Town of Harwich

Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2017

Members Present: Kathy Green (Chair), John Preston, Marcia Thorngate-Smith, and Carol Porter. Absent: Robert Thomas, David Callaghan, and Elaine Shovlin. Guests: Amy Usowski, Michael Lach, Liz Dubuque, and Jim Cheverie

Approval of Minutes: The REOS Executive Committee meeting of August 18, 2017 and REOS meeting minutes of August 18, 2017 were approved as presented by the Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Cornelius Pond Woodland Project (588 Queen Anne Rd)**

CPC approved funding of $2,500 for an appraisal. BOS is seeking $200,000 for a Conservation restriction. We can apply for $100,000 from the Mass Land Grant.

**Judah Eldredge Property Off Hawksnest Rd.**

Amy presented a summary of the reasons why BOS and Conservation would like to reopen discussion of this property. REOS had discussed it some time ago and decided not to pursue due to other higher priorities.

They propose asking CPC for funding of $400,000 to get a Conservation Restriction on this property of 24.6 aces. It was last appraised in 2015 at $369,000. They are proposing to take the property by eminent domain. It is on the auction list because there are $440,000 in back taxes owed on it. The funding by CPC or General Fund would be used to repay the town for back taxes.

Conservation is asking for our support because: it is located across from Hawksnest park, it is in the six Pond District, for habit protection, it is in the zone 2 water recharge area, and it is in the Pleasant Bay watershed and could be used as an offset for development in East Harwich. There are existing trails on the property.

Liz said that there is some question about the amount of the back taxes because it was improperly assessed as one property and therefore the tax amount may be too high.

We decided to delay any approval waiting for answers to questions that were raised.

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

Amy reported that the reported owner is doing a current condition report and asking for a delay, There is no further mining now but lots of stock piled material is being removed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bob Thomas will present the REOS annual report to BOS on September 25, 2017.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2017 at 8:30 AM at the Town Offices.

Respectfully Submitted

John Preston, REOS Clerk