CommonWealth REIT Form DEFA14A March 13, 2014

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant ý Check the appropriate box:

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

- o Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- o Definitive Proxy Statement
- ý Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

CommonWealth REIT

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

 $(Name\ of\ Person(s)\ Filing\ Proxy\ Statement, if\ other\ than\ the\ Registrant)$

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- ý No fee required.
- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

O		Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.						
	(1)	Amount Previously Paid:						
	(2)	Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:						
	(3)	Filing Party:						
	(4)	Date Filed:						

On March 13, 2014, CommonWealth REIT (the "Company") mailed the following letter to the Company's shareholders:

* * * * *

March 13, 2014

To Shareholders of CommonWealth REIT (CWH):

Protect the value of your investment. Please consider the following:

The CWH business plan is producing real value for shareholders. Fourth quarter 2013 results exceeded expectations on almost all metrics:

89.6% occupancy vs. 83.4% for the nationwide office market.

+ 8.1% higher rents for space leased vs. prior leases for the same space.

\$0.63/share normalized funds from operations (FFO)¹ vs. \$0.54 consensus expectation. **Removing the entire Board without cause will expose CWH to real and substantial risks:**

Ratings downgrades and debt defaults are likely.

CWH would be out of compliance with SEC and NYSE requirements for publicly traded securities.

CWH dividends would not be declared or paid at least until a new Board can be elected at a special meeting which will not occur for 60-90 days.

We believe this consent solicitation is an attempt to take control of CWH without paying you a control premium. Related/Corvex have a history of destroying long term shareholder value at other companies:

Jeff Blau of Related was chairman and CEO of American Mortgage Acceptance Company, a REIT which went bankrupt after non-recourse loans made to Related's affiliates defaulted.

The Related/Corvex apparent plan to increase debt and buy back CWH shares is the same plan which Keith Meister of Corvex pursued at ADT to make money for himself, while leaving longer term ADT shareholders with losses.

Sam Zell lent his name to the Related/Corvex campaign only after receiving \$17 million of "in the money" options from Related/Corvex; but, despite this special payment, Related/Corvex want you to believe Zell will look out for your interests.

CWH's enhanced governance practices, adopted in response to shareholder feedback, place CWH among "Best in Class" for governance practices.

Management's financial incentives have been further aligned with shareholder interests. Please Sign, Date and Mail the enclosed WHITE consent revocation card Today.

If you have returned a gold consent card to Related/Corvex, you can revoke your consent by returning the enclosed <u>WHITE</u> revocation card.

The CWH Board of Trustees

Reconciliation available on CWH's Fourth Quarter 2013 Supplemental Operating and Financial Data, filed on Form 8-K on February 27, 2014.

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Your Vote Is Important, No Matter How Many Shares You Own.

If you have questions about how to vote your shares on the

WHITE CONSENT REVOCATION CARD,

or need additional assistance, please contact the firm assisting us in the solicitation of consent revocations:

Morrow & Co., LLC 470 West Avenue Stamford, CT 06902

Shareholders Call Toll Free: (800) 276-3011 (Banks and brokers call collect at (203) 658-9400)

WARNING REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

THIS LETTER INCLUDES FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995 AND OTHER SECURITIES LAWS. THESE FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE BASED UPON CWH'S PRESENT BELIEFS AND EXPECTATIONS, BUT THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO OCCUR AND MAY NOT OCCUR FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING SOME REASONS BEYOND CWH'S CONTROL. FOR THESE REASONS, AMONG OTHERS, INVESTORS ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO PLACE UNDUE RELIANCE UPON FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS IN THIS LETTER OR THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONSENT SOLICITATION

Shareholders may obtain free of charge copies of the definitive consent revocation statement and any other documents filed by CWH with the SEC in connection with the Related/Corvex solicitation at the SEC's website (http://sec.gov), at CWH's website (http://swhreit.com) or by requesting these materials from Timothy Bonang, by phone at (617) 796-8222, or by mail at Two Newton Place, 255 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458 or by requesting materials from the firm assisting CWH in the solicitation of consent revocations, Morrow & Co., LLC, toll free at (800) 276-3011 (banks and brokers call collect at (203) 658-9400).

QuickLinks

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