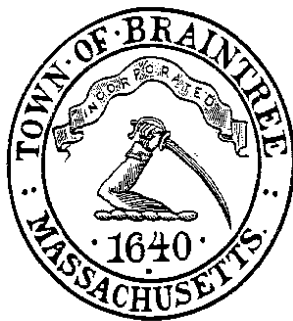


Meredith Boericke
President
District 5



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, MARCH 7, 2023

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council, was held in the Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, March 7, 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
Ed Spellman, Finance Director
James M. Casey, Town Clerk
Debra J. Starr, Assistant Town Clerk
Jane D'Auria, Town Clerk's office staff
Eric Cocca, Town Clerk's office staff
James Arsenault, DPW Director
Ben Hulke, Asst DPW Director
Jim Lee, Superintendent of Braintree Public Schools
Sara Kauffman, Director of Finance and Operations - BPS
Christopher Griffin, Asst Director Parks & Recreation
Dan Hickey, Assistant to the Mayor
Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor – CliftonLarsonAllen
Hannah York, CliftonLarsonAllen
Andrew Berman, President East Braintree Little League residents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 001 23 Council President: Charter Review Committee Update

Councilor Hume stated the Charter Review Public Comment Meeting was here in Cahill for Saturday, March 4 at 1pm. Prior to the pandemic the Charter Review Committee was tasked with reviewing the Charter. It is supposed to be done every 5 years. We went through the whole process of reviewing the entire document, planned to go to the public and have public meetings and then COVID hit. We kept pushing it off not knowing how long COVID was going to last. Peter Morin is chair of the committee, and the Town Council representatives are myself, Councilor Hume and Councilor Ringius. We decided to go to the public first this time. We have had Jim Casey, Town Clerk come give his input on some conflicting language in the Charter. If you want to see anything changed send it to us. The Charter is the most important document for this town. The Charter dictates how the legislative and executive side of government operates. We are bound by the Charter and follow those rules. The public is invited to come and give input.

President Boericke stated thank you for all the questions on the Clean Harbors incident. We will make sure all questions continue to get answered. We will also have this on an upcoming agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

• 013 23 Councilor O'Brien: Braintree's Commonwealth Connect a.k.a. SeeClickFix

Councilor O'Brien stated May 2017 See Click Fix was deployed by the previous administration. The application was programed to give Braintree residents the ability to document neighborhood concerns and improvements alike ranging from litter and flooding to damaged sidewalks and malfunctioning traffic signals. Prior to that the Council would go through our Clerk of the Council when a resident would ask for something. It would be submitted to staff and we would get feedback and everything looked good. When See Click Fix came out we were advised we needed to use See Click Fix. In analyzing the data, I specifically have several items in See Click Fix that are well over a year old. I feel there needs to be some reporting as to what residents should expect.

To be addressed:

- What should residents expect overall from their use of Commonwealth Connect?
- What are the administration's "benchmarks" and how could those benchmarks be met when 8% of the overall requests submitted are outstanding?
- What SLA (Service Level Agreement) should the residents expect?
- Why are SLA's different across categories?
- What response should the resident expect other than "resolved"? (This councilor feels there should be a brief note describing action(s) taken)
- Why is there no "update" to the resident when submissions remain outstanding for a lengthy (to be defined) duration?
- What is the plan for the future?

Councilor O'Brien stated I am hoping someone from the administration can provide visibility to the application.

James Arsenault, DPW Director stated overall the program was so your request could be tracked and you can see what is going on. It allowed the residents to submit information through the system and follow through with it. Some of the projects are submitted and are long-term projects. We need to get better in responding and say we are looking into mitigation and changes. We should at least acknowledge we are in process and maybe sometimes we haven't. We'll try to do better.

