



April 1, 2025

Portsmouth Zoning Board of Adjustment Planning and Sustainability Department 1 Junkins Ave, 3rd Floor Portsmouth, NH 03801

via ViewPoint Cloud

RE: Zoning Board of Adjustment Submittal 1980 Woodbury Avenue – Colbea Enterprises, LLC – Tax Map 239 Lot 11 TFM Project #46077.16

Dear Board Members,

On behalf of our client, Colbea Enterprises, LLC, please find a Variance Application submission relative to the above-referenced project. The following materials are included in this submission:

- Check for Board of Adjustment Non-Residential Application and Signs made out to "City of Portsmouth" (\$4,300);
- Special Exception Written Statement (1 copy);
- Variance Request Written Statements (1 copy of each);
- Letter of Authorization (1 copy);
- Site Photos (1 copy);
- Floor Plan, Elevations, and Photos from other Seasons Corner Market New Hampshire Locations (1 copy at 11"x17");
- Sign Plan (1 copy at 11"x17");
- Existing Conditions Plan (1 copy at 11"x17"); and
- Variance Plans titled "Proposed Gas Station and Convenience Store, 1980 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth New Hampshire, dated March 19, 2025" (1 copy at 11"x17").

Project Description

The project proposes the redevelopment of a gas station and convenience store located at 1980 Woodbury Avenue. The existing Tax Map 239 Lot 11 is approximately 0.8815 acres and is located within the Gateway Corridor Mixed Residential District (G1). The site is located at the intersection of Woodbury Avenue and Gosling Road at the Portsmouth-Newington town line.





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March 18, 2025

The existing site contains a 1,787 s.f. convenience store, centered between eight fueling islands (16 total fueling stations) with a canopy above both the convenience store and fueling islands. The canopy is 18.4' tall and set back 10.4' from the front property line along Woodbury Avenue.

The proposed project is to construct a single story, 4,580 s.f. convenience store with drive-thru and four fueling islands (eight total fueling stations). The four fueling islands will be located underneath a canopy located 27.4' from the front property line along Woodbury Avenue. The canopy and convenience store will both have a height of less than 40'. A total of 19 parking spaces are proposed, 11 of which, including two accessible spaces, are located along the front of the convenience store and the remining 8 spaces at the fueling stations. Associated improvements include but are not limited to access, grading, utilities, stormwater management system, lighting, and landscaping.

Included in the submittal package are floor plans and elevations for the most recently constructed Seasons Corner Market in Tilton, NH and site photos from the Nashua, NH location.

The applicant requests a Special Exception for the proposed use, Convenience Store 2, within the Gateway Corridor Mixed Residential District. Based on our review of the City of Portsmouth's Zoning Ordinance, the applicant is also requesting a variance from the following sections. Included in the submittal items are written statements explaining how the requests comply with the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

Variance Request #1

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B33.20, to allow for a Front Lot Line build out of 0 feet where a minimum of 127.5 feet would be the required 75% build out as required by the PZO for commercial and mixed-use buildings.

Variance Request #2

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B34.60, to allow for a Front Setback from the lot line of 27.4 feet where a maximum of 20 feet is required.

Variance Request #3

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B83.10, to allow for parking spaces to be located between the principal building and the street.

Variance Request #4

<u>Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.835.31,</u> to allow for outdoor service facilities (transaction windows, menu boards, speakers, etc.) to be within the required setback of 50 feet – approximately 35 feet ± from the applicable lot lines.

Variance Request #5

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.85.32, to allow for drive-through lanes, bypass lanes and stacking lanes (collectively the "drive-through lanes") to come within 13 feet of the required 30-foot setback from the applicable lot lines.

Variance Request #6

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.843.33, to allow for fuel pumps to come within 28 feet of the required 40-foot setback from the applicable lot lines.



