September 23, 2024

Portsmouth Board of Adjustment

1 Junkins Avenue

Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: Variance Addendum for Stonefish, LLC at 0 Borthwick Avenue

A. Introduction

Lot 240-3 is a ±10.74 acre parcel on Borthwick Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, that is currently owned by Liberty Mutual and used solely as a 264-space parking lot. The proposed lot-line adjustment will combine a portion of Lot 259-15, which is currently leased by Liberty Mutual, with their current parking lot which serves 225 Borthwick Ave, Lot 240-1. This lot-line adjustment and related real estate transaction will result in Liberty Mutual owning the entire parking lot it designed, engineered, and constructed. Variance relief is necessary due to Borthwick Avenue's extension splitting Liberty Mutual's parcel into separate parcels, thus making the standalone parking lot use non-conforming. Pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Section 10.331, a non-conforming parcel is permitted to remain but to extend the non-conforming use, a variance is required.

B. Requested Relief

Zoning Ordinance Section 10.331 allows a lawful nonconforming use to continue, but such use may not be extended, enlarged or changed except in conformity with this Ordinance. The Applicant's proposed lot line adjustment will technically expand Lot 240-3's primary use as a parking lot, which is not an allowed primary use per Section 10.440 – Table of Uses. As a result, the Applicant seeks variance relief from Section 10.331.

C. The Five Variance Criteria

1. Waiving the terms of the Ordinance will not be contrary to the public interest because: For a variance to be contrary to the public interest, the proposal must conflict with the Ordinance so much that it violates the Ordinance's basic zoning objectives. The relevant tests are (1) whether the proposal will alter the essential character of the neighborhood; and (2) whether it threatens the public health, safety or welfare. This section of Borthwick Avenue has a wide variety of uses, with a mix of Office Research, Industrial,



and Municipal-zoned properties paralleling the Interstate 95 corridor. Granting the variance will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, because each of these uses has accessory parking and the subject lots are already being used for parking. The site abuts similar uses and is buffered by wetlands. The continuation of this use will not threaten the public health, safety, or welfare because the Applicant's proposal will only represent a change on paper as the existing parking areas are already in existence and being used as such.

- 2. **Deviation from the strict requirements of the Ordinance is consistent with the spirit of the Ordinance because:** Because it is in the public's interest to uphold the spirit of the Ordinance, the New Hampshire Supreme Court has held that this and the first criterion are related. If an application meets one test, it almost certainly meets the other. *See Farrar v. City of Keene*, 158 N.H. 684 (2009). In addition to the reasons stated above, which are incorporated herein by reference, granting the variance will be consistent with the spirit of the Ordinance. Among the stated purposes of the Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan are to promote economic development and to promote "the design of facilities for vehicular access, circulation, parking and loading." Allowing the requested relief simply allows the Applicant to redraw the lot lines while maintaining the existing necessary parking servicing the office building directly across Borthwick Ave. Accordingly, granting the variance will be consistent with the spirit of the Ordinance.
- 3. **Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:** The New Hampshire Supreme Court has held that measuring substantial justice requires balancing public and private rights. "Perhaps the only guiding rule is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice." *Harborside Assocs., L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC*, 162 N.H. 508, 515 (2011). The extension of Borthwick Ave in 1969 bifurcated the property and created the unusual circumstance where the accessory parking (Lot 240-3) is separated from the primary user (Lot 240-1). Denying the variance will harm the Applicant in its attempt to consolidate the existing parking areas, but would serve no public benefit as these uses already exist. There is no injury to the public if the variance is granted because it will allow the Applicant to realize reasonable property rights while maintaining necessary parking.
- 4. The value of surrounding property will not be diminished because: Continuing use of this property for parking will have no effect on surrounding properties. The parking lot serves an abutting property, and all of the other lots have significant parking areas, as would be expected. Additionally, many of the abutting properties are City-owned and generally impervious to any market fluctuations.



5. Literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance would result in an unnecessary hardship. "Unnecessary hardship" means that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area:

The property's size, location at the edge of multiple zoning districts, and historical creation by the City's extension of Borthwick Ave are special conditions of the property that distinguish it from its neighbors and other properties in Portsmouth at large.

(A)(i) No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general purposes of the Ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property because: Unnecessary hardship will be found when the subject property has special conditions or circumstances that distinguish it from other properties in the area and (1) there is no substantial relationship between the purpose of the Ordinance and the specific application of the Ordinance as applied to the property; and (2) the proposed use is reasonable. See RSA 674:33. The Zoning Ordinance aims to promote Portsmouth's health, safety, and welfare while allowing reasonable uses of property. This property is unique in that its non-conformity was the result of municipal action. The proposal will not change physical layout of the engineered parking lot, but will enable a reasonable lot line adjustment to the benefit of the Applicant. Further, the current user of the lot does not own the lot, so granting this variance would enable the Applicant, as well as the current user of the lot, to both avoid unnecessary hardship.

(A)(ii) The proposed use is a reasonable one because: Parking is a necessary permitted accessory use. The fact that this lot was separated from its primary use, by municipal action no less, does not make its function any less accessory. When considering this property's location abutting similar existing uses, providing the requested variance relief to allow this use at this location is fundamentally reasonable.

Should there be any questions or concerns about the aforementioned application, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kilburg

Project Director

Encl: Application Material





9/23/2024

Date

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE

real estate Services 175 Berkeley Street Mail Stop M04E Boston, MA 02116 Telephone: (617) 357-9500 Fax: (617) 574-5779

Owner Authorization Form Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Authorization Form

This Authorization Form (this "<u>Authorization</u>"), effective upon the date of signature below (the "<u>Effective Date</u>"), is by and among Northeast Credit Union dba Lighthouse Credit Union and its successors or assigns ("<u>Lighthouse</u>"), Apex Design Build ("<u>Apex</u>") and Allen & Major Associates, Inc. (collectively with Apex, the "<u>ATDG Borthwick Team</u>"), to act as an agent on behalf of Lighthouse for the purposes and upon the limitations listed herein:

Effective upon the Effective Date, this Authorization, relative strictly to Lighthouse's property located at 100 Borthwick Avenue, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801 (the "Property") and the ATDG Borthwick Team's ongoing project on behalf of ATDG, LLC at the Property (the "Project"), is limited to: 1) permitting and land use matters relative to the Project that are before governing boards, committees or other authority bodies or individuals authorized and acting on behalf of the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire or the State of New Hampshire (collectively, the "Project Governmental Bodies") and 2) authorizes the ATDG Borthwick Team to: a) apply for and sign permits and ancillary documents relative to the Project as needed from the Project Governmental Bodies and individuals working on behalf of the same, as representative of Lighthouse in conjunction with the Project. This Authorization is contingent upon copy of all applications and submissions relative to the Project that are submitted to the Project Governmental Bodies being sent to Lighthouse, contemporaneously with or before their time of submission, as follows:

Lighthouse Credit Union

Attn: Lee Schafer, SVP, General Counsel & Chief Operating Officer

Via email to: lschafer@lighthousecu.org & Neil Gordon, SVP & Chief Financial Officer Via email to: ngordon@lighthousecu.org

With a copy to

Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, PA

Attn: Eric T. Kilchenstein, Esq.

