

BLOCK ISLAND SOUND BIKEWAY COMMITTEE
AGENDA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 @ 3:00 PM
OPEN MEETING- TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022
3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC
4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

5. NEW BUSINESS : Discussion and Potential Action

A. 2023 Budget

1. Comm. Name, email, head person, purpose
2. Budget and time line (February 2023)

B. Ninigret Park to Post Rd South Connection Improvements

C. Route 1 Crossing at Kettle Pond and USFW Refuge

D. Consideration of using the name BI Sound Bikeway vs BISB

E. From: Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council

As noted, based on the models in this report, Rhode Island will still miss its emission reduction targets by 2030 even if it adopts certain efforts to curb climate change. So what more can be done that the report isn't suggesting? Well, here's one example: Advocates have called for the state to fully fund the state's **Transit Master Plan and its Bike Mobility Plan**. The report says those contain good ideas, but that's "not possible at this time."

F. Letter from Ron Meneo relative to poor condition of breakdown lanes on Rt. 1

6. OLD BUSINESS : Discussion and Potential Action

A. Letter to Representatives from District 38 Virginia Gu and 36 Tina Spears

B. Review of the Mission Statement

7. NEXT BI SOUND BIKEWAY MEETING: January 19, 2023

8. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments: Letter to Representatives and State, Letter from Mr. Meneo,
Minutes November 17, 2022

Invitation to: Melanie Champion, Suzanne Durney, Kim Larrabee

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	12/13/22	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	12/13/22	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	12/13/22	JJG

Block Island Sound Bikeway Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ 3:00 PM
Open Meeting - Town Hall - Council Chambers
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. At 3:02 PM Faith Labossiere called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call:

i. Faith Labossiere	Present
ii. William Wilson	Present
iii. Lynn Varadian	Present
iv. Thalia Wood	Present
v. Cecelia McCulloch	Absent
vi. Phi Moreschi	Absent

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Faith and Thalia noticed a missing item on the minutes from October 20, 2022, under:

6. OLD BUSINESS

C. Discussion and Potential Action - Focus on Feasibility Study Next Phase

2. Similarly agree that coordinating with the other South County communities that will contain their portions of the Block Island Sound Bikeway is important to accomplish now. **Thalia will draft a mission statement for our Block Island Sound Bikeway Committee.**

B. Motion to accept the modification by Bill Wilson, Seconded by Faith Labossiere. Unanimously Approved.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. No public present.

4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

A. Placeholder for committee members to request agenda items for the next meeting.

Faith indicated that with the new Town Council Members taking office on December 12, 2022, she anticipated that the current members of the Block Island Sound Bikeway Committee should be approved going forward.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Potential Action RI Bicycle Coalition Annual Meeting 11-14-22

1. Potential new committee members - Faith attended the meeting and met several young members of the Coalition who might be potential members of the BI Sound Bikeway Committee - no definite commitments. Faith also met an interested, enthusiastic couple from South Kingstown who might be good partners.

Faith informed members that Kathleen Gannon is the Executive Director of the RI Bicycle Coalition.

B. Discussion and Potential Action: Meeting with Eric Weiss, RIDOT Pedestrian and Cycle Coordinator

1. Faith Labossiere attended the meeting and was hopeful that Eric Weiss, the new appointee to RIDOT, would be in attendance. According to attendees of the meeting, he was told not to attend by RIDOT officials. Faith suggested contacting Mr. Weiss and informing him about the BI Sound Bikeway Committee. He might also be invited to a possible spring meeting of the stakeholders from our neighboring communities.

In addition, Faith also suggested contacting our newly elected members of the General Assembly, such as Tina Spears and Virginia Gu to inform them of the Mission of our Committee.

Motion was made by Bill Wilson to contact and inform Eric Weiss, the RIDOT Pedestrian and Cycle Coordinator, and to cc. our state representatives and senators. Seconded by Thalia Wood. Unanimously Approved.

2. Faith learned that the General Assembly passed a bill allowing for electrical bicycles on our roadways. The guidelines for use on the roadways are yet to be provided. She also mentioned that there might be a bicycle tax exemption.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and potential action use of Mission Statement: Members present reviewed the Mission Statement, considering feedback from both Phil and Cecelia and revised it as follows:

Block Island Sound Bikeway Ad Hoc Committee, an outgrowth of the Charlestown Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to developing bikeways connecting the shoreline communities of South County in keeping with Charlestown's Comprehensive Plan, 2021, as well as the State of Rhode Island's Bicycle Mobility Plan (BMP), 2018. Our mission is to develop a vision and plan with our neighboring communities to create a safe, welcoming bikeway system that celebrates the unique natural and cultural environment of our towns.

Motion was made by Lynn Varadian to accept the modified version of the Mission Statement. Seconded by Bill Wilson. Unanimously Approved.

- B. Discussion and potential action: Contacts of importance in Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, and Narragansett.

Faith had contacts for the Towns of Charlestown and South Kingstown. Bill had contacts for Narragansett and Thalia had contacts for Westerly. Thalia created a Word Doc. for all the contact information. She will share with all members so that each can fill in the contact information.