Zoning Board of Adjustment Submittal 1980 Woodbury Avenue – Colbea Enterprises, LLC – Tax Map 239 Lot 11 TFM Project #46077.16

March 18, 2025

Variance Request #7

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.10, to allow for a greater aggregate sign area (of 453.26 square feet) than the maximum area of 1.5' per linear foot (which is 223.50 square feet) of the building frontage per establishment.

Variance Request #8

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.20, to allow for a larger sign area of 135 square feet where the PZO allows for a maximum sign area of 100 square feet.

Variance Request #9

Requirement: Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1253.10, to allow for a sign height of 26.25 feet where the PZO allows for a maximum sign height of 20 feet. Additionally, the Applicant requests a sign setback of 3.4 feet from the travel way where the PZO requires a setback of at least 10 feet.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters and look forward to presenting this project to you in the near future.

We respectfully request that we be placed on the upcoming agenda for the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on April 15, 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully, **TFMoran. Inc.**

phen

Jason Cook

Civil Project Engineer

JKC/crr

Relief Requested

The Applicant requests a Special Exception as per the Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance (the "PZO") **Section 10.230**, *et seq.*, to allow for Convenience Goods Store (C-2) use in the G1 Zone.

Background and Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in RI, MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

As it is intended that the Store will involve the preparation of food for off-site consumption the Applicant seeks a Special Exception for a Convenience Goods 2 Store as per the PZO.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Special Exception Criteria

10.232.20 Special exceptions shall meet all of the following standards:

10.232.21: Standards as provided by this Ordinance for the particular **use** permitted by special exception;

The proposed use requiring a Special Exception is a convenience store (C-Store) that would be collectively part of a fueling station. C-Stores are quite commonly attached to fueling stations. The fueling station aspect of the proposed use is an otherwise allowed use by right. Across Gosling Road there is a Cumberland Farms in Newington that has a fueling station and C-Store so what is being proposed is consistent with the surrounding area.

Finally, the existing business at the Property is a fueling station with a C-Store so what is being proposed is consistent with the ongoing activity to the Property.

10.232.22: No hazard to the public or **adjacent** property on account of potential fire, explosion or release of toxic materials;

The C-Store does not pose any immediate threat of fire, explosives, or toxins. Nor is the proposed C-Store a threat to the public or the adjacent properties.

Again, the adjacent properties are all commercial, some are fueling stations with C-Stores, others also have a drive through components (Dunkin) the same as the proposed project.

To the extent that the fueling station's gasoline may have the potential of fire, explosions, or toxins, the Applicant will use state-of-the-art protective measures to ensure public safety. That said, a Special Exception is not needed to allow for the fueling stations. Nonetheless, the aforesaid safety measures will aid to ensure the C-Store and, the public that frequents the C-Store, will be protected from any of the aforesaid threats.

10.232.23: No detriment to property values in the vicinity or change in the essential characteristics of any area including residential neighborhoods or business and industrial districts on account of the location or scale of **buildings** and other **structures**, parking areas, **accessways**, odor, smoke, gas, dust, or other pollutant, noise, **glare**, heat, vibration, or unsightly **outdoor storage** of equipment, vehicles or other materials;

The proposed use is a commercial use that is permitted in the zone. There is already a fueling station with a C-Store on site.

Additionally, there is the aforesaid Cumberland Farms across Gosling Road that is a similar commercial business.

Thus, the essential characteristics of the area remain unchanged.

As such, the proposed use is consistent with the surrounding area. Furthermore, what is being proposed will be an improvement to what is currently on site as the existing fueling station is working with outdated equipment.

Consequently, the proposal will aid in property values and will not be detrimental to the same.

There will be no outdoor storage of any equipment or vehicles. Nor will there be any odor, smoke, gas, dust, or other pollutants. The noise level will be no different from what is already in place.

10.232.24: No creation of a traffic safety hazard or a substantial increase in the level of traffic congestion in the vicinity;

What is being proposed is replacing one fueling station with a C-Store with another fueling station with a C-Store. The proposed project will also be reducing the number of fuel pumps on site from eight stations to four stations.

