

Meredith Boericke
President
District 5



Shannon L. Hume
At Large

David M. Ringius, Jr
At Large

Julia C. Flaherty
District 1

Charles B. Ryan
Vice President
At Large

Joseph Reynolds
District 2

Elizabeth Maglio
District 3

Stephen C. O'Brien
District 4

Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Boericke was in the chair.

President Boericke asked for a moment of silence for our first responders and all those serving our military home and abroad.

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

Present: Meredith Boericke, President
Charles Ryan, Vice President
Julia Flaherty
Shannon Hume
Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.
Elizabeth Maglio
Stephen C. O'Brien
Joseph Reynolds

Not Present: David M. Ringius, Jr.

Others: Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor
Senator Walter Timilty
Senator John Keenan
Nicole Taub, Chief of Staff (final meeting)
Ed Spellman, Finance Director
James F. O'Brien, Fire Chief
Robert Pistorino, Captain/Hazmat Officer
Marybeth McGrath, Municipal Licenses & Inspections Director
Russ Forsberg, Building Inspector

Clean Harbors personnel:

Becky Underwood, President and EVP of Facilities for Clean Harbors

Mike Foley, Senior Vice President of Operations for our Transfer, Storage
and Disposal Facilities

Rich Harrington, Regional Director for our Transfer, Storage and Disposal Facilities

Steve Ganley, Site General Manager for the site facility

Others Present: Tom Nuno, Tetra Tech who is also a Massachusetts licensed site professional/3rd party
air quality consultants
Dyron Hamlin, GHD
Mike Lang, resident/EBCA
Lee Dingee, former Council member
Dan Hickey, Assistant to the Mayor
residents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 001 23 Council President: Charter Review Committee Update

Councilor Hume stated the Charter Review Public Comment Meetings are scheduled in Cahill for Saturday, March 4 at 1pm. The public is invited to come and give input. This is the document that the town government is governed by.

• 008 23 Council President: Student Artwork

President Boericke thanked Julie Campisano and the Students who created the new artwork that has made the Council Chambers brighter and more welcoming.

Bernardo Firmo Ross 3
Aanya Patel Ross 4
Julia Vitoria Ross 4
Gabriella Tzeng South 7
Mei-Lin Denn South 7
Aliya Moquete South 7
Mia Marcarelli South 8
Suzanna Bergster BHS 10
Nathaniel Flaherty BHS 10
Mia Fuccillo BHS 10
En Yiow Mong BHS 10
Emma Conner BHS 10

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• January 3, 2023

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of January 3, 2023

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

COMMUNICATIONS

• 011 23 Council President: Clean Harbors (*Public Comment will be allowed*)

President Boericke stated tonight the Council's focus is on the hazardous material fire that occurred at Clean Harbors the evening of February 16, 2023. The fire engulfed trailers containing hazardous wastes and toxins. Thanks to the speed and professionalism of our firefighters and the mutual aid provided by the surrounding communities, the fire was extinguished in about three hours. Thank you to our Braintree Firefighters and first responders. The health and safety of our residents is the primary responsibility of local government. This near miss serves as a call to action. I would like to thank the officials who responded to my request to speak before the Council this evening including Mayor Kokoros, Fire Chief O'Brien and executives from Clean Harbors. I would also like to thank officials from Mass DEP some of whom are with us this evening. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Representative Mark Cusack, Senator Timilty and Congressman Lynch who joined me, Councilor Maglio, Councilor Flaherty as well as the Mayor, the Fire Chief and Captain Pistorino last Friday to tour the Clean Harbors facility.

President Boericke clearly stated how this public comment portion of the meeting will be run.

Order of speakers: Mayor, Fire Chief, Clean Harbors, Councilors, Public Comment

Those wishing to speak before the Council shall register on sign-up form

Speakers will be recognized in the order appearing on the sign-up form

Those recognized to speak shall come to the podium and clearly state their name and address prior to presenting their comments - Comments limited to a maximum of 3-minutes

This item will again be on an upcoming agenda. Please email all questions to towncouncil@braintreema.gov and we will try to get answers for you. This incident is an on-going investigation. All questions will not be answered tonight. Questions will be compiled and forwarded to the appropriate party to be answered at a future meeting. All questions, comments and answers will be posted on the town website. We too want answers and will pursue this for as long as necessary.

Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor stated on the evening of the fire I did have a post put out at 11pm on social media when I arrived out of an abundance of caution. At that point we were still investigating as to where the fire was exactly on the site and what was burning. I should have made a robocall at the minimum the next morning to explain what had transpired and I do apologize to the residents of East Braintree and the residents of Braintree for that.

That Friday we met for a number of hours with the DEP, Clean Harbors, my staff, Building Department, Health Department, and Fire Department. This fire occurred in a trailer that did not have any fire suppression is unacceptable. I have taken many steps over the past several days and worked directly with the DEP in working through this. Clean Harbors is not currently operating. We talked about removing the existing trailer that are there. There will be discussion before operations continue or is allowed to continue on the site. There is a number of things that we have identified that need to be addressed. There is a fire hydrant that is not working properly on Hill as well as the issue there was no fire suppression. I have asked the DEP to work with us to not have those trailers stored there. They were permitted for 24. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but the trailers are where the fire happened and the trailers are currently

being removed from the site. We have been able to stop the normal operations of Clean Harbors in order for this investigation to continue. I am committed to make sure we have created every safeguard possible.

James F. O'Brien, Fire Chief stated I can't say enough about the relationship that has been formed between the fire department, mayor's office, DEP, Clean Harbors and Town Council. I know there will be a lot of questions and rightfully so. Especially about air quality in East Braintree as well as the entire town and where the waste water went, etc.

Chief O'Brien continued to state on the 16th of this month we responded to an alarm of fire for One Hill Avenue which is Clean Harbors. Within 10 minutes of arrival a second alarm was struck which means all apparatus in Braintree responds to the scene and it triggers mutual aid to come to the scene to assist but to cover our stations. The biggest problem we encountered was an inoperable hydrant. We had to utilize the fire hydrants within the Clean Harbors facility which thankfully there was plenty of water pressure. The delay in the hydrant hook up allowed the spread of the fire to go from trailers 4 and 5 to trailers 2 and 3. There were eight trailers lined up right in a row, side by side about 2 feet apart. When we pull up to this type of incident, we rely upon the placards on those trailers to know the contents. The fire was so intense it melted the placards. We were dousing it with water. We didn't know what was in there. The best case was surround and drown to cool any trailer that wasn't burning and to keep the fire from spreading. We tried to surround and drown from the hydrant on the Quirk property over the fence but that hydrant was not working either. Clean Harbors representatives were on the scene within 10 minutes.

