<u>APPLICATION OF GREEN & COMPANY</u> <u>BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT, CORP.</u> 3400 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, Tax Map 297, Lot 11

APPLICANT'S NARRATIVE

I. <u>THE PROPERTY</u>:

The applicant, Green & Company Building & Development Corp., seeks relief to develop a 50-unit townhome style residential condominium development located in the Gateway Neighborhood Mixed Use Corridor (G1) District. Residential use is permitted by right in this zone, *see* Section 10.440.1.53, and the size of the property would support a much denser development of at least 240 units.¹ The proposed 50 units fall far short of the permitted residential density for this site. The development of medium to high density housing is among the purposes of the G1 zone. Section 10.410. Approximately 28 acres of the property are subject to conservation easements. As part of the proposed project, the applicant will add an additional 10 acres via a new conservation easement, and will add to and improve the existing trail system on the site. The applicant is proposing to develop only approximately 5 of the 15 acres within the G1 zone. The maximum permitted building coverage is 50%, yet the applicant is proposing only 5.6%. Required open space is 20%, but here the applicant is proposing 84%. Section 10.5B34.

The existing temporary storage buildings on-site, which are depicted on the submitted existing conditions plans and photos, are currently within the wetland buffer and will be removed. As part of the project, the applicant will be substantially remediating and enhancing the quality of the wetland buffer, which is presently in very poor condition.

The property in question is an irregularly shaped lot comprised of approximately 43 acres with very limited frontage of 128.03 feet on Lafayette Road. In fact, the Natural Resource Protection and GI zones bisects the property at Lafayette Road. Indeed, approximately 75 feet of frontage on Lafayette Road is in the NRP zone and is not developable. Even if it were, there is a seventy foot side yard setback within the NRP zone, *see* Section 10.550, and a reciprocal easement in favor of the abutting property at 3430 Lafayette Road. It is simply not possible to configure this property in a manner that would site any significant development close to Lafayette Road. Accordingly, the applicant requires the following relief from the zoning ordinance:

- A. Section 10.5B22.40, to permit buildings with a minimum setback of 152.78 feet and a maximum setback of 685.2 feet, measured from the centerline of Lafayette Road, where the minimum is 70 feet and the maximum is 90 feet, measured from the centerline of Lafayette Road.
- B. Section 10.5B33.20, to permit front lot line buildout of 0% where 50% is the minimum required for residential development.

¹ Section 10.5B71.10 permits 16 units per acre in the G1 zone. Even if this were applied only to the 5 acres the applicant intends to develop, the permissible number of units would be 80.

It should be noted that the property directly abuts the "Wren's Nest" property at 3548 Lafayette Road, which received almost identical relief in June, 2021 in connection with a project that will increase the number of residential units from 33 to 76 on that site.

II. <u>CRITERIA</u>:

The applicant believes the within Application meets the criteria necessary for the Board to grant the requested variances.

<u>Granting the requested variance will not be contrary to the spirit and intent</u> of the ordinance nor will it be contrary to the public interest. The "public interest" and "spirit and intent" requirements are considered together pursuant to <u>Malachy Glen</u> <u>Associates v. Chichester</u>, 152 NH 102 (2007). The test for whether or not granting a variance would be contrary to the public interest or contrary to the spirit and intent of the ordinance is whether or not the variance being granted would substantially alter the characteristics of the neighborhood or threaten the health, safety and welfare of the public.

In this case, were the variances to be granted, there would be no change in the essential characteristics of the neighborhood, nor would any public health, safety or welfare be threatened. The property currently has no structures which comply with the Lafayette Road frontage and front lot line buildout requirements and none are proposed here. The neighborhood consists of the abutting Wren's Nest property to the south, which recently received almost identical relief, and which, when complete, will house 75 residential units. There is the 24 unit Gateway apartment building at 3510 Lafayette Road and the 20 unit Weatherstone condominium at 3370 Lafayette Road. In addition, there are two abutting single family residences. None of these properties comply with the Lafayette Road setback requirements.