Ben Hulke, Assistant DPW Director replied to the bullet points:

- **What should residents expect overall from their use of Commonwealth Connect?**
It is a nice auxiliary tool for reporting issues as opposed to a phone call or email. It is not to be used for emergency issues. It does not necessarily get to the appropriate respondent immediately. It may be the next morning. It may be a few days pending vacations, weekends etc.
- **What are the administration's "benchmarks" and how could those benchmarks be met when 8% of the overall requests submitted are outstanding?**
Speaking for the DPW, we do our best to respond to everything as soon as possible. Our follow up when we close out an issue, we do need to improve. We actually dug back into this ourselves and noticed things that were already fixed and never actually followed up with closing out the request. We need to be better with that.
- **What SLA (Service Level Agreement) should the residents expect?**
Staff does their best to acknowledge it within the first day or two. Some of the service level agreements need to be adjusted on our end. One size does not fit all for length of response. One example is if it is a safety issue, we would get to it faster. Some things would fall back on the priority list.
- **Why are SLA's different across categories?**
- **What response should the resident expect other than "resolved"? (This councilor feels there should be a brief note describing action(s) taken)**
On DPW's end, we do try to provide a response other than just resolved when we can and try to give a brief explanation of it. Some residents have actually closed issues on their own. They see it is done and go in to See Click Fix and close it out.
- **Why is there no "update" to the resident when submissions remain outstanding for a lengthy (to be defined) duration?**
We need to be better about expressing expectations upfront. When something comes in to See Click Fix we evaluate. Say it is a dangerous intersection. We ask does it need to go to Engineering for a study. It might need a design and we are waiting on funding that could be grants or the yearly capital plan. We are not always thinking we need to come back and close this out. I know we are discussing it for money or exploring options but it is unfortunately down on the list to get back in and update that we are still pursuing this issue.
- **What is the plan for the future?**
We do need to lay expectations upfront so everyone can get on the same page.

Councilor O'Brien stated you guys are the unsung heroes. This is not a bash session. We can all improve. For example a light change. I understand it needs to go to Engineering and it will sit there for a while. Just a note that Engineering needs to review this. For long-term items it doesn't help to just close it.

Assistant Director Hulke stated if someone does have an issue that maybe fell through the cracks and extents out please resubmit or call or email.

Councilor Flaherty questioned whether School Maintenance issues should be logged into SeeClickFix. Assistant Director Hulke stated anything with the fields and perimeters people can continue to log these issues but we are not ready or set up to have the actual school issues logged in here. This is a discussion we will have to have. There are a lot of building and maintenance issues. The schools do have an internal system that Schools and the Facilities Department are using to categorize things.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• January 17, 2023

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Approve Minutes of January 17, 2023

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

President Boericke explained there are very specific guidelines to the opening of public hearings. The next three items on tonight's agenda are Public Hearings they will be opened and continued tonight without discussion and that is because they are still making their way through the committee process.

• 22 012 Mayor: Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment - Inclusionary Housing and Associated Revisions or take up any action relative thereto (Public Hearing CONTINUED to June 20, 2023)

Council President Boericke asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 22 012.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 22 012.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Open the Public Hearing for Order 22 012.

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

President Boericke asked is there a MOTION to **CONTINUE** the PUBLIC HEARING to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm for Order 22 012:

22 012 Mayor: Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment - Inclusionary Housing and Associated Revisions or take up any action relative thereto (*Public Hearing CONTINUED to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm*)

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 22 012 to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 22 012 to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

• **22 037 Council President: Tree Protection Ordinance or take up any action relative thereto** (*Public Hearing CONTINUED to April 25, 2023*)

President Boericke explained there are very specific guidelines to the opening of public hearings. The next item on tonight’s agenda is a Public Hearings that will be opened and continued tonight without discussion and that is because it is still making the way through the committee process.

Council President Boericke asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 22 037.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 22 037.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Open the Public Hearing for Order 22 037.

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

President Boericke asked is there a MOTION to **CONTINUE** the PUBLIC HEARING to April 25, 2023 at 7:30pm for the following Order:

22 037 Council President: Tree Protection Ordinance or take up any action relative thereto (*Public Hearing CONTINUED to April 25, 2023 at 7:30pm*)

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 22 037 to April 25, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 22 037 to April 25, 2023 at 7:30pm

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

- **23 004 Braintree Property Associates, Limited Partnership; SSP 131 Lakeside, LLC; SSP 135 Lakeside, LLC – Section 135-612 - Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment - Creation of a PUD District - Residences on Granite or take up any action relative thereto** (*Public Hearing CONTINUED to June 20, 2023*)

President Boericke explained there are very specific guidelines to the opening of public hearings. The next item on tonight's agenda is a Public Hearings that will be opened and continued tonight without discussion and that is because it is still making the way through the committee process.

Council President Boericke asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 23 004.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 23 004.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Open the Public Hearing for Order 23 004.

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

President Boericke asked is there a MOTION to **CONTINUE** the PUBLIC HEARING to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm.

- **23 004 Braintree Property Associates, Limited Partnership; SSP 131 Lakeside, LLC; SSP 135 Lakeside, LLC – Section 135-612 - Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment - Creation of a PUD District - Residences on Granite or take up any action relative thereto** (*Public Hearing CONTINUED to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm*)

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 23 004 to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Continue the Public Hearing for Order 23 004 to June 20, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (1 - O'Brien), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

- **22 066 Council President: Appointment - Town Auditor 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 multiple times to discuss the Town Council options and meet with CLA staff. The Committee voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council on Order 22 066. W&M Members and CLA agreed the annual appropriation would be discussed and agreed upon during the budget discussions with the Council President and the Chairman of the Committee of Ways & Means.

Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor from CliftonLarsonAllen stated we are here tonight for our potential 3rd 3-year contract with the town. We were first before you in 2017 in response to an RFP. We submitted an updated proposal. Some changes are the titles of individuals and the number of full time employees. In 2017 there were 4 of us in the group. We have now expanded to 10. We have more knowledgeable and

experienced individuals. I am not going away but we are trying to facilitate more of the younger staff on the job. Every staff member has decades of experience to at least 3 years for our most junior staff member. They will work under the direction of Hannah York, Principal for CLA and I. I will essentially be your contact person. Everything will still flow through me. I just may not be doing all the day-to-day work, if you will. What I will do is review any work prior to it ever reaching your desks. That will save on some of the costs, that have gone up as part of our proposal.

Hannah York, Principal for CLA stated we have a great group of individuals to do this work. With this contract we would like to utilize the entire staff and Shawn does a great job managing the right level and what we try to achieve is giving you the best bang for your buck. We want to use the lowest level person who has the abilities to do the work to minimize the cost and provide excellent work and we still review everything that goes out the door. It may be they spend 10 hours and we spend 1 hour instead of Shawn spending 11 hours.

Shawn McGoldrick, Town Auditor from CliftonLarsonAllen stated we are not asking for an appropriation increase. In the past year we made an appropriation cut. We will work in the constraints as provided to us and ask for us by this board.

Councilor Hume stated when you first came on board you were the top candidates. I am so happy you are here today to provide us with an independent review that the Council wouldn't have otherwise. I appreciate that. I've relied on your analysis, your opinion and helping making decisions. I support this tonight and thank you for addressing the cost savings.

Councilor O'Brien stated with you guys I absolutely know what I am getting. It is absolutely worth the benefit. I appreciate the sensitivity to our rate structure and requirements. Shawn's responsiveness to us is tremendous. It continues to be the right decision. You are doing some solid work.

Councilor Mackin asked if we looked at any other options or looked at any other proposals.

Councilor Reynolds stated we did not. We did peer reviews. We felt it was overwhelmingly because of the familiarity, their expertise of state law when it comes to municipal practices, and their knowledge of ARPA funds.

President Boericke stated we did as a body at a previous Council meeting vote against going out for an RFP.

Councilor Ryan stated Shawn does very good work. We have had issues in the past with Town Auditors from other companies. I am looking at the previous contract vs the current proposal and the cost increases. The large increases in the costs are what concerns me. With a no bid process, no one is really sharpening their pencils. I don't think we would see these substantial costs if we went out to bid.

Shawn McGoldrick stated I understand the concern with the rate increases. The last contract we were under charging. In 2017 Dan Sullivan really wanted the opportunity for this contract. He came in with low rates. Over the past few years the rates in the company overall have been given a directive from the top. Our rates are what the Commonwealth state contract are. You will see a range in rates of the same position due to years of experience levels.

Hannah York, Principal for CLA stated these rates are fair. These are the rates we give all our clients. I think the Town has benefited for the past 6 years with the rates being highly reduced rates.

President Boericke stated just as a reminder on November 15, 2022 we voted as a body to not go out for bid for RFP. The Ways & Means Committee did months of work on this. I want to be clear there is a cap. The budget we set forth for CLA has never once been met even with all the demands. In my opinion it does act as a ceiling.

Shawn McGoldrick stated if these rates get passed and this contract gets passed, I will be more than happy to shift that work to someone at a lower level that I know can do that work.

Councilor Flaherty stated I thank CLA for their high level of responsiveness and municipal expertise. Having someone to explain this is very important. I called the references and got glowing commentary that I would have given if someone called me. There rates have gone up but they are more valuable to us now with their institutional knowledge. We have control over the cap and our budget. They are the right choice for Braintree.

Councilor Reynolds stated that institutional knowledge is critically important to this body in performing our responsibilities; particularly our fiscal responsibilities. I have a level of confidence in CLA's decisions that they will give us top notch quality analysis. You pay for cheap. There are flaws with the lowest rate process.

Councilor Maglio stated part of our due diligence was also to talk to the other towns you do business with. One I spoke to mentioned all these important systems you entangled from their previous firm. It was impressive to me. I find you to be valuable, important and I appreciate you and will support this.

Councilor O'Brien stated to correct a previous mention, the only time we had an auditor that wasn't as swift as the current auditor was for a six month stretch that didn't work out. Prior to that we had an auditor that worked for the town for many years.

Motion made by Councilor O'Brien:

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 2-8 (a) of the Charter of the Town of Braintree, the Town Council approves the appointment of Clifton Larson Allen as Town Auditor April 24, 2023 through April 23, 2026.

Motion: by Councilor O'Brien to approve Order 22 066

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (6 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Maglio, O'Brien, Reynolds),
Against (2 – Mackin, Ryan), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0)

• **23 009 Superintendent of Schools: MSBA Statement of Interest Core Project Braintree High School 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.

President Boericke asked if anyone would like to speak on this item.

Superintendent Jim Lee stated we are here to request your approval to provide authorization for me as Superintendent to make an application to submit to the MSBA a Statement of Interest for Braintree High School. This is the 6th year we have made such an application. We will continue to do so until we are successful.

Councilor Hume stated I will support this as I have always supported the schools. You get one shot at a Statement of Interest each year and it is up to the state whether they accept it or not. Through these Statement of Interests we have done East Middle School, South Middle School, school roofing projects. If you don't do this you miss out on almost 50% funding from MSBA.

President Boericke explained this is an administrative approval. The state requires local government approvals for Superintendents to submit a Statement of Interest to the state. This is not a binding monetary commitment.

President Boericke asked if we have a Motion for Order 23 009.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 7, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Town Council of Braintree, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 1, 2023 for the Braintree High School located at 128 Town Street, Braintree, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority #5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of the school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; Priority #7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with the state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Braintree or the Braintree School Department to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 009

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 (Public Hearing)**

Council President Boericke asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 23 010

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 23 010

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Open the Public Hearing for Order 23 010

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

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 and voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council with a 3-0 vote.

Council President Boericke asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 23 010?

Cindy DePina, Director of Human Resources stated we are asking for a fund transfer.

President Boericke explained this is not a new request for funds. This was approved with the budget. This is just moving money from one bucket to another bucket.

Council President Boericke asked if any member of the General Public wants to speak on Order 23 010? Hearing none.

Council President asked if there is Motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 23 010.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Close Public Hearing for Order 23 010

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Close the Public Hearing for Order 23 010

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

Council President asked if there is Motion for Order 23 010.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan:

MOTION: That the Town vote to amend .the wage and salary classification schedules, as most recently amended by appropriating the sum of \$8,620.76 for the purpose of funding a wage increase for the library employees effective July 1, 2022, and for this purpose the sum of \$8,620.76 be transferred from the Human Resources-Employee Benefits Program-Reserve Line (0115204 578050) and further, that the Director of Municipal Finance is authorized to allocate said sums to and among the various accounts affected thereby in such amounts as are proper and required. In anticipation of approval of these agreements, funds were appropriated to the reserve account in the originally approved Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 010

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 (Public Hearing)**

Council President Boericke asked for a Motion to Open the Public Hearing on Order 23 011

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Open Public Hearing for Order 23 011

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Open the Public Hearing for Order 23 011

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

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 and voted unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council with a 3-0 vote.

Council President Boericke asked if any member of the Council or General Public want to speak on Order 23 011?

Mayor Kokoros stated I want to thank Christopher Griffin and Andrew Berman and Steve Leary for their hard work on this and Hank Joyce as well. This is a great opportunity to improve the playing field at the Delorey field at Watson park. This will also push the field out 20 feet and bring it to regulation. It is an opportunity to show the children of East Braintree how much we care.

At the January 23, 2023, meeting of the Community Preservation Committee, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the appropriation of Community Preservation Act funds for the "Watson Park - Delorey Field Rehabilitation" project from the Undesignated Fund.

The Town, acting through Mayor Kokoros and the Recreation Department, in partnership with East Braintree Little League (EBLL) proposes to undertake a complete rehabilitation of Delorey little league baseball field. The proposed work includes site preparation, a new field, new infrastructure, new fencing, dugouts, scoreboard and walkway pavement around the field. This facility has been the home of East Braintree Little League for decades and the enhancements proposed through this application will enhance the use of the property and benefit all who enjoy the area.

It has been many years since Delorey Field received a significant capital upgrade. In fact, the most recent work occurred around twenty years ago with the replacement of the field's original inground dugouts with above ground dugouts. The park's location along the coastal area has resulted in decades of weathering resulting in aging of the field's infrastructure significantly. Also, the existing pavement that runs outside the field's fence along both baselines and behind the backstop has, over the years, become cracked and damaged, causing a hazardous walkway. Additionally, the left and right field foul lines only reach one hundred and eighty feet from home plate, which is twenty feet less than the minimum required by little league for the hosting of official little league sanctioned tournaments and events. The proposed work would extend the outfield fencing to meet current little league standards.

ADA accessibility will also be addressed, bringing the facility into compliance as per the following design features:

- Accessible route to each at-grade dugout
- Slip resistant surfaces as indicated by designer and Town ADA Coordinator
- Wheelchair accessible bleachers
- Signage at proper height for handicapped parking space(s)
- Accessible route adjacent to retaining walls and mounded area behind backstop levelled for accessibility
- Access to the batting cages via accessible route

Andrew Berman, President East Braintree Little League stated on behalf of the league thank you for hearing this application. The condition of Watson Park and the fields expresses what we think of our children. Right now it is respectfully unacceptable. As a league we put in hours of sweat and maintain the fields. We want a park that our children can be proud of and the fields they play on are on par with other parks in the town. We will put this field to good use. We have made investments in equipment (poop Zamboni) that will help us to maintain the fields. To grow as a person is our goal in little league.

Councilors mentioned this is a great use of CPC funds.

Councilor Maglio stated ADA accessibility was mentioned to be part of this. Traffic enforcement should also be part of this. It can be treacherous for little ones being dropped off. More signage is important to state the availability of parking at Smith beach. Councilor Maglio stated we had a community zoom with EBL and showed the collaboration. We also know this flood zone will be good for 40 years with some repairs to the seawall. Soil testing due to a recent chemical fire would be really important before kids begin playing on that field. The mayors office had indicated some outside third party soil testing.

Councilor Reynolds thanked the members on the Committee of Ways & Means and Madame President for their questions so this worthwhile project will be preserved and protected and around for a long time for the kids in your league.

Councilor Flaherty stated I hope this brings many good memories to kids for years to come. In the meeting of the Committee of Ways & Means I asked a lot of questions about flooding in the park because I want to make sure this investment will be available in how many years and I got a lot of assurances that the shore stabilization plan is working and the seawall has some repair work to be done but we are on the ball with that.

President Boericke stated just to be clear the CPC funding does not come out of the Town's General Fund. Property owners get a 1% surcharge tax on our property taxes and the state matches a portion of those funds so we get an annual allocation to put to good use for projects that we could not necessarily put forward for the benefit of our community. Little League and youth sports is more than just the children it builds community for entire families and neighborhoods. I am delighted to support this. I hope all residents will enjoy the benefit to a newly renovated Watson Park.

Council President Boericke asked if any member of the General Public wants to speak on Order 23 011?

Bill Berman, 14 Longwood Road stated I coach at the Braintree Baseball Club. It is demoralizing as that field is deteriorated. This group came in 4 years ago and they have put in hard work. They work behind the scenes to keep the league going. Take a ride to Hollingsworth fields and to Watson Park. When a child sees a beautiful field everything changes. This town bleeds baseball and softball. When you add a jewel like this people don't understand the magnitude of what you are doing for the kids and the parents. It's tough to explain to kids when they see a beautiful field why aren't our parks like that. Well it is going to be.

Judy Goggin, 32 Gordon Road stated I do agree the park needs a facelift. I don't agree the park need to be pushed out and crammed in and parking spaces removed and the wildflower meadow being removed. There is plenty of room to put another field in. There is plenty of room to push it all out.

Council President asked if there is Motion to Close the Public Hearing for Order 23 011.

Motion by Councilor Ryan to Close Public Hearing for Order 23 011

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Close the Public Hearing for Order 23 011

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

Council President asked if there is Motion for Order 23 011.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan:

MOTION: That in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44B of the General Laws and with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, the appropriation of \$737,142 from the CPA Undesignated Fund for the Watson Park - Delorey Field Rehabilitation, (Assessors Map 3001, Block 0, Lot 1B). Said funds shall be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee and the Director of Planning and Community Development.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 011

Second: by Councilor Hume

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

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

President Boericke asked for a recommendation from Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Committee on Personnel Issues.

Chairman Ryan stated the Committee on Personnel Issues met earlier this evening and voted 2-0, unanimously for a favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Town Clerk's staff was also present in support of this reappointment.

James M. Casey, Town Clerk thanked the Personnel Committee for the support for the reappointment for the next 3 years.

Councilor Ryan stated Jim Casey does an excellent job as Town Clerk. He takes his position very seriously and is very professional in the way he does his job. He is an asset to Braintree and an asset to the Braintree Town Council that oversees the Town Clerk's office.

Councilor Hume stated you do a great job. During elections you handle it with grace and professionalism. I appreciate that. I will be supporting this reappointment.

Councilor Reynolds stated we have a great Town Clerk's office. They are top notch. The staff is great with great leadership.

Councilor Mackin said the best part of town hall is stopping by your office. That is success.

Councilor Flaherty stated that it really says something when your entire staff comes out to support you. They are here for you. You are very very good at your job and likeable and I am happy to support your reappointment and grateful that you are still willing to do it.

President Boericke stated I thank you Clerk Casey for your support of the entire Town Council. It is an understatement to say you are indispensable to the town and the Council. Kuddos to you and your team but you are the guardians of our democracy. You oversee our elections and you do it with the utmost integrity, efficiency, and courtesy. You really set the bar with your leadership and its demonstrated through your actions. It is a privilege to work with you. You have my full support of this reappointment.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 2-8 (b) of the Charter of the Town of Braintree, the Town Council approves the re-appointment of James M. Casey as Town Clerk effective May 2, 2023.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 014

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**

President Boericke asked for a recommendation from Councilor Ryan, Chairman of the Committee on Personnel Issues.

Chairman Ryan stated the Committee on Personnel Issues met earlier this evening and voted one in favor and one present for our recommendation to the full Council.

Councilor Hume stated as a Councilor, Sue Cimino makes us all look good. She has us all pre-prepared for when we come to meetings. As a Councilor I appreciate and value her work. When I was the President, you cannot appreciate how important Sue is, when you are in this role as President Boericke is now. I would not have been able to do the job and do it well without the support of the Clerk of the Council. It doesn't matter what time day/night, Sue was always there willing to do anything, everything. Some of the demands, some of the deadlines are pretty intense and crazy. None of us do this job full-time, not even part-time. Sue is our full-time staff member for all nine of us. To say you are amazing at what you do is an understatement. I appreciate all the work you did when I was Council President and now and we would be lost without you. I am 100% supporting this. So deserving of this and thankful you still want to do this. Thank you for all you do.

Councilor Ryan stated I have been on the Council for 15 years. We previously had James Casey as Clerk of the Council, and he moved on to be Town Clerk. Since then we have had Susan Cimino as Clerk of the Council. How lucky are we to have such a steady hand as Clerk of the Council. Sue Cimino does a wonderful job behind the scenes, dealing with the Council, making sure everyone knows what's before us; making sure we always put our best foot forward as a Council, Sue does that and she does it instinctively. When I was the President of the Council, Sue helped me so much. Sue is the face of the Council. She is so easy to get along with. She deals with people in town hall, she deals with everybody. Sue has a very easy way about her and she's very effective in her job. Imagine if Sue wasn't looking to be reappointed to the Clerk of the Council, boy would we be in trouble. I fully support the reappointment of Sue.

Councilor Maglio stated this is my first term, second year. I can't imagine being on the Council without your support, guidance and your kindness. The fact I come to you with I'm sure the most annoying comments, questions, subjects, topics, and your just so kind and helpful and you have taught me so much and you're always there and you have taught me so much. Thank you for your professionalism and doing your job so well. Thank you for making us look so good.

Councilor Flaherty stated Sue answers the hard questions and doesn't tell you it was easy and maybe I should have known it. I am grateful for her. She takes my calls, she answers my texts, she answers my emails. I don't think we are necessarily the easiest people to handle. We all have opinions and she fields them with grace and without judgement. I think she is impeccably professional about her job and kindness can't be overstated. I am so grateful you want to do this job again.

Councilor Reynolds stated my own personal experience with you has been very rewarding not only in this job but also in the previous as well that we had to work close together. You are steady, consistent and tactful. Thank you. I fully support you.

President Boericke stated the Clerk of the Council job is one that flies under the radar but is absolutely essential to keep our local government running. The amount of organizational management this role requires is herculean. Documents, email, people; to say that someone excels at this nearly impossible job is truly remarkable. To me you are superhuman and I could not do this job without you. Not only can you do the job but the way you do the job exemplifies the very best in people. Thank you for all you do for us and the town.

Clerk Casey stated this Council started in 2008. There have only been two Clerks of the Council, I being one. You build a confidence in the Clerk of the Council. You ask for their opinion and it is always kept confident. What I was told was not passed on and I know Sue does the same thing. I feel you should ask her if she wants to vote to take you all on because it is a difficult job and she works hard. Council President lean on the Clerk of the Council so much to get that information in a timely manner and to orchestrate these meetings with all the different moving parts. I would ask for unanimous support for her reappointment.

Motion read by Councilor Ryan:

MOTION: Pursuant to Section 2-8 (c) of the Charter of the Town of Braintree, the Town Council approves the re-appointment of Susan M. Cimino as Clerk of the Council effective July 21, 2023.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Order 23 015

Second: by Councilor Hume

Vote: For (7 – Boericke, Flaherty, Hume, Mackin, Maglio, Reynolds, Ryan),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Ringius), Abstain (0), Present (1 – O’Brien)

NEW BUSINESS

- None

Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting is scheduled on: [Tuesday, March 21, 2023@7:30PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

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