Chief O'Brien stated we have had meetings everyday and every night. We met at 7am after getting home at 3am after the fire. The Mayor was very, very cautious in making sure that the air quality was good. The Coast Guard had done some testing not only in the water but the air control around the neighborhoods. Clean Harbors did it in the facility itself and right around the facility. The DEP was doing it. The next morning the Mayor and I as well as one of the reps from Clean Harbors went through the neighborhoods with a meter and the highest reading that we got was 0.8 and that was when we drove right past Citgo. Everything else was 0.2 and below. We were testing for potential toxins in the air. While it is still under investigation we don't know what those chemicals are yet. I know there was a great concern for air quality. I can tell you from the readings they did not register that high. They were well within the norms. Wastewater – the water we used that hit the chemicals then becomes wastewater. None of that water went into the river. They filled 15 tankers of 22,000 gallons each and then some. That water is still on site just waiting to be transported. We have an SOG – Standard Operating Guidelines that were followed to a "T". We were happy about that. We were happy no one got hurt. We were happy about the containment of the fire.

Councilor Hume asked if it is known what chemicals were in each trailer.

Chief O'Brien stated we have the manifest from each trailer that Clean Harbors provided to us. We do know the chemicals. We just do not know the actual origin quite yet. We know it started in trailer 4 or 5 and right now we think it's self-reacting.

Councilor Hume stated your department has done multiple trainings throughout the years for these properties in particular correct?

Chief O'Brien stated yes we did and it all went according to plan.

Councilor Hume asked about the hydrant on the Clean Harbors property and if it was town owned.

Chief O'Brien stated that was a Citgo hydrant. The hydrant on Hill Ave was a 6 inch main and the Water Department will address that hydrant situation going forward. The Fire Department has nothing to do with the hydrants except to use them.

Councilor Flaherty asked the number of hydrants we tried to use and did not work.

Chief O'Brien stated 2. One on town property and one on the Quirk property.

Councilor Flaherty asked how often are hydrants tested?

Chief O'Brien stated the Water Department does the hydrant testing. I do not know how often.

Councilor Flaherty asked what kind of training do you do regularly for this type of situation.

Chief O'Brien stated since 1986/1987 when Clean Harbors opened we are active up there. We do tours and they show us the entire plant. They show us how the waste is solidified and transferred and what they do on a daily basis. They used to burn the stuff there and they do not do that anymore. It is now just a transfer station. We tour we go into the tank farm. We check out the phone system. We familiarize ourselves with the facility and what is inside it.

Councilor Flaherty stated you have a Hazardous Material Officer. What goes into that role.

Chief O'Brien stated yes Captain Pistorino is our Hazardous Materials Officer.

Captain Robert Pistorino stated it is on the job training. I was trained by my predecessor and we constantly learn as we go. There is no state certification at the fire academy for Hazardous Materials Officer. I go out and do inspections and issue permits.

Councilor Maglio asked Captain Pistorino what kind of permits do you issue.

Captain Pistorino stated it is above ground storage usually diesel and underground storage, propane, acetylene. The state fire code determines what you need to be issued a permit.

Councilor Reynolds asked if the SOG includes air quality testing or the release of hazardous chemicals into the air in real time basis.

Chief O'Brien stated yes. The first thing we look at is the wind sock on Hill Ave to see which way the wind is blowing. We then make a determination where to place our apparatus for the firefighters to be at their optimum safety. We had to move trucks at different times during this incident. The way we attacked the fire is from our ladder trucks. This was a surround and drown like a shower type of extinguisher.

Councilor Reynolds asked the leak of potential chemicals into the air – how do you make that determination.

Chief O'Brien stated we rely on meter readings which is why I called on a tier one response from the state HazMat team. Clean Harbors had many meters, DEP had one, Coast Guard had one. Our job is to extinguish the fire. We rely on the help from the outside agencies to come in and engage the toxicity of the air.

President Boericke asked if those readings are something that can be in the public record and sent to the Council.

Chief O'Brien stated I do not have possession of these readings.

Councilor Flaherty stated how do you determine whether to do a broad public notification

Chief O'Brien stated we use the mutual aid, we gage the situation, we are constantly looking at the fire and the plume and adapt on the fly, along with the meter readings.

Becky Underwood, President and EVP of Facilities for Clean Harbors and Mike Foley, Senior Vice President of Operations for our Transfer, Storage and Disposal Facilities as well as Rich Harrington, Regional Director for our Transfer, Storage and Disposal Facilities and Steve Ganley, Site General Manager for the site facility as well as our third party air quality consultants Tom Nuno, Tetra Tech who is also a Massachusetts licensed site professional and Diron Hamlin from GHD.

Becky Underwood, President and EVP of Facilities for Clean Harbors stated we are grateful no one was injured. With the quick response from the firefighters the fire was quickly contained and air monitoring showed no impact from the incident.

Mike Foley, Senior Vice President of Operations for our Transfer, Storage and Disposal Facilities stated the meter we were using a four gas meter. It is measuring oxygen and LEL (lower explosive limit).

Becky Underwood stated at Clean Harbors we provide essential environmental services for Braintree, New England and all of North America. We employ roughly 1,200 employees in and around Braintree. We are relied on by hospitals, utilities, various government agencies, universities and people like you to help dispose of your waste safely. We safely handle hazardous waste materials like oil filters, paint, solvents and general things you use in your everyday life like general household waste. We work, live and share the commitment for protecting the public health and environment of Braintree. We are here because we believe it is important to be accountable and be collaborative partners with you especially as we work through this incident. Today is to share more information and hear your concerns. We are going to share some of the improvement actions that we are taking to ensure that we can continue to safely operate with all of the appropriate safeguards at our facility in Braintree.

Mike Foley stated we had several fires containing drum quantities of hazardous waste involved in the incident. The fire started in one trailer and also consumed two other trailers and the contents of drums. The five other trailers, there was damage but the materials inside those trailers, the drums were not compromised. After the fire we removed them from those trailers and put them in another to prepare them for moving off-site. We used about 400,000 gallons of water to put the fire out. All that water was contained within the property itself. The entire property is contained with concrete walls. We immediately shut off our stormwater treatment system which enabled us to keep that material inside the property and not be discharged into the Fore River. We cleaned up all the debris from the fire and we created roughly 21 roll off containers with the fire debris, clearly marked. There was no evidence of off-site contamination. There was no damage to any of the buildings as well.

We have been working hard to do a Management Team Investigation (MTI). We have been doing a complete deep dive to what happened here. We believe we have identified the customer who shipped the material to us and what that material was. We believe it was a material that was spontaneously combusted and set on fire in one of the trailers. It had the ability to spontaneously combust in a certain atmosphere. There were some weather changes that went on over the weeks and we believe there could have been some condensation that built up on this container that ultimately started the fire within the trailer that was on fire. There were various materials on that truck including paints, epoxies, oil filters and other solvents. There was a lot of flammable liquid in there that clearly has the ability to burn violently like it did. We are working with the customer. We have a lot of questions for the customer. This is a long process. We have to have conversations with our customer that we cannot make that information public quite yet. At the end of the day we want to get it right. Through a process of elimination we can kind of back into what we believe happened. Corrective actions are important here. We have been meeting with town folk and there are some big changes we think we can make. Number one is we have stopped accepting any of that type of material specifically from that customer. We did check our entire network as well to make sure there is none of that material within our existing network. One clear corrective action is the spacing of these trailers and re-examining the complete process and ultimately run the facility without using trailers to stage material on. We are learning something from this incident clearly. We are looking at ways in which we run our facility.