The proposed residential use is permitted by right, consistent with the existing character of the neighborhood, and the amount of units proposed is far less than the ordinance permits. The relief is necessary because it is not possible to comply with the front lot line buildout and special Lafayette Road setback requirements and develop the property. The 70-foot setback within the NRP zone alone eliminates more than 50% of the front lot line available for buildout, and siting any improvements within the required setbacks from Lafayette Road would negate any reasonable access to the rest of the property.

The health, safety and welfare of the public will not be threatened, nor will the essential characteristics of the neighborhood change in any way by virtue of the relief requested here. The project must proceed through full site review, where the interests of the public will be further protected.

Substantial justice would be done by granting the variance. Whether or not substantial justice will be done by granting a variance requires the Board to conduct a

balancing test. If the hardship upon the owner/applicant outweighs any benefit to the general public in denying the variance, then substantial justice would be done by granting the variance. It is substantially just to allow a property owner the reasonable use of his or her property.

The property as it exists is nonconforming as to the front lot line buildout and Lafayette Road setback requirements. The proposal will not change that nonconformity, will increase the amount of conservation land on site, improve the existing trail network and improve the poor present condition of the wetlands buffer. It will provide a significant increase in the city's housing stock in an area of the City that can readily accommodate the additional development. There is no benefit to the public that is not outweighed by the loss to the applicant should the variances be denied.

It would be an injustice to the applicant to deny the variances here requested.

The values of surrounding properties will not be diminished by granting the variance. The surrounding properties and those in the vicinity will not be negatively affected in any way by this relief. The property as it exists is nonconforming as to the front lot line buildout and Lafayette Road setback requirements from which relief is sought. The proposal will not change that nonconformity, will increase the amount of conservation land on site, improve the existing trail network and improve the poor present condition of the wetlands buffer. The zoning requirements are not met now and cannot be met regardless of how the property is developed. The proposed use is permitted by right in this zone and is far less dense than is otherwise permissible. Values of surrounding properties will not be diminished by granting the requested variances.

<u>There are special conditions associated with the property which prevent the</u> <u>proper enjoyment of the property under the strict terms of the zoning ordinance</u> <u>and thus constitute unnecessary hardship</u>. The property for which relief is sought is unique. It is a large, irregularly shaped lot with very limited frontage on Lafayette Road. The boundary between zoning districts bisects the lot, including the frontage on Lafayette Road. The lot is burdened by extensive wetlands, conservation easements and an access easement. The NRP setback of 70 feet eliminates more than 50% of the front lot line available for buildout. There is no development option for this property that would not require the identical relief.

<u>The use is a reasonable use</u>. The residential use here proposed is permitted by right, thus it is per se reasonable. <u>Vigeant v. Hudson</u>, 151 NH 747 (2005). It is also consistent with surrounding properties.

<u>There is no fair and substantial relationship between the purpose of the</u> <u>ordinance as it is applied to this particular property</u>. The purpose of the front lot line buildout and Lafayette Road setback requirements are to encourage development to be sited close to Lafayette Road. While this may make sense for smaller parcels with substantial frontage on Lafayette Road, it is not appropriate for a large parcel such as this with such a small amount of frontage as a percentage of the larger whole. There is no fair and substantial relationship between the purpose of these ordinances and this particular property.

