

Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P.A. Attorneys at Law

*Michael J. Balduc **Themas G. Ferritii *William R. Phipps ***D. Lance Tillinghast

*Christopher A. Wyskiel

William E. Boc - Retired

* also admitted in Maine
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***also admitted in MA, ME & VT

January 22, 2025

ORIGINAL HAND DELIVERED

And

Copy Uploaded as Attachment to Online Application Submittal

City of Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment c/o Planning Department 1 Junkins Avenue, 3rd Floor Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: Application for Variance for Minor Sideline Setback Relief
By Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust
410 Richards Avenue
Tax Map 112, Lot 10
General Residence A ("GRA") zone

Dear Board Members:

This office represents Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid Revocable Trust, owner of the above referenced property. See Landowner Letter of Authorization Exhibit A. This letter supplements the online Land Use Application form submitted by the undersigned on Paula's behalf.

By Notice of Decision dated December 26, 2023, Portsmouth Case LU-23-198 (copy attached with Findings of Fact as Exhibit B), the Portsmouth ZBA granted variances to Paula Reid to tear down an existing dilapidated garage on her property in order to build a new one conforming to the dimensional requirement relief granted by the approved variances.

The variances granted allowed building a longer and slightly higher pitched garage, maintaining a pre-existing 3.5 foot right side yard setback. The variances were needed to lengthen the garage and keep an existing 3.5 foot right yard setback (where 10 feet is required) and slightly enlarge building coverage.

Excavation, foundation pouring and subsequent construction were all planned, measured and laid out intending to conform to the granted variances, specifically the 3.5 right side yard setback. When the foundation was completed and garage construction underway, a City required foundation certification was completed by McEneaney Survey Associates of New England, the same surveyor who surveyed the lot and submitted plans for the variance applications. McEneaney's January 7, 2025 foundation certificate survey (copy attached as Exhibit C) shows the front corner of the garage encroaching four inches into the variance allowed 3.5 foot right yard setback. It shows the rear corner of the garage encroaching one inch into the same 3.5 foot right yard setback.

The Applicant filed an application for an Equitable Waiver for Dimensional Requirement for zoning relief from the above described/documented facts. If an Equitable Waiver is not granted, action on this variance application is appropriate.

Specific Variance Request

The variance previously granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment is requested to be amended (or reissued as new) to specifically authorized relief from Section 10.521 Table of Dimensional Standards to allow:

- (a) Side yard setback relief to allow completion of construction of Applicant's substantially completed garage, modifying the previously granted setback relief granted by the ZBA's December 26, 2023 Notice of Decision, Case #LU-23-198, to the side yard setbacks confirmed by the McEneaney Survey Associates of New England Foundation Certification Plan dated January 7, 2025.
- (b) Building coverage relief to allow the above which increases existing 28.3% building coverage to 29.7% where a maximum building coverage of 25% is required for the GRA Zone.

Variance Criteria Addressed

But for minor (inches) foundation location of the garage, Applicant's contractors substantially complied with the ZBA's Exhibit B December 26, 2023 Notice of Decision. See photos attached as Exhibit E evidencing substantial completion of subject garage. No Exhibit D is attached to this application. Further work on the garage has ceased pending further ZBA action.

Justification for the variance remains exactly the same as explained by the undersigned's November 29, 2023 seven page letter with attached and referenced exhibits (all resubmitted herewith as numbered 1-10, as identified in said letter). The minor few inches of side yard setback encroachment do not render invalid the justification as explained in Applicant's original application, granted by the ZBA by it's December 26, 2023 Notice of Decision (which acknowledged the Board's finding that a variance from Section 10.321 as originally requested and addressed in said November 29, 2023 letter is not required to proceed with Applicant's garage plans.

This variance application is unnecessary if the ZBA grants Applicant's Equitable Waiver from Dimensional Requirement. If an equitable waiver is not granted however, the variances requested hereby are reasonable and should be granted.

Sincerely

Christopher A. Wyskiel

CAW/lew Enclosures

cc: Paula J. Reid

H:\RE & BUS\REID - PAULA - Portsmouth Variance\New Variance - 2025\Letter to Portsmouth ZBA #2 1-21-2025.docx

City of Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment 1 Junkins Avenue, 3rd Floor Portsmouth, NH 03801

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

Re: ZBA Application(s) re: 410 Richards Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Owners: Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust

Dear Sir/Madam:

Paula J. Reid, individually and as Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust, authorize my attorney, Christopher A. Wyskiel of Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P.A. to represent me, individually and in my landowning trustee capacity, before the Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding applications for Equitable Waiver of Developmental Requirements and/or an amended variance for the above referenced property.

Sincerely,

Dated: January 17, 2025

Paula J. Reid, Individually and as Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust

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Exh. A



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Planning Department 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

(603) 610-7216

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

December 26, 2023

Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust 410 Richards Avenue Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

RE: Board of Adjustment request for property located at 410 Richards Avenue (LU-23-198)

Dear Property Owner:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, at its regularly scheduled meeting of Tuesday, December 19, 2023, considered your application for demolishing and removing the existing detached garage and constructing a new detached garage and associated drainage improvements, which requires the following: 1) Variance from Section 10.521 to permit a) 3.5 foot right side yard where 10 feet is required, and b) 30% building coverage where 25% is the maximum allowed; and 2) Variance from Section 10.321 to allow a nonconforming structure or building to be extended, reconstructed or enlarged without conforming to the requirements of the Ordinance. Said property is shown on Assessor Map 112 Lot 10 and lies within the General Residence A (GRA) District. As a result of said consideration, the Board voted to approve the requested variances from Section 10.521 and acknowledge that the request does not require relief from Section 10.321.

The Board's decision may be appealed up to thirty (30) days after the vote. Any action taken by the applicant pursuant to the Board's decision during this appeal period shall be at the applicant's risk. Please contact the Planning Department for more details about the appeals process.

Approvals may also be required from other City Commissions or Boards. Once all required approvals have been received, applicant is responsible for applying for and securing a building permit from the Inspection Department prior to starting any project work.

This approval shall expire unless a building permit is issued within a period of two (2) years from the date granted unless an extension is granted in accordance with Section 10.236 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Findings of Fact associated with this decision are available: attached here <u>or</u> as an attachment in the Viewpoint project record associated with this application <u>and</u> on the Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting website:

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planportsmouth/zoning-board-adjustment/zoning-board-adjustment-archived-meetings-and-material

Exh. B

The minutes and audio recording of this meeting are available by contacting the Planning Department.

Very truly yours,

Phyllis Eldridge

Phyllis Eldridge, Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment

cc: Shanti Wolph, Chief Building Inspector

Rosann Maurice-Lentz, City Assessor

Christopher A Wyskiel, Attorney, Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast and Bolduc P.A.

Exh. B

Findings of Fact | Variance City of Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment

Date: <u>12-19-2023</u>

Property Address: 410 Richards Avenue

Application #: LU-23-198

Decision: Grant

Findings of Fact:

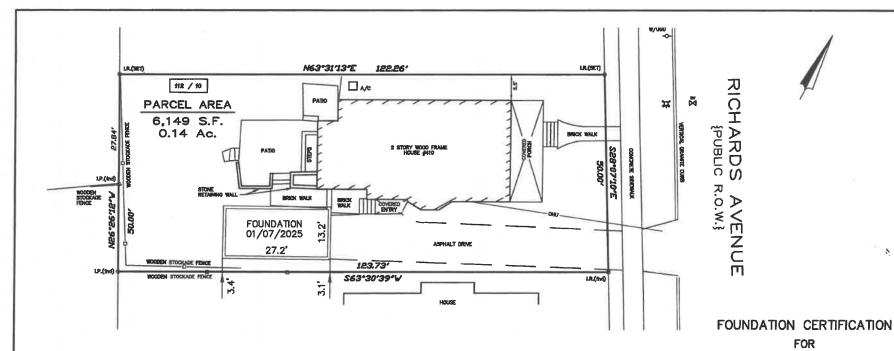
Effective August 23, 2022, amended RSA 676:3, It now reads as follows: The local land use board shall issue a final written decision which either approves or disapproves an application for a local permit and make a copy of the decision available to the applicant. The decision shall include specific written findings of fact that support the decision. Failure of the board to make specific written findings of fact supporting a disapproval shall be grounds for automatic reversal and remand by the superior court upon appeal, in accordance with the time periods set forth in RSA 677:5 or RSA 677:15, unless the court determines that there are other factors warranting the disapproval. If the application is not approved, the board shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the disapproval. If the application is approved with conditions, the board shall include in the written decision a detailed description of all conditions necessary to obtain final approval.

