



Office of the Mayor

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

781-794-8100

June 20, 2011

Dear Friends,

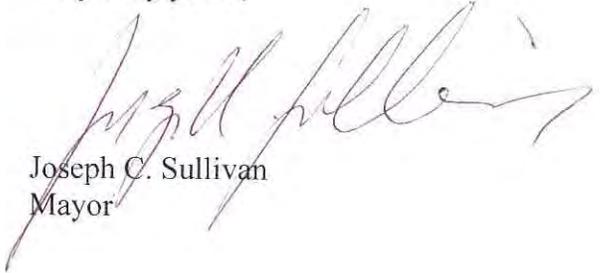
With the commencement of the PWED project in the East Braintree -Weymouth Landing area along with the proposed improvements at the Allen Street BELD site and at Watson Park, a lot is happening in East Braintree.

The enclosed newsletter highlights “conceptual” ideas for this area of Braintree in the days ahead.

The Planning and Community Development Department under the direction of Christine Stickney, members of the Town Council and planning consultants, with the support of the East Braintree Civic Association, have collectively worked hard to bring this interesting newsletter to you.

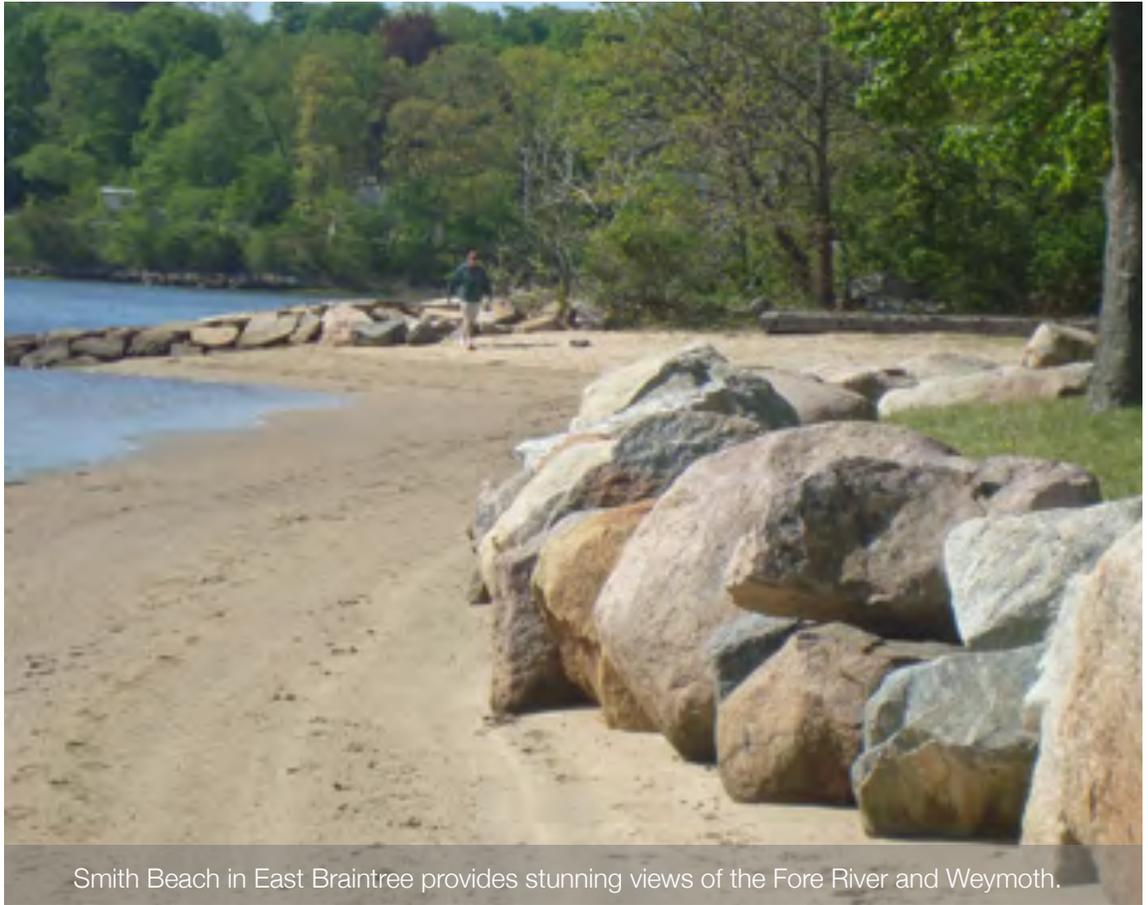
Your review and comments are appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

MONATIQUOT RIVERWALK



Smith Beach in East Braintree provides stunning views of the Fore River and Weymouth.

A new *Monatiquot Riverwalk* in East Braintree will enable greater public access to the beautiful waterfront and will connect existing segments of the river's edge.

Connecting neighbors and nature a riverwalk vision

From January to May 2010, volunteers from the non-profit Community Design Resource Center-Boston conducted a series of public forums in East Braintree.