As such, the proposal may result in reducing the amount of traffic but it will certainly not add more traffic than what is already existing today. Additionally, The Applicant has retained traffic engineers for many projects throughout New England, all whom classify vehicle trips to our facilities as pass by trips, not destination trips, hence the level trip generation on the surrounding streets. Curb cuts are being modified to help vehicle ingress and egress, and the site has been designed to optimize safety, especially under the gas canopy, with only dive in (not stacked) fueling positions.

10.232.25: No excessive demand on municipal services, including, but not limited to, water, sewer, waste disposal, police and fire protection and schools; and

Similar response as above.

What is being proposed is replacing one fueling station with a C-Store with another fueling station with a C-Store. The proposed project will also be reducing the number of fuel pumps on site from eight stations to four stations.

As such, the proposal may result in reducing such demands but it will certainly not add further strain on the above referenced services in comparison to what is already existing today.

10.232.26: No significant increase of stormwater runoff onto **adjacent** property or **streets**.

The project is well designed and the Applicant has engaged one of the most reputable engineering firms in the state to ensure that the Applicant's project's design will effectively handle all matters relative to stormwater runoff.

VARIANCE #1 from PZO 10.5B33.20

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance* ("*PZO*") *Section 10.5B33.20*, to allow for a Front Lot Line build out of 0 feet where a minimum of 127.5 feet would be the required 75% build out as required by the PZO for commercial and mixed-use buildings. However, the proposed project is outside the required 20-foot setback for this provision of the PZO to apply.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B33.20

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for Front Lot Line Build Out of 0 feet where the PZO would otherwise require 127.5 feet.

The ask is minimal. The Lot is small and, given that there will be fuel pumps and drive through lanes, the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot. There is no reason to have the Store closer to the front line of the Property and to do so would not make sense for a convenience store fueling station.

That said, the Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. This relief would be required for any similar convenience store and fueling use, much as it sits today or for any similar use in the future.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area*. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011)</u>.

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a Front Lot Line Build Out of 0 feet because the Store is setback beyond the required 20 feet from the Front Line of the Property.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a

much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the convenience store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state of the art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system that is likely 25+ years old.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because</u>:

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store on site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to avoid overcrowding, and life and safety. More specifically, the City of Portsmouth desires to control the size of buildings along the Front Lot Line as it is preferred under the PZO to have buildings flush against the Front Lot Line for aesthetics.

Here, it does not make sense to have the front of the Store up against the Front Lot Line.

This is not a historic building and fueling stations/convenience stores generate short visits by the public so the Front Lot Line should be clear, the building setback, and the fuel pumps prevalent.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #2 from PZO 10.5B34.60

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance* ("*PZO*") *Section 10.5B34.60*, to allow for a Front Setback from the lot line of 0 feet where a maximum of 20 feet is required.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B34.60

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is <u>NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest</u>.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for Front Building Setback of 0 feet where the PZO would otherwise require a maximum of 20 feet.

The ask is minimal. The Lot is small and, given that there will be fuel pumps and drive through lanes, the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot. There is no reason to have the Store closer to the front line of the Property and to do so would not make sense for a convenience store fueling station.

That said, the Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. This relief would be required for any similar convenience store and fueling use, much as it sits today or for any similar use in the future.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area*. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC,</u> 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of</u> Chichester, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a Front Building Setback of 0 feet because the Store is setback well beyond the required maximum of 20 feet from the Front Lot Line of the Property.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because:</u>

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the

property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,

c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to avoid overcrowding, and life and safety. More specifically, the City of Portsmouth desires to control the location of commercial buildings to be close to the Front Lot Line and likely encourage parking behind the commercial property for both aesthetics and to thwart overcrowding the neighborhood.

Here, it does not make sense to have the front of the Store up against the Front Lot Line.