The proposed application meets/does not meet the following purposes for granting a Variance:

Section 10.233 Variance Evaluation Criteria	Finding (Meets Criteria)	Relevant Facts	
10.233.21 Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest.	YES	It is in the public interest to deal with drainage, given the climate changes.	
10.233.22 Granting the variance would observe the spirit of the Ordinance.	YES	The Board didn't think the minor variation in lot coverage was outside of it and that adding a garage is like what every other property in the neighborhood did.	
10.233.23 Granting the variance would do substantial justice.	YES	The property owner will avoid an issue that has arisen and there is no contrary interest in preserving the zoning ordinance for the property without the variance granted.	
10.233.24 Granting the variance would not diminish the values of surrounding properties.	YES	 The neighbor has said it is a fine change and there is no evidence that it willdiminish anyone's property value in the immediate area. 	

Exh. B

10.233.25 Literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance would result in an unnecessary hardship. (a) The property has special Conditions that distinguish it from other properties in the area. AND (b) Owing to these special conditions, a fair and substantial relationship does not exist between the general public purposes of the Ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property; and the proposed use is a reasonable one. OR Owing to these special conditions, the property cannot be reasonably used in strict conformance with the Ordinance, and a variance is therefore necessary to enable a reasonable use of it.	YES	The property has special conditions of drainage issues and the garage is a hazard because the walls aren't straight, and the specific application of the ordinance provisions to the property will result in an unnecessary hardship.
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REFERENCE PLANS:

 BOUNDARY SURVEY PLAN PREPARED FOR PAULA J. REID 2003 REVOCABLE TRUST, TAX MAP 112, LOT No. 10, 410 RICHARDS AVE, CITY of PORTSMOUTH, COUNTY of ROCKINGHAM, STATE of NEW HAMPSHIRE, SCALE: 1" 10'; DATED: OCTOBER 25, 2022; BY THIS OFFICE. NOT RECORDED.

- 1.) ZONING DISTRICT IS GENERAL RESIDENCE A (GRA)
- REFERENCE IS MADE TO A ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT LETTER DATED DECEMBER 26, 2023 WHICH GRANTS A VARIANCE FROM SECTION 10.521 TO PERMIT A 3.5 FOOT RIGHT SIDE YARD WHERE

FILE= 2467\DWGS\22-2467

3.) THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY, IT IS INTENDED FOR FOUNDATION CERTIFICATION ONLY.

"I CERTIFY THAT THE FOUNDATION LOCATION SHOWN DOES NOT MEET THE INTENDED VARIANCE REQUIREMENT, AND IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE 0.2% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOODPLAIN."

NOT TO BE RECORDED



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7.5

PAULA J. REID 2003 REV. TRUST

410 RICHARDS AVENUE

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1" = 15' JANUARY 7, 2025

15

22.5

of NEW ENGLAND P.O. Box 1166 - 181 WATSON ROAD

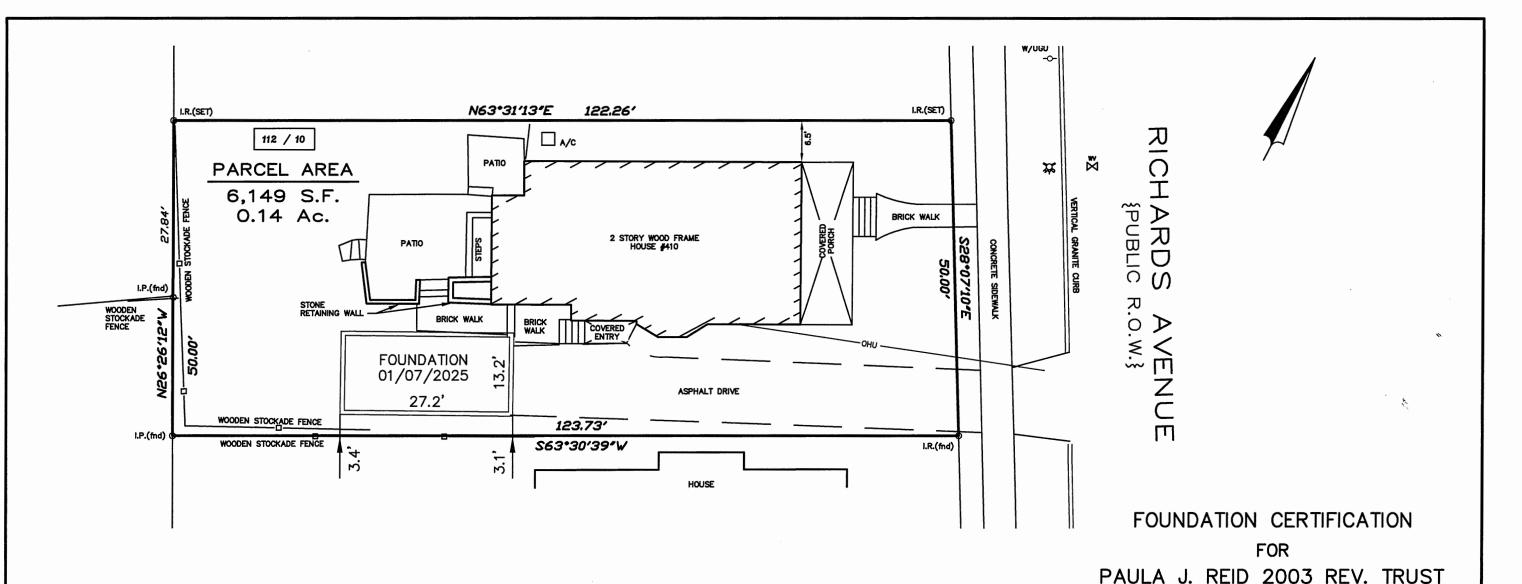
DOVER, NH 03820 (603) 742-0911

SURVEYING **PLANNING** CONSULTING



PROJECT No - 22-2467

NOTES:



REFERENCE PLANS:

1.) BOUNDARY SURVEY PLAN PREPARED FOR PAULA J. REID 2003 REVOCABLE TRUST, TAX MAP 112, LOT No. 10, 410 RICHARDS AVE, CITY of PORTSMOUTH, COUNTY of ROCKINGHAM, STATE of NEW HAMPSHIRE. SCALE: 1" = 10'; DATED: OCTOBER 25, 2022; BY THIS OFFICE. NOT RECORDED.

NOTES:

- 1.) ZONING DISTRICT IS GENERAL RESIDENCE A (GRA)
- 2.) REFERENCE IS MADE TO A ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT LETTER DATED DECEMBER 26, 2023 WHICH GRANTS A VARIANCE FROM SECTION 10.521 TO PERMIT A 3.5 FOOT RIGHT SIDE YARD WHERE 10 FEET IS REQUIRED.
- FOUNDATION CERTIFICATION ONLY.

"I CERTIFY THAT THE FOUNDATION LOCATION SHOWN DOES NOT MEET THE INTENDED VARIANCE REQUIREMENT, AND IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE 0.2% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOODPLAIN."