During the incident we did our own air modeling through what we call a four gas meter. We were measuring oxygen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and LEL (lower explosive limit) which tells us we are

not building up volatile organics where you could have an explosion if you had an ignition source. We also use a PID which is to measure for volatile organics. All the results we took during and after the event in neighborhoods and surrounding areas of the incident came back ultimately no readings of concern. We did go out and use a third party vendor named Tetra Tech. We are using Tetra Tech and the Mayor's office as well to get a third party view of this. Tetra Tech did a lot of air monitoring as well in the Hill Ave property as well as some of the surrounding locations and Glen Rose. We looked at that data and got a preliminary report again stating that there's no readings of concern.

The air modeling is an important piece as well. We know we had three trailers completely consumed and we know what was on those trailers from a packing list which is essentially what is in that drum. Based on that information we will be working with a third party air modeling company to help us analyze that and provide some technical data on ultimately what the potential effects on the air quality could have and would have and is. This company has done a preliminary effort and nothing is coming back saying there's nothing that is concerning here but we need to go off and continue to comb through that report and technical data.

Councilor Maglio asked your air modeling, does that mean you look to see where those particulates go? They are in the air but then leave the air and fall on the ground or in the water or on people's car roofs or home roofs. Is testing that part of the air modeling?

Mike Foley stated yes but I am not the air modeling expert. That is why we brought these folks with us.

Dyron Hamlin, GHD consulting firm based out of Little Rock, Arkansas stated we respond to fires of this type quite a bit. Yes, we will be able to provide that type of output of surface deposition with the modeling.

Councilor Maglio asked at what point will you actually test the ground?

Dyron Hamlin stated there is no plan to do that right now but if that was needed it is something we could look into.

Councilor Maglio stated just for clarification, the modeling will show the direction of the plume and the chemicals and the smoke and the various things that were in the air and then at a certain point they leave the air. Will the modeling show you where they went?

Dyron Hamlin stated that is the goal yes.

Councilor Maglio stated but there is no testing on where they went?

Dyron Hamlin stated there is no plan to do that right now but that is something that can be done to verify the modeling. We are still working on our analysis.

Councilor Ryan stated when I think of Clean Harbors, I think of the leaders in remediation in the world. If you want things done correctly, you call Clean Harbors to come to your contaminated site. It is very discouraging to me that this type of situation could happen in our town. It feels the ball was very much dropped in this situation by Clean Harbors. To have materials stored in a trailer that you described earlier that instantaneously combusted because of environmental conditions stored with flammable materials in the same trailer in an area that had no fire suppression. It sounds like, what's going on at Clean Harbors in Braintree? You mentioned there was no damage. There is a lot of damage to Clean Harbors and your reputation. All these people sitting here tonight live in East Braintree and they are concerned about their homes and the air they are breathing. I am very concerned. I would not want to see Clean Harbors re-open if there is a possibility this is going to happen again. I would like to not issue your permits for the use of this property unless you can ensure the residents of Braintree that this type of scenario is not going to reoccur. You go to sites that need remediation and bring the materials to Braintree and it is a problem for us now. We have people who live near this facility and who knows what air they were breathing in the other night.

Your meters do not sound like the type that will tell you what type of hazardous waste is burning and dissipated into the atmosphere. I am very concerned about Clean Harbors. I really hope you take a hard look and will be able to demonstrate and assure us that this situation is not going to happen again if and when you reopen.

Councilor O'Brien stated I agree with the previous speaker. There is rumor the fire department couldn't get onto the site because there was potential for a locked gate. It hasn't been written anywhere but it has been mentioned to me. That is of course concerning. When you perform your root cause analysis, I would like to know how you have trailers filled with stuff and your seemingly telling us you don't know what's in it. So you have a manifesto but you don't know what's in it. The trailer separation would have been good to know that ahead of time. Your license was just renewed for a 5-year term. I believe the license is up in 2024 and I think this body will take a much harder look at that. Sadly we should have taken a harder look at it before. I know there are residents that are concerned. There are readings in East Braintree that we really need to put more analysis on and attention to and I think we are going to do that. Unfortunately it takes a situation like this to be able to address these things. You said the site was completely contained. How much over the 400,000 gallons would that site be saturated. What is your max. We need to look inward to be sure we have some sort of fire suppression capability especially with Tesla and electric cars that are highly flammable and water is not going to put those out.

Mike Foley stated we are taking your feedback and we will keep open lines of communication. We want to do the right thing. We will do everything we can to prevent this in the future. We can get better from it. We hear you loud and clear.

Councilor O'Brien stated his concern with the Clean Harbors contingency plan that had listed a Braintree Police Chief that was "outdated". Councilor O'Brien stated that I am afraid you're asleep at the switch.

Councilor Hume stated I have a lot more questions. Usually, we would refer an item to the Public Safety committee but we are keeping this on the Town Council agenda so residents can come and BCAM can televise it. There are a lot of residents here tonight that would like to speak so I will hold my questions.

Councilor Maglio stated whose job is it to make sure humans and infrastructure are safe. The answer is we have to wait until people get hurt or die before anybody does anything significant. We have critical regional infrastructure right here in the basin that you do business in that we live next to, that we can see from our living room and the biggest part of it is the compressor station. Do you realized the compressor station operates at 250 times more pressure than the Merrimack Valley disaster. It is a FEMA flood zone. It is a heavily populated area where methane and benzene are routinely leaked and where they've had multiple emergency system failures dating back to 2021. Next to that is the Fore River Bridge – 32,000 cars a day pass over the bridge. There is no way responders would ever be able to get from one side to the other if the bridge even stood standing if there was a catastrophic incident. It's a shipping lane, a port, we had giant tankers full of gasoline that go in and out under the Fore River bridge that pass within a stone's throw of Enbridge Compressor Station pull right up to Citgo. If that fire was bigger at Clean Harbors they would not have been able to leave because they can only leave when the bridge goes up and in daylight and high tide. There's a tanker full of gas right there. Next to that is the Calpine Electric Plant. Next to that on the other side is the MWRA. Do you know what would happen if sewerage went out from homes all the way through Randolph, Braintree, Holbrook. Also around the basin we have Sprague fuel, Twin Rivers, fertilizing manufacturing, we have Citgo fuel tanks, the Braintree electric light company and then we have Clean Harbors the hazardous waste site. You are just one of those many industries but you're the largest

