

1. 7:00 P.M. Committee On Public Safety

Documents:

[21 DEC 20 PUBLIC SAFETY AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. 7:00 P.M. Committee On Public Safety

Documents:

[2021 DEC 20 PUBLIC SAFETY MTG.PDF](#)



# Braintree Town Council Committee on Public Safety

One JFK Memorial Drive  
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

## MEMBERS

David Ringius, Chairman  
Lawrence Mackin, Vice Chairman  
Charles Ryan, Member

## AGENDA

**Monday, December 20, 2021**

**Starting Time – 7:00 p.m.  
Remote via Zoom Webinar**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85817339735>

Or Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: **858 1733 9735**

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbo8wT0p3u>

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - November 9, 2020
3. **Old Business**
  - 042 Councilor O'Brien: Evacuation Procedures or take up any action relative thereto
4. **New Business**
  - None
5. **Adjournment**



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David Ringius, Jr, Chairman  
Lawrence Mackin, Jr, Vice Chairman  
Charles Ryan, Member

## November 9, 2020

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee on Public Safety was held Remote via Zoom Webinar, on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Chairman Ringius was in the Chair

Present: David Ringius, Chairman  
Lawrence Mackin, Vice Chairman  
Charles Ryan, member

Also Present: Dr. Frank Hackett, Superintendent of Braintree Public Schools  
Steven Sciascia, Council member  
Thomas Devin, School Committee Chairperson  
John Thompson, Assistant DPW Director/Town Engineer  
Lt. Robert Pistorino, Braintree Fire  
Sgt. Brian Eng, Braintree Police  
Rob Millette, BEMA/FRAACS

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 30, 2017

Motion made by Councilor Mackin to Approve Minutes of August 30, 2017

**Motion:** by Councilor Mackin to Approve Minutes of August 30, 2017

**Second:** by Councilor Ryan

**Roll Call Vote:** For (3 – Mackin, Ryan, Ringius), Against (0), Absent (0), Abstain (0)

### OLD BUSINESS

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **033 20 Councilor Sciascia: Review Safety Along Walking and Biking Routes to Schools or take up any action relative thereto**

Councilor Sciascia referred item 033 20 during the September 2, 2020 Town Council meeting stating I would like to make a referral to the public safety committee. I would like to refer to them a request to work with the school administration, DPW and residents to review likely walking and biking routes to schools and propose any changes necessary to insure safe passage/adequate bike routes/storage, etc.

Councilor Sciascia stated I wanted to bring this before committee as a parent of school aged kids. This is to try to figure out how the kids will be walking to school now. My kids are walking for the first time. It would be good to address how kids are walking and having to cross streets like Washington Street.

John Thompson, Assistant DPW Director/Town Engineer stated in September 2020 we learned of a Grant opportunity through Mass DOT to make some school zone upgrades. We received \$291,000 for these upgrades. This will include 6 different locations: Flaherty, Hollis, Highlands and Morrison Elementary and East Middle and South Middle. We are upgrading the school zone signage to more visible LED signs with radar notification signage. Crosswalks will have blue walkways inside the crossing lines and flashing beacons to make the crosswalks more visible to vehicles. We are also upgrading the wheelchair ramps at select locations to meet ADA code.

Councilor Sciascia stated the immediate school areas are not my focus. It is the kids walking up to 2 miles which means trans versing paths they typically do not like Elm Street and Washington Street. If there are extra crossing guard bodies can some of them be put into those locations where kids might be crossing. A question was also raised if the River Street tunnel could be opened back up during school hours.

Superintendent Hackett stated clearly it has been a lot different this year. We have been fortunate over the years we picked up by bus many students. We can now only pick up 25 students on a large passenger bus. We keep trying to check the radius on picking up 1 mile students (which we cannot do) and now looking into 1 ½ mile students. We did get additional bussing for the Route 37 area to Highlands and South Middle which is known as a dangerous area. We continue to explore and try to expand the routes. It will be difficult until the state level allows the expansion of capacity on buses.

Thomas Devin, School Committee Chairperson stated this has been a challenge but we are trying to socially distance and make sure all the children are safe. We are constantly looking at what we can do as far as routes. As far as the old underpass, it is remote, dark and dingy. It would need some rehab since it has been closed for some time. I remember it being a security risk. You would have to get police and others involved.

Councilor Mackin asked if it can be identified the more concerning locations where kids are walking to school and possibly address those areas.

Superintendent Hackett stated for snow days we could work fully remote. We continue to examine our routes and “hot spots”.

Councilor Sciascia asked could we do a more aggressive salting and shoveling of two miles within the schools.

James Arsenault, DPW Director stated during snow storms we are using all our resources. We do not have extra resources to do the entire town.

Chairman Ringius stated any idea when we can relax standards on buses?

Dr. Hackett stated most kids are not on the bus more than 15 minutes with the windows cracked. The goal of full time schooling cannot happen until we address the transportation issues.

Chairman Ringius stated is it accurate to say if a snow day the kids would transfer to a remote day if needed.

Dr. Hackett stated this is accurate.

Chairman Ringius stated it seems Governor Bakers moving towards getting students back into the classroom. We can revisit this in the future if need be.

- **042 Councilor O’Brien: Evacuation Procedures or take up any action relative thereto**

Chairman Ringius stated Councilor O’Brien was unable to attend this evening. I will address what Councilor O’Brien was looking at with this.