NOT TO BE RECORDED

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410 RICHARDS AVENUE

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1" = 15' JANUARY 7, 2025

of NEW ENGLAND

P.O. Box 1166 - 181 WATSON ROAD DOVER, NH 03820 (603) 742-0911

SURVEYING

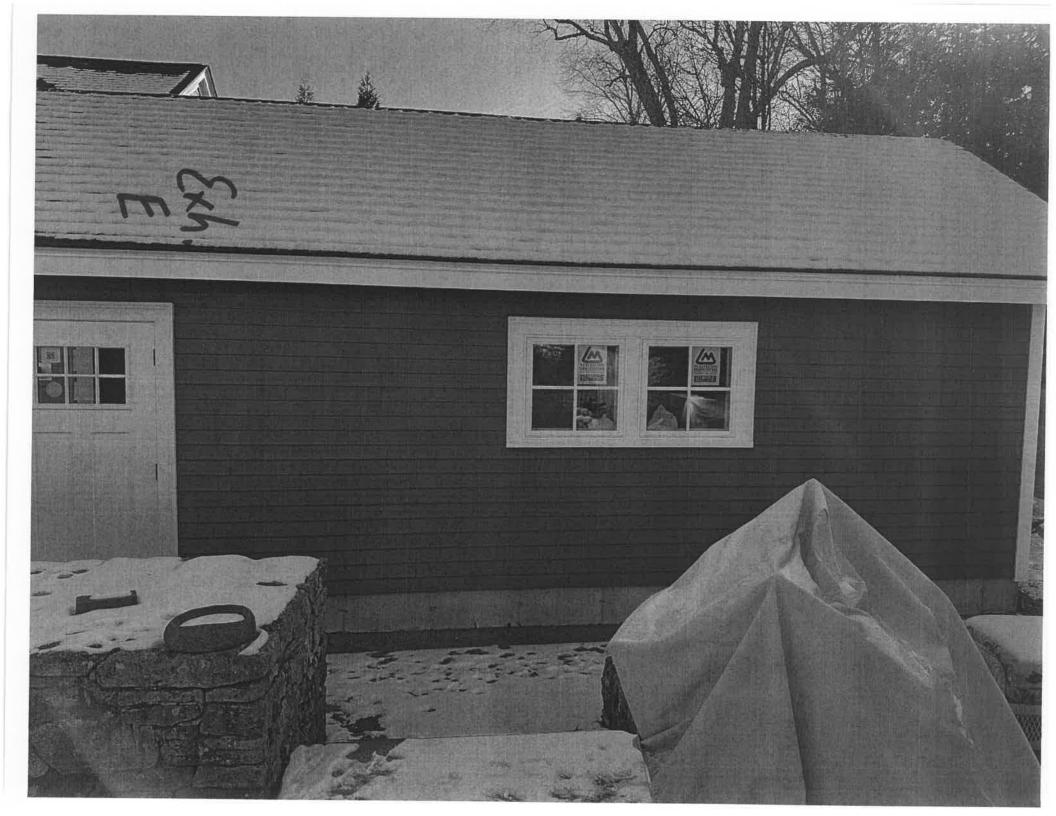
PLANNING

CONSULTING

3.) THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY, IT IS INTENDED FOR

PROJECT No - 22-2467 FILE= 2467\DWGS\22-2467





LIST OF ABUTTERS

Applicant: Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust 410 Richards Avenue, Portsmouth, NH Tax Map 112, Lot 10

Property Address	Tax Map/Lot No.	Owner(s)	RCRD Deed Ref.
420 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 9	Amy E. Dutton Rev. Trust of 2003, Amy E. Dutton Murphy, Trustee	5225/39
390 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 11	Stebbins Family Trust, John R. & Bridget M. Stebbins, Trustees	5636/563
399 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 18	Barbara E. Collier Rev. Trust, Barbara E. Collier, Trustee	6315/246
409 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 19	Stephen C. Buzzell Rev. Trust, Stephen C. Buzzell, Trustee, and and Jody E. Buzzell Rev. Trust, Jody E. Buzzell, Trustee	6035/840
419 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 20	Thomas A. Nies Rev. Trust of 2010 and Denise M. Nies Rev. Trust of 2010, Thomas A. & Denise M. Nies, Trustees	5192/1225
295 Miller Avenue	Map 130, Lot 9	Kristen B. Mullen Rev. Living Trust, Kristen B. Mullen, Trustee	5699/1271
303 Miller Avenue	Map 130, Lot 10	The Twombly Trust, Dorothy C. Twombly, Trustee	2762/2766

Engineer/Surveyor:

Kevin M. McEneaney McEneaney Survey Associates of New England P. O. Box 681 Dover, NH 03821

Attorney:

Christopher A. Wyskiel Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P. A. 561 Central Avenue Dover, NH 03820

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Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P.A. Attorneys at Law

*Michael J. Bolduc **Thomas G. Ferrini *William R. Phipps

***D. Lance Tillinghast
*Christopher A. Wyskiel

William E. Boc - Retired

* also admitted in Maine
***also admitted in MA & VT
***also admitted in MA, ME & VT

November 29, 2023

City of Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment c/o Planning Department 1 Junkins Avenue, 3rd Floor Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: Variance Application for Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust 410 Richards Avenue
Tax Map 112, Lot 10
General Residence A ("GRA") zone

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (and Planning Dept. staff):

This office represents Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid Revocable Trust. This letter supplements the online Land Use Application form submitted by the undersigned on Paula's behalf. It first identifies submitted exhibits, then the specific zoning ordinance sections for which variances are requested, then explains (with reference to exhibits) Paula's garage and site redevelopment proposal and facts relevant to variance criteria to be met.

The variances are requested to facilitate Paula's demolition of her existing dilapidated garage to accommodate additional excavation and site work to address the serious stormwater drainage problems on her downward sloping lot, and then building a modestly enlarged replacement garage of similar scale. Paula's proposed work is reasonable. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the purposes of the dimensional requirements from which relief is sought, and their application to Paula's property with respect to her reasonable proposed work. The facts demonstrated by this application meet all the variance criteria set out in Portsmouth's Zoning Ordinance and N.H. statutory and common law.

Submitted Exhibits

Submitted exhibits are numbered/lettered and summarily identified below. The numbering/lettering facilitates reference to the exhibits in the explanatory text that follows.

1. Landowner Letter of Authorization

- Existing Conditions Plan (boundary survey by McEneaney Survey Associates dated 10/25/2022)
- 3. New garage proposal plan (prepared by ASB Architecture with overlay to Existing Conditions Plan)
- 3A. Enlargement of Exhibit 3's overlay on Existing Conditions Plan
- 3B. Enlargement of Exhibit 3's Notes with existing/proposed dimensional calculations
- 4. October 1898 Rockingham County Registry recorded plan (original layout of lots)
- 5A. City Tax Map print of subject lot
- 5B. City Tax Map print/aerial view (arrow points to subject lot)
- 6. Two pictures of lot's street view and driveway showing lot's sloping topography to back yard
- 7. Three pictures of house showing anticipated gutter locations (recommended gutters to be confirmed by an installer not yet consulted)
- 8. Three pictures showing areas that flood with stormwater drainage
- 9. Three pictures of existing garage showing existing/abutting lot topography differences and screening/privacy fences
- 10. Ten pictures of neighborhood garages on Richards Avenue and Miller Avenue (in the vicinity of the subject lot)

Specific Variance Requests

The existing garage located per Exhibit 2 and pictured in Exhibits 6, 8 and 9 is a conforming use on a non-conforming lot. Explained in more detail below, Paula proposes to remove this substandard structure to accommodate site drainage work to collect and naturally absorb/treat (by rain garden) substantial on-site stormwater drainage, then reconstruct the replacement garage depicted on Exhibit 3. Because of the proposed garage new construction and proposed lengthening by five (5) feet, variances from the following Zoning Ordinance sections are requested:

1. Section 10.321 to accommodate the modest enlargement of a lawful non-conforming structure by demolition/new construction replacement not conforming to the below dimensional requirements of the GRA zone.

