Town of Harwich

Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2017

Members Present: Kathy Green (Chair), John Preston, David Callaghan, and Carol

Porter. Absent: Robert Thomas, Elaine Shovlin, and Marcia Thorngate-Smith. Guests:

Amy Usowski, and Art Bodin.

Approval of Minutes: The REOS meeting minutes of June 16, 2017 were approved and

voted by the Committee.

**56 Purmakene Lane**

Rocco Orsini, the owner, spoke at our May meeting about his property at the above

address that he purchased in 1999. Amy announced that the Conservation Commission

approved a permit that allows him to build on the property. The owner was surprised

and grateful. There will be some conditions that will be stipulated on the construction.

**Proposed Sale of Tax Liens**

Amy Bullock, the Tax Assessor, reviewed the process by which properties that have

arrears in taxes will be auctioned. The Town has decided to list the properties in smaller

groups for auction. Anyone can bid on any property on the list. Properties that are

occupied currently have been removed from the list. She distributed a list of properties

to us that included those in arrears through the end of 2015. If REOS is interested in

any specific property (for conservation protection), we should let her know and she will

remove it from the auction list. The prospective bidders will have to pay the back taxes

and go through the foreclosure process in Land Court. The properties may be of

interest to abutters or to investment firms. It is hoped that the first auction will occur in

the fall. Kathy Green will meet with Amy Usowski to review the list and report back.

**Property Off Queen Anne Rd (the Sandpit)**

Amy met with the attorney for the Deluze family. They acknowledge that the property is

in the Six Ponds District. They are in the process of defining the bounds of the property

so they can establish their claim to the property and ownership. Amy said that she

again contacted the state and no permits exist for mining. Under the Cease and Desist

order they can remove their property including the sand they have already mined.

**Bank Street … Old Fire Station**

We discussed whether we should make a statement regarding the sale of the property.

The Town Meeting voted to sell the property but did not stipulate how it would be done.

We decided to recommend that the property be subdivided to provide public access to

the Robert Smith Reserve owned by HCT and sell the remainder.

**Change in Leadership**

We discussed a possible change in leadership and decided to continue as is for one

more year.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2017 at 8:30 AM at the Town Offices.

Respectfully Submitted

John Preston, REOS Clerk