

Town of Harwich
Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2017

Members Present: Kathy Green (Chair), Robert Thomas, John Preston, Carol Porter, Elaine Shovlin and Marcia Thorngate-Smith. Absent: David Callaghan. Guests: Amy Usowski and Art Bodin.

Approval of Minutes

We reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting with Kathy since she had not been present. It resulted in an amendment to the minutes. The REOS meeting minutes of May 19, 2017 were amended to change the last paragraph about 59 Parmakene Lane in the second to last sentence to read: Mike said that acceptance by the town or HCT hinges on a decision from Conservation. With that change, the Minutes were voted approved.

Property Off Queen Anne Rd (the Sandpit)

Dave and Amy visited the sandpit to see if Conservation violations exist and see how things have changed. The Building Department has issued a Cease and Desist Order for mining to stop. Cliff Deluze says he owns the property and has hired a lawyer. The companies, J. Brown is cooperative but Barrows has not responded. No state mining permit exists for the property. The process and Appeals of the Cease and Desist will take a long time to resolve the matter.

Kathy found a letter from REOS, Conservation and Housing to BOS dated 2012 requesting action on the property. Our recent letter has not been sent because Chris Clark suggested some changes; and in addition because of a changing BOS membership. We decided to hold off sending the letter to see how things resolve further. The letter did include Little Shaver Lane and we decided to go ahead with that portion of the letter and send it.

Timeline for Any Potential Applications to the CPC

Kathy said that she is concerned about the time that it takes to prepare and process applications for submission to CPC for their October 1 deadline. She pointed out that it must go through REOS, BOS, an appraisal, and CPC which involves a lot of time due to meeting schedules and other priorities. Bob Thomas offered to contact HCT to see if they have any priority properties up for possible consideration.

Proposed Sale of Tax Liens to Outside Entity

The tax sale has been postponed for now. Despite articles in the paper, we have not had any contact by anyone regarding the sale. We decided to invite Amy Bullock, the Tax Assessor, to our next meeting.

Art Bodin Comments

Art addressed the Committee about Housing topics. He said that a proposed hiring of a part-time housing coordinator is being considered. No town employee has responsibility for housing in their job description. He also suggested that there is a need for CPC to accept applications more than once a year since not being ready for the October application deadline delays proposals for another year. A proposal to form a Housing Trust is being considered which is already used well in other towns like Yarmouthport. It would be funded by an allocation from CPC and could move on housing matters more efficiently. Finally, he appealed for suggestions for members for the Housing Committee which is down to three members and often cannot meet due to a lack of a quorum.

Kathy would like to discuss a possible change in leadership at our next meeting which is scheduled for July 21, 2017 at 8:30 AM at the Town Offices.

Respectfully Submitted

John Preston, REOS Clerk