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**TOWN OF BRAintree HOSTS PUBLIC MEETING TO LEARN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL REUSE OF
THE FORMER BELD SITE AT 44 ALLEN STREET**

BRAintree, MASSACHUSETTS, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 – Mayor Joseph Sullivan and the Town of Braintree’s Planning Department will be hosting a public meeting to review the plans for the redevelopment of the former Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) site located at 44 Allen Street in East Braintree. Over the past six months, a group of specialists has been assessing the site’s viability for sustainable reuse.

“This location lends itself to high end positive redevelopment” said Mayor Sullivan.

“Done right, this land will become valuable once again”.

A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment has been completed, as well as a structural analysis of the existing buildings on the site. A preliminary assessment of potential uses on the property has determined that a modest number of housing units is the most likely reuse for a portion of the property. Alternatives for the site’s redevelopment will be presented, as well as ideas for the Monatiquot Riverwalk, which will provide public access to the water’s edge for the first time since the 1880’s.

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Industry has always been a part of the character of this site, from early grist and saw mills to shipbuilding and lumber and coal plants. The public is invited to hear what is in store in the next phase of the site's evolution.

The 1.7 acre former BELD site has dormant for two decades. The property was transferred from BELD to the Town of Braintree in June of 2011.

The project is led by the Boston-based architecture and urban planning firm of Gamble Associates, in partnership with CityVisions Associates. This initiative builds off of the community engagement effort that was undertaken by the Community Design Resource Center-Boston in 2010. The interactive public meeting will be held in Cahill Auditorium at the Braintree Town Hall on Wednesday, September 18th from 6:30pm – 8pm. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development, Town of Braintree at (781) 794-8232.

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