

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY COMMISSION
RE: 7 FOREST ROAD
DATE: APRIL 25, 2023

Nicole Donzello, Chair of the Use of Publicly Owned Property Commission (CUPOP), received an email from Gerry Shaw on April 21, 2023, regarding 7 Forest Rd. Specifically, CUPOP was asked to make a recommendation pertaining to the potential purchase, by the Town of Woodbridge (Town) of 7 Forest Rd for the sale price of \$1500.00 from the seller, State of Connecticut. CUPOP recommends that the Town purchase 7 Forest Road.

Forest Road is a "paper road," meaning that it appears on maps but has not been built. Most properties on Forest Road are referred to as "theater plots" because they were gifted at theaters and/or at fairs as door prizes during the 1920s, which ranged in size but were mainly 25' x 100'. The Forest Road area in its entirety is known as a paper development named "Woodbridge Heights" which was mapped and planned in 1925 and marketed as "New Haven's Finest Residential Suburb." The development never occurred, with most of the property being quick-claimed to the Town or foreclosed upon.

Currently, the Town owns the following properties listed as Forest Road:

- 1 Forest Road, 4.91 acres
- 2 Forest Road, .14
- 5 Forest Road, .12
- 8 Forest Road, 2.30
- 9 Forest Road, .12
- 14 Forest Road, .12
- 22 Forest Road, 1.17
- 24 Forest Road, .19

For a total of 9.07 acres. 7 Forest Road, with .12 acres, is currently listed as a Category 4 property (right of first refusal) within the CUPOP List of Publicly Owned Property.

CUPOP discussed 7 Forest Road at a regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, 2022, and unanimously decided to recommend that the Board of

Selectmen exercise the Town's right of first refusal, and purchase the property. 7 Forest Road sits within 1 Forest Road, a Town owned property, as evidenced by the attached assessor's map. Another entity's ownership of this property, will not allow for the contiguity of the land in this particular area, could prove detrimental to plans the Town may have for the property in the future.

CUPOP is aware that both the Conservation Commission and Housing Committee are interested in changing the usage of the properties located on Forest Road; CUPOP plans on addressing those interests at the appropriate time in accordance with it's duties within CUPOP's charge.