Via email to: ekilchenstein@sheehan.com

This Authorization is fully revocable without cause and upon written notice from Lighthouse.

[Signature Page Follows]

Northeast Credit Union dba Lighthouse Credit Union

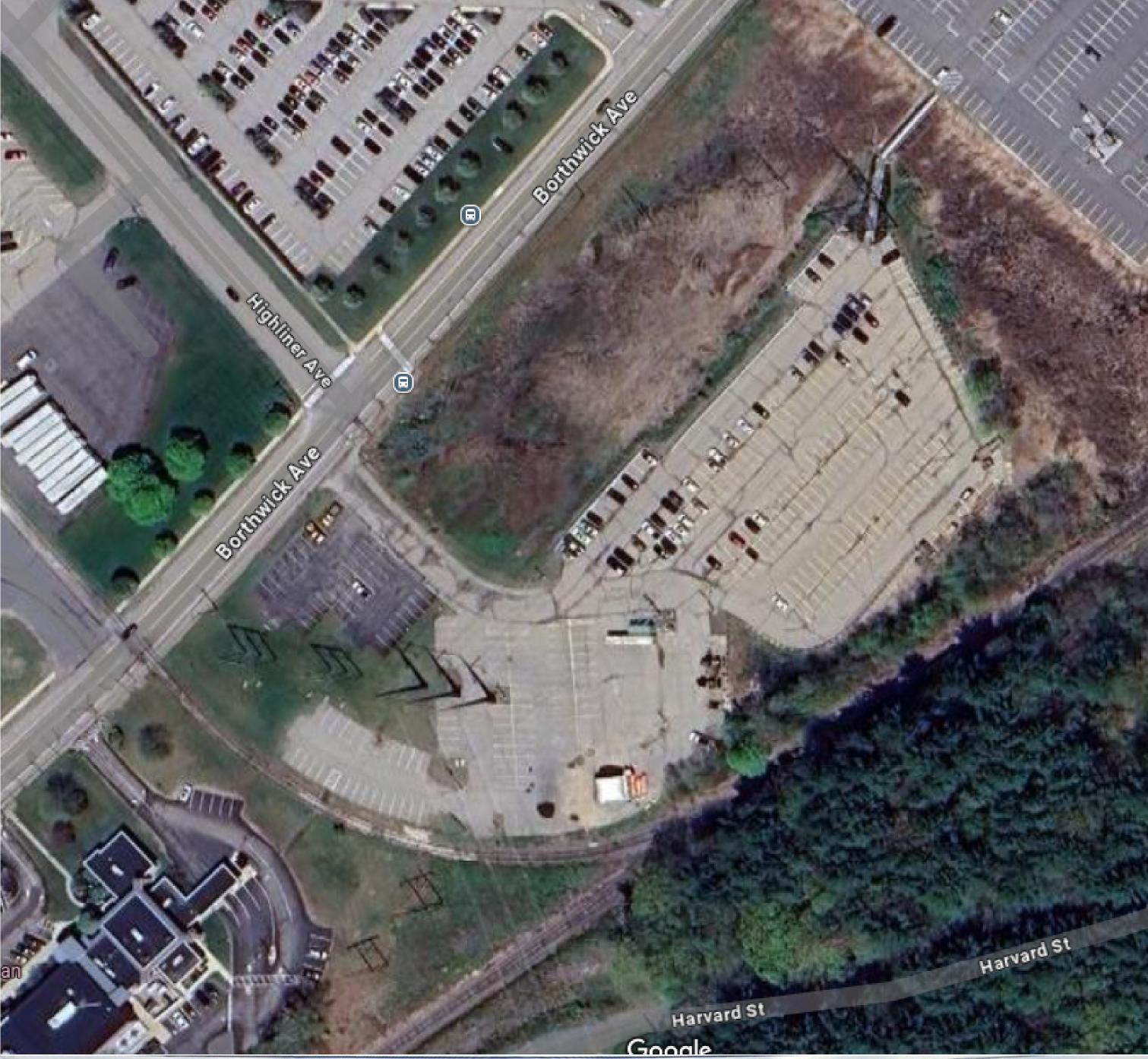
By: Neil Gordon,

Title: SVP and Chief Financial Officer

Duly Authorized

[Signature Page to Authorization Form]

Date:







9550 W.Higgins Rd. 170 Rosemont, IL 60018

Map 240 Lot 3

0 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

SEAL

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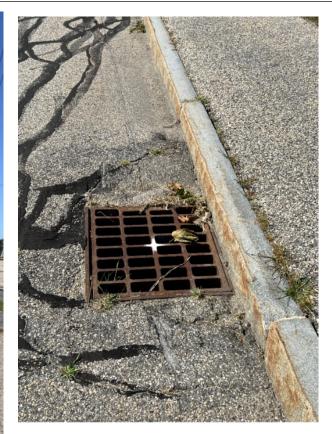
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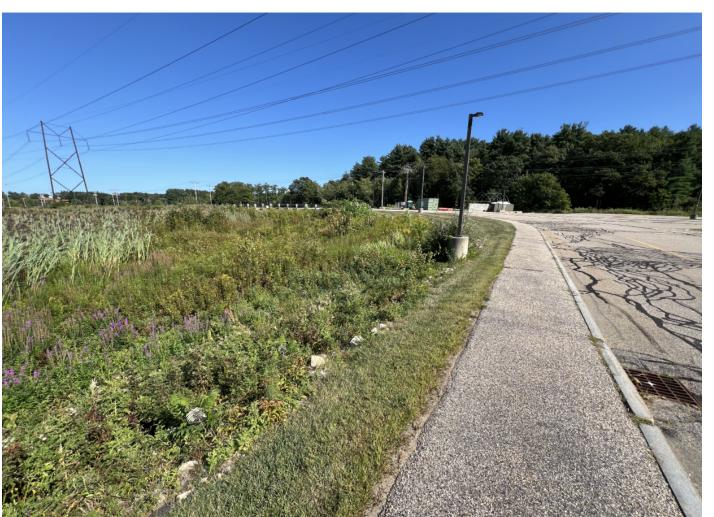
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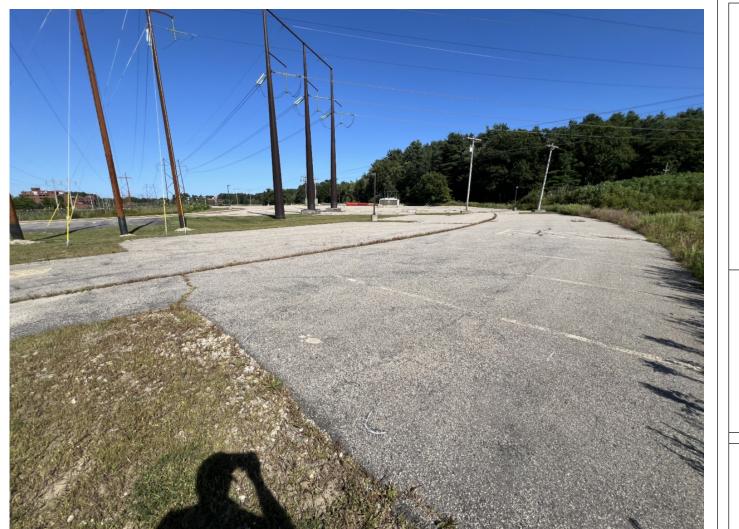
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9550 W.Higgins Rd. 170 Rosemont, IL 60018