Chairman Ringius read the following email sent to Clerk Cimino from Councilor O’Brien:

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Brien, Stephen C.

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2020 8:08 PM

To: Cimino, Susan M. <[scimino@braintreema.gov](mailto:scimino@braintreema.gov)>

Subject: Public Safety Committee Referral

Clerk Cimino,

Mr. Lang and residents of East Braintree have long been complaining about the poor air quality in East Braintree. Evidence was presented to the Council in past sessions and recently the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Commission) completed an HIA (Health Impact Assessment) study mostly for the compressor station but also air quality in the Fore River area. Now comes the addition of the Enbridge Gas Compressor which adds to the security risk for Braintree and surrounding communities and has long been a concern by an organization known as FRRACS (Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station). Many of the members of FRRACS are Braintree residents.

At our last Town Council meeting, the executive branch advised they were going to create a

notification system if an emergency occurs at the new compressor station, yet an incident occurred September 30, 2020 and, according to one of my constituents, notification was absent.

These issues add to the health, security and safety of the residents of Braintree and the Council needs to hold one or more hearings with the executive branch to discover actions being taken.

This request is to refer the above items to the public safety committee with invitations being sent to Mr. Lang, FRRACS, MAPC to provide a contact as an expert witness and the executive branch to provide documentation describing actions being taken. In addition, the public safety committee should discuss whether an evacuation procedure be created should an incident (worse than the several recent incidents) occur either at the Enbridge compressor station or the Citgo Tank Farm.

- Stephen -  
Town Councilor  
Representing District 4  
Braintree Town Council

In attendance are Lt. Robert Pistorino, Braintree Fire; Sgt. Brian Eng, Braintree Police; Rob Millette, BEMA/FRAACS.

Chairman Ringius asked who is developing the evacuation procedures for these areas.

Sgt. Brian Eng, Braintree Police stated we were in a meeting with Weymouth if they need assistance for evacuation. Right now they do a reverse 9-1-1 call to residents in the area and if necessary, they would have PD go up and down neighborhoods on loud speakers to tell people where to evacuate and what the potential dangers are. Response right now is to hold at the entrance unless there is a life-saving need. Then only enter when they have representatives from Enbridge who have emergency responders on stand-by specifically trained to those situations. Right now they are looking at 500,000 feet as far as damage area.

We were told Weymouth PD is starting to formulate their emergency response and we could get a copy of it soon if we were at that meeting. We could then make recommendation to our department heads as to any response we were going to have going forward.

Rob Millette, BEMA/FRAACS stated I did put together a preliminary evacuation plan for Braintree. This was submitted to the Mayor's office. It had a two-tier evacuation of residential buildings close to the coast and everything North and East of Route 53 and North and East of Shaw. This also took into consideration if something happened at the tank farm or the power plant that would more directly impact Braintree including evacuations to Commercial Street. This all depends on what Weymouth does for their responses or due to the prevailing winds we may not have to do anything at all.

Lt. Robert Pistorino, Braintree Fire explained a catastrophic situation would be more than an incident at Enbridge. It would include the power plant and the tank farms.

Chairman Ringius asked if there was a situation where Braintree gave Weymouth mutual aid and another incident occurred in Braintree would we run out of manpower.

Lt. Robert Pistorino, Braintree Fire explained we would try to back fill those aiding other communities as quickly as possible but eventually yes, we could run out of manpower.

Rob Millette, BEMA/FRAACS stated Weymouth released a copy last week on their main town website. There is a lot of information that cannot be released to the public as with any comprehensive emergency plan. There are many ways to eventually get this information out there. With the Pilgrim Plant in Plymouth they used to give out calendars with the evacuation route.

Chairman Ringius asked when this evacuation plan is approved by the Mayor's office I would like to see it before this committee and the full Council and revisit it in the coming months. As noted, there are a number of high threat areas in Braintree.

Lt. Robert Pistorino, Braintree Fire stated the following are some websites:

[EmergencyResponderInfo.com](http://EmergencyResponderInfo.com)

[Enbridge.com/safecommunity](http://Enbridge.com/safecommunity)

Chairman Ringius asked if Enbridge representatives were available at the Weymouth meeting. Lt. Eng stated yes Enbridge had emergency responder and safety management guys giving the presentation. This meeting was mostly for First Responders.

Chairman Ringius asked if this committee could possibly contact Enbridge to have an update with the first responders and BEMA. We also would like to know if the Mayor's office has made any movement to approve the evacuation plan from Mr. Millette. It is important to meet and keep the agendas going so we can discuss these important agenda items.

**TOPICS NOT ANTICIPATED TO DISUCSS:**

Councilor Mackin stated Route 37 and South Street are state roads are out of our control but would like to move forward to get a light at the Route 37 and South Street area. This is a dangerous area. Chairman Ringius stated this should be referred and we should meet and discuss this further with the appropriate department heads.

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Cimino  
Clerk of the Council

**Refer to the Committee on Public Safety**

- 042 Councilor O'Brien: Evacuation Procedures or take up any action relative thereto (referred during the October 6, 2020 meeting)

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Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2020 8:08 PM

To: Cimino, Susan M. <[scimino@braintreema.gov](mailto:scimino@braintreema.gov)>

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