treatment storage and disposal facility of toxic waste and your place is where the fire happened so you are the ones that we need to look at for leadership on this and to help us make a difference and to help us be safer. The fact that this is all happening in a blast zone that's the Fore River Basin. That's a high concentration of hazardous materials. That's millions of gallons of diesel fuel, 200,000 cubic feet of compressed hydrogen gas, thousands of gallons of ammonia sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, of sewerage. According to a report of the Greater Boston Physicians for social responsibility, a two minute leak of methane gas, if you were a thousand feet away, after only 60 seconds of exposure you would have painful burns. If you were 500 feet away after only 60 seconds of exposure you would have second degree burns. If you were within 500 feet, only 60 seconds of exposure and you would be dead. It is lethal. Again I ask who is responsible. The state says local Boards of Health are responsible for developing, testing and building awareness of emergency preparedness plans for hazards. DEP regulates the industry. They are all here because you allow them to be here. The fact you are driving by my window at Two in the morning waving a wand out the window, sorry doesn't make me feel safe. What I am asking is a collaborative approach from state officials to address and mitigate the industry-related health risks for the community as a whole with a special note that this is an environmental justice zone. We already have the worst kind of health nightmares that you can imagine. I am asking for an emergency evacuation plan that actually exists. If we can't get a robo call, how do we get everybody out. It doesn't make sense. I am asking for compensation. There is a lot of money and there's a lot of money that was spent cleaning up this waste that will also be spent trying to respond and create good evacuation plans that actually work. There need to be drills that people practice, that the phones work, the monitors work, the hydrants work. All that takes time and money. That's an investment. That's a cost and we're looking at you. These areas are open to terrorist attacks. If they say everything is fine, we are all fine, that type of thinking is going to get them all killed.

Letter read into the record on behalf of Councilor David M. Ringius, Jr.

Good Evening,

First off, my apologies for my absence tonight, but unfortunately I had a previous obligation which did not allow my attendance at tonight's meeting. I know the incident at Clean Harbors on Thursday, February 16th, as well as the initial response and aftermath, is of critical importance to so many. I will be reviewing tonight's meeting and answers to questions posed by residents and my fellow councilors, and expect to have follow up questions as this situation continues to unfold over the coming weeks.

Before continuing, I did want to acknowledge and thank Braintree Fire, and other responding agencies, for their bravery and professionalism in controlling this incident, and ensuring this fire was contained in a relatively short time period. An incident of this nature, and at such a location, is full of unknowns and potential catastrophe, and the abilities of our firefighters were on display in their response to this situation. I stand with the residents of East Braintree, and our town as a whole, in their endeavor to find out more information about this incident and its aftermath. I look forward to a review and discussion of various investigative reports that are to be promulgated, especially as to causation. I further envision future meetings with Clean Harbors to ensure steps are being taken as to the prevention of similar incidents, and as to how any environmental concerns are being addressed. I have spoken with many residents of the surrounding area, and understand the fear, apprehension, and disappointment they feel about this incident, the notifications they received, and the uncertainty around future incidents.

When I was a member of the School Committee and was asked what the most important part of that role was, I always answered safety of students and staff. Occasionally, someone might push back with, "Isn't the number one priority education?", to which I would respond with: if a student is not safe, or does not feel safe, they will never be able to take full advantage of a comprehensive educational experience. This same

principle applies to all of our residents; simply put, if a resident is not safe or does not feel safe, their quality of life is diminished. It is clear from discussions I have had with residents of East Braintree that many do not feel safe or adequately prepared for what a disaster in the area of East Braintree might bring.

My sincerest hope is that this conversation tonight will be a starting point, leading to future discussions and resolution to issues facing residents of East Braintree. I expect Clean Harbors will appear before the Council again, as often as we request, as to steps being taken to ensure prevention of future incidents. As a member of the Public Safety sub-committee, I would hope that additional hearings will be held in front of that body as to this incident, emergency preparedness around similar issues, and proper safety planning as to any future major incidents.

Thank you.

David Ringius

Councilor-At-Large

Councilor Reynolds stated I will submit additional questions. My concerns this evening is the event in real time and the air monitoring. How was the air monitoring done during the event. What is the reliability of the manifest and how accurate and complete are they.

Councilor Flaherty asked about the water. There was a collection tank where all the water went and then that was taken out and stored and that will be disposed of.

Clean Harbors responded saying those are called Frack tanks which is roughly a 22,000 gallon tank. We have 15 of them. We will do a full analytical on it and dispose based on that.

Councilor Flaherty asked if they get cleaned to not contain residual contaminant?

Clean Harbors stated yes. There is a system for that.

Councilor Flaherty asked how do you know you collected all the water?

Clean Harbors replied there is no longer any water there. It goes to low point and we pumped it all off there. The site is designed with containment. The water will be shipped off-site.

Councilor Flaherty stated it is hard to believe the air quality was fine.

Clean Harbors stated most of that volatile organics were being consumed and burned off in the flame. Fire burns off the volatile organics.

Councilor Flaherty stated there will be an air modeling that can follow the plume and see if anything fell to the ground. Is Clean Harbors prepared to come to a residents yard and clean toxins out of their yard.

Clean Harbors stated yes.

President Boericke stated I would like to note that Senator Keenan and Senator Timilty are here with us this evening.

President Boericke stated we will now take comments from the General Public. Please sign in with your name and address:

As the fire remains under investigation, questions may not be answered on Tuesday night. It is my intention to have all comments and questions compiled, submitted to the appropriate parties, and answered at a future Council meeting, tentatively March 21, 2023. All questions, comments and responses will also be published on the Town Council website. The Council will continue to pursue this matter for as long as we deem necessary.

Janet Swenson, 35 Linden Street

I was active against Clean Harbors years ago. They were not great then. At the time we defeated the toxic waste incinerator. Why can't the fire department get information on each trailer when it comes in and if need be the fire department can use the proper chemicals to stop a fire.

Leland Dingee, 211 Glenrose Avenue

I have been working on these issues in the area for over 25 years. This night I was asleep. I didn't know it was happening until I saw the news. There is no good answer in some of these areas. My fear is there be a fire and it spread. I am concerned about all the other facilities down there. If there was a chain reaction that compressor station could be problematic.

Susan Deshler, 215 Forest Street, Norwell

I have been working with FRRACs now for 8 years. My family lives in the Idelwell section. The plume went towards the Idelwell area and it is distressing we do not know what was in the plume. We need a comprehensive notification and plans for the whole river basin.

Lorraine Liston, 118 Beechwood Road

Thank you to the fire department. We get robocalls for all kinds of things about 3 times a month. When there was a fire at a hazardous waste plant we got nothing. You could have called and said we are airing on the side of caution. Please keep your windows closed until you hear from us further. You dropped the ball. We deserve better.

Alice Arena, 6 Blueberry Street, Weymouth

What I am hearing when they are measuring the air quality and the organic compounds, I am not hearing that they have these separated out and do you have them measured. More important in this fire you had a combination of volatile organic compounds being burned. You also had barrels marked waste methanol and waste trolamine. It is not just one chemical you are dealing with but the waste that is inside of it. What is the waste? There is no way for you to know. These vvoc's attach to something we call PM 2.5 particulate matter 2.5 (the size of the micron). This is the stuff that gets deep into your lung causes cancer and COPD Etc. Monitors we placed and ones placed by the state on the Calpine property spiked. The were in the red for almost 3 hours on the night of the fire. One picked up 162 parts per million. This is a danger zone. This is when people get sick. It is disingenuous for people to say do not worry about it, the air quality is fine. It is not fine.