Map 240 Lot 3

0 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801









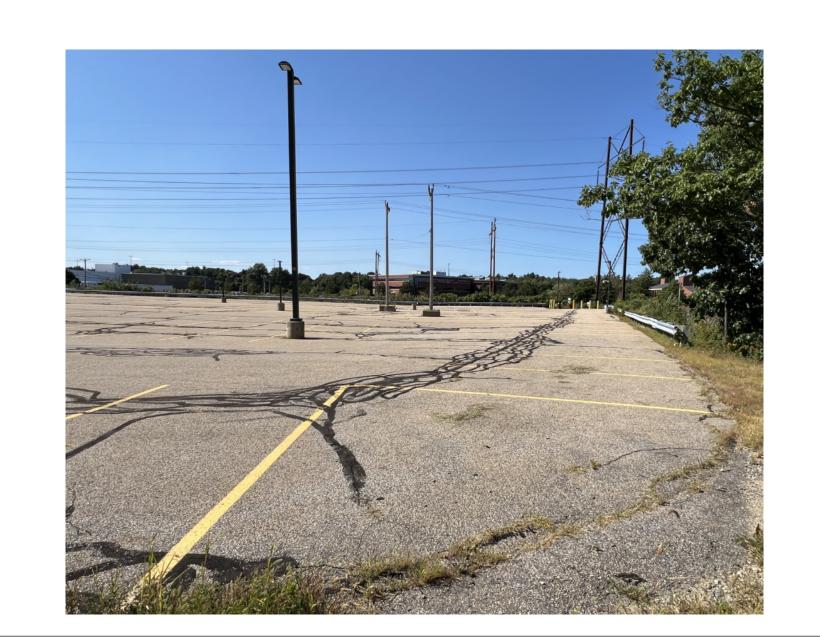


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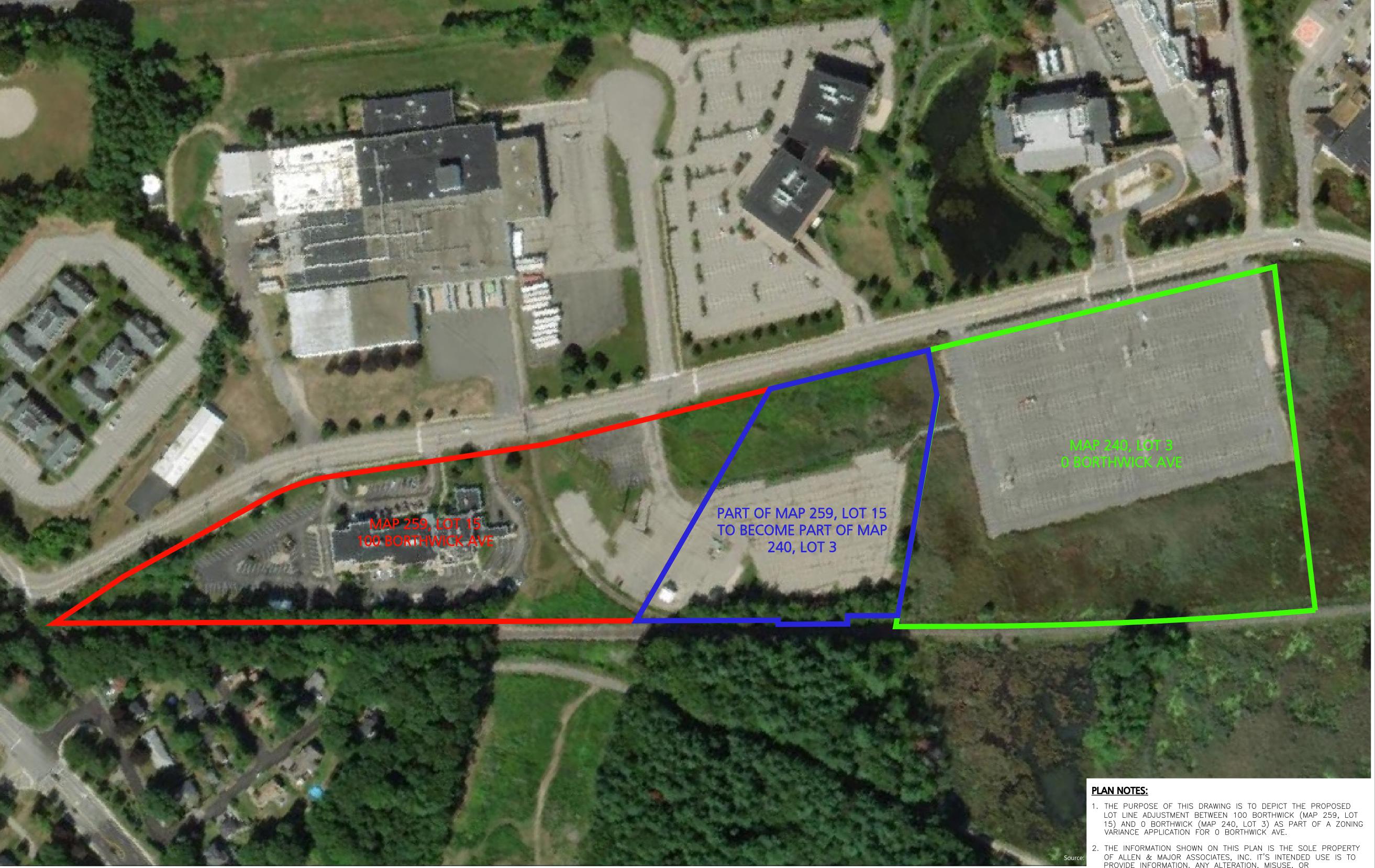


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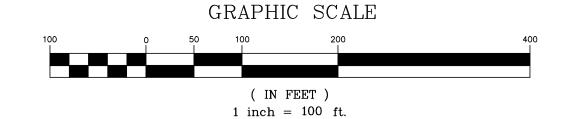
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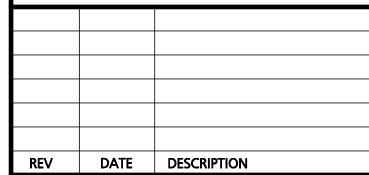
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APPLICANT\OWNER:

APEX DESIGN BUILD 9550 W. HIGGINS ROAD, STE 170 ROSEMONT, IL 60018

MAP 240, LOT 3 0 BORTHWICK AVENUE PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

