Town of Harwich

Real Estate & Open Space Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes - August 18, 2017

Members Present: Kathy Green (Chair), Robert Thomas, Elaine Shovlin, Marcia

Thorngate-Smith, and Dave Callaghan.

Guests Present: Michael Lach (Director HCT), Amy Usowski, Jim Mitchell

Approval of Minutes: Robert Thomas made a motion to accept the 7/21/17

minutes as presented, Elaine Shovlin seconded - motion approved.

Property off of Grassy Pond Rd - Jim Mitchell approached REOS explaining his

philosophy of striving to achieve a balance between affordable housing, rentals

and development.

\* He reached out to town tax clerk, town planner, building dept. and town

conservation agent - looking at properties currently in a tax lien status

\* Interested in 3 parcels - 71 Forest St, 0 Grassy Pond (2 properties)

\* Questions - are they buildable; was a bog at one time

\* Suggested that he see the town surveyor to view options

Proposed sale of publicized properties with lax liens - Amy’s office produced a

map that indicated town owned properties, water dept land, HCT land, town

owned conservation land, golf courses and the properties listed as having

significant tax liens. Kathy met with Amy to look at properties that had

contiguous borders with the water dept. and conservation lands or were located

in ecologically sensitive areas. The following properties were recommended for

removal from the list at this time:

a. Judah Eldredge property - near Hawksnest

b. In North Harwich - near Robbins Pond

c. Hawksnest State Park area - two parcels that border the park

d. Land surrounding Cuddy pit (easterly side of Route 39)

e. Property near the Bell’s Neck Reservoir area

Dave Callaghan made a motion to vote in support of the Conservation Agent,

Amy Usowski’s recommendation to have these properties removed from

potential auction at this time. Robert Thomas seconded - motion approved.

Marini Property update - the public will be deterred from disembarking from

watercraft onto the shoreline - it is heavily vegetated. It will be a year before the

meadow is established where the house (and asbestos) was removed.

Daluze Sand Pit - a survey is currently being done. A new site plan is needed.

Dave Callaghan had a conversation with the assessor’s dept - if a property has

not been assessed then they cannot collect back taxes. The sand pit has never

been assessed. The family is still trying to prove ownership - the mining ban will

not be lifted until ownership is proven. It is on the agenda for the 8/30/17

zoning board of appeals meeting.

Robert Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Elaine Shovlin seconded

- meeting adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Thorngate-Smith, Acting Clerk