Nita Ricca, 49 Sterling Street

Years ago we fought Clean Harbors from putting in an incinerator. Each truck in and out of Clean Harbors have to have papers on what is in each truck. I was sorry to hear the placards got burnt. Some of these

chemicals should not have water. It would make it worse. We were more concerned about the health and safety and welfare of residents in East Braintree and across the river. I was concerned about the evacuation plan.

Chrissy Brady, 135 Arborway Drive

I am president of the EBCA. We are going to stand up for our residents and protect them. We will continue to request plans for evacuations and mock drills. Evacuation Plans will work for our residents. We will press Clean Harbors for permanent air monitoring.

Jean Giangrande, 82 Wilkins Road

Congratulations to Councilor Maglio about a plan and residents participation in that plan and for the education process that needs to go. I am an advocate and I have a list of people who would be on the advisory board for that venture.

David Oliva, 172 Edgehill Road

The fact that this was preventable. This was spontaneous combustion. This is what you do. This is something people know how to prevent this with your expertise. The best ways to deal with emergencies is not let them happen.

Brian Keegan, 43 Anna Road, Weymouth

I live across the cove. I am disappointed the DEP did not get up to speak. I hear air quality was well within norms. If 5,000 was released is it in violation of the permit. What was the prevailing wind direction? I hope the procedure where waste gets approved changes from the state down.

Greg Shanihan, 1052 Middle Street, Weymouth

I am a member of the Weymouth Town Council. I want to remind Clean Harbors this is a multi-town issue. I hear about soot over in Idelwell. I am sure the boat yards have been impacted. I hope you involve the Town of Weymouth as well as the Town of Braintree and Quincy. I look forward to hearing from you what is going on in terms of testing and hope it is not only encompassed to your own property.

Jody Purdy Quinlan, 152 Middle Street, Weymouth

I am the Executive Director of the Fore River Watershed Association. We have tried very hard to get Braintree, Weymouth and Quincy to work together in protecting the residents and the environment surrounding the Fore River Basin. We fought 24 years ago to try to prevent the north parcel to build. The north parcel was sold for \$13 million to Enbridge. We now have a bomb in our basin. This is bad. We need to get together to see what can happen.

Ed Barone, 108 Glenrose Avenue

Why is there no one from the Water Department here. Who is responsible for testing them and when was the last time they were tested. I would like follow up from Clean Harbors on the pro-active plan.

Megan Feldpaush, 61 Wilkins Road

Safety – Why weren't the hydrants working? Why weren't residents notified. I live in the district with two young children and we walk to school. We stood outside at line up for 15 minutes and didn't know anything

had happened. Were the kids in danger? Were we in danger? Now what about the ramifications like a playground, a ball field. Is this now contaminated land that we now need to deal with with our children and we don't know because they are not testing the land yet. When will that happen? What if this fire had happened in the middle of a planned release of all the gas. What would happen. What's the safety plan. We feel very unsafe. We want to know how we can feel safe so we don't want to move away with our children.

Ed Cowan, 56 Wilson Avenue, Weymouth

Companies in the Fore River Basin especially ones dealing with fuel and toxins and fertilizers should be held to a higher standard. You say you want to work with the Town Council. Prove it. The compressor station is bad news. People are starting to wake up to it. I am concerned about the fire hydrants and notification system. When did the air monitor first get on site.

Ann Leland, 550 Liberty Street

It is awful we need to be here under these circumstances. Clean Harbors stated you are continuing to learn from this. You should do research and know this. Everyone's life is in danger while you continue to learn. We were lucky due to the wind direction. We need to have clear procedures.

President Boericke stated all questions will be recorded and answered by the appropriate parties. We do have emails that we are reading into the record:

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS WERE RECEIVED AND ASKED TO BE READ INTO THE RECORD:

Michael J. Lang, Environmental Coordinator – present during the General Public Comments

East Braintree Civic Association

To: Braintree Town Council

Re: Clean Harbors Inc. Fire & Fore River Basin Environment

Dear Councilors,

For the past 40+ years as a representative of the East Braintree Civic Association (EBCA) and on some issues a representative of the Town of Braintree, I have stated that the three towns of the Fore River basin need an INDEPENDENT SAFETY STUDY. Recently, the Braintree Clean Harbors facility had a nighttime fire which consumed a large amount of hazardous material. As expected, the major concern of the Town of Braintree and the media, was the spread of pollution throughout the residential area. While the incident was concerning, I took a slightly more positive view of the injury free incident. After the many decades of screaming our concerns regarding the environmental concerns in the Fore River basin, I felt that this might be the matter that the three towns and the regulators could not turn their backs on. Yet after the fact, I have a feeling that again, our concerns might be ignored.

The CHI facility abuts the Citgo terminal and is encompassed by other highly volatile facilities and densely populated residential neighborhoods. Multiple times a week, large super tankers full of gasoline and heating oil, offload their product directly behind the CHI facility. The product is then pumped to a number of above ground tanks abutting the CHI facility. The area has all the makings of a disaster film. Yet, the volatile industrial area continues to operate and endanger the nearby ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES that the state and feds are required to protect. Additionally, the FR industrial "DESIGNATED PORT AREA

(DPA) continues to expand with the addition of a high pressure gas compressor station and actions by CHI which appear to result in the expansion of their facility without creating attention.

In a post-fire tour of the CHI facility, town and state officials were given a presentation and tour of the closed CHI facility. Upon driving down the single entrance road (which I believe is illegal for other facilities) you are struck by the large number of tanker trucks and other equipment parked in the abutting Quirk shipyard area. While the CHI spokesman stated that the trucks were empty, he eluded to the fact that they were not cleaned of volatile emissions. This parking arrangement amounts to an expansion of the CHI facility. Additionally, a number of months back members of the EBCA leadership were asked to sit with a CHI representative to discuss the possible addition of a small building which would allow the administration and labs to separate from the "working area". The plan sounded good at the time and was supported. However, now it appears to represent a discrete expansion of the working/storage area. An additional Mass DEP document (not dated) shows a request to "add the ability to store inbound and outbound roll-off containers and outbound dump trailers in a 5-bay pad area". The document also notes unprinted pages which were later added (not sure if the town has inspected them).

While the argument could be made that "accidents happen", in an area that contains major regional infrastructure, the long term replacement of 2 power plants, Citgo terminal, CHI facility, MWRA sewage pelletizing plant, MWRA regional sewage pump station, Twin Rivers chemical plant, and other private facilities, would devastate the region and contribute to the resumed dumping of sewage in Boston Harbor. In a past Council meeting, a Braintree Fire Department official stated in effect, "we could handle anything". If you do not know all of the facts, you cannot know if you can handle a fire incident.