2. Section 10.521 Table of Dimensional Standards:

- (a) Side yard setback relief to accommodate a five (5) foot lengthening of the existing garage's footprint by new construction located 3.5 feet from the property sideline where a 10 foot side yard setback is required in the GRA zone (existing garage is 3.5 feet from side yard property line)
- (b) Building coverage relief to allow the above which increases existing 28.3% building coverage to 29.7% where maximum building coverage of 25% is required for the GRA zone.

Development Proposal Explained/Facts Relevant to Requested Variances

Paula's existing garage is in a state of disrepair. Renovation consistent with current building best practices is impractical. The overhead door is difficult to open. The existing garage's height and width do not accommodate replacement with new overhead garage doors, certainly not without overhead opening equipment. Its low slanted roof allows little headroom and does not best accommodate snow loading. Replacement by new construction is warranted and reasonable.

Paula's architect, Aimee Bentley, did not conduct any boring testing to verify existing foundation or footings, but slab construction is suspected. New construction could accommodate appropriate frost walls and flooring and also accommodate below described site drainage work.

The requested lengthening by five (5) feet will accommodate longer cars of present day popularity, as well as modest indoor storage (eliminating the need for an additional exterior accessory storage shed or structure).

The topography of the lot slopes from Richards Avenue downwards to the back yard. The main roof of the house pitches from the midline forward towards Richards Avenue (where drainage can be absorbed by the front yard and landscaped plantings), and toward the back yard. Dormered roofing on the driveway side and back of the house pitches much of the rear roof's rain runoff, together with runoff from the driveway and (back yard side of) garage, all into the back driveway side door entry and walkway along the existing driveway. See pictures at Exhibits 7 and 8. In rainstorms, this driveway area in front of the garage and the walkway to the house's side entry and along the side of the garage pools with water and pours into the rear yard with no good drainage absorption.

New construction will allow machinery excavation both for the new garage's foundation and underground drainage to accommodate driveway runoff and water collected from the roof by gutters on the house (see Exhibit 7 pictures) and new garage (see Exhibit 3). That collected water will funnel into underground drainage pipe(s) to a rain garden properly designed, developed and planted in the back yard corner behind the garage. This improvement cannot be

made by keeping the existing structure. Excavation for drainage and the rain garden cannot be practically done by hand. Larger machinery can't be otherwise brought into the back yard without existing garage demolition.

Continued use of the existing structure can't reasonably facilitate storm water drainage problem solutions. Continued use of the present garage isn't reasonable for present day conditions. The proposed modest lengthening is reasonable. Cars have gotten larger. Standard garages are not designed less than 24 feet (the existing is 22 feet). The slight widening (by less than one foot into back yard side) and heightening (by less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet per zoning defined height) accommodates current building and roof trussing to meet code and typical New England snow load requirements.

Paula anticipates her new construction demolition, site improvements (foundation, drainage and rain garden), and garage construction to be in the vicinity of \$100,000.00.

Variance Criteria Addressed

Portsmouth Zoning (Section 10.233.20 and its subparts) and 10.233.31 restate the N.H. RSA 674:33, I variance criteria. N.H. case law provides further interpretive guidance. It is reasonable to grant the requested variances.

1. Granting the variance is not contrary to the public interest.

Under N.H. law, Applicants do not have an affirmative duty to show that granting the requested variance furthers the public interest. Rather, the burden is simply to show that granting it will not be contrary to the public interest. That this distinction suggests a relatively low standard was acknowledged by the N.H. Supreme Court's decision in Chester Rod and Gun Club, Inc. v Town of Chester, 152 N. H. 577 (2005). In considering this criteria, the Court recommends the ZBA consider whether the requested variance(s) would "unduly and to a marked degree" conflict with the basic premises of the Zoning Ordinance, or alter the essential character of the locality, or threaten the public health, safety or welfare. Id. at 508.

The proposed garage replacement will not alter the essential character of the locality. Tax Map prints (Exhibits 5A & B) and the pictures at Exhibit 10 show lots in the immediate vicinity of 410 Richards Avenue that have older as well as new replacement (some larger) garages in close proximity to lot lines and neighboring homes. The less than 1 foot widening (towards the middle of the lot) and modest 5 foot lengthening (for which variance relief is sought) will hardly be noticed as to size, placement and lot coverage. If anything will be noticed at all, it will be an attractive, new, functional garage, having replaced (for anyone who remembers) an old, in need of repair garage not used by the property's owner for parking a car.

The modest proposed redevelopment shown by Exhibit 3, does not threaten the public's health, safety or welfare. Demolition of the existing structure to excavate for drainage work and

an appropriate rain garden in the corner of the yard to accommodate collected stormwater drainage, improves the public health, safety and welfare. It certainly improves the subject lot. Appropriate accommodation of stormwater drainage on site helps prevent runoff to abutting properties.

2. The spirit of the ordinance is observed by granting the requested setback variances.

In considering this criteria, Courts have suggested it to be interdependent with and should be construed together with the "not contrary to the public interest" criteria. <u>Chester Rod and Gun Club</u> at 580. The points made above are equally relevant to this variance test.

Many lots in the GRA zone near Paula's were originally laid out having only 50 feet of frontage and are thus non-conforming as to frontage (many as to lot size also). See Exhibit 4 (2 pages). Over time, some of these narrow lots have been combined in whole or in part to form wider lots. See Exhibits 5A & 5B. Many narrow lots non-conforming as to size and frontage still exist, and have been developed with garages, new and old. See Exhibit 10 pictures.

Portsmouth's Zoning Ordinance 10.233.50 states that abutting properties' dimensional requirement violations cannot be considered as factors in determining whether the spirit of the ordinance would be observed by granting an applicant's requested variances. The spirit of the ordinance does, however, contemplate reasonable development on non-conforming lots.

For one example, Section 10.312, specifically 10.312.10, considers lots with insufficient frontage as conforming if the lot is shown on a Registry of Deeds recorded plan prior to March 21, 1966, and contains minimum zone required square footage. Paula's lot was first shown/created by the 1898 plan recorded as Rockingham Registry of Deeds Plan #00125. Exhibit 4. It has less than GRA zone required frontage. It does not meet the zone's required minimum lot size. However, as to size, Exhibit 3, see specifically 3B, shows how the proposed construction modestly increases the lot's building coverage by only 1.4%.

The spirit of the GRA zone dimensional requirement ordinance provisions also contemplate a reasonable width for lot development. This zone requires lots to be 100 feet wide. Subtracting both side yard 10 foot setbacks leaves at least an intended 80 feet of developable land area conforming to the ordinance. Exhibit 4 shows lots long ago created in the GRA zone not sized by this present day standard. Paula's 50 foot lot less both 10 foot side yard setbacks leaves only 30 feet to work with for reasonable development. The spirit of the ordinance contemplates development on non-conforming lots, but again the specific dimensioning of Paula's lot doesn't allow her reasonable proposal to conform to stated dimensional requirements. It is reasonable to grant the requested variances to facilitate Paula's reasonable site improvements.

The overall spirit of the ordinance encourages development appropriate for the public's health, safety and welfare. Demolition of the existing garage doesn't just promote new code appropriate construction facilitating reasonable use, but facilitates onsite machinery excavation to develop storm water drainage solutions consistent with present best practices. To insist that the existing structure stay put and used as best it can, essentially a storage shed, is inconsistent with the ordinance's spirit promoting safe and appropriate and usable development appropriate not just for present but future owners.

3. Granting the requested setback variance would do substantial justice.

This criteria requires consideration of all the facts relevant to the application, and a balancing of the public's and the Applicant's interests. One way to consider whether "substantial justice" would be done is to determine whether there is any gain to the public that is greater than the loss suffered by the Applicant if the variance is not granted. See, Farrar v City of Keene, 158 N. H. 684, 692 (2009). To apply this legal standard, the ZBA should imagine a scale, and on it weigh the loss suffered to Paula Reid as landowner/applicant on one side, against (on the other side of the scale) the public benefit to be gained by strict adherence to the Zoning Ordinance's dimensional requirements by denying the requested relief

Denying the variances simply because the proposed new construction modestly exceeds dimensional requirements makes no sense. Paula Reid would lose the opportunity to address the stormwater drainage problems that plague the side and back yards. Denial would preclude the opportunity to replace a worn out structure with one of up to date construction and more reasonably sized for use given today's automobile sizes and modest garage storage needs. The value of the improvement will enhance the property's assessment and thus the City's property tax revenue without increasing City service needs, school population, etc. It is hard to articulate any gain to the public, including immediate abutters, in denying the variance.

The proposed development is reasonable. It's in keeping with the neighborhood. As such, the scale tips in favor of Paula Reid.

4. Values of surrounding properties are not diminished by granting these requested setback relief.

ZBA Board members are legally permitted to rely upon their general knowledge and awareness of our area's rapidly appreciating real estate values and competitive real estate market. It is hard to imagine a good faith claim that Paula's reasonable proposal will have an adverse effect on surrounding property values. Property values in Portsmouth's desirable and high demand market continue to escalate. Property values in this general neighborhood will continue to rise after 410 Richards Avenue is improved as proposed.

5. Literal enforcement of the setback requirement from which relief is requested would result in unnecessary hardship because special conditions of the property distinguish it from others in the area, and no fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the express setback, lot coverage, and new construction limitations and their specific application to this property.

Special conditions of the subject property do distinguish it from others in the GRA zone. The property's significant drainage problems are addressed above. Literal enforcement of the dimensional requirements and new construction prohibition creates the hardship of being unable to reasonably cure this property's drainage problem special conditions. The purpose of the ordinance sections from which relief is requested is to promote safe and orderly development in the zone. Everything addressed above evidences that literal enforcement (variance application denial) fails that general purpose. Granting the variances instead will allow these special conditions to be addressed to eliminate the drainage hardship the property now endures, and will allow a replacement structure of similar scale, but very modest enlargement, reasonable and appropriate for today's standards of garage use.

Additional special conditions on the site relevant to the application are these. The neighboring lot immediately abutting the existing and proposed garage is at a higher elevation. Both properties have privacy fences screening each site's structures and back yards from the other. See Exhibit 9 pictures. The modest lengthening of a new garage by 5 feet will hardly be seen on account of both fences and their differing heights, especially given the neighbor's fence being taller and at a higher elevation.

Conclusion

All of the above evidence's Paula meeting all of the criteria required to grant the requested variances. Her proposed development will not threaten the public health, safety and welfare which is the general purpose of Portsmouth's Zoning Ordinance. The request variances are reasonable and should be granted.

Sincerely 15 / 15

Christopher A. Wyskiel

CAW/lew Enclosures

cc: Paula J. Reid

City of Portsmouth
Zoning Board of Adjustment
1 Junkins Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portsmouth, NH 03801

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

Re: Variance - 410 Richards Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Owners: Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust

Dear Sir/Madam:

Paula J. Reid, individually and as Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust, authorize my attorney, Christopher A. Wyskiel of Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P.A. to represent me, individually and in my landowning trustee capacity, before the Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding variance requests for the above referenced property.

Sincerely,

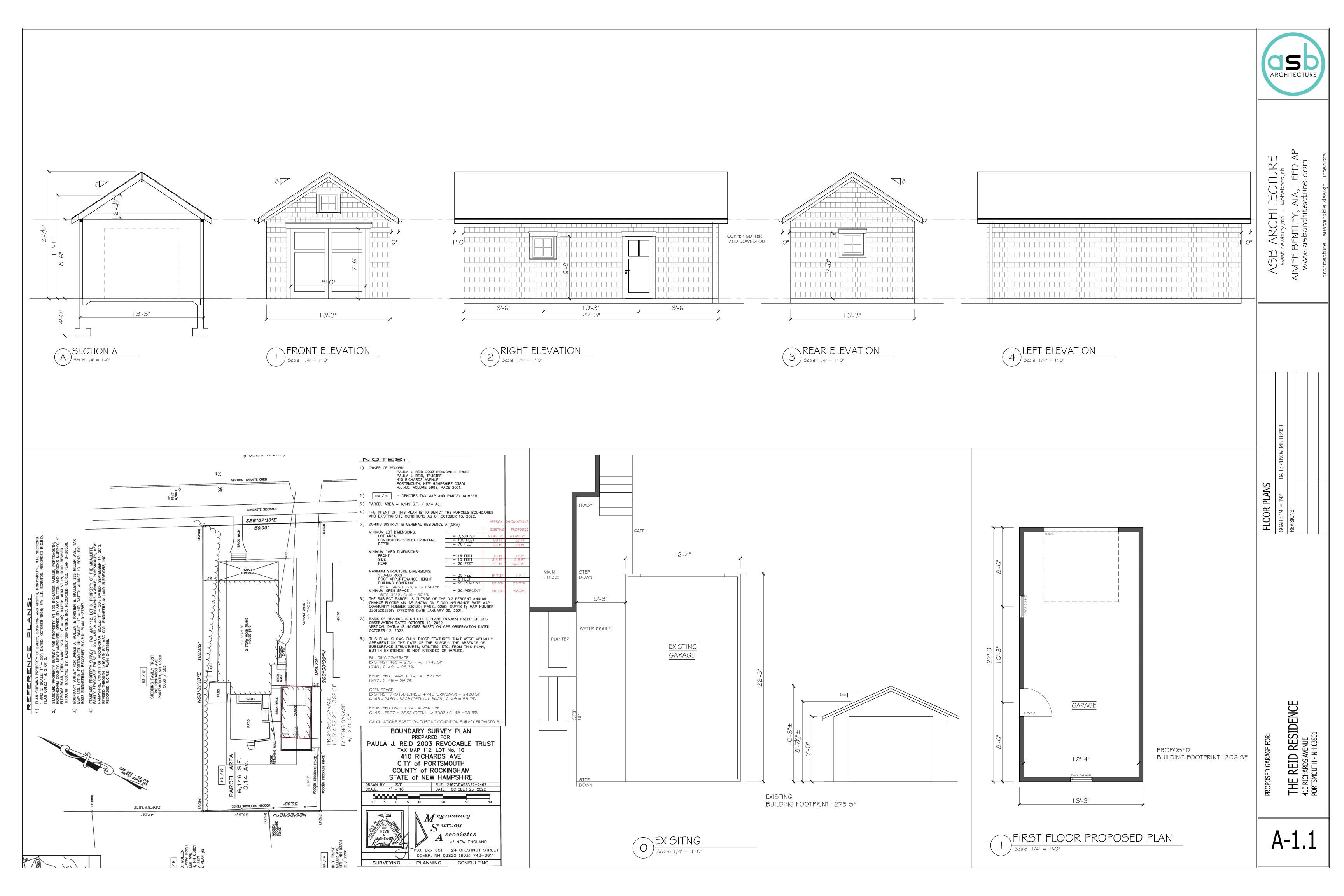
Dated: November 27, 2023

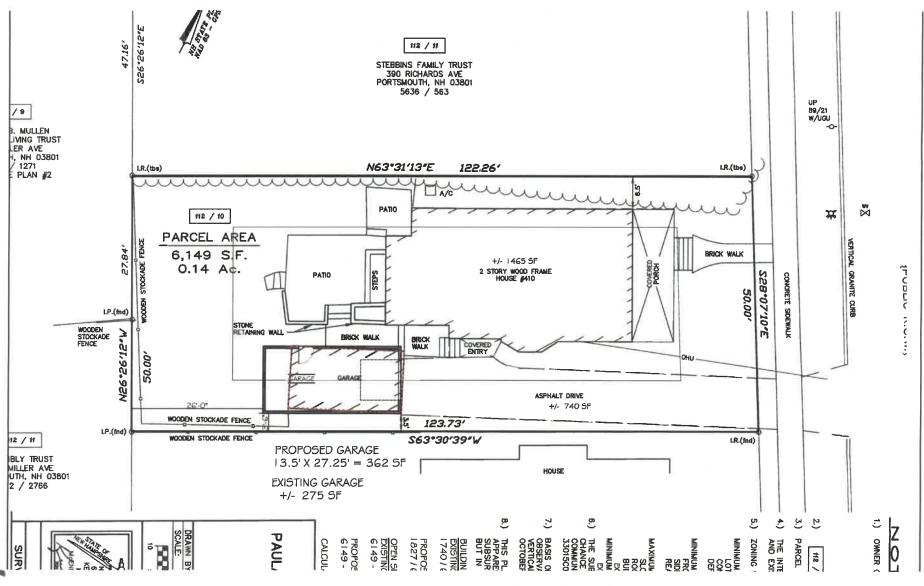
Paula J. Reid, Individually and as Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust

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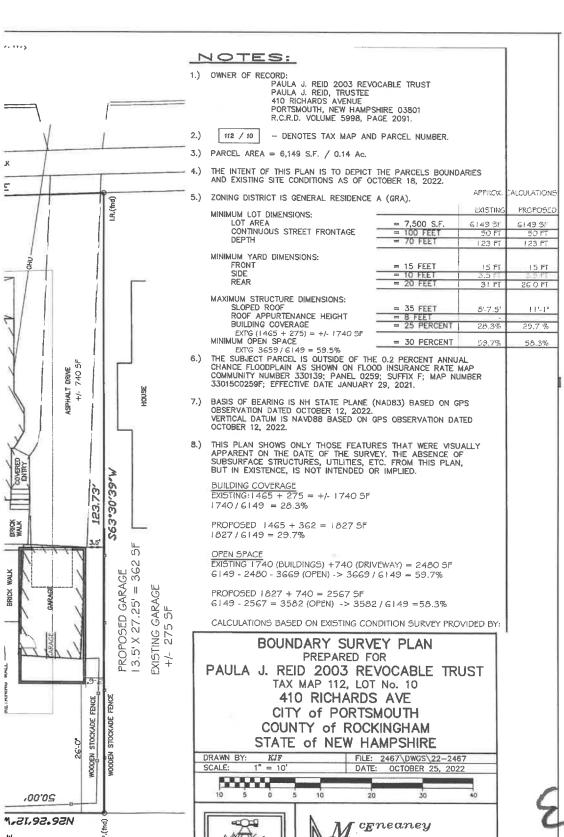
Exh. 1

REFERENCE PLANS:





34 3A



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ssociates

Exh133

(Sheet 2 of 2)
dated October 1898 NTOINIT (previously 539/481 Microfilm Plan# 125 AVENUE 345 No 24 No 12 No.23 $N_0 II$ No 10 No 22 Section 2 No 9 EMCHY BOYN'I'DN & GAIF'I No 21 Sureyed Octobe 1998. Scale 30 First to Estimated PORTSMOUTH N. H. PLAN SHOWING PROPERTY AVENUE No 20 410 Richards Ave No 8 AVENUE NoI9No 2 $N_0 18$ 9 W No17 No 5

Exh. 4 (p.192)

(Sheet 1 of 2)
duted October 1898
(Freviously 539/481) No 24 No.12 1 of 3 No 11 82/00 No 10 No 22 EMEHY BITYNTON & GHIF! No O ĭ No 21 1006. State 20 Per to the Lin AVENUE PLAN SHIDWING PROPERTY PORTSMOUTH No 8 No 20 Section 1 AVENUE wronged October 1686. No.19 No 2 No.18 N_0 6 No17 $N_0 \, \tilde{\omega}$ 91 oN MILLER No16No 3 No.14 No 13 NoI

Micofilm Plan # 125

Exh. 4 (12.f2)

410 Richards Avenue 112 11 (<u>14</u>) 1" = 75.30551676083519 ft Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource. MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT City of Portsmouth, NH makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map. Geometry updated 08/24/2023 Data updated 3/9/2022

Exh. SA

2023 Aerial View





MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

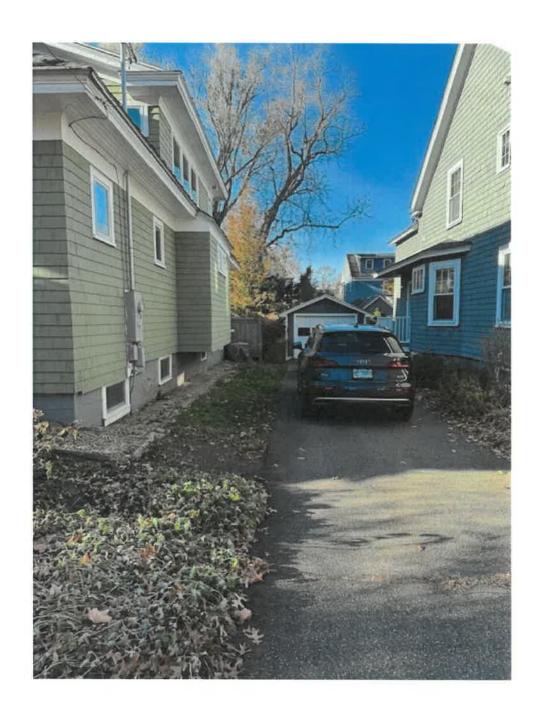
City of Portsmouth, NH makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

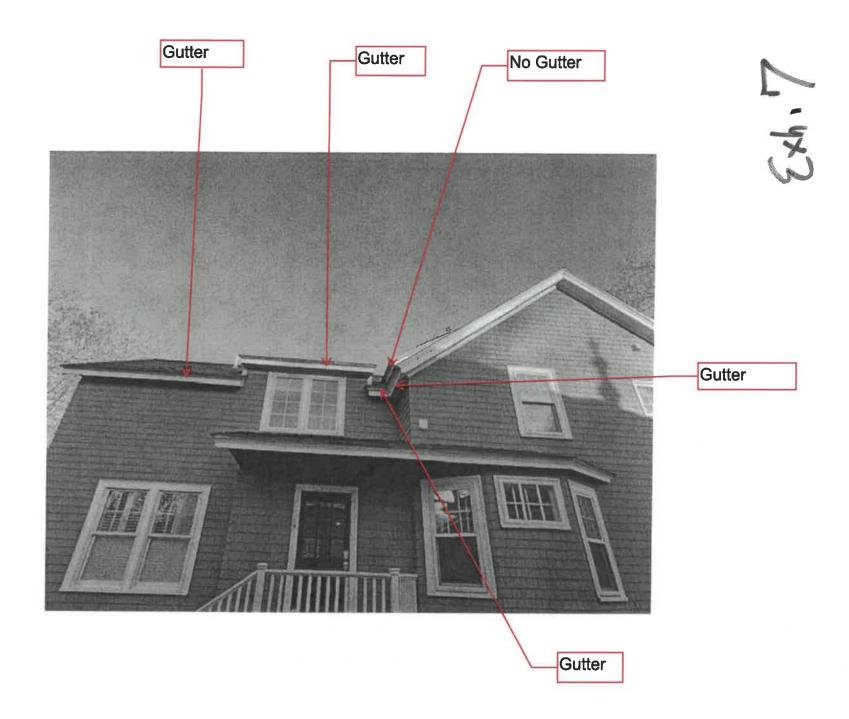
Geometry updated 06/21/2023 Data updated 3/9/2022 Print map scale is approximate.
Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