This is not a historic building and fueling stations/convenience stores generate short visits by the public so the Front Lot Line should be clear, the building setback, and the fuel pumps prevalent.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #3 from PZO 10.5B83.10

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance*("PZO") Section 10.5B83.10, to allow for parking spaces to be located between the Principal building and the street.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.5B83.10

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is <u>NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest</u>.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for off street parking to be present between the principal Building (aka the Store) and the front Property line.

The ask is minimal. The Lot is small and, given that there will be fuel pumps and drive through lanes, the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot. There is no reason to have the Store closer to the front line of the Property and to do so would not make sense for a convenience store fueling station.

That said, the Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. This relief would be required for any similar convenience store and fueling use, much as it sits today or for any similar use in the future.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare,* and safety of the surrounding area. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC,</u> 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for off street parking to occur between the front Property line and the Store. Generally, any fueling station is setup so people pull into the site and park in front of the convenience store to enter – not park around back only to walk around front.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because:</u>

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the

property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,

c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to avoid motor vehicles parking in front of buildings in a neighborhood where the Zoning is tailored to keep buildings close to the Front Lot line likely for aesthetics. More specifically, the City of Portsmouth desires to control the location of commercial buildings to be close to the Front Lot Line and likely encourage parking

behind the commercial property for both aesthetics and to thwart overcrowding the neighborhood.

Here, it does not make sense to have the front of the Store up against the Front Lot Line.

This is not a historic building and fueling stations/convenience stores generate short visits by the public so the Front Lot Line should be clear, the building setback, and the fuel pumps prevalent.

As such, it is far more logical to allow the parking to take place between the Store and the Front Lot line.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #4 from PZO 10.835.31

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the <u>Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance</u> ("PZO") Section 10.835.31, to allow for outdoor service facilities (transaction windows, menu boards, speakers, etc.) to be within the required setback of 50 feet – approximately 35 feet =/-from the applicable lot lines.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.835.31

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for outdoor service facilities (transaction windows, menu boards, speakers, etc.) to encroach into the required 50-foot setback and come within 35 feet +/- of the Property lines.

The ask is minimal. The Lot is small and, given that there will be fuel pumps and drive through lanes, the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot. Indeed, the dimensional constraints are such that this section of the PZO would be difficult, if not impossible, to comply with.

That said, the Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been

at the Property for decades. This relief would be required for any similar convenience store and fueling use, much as it sits today or for any similar use in the future.

The outdoor service facilities are common for any drive-through and there are other drivethroughs in the vicinity of the Property.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area*. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC,</u> 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a minor encroachment into a setback for the standard outdoor service facilities that are inherit with fueling stations and similarly situated businesses.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because:</u>

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. <u>Unnecessary Hardship</u>:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;

- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to avoid motor vehicles parking in front of buildings in a neighborhood where the Zoning is tailored to keep buildings close to the Front Lot line likely for aesthetics. More specifically, the City of Portsmouth desires to control the

location of commercial buildings to be close to the Front Lot Line and likely encourage parking behind the commercial property for both aesthetics and to thwart overcrowding the neighborhood.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance provide for buffering between the Property line and the activity of a drive-through and, in this case, its outdoor services facilities. This is done for both aesthetics and life and safety.

Here, there is already sufficient buffering between the proposed drive-through lanes and the abutting western property line. Furthermore, the corner of the Property where this activity will be located is the furthest point from any other activity taking place on site.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #5 from PZO 10.835.32

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the <u>Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance</u>

("PZO") Section 10.85.32, to allow for drive-through lanes, bypass lanes and stacking lanes

(collectively the "drive-through lanes") to come within 13 feet of the required 30-foot setback from the applicable lot lines.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.835.32

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for drive-through lanes, bypass lanes, and stacking lanes to encroach into the required 30-foot setback up to 13 feet along the westerly side of the Property.

The Lot is small and given those constraints the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot. Approximately 30 feet from the westerly side of the Property is where the edge of the logical location for the Store.