3250-02 DATE: 09-23-24 PROJECT NO. 1" = 100' DWG. NAME: C3250-02

BDJ CHECKED BY: **DESIGNED BY:**



civil engineering • land surveying environmental consulting • landscape architecture www.allenmajor.com 400 HARVEY ROAD MANCHESTER, NH 03103 TEL: (603) 627-5500 FAX: (603) 627-5501

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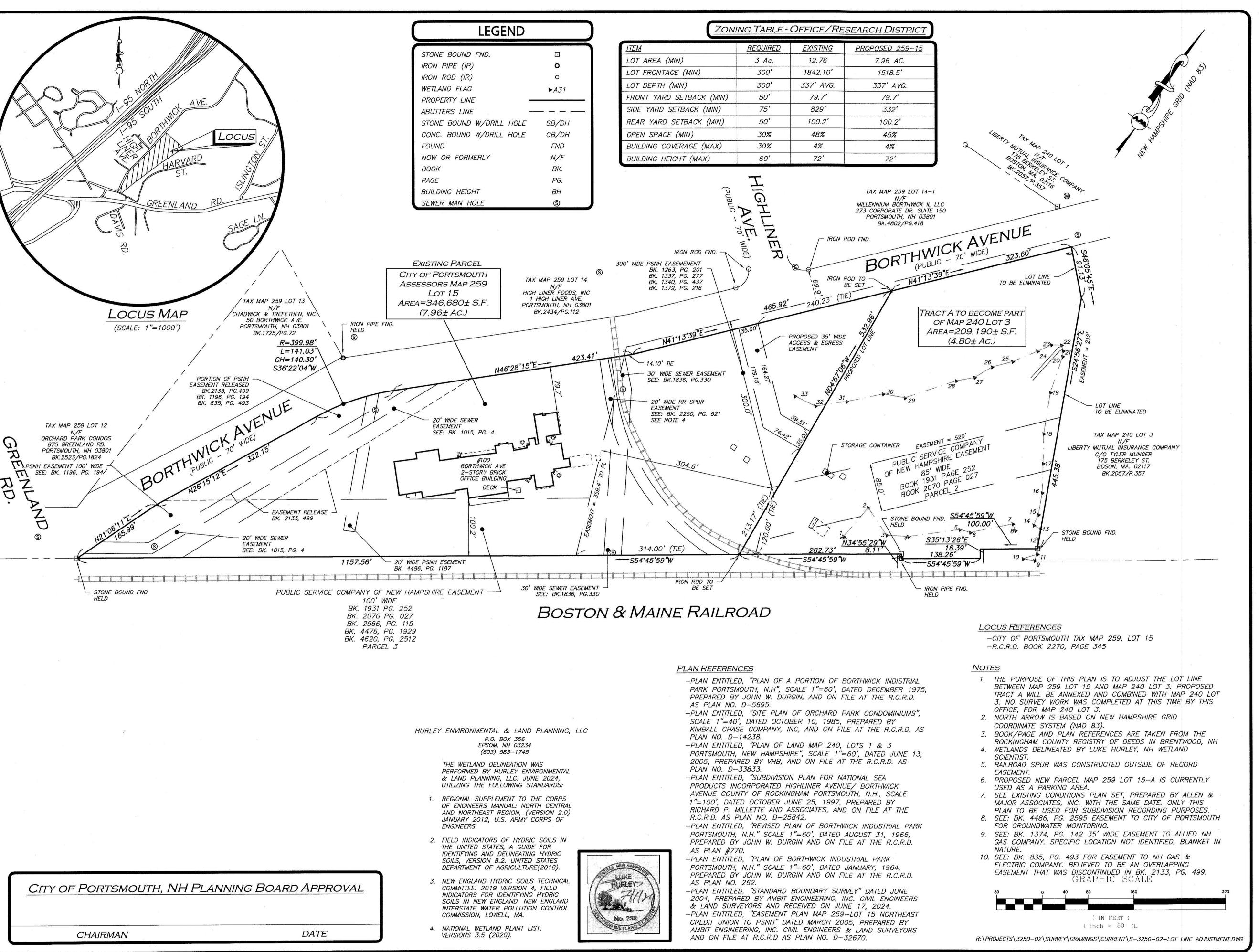
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EXH-1

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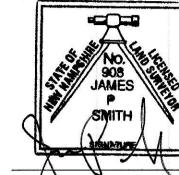
EXHIBIT PLAN



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THE SUBJECT PREMISES IS LOCATED IN FLOOD ZONE X - "AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD" AS SHOWN ON THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBER 33015C0270F HAVING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2021.

ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC.



REV DATE DESCRIPTION

STONEFISH, LLC 875 GREENLAND RD. UNIT C8 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

APPLICANT:

NORTH EAST CREDIT UNION PO BOX 1240 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802

PROJECT:

TM 259 LOT 15 100 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH

PROJECT NO. 3250-02 DATE: 08-19-2024 DWG. NAME: S-3250-02-LLA SCALE: 1" = 80' CTP | CHECKED BY: DRAFTED BY:

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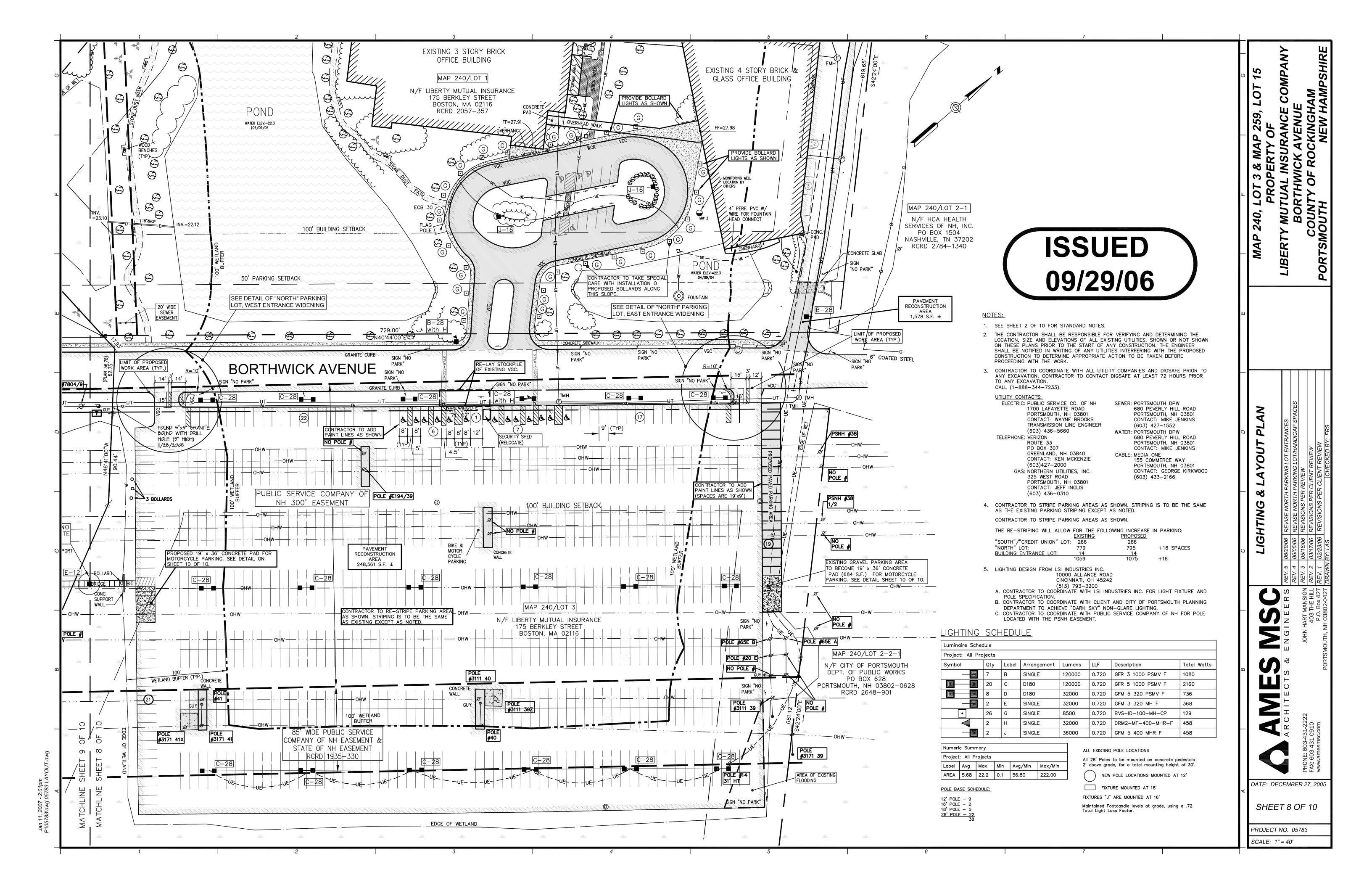
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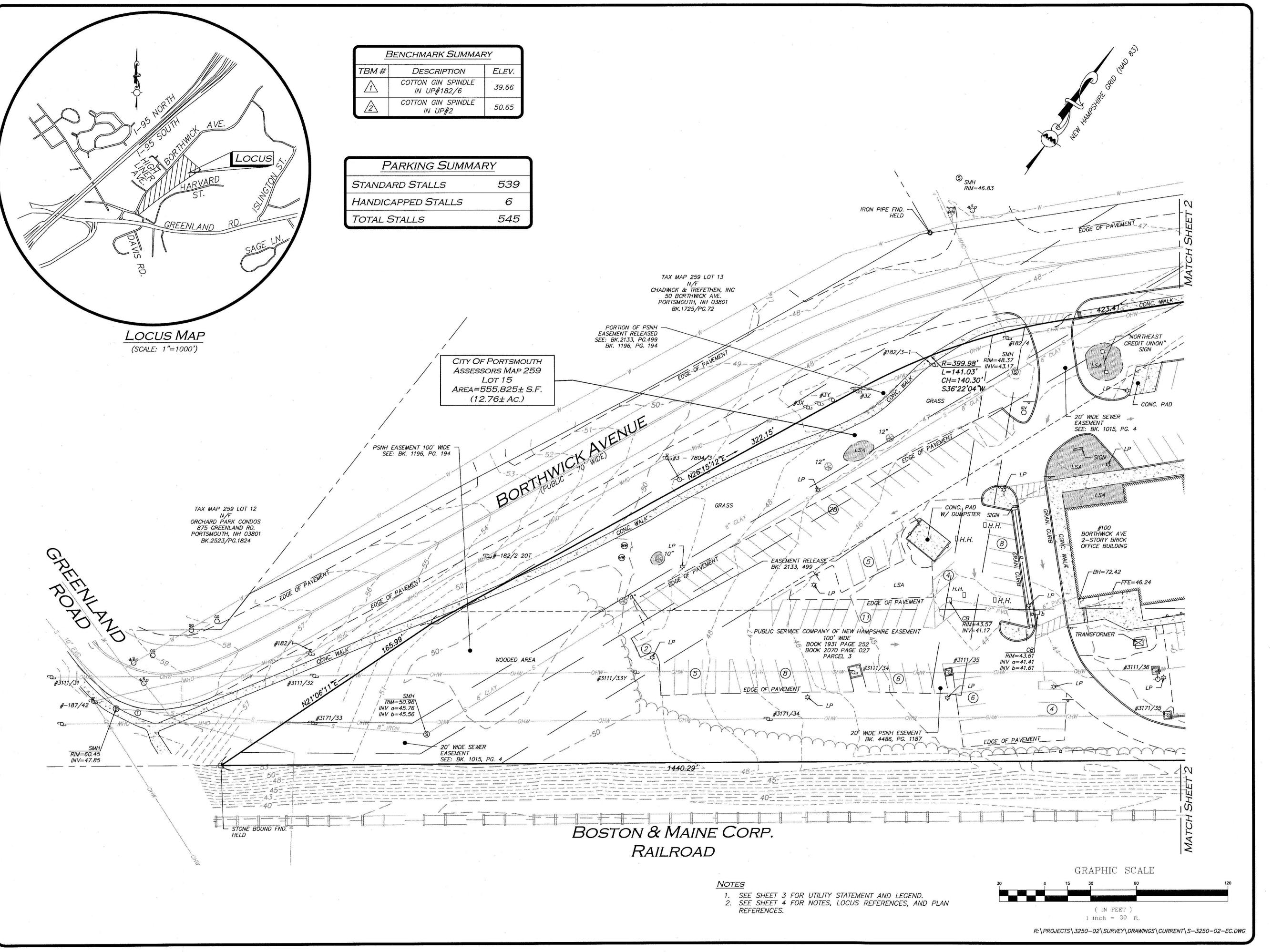
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LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT PLAN

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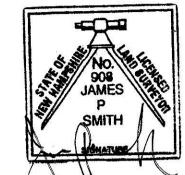




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ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC.



JAMES P. SMITH NH LLS #908

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REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION

875 GREENLAND RD. UNIT C8 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

APPLICANT:

STONEFISH, LLC

OWNER:
NORTH EAST CREDIT UNION
PO BOX 1240

PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802

PROJECT:

TM 259 LOT 15 100 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH

 PROJECT NO.
 3250-02
 DATE:
 7/08/24

 SCALE:
 1" = 30'
 DWG. NAME:
 S-3250-02-EC

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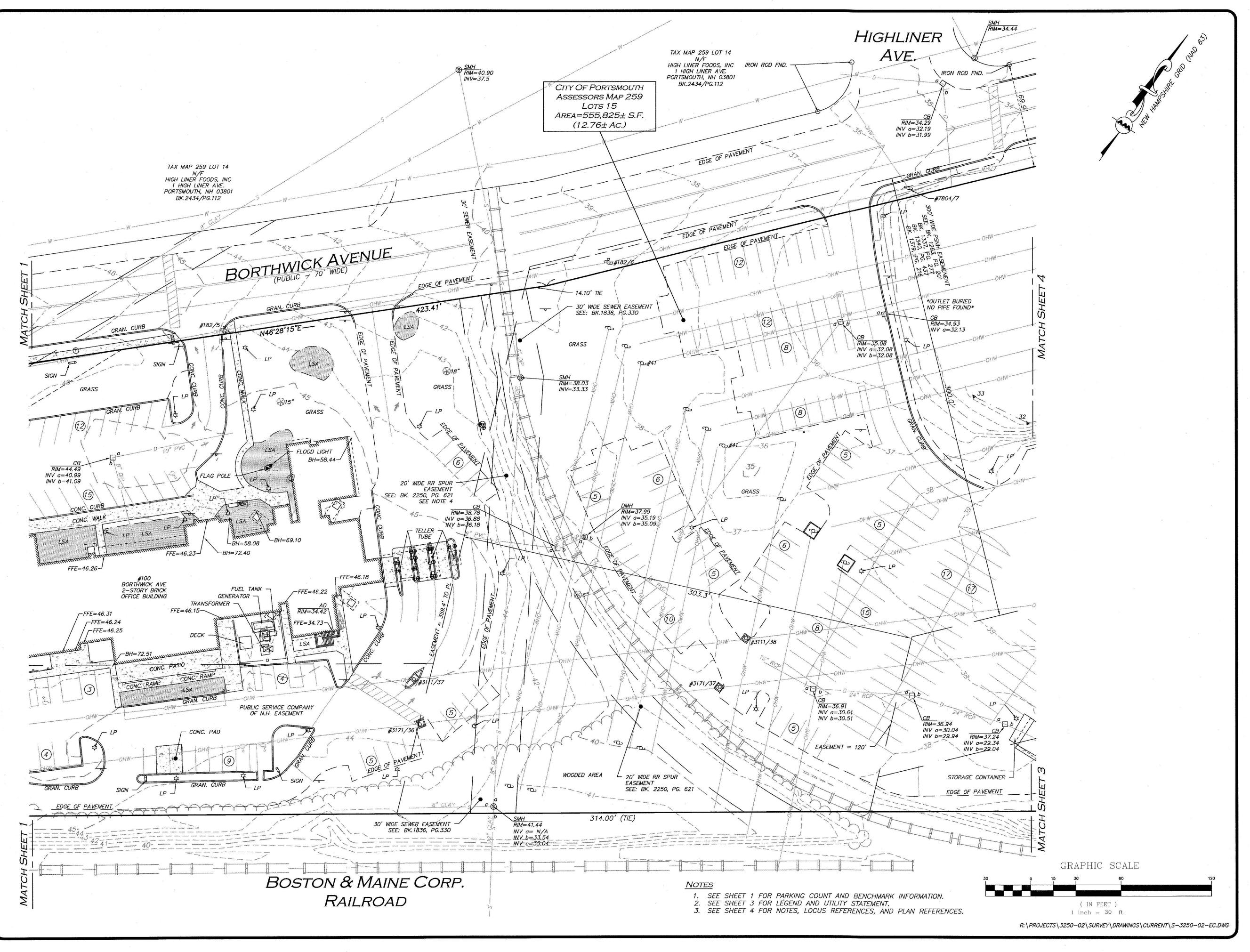
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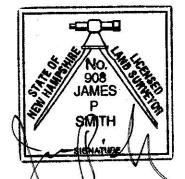
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PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

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TM 259 LOT 15 100 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH

PROJECT NO. 3250-02 DATE: 7/08/24 1" = 30' DWG. NAME: S-3250-02-EC CTP CHECKED BY: **DRAFTED BY:**



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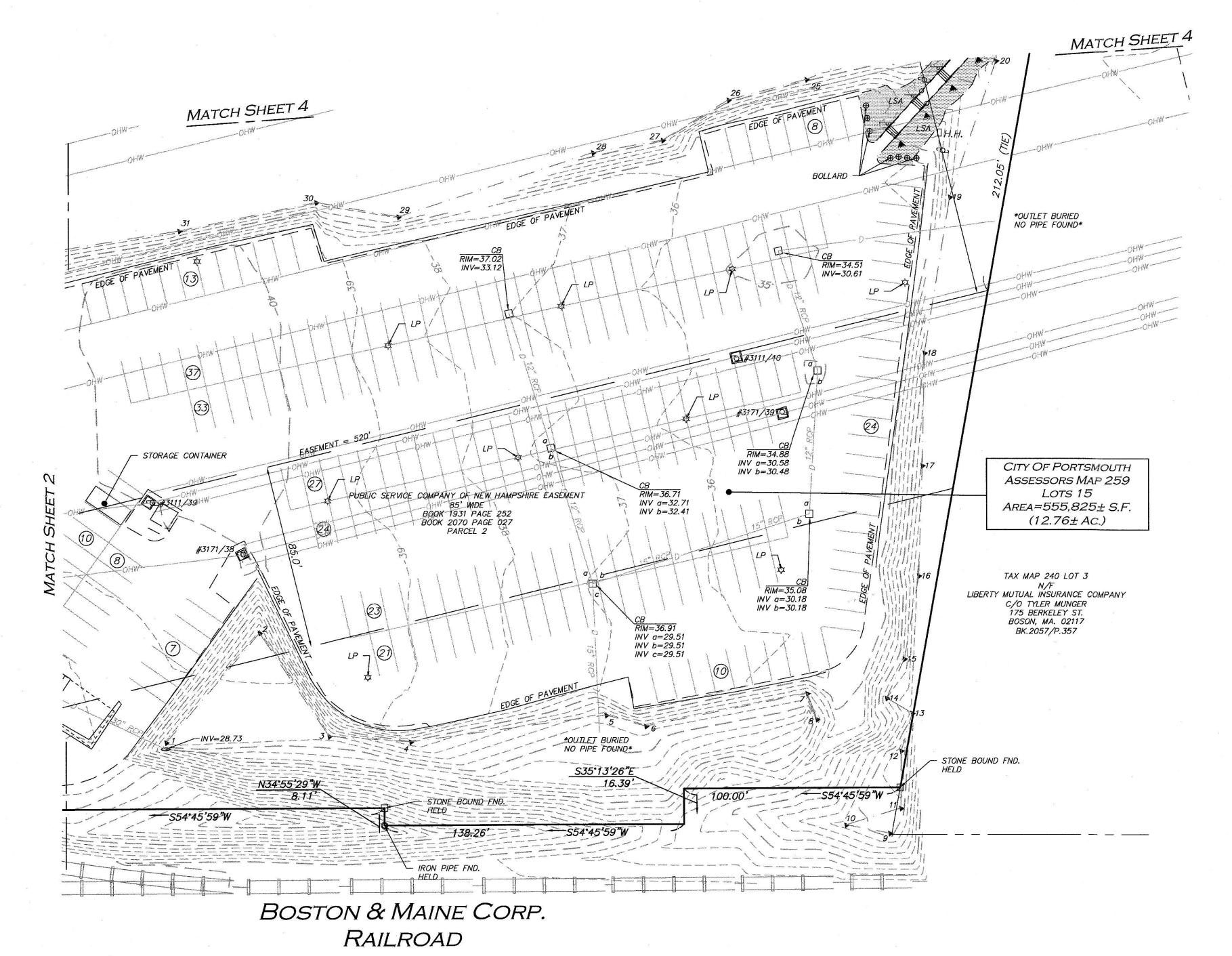
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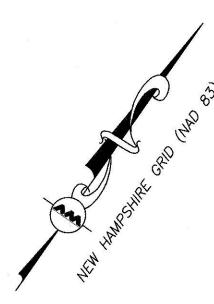
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LEGEND									
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IRON ROD (IR)	0	FLOODLIGHT	A	PARKING SPACE COUNT	16	CURB		BOTTOM CENTER	(BC)
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SEWER MANHOLE (SMH)	S	AREA DRAIN	0	LANDSCAPED AREA (LSA)		STOCKADE FENCE		POLYVINYL CHLORIDE PIPE	PVC
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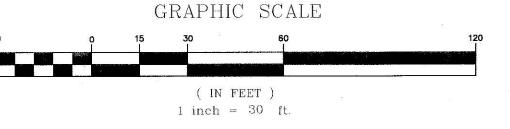