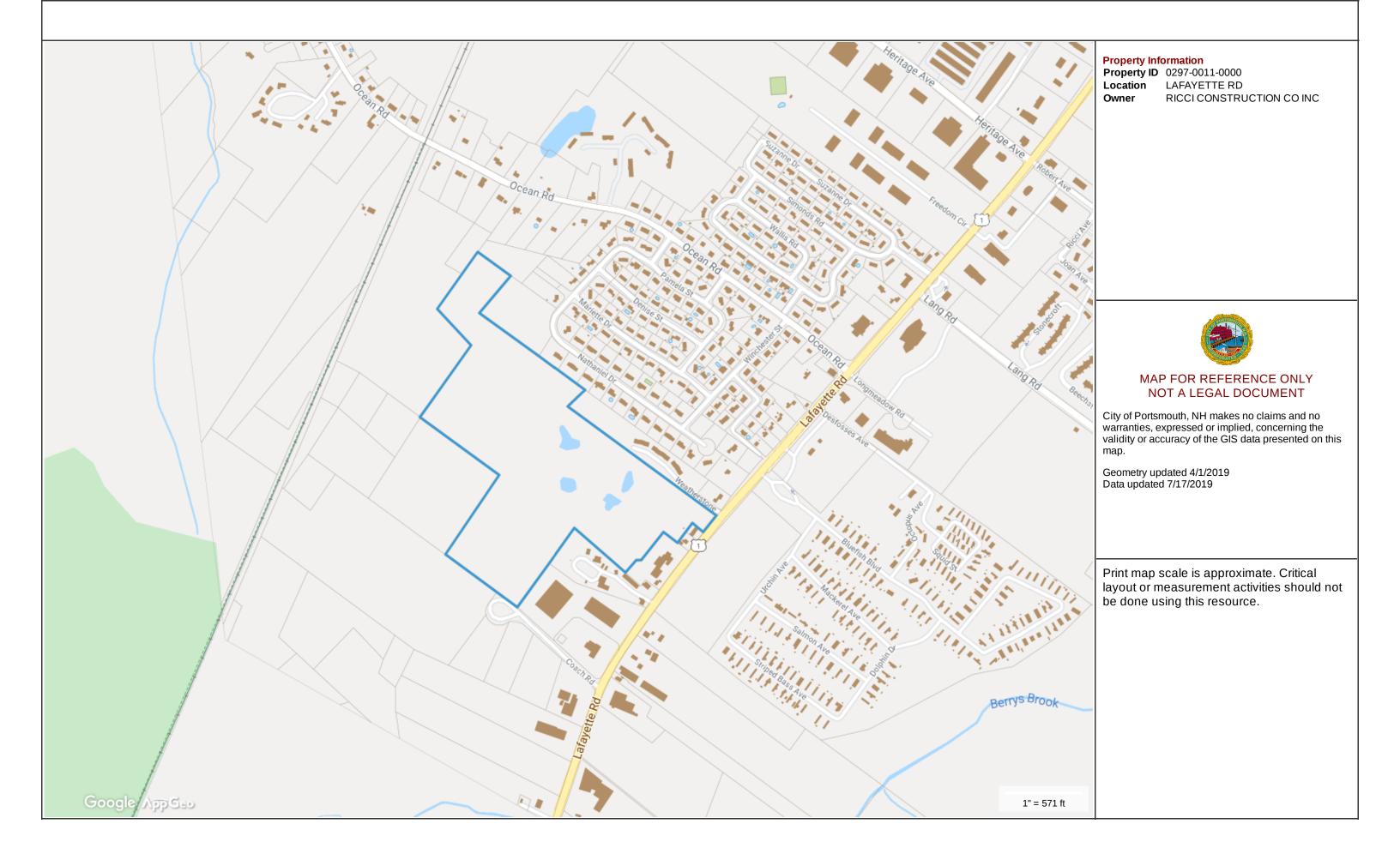
III. <u>Conclusion.</u>

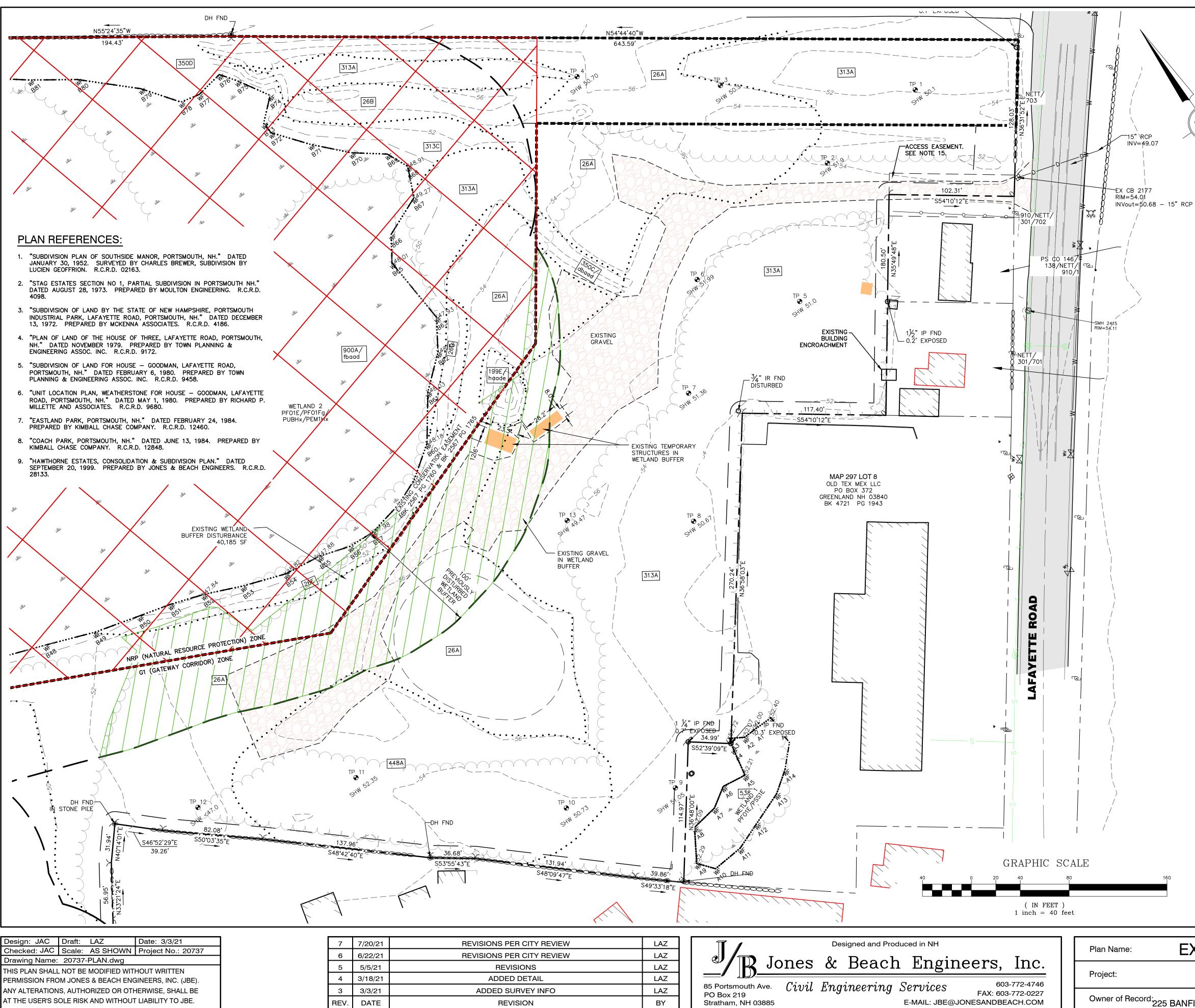
For the foregoing reasons, the applicant respectfully requests the Board grant the variances as requested and advertised.