In reviewing the Braintree Contingency Plans and attending meetings, I believe better plans could be developed with all of the three town facilities included. To do less is to send our first responders into an unknown situation. The Weymouth plan is equally bad with the Quincy plan being better but also not incorporating the whole Fore River basin. While the Tuesday meeting could argue the shortcomings of the CHI facility, the East Braintree, Quincy Point, North Weymouth areas will not be safe until an independent safety study is done for the whole Fore River Basin.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Michael Lang

Environmental Coordinator

East Braintree Civic Association

Kelly Cobb-Lemire

30 Mount Vernon Avenue

Dear Mayor Kokoros, Fire Chief O'Brien, and Braintree Town Councilors:

I am sending this quick email to share my on-going concerns and solutions regarding the various toxic sites and harmful environmental threats effecting the people of Braintree and surrounding areas.

First, I want to thank the fire departments of Braintree, Quincy, Weymouth, and Holbrook for containing the hazard as quickly and safely as possible. We know that this chemical fire could have been much worse.

Between the compressor station, Clean Harbors' chemical fire, and 2 million gallons of raw sewage released into the Fore River, it is obvious to anyone paying attention that we are slowly being poisoned. I don't make this statement to be overly dramatic --as scientists and medical research has long proven that most cancers and deadly diseases are environmental. However, this latest incident makes it apparent that we need environmental justice on a local level. Clean air and water is essential for good health and the people of

Braintree should not have to continue to breathe or consume toxins from the compressor station, Clean Harbors, the MWRA fertilizer pelletizing plant, Twin Rivers, Calpine, and BELD every single day. At the very minimum, I would like to suggest the following: 1) implementation of a town-wide emergency communication system to notify residents of any and all future situations -- no matter the time or day; 2) that BEMA (working with state and local officials) develops an evacuation plan; 3) introduce and support a water quality protection ordinance; and 4) ensure follow up by our public health officials as to the possible harmful effects of the chemicals and hazardous material spread and to make these findings available to the public. Thank you for your work and I appreciate your consideration. Best, Kelly

Michael Radigan

61 Common Street

Mr. Radigan called this AM. He does not believe that he will be able to make the meeting this evening, but asked me to pass along that he would like to see the following:

- More fire hydrants on Hill Ave
- Large Capacity water main on Hill Ave
- Working hydrants near Quirk

John Ford, 285 Pearl Street

Clean Harbors should be held accountable.

They should excavate the site, remove all contaminated soil and incinerate it or dispose of it accordingly!

No one can say the contaminated water is contained!! Because it's not!

The residences in the affected area should be personally warned NOT to grow vegetables or have their children play on or around the land affected by this accident!

Thank you! John

Also, for the record.

Before our elected officials take office after they win their nominee they canvas for votes. They go door to door. Has any official gone door to door on behalf of these residents that have been subjected to contamination? Has anyone gone door to door to invite them to speak at the town hall on what they, as being directly affected, want to see happen? This does not directly affect me or my family, but it does! This town is where I reside!!

Is there a list of contaminants available, please? There should be. This should be placed on the Braintree Town's website! (Open and full disclosure)

Is the EPA and DEP involved?

Who is monitoring the housing of these chemicals?

Did Braintree know that combustibles were being stored in the trailers?

Is there paperwork (Manifest) of the origin of these chemicals?

Where did they come from?

Where were they going?

What are in the trailers?

What quantity of chemicals are being stored?

Why are they here?

Which jurisdiction does the monitoring of this site come under? Is it health? Is it Building?

Councilor Elizabeth Maglio, District 3

Dear Braintree Town Councilors,

In the attached letter, GBPSR shares our ongoing concerns regarding the investigation into the Clean Harbors explosion of February 16th.

As in our earlier letter, we urge you to work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to pursue a root-cause analysis of this explosion, to push for tighter regulatory oversight of the Clean Harbors facility, to monitor the health of those affected by this chemical explosion, and to develop a comprehensive evacuation and emergency response plan for residents of the Fore River Basin.

Attached Letter stating:

February 27th, 2023

Dear Town Councilors:

We write to you as members of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, and physicians with expertise in public health and occupational medicine. We previously wrote to Town Councilor Maglio on February 20th, calling for an immediate and comprehensive investigation of the public health and safety consequences of the February 16 explosion at the Clean Harbors facility in Braintree. We have closely followed the information that has subsequently emerged about the event, and we are writing to highlight the following concerns:

- The public has yet to be informed of the specific hazardous materials that were combusted and distributed in the air during the February 16 chemical fire. This indicates a failure of basic measures to track hazardous substances present at the Clean Harbors site.
- Multiple air quality monitors adjacent to the Clean Harbors site registered a large spike in particulate matter (PM2.5) levels in association with the fire. These levels far exceeded the 24-hour standard permitted by the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). We are not aware of any nearby air quality monitors that assessed levels of volatile organic compounds, which were certainly emitted during the fire. Such monitors should be installed in the Fore River Basin.
- The Clean Harbors facility fire demonstrates that the Fore River Basin must update its public safety response and evacuation plan to include the capacity to deal with a large explosion or chemical disaster in this densely populated residential area.

We again urge you to work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to pursue a root-cause analysis of this explosion, to push for tighter regulatory oversight of the Clean Harbors facility, to monitor the health of those affected by this chemical explosion, and to develop a comprehensive evacuation and emergency response plan for residents of the Fore River Basin.

Brita E. Lundberg, MD

Chair of the Board

[Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility](#)

FRRACS

As you know from our Friday email and our press release, there was a fire at the Clean Harbors Toxic Waste facility in East Braintree beginning around 10:30 on Thursday night (February 16, 2023). More information has become available as to the nature of the chemicals that were burned and the level of hazard at the time of the fire and going forward.

The list of chemicals burned is long, but here are just a few:

- Methyl tetrahydrofuran
- 2-Methoxyethlether
- Aliphatic hydrocarbons
- Waste gasoline, benzene
- Waste paint
- Waste xylene
- Waste methanol
- Toluene

A standard Google browse will bring up the chemical information on the more complicated sounding compounds and their toxicity. Our old friends benzene, toluene, and xylene are, of course, part of the BTEX toxins you have heard us preach about over the years in reference to the off-gassing of the compressor station. You know they are toxic. You know there are no safe levels. Of possibly even greater concern are the waste barrels. What other compounds were in the waste methanol? We may never know.

Most of the 75 55-gallon barrels that burned were full of highly flammable compounds. Reports are also coming out that adjacent to the fire were another 97 barrels of high BTU fuel that if ignited by the fire would have given us a totally different outcome in the Basin and especially in East Braintree. We acknowledge and thank the fire departments of Braintree, Quincy, Weymouth, and Holbrook for keeping those other barrels out of the mix and for containing this hazard as quickly as possible.