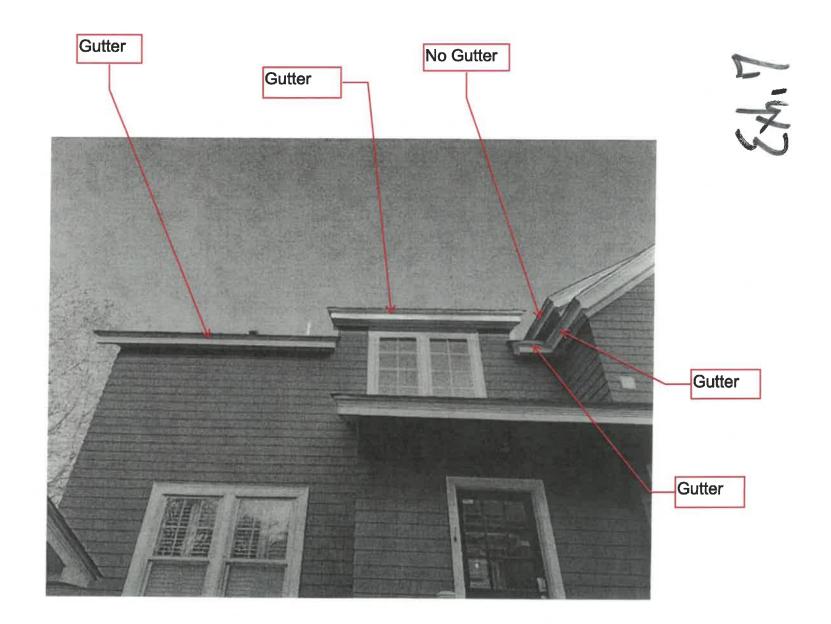


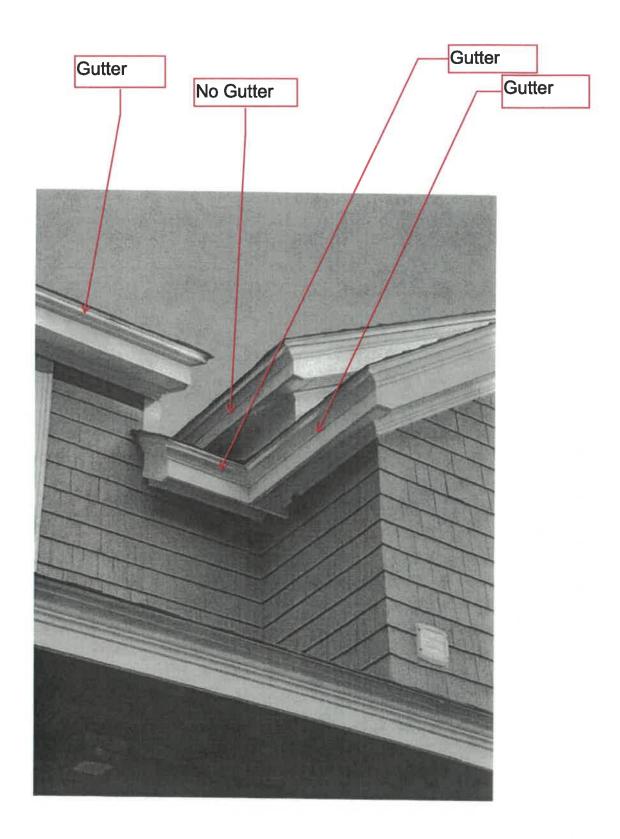


410 Richards Ave









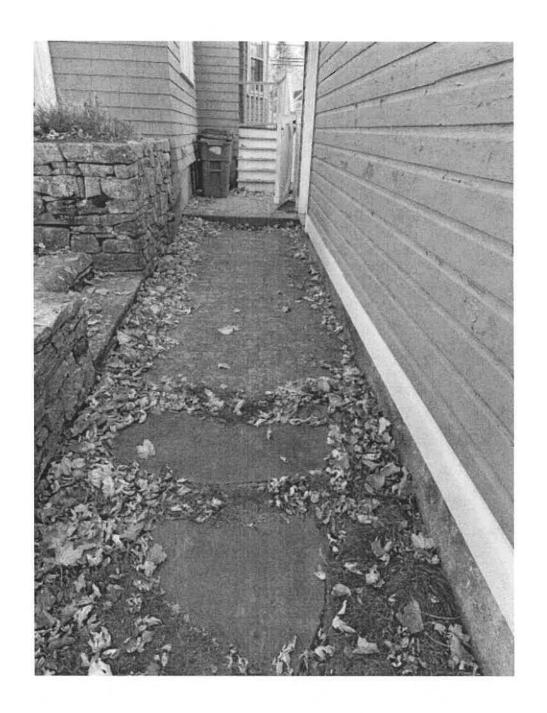
Exh. 7



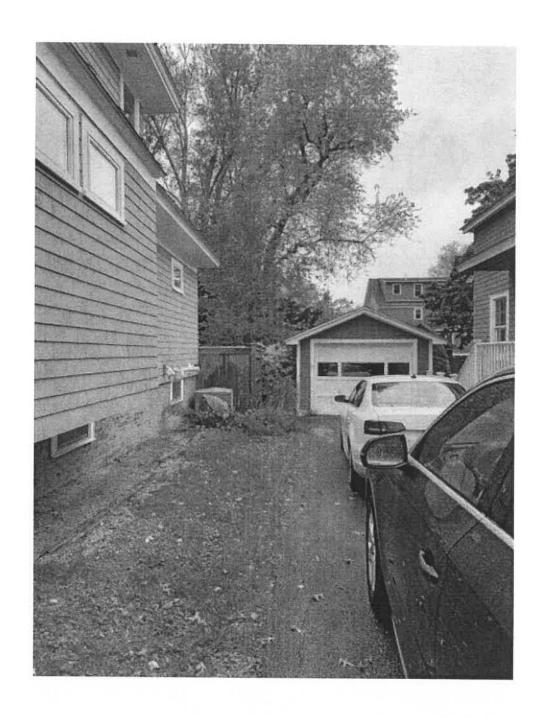
Exh. 8

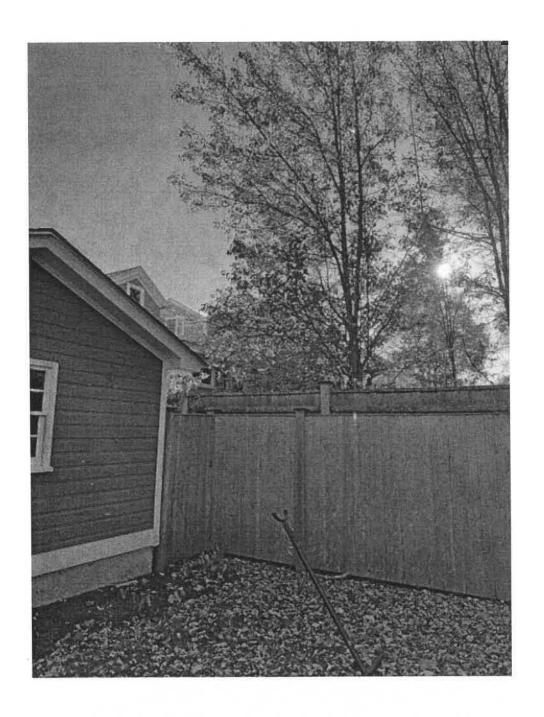


Exh,8

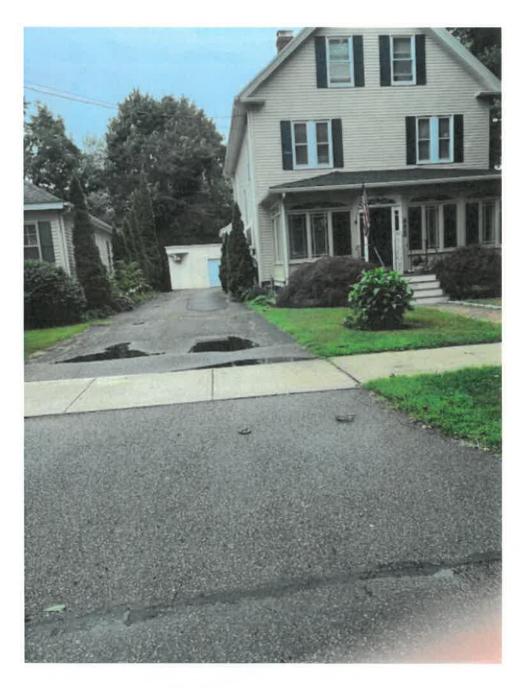


Sxh. 8

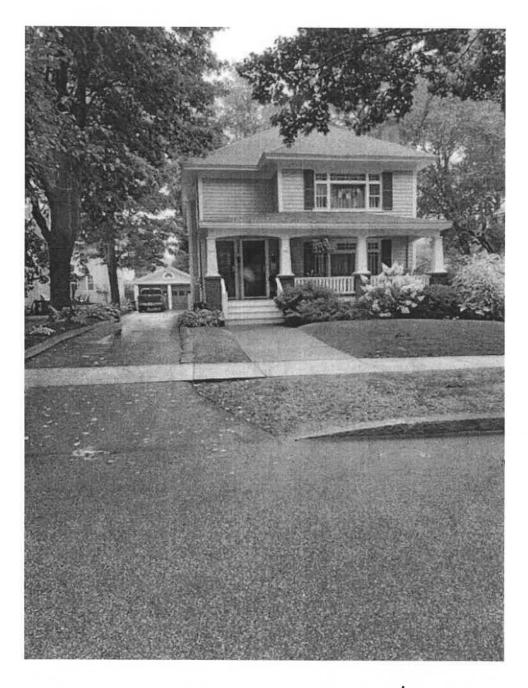




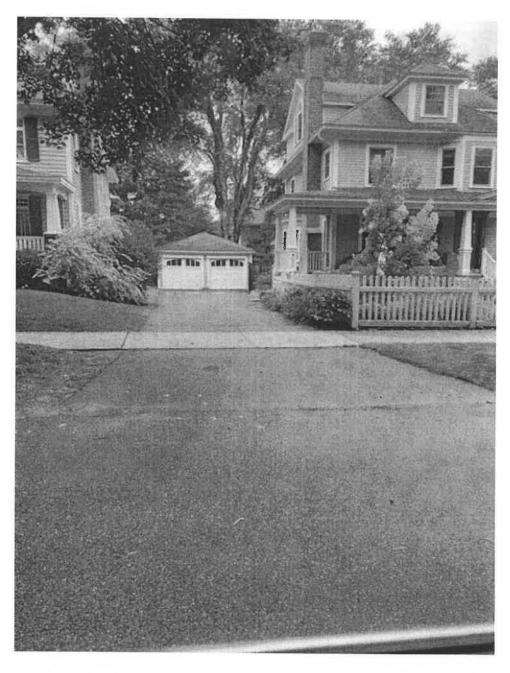




Richards Ave.



Richards Ave.



Richards Ave.



Richards Ave.



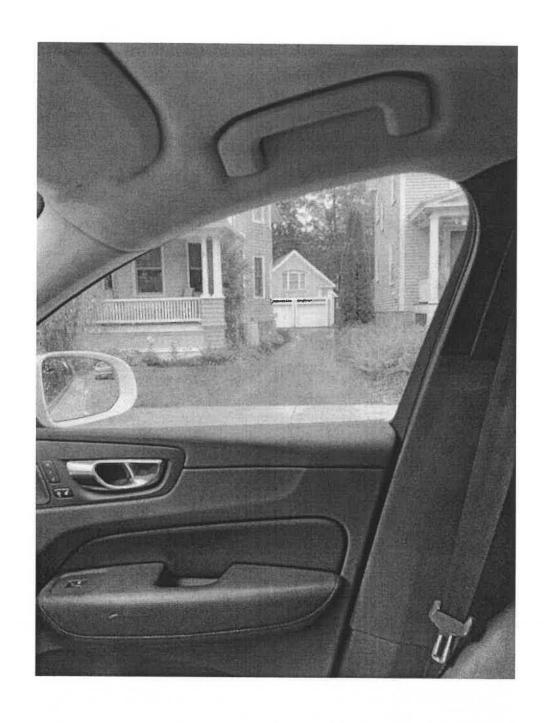
Richards Ave.



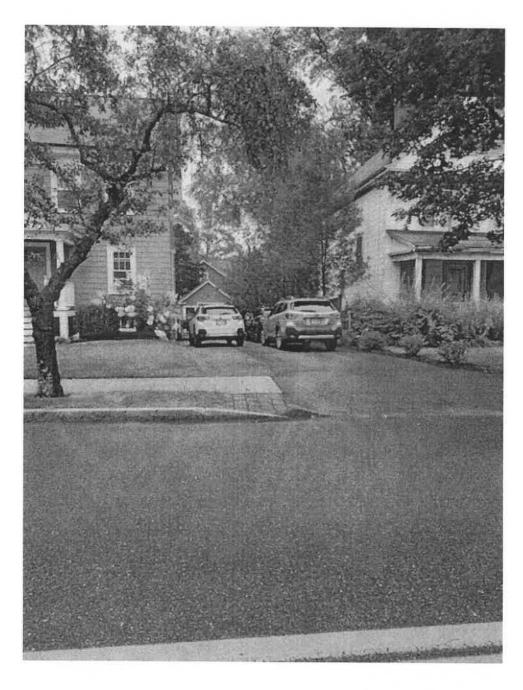
Richards Ave.



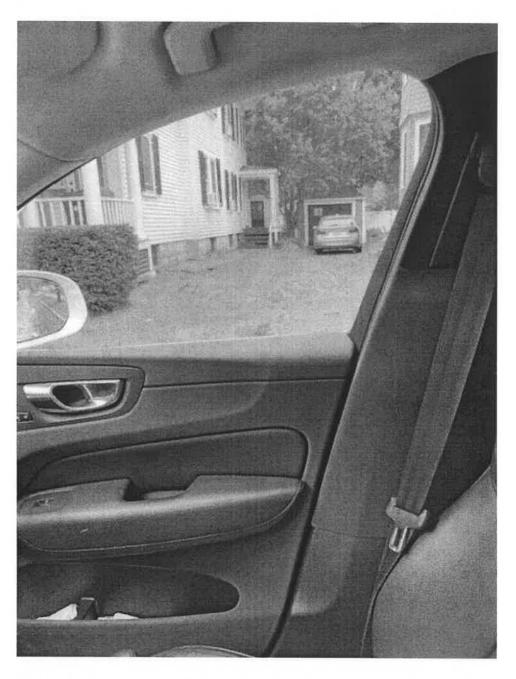
Richard Ave.



Richards Are.



Miller Ave.



Miller Ave.

LIST OF ABUTTERS

Applicant: Paula J. Reid, Trustee of the Paula J. Reid 2003 Revocable Trust 410 Richards Avenue, Portsmouth, NH Tax Map 112, Lot 10

Property Address	Tax Map/Lot No.	Owner(s)	RCRD Deed Ref.
420 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 9	Amy E. Dutton Rev. Trust of 2003, Amy E. Dutton Murphy, Trustee	5225/39
390 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 11	Stebbins Family Trust, John R. & Bridget M. Stebbins, Trustees	5636/563
399 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 18	Barbara E. Collier Rev. Trust, Barbara E. Collier, Trustee	6315/246
409 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 19	Stephen C. Buzzell Rev. Trust, Stephen C. Buzzell, Trustee, and and Jody E. Buzzell Rev. Trust, Jody E. Buzzell, Trustee	6035/840
419 Richards Avenue	Map 112, Lot 20	Thomas A. Nies Rev. Trust of 2010 and Denise M. Nies Rev. Trust of 2010, Thomas A. & Denise M. Nies, Trustees	5192/1225
295 Miller Avenue	Map 130, Lot 9	Kristen B. Mullen Rev. Living Trust, Kristen B. Mullen, Trustee	5699/1271
303 Miller Avenue	Map 130, Lot 10	The Twombly Trust, Dorothy C. Twombly, Trustee	2762/2766

Engineer/Surveyor:

Kevin M. McEneaney

McEneaney Survey Associates of New England

P. O. Box 681

Dover, NH 03821

Architect:

Aimee Bentley

ASB Architecture

260 Main Street

West Newbury, MA 01985

Attorney:

Christopher A. Wyskiel Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, P. A. 561 Central Avenue Dover, NH 03820

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