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 23, 2021

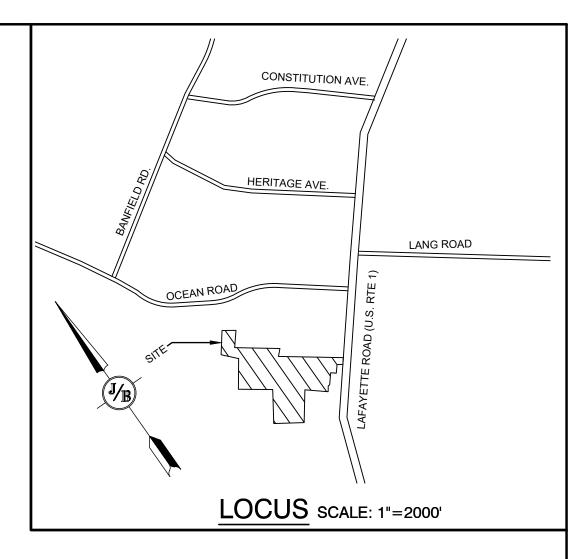
By: John K. Bosen John K. Bosen, Esquire





	5/5/21	REVISIONS
	3/18/21	ADDED DETAIL
	3/3/21	ADDED SURVEY INF
′.	DATE	REVISION

J\B'



