

Town of Harwich
Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2025

Members Present: David Callaghan, Chair, Katherine Green, Brad Hinote, Margo Fenn, Carol Porter. Guests: Mark Robinson, Tom Evans, Amy Usowski, Michael Lach.

8:33 A.M. Call to Order.

Call for public comments: none

Margo moved to accept minutes for the June 20, 2025 meeting with corrections and attachment. Seconded, all in favor.

New Business: Presentation by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc, on Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. Mr. Robinson presented slides and spoke on Article 97 from its inception to the present, answering numerous questions from the REOS committee.

By consensus, REOS committee reorganization for FY2026 to be addressed after old business.

Old Business: Review of Parcels Assigned to Select Board: Dave presented slides noting a number of parcels under the direction of the select board. Committee discussed status of the parcels and what department would be best to maintain them. A question arose on whether a representative from the Harwich Water Department was on the ad hoc committee to evaluate the properties under consideration. It was noted that the ad hoc committee is in the initial process. Ad hoc committee plans to make a presentation to the water department in the future. Additional questions discussed including how to fund the ad hoc committee's property research. They could put in an application to the Community Preservation Committee.

REOS committee reorganization for FY2026. Kathy nominated David Callaghan to serve as chair, seconded, all in favor. Margo nominated Kathy Green for the position of vice chair, seconded, all in favor. Margo nominated Carol Porter as serve as clerk, seconded, all in favor. Margo nominated Kathy Green as the representative for REOS on the CPC, seconded, all in favor.

Member Reports:

Kathy Green attended Harwich Affordable Housing Trust meeting. The meeting had a presentation on ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Unit) and incentives Harwich could offer. Question on whether Harwich should support ownership or rentals. Suggested to coordinate with HABITAT. Discussion on 0 Depot Street and 0 Oak Street.

10:13 Kathy made a motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Next REOS meeting scheduled for August 15, 2025 at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Porter, clerk