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Peter J. Loughlin

AUG 28 2019

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LEONARD COTTON HOUSE • STRAWBERY BANKE 144 WASHINGTON STREET P.O. BOX 1111 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802-1111

TELEPHONE 603-431-6466 FAX 603-436-4079

E-MAIL peter.loughlin@pjllaw.com

BY:__

August 27, 2019

David Rheaume, Chair Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment Municipal Complex 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: 125 Austin Street, Tax Map 137, Lot 1

Dear Chairman Rheaume and Members of the Board of Adjustment:

Relief Requested

This letter is being written in support of the application of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester and Corpus Christi Parish for relief from Section 10.1113.20 of the Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance which provides as follows:

10.1113.20 Location of Parking Facilities on a Lot

Required off-street parking spaces shall not be located in any required front yard, or between a principal building and a street (including on a corner lot). This restriction shall not apply to required off-street parking for a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling.

Background

A decade or so ago, the Diocese of Manchester and Corpus Christi Parish began an extensive analysis of the real estate owned by the Church in the City of Portsmouth. It was determined that it was no longer feasible to maintain all of the properties owned by the Church. During this period of analysis, the City advised the Parish that the St. Patrick school building at 125 Austin Street had

reached the point that it's lack of code compliance no longer permitted the occupancy of the building for school purposes.

After the completion of the new St. Patrick Academy building on Banfield Road, the structure at 125 Austin Street became vacant and the Parish completed the City of Portsmouth Demolition Review Committee process allowing it to remove the school building. At the request of the Demolition Review Committee, an architectural history/documentation of the building is being prepared. A Site Plan and Landscape Plan for 125 Austin Street is in the process of being completed.

Parking Lot Location

During discussions regarding the redevelopment of the site, the Planning Department staff advised that because the proposed additional parking on the Immaculate Conception Church Campus would be located "between a principal building and a street (including a corner lot)," a variance from Section 10.1113.20 would be required.¹

The Requirements for Variance Relief are Satisfied

(1) The granting of variance relief will not result in the diminution in value of surrounding properties.

The creation of additional parking for the Church Campus is a permitted accessory use. At the present time, there is a 9,000 square-foot, 2-1/2 story building within a few feet of Austin and Winter Streets. The creation of an attractively landscaped parking lot will not diminish the value of surrounding properties, but will add to the attractiveness of the neighborhood while, at the same time, reducing the impact on surrounding streets during the times of church services.

(2) The granting of the variance relief will not be contrary to the public interest.

In Harborside Associates v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011), the New Hampshire Supreme Court upheld variance relief granted by the Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment and, in the process, further collapsed

¹ Since the Church Campus is a grandfathered use, the proposed parking is not "required" under the terms of the Ordinance, however, the Parish has deferred to the direction of the Planning staff and is seeking variance relief.

the public interest and spirit of the Ordinance tests into one. The Court pointed out that there are two methods of ascertaining whether granting a variance would violate the Ordinance's "basic zoning objectives." One way is to examine whether the granting of the variance would "alter the essential character of the neighborhood." Another approach is to examine whether the granting of the variance would threaten the public health, safety or welfare.

Allowing parking between the surrounding streets and the Church will not be contrary to the public interest or injurious to the public rights of others and will not, in any way, threaten the public health, safety or welfare.

(3) The granting of the requested relief will do substantial justice.

In Malachy Glen Associates v. Town of Chester, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007), the New Hampshire Supreme Court [Quoting 15 New Hampshire Practice, Land Use Planning and Zoning, § 24.11] held that "the only guiding rule [in determining whether the requirement for substantial justice is satisfied] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice."

If the modest amount of relief requested by the Applicant is not granted, the deprivation to the Parish and its parishioners would be significant. On the other hand, preventing the construction of an attractive landscaped parking lot will result in no gain to the public.

(4) The granting of the variance will not be contrary to the spirit or intent of the Ordinance.

The purpose of Section 10.1113.20 is to encourage new building construction to occur closer to municipal rights-of-way so that pedestrians, passing motorists and abutters on the opposite side of the street will hopefully see attractive buildings rather than a sea of parking. The removal of the existing St. Patrick School building will open up vistas of the very stately church on top of the Summer Street hill, while providing needed parking in an attractive setting.

