

1. 6:30 P.M. Committee On Elder Affairs And Veterans Services

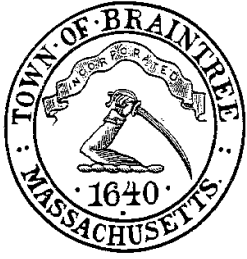
Documents:

[24 JAN 30 EAVS AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. 6:30 P.M. Committee On Elder Affairs And Veterans Services

Documents:

[2024 JAN 30 EAVS MTG.PDF](#)



Braintree Town Council

Committee on Elder Affairs & Veterans' Services

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

MEMBERS

Joseph Reynolds, Chairman
Shannon Hume, Vice-Chairman
Peter Morin, Member

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Starting Time – 6:30 p.m.
Johnson Chambers

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

- October 3, 2022

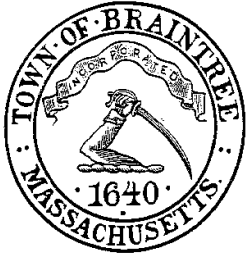
Old Business

- None

New Business

- 006 24 Councilor Reynolds: Elder Affairs and Veteran Services Committee Discussion or take up any action relative thereto (*list of topics to bring before the committee*)

Adjournment



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Braintree Town Council

Committee on Elder Affairs & Veterans' Services

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

MEMBERS

Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr., Chairman
Joseph Reynolds, Vice-Chairman
Stephen C. O'Brien, member

October 3, 2022

MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee on Elder Affairs & Veterans' Services was held in Fletcher Hall, on Wednesday, October 3, 2022 at 6:00p.m. This meeting was also available via Zoom for viewing.

Chairman Mackin asked there be a moment of silence for all those serving in our military both home and abroad.

Chairman Mackin was in the Chair.

Clerk of the Council, Susan Cimino, conducted the roll call.

Present: Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr., Chairman
Joseph Reynolds, Vice-Chairman
Stephen C. O'Brien, member arrived via zoom at 6:08pm

Also Present: Sharmila Biswas, Director of Elder Affairs
Frank Defrancesco, Council on Aging

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 6, 2021

Motion made by Councilor Reynolds to Approve Minutes of October 6, 2021

Motion: by Councilor Reynolds to Approve Minutes of October 6, 2021

Second: by Councilor Mackin

Roll Call Vote: For (2 – Mackin, Reynolds), Against (0), Absent (1 – O'Brien), Abstain (0)

OLD BUSINESS

- None

Chairman Mackin stated there is no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 050 22 Councilor Reynolds: COA Parking Lot Expansion Project Discussion or take up any action relative thereto (*Initial Discussion*)

Councilor Reynolds stated I wanted to get the discussion going on this. I met with the constituents of the Penniman Park area. They agreed the increased parking for the Elder Affairs is necessary and they are going to support it. There is though a difference of how. There is an issue of the shared space of the Council on Aging use and the Penniman Park area use that is for the benefit of the neighbors. We've had a few meetings on site with Director Biswas, Mayor Kokoros, John Thompson, myself and others. There is also a Stormwater project because this area lays low and the town will run pipes through this property and if there is going to be work there it is a good opportunity to adjust the pavement that was laid down about a year ago. The feeling there wasn't much of a communication with the mayors office. The parking lot took away about half of a baseball field and this was not communicated to the neighborhood.

Talking to the neighborhood they feel it is a good time to come to a compromise. There were 3 new renderings of the parking. This would include safer walk paths to and from the building. We are in the process of scheduling another meeting with the mayor's office to further discuss this. I would like to hold an additional meeting to allow the neighbors to comment. This meeting is to let everyone know there is an opportunity for the town and the neighbors to give their thoughts and come to a good solution for all parties involved.

Councilor O'Brien stated this has been discussed and proceeded with about 5 years ago. I am a representative of the people. The people did know about this. This was the previous administration and the previous DPW administration. When I first got in front of these residents, I understand where they are coming from. The residents need to be more pro-active. I did notify people of these hearing to discuss the funding of this parking area and no resident showed up. This was a public hearing and no one showed up. As for the Council, you can never notify enough people. This was initiated over 5 years ago and we all approved it and we all approved it and no one showed up to the public hearing.

Councilor Reynolds stated this parking lot was approved under the current administration and during the Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Plan. Voted on by this Council of April or May of 2020. I do not think the previous administration had any say on this. This was a request submitted for many years and it hadn't been approved due to stiff competition for Capital Plan funding requests.

Frank Defrancesco stated I have worked here for 8 years. There was no compromise the last time we met with the neighbors. This was expensive and shouldn't just rip it up. It was over \$119,000. The kids don't play baseball like they used to. There should be something there for the neighbors. We walked the field and we discussed this. I understand the neighbors feel this is too big. We can give them some and do some greenery. We are here to help. It's good for everyone to have an open mind.

Sharmila Biswas stated I am happy to hear there is a compromise. The crowds are coming back. We are having breakfast for over 150 people. Braintree has much more seniors than surrounding towns. It is nice to have this extension to the building and now parking. We want the people to be safe.

Councilor Reynolds stated we need a needs assessment going forward. I feel the town has an opportunity to correct it and make a compromise. It would be good to have a follow-up meeting on this.

Chairman Reynolds asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

A Motion was made by Councilor Reynolds to adjourn.

Motion: by Councilor Reynolds to adjourn

Second: by Councilor O'Brien

Roll Call Vote: For (3 – Mackin, O'Brien, Reynolds), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council