

BLOCK ISLAND SOUND BIKE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 15, 2026
OPEN MEETING TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Meeting called to order by Melanie Champion 4:03 PM
- B. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Melanie Champion, Janet Conte, Phil Moreschi, Joan Pavlinsky, Joan Twardy.
 - b. Absent: Claire Dalidowitz, Lynn Varadian.
 - c. Guests: Joe Damon (SK bike committee)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 18, 2025..unanimously approved

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Faith LaBossiere wrote an email to Melanie suggesting the Town become aware of maintenance issues with the multi use path at Ninigret Park. Suggested improvements Include adding a portable fence, finish the walking route, and be attentive to the weather conditions that impact proper usage of the path i.e., ice and snow. Melanie made a **motion** to contact Vicki H. at Park and Rec. Dept to voice our concerns re: multi use path. Phil 2nd, unanimously approved

- B. Bike Rodeo Melanie suggested possible Fall 2026 activity. She will reach out to Park and Rec. for any interest

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status of RTA application, no news DOT has not heard any update. Phil Moreschi met with Jeff Allen (Town Administrator) and Nisa Pistacchio (Sen Whitehouse office) on behalf of the Block Island Sound Bikeway. TEAMS meeting took place 1/13/2026. The Federal "Earmarks" or Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) process was discussed as a way to gain funding for safety improvements to Old Post Rd and King Tom Pond Curve Bicycle Path. Phil outlined the process. Additionally he emailed DOT to discuss and review, Jeff Allen supports learning more, Melanie and Phil will reach out as time is of the essence for the initial application to be submitted. More information to be collected and the Bike Committee will review at the next meeting. Also pointed out was the process of Safe Streets for All, a Federal program that has been used by neighboring towns. Can it be reauthorized by Charlestown?

- B. Status of signage on Matunuck Schoolhouse Rd, Michael DeCico has no specific dates scheduled (Winter).

- C. 250th Celebration Ride Joan Twardy reported on progress with the planned ride, outlined 18 points of interest. She and Claire Dalidowitz met with the owner of General Stanton Inn and will meet with Pam Lyons, town historian, to finalize scripts to be used at the various stopping points to outline the historical significance of each location. The committee discussed how to get the word out to the public, length of the ride and approximate time frame. Also, a consideration on registering participants, and need for a waiver form. Melanie will check with Park and Rec. to discuss a registration process.

7. **NEXT BISB MEETING** Feb 19, 2026 Annex Conference Room

8. **ADJOURNMENT** 5:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Conte