

Rocky Point Civic Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 6, 2026 • 7:00 PM • VFW Post 6249, King Rd

Opening

- The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Hald.
- The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A moment of silence was observed.

Roll Call

The following officers and trustees were recorded:

Name	Title	Status
Jennifer Hald	President	Present
Thomas Buttacavoli	Vice President / Acting Secretary	Present
Dean Gandlely	Treasurer	Present
Tina Bogart	Sergeant-at-Arms	Present
<i>Kathleen Weber</i>	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>In Memoriam</i>
Leah Buttacavoli	Trustee	Present
Alicia Palifka	Trustee	Excused
Quentin Palifka	Trustee	Present

- Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Vice President Thomas Buttacavoli to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026 and June 1, 2026 meetings.
- Motion seconded by President Jennifer Hald.
- Motion carried.

Suspension of the Order of Business

- A motion was made to dispense with the normal order of business to allow Suffolk County Legislator Chad Lennon to speak first regarding the E-Bikes and E-Scooter Law.
- Motion seconded.
- Motion carried.

E-Bikes and E-Scooter Law Forum

- Suffolk County Legislator Chad Lennon addressed the meeting for approximately ninety minutes on the new county law and related state regulations governing e-bikes and e-scooters.

Overview of the Law

- Regulations are a combination of New York State law (which sets the class system, the 16-and-older minimum age, and helmet requirements) and Suffolk County law.
- E-bikes and e-scooters may not be operated in any Suffolk County parks, including the Rails to Trails, and may only be operated on roads with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less.
- Physical retailers are expected to inform buyers of the applicable laws. Online retailers have inconsistently added age-verification prompts.

Enforcement

- The new county law provides law enforcement with the authority to confiscate an e-bike or e-scooter when operated illegally. Prior to this law, officers could only issue a ticket if a parent was present, which effectively prevented enforcement against underage riders.
- If the operator is under 16, the ticket is issued to the parent. Retrieval of a confiscated bike costs in excess of \$1,000.
- Enforcement authority rests with Park Rangers, the Suffolk County Sheriff, and the Suffolk County Police Department. The county employs only twelve part-time Park Rangers county-wide.

Community Concerns Raised

- Residents raised numerous concerns during an extended question-and-answer period, including the following:
 - The blanket nature of the law penalizes responsible adult riders, including seniors and residents with disabilities who rely on Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes for mobility, exercise, and commuting
 - The 30 mph road limit creates practical difficulties, as many local routes exceed that limit, including portions of Route 25A and North Country Road
 - The e-bike classification system is not well understood by the public or, at times, enforcement. A Class 1 pedal-assist e-bike operates very differently from an electric dirt bike, yet all are treated similarly under the current law
 - The prohibition on Rails to Trails predates the current law, but this has been news to many residents
 - Enforcement appears inconsistent, with some residents reporting officers unwilling to respond to complaints; signage and public awareness of the law are also lacking, and jurisdictional issues involving the county, town, and PSEG complicate signage on the Rails to Trails
 - Reference was made to the recent death of a young resident, Andrew Salgado, killed while riding a conventional bicycle in a bike lane, as an example of broader infrastructure and safety concerns

Legislator Lennon's Responses

- Legislator Lennon acknowledged the concerns and stated that conversations are ongoing with fellow legislators regarding possible amendments to the law. He committed to bringing the community's feedback back to the legislature, including:
 - Raising the permissible road speed limit from 30 mph to 35 mph to match town speed limits
 - Considering exemptions or refined classifications for Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes
 - Considering accommodations for residents with disabilities (noting any medical exemption would likely need to come from the state level to address HIPAA concerns)
- He noted that e-bike classification is set at the state level and encouraged residents to also contact State Assembly Member Jodi Giglio and State Senator Anthony Palumbo.
- He reported a video and poster contest is underway in county school districts to spread awareness of the law to youth, and noted the Rails to Trails Stewardship Program is open to volunteer participation.
- He acknowledged difficulties communicating changes to residents given constraints on county newsletters and a suspension of the county's email distribution system following a recent cyberattack.

Local Retailer Perspective

- A co-owner of Rocky Point Bicycle addressed the meeting, noting that the shop does not sell e-scooters, will not sell any bike to a customer under sixteen years of age, and stocks only Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes.
- He observed that a significant portion of the shop's customer base is aged 50 to 65 and uses e-bikes to return to cycling, rebuild fitness, or manage weight. He voiced support for a review of the Rails to Trails prohibition, particularly for Class 1 e-bikes, and support for aligning the road speed limit at 35 mph.

Contact and Follow-Up

- Residents were reminded that Legislator Lennon's office is located at the McCarrick's Medical Plaza and welcomes calls, emails, and in-person visits.
- Trustee Quentin Palifka works in Legislator Lennon's office and serves as a local point of contact for questions to be forwarded.

Meeting Suspension and Adjournment

- Given the extended time devoted to the E-Bikes forum and in recognition of the United States men's national soccer team's match against Belgium in progress, a motion was made to suspend the remainder of the July meeting.
- Motion seconded. Motion carried.
- Remaining agenda items are deferred to the September 2026 meeting. No general meeting is scheduled for August 2026.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas Buttacavoli

Vice President / Acting Secretary, Rocky Point Civic Association