



Office of the Mayor

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

781-794-8100

September 12, 2014

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

It is my pleasure to provide the final Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan. The document articulates our open space and recreational goals and outlines a strategy for achieving them.

Over the last few years, Braintree has made significant progress in improving our existing open space and providing a diversity of recreational opportunities but we have much more to do in this regard. We look forward to continued implementation of these goals and hope to work with your office. We appreciate the recent support of the Commonwealth in creating the Hollingsworth Playground and anticipate several more exciting projects in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

Enclosure



Department of Planning and Community Development

Melissa M. SantucciRozzi, Principal Planner
1 JFK Memorial Drive – Braintree, Massachusetts 02184
Phone: 781-794-8234 Fax: 781-794-8089

PLANNING BOARD

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Joseph Reynolds, Vice Chair
James Eng, Clerk
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Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

September 12, 2014

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street
Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RE: Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Braintree Planning Board has reviewed the Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan and discussed the plan at a recent meeting. At our September 10, 2014 meeting the Board voted to endorse the plan. The Board feels that the document articulates our open space and recreational goals and outlines a strategy for achieving them. In fact, progress on several of the goals is well under way. Braintree has made significant progress in improving our existing open space and providing a diversity of recreational opportunities but we have much more to do in this regard. We look forward to continued implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Harnais, Chair
Braintree Planning Board



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Conservation Commission

October 1, 2014

OCT 02 2014

Kelly Phelan
Conservation Planner
Planning & Community Development
1 JFK Memorial Dr.
Braintree, MA 02184

Dear Ms. Phelan:

Thank you for submitting the "Town of Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan Final Revision August 2014" to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

Subregion - The open space plan does not mention that Braintree is a member of the South Shore Coalition (SSC) which is one of eight MAPC subregions. SSC is a group of 13 communities that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest and is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities.

Consistency with *MetroFuture* - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan by visiting the web site at <http://www.mapc.org/metrofuture> and scrolling down to the PDF of the implementation strategies.

The Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan does not specifically mention *MetroFuture*. We encourage communities to include a brief paragraph about *MetroFuture* in Chapter III under Regional Context. Ideally this paragraph should explain ways in which Braintrees Open Space and Recreation Plan will help to advance some of the goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, and the environment generally.

In the case of Braintree's' plan, this shouldn't be too hard to do since we see many positive connections between your plan and *MetroFuture* such as the discussion of regional open space resources on page 2 and water resources on page 17 of the plan. The plan also has as one of its objectives to work with neighboring communities on joint management of resources. This regional perspective is highly consistent with *MetroFuture*.

The Braintree Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Draisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "D".

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: James N. Downey, MAPC Representative, Town of Braintree
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources