



Shannon L. Hume
President
At Large

Charles B. Ryan
At Large

Julia Camille Flaherty
District 1

Steven A. Sciascia
District 2

Donna L. Connors
District 3

David M. Ringius, Jr.
Vice-President
At Large

Stephen C. O'Brien
District 4

Meredith L. Boericke
District 5

Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

(zoom webinar)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held via Zoom Webinar, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 beginning at 7:30p.m.

Council President Hume was in the chair.

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

Present: Shannon Hume, President
David M. Ringius, Jr., Vice-President
Charles Ryan
Julia Camille Flaherty
Steven A. Sciascia
Donna L. Connors
Stephen C. O'Brien
Meredith L. Boericke

Not Present: Lawrence C. Mackin, Jr.

Others: Charles Kokoros, Mayor
Nicole Taub, Chief of Staff/Town Solicitor
Marybeth McGrath, Director Municipal Licenses & Inspections
Thomas Kent, Planning Board appointee

COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATIONS

- Agenda/Documents link to website: <https://braintreema.gov/AgendaCenter>
- Email: towncouncil@braintreema.gov
- Meeting Notice Posting link: <https://ma-braintree.civicplus.com/calendar.aspx?CID=43&showPastEvents=false>
- Facebook: [Braintree Town Council](#)
- "How Do I" sign up to receive meeting/town information: <https://braintreema.gov/786/Sign-up-for>
- To be added to the Town Council Agenda Distribution list please send an email request: scimino@braintreema.gov
- Zoom Webinar Questions: If you want to ask a question but cannot access webinar - call direct: 339-987-2726

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Hume asked for a moment of silence for Russell F. Dupuis, Sr., who passed away on December 25, 2020. Mr. Dupuis was a Veteran who served in the United States Navy during World War II and Chaplain and member of the Braintree DAV Chapter 29 and Braintree American Legion Post 86.

President Hume also asked for a moment of silence for Nelson Chin who lost his life on December 18, 2020. He was truly a light in this community and on December 18th that light went out and will never shine again here... he had the best laugh and gave the best hugs... if you were lucky enough to know Nelson, you were lucky enough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN BOARDS

• 012 20 Council President: COVID-19 Update

Marybeth McGrath, Director of the Department of Municipal Licenses & Inspections stated my report this evening is somewhat grim. The Towns total number of cases is at 2,639 which is 672 cases from the last meeting. The numbers are continuing to increase. These cases are in the community. It is being noted large gatherings (not to exceed 25 people indoors) are contributing to these rise in numbers throughout the state.

Director McGrath stated applications have been submitted to the State for Braintree to be allowed to give the vaccines to our first responders in Phase 1. The 2nd Phase will be to early education and K thru 12 educators, transit, grocery store, utility, agricultural, sanitation, public work and public health workers. Phase 2 would also involve individuals 75 years and over and some 65 years and older with 2 or more health issues. Phase 3 would be open to the general public.

Nicole Taub stated the State has approved us as a vaccination site. As soon as vaccines become available they will send them and we will begin the vaccination process in accordance with the Governor's plan. A fact sheet will be published on the vaccine through the Mayor's office.

Director McGrath stated Mayor Kokoros is working diligently to get a testing site established here in Braintree working with myself, Nicole Taub and Council President Hume.

Testing sites available are: Randolph (128 Pleasant Street) Monday thru Friday 2pm to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Massasoit in Brockton is open Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7am to 11am and Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 2pm to 7pm.

Both of these sites are free to Massachusetts residents. You stay in your car and get tested.

There is a link to all things COVID on the Town website.

We also encourage the residents to take steps to help prevent exposure to any respiratory viruses, including seasonal influenza and Coronavirus by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes and face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning sprays or wipes.
- Stay at home when feeling sick.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus and the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

For questions, please feel free to contact the Town of Braintree Health Department:

Public Health Nurse at 781-794-8094 or Marybeth McGrath, Director of Health at 781-794-8095.

Councilor Ringius arrived at 7:48pm

• 051 20 Council President: Master Plan Committee

Mayor Kokoros gave an update on the Master Plan Steering Committee to include 3 business owners and 5 residents of Braintree. The following are the members:

Business Owners:

Peter C. Herbst, owner of Herbst Law Group, LLC at 1000 Washington Street, Braintree. Peter and his family have lived in Braintree for twelve years. They are happy to be raising their two children here, in the town where his wife grew up. Attorney Herbst has an extensive law background that includes representing homeowners and businesses in areas of zoning and wetland matters. Attorney Herbst is a member of Sustainable Braintree, a Cub Scout Den Leader and Treasurer of the July Fourth Celebration Committee.

Shelley North, owner of award-winning Glow Beauty Boutique at 351A Washington Street, Braintree and North-Son Realty, LLC – commercial real estate holdings. Shelley has been appointed to a year-long advisory position in the South Shore Leadership Group, where leaders in the South Shore observe and advise on economics, education, and creating growth in the area. Shelley is a wife, a mother of two children and has resided in Braintree most of her life.

Kay Young, owner of Kay's Cans and Bottles at 28 Commercial Street, Braintree and the Braintree Beer Garden. Kay and her husband live in Braintree with their young daughter. Kay is an active member of the community and longtime supporter of Braintree, including creating the 5K to Braintree Day to raise funds for the July Fourth Celebration.

Residents:

Laurie Castignetti, a semi-retired executive level Human Resources professional and former Braintree School Committee member. Laurie and her husband are both lifelong Braintree residents who have raised three children in town. Laurie believes that a Master Plan is the road map that the Town of Braintree needs.

David Cunningham, a long time Braintree resident served the Town on the Finance Committee for close to a decade. David has practiced law on the South Shore for over thirty five years.

Shaynah Barnes Munro, Chief District Representative for Congressman Stephen Lynch's Immigration Unit. Shaynah is newly married and a more recent resident of Braintree. Shayna is also a former two term Brockton City Councilor and will bring her experience with strategic planning, community building and sustainable economic development to the Committee.

Liz Page, Vice President of the North Braintree Civic Association (NBCA) and active member for the past twenty years. Liz is a lifelong Braintree resident and considers herself fortunate to have been able to raise her own family in Braintree. As a member of the NBCA, Liz has maintained a working relationship with the South Shore Plaza while protecting and preserving the North Braintree community.

Rayna Rubin, an urban planner with a focus on land use with a focus on real estate planning and development. Rayna has lived in Braintree for 6 years. Rayna has served on the Dedham Conservation Committee and Dedham Master Plan Committee and is currently a member on the board of trusts at her condo complex.

President Hume stated the Mayor originally had added one seat for a Council member on this steering committee but President Hume asked for 2 members to be on the steering committee due to overwhelming interest.

President Hume has appointed Councilor Steven Sciascia, District 2 Councilor and Councilor Julia Flaherty, District 1 Councilor to be on the Master Plan Steering Committee to represent the Town Council. We look forward to updates once the committee gets moving.

OLD BUSINESS

• 20 071 Town Clerk: Polling Locations or take up any action relative thereto (TABLED)

President Hume stated this item has been tabled to a future Town Council meeting hopefully in January 2021. If anyone has any questions, comments or concerns please email us at towncouncil@braintreema.gov

• 20 081 Mayor: Appointment of Thomas Kent to the Planning Board or take up any action relative thereto

President Hume referred to Councilor Boericke, Chairwoman of the Committee of Ways & Means for a recommendation.

Chairwoman Boericke stated the committee met earlier this evening and we are sending Mr. Kent's appointment to the Full Council with a unanimous a favorable recommendation.

Nicole Taub stated Mr. Kent is a resident of Braintree for over 40 years. Mr. Kent already served the Town as a member of the Historical Society.

Mr. Kent stated he is retired and looking for a new challenge.

Council President Hume asked if any member of the Council wants to speak on Order 20 081?

Council President Hume asked if there is anyone else wishing to speak? Hearing none.

The Motion for Order 20 081 was read by Councilor Ringius and seconded by Councilor Ryan and Vote by Roll Call:

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 Thomas Kent to the Planning Board.

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to approve Order 20 081

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Roll Call Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

NEW BUSINESS

- None

President Hume asked is there a motion for the following to be referred to Committee(s):

Councilor Ringius read the following item(s) for referral to committee(s):

Refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works

- 21 001 National Grid Petition: Pearl Street Continuation of Order 17 042 or take up any action relative thereto

Motion made by Councilor Ringius to refer to the Committee on the Department of Public Works Order 21 001

Motion: by Councilor Ringius to Refer to the Committee of Ways & Means Council Order 21 001

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Roll Call Vote: For (8 – Boericke, Connors, Flaherty, Hume, O’Brien, Ringius, Ryan, Sciascia),
Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

Topics the Chair does not reasonably anticipate will be discussed

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Next Council Meeting scheduled on: **Tuesday, January 19, 2021@7:30pm**

ADJOURNMENT

It was unanimously voted by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cimino, Clerk of the Council

Meeting Documents

- 20 071 Town Clerk: Polling Locations or take up any action relative thereto (TABLED)
- 20 081 Mayor: Appointment of Thomas Kent to the Planning Board or take up any action relative thereto
- 21 001 National Grid Petition: Pearl Street Continuation of Order 17 042 or take up any action relative thereto