

BLOCK ISLAND SOUND BIKEWAY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2024 3:00 PM  
OPEN MEETING- TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
4540 South County Trail  
Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Faith LaBossiere called the meeting to order at 2:58 PM.
- b. Roll Call
  - Present:
    - Faith LaBossiere
    - Melanie Champion
    - Phil Moreschi
    - Bill Wilson
    - Lynn Varadian
  - Guest: Claire Dalidowitz

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 21, 2024: Motion to approve by Phil. Correction added by Faith re: 5B- Meeting Schedules- agreed to change meeting start time to 4:00 PM. Unanimous approval as corrected. Lynn abstained.

3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

- a. Claire Dalidowitz introduced herself to the committee. She is now a full-time resident of Charlestown, having been a part-time resident for many years, and has expressed interest in applying to be a member of the committee.

4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- a. February meeting canceled

5. NEW PROJECTS AND TOPICS

- a. Discussion on "Guide to Cycling in Charlestown": The committee discussed developing a guide, similar to the one that Bike Newport has in print, that could be found through a link on the Charlestown Parks and Rec website, initially. The committee agreed to come up with ideas for this to be discussed at the January meeting.
- b. Faith asked the committee for ideas for other committee projects.

6. ONGOING PROJECTS AND TOPICS

- a. May 3, 2025 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Community Bike Ride- The committee discussed the draft memo to the Town Council, seeking approval to hold annual Community Bike Rides, similar to the ones held in 2024. Faith will revise the memo per the committee's suggestions, and will make it ready to send to the Council.
- b. Approval of June 7, 2025 1-3:00 Bike Safety, Repair/Maintenance and Recycle a Bike.
  - Bike ride around criterion and multipurpose path
  - Confirm date with Vicky Hilton
  - Share the date and plan with Dorothy Hill, South Kingstown Bike Committee

The committee discussed the above proposal and suggested that it might be better attended if it were combined with Earth Day events scheduled at Ninigret Park. Also discussed was identifying a Bike Shop that would be willing to participate (Stedman's, NBX). Will follow-up and continue discussion at the January meeting.

- c. Update on crosswalks on Charlestown Beach Rd: Faith received a reply to her email to Councilor Stephen Stokes:

*Thank you for reaching out. I agree that the funds should be spent on CBR. A traffic study was completed, and recommendations for crosswalks will be on the council's future agenda. I will advocate on Monday that the funds be allocated to the crosswalk project. Again, thank you for your email.*

The committee had previously suggested the following locations for crosswalks:

- Matunuck School House and Charlestown Beach Rd
- Bait Shop
- Clam Shack
- Between Town Parking lot at Browning Hill

- d. Update from RIDOT on curb cut map and route signage for Rt. 1A: The committee discussed the e-mail that Phil received from Colby O’Hanley:

*Hello Phil,*

*RIDOT has reviewed the prepared materials and suggested signage for Old Post Road in Charlestown and conducted speed studies along the corridors. The only type of bike facility that could be considered on Old Post Road, based on current roadway width, is a shared lane. However, the volume of ~4000 vehicles per day and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 40+ mph exceeds the thresholds considered appropriate for a shared lane per the FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide. Given the above information, MUTCD 2023 allows “BICYCLE ALLOWED USE OF FULL LANE” (R9-20) signs in lieu of bike route signs along the two identified segments of Old Post Road. This sign meets the new 2023 MUTCD which has been adopted by RIDOT and there is no roadway width criteria for use of this sign. See image below. **Note** that RIDOT does not own or maintain Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, therefore, if signs are to be installed, the committee shall coordinate with the Town of Charlestown DPW and Engineer to ensure the signs are approved for installation and maintenance. However, it is recommended that the signs be consistent with what is proposed on Old Post Road for driver and bicyclist expectations.*

*In addition, RIDOT evaluated the curve at E Arnolda Drive on the eastern segment of Old Post Road and the following improvements are recommended in conjunction with the R9-20 signs to delineate the horizontal curve:*

- *Replace existing damaged/missing chevron signs and add reflective signpost strips (W1-8)*
- *Install Advanced curve/intersection warning sign on both approaches to the curve (W1-10)*
- *Tree trimming around curve to improve visibility of chevron signs and sight lines.*

*Also, with respect to the installation of infrastructure supporting walking and biking along Route 1, behind the guard rail: we recognize the committee’s dedication and efforts over the years to get a bike lane here. Unfortunately, what hasn’t changed is the geometry of the roadway and the impact new infrastructure will have on wetlands. Therefore, we cannot impact the area to create a bicycle/pedestrian alternative.*

Faith made a motion to ask Phil and Bill to coordinate a response to Mr. O’Hanley regarding the next steps for installation of the above improvements. Motion seconded by Lynn; no discussion; motion passed unanimously.

7. NEXT BISB MEETING January 16, 2025 4:00 PM, Council Chambers- Faith will be absent- Melanie to be acting Chair.
8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by Faith LaBossiere at 4:19 PM.