



Director's Office

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Brian M. Daniels, Interim Director

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Thomas E. Noret
Chairman, Vacant Property Commission
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Noret and Members of the Vacant Property Commission (the "Commission"),

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update to the Commission regarding various state-owned properties. Please find below the additional information you requested during the previous meeting of the Commission on April 3, 2023.

Representative Casimiro requested information regarding the following North Kingstown properties:

1. Silver Spring Road, Stony Lane and Indian Street¹—There are multiple parcels on these roads, each listed for different purposes. Some examples are the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Cocumcussoc State Park, multiple fishing access points, historic sites, and other agency uses. We recommend contacting DEM for a comprehensive review of current and planned agency functions at these locations.
2. 206 West Allentown Road—This property is owned by the Department of Transportation ("DOT") and consists of 1.71 acres. It is part of a highway right-of-way purchased with federal funds. Our office has communicated with DOT and they do have long-term plans for the parcel as part of a future traffic improvement.
3. 764 Tower Hill Road—This property is owned by DOT. It is part of a highway right-of-way purchased with federal funds. DOT has long-term plans for the parcel as part of a future traffic improvement.
4. 1510 and 1560 Tower Hill Road—These properties are owned by DOT. The 1510 property is 0.99 acres, and the 1560 property is 20.27 acres in size. Both are part of a highway right-of-way purchased with federal funds. They are currently vacant, but DOT has long-term plans for the parcels as part of a future traffic improvement. The respective tax cards show houses on these properties, but it appears they may have been demolished.

Chairman Noret requested information regarding the property located at 2 Eddy Street, West Warwick. Property records indicate that this location is actually 1330 Main Street, West Warwick and is a Department of Labor & Training ("DLT") networkRI location. DLT operates networkRI facilities as career centers. This West Warwick property is approximately one acre in size. We recommend contacting DLT for further information regarding use or sale of portions of this property.

¹ No specific address numbers were provided for these street inquiries. However, please note that 586 Stony Lane is the location of a BHDDH group home on approximately 0.94 acres.

Chairman Noret additionally inquired regarding the development potential of the Big River, Arcadia, Snake Den and Alton Jones properties. During the previous April 3 Commission meeting, Libby Kimzey clarified that each of these properties is owned by DEM. The Big River property, specifically, is prevented from undergoing any development per the language of §37-20-1. Our office continues to review the development potential of the remaining state-owned properties described above.

Lastly, Representative Casimiro requested a comprehensive list of state-owned properties. Our office has provided under separate cover a PDF document entitled: "RI State Inventory Land Inventory - Preliminary" (the "Master List") that is responsive to this request. Please note that the Master List is a working document and remains under ongoing vetting by staff. Additionally, we note that a number of the properties on the Master List are unsuitable for development due to various natural features or existing legal restrictions.

Please feel free to reach out to Libby Kimzey directly with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Daniels", written in a cursive style.

Brian Daniels
Interim Director, Department of Administration

Cc:

The Honorable Julie Casimiro
The Honorable Gregory Costantino
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director, RI League of Cities and Towns
Neena Savage, RI Tax Administrator
Greg Schultz, RI Attorney General's Office
Louise Marcus, Owner, Marcus Law Offices
Robert DeBlois, Jr., Owner, DeBlois Building Company
Marco Schiappa, Chair, RI State Properties Committee
Libby Kimzey, Deputy Director, RI Department of Administration