A few things we need to consider:

- As with the possibility of an emergency at the compressor station, why was there no coordinated effort to alert residents of the fire and possible dangers? We know that there is NO evacuation plan in any of the three Basin communities. We know that quick and safe evacuation is not even possible from the 1990 report on the Clean Harbors Waste Incinerator plan.
- Will there be a follow up by public health officials as to the possible harmful effects of the particulate matter spread by the fire? Our Purple Air monitors and the DEP's monitor all picked up dangerously high levels of PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 microns) and VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) at the time of the fire. Whether or not the the VOCs are of concern, the PM2.5 certainly is. Our communities have the right to know their exposure risks and if there are things they need to be watching out for with their health and the health of their children, loved ones, and even pets.
- When will the Basin communities--with assistance from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency--finally issue a comprehensive plan of safety, communication, and evacuation for our residents? Or simply admit that we are a "sacrifice zone" for industry? None of the communities issued a reverse 911 during or after the fire. Mayor Kokoros stated that they did not want to cause panic. Cold comfort for those close to the fire's origins or those downwind in Weymouth and Quincy breathing toxins of unknown origin without their knowledge. As one elected official stated, when does worry of hysteria translate into liability for the towns? (And not to put too fine a point on it, we think more highly of our fellow residents and believe that more information is better than being kept in the dark!)

Dodging a disaster is not a reason for complacency.

While this was not the compressor (this time!), these questions are pertinent to all of the toxic industries in the Basin. We, in our environmental justice neighborhoods, breathe the toxins from the compressor, Clean Harbors, the MWRA fertilizer pelletizing plant, Twin Rivers, Calpine, and BELD every single day. We are left to our own devices on how to escape should there be an emergency. And, our state public health officials blamed us for our ill health in the disgraced Health Impact Assessment issued for the compressor station. This is unacceptable.

As ever, we will try to keep you informed about this and any other issues concerning health and safety in the Basin. There will be a Braintree Town Council meeting on February 28, beginning at 7:30 PM. The mayor, fire chief, and a Clean Harbors representative have been invited to address the council on this issue. We encourage residents of all three Basin communities to attend.

As always, thank you for all that you do! Stick with us, Fore River Campers!

In Solidarity,

The FRRACS Team

Councilor O'Brien stated please note on October 6, 2020 Councilor O'Brien referred the evacuation procedure to the town via the Public Safety Committee of this body and it still sits in the Public Safety Committee.

Carolann Ricardo, Lenox farms resident

Hello Councilor O'Brien,

I am reaching out to you regarding the Town Council meeting tomorrow night, specifically the Emergency Preparedness portion of the meeting. After the chaotic response to the fire at Clean Harbors last week, I have many questions and concerns regarding the safety of Braintree residents.

1. Where is the town's emergency plan? Who has updated the plan and maintained annual reports?
2. Do we have records or documentation regarding citations? Are there any citation reports on file regarding Clean Harbors, Tire Place on Wood Road, Transfer Station, Gas Tanks etc.
3. Has the Town ever performed a mock drill/response for residents? How do residents know what to do and or where to go in the event of an emergency? If an evacuation had been executed last week would residents have known the procedures/process?
4. Has the BOH Director and the BOH staff attended formal trainings regarding emergency responses involving hazardous waste?
5. Do we have an updated list of trainings attended by the BOH staff?

When I worked for the Town of Randolph, the BOH hosted an Emergency Response event where residents had the opportunity to experience practice drills related to chemical exposure, smoke inhalation and what to do in the event of a natural disaster. Going forward, perhaps a mock emergency response event might be something the town should facilitate.

The Clean Harbors event was a wake up call for our entire community, not just East Braintree. There are other locations throughout the town that are hazardous; the Transfer Station, Gas Tanks and Wood Road are chemical hot spots in our community.

Are the BOH staff prepared and trained to respond to chemical spills, chemical exposure and or fires? Are the residents protected and informed about safety planning within the community? Where does the Director of the BOH stand by way of current trainings and licensure?

Attached below you will find the information I obtained from the Massachusetts website pertaining to the responsibility of the local Board of Health, in the event of an emergency. Are the residents protected and informed regarding potential hazards, risks and response procedures?

Please let me know if you have time tomorrow to talk before the meeting.

Carolann Ricardo

Councilor Elizabeth Maglio, District 3

Gary Moran, Acting Commissioner

Mass Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Boston, MA 02114

Via email : Gary.Moran@mass.gov

Margret Cooke, Commission

Mass Department of Public Health (DPH)

Boston, MA

Via email: Margret.Cooke@state.ma.us

Dear Acting Commissioner Moran and Commissioner Cooke,

I write today about the chemical fire at Clean Harbors in Braintree that ignited on the evening of Feb 16. I am requesting an immediate and full health hazard evaluation of the Clean Harbors site and surrounding neighborhoods by the Mass DEP and the Mass DPH. There are many outstanding questions from residents who deserve to know the exposures they and their loved ones experienced during and since the Clean Harbors fire. In addition to the hazards evaluation, I am asking for a root cause analysis of the fire. Firefighters, police officers, and other first responders from multiple municipalities confronted a chemical blaze spewing a plume of black smoke that shifted according to the wind direction. Responders likely ingested the smoke and fumes prior to wearing their protective gear. Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods of Braintree and Quincy complained of stinging eyes and sore throats, and in Weymouth, they had the additional problem of (toxic?) black soot covering the sides of their homes. A proliferation of industry polluters have been allowed to operate in the Fore River Basin by Mass state officials. What is the level of oversight on all these operations? Is it compliant for Clean Harbors to store flammable toxic waste materials in vans that are parked near barrels full of fuel, which happen to be stored next to a gas tank farm? Residents are asking what precautions are in place to prevent the next chemical fire from spreading to the Citgo gas tank farm, The Braintree Electric Light Department, the fertilizer processing plant, the MWRA, Twin Rivers, and the Enbridge compressor station. What inspections have taken place? When was the last time these industries updated their emergency evacuation and response plans, and who is responsible for making sure that happens? One of the current plans mentions Quincy Hospital, which ceased most of its operations in 2014, and ended its emergency room functions in 2019. Some of the emergency plans do not reflect the dangers of the compressor station, despite its completion in 2021. There are many additional questions about the containment effort. Residents were told the fire water was contained on site and recovered. By whom, and what methods were employed? Is there footage of that recovery operation? The area is positioned directly next to the Fore River Basin, where “clammers” and “eel fishers” could be seen later that same day in the Basin. To date there are no notices or signs regarding any type of investigation into testing the quality of the water. Should anyone be eating anything from that water directly following a blazing chemical fire?

Finally, I draw your attention to the attached letter from the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility. Doctors from Boston College, Harvard Medical School and the Chair of the Board have

reached out to impress upon me the need for investigating the cause of this fire and the need to prioritize the health and well-being of everyone who lives or visits this area. Thank you for your attention to my request.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Elizabeth Maglio

Councilor Elizabeth Maglio, District 3

February 20, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Maglio

Town Councilor, District 3

Braintree, Massachusetts

Dear Councilor Maglio:

We write to you as physicians with expertise in public health and environmental medicine to express our deep concern about the short-and long-term threats to human health that likely resulted from last Thursday's fire and explosions at the Clean Harbors hazardous waste facility in Braintree. **We encourage you to request an immediate and full health hazard evaluation of the Clean Harbors site and surrounding neighborhoods by the Massachusetts Departments of Public Health and Environmental Protection to ascertain the cause and the possible consequences for human health of this event.** As medical and public health professionals we are not reassured by the unfounded claim that environmental quality at the Clean Harbors site is now within "normal parameters." Diagnoses such as this need to be based on testing and not on personal opinion.