NOTES:

- 1. THE INTENT OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW THE EXISTING CONDITIONS OF TAX MAP 297 LOT 11.
- 2. THE UTILITY LOCATIONS SHOWN HEREON WERE DETERMINED BY OBSERVED ABOVE GROUND EVIDENCE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED APPROXIMATE IN LOCATION ONLY. LOCATION, DEPTH, SIZE, TYPE, EXISTENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES AND/OR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS WAS NOT VERIFIED BY THIS SURVEY. ALL CONTRACTORS SHOULD NOTIFY IN WRITING ALL UTILITY COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION WORK OR CALL DIG-SAFE AT 1-888-DIG-SAFE.
- 3. SUBJECT PROPERTY IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN FEDERALLY DESIGNATED 100 YEAR FLOOD HAZARD ZONE. REFERENCE FEMA COMMUNITY PANEL NO. 33015C0270F, DATED JANUARY 29, 2021.
- 4. BASIS OF BEARING: HORIZONTAL NAD83 NH STATE PLANE VERTICAL NAVD88.
- 5. CERTAIN DATA HEREON MAY VARY FROM RECORDED DATA DUE TO DIFFERENCES IN DECLINATION, ORIENTATION, AND METHODS OF MEASUREMENT.
- 6. ALL BOOK AND PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
- 7. THE TAX MAP AND LOT NUMBERS ARE BASED ON THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH TAX RECORDS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
- 8. RESEARCH WAS PERFORMED THROUGH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH GIS DATABASE, AND AT THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
- 9. THIS SURVEY IS NOT A CERTIFICATION TO OWNERSHIP OR TITLE OF LANDS SHOWN. OWNERSHIP AND ENCUMBRANCES ARE MATTERS OF TITLE EXAMINATION NOT OF A BOUNDARY SURVEY. THE INTENT OF THIS PLAN IS TO RETRACE THE BOUNDARY LINES OF DEEDS REFERENCED HEREON. OWNERSHIP OF ADJOINING PROPERTIES IS ACCORDING TO ASSESSOR'S RECORDS. THIS PLAN MAY OR MAY NOT INDICATE ALL ENCUMBRANCES EXPRESSED, IMPLIED OR PRESCRIPTIVE.
- 10. ANY USE OF THIS PLAN AND OR ACCOMPANYING DESCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE DONE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, TO BE CERTAIN THAT TITLES ARE CLEAR, THAT INFORMATION IS CURRENT, AND THAT ANY NECESSARY CERTIFICATES ARE IN PLACE FOR A PARTICULAR CONVEYANCE, OR OTHER USES.
- 11. THE LIMITS OF JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS WERE DELINEATED BY JAMES LONG CWS #007 IN JANUARY, 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS: THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FEDERAL MANUAL FOR IDENTIFYING AND DELINEATING JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS.
 - THE NORTH CENTRAL & NORTHEAST REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE FEDERAL MANUAL THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE FIELD INDICATORS FOR IDENTIFYING HYDRIC SOILS IN NEW ENGLAND, AS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION AND/OR THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE FIELD INDICATORS OF HYDRIC SOILS IN THE UNITED STATES, AS PUBLISHED BY THE USDA, NRCS, AS APPROPRIATE. THE CURRENT NATIONAL LIST OF PLANT SPECIES THAT OCCUR IN WETLANDS, AS PUBLISHED BY
- D. THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.
- 12. THIS PLAN IS THE RESULT OF A CLOSED TRAVERSE WITH A RAW, UNADJUSTED LINEAR ERROR OF CLOSURE GREATER THAN 1 IN 15,000.
- 13. ALL BOUNDARY LINES PERTINENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT SHOW IN THIS PLAN SET HAVE BEEN SURVEYED BY THIS OFFICE. ALL BOUNDARY LINES NOT ANNOTATED WITH BEARING AND DISTANCES ARE PER CITY TAX MAPS, AND SHALL BE CONSIDERED APPROXIMATE.
- 14. SURVEY TIE LINES SHOWN HEREON ARE NOT BOUNDARY LINES. THEY SHOULD ONLY BE USED TO LOCATE THE PARCEL SURVEYED FROM THE FOUND MONUMENTS SHOWN AND LOCATED BY THIS SURVEY.
- 15. MAP 297 LOT 10 FIRST CONVEYED IN 1955 (BOOK 1363 PAGE 229) AS LOT 28 ON "SUBDIVISION PLAT OF SOUTHSIDE MANOR." LOT 28 IS BOUNDED NORTHEASTERLY BY EDGEWOOD ROAD, PER DEED DESCRIPTION. THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS LOT DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE LOTS SHOWN ON PLAN REFERENCE 1. NO OTHER PLANS OF SOUTHSIDE MANOR HAVE BEEN FOUND RECORDED AT R.C.R.D. A WIDTH OF 35' WAS ASSUMED FOR EDGEWOOD ROAD, TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RECORDED PLAN.