- (5) The literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance would result in an unnecessary hardship.
 - No Fair and Substantial Relationship:

RSA 674:33, I(b)(5)(A) provides that for purposes of the variance criteria test, "'unnecessary hardship' means that owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area;"

- i. no fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purpose of the ordinance provision and the specific application of the provision to the property; and
 - ii. the proposed use is a reasonable one.

It is reasonable to conclude that the drafters of this Ordinance had in mind new construction of commercial buildings in the downtown and in the Business Districts of the City. The Ordinance has a draconian impact on any already developed urban property that is surrounded on four sides by existing streets. Its application would essentially mean that not a single parking space could ever be added to an already developed lot surrounded by City streets.

Given the very unique circumstances impacting this particular lot, there is no fair and substantial relationship between the general public purpose of the Ordinance provision and the specific application of the provision to this property.

• The Proposed Use is a Reasonable One:

The applicant has obtained approval through the Portsmouth Demolition Review Committee process to remove the existing building. Accessory parking for this existing Church is a permitted use. The use of this portion of the urban campus of the Immaculate Conception Church for landscape parking is a reasonable use.

CONCLUSION

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has made it clear that:

When the restriction as applied to a particular piece of land is unnecessary to accomplish a legitimate public purpose or the gain to the public is slight but the harm to the citizen and his property is great, the exercise of the police power becomes arbitrary and unreasonable and this court will afford relief under the Constitution of this State.

The facts in this case present a classic example why (legally and practically) Zoning Boards of Adjustment were created to prevent the unanticipated and unfair application of a particular ordinance to a particular property. It is respectfully requested that the Board grant the variance relief to allow the proposed parking.

Respectfully submitted, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MANCHESTER AND CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

By their attorney,

Peter J. Loughlin

AUTHORIZATION

This document authorizes Peter Loughlin and Altus Engineering to represent the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester regarding all permitting matters related to property located at 125 Austin Street, Portsmouth, Street in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

By:

8-28-2019

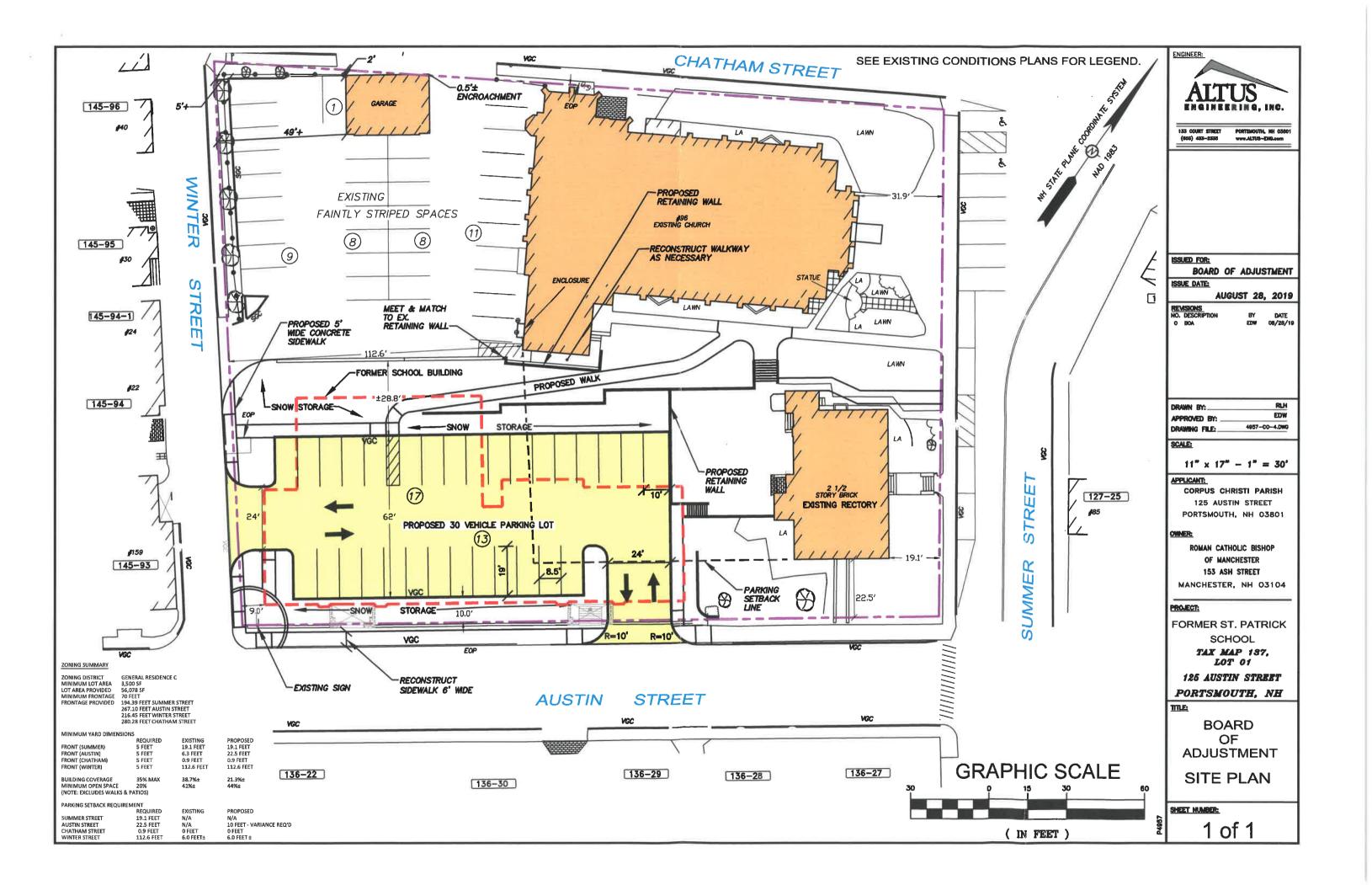
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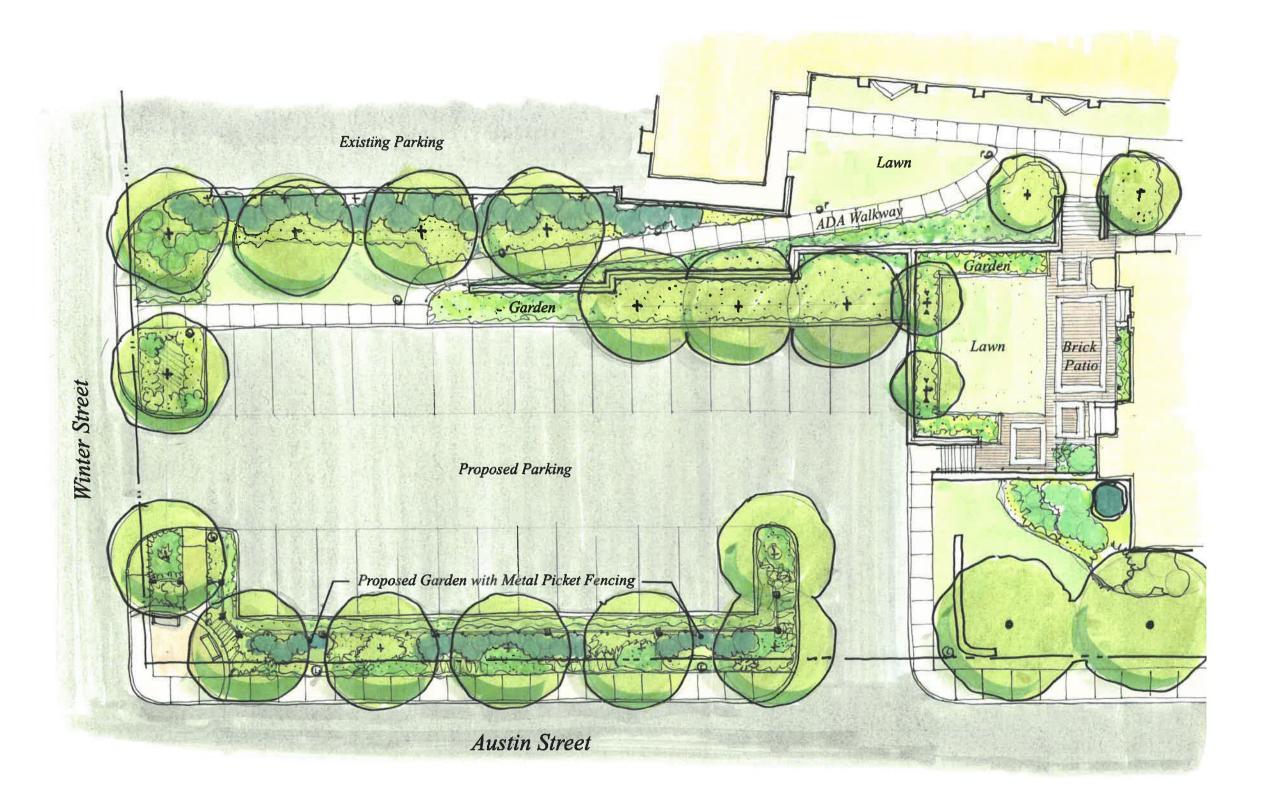