Despite this ask, there is buffering between the Property and the abutting property to the west. Traffic will enter from either entrance and circle around behind the Store at the most remote part of the Property from the intersections of Gosling Road and Woodbury Avenue. In

doing so, the 'action' from the drive-through will be as pushed as far back as possible in light of the dimensional constraints of the Property.

The Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. It is common for such businesses as the one being proposed to have a drive-through component and this relief would be required for any similarly situated business. Notably, there is a drive-through on the abutting property to the south (*Dunkin*) that, presumably, also does not comply with the applicable section of the PZO. Therefore, a drive-through – even one encroaching into the applicable setback – is consistent with the neighborhood.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare,* and safety of the surrounding area. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011)</u>.

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for an encroachment into a setback to accommodate a common and typical drive-through component to a fueling station.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because</u>:

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance provide for buffering between the Property line and the activity of a drive-through. This is done for both aesthetics and life and safety.

Here, there is already sufficient buffering between the proposed drive-through lanes and the abutting western property line. Furthermore, the corner of the Property where this activity will be located is the furthest point from any other activity taking place on site.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #6 from PZO 10.843.33

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance* ("*PZO*") *Section* 10.843.33, to allow for fuel pumps to come within 28 feet of the required 40-foot setback from the applicable lot lines.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section 10.843.33

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is <u>NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest</u>.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for fuel pumps to encroach into the required 40-foot setback within 28 feet along the easterly side of the Property. Otherwise, all other sides of the Property comply with this section of the PZO.

The Lot is small and given those constraints the Store will have to be placed in the middle of the Lot and the fuel pumps will logically go in front of the Store. Notably, there will be fewer pumps than are currently on site today and, moreover, one can see on the current conditions plan that the configuration of the fuel pumps does not presently conform to this section of the PZO. Despite the aforesaid non-conformity, the current encroachment has not, to the best of our knowledge, ever caused any problems.

The Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at

the Property for decades. It is common for such businesses as the one being proposed to have a drive-through component and this relief would be required for any similarly situated business.

Notably, there is another fueling station across Gosling Road in the abutting Town.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area*. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC,</u> 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for the fuel pumps to encroach into a setback that would result in the Property being more conforming. Currently, Mobil has more fuel pumps than what the Applicant is proposing and, furthermore, does not conform to this section of PZO on multiple sides of the Property whereas, here, the ask is only relative to the front Property line.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be</u> diminished because:

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance provide for buffering between the Property line and the activity at the fuel pumps. This is done for both aesthetics and life and safety.

Here, what is being proposed is more conforming than what is on site today. Fuel pumps are clearly a normal aspect of any fueling station and the relief sought is minor distance from Woodbury Avenue. Otherwise, no relief is needed from any other setback relative to the fuel pumps.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #7 from PZO 10.1251.10

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the <u>Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance</u>

("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.10, to allow for a greater aggregate sign area (of 453.26 square feet) than the maximum area of 1.5' per linear foot (which is 223.50 square feet) of the building frontage per establishment.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.10

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for a maximum aggregate sign area of 453.26 square feet where 223.50 square feet is allowed.

The surrounding area contains many commercial properties and, likewise, many signs. The proposed project contains within it several businesses such as the co-brand food/beverage service, a drive-through, fuel pumps, and a convenience store.

The proposed sign is the Applicant's standard sign. Although 'standard' what makes the needs of <u>this</u> sign different is, as discussed above, the number of items that must be displayed as there are multiple businesses and services that are being proposed. Additionally, the Applicant has an obligation to post the ever-changing fuel prices that must be displayed in a manner where

drivers can read in an instant said pricing information, as well as be informed as to what businesses and services are being offered at the site.

The proposed sign will be appropriate for the Zone and it will not alter the overall esthetic of the area since the area is commercial.

The Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. It is common for such businesses as the one being proposed to have a drive-through component and this relief would be required for any similarly situated business. Notably, there is another fueling station across Gosling Road in the abutting Town.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years and there are many large signs in the area.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare,* and safety of the surrounding area. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC,</u> 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a slightly larger aggregate sign area.