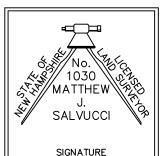
CERTIFICATION:

PURSUANT TO RSA 676:18-III AND RSA 672:14

I CERTIFY THAT THIS SURVEY PLAT IS NOT A SUBDIVISION PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE AND THAT THE LINES OF STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND THAT NO NEW WAYS ARE SHOWN.

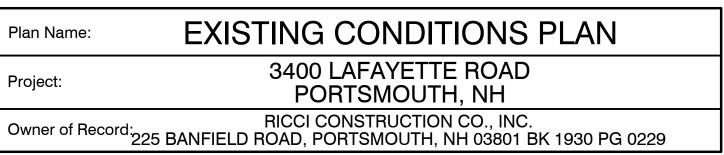
I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION, THAT IT IS THE RESULT OF A FIELD SURVEY BY THIS OFFICE AND HAS AN UNADJUSTED LINEAR ERROR OF CLOSURE THAT EXCEED BOTH THE MINIMUM OF 1:10,000 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 503.04 OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND THE MINIMUM OF 1:15,000 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4.2 OF THE N.H.L.S.A. ETHICS AND STANDARDS.

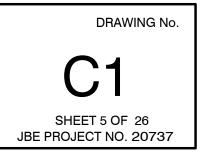
THIS SURVEY CONFORMS TO A CATEGORY 1 CONDITION 1 SURVEY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4.1 OF THE N.H.L.S.A. ETHICS AND STANDARDS.