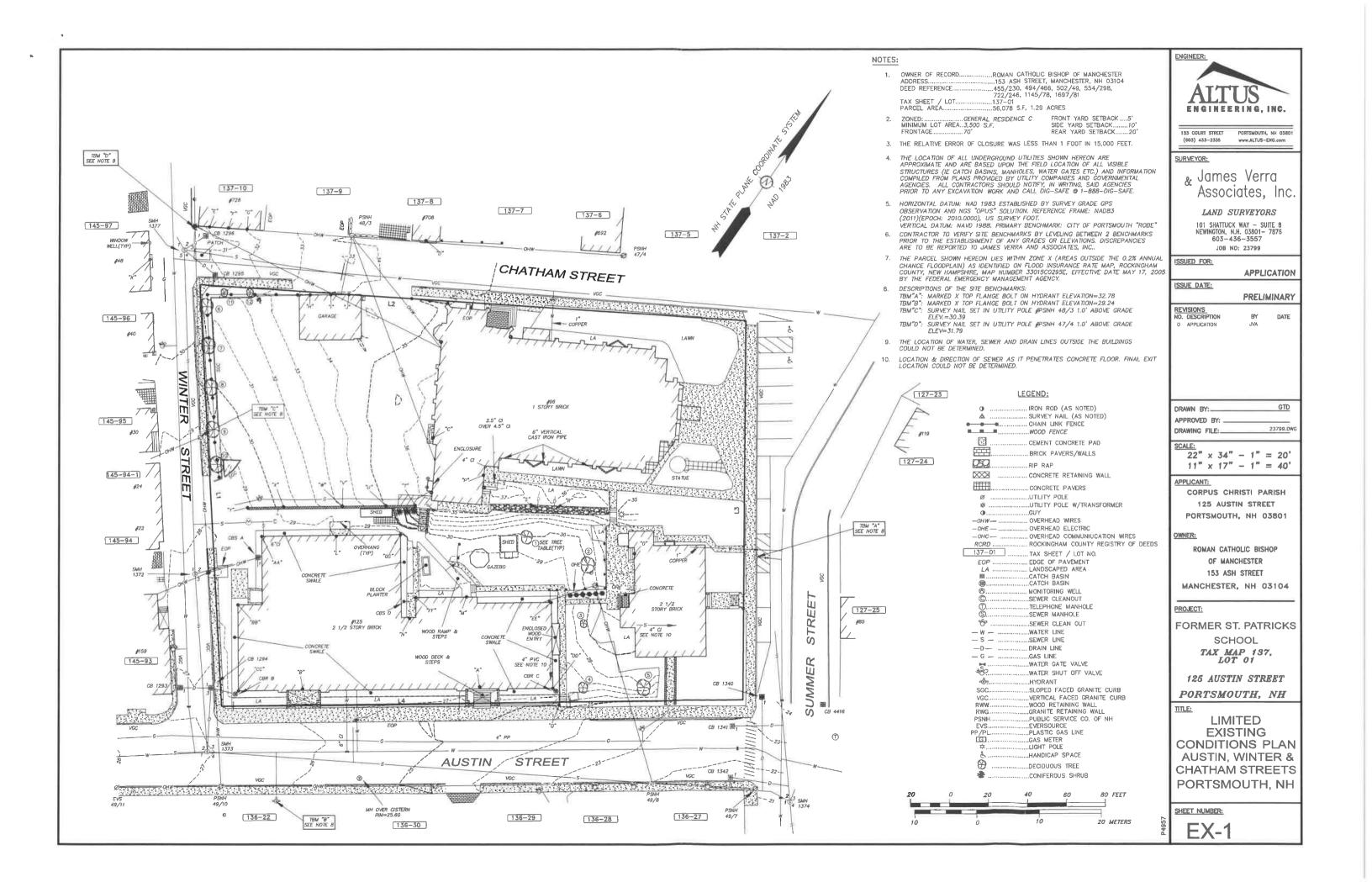
& company
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
NEWMERCH, NEW HEMPHITE PHONE: 603,655,5999