A fueling station requires a sign of appropriate size to help customers find the business and see it from a distance so they have ample to time to be in the correct lane to turn into the fueling station. Moreover, the sign needs to accurately convey the various businesses and amenities that will be available at the Property.

If the sign cannot be seen from a distance, the customers may not be unable to enter the station in time and end up driving by or they may attempt to reach the station by cutting through multiple lanes, turning around in another business' driveway, etc.

The proposed sign will help bring in customers to the Property and it will not block any views, obstruct sightlines, or block any other abutting commercial properties.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because</u>:

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. <u>Unnecessary Hardship:</u>

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

The sign needs to be large enough so a driver can ascertain what amenities are present at the Property within a short span of time. Moreover, the sign has a lot of information to convey. First, the gas prices need to be displayed prominently – a requirement and staple of all gas stations. Second, there is a convenience store, the gas itself (Shell), and the co-brand business. As such, the extra square footage is needed to convey all the businesses and amenities.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to ensure that signage does not get too large, too many, too unsightly, or cause any too many distractions.

Here, despite the extra square footage the sign will not be abnormally large in comparison to many signs in the area. We contend the sign will be attractive as the Applicant has several similar businesses located throughout New England.

The sign's extra square footage is needed so that the Applicant can fit all the various businesses and amenities that will be offered in a manner that can be read safely by drivers who will only have a short span of time to ascertain the sign's verbiage.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #8 from PZO 10.1251.20

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance*("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.20, to allow for a larger sign area of 135 square feet where the PZO allows for a maximum sign area of 100 square feet.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1251.20

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is <u>NOT CONTRARY TO</u> the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for a maximum sign area of 135 square feet where 100 square feet is allowed.

The surrounding area contains many commercial properties and, likewise, many signs. The proposed project contains within it several businesses such as the co-brand food/beverage service, a drive-through, fuel pumps, and a convenience store.

The proposed sign is the Applicant's standard sign. Although 'standard' what makes the needs of <u>this</u> sign different is, as discussed above, the number of items that must be displayed as there are multiple businesses and services that are being proposed. Additionally, the Applicant has an obligation to post the ever-changing fuel prices that must be displayed in a manner where drivers can read in an instant said pricing information, as well as be informed as to what businesses and services are being offered at the site.

The proposed sign will be appropriate for the Zone and it will not alter the overall esthetic of the area since the area is commercial.

The Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. It is common for such businesses as the one being proposed to have a slightly larger sign conveying multiple businesses, as well as an array of information. Notably, there is another fueling station across Gosling Road in Newington that has signs much larger and taller than what is currently on the Property.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years and there are many large signs in the area.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare,* and safety of the surrounding area. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011)</u>.

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of Chichester</u>, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a slightly larger sign area.

A fueling station requires a sign of appropriate size to help customers find the business and see it from a distance so they have ample to time to be in the correct lane to turn into the fueling station. Moreover, the sign needs to accurately convey the various businesses and amenities that will be available at the Property.

If the sign cannot be seen from a distance, the customers may not be unable to enter the station in time and end up driving by or they may attempt to reach the station by cutting through multiple lanes, turning around in another business' driveway, etc.

The proposed sign will help bring in customers to the Property and it will not block any views, obstruct sightlines, or block any other abutting commercial properties. Moreover, it would be consistent with the neighborhood when considering the size of the Cumberland Farms signs across Gosling Road.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be</u> diminished because:

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. <u>Unnecessary Hardship:</u>

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

The sign needs to be large enough so a driver can ascertain what amenities are present at the Property within a short span of time. Moreover, the sign has a lot of information to convey. First, the gas prices need to be displayed prominently – a requirement and staple of all gas stations. Second, there is a convenience store, the gas itself (Shell), and the co-brand business. As such, the extra square footage is needed to convey all the businesses and amenities.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to ensure that signage does not get too large, too many, too unsightly, or cause any too many distractions.

