Town of Harwich

Real Estate & Open Space Committee (REOS)

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2023

Members Present: Elaine Shovlin (Chair), Dave Callaghan, Marcie Smith, Kathy Green, Carol Porter

8:30 A.M. Meeting called to order.

8:30 A.M. Kathy Green moved to go into executive session, seconded, by roll call vote - all in favor.

9:05 Returned to regular session.

Since this is the first meeting since July 1, 2023, we need to vote for reorganization of this committee. Chair called for nominations:

Kathy Green nominated Elaine Shovlin for Chair, Dave Callaghan seconded, all in favor.

Elaine Shovlin nominated Kathy Green for Vice Chair, Carol Porter seconded, all in favor.

Elaine Shovlin nominated Carol Porter for Clerk, Dave Callaghan seconded, all in favor.

Dave Callaghan nominated Kathy Green for REOS Representative to the Community Preservation Committee, seconded, all in favor.

Chair Report – Chair attended Harwich Affordable Housing Trust meeting on June 22, 2023. Chair was unable to attend the forum; unfortunately, it was not recorded. Jenn Goldson of JM Goldson, HAT consultant, is working on a 5-year action plan. Chair, Mr. Ballantine, is very anxious to get an RFP out for someone to write the RFP for the Marceline property. Also on June 22nd, Elaine met with Brianna Powell, Harwich’s housing advocate. Chair dropped in on open meeting at 204 Sisson with Mary Anderson and Jeff Handler for informal chat. REOS’ joint meeting with the Harwich Select Board went well. Elaine recommended we keep looking for new REOS members. Marcie may have a candidate. Kathy asked what was the next charge from the select board regarding the properties recommended. Elaine has questions for the select board and is waiting to hear from REOS’ liaison. REOS needs to know the status of the 10 properties on the list given to the select board. If most have progressed then REOS can move on to other properties.

Member Reports:

CPC Report – Kathy Green reported that the application process is online only now. Online applications are due on October 2, 2023. Some hard copy information is still required and is due October 3, 2023. Everything is on the web site. CPC did get the $400,000 land grant for the Copelas property. It is safe to say Open Space will have a minimum of $550,000 in it’s bucket.

Dave Callaghan is working on mapping project. He still needs data from the assessor’s office and tax department. Elaine asked if he could inquire from Gail McAleer regarding what she is working on in relation to REOS’s list. Dave gave information on assessor’s office staffing.

Next meeting is August 18, 2023.

9:20 Kathy Green moved to end session, seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Porter, Clerk