NOTES

- 1. SEE SHEET 1 FOR PARKING COUNT AND BENCHMARK INFORMATION.
- SEE SHEET 4 FOR NOTES, LOCUS REFERENCES, AND PLAN REFERENCES.

UTILITY STATEMENT

THE UTILITIES SHOWN HAVE BEEN LOCATED FROM FIELD SURVEY INFORMATION AND EXISTING DRAWINGS. ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC. (A&M) MAKES NO GUARANTEE THAT THE UTILITIES SHOWN HEREON COMPRISE ALL SUCH UTILITIES IN THE AREA, EITHER IN SERVICE OR ABANDONED. A&M FURTHER DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE UTILITIES SHOWN ARE IN THE EXACT LOCATION INDICATED. A&M HAS NOT PHYSICALLY LOCATED THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES.

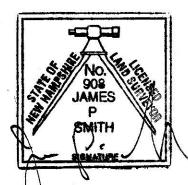


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ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC.



JAMES P. SMITH NH LLS #908

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7-9.24

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OWNER:

APPLICANT:

NORTH EAST CREDIT UNION PO BOX 1240 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802

APPLICANT\OWNER:

JEFF KILBURG 9550 W. HIGGINS RD SUITE 170 ROSEMONT, IL 60018

PROJECT:

TM 259 LOT 15 100 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH

PROJECT NO.	3250-02	DATE:	7/08/
SCALE:	1" = 30'	DWG. NAME:	S-3250-02
DRAFTED BY:	СТР	CHECKED BY:	J
PREPARED BY:			v s



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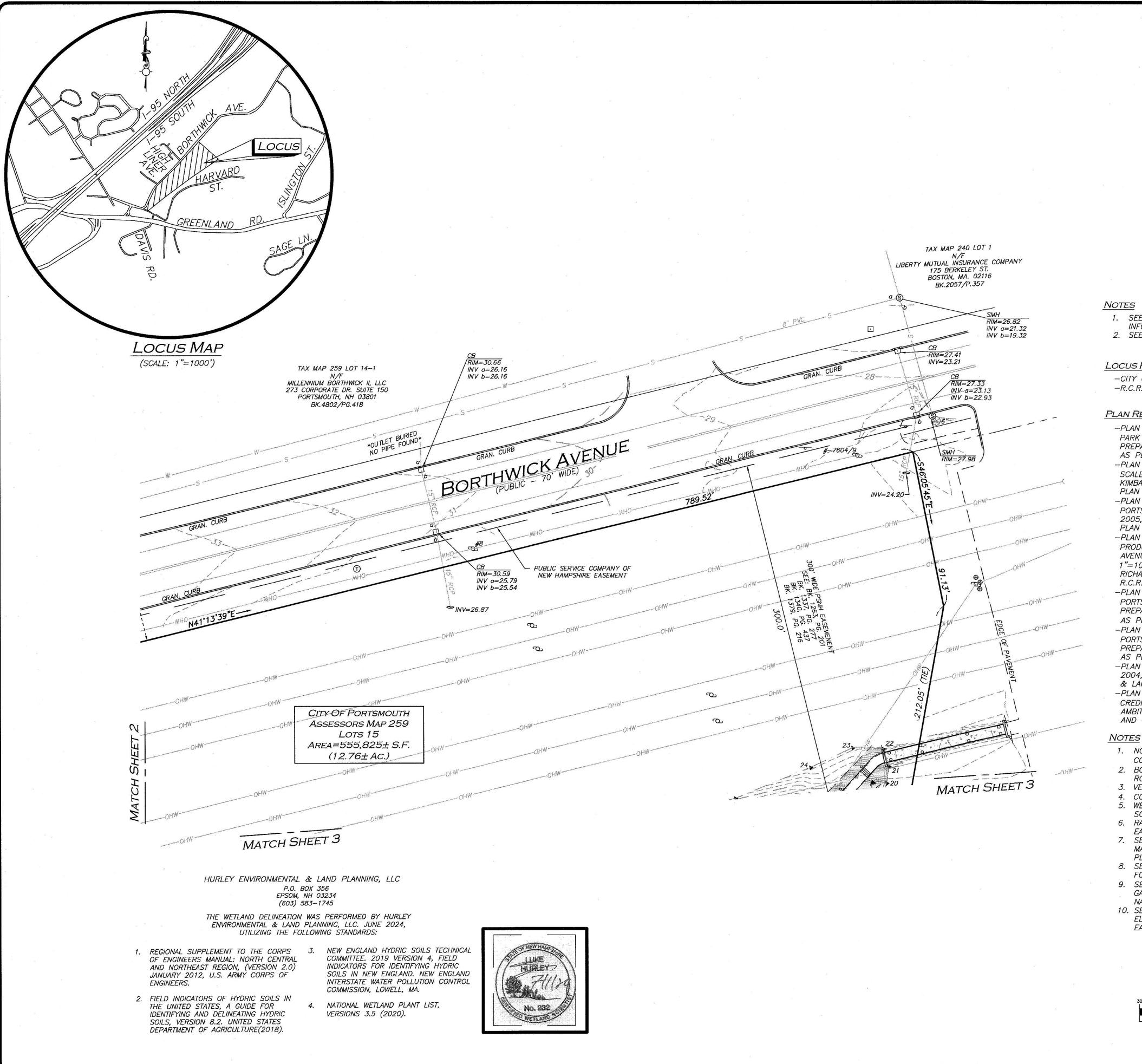
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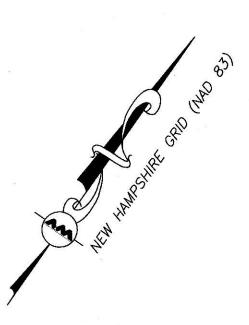
SHEET No.

PROPERTY LINE /

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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- 1. SEE SHEET 1 FOR PARKING COUNT AND BENCHMARK
- 2. SEE SHEET 3 FOR UTILITY STATEMENT AND LEGEND.