Here, despite the extra square footage the sign will not be abnormally large in comparison to many signs in the area. Indeed, as stated above the Cumberland Farm signs across the street are

significantly larger than signs at the Property now. We contend the sign will be attractive as the Applicant has several similar businesses located throughout New England.

The sign's extra square footage is needed so that the Applicant can fit all the various businesses and amenities that will be offered in a manner that can be read safely by drivers who will only have a short span of time to ascertain the sign's verbiage.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.

VARIANCE #9 from PZO 10.1253.10

Relief Requested

The Applicant (*Colbea, LLC*) request a variance from the *Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance* ("*PZO*") Section PZO 10.1253.10, to allow for a sign height of 26.25 feet where the PZO allows for a maximum sign height of 20 feet. Additionally, the Applicant requests a sign setback of 3.4 feet from the travel way where the PZO requires a setback of at least 10 feet.

Background/Facts

The Applicant is the owner of 1980 Woodbury Avenue in Portsmouth, NH, which is sometimes referred to as Tax Map 239, Lot 11 (the "Property").

The Property is zoned Gateway Corridor ("G1" (a Mixed Residential District)) and sits right on the border of Portsmouth and Newington, NH. The Property is currently developed with a Mobil Fueling Station that is leased by the Applicant.

The Applicant intends to take the Property back from the Lessee and construct its own fueling station under its in-house brand, Season's Corner Market. Notably, the Applicant is a family-owned company that retains and maintains its businesses as opposed to selling their businesses off post approvals. They operate many similar facilities in NH (Nashua, Hooksett and Tilton) along with some 55+ sites in MA and NH.

The Property is currently surrounded by almost entirely commercial businesses save a residential multi-family housing development, which sits in the same zone, that directly abuts the site to the East off of Gosling Road where a large wooden fence, as well as a chain link fence and some vegetation provide screening and a buffer.

The Property is a corner lot with ingress/egress along both Gosling Road, as well as Woodbury Avenue.

Notably, there is a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of the Property very close to a utility pole.

The current Mobil Fueling Station has a convenience store, a large canopy that extends out both sides of the store, and there are eight (8) fueling islands with a total of twelve (12) fuel pumps. The Applicant intends to reduce the scope of the canopy, as well as reduce the number of fueling pumps to four (4) fueling islands with a total of eight (8) fuel pumps.

Additionally, the convenience store building (the "Store") will be oriented to be flush against and, present facing to, Woodbury Avenue. Currently, the one entrance for Mobil faces

Woodbury Avenue but is obscured by the large canopy.

The Applicant intends to have a 'drive-through' lane, which will be relative to 'co-brand' business (*i.e.*, *Heavenly Donuts, Mary Lou's Coffee, Honeydew Coffee, etc.*) that would be subordinate to the Store and fueling uses.

According to a quick registry search the Property was conveyed from a previous owner (*Duncan Construction Company, Inc.*) in 2010 to Greenback Security, LLC. *See* Rockingham County Registry of Deeds at Book 5089, Page 870. Prior to the 2010 conveyance the Property was owned by Duncan Construction Company, Inc., since October 22, 1958, according to the same deed. The 1958 deed is recorded at Book 2461, Page 58, and appears to be too old to view online. Portsmouth adopted Zoning in 1926 and, while this Property may have been conforming at one time, the lot is not conforming under today's standards, which is readily evident from all the dimensional relief needed to replace one fueling station with another fueling station.

Variance Criteria

Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance ("PZO") Section PZO 10.1253.10

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

The standard for prongs one and two of the variance criteria is whether the requested relief, if granted, will alter the essential character of the neighborhood or negatively impact the health, welfare, and safety of the surrounding area and mere conflict with the terms of the ordinance is insufficient as all variance requests are somewhat averse to an ordinance, hence why the relief is sought in the first instance. Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).

Furthermore, it important to note that prong 1 is in the <u>negative</u>. That is to say that it does not require the Applicant to prove that the proposed use <u>is IN the public interest</u>, but only to prove that it is NOT CONTRARY TO the public interest.

