

Town of Harwich
Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2025

Members Present: David Callaghan, Chair, Katherine Green, Brad Hinote, Margo Fenn, Elaine Shovlin, Carol Porter. **Guests:** Tony Schiavi, Acting Town Administrator; Michael Lach, Director, Harwich Conservation Trust; Amy Usowski, Harwich Conservation Agent; Meg Salmon, Assistant Harwich Conservation Agent.

8:34 A.M. Call to Order.

Call for public comments: none

Margo moved to accept the minutes for the October 17, 2025 meeting. Seconded, all in favor.

New Business: Discussion with Anthony Schiavi regarding follow through on previous recommendations and future objectives for REOS. Discussion with Tony on REOS recommendations not acted upon to date. Each member of REOS introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background and interests. Elaine spoke on the work the committee has done to identify parcels that REOS could work on to help the Harwich Water Department, Conservation, Recreation and Housing. REOS started looking into “owners unknown” properties, devised an evaluation form, worked with Amy, decided on where parcels would be best used, created a spreadsheet for the Select Board with a list and priorities. This list was presented to the Select Board. At this point we are discouraged because no action has been taken. We are proactive so we brought it before them again. Select Board liaison to REOS, Mike MacAskill, was interested in our proposals but it still did not move forward. Tony noted he was a part-timer with sixty days left. He spoke to the issues, looking at who and how of title research, new board – new initiative? East Harwich was mentioned. Elaine noted that REOS had researched the area around Hall’s Path and thought it should be looked at. Tony noted the importance of the Local Comprehensive Plan to the issue. It is important to get in front of developers who have the resources. There was a question of where is the money from the land sold on Queen Anne Road? Tony did not have the specifics. Margo hoped money could be used to hire a title searcher and noted the SB has so much on their plate and noted the town should take a more proactive role in directing development. Tony agreed noting “you have to plan or you get planned upon.” Tony gave an example of Sudbury working with the seller and developer to include open space and conservation. Kathy noted that back in 2011, she worked with the town planner and some of the same parcels are still on our list with no feedback from the SB. A response from the SB would help REOS determine the direction going forward. Tony noted that the decisions we are making today are not for us (but for the future). Volunteers are great but the decision makers must act. Dave noted a property, owners unknown, adjacent to conservation and well area, that is under threat. Dave would like Tony to get someone to look into it. Dave will send Tony the details and most recent priority list. Elaine offered to send the name of a former registry worker who would help with the title search.

Old Business: Select Board Parcels: Michael Lach presented to the SB on November 15th. SB was favorable to the effort moving forward. HCT to draft a warrant article using template from the 2012 Brewster warrant. The draft will be sent to the interim town administrator who will work with the SB and town counsel on advancing the proposal. Dave noted the Sand Pond land, that Kathy had noted previously, will not be included. Kathy noted that the money for the Hinkleys Pond parcel has been rescinded. The warrant article is not sponsored by HCT but by the SB. If it gets to town meeting will REOS provide information on benefits? Ad hoc committee has that information and Michael Lach will compile it. Marketing strategy to be discussed at ad hoc committee. Margo moved that the Real Estate and Open Space Committee vote to support the joint effort of

the ad hoc committee to identify and classify existing municipal properties under the control of the selectman to the pertinent town department. Seconded. David Callaghan voted Aye, Katherine Green Aye, Brad Hinote Aye, Margo Fenn Aye, Elaine Shovlin Aye, Carol Porter, No. Five in favor, one opposed. Motion passed.

At a presentation by KPL of Open Meeting Law rules, it was discovered that if two members of a committee are members of a subcommittee or ad hoc committee, the subcommittee or ad hoc committee must comply with OML therefore Kathy made a motion to rescind the June 20, 2025 vote for two REOS representatives to the ad hoc committee. Seconded. All in favor, Motion passed. Kathy made a motion to vote for one member to represent REOS to the ad hoc committee. Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Presentation of 2025 Harwich Parcel Analysis map: Dave presented samples of Harwich parcel map. Color-coded legend for the map to follow.

Member Reports: Kathy reported the Community Preservation Committee has eleven applications but only one for the Open Space Fund. Elaine and Kathy will review CPA minutes for 2019 through present to detect CPC funded land.

9:56 A.M. Kathy made a motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Next REOS meeting scheduled for December 19, 2025 at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Porter, clerk