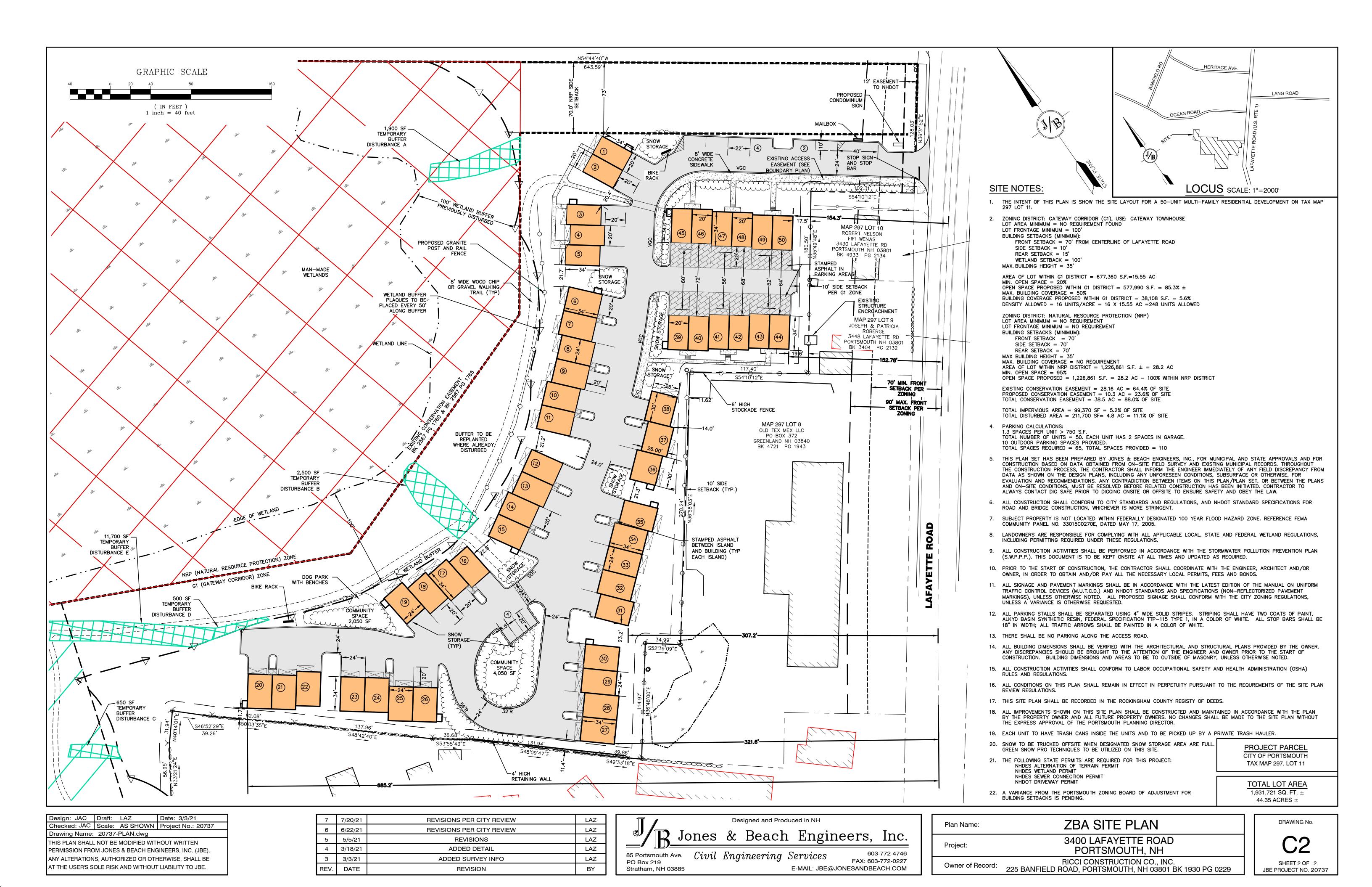


MATTHEW J. SALVUCCI, LLS 1030 ON BEHALF OF JONES & BEACH ENGINEERS, INC.

DATE:









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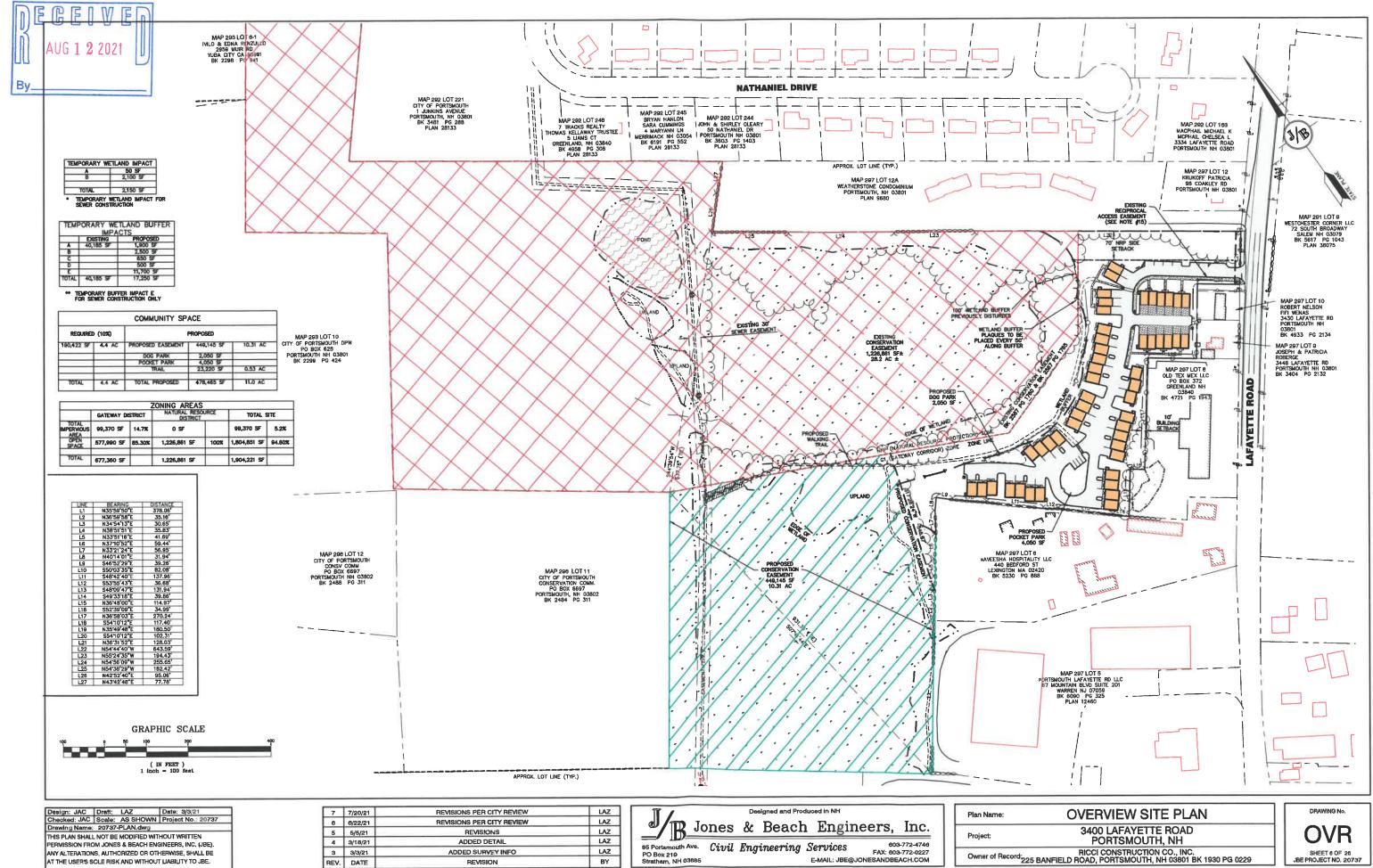




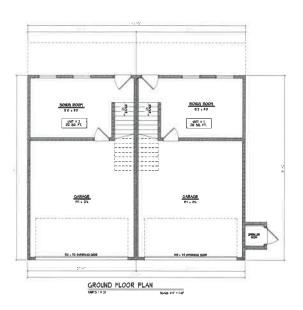






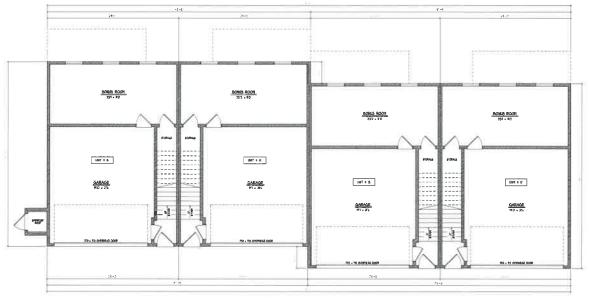




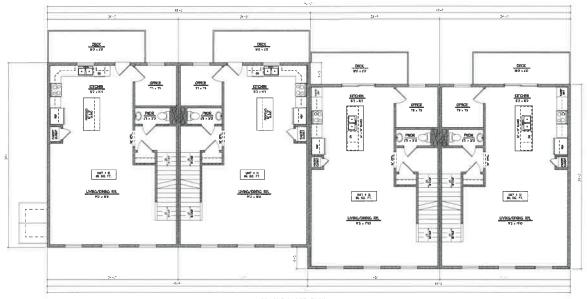








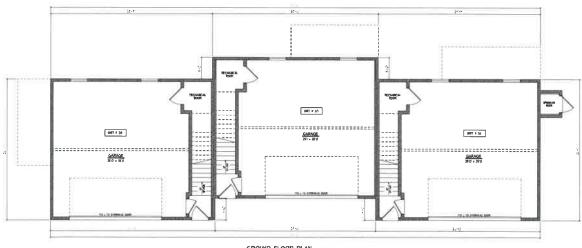
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN







GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