- C. Discussion and Potential Action: SK Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Report

Faith indicated that she read the “beautifully worded” 3-4 Page SK Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Report. She said it took the SK Committee 3 years to write the statement. We all agreed that our committee is not interested in spending time on drafting language. Instead, we would like to focus on taking action to create a bikeway.

Faith also noted that the SK Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee does not anticipate taking any action until next year.

7. NEXT BLOCK ISLAND SOUND BIKEWAY COMMITTEE MEETING: Thursday, December 15, 2022, Town Hall Council Chambers

8. Faith LaBossiere adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	12/13/22	JJG
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Dear

By way of introduction, Charlestown's Town Council in 2022 appointed the Block Island Sound Bikeway Committee. Although, a newly formed group, the concept of a coastal [bicycle](#) route had been the subject ~~offer~~ discussion over the last couple of decades.

Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown and Narragansett have been working towards improved cycle and pedestrian safety. To that end, Westerly has installed pavement sharrows* throughout the village center and added a dedicated bikeway in Misquamicut. South Kingstown's Pedestrian and Cycle Advisory Board has produced a guiding document [called](#) *Green and Complete Streets Policy* as well as initiating the first linking of the four towns by a recognized bike route [connecting the center of](#) Charlestown with South Kingstown's BeachWay [in Matunuck](#). [The Town of](#) Charlestown also funded a Feasibility Study by Vanesse, Hangen and Brustlin *Coastal Route Bikeway*, and Narragansett is [committed](#) to completing the William C. O'Neill Bike Path.

[Charlestown's](#) Block Island Sound Bikeway Committee's Mission Statement:

Block Island Sound Bikeway Ad Hoc Committee, an outgrowth of the Charlestown Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to developing bikeways connecting the shoreline communities of South County in keeping with Charlestown's Comprehensive Plan, 2021, as well as the State of Rhode Island's Bicycle Mobility Plan (BMP), 2018. Our mission is to develop a vision and plan with our neighboring communities to create a safe, welcoming bikeway system [for healthy recreational activity, and for an alternative means of transportation](#), that celebrates the unique natural and cultural environment of our towns.

Much work still needs to be done, but we believe [now is an opportune time](#) for advancing our mission. [Additional recent developments to further support this bikeway initiative:](#)

- [-Recently- amended RI General Laws 31-15 "Motor and Other Vehicle Laws: Passing, Use of Lanes and Rules of The Road."](#) This law was passed [in 2021](#).
- [The "State of Rhode Island Department of Transportation Rhode Island Bicycle Map"](#), originally developed as part of the RI DOT's "A Guide To Cycling in the Ocean State" updated several times to the latest publication in [2020](#).

We invite you to consider a meeting in the new year with representatives from the various stakeholder groups of South County to discuss collaboration on a safe, welcoming coastal bikeway route.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Sharrows are road markings that guide bicyclists to bike routes between neighborhoods and alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists within the shared travel lane.

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Faith:

Thank you for reaching out to me about cycling issues in South County. I'll be happy to lend you and your committee any support I can provide regarding the Bikeway and community backing for the effort. Let me know.

Though somewhat related to the bikeway, the issue regarding the breakdown lane on the stretch of Rt. 1 between Shelter Harbor (more precisely the intersection of Rts. 1A and 1 (at Haversham) and Ninigret is of a more immediate concern. Rt 1 is frequently and regularly used by cyclists and pedestrians who have to deal with the both debris and potholes in the breakdown lane. For cyclists, dealing with it often means riding out into the roadway or risking loss of control of one's bicycle and risking a crash due to the loose gravel and debris discarded onto the breakdown lane. The most hazardous debris is the discarded sand, gravel and excess pothole filler left by RIDOT each time it attempts to fill the potholes and fissures that exist on this portion of Rt. 1.

When RIDOT crews (or its subcontractors) fill the potholes and fissures with a gravel-type compound, the excess is routinely discarded onto the north and south breakdown lanes – creating hazardous conditions for the cyclists and pedestrians who use this stretch of Rt. 1. I've brought this to the attention of RIDOT which may, weeks later, send a sweeping crew out to clean the breakdown lanes. In lieu of this delayed response, as a more immediate remedy, RIDOT can at remove the excess gravel at the same time it attempts to repair the road surface. This will save both time and money by not having to dispatch a sweeping crew to clean the breakdown lane.

In my view, the conditions of this stretch of road and the resulting hazards in the breakdown lanes are the result of its neglect over the last 10+ years. It seems that this stretch of Rt 1 (both north and south) has been excluded from the Rt 1 improvements/resurfacings that have been undertaken over the last several years. This is an issue that our South County representatives should look into.

So while the bikeway is an important and essential to our community, the RT 1 issues are more immediate and of a very real safety concern to cyclists, pedestrians and drivers who encounter cyclists or pedestrians coming onto the roadway to avoid the debris. If you or your group can address these issue with RIDOT and our South County legislators, that would be most helpful. Thank you.

Regards,

Ron Ron Michael Meneo. LLC MeneoLaw, PLLC 1-888-276-3030 (Toll Free)

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