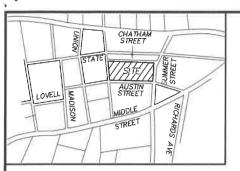
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Scale: scale
Date: 2019-08-07
Revisions:





0 2 5 10 20





LOCUS (N.T.S.)

BUILDING ELEVATION TABLE

MISC. ELEVATION TABLE

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ELEVATION	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ELEVATION
"A"	WOOD THRESHOLD	31.55	*O*	TOP CONC. WALL	25.90
"B"	ALUM. THRESHOLD	29.25	"R"	INV 4" PVC	35.98
"C"	CONCRETE FLOOR	38.58	*S*	INV 3.5° ACP	35.80
"D"	WOOD FLOOR	34.95	"T"	TOP CONC. WALL	37.05
"E"	CONCRETE FLOOR	31.14	"U"	TOP CONC. WALL	36.99
"F"	CONCRETE FLOOR	31.62	-v-	TOP CONC. WALL	34.71
"G"	ASPHALT FLOOR	32.13	"W"	TOP CONC. WALL	33.91
"H"	CONCRETE FLOOR	34.65	"X"	TOP CONC. WALL	31.34
71"	CONCRETE FLOOR	34.64	"Y"	TOP CONC. WALL	29.49
"J"	CONCRETÉ FLOOR	34.62	"AA"	BLDG. CORNER	30.06
"K"	WOOD THRESHOLD	31.70	"88"	BLDG. CORNER	28.51
"L"	ALUM. THRESHOLD	29.25	"cc"	BLDG. CORNER	28.71
"M"	WOOD THRESHOLD	32.19	"DD"	BLDG. CORNER	28.61
"N"	WOOD THRESHOLD	32.33	"EE"	BLDG. CORNER	28.82
-o-	BRICK THRESHOLD	34.81	"FF"	BLDG. CORNER	28.78
"P"	ALUM. THRESHOLD	39.16	"GG"	"GG" BLDG. CORNER 28.77	

RIM AND INVERT DATA

SMALL CATCH BASIN DATA TABLE

TREE IDENTIFICATION TABLE

TREE	TYPE	SIZE	SPREAD
(1)	TWIN OAK	12"	50'
2	MAPLE	24"	44'
<u>③</u>	MAPLE	6"	24'
④	MAPLE	16"	30"
(6)	MAPLE	24"	34'
6	MAPLE	7"	12'
Ø.	MAPLE	8"	12'
<u>®</u>	MAPLE	11"	16"
<u> </u>	MAPLE	8"	12'
(0)	MAPLE	8"	10'
(f)	MAPLE	8"	16'
②	MAPLE	11"	9'

BOUNDARY LINE TABLE

REFERENCE PLANS:

- 1. PLAN OF LAND NO. 119 SUMMER STREET, PORTSMOUTH, N.H. BY JOHN W. DURGIN DATED OCT. 1948, FILE NO. 2274, PLAN NO. 1-372
- 2. STANDARD BOUNDARY SURVEY, PLAT OF LOT, KNOWN AS TAX MAP U-37 LOT 2 OWNED BY PATTERSON CHATHAM STREET REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JULY 1996 RCRD PLAN #D-24875.
- APPENDIX C-SITE PLAN, 728 STATE STREET CONDOMINIUMS, PORTSMOUTH, NH DATED JANUARY 1984 RCRD PLAN #D-24875.
- CONDOMINIUM SITE PLAN, MAP 145-LOT 93, AUSTIN STREET CONDOMINIUM FOR LYNN M. MCCARTHY & DYLAN M. KIMMEL, DATED APRIL 2002 RCRD PLAN #D-29891.
- 5. PLAN OF FIFTEEN HOUSE LOTS, PORTSMOUTH, BELONGING TO THE HEIRS OF MATTHEW S. MARSH, 1848, PORTSMOUTH RECORDS, BK 7. PG 354

ABUTTER'S LIST TTE: N 137-2 MARK D. GRAY 140 SUMMER STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 3515/636 **27-5

137-7 ALISON K. & JAMES FORBES 698 STATE STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 3308/1370

137-8
THOMAS J. & LONG! M.
SCHLADENHAUFFEN
708 STATE STREET
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
3098/698

137-9 CONDOMINIUM AT GOODWIN PARK 8 STATE STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5306/1197

137–10 MARK GRIFFEN 728 STATE STREET CONDOMINUM PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

136–30 NANDREA J. MORRIS 122 AUSTIN STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 3071/1301

127–23 ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH 634 STATE STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

127–24 SUSAN J, CERRO 53 WENTWORTH STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5580/449

136–22 SOCIETY PRESERVATION, NE ANTIQUITIES OF MA. 141 CAMBRIDGE STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 2395/1115

136–27 DONALD M. & MARY SAARI 72 SUMMER STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 2373/1805

136–28 ROBERT GOWELL C. WALUS 110 AUSTIN STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 2397/114

136-29 TRISHA BALLESTERO 45 EVANS ROAD MADBURY, NH 03823 5550/1043

WILIAM & LUCINDA CLARKE REVO. TRUST WILIAM & LUCINDA CLARKE, TRUSTEES 22 WINTER STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5152/1981 137-6 VICTORIA WILLINGHAM & ROBERT BOWSER 692 STATE STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 3269/2978

145-94-1
DONNA MEULLO REVOC. TRUST
DONNA MEULLO, TRUSTEE
24 WINTER STREET
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
4723/1275

145-95 WILLIAM J. & REBECCA M. HARTGLASS 30 WINTER STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5235/1781

145-96 COLLEEN M. COOK 40 WINTER STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5738/898

ENGINEER: ENGINEERING, INC.

133 COURT STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 (603) 433-2335 www.ALTUS-ENG.com

SURVEYOR:

& James Verra Associates, Inc.

LAND SURVEYORS

101 SHATTUCK WAY - SUITE 8 NEWINGTON, N.H. 03801- 7876 603-436-3557 JOB NO: 23799

ISSUED FOR:

APPLICATION

ISSUE DATE:

PRELIMINARY REVISIONS NO. DESCRIPTION DATE

GTD DRAWN BY: APPROVED BY: 23799.DWG DRAWING FILE:_

SCALE: $22" \times 34" - 1" = 30"$ 11" x 17" - 1" = 60'

APPLICANT:

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH 125 AUSTIN STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

OWNER:

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MANCHESTER 153 ASH STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03104

PROJECT:

FORMER ST. PATRICKS SCHOOL TAX MAP 137, LOT 01

125 AUSTIN STREET PORTSMOUTH, NH

TITLE:

LIMITED **EXISTING** CONDITIONS PLAN **AUSTIN, WINTER & CHATHAM STREETS** PORTSMOUTH, NH

SHEET NUMBER:

EX-2