The short-term purpose of the meetings were to get a sense of the aspirations and concerns of the surrounding residents and to identify community-based priorities for the Braintree Electric Light Department's Allen Street site.

The long term objective of the engagement was to enable the redevelopment of a vacant, former industrial property to proceed into a vibrant and economically-feasible community asset.

The effort concentrated on the 1.6 acre parcel. Meetings were held in the Watson Recreation Building across Quincy Avenue from the site.

Community Principles

- Showcase the Monatiquot River's natural beauty
- Connect the river, existing park, and BELD site into a cohesive "place"
- Provide public access and parking
- Create a quiet, beautiful setting
- Utilize salvageable existing buildings (when possible)
- Incorporate traffic calming techniques
- Maintain Allen St. views
- Create community assets and economic viability



Above: The East Braintree community identified the need for greater recreation opportunities, quiet places of respite, and a continuous promenade.

Neighborhood revitalization festivals, markets, and recreation

East Braintree’s Montatiquot Riverside and Weymouth Landing provide a potential hub of **environmental, cultural, and economic activities**. Opportunities exist to enhance connectivity between the Watson Park, the Watson Recreation Building, Braintree and Metropolitan Yacht Clubs, and the new MBTA commuter rail station.

A riverwalk and waterfront community will enable **greater public access** to the river’s edge and resources. In addition to future investments and conservation activities, East Braintree’s waterfront represents some of the **last vestiges of maritime** and manufacturing and is therefore culturally and historically significant.

The Monatiquot Riverwalk was initially conceived by **WalkBoston in 2009**. Ideas for the walk include a variety of surface treatments and seating, educational and historical signage, new plantings and areas for public gatherings, such as pavilions and trellises. **We need your help to advance this exciting project.**

Water, water everywhere

Towns and cities are focusing once again on waterfronts as hubs for economic development and recreation. Many New England towns like Salem, Lowell, Lawrence, and Boston are reinvesting in their waterfronts and instituting **comprehensive river or waterfront promenades**. Braintree and Weymouth are well positioned on the South Shore to implement a unique and local vision with residential neighborhoods, shops, and public transit in close proximity. A robust and **well-designed riverwalk** can also provide for the management, protection, and restoration of local coastal habitats. Together with the infrastructure investments in Weymouth Landing, a continuous and sustainable green corridor will create a visual, cultural, social and environmental amenity that will offer a **competitive advantage** to Weymouth Landing.

Monatiquot Riverwalk Map the concept of an open space network

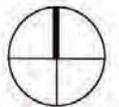


Image based on: *WalkBoston* map (2010). NORTH

LEGEND

- EXISTING PATH
- PROPOSED RIVERWALK
- WEYMOUTH LANDING streetscape improvements

5 minute walk



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Metropolitan Yacht Club | 6 Thayer Steps | 11 Historic Home Row |
| 2 Lt. G. Murray Smith Beach | 7 Braintree Electric Light Department Site | 12 Union Congregational Church |
| 3 Francis Toland Walkway | 8 Monatiquot River Basin | 13 Ezra Sampson/Alden/Bowditch House |
| 4 Watson Park | 9 Monatiquot Bridge | 14 Weymouth Landing Station |
| 5 Braintree Yacht Club | 10 Commercial Street | |

Above: A three-mile circuit of riverwalk could be created by linking existing, underutilized and missing pathways.



The Francis Toland Walkway connects Watson Park to Smith Beach and is one of the more highly used existing paths.

Join the crowd.

In order to demonstrate commitment and support for the project, the Town of Braintree is requesting that you write and send a **letter of support** by **July 15, 2011**.

Thank you.

| see instructions below |

address letter of support to
Charles Tracy, Trail Administrator
National Park Service | NE Region
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

deliver letter of support to
Christine Stickney, Director
Planning & Community Dev.
Town of Braintree
90 Pond Street
Braintree, MA 02184-6498



questions or comments
Christine Stickney
(781) 794-8232
cstickney@braintreema.gov

National Park Service Grant a step towards a sustainable future

To initiate the Monatiquot Riverwalk design and continue the community engagement process, the Town of Braintree will apply for a **technical assistance grant** (due August 1st) through the National Park Service (NPS). NPS manages some of our nation's most historic sites, scenic resources, and critical natural areas.

NPS offers this assistance to applicants through their *Rails, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program*. If granted assistance through this program, the Town of Braintree will work with NPS to advance the goals of the community for the proposed riverwalk. NPS goals include:

- physical connections amongst resources,
- natural resource conservation,
- connections between communities and area parks, and
- emphasis on health, wellness, and youth activities.

This publication was made possible through the volunteer efforts of these firms:



MONATIQUOT RIVERWALK

Proposed plans for the **Watson Park** section of the Monatiquot Riverwalk. Conceptualized by **Gates, Leighton & Associates** in response to East Braintree community input.

