Town of Harwich

Real Estate & Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

Members Present: Elaine Shovlin (Chair), Margo Fenn, Marcie Smith, Kathy Green,

Dave Callaghan (by Zoom). Absent: Carol Porter

Meeting called to order at 8:36 AM. Kathy moved that we immediately go into Executive session, seconded by Margo. By roll call vote, all in favor.

Motion made by Kathy, seconded by Elaine to approve the Executive Session minutes from February 18, 2022; September 16, 2022; and October 21, 2022. Hearing no discussion – all in favor – minutes approved.

Elaine moved that we adjourn from executive session, Marcie seconded - by roll call vote – all in favor – executive session adjourned.

Regular session meeting resumed at 8:45 AM. Guests: Patrick Otton, Michael Lach (HCT), Dan Pelletier (Water Dept. Supervisor)

Motion made by Margo and seconded by Marcie to approve the minutes of January 20, 2023 – hearing no discussion – all in favor.

Guest Patrick Otton presented the committee with his contact information and a general description of a citizen’s petition he plans on bringing to town meeting this May regarding fertilizer regulations. He asked to be put on the REOS agenda for our March meeting – looking to inform and for support.

Dave Callaghan walked us through some owners unknown properties north of Rt 6 and near Pleasant Lake Ave. In addition, the discussion was broadened (with Dan Pelletier (Water Dept.) participating) to include a piece of land (Map 89, Parcel Z-1) close to the Brewster town line and adjacent to well #10. Adjacent to that- Map89, Parcel G-1 (0 Woodland) has been purchased by the Compact to be held on behalf of HCT while they raise funds – for conservation. That parcel is about 7 acres and straddles both Harwich and Brewster. The Water department is in the beginning stages of a well source and exploration project. Potential sites for effluent discharge were discussed – 2-10 acres are needed; clay vs. sand plays a role. Talked about 88 Queen Anne Rd – past transfer station, long and narrow;

0 Chatham Rd – next to water supply; Hall’s Path – near old sand pit – we should revisit this area - time to consider natural wooded areas vs. wooded and cleared.

Harwich Housing Huddle: Elaine reported – well attended event; severity of problem has increased since Covid; disparity between earnings and housing costs has grown exponentially.

Local Planning Report: Margo reported that an RFP has been put together for a consultant to help with the process.

Housing and Open Space Workshop: Kathy reported and passed out a sheet with major facts - the conservation of open space and the building of affordable, density housing do not have to be at odds with one another.

Elaine reviewed our terms dates: 2025 Margo and Elaine, 2024 Carol, Kathy and Marcie, 2023 Dave.

Next meeting – March 17, 2023.

Margo moved to close the meeting, Marcie seconded – all in favor – meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Green (Acting Secretary)