Here, the immediate ask is to allow for a maximum sign height 26.25 feet where the PZO allows for 20 feet, as well as a sign setback of 3.4 feet where the PZO requires a minimum of 10 feet from the travel way.

The surrounding area contains many commercial properties and, likewise, many signs. The proposed project contains within it several businesses such as the co-brand food/beverage service, a drive-through, fuel pumps, and a convenience store.

The proposed sign is the Applicant's standard sign. Although 'standard' what makes the needs of <u>this</u> sign different is, as discussed above, the number of items that must be displayed as there are multiple businesses and services that are being proposed. Additionally, the Applicant has an obligation to post the ever-changing fuel prices that must be displayed in a manner where

drivers can read in an instant said pricing information, as well as be informed as to what businesses and services are being offered at the site.

The proposed sign will be appropriate for the Zone and it will not alter the overall esthetic of the area since the area is commercial.

The Property has been historically used as a fueling station, which is an allowed use and, despite the need for a Special Exception to allow for a convenience store, such use has been at the Property for decades. It is common for such businesses as the one being proposed to have a slightly larger sign conveying multiple businesses, as well as an array of information. Notably, there is another fueling station across Gosling Road in the abutting Town that has signs much larger and taller than what is currently on the Property.

With respect to the sign's setback, the Property is unable to conform to the PZO's requirement of 10 feet. Indeed, the signage that is currently in place for Mobil is within the sign setback. Were the signage to be placed back 10 feet the signs would be awkwardly towards the middle of lot thereby further restricting the buildable area of the Property. Again, the lot is small. Furthermore, it would appear that there are many commercial businesses in the surrounding area that have signs within this setback requirement.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe that by granting this variance it would *alter the essential character of the neighborhood* since a fueling station/convenience store has been in place for so many years and there are many large signs in the area.

Similarly, given that the same use has been active on this Property for so many years there is no reason to suspect or to conclude that an approval would *negatively impact the health, welfare,* and safety of the surrounding area. Indeed, there is simply no evidence to point to that would suggest the public is at any risk.

Moreover, the minimal ask is only in *mere conflict* with the PZO.

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

As a matter of law, the analysis for both prongs one and two of the Variance criteria are the same. As such, the Applicant incorporates and repeats the narrative of Prong 1 (above) and reiterates the same for Prong 2. <u>Harborside Associates, L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508 (2011).</u>

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

Perhaps the only guiding rule [on this standard] is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice. <u>Malachy Glen Assocs. v. Town of</u> Chichester, 155 N.H. 102, 109 (2007).

Here, the loss to the Applicant in not approving this variance would far outweigh any benefit to the general public.

The ask here is fairly minimal – to allow for a slightly larger taller sign that sits within the 10-foot setback.

A fueling station requires a sign of appropriate size to help customers find the business and see it from a distance so they have ample to time to be in the correct lane to turn into the fueling station. Moreover, the sign needs to accurately convey the various businesses and amenities that will be available at the Property.

If the sign cannot be seen from a distance, the customers may not be unable to enter the station in time and end up driving by or they may attempt to reach the station by cutting through multiple lanes, turning around in another business' driveway, etc.

The proposed sign will help bring in customers to the Property and it will not block any views, obstruct sightlines, or block any other abutting commercial properties. Moreover, it would be consistent with the neighborhood when considering the size of the Cumberland Farms signs across Gosling Road.

As such, by granting the variance the Applicant can make the most of their investment and improve the Property, as well as give the commercial use that currently exists at the Property a much needed 'face-lift' and overall modernization of all of the Store and fueling components, bringing the fueling systems up to date with state-of-the-art technology that is much safer to use and operate than the current system at the Property.

If denied, the public gains nothing, as this Proposal will be an improvement as to what is currently on site and said improvements will aid in the Property living up to its highest taxpaying potential.

4. <u>