Clean Harbors is the largest waste disposal facility in New England, and it stores and handles a wide range of hazardous materials in liquid, solid, semi-solid, sludge and gas forms. Thursday's fire at the site generated dense clouds of black, oily smoke that almost certainly contained multiple toxic contaminants such as xylene, benzene, toluene. It resulted additionally in a major spike in airborne particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution - detected at nearby air quality sensors - to high levels associated with increased risk of myocardial infarction and cardiac arrhythmias in adults and to asthma and other respiratory diseases in children. Pregnant women, infants, the elderly and individuals with underlying medical conditions are highly vulnerable to this form of pollution.

Firefighters and police officers from multiple municipalities were almost certainly exposed to high levels of toxic and carcinogenic pollutants at the site during and after the fire. Residents reported experiencing respiratory symptoms during and for many hours following this event. Soot-like material was observed to be deposited on surrounding homes and cars in the Fore River Basin.

We encourage you to work expeditiously with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau of Environmental Health of the Massachusetts Department of Health to perform an immediate and comprehensive investigation of this explosion and fire. This investigation should include the collection of samples of soot and surface soil, and an interrogation of all air quality monitors within the Fore River Basin. Sensitive individuals or those with high levels of exposure – such as firefighters and other emergency personnel -- should have baseline health testing and follow-up. An evaluation of evacuation plans for the area should be reviewed.

In the airline industry, a near miss triggers a root-cause analysis to investigate the causes of the incident and prevent future disasters. The citizens of Braintree, Quincy and Weymouth deserve no less. A thorough investigation is especially needed in the Fore River basin given the high concentration in this heavily populated community of multiple facilities with high potential for fire and explosion – Clean Harbors, Twin

Rivers and the Enbridge natural gas pipeline and compressor station. An uncontrolled fire and explosion in this area would be a disaster of major proportions. Your constituents deserve to fully know the nature of the exposures that they experienced during and following the Clean Harbors fire. They need to be reassured that hazardous wastes at Clean Harbors are being properly handled and stored. They need to be involved in the development of an evacuation plan to protect their health and safety in the event of a future disaster. The causes and consequences of the Clean Harbors fire need to be thoroughly investigated. They cannot be wished away.

Sincerely, Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc

Professor of Biology and Director, Program for Global Public Health & the Common Good
Boston College

Clean Harbors stated we are committed to address your concerns and ensure the safety of the community of Braintree and the communities around Braintree to make it a safe place to live and work.

President Boericke stated the seriousness and gravity of this event without question warrants the council continues to pursue this matter. This will be heard again at the March 21, 2023 meeting. Contact us with any additional questions or comments.

Councilor Ryan made a Motion for a 5 minute recess.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Councilor Ryan made a Motion to come out of recess.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

OLD BUSINESS

- **23 006 Mayor: Re-Appointment - Braintree Local Cultural Council, H. Emily Ego or take up any action relative thereto**

President Boericke asked for a recommendation from Councilor Reynolds, Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means.

Chairman Reynolds stated the Committee of Ways & Means met earlier this evening and voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Nicole Taub stated the Mayor appreciates your review of this appointment and requests favorable action.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan

MOTION: Upon the request of his honor, the Mayor, the Town of Braintree, through the Braintree Town Council, and in accordance with sections 3-3 of the Charter of the Town of Braintree approves the appointment of H. Emily Ego to the Braintree Cultural Council.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 006

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- **23 007 Mayor: Re-Appointment - Braintree Local Cultural Council, Jennifer Lynn or take up any action relative thereto**

President Boericke asked for a recommendation from Councilor Reynolds, Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means.

Chairman Reynolds stated the Committee of Ways & Means met earlier this evening and voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Nicole Taub stated the Mayor appreciates your review of this appointment and requests favorable action.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan

MOTION: Upon the request of his honor, the Mayor, the Town of Braintree, through the Braintree Town Council, and in accordance with sections 3-3 of the Charter of the Town of Braintree approves the appointment of Jennifer Lynn to the Braintree Cultural Council.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 007

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- **23 008 Mayor: Re-Appointment - Braintree Local Cultural Council, Anne Stuart or take up any action relative thereto**

President Boericke asked for a recommendation from Councilor Reynolds, Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means.

Chairman Reynolds stated the Committee of Ways & Means met earlier this evening and voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Nicole Taub stated the Mayor appreciates your review of this appointment and requests favorable action.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan

MOTION: Upon the request of his honor, the Mayor, the Town of Braintree, through the Braintree Town Council, and in accordance with sections 3-3 of the Charter of the Town of Braintree approves the appointment of Anne Stuart to the Braintree Cultural Council.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 008

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

NEW BUSINESS

- None

Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means

- **23 009 Superintendent of Schools: MSBA Statement of Interest Core Project Braintree High School or take up any action relative thereto**

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 009 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- **23 010 Mayor: Transfer Funds from Human Resources Salary Reserve or take up any action relative thereto**

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 010 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- **23 011 Mayor: CPC Appropriation—Watson Park – Delorey Field Rehabilitation, (Assessors Map 3001, Block 0, Lot 1B) or take up any action relative thereto**

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 011 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 012 Mayor: FY23 Supplemental Appropriation #1 or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 012 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 016 Mayor: Request to Approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Plan or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 016 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 017 Mayor: Request for Appropriation - Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 017 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 018 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2023 Enterprise Funds Capital Budget or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 018 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 019 Mayor: Request for Appropriation – Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget - Other Available Funds or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 019 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 012 23 Councilor O’Brien: Educational Scholarship Fund or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer item 012 23 to the Committee of Ways & Means

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works

- 23 013 Mayor: Discontinuance of King Hill Road – Tri Town Water Treatment Plant or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 013 to the Committee on the Department of Public Works

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on Personnel Issues

- 23 014 Council President: Reappointment – Town Clerk, James M. Casey or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 014 to the Committee on Personnel Issues

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- 23 015 Council President: Reappointment – Clerk of the Council, Susan M. Cimino or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer Order 23 015 to the Committee on Personnel Issues

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on Ordinance & Rules

- 012 23 Councilor O’Brien: Educational Scholarship Fund or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer item 012 23 to the Committee on Ordinance & Rules

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Refer to the Committee on Parks & Recreation

- 014 23 Council President/Councilor Mackin: Update from Baseball Steering Committee or take up any action relative thereto

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to refer item 014 23 to the Committee on Parks & Recreation

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, O’Brien, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting is scheduled on: [Tuesday, March 7, 2023@7:30PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Recording of meeting found at: <https://www.youtube.com/bcamtv>