

BLOCK ISLAND SOUND BIKEWAY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 3:00 PM  
OPEN MEETING- TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
4540 South County Trail  
Charlestown, RI 02813

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Melanie Champion called the meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM

B. Roll Call

1. Present

a) *Lynn Varadian*

b) *Melanie Champion*

c) *Phil Moreschi*

d) *Bill Wilson*

2. Not present:

a) *Faith LaBossiere*

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 3:00 PM

A. Motion made by Phil Moreschi to Approve Minutes as provided

B. Bill Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup>

C. Discussion

1. Phil asked to qualify item 3c as 3a and to also to edit the third sentence to say:  
“Joe indicated that Peter Alviti said that within two weeks there would be bike signage.”

D. Unanimous approval of minutes with proposed changes with Lynn abstaining.

III. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

A. No Public initially attending, however Joe Damon, from South Kingstown and a member of Breachway Bikers, arrived at the discussion of Item 6 Old Business.

#### IV. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- A. Thank your Melanie for your leadership
- B. Introduction: Brian Buckley-from Charlestown Beach Rd- Breachway Bikers member – Brian did not attend the meeting.
- C. Westerly Rt. 1 Corridor Study communication with town planner Nancy Letendre 12/16/23:

“At this time, I am unable to take on additional projects, no matter how interesting. If we have a need to discuss bike routes I will be in touch. Please let me know of any progress you make.”

#### V. 5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Change in Rt. 1 median Wildflower Lane to Shelter Harbor Rd-green removed-black “mulch” added (appears to be crushed blacktop)- expectation as of 12/17/23 that guardrails will be installed.
- B. Faith did a call-in on Gene Valicenti WPRO 99.7 and spoke with Director Alviti re: Scenic Roadway and request for a post and wire alternative to guard rails. He said he understood the value of RI’s scenic roadways. He would review the engineering as to safety code.

#### VI. 6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Report from RIDOT signage proposal for Rt, 1A Old Post Rd.
  - 1. Communication from Eric Weis at the RIDOT:
    - a) *“Just last week, an engineer in our Traffic Safety group sat down with me to go over the paperwork that you submitted and to look at the situation on a map. So things are definitely moving along!”*
    - b) Regarding a general question we asked about sharrow pavement markings Eric indicated: *“RIDOT doesn’t typically use those shared-lane markings (aka “sharrows”). I haven’t asked anyone here why, but it’s probably because studies of the effectiveness of sharrows as a safety device over the last 10-15 years have shown mixed results. So most of the sharrows we see in RI were first installed in 2010-2015 when early studies suggested their effectiveness, but in the last 8-9 years we’ve rarely seen new ones installed due to the later research. There were two significant bicyclist-related crashes, one fatal, in Pawcatuck in 2023, so the authorities across the border are probably trying them and hoping they will improve safety despite those mixed results.”*

B. Report, if any, from Steve McCandless, Charlestown's GIS officer on Charlestown Beach Road Safety Improvements Study.

1. Steve indicated the following last week:

a) *The Town Council directed that a request for proposals (RFP) be sent out. After the proposals are evaluated, the council will be provided the information for them to determine the next steps.*

b) *The scope of the RFP was essentially as provided by the BISBC, with the exception that:*

(1) Reference to crosswalks was removed since the Town has already contracted a company to do a crosswalk study.

(2) Reference to Charlestown Beach Road from the pavilion to the state beach parking lot was removed since that is the subject of another study already.

C. May is Bike Month meeting with Breachway Bikers

1. Agreed to support the event

a) *Recommended a Saturday AM (Breachway Bikers schedule will be Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.*

b) *Agreed to 13 years and older*

c) *Meet at South Farm Open Space Parking Lot at 10:00 on the agreed May date*

d) *Do approximately 10 miles with a Bring A Picnic lunch at South Farm*

e) *Select a date and rain date. Suggest May 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. Probably the 4<sup>th</sup>.*

D. Report discussion with Chief Paliotta about patrolmen on bicycles for Charlestown Beach area

1. Chief Paliotta is not in favor of this.

2. This had been tried some years ago with 8 bikes unsuccessfully.

3. It requires more patrolmen, since any call outs cannot be handled by cyclists.

4. Eventually the 8 bikes were eliminated.

E. Meeting with Narragansett Tribal member Anna Brown Jackson December 11, 2023 re: Recommendations on conversation with Tribal Council on possible improvements to KTP intersection. Lynn to report:

1. Faith & Lynn met with Pam Lyons & Anna Brown Jackson to discuss. Lynn spoke to John Brown had some questions about the contemplated improvements in the King Tom curve area. Anna Brown Jackson suggested talking to the Tribal Council to inform them of the desire to make safety improvements. Lynn & Faith will write a letter to the Tribal Council.

F. Report on updates, if any, on South Kingstown Matunuck School House Road Coastal Bike Trail efforts.

1. No report.

VII. NEXT BISB MEETING February 15, 2024

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 3:53 PM

Phil Moreschi

1/18/24