LOCUS REFERENCES

-CITY OF PORTSMOUTH TAX MAP 259, LOT 15 -R.C.R.D. BOOK 2270, PAGE 345

PLAN REFERENCES

-PLAN ENTITLED, "PLAN OF A PORTION OF BORTHWICK INDISTRIAL PARK PORTSMOUTH, N.H", SCALE 1"=60', DATED DECEMBER 1975, PREPARED BY JOHN W. DURGIN, AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN NO. D-5695.

-PLAN ENTITLED, "SITE PLAN OF ORCHARD PARK CONDOMINIUMS", SCALE 1"=40', DATED OCTOBER 10, 1985, PREPARED BY KIMBALL CHASE COMPANY, INC, AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN NO. D-14238.

--PLAN ENTITLED, "PLAN OF LAND MAP 240, LOTS 1 & 3 PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE", SCALE 1"=60', DATED JUNE 13, 2005, PREPARED BY VHB, AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN NO. D-33833.

-PLAN ENTITLED, "SUBDIVISION PLAN FOR NATIONAL SEA PRODUCTS INCORPORATED HIGHLINER AVENUE / BORTHWICK AVENUE COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM PORTSMOUTH, N.H., SCALE 1"=100', DATED OCTOBER JUNE 25, 1997, PREPARED BY RICHARD P. MILLETTE AND ASSOCIATES, AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN NO. D-25842.

-PLAN ENTITLED, "REVISED PLAN OF BORTHWICK INDUSTRIAL PARK PORTSMOUTH, N.H." SCALE 1"=60', DATED AUGUST 31, 1966, PREPARED BY JOHN W. DURGIN AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN #770.

-PLAN ENTITLED, "PLAN OF BORTHWICK INDUSTRIAL PARK PORTSMOUTH, N.H." SCALE 1"=60', DATED JANUARY, 1964, PREPARED BY JOHN W. DURGIN AND ON FILE AT THE R.C.R.D. AS PLAN NO. 262.

-PLAN ENTITLED, "STANDARD BOUNDARY SURVEY" DATED JUNE 2004, PREPARED BY AMBIT ENGINEERING, INC. CIVIL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS AND RECEIVED ON JUNE 17, 2024. -PLAN ENTITLED, "EASEMENT PLAN MAP 259-LOT 15 NORTHEAST CREDIT UNION TO PSNH" DATED MARCH 2005, PREPARED BY AMBIT ENGINEERING. INC. CIVIL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS AND ON FILE AT R.C.R.D AS PLAN NO. D-32670.

- 1. NORTH ARROW IS BASED ON NEW HAMPSHIRE GRID COORDINATE SYSTEM (NAD 83).
- 2. BOOK/PAGE AND PLAN REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BRENTWOOD, NH
- 3. VERTICAL DATUM IS NAVD 88.
- 4. CONTOUR INTERVALS ARE ONE FOOT (1').
- 5. WETLANDS DELINEATED BY LUKE HURLEY, NH WETLAND
- 6. RAILROAD SPUR WAS CONSTRUCTED OUTSIDE OF RECORD EASEMENT.
- 7. SEE EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN SET, PREPARED BY ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC. WITH THE SAME DATE. ONLY THIS PLAN TO BE USED FOR SUBDIVISION RECORDING PURPOSES.
- 8. SEE: BK. 4486, PG. 2595 EASEMENT TO CITY OF PORTSMOUTH FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING. 9. SEE: BK. 1374, PG. 142 35' WIDE EASEMENT TO ALLIED NH
- GAS COMPANY. SPECIFIC LOCATION NOT IDENTIFIED, BLANKET IN 10. SEE: BK. 835, PG. 493 FOR EASEMENT TO NH GAS &
- ELECTRIC COMPANY. BELIEVED TO BE AN OVERLAPPING EASEMENT THAT WAS DISCONTINUED IN BK. 2133, PG. 499.

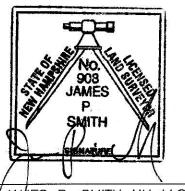
GRAPHIC SCALE (IN FEET) 1 inch = 30 ft.

R:\PROJECTS\3250-02\SURVEY\DRAWINGS\CURRENT\S-3250-02-EC.DWG

THIS PLAN IS THE RESULT OF AN ACTUAL ON THE GROUND SURVEY PERFORMED ON OR BETWEEN JUNE 14, 2024 AND JULY 2024 AND HAD AN ERROR OF CLOSURE OF NO GREATER THAN 1/10,000.

THE SUBJECT PREMISES IS LOCATED IN FLOOD ZONE X - "AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD" AS SHOWN ON THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBER 33015C0270F HAVING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2021.

ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC.



JAMES P. SMITH NH LLS #908

7-9-24

DATE DESCRIPTION APPLICANT:

STONEFISH, LLC 875 Greenland Rd. Unit C8 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

NORTH EAST CREDIT UNION PO BOX 1240 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802

PROJECT:

TM 259 LOT 15 100 BORTHWICK AVE. PORTSMOUTH, NH

PROJECT NO.	3250-02	DATE:	7/08/2
SCALE:	1" = 30'	DWG. NAME:	S-3250-02-EC
DRAFTED BY:	СТР	CHECKED BY:	JP:



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WOBURN, MA ◆ LAKEVILLE, MA ◆ MANCHESTER, NH

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SHEET No.

DRAWING TITLE:

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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REVIEW - RESPONSE LETTER

DATE: September 23, 2024

PROJECT: Map 240 Lot 3 - 0 Borthwick Ave

This letter addresses review comments received on September 20,2024.

COMMENT #1

In order to consider this application as complete, we need a narrative that addresses the 5 variance Criteria found in section 10.233 of the Zoning Ordinance and your responses to how the application meets each criterion. You are currently citing the special exception criteria.

RESPONSE #1

The narrative addressing the 5 variance Criteria found in section 10.233 of the Zoning Ordinance and the responses to how the application meets each criterion has been updated. The special exception criteria reference has been removed from the narrative.

COMMENT #2

Additionally, we need a site plan that shows both parcels in their entirety. We need to be able to see the lots and features as they currently exist as well as the proposed layout.

RESPONSE #2

An aerial view of existing Map 240, Lot 3 and existing Map 259 Lot 15 plans have been added to the set as to show both parcels in their entirety. Original drawing of Map 240 Lot 3 has been added to show lots and features as they currently exist.

COMMENT #3

Additionally, please provide an owner authorization form for Liberty Mutual (owners of Map 240 Lot 3).



RESPONSE #3

The Owner authorization form for Liberty Mutual has been provided with this submittal.

COMMENT #4

The application addressing should reflect the lot of which the variance is being requested for. In this case, the lot that requires the variance is Map 240 Lot 3 with an address of 0 Borthwick Ave. Please update your materials accordingly and we will change the address in the online permit.

RESPONSE #4

The address on the application and narratives have been updated to Map 240 Lot 3 with the address of 0 Borthwick Ave. The materials have been updated to show correct address.

Sincerely,

Apex Design Build

