Steedman Woods, along the northern edge of the York River. The causeway and bridge form a pedestrian connection from the road to Steedman Woods, a private park owned and managed by the Old York Historical Society. It serves to connect the public paths in Steedman Woods to the Fishermen's Walk to the east of Route 103.



Property Acquisition: The Town of York acquired the bridge and access easement from a private donation by C. Richard and Elise Steedman in 1966. The Steedmans were summer residents in York Harbor.

Deed References:

- Book 1750, Pages 381-382

Deed Restrictions: This deed provides for the perpetual use and enjoyment of York residents in exchange for the Town's perpetual maintenance of the Wiggley Bridge and

causeway. It does not convey fee ownership of the easement area, which has belonged to the Old York Historical Society since 1978 (see Book 2354, Pages 141 – 146). There are significant deed restrictions imposed in the ownership deed.

Survey and Monumentation: uncertain.

Facility Construction/Alteration: In March 2016 a bridge inspection report was prepared by VHB, an engineering firm with an office in South Portland, Maine. The report notes the date of the bridge's original construction was 1936. It goes on explain, "A major rehabilitation was completed in 1991 that included replacement of the concrete abutments, concrete anchor blocks, main suspension cables, tower cable saddles, suspension rods, handrails, floor system structural steel and timber deck." This inspection report led to additional work on the bridge by the Department of Public Works. The Department rebuilt the decking and railings in 2019 and 2020, utilizing operating budget funds only.

Relationship to Bond Funds: not applicable.

Land Use Permits & Approvals: not applicable.

Other Information:

- Parking along Route 103 has been limited primarily to permit parking only. The reason for this is because of the nature of the easement for the bridge and causeway, which were intended by the donors to be, "for the perpetual use and enjoyment of York Residents..." Permit parking is limited to residents and property owners in York, so this policy reinforces the easement restrictions.
- The traditional connection from the causeway to Fishermen's Walk has been across Route 103 at a crosswalk. The Town and State of Maine have completed an alternative connection which goes under the Route 103 bridge over the York River, which will be documented in a separate report.
- The bridge and causeway are located within the urbanized area and are therefore subject to MS4 requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Property Deed

BOOK 1750 PAGE 381

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS; that

I, C. RICHARD STEEDMAN, of the City and County of Providence in the State of Rhode Island, hereinafter sometimes called the "Grantor", in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.) and other valuable consideration to me paid by the INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF YORK, a body corporate, located at York in the County of York and State of Maine, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby remise, release, bargain, sell and convey and forever quit-claim, unto the said INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF YORK, and its successors forever: -

A permanent right of easement to enter the Grantor's certain lot or parcel of land situated on the westerly side of U. S. Highway Route Number One Hundred Three (103) conveyed to the Grantor by those three certain deeds from Samuel H. Judkins, Beebe Realty Corporation, and New England Trust Company, respectively dated April 1, 1946, June 6, 1946 and June 7, 1946, and respectively recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds in Book 1078 at Page 238, Book 1063 at Page 225, and Book 1063 at Page 227; over and along a right of way fifteen feet in width in each and every part thereof (which right of way is centered on the existing pedestrian right of way to, along, over and from the causeways to the "Wiggley Bridge" so-called and over said Wiggley Bridge), at any time and from time to time, by its agents, servants, workmen and employees, with all necessary materials and equipment, but at the risk of said Town of York and its agents, servants, workmen and employees, for the purpose of forever maintaining, painting and repairing said "Wiggley Bridge", together with the right to build-up, fill, rip rap and otherwise maintain and repair said causeways on both sides of said "Wiggley Bridge", to the extent necessary to protect said Wiggley Bridge and said causeways efficiently from the effects of tidal erosion.

Also, hereby confirming, conveying, and quit-claiming, as aforesaid, to said Inhabitants of the Town of York full and free liberty, of passing and repassing at its or their own risk, on foot only (except as above mentioned) at all times along said above mentioned fifteen (15) foot right of way for any purpose connected with the use and enjoyment of said "Wiggley Bridge".

BOOK 1750 PAGE 382

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same with any privileges and appurtenances necessarily pertaining thereto to the said INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF YORK, and its successors, to its and their use and behoof forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the said C. RICHARD STEEDMAN and ELISE J. STEEDMAN, wife of said C. Richard Steedman, joining in this deed as Grantor and relinquishing and conveying all right by descent and all other rights to the rights and easements hereby conveyed, have hereunto set our hands and seals this 21st day of December A.D. 1966.

In presence of:

Grace P. (Hagan)

Grace A. (Hagan)

C. Richard Steedman

Elise J. Steedman

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

County of Providence, ss. 27 December 22, 1966

Personally appeared the above named C. RICHARD STEEDMAN and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed.

Before me,

York, ss.

Received DEC 27 1966 at 9:42 a.m. A.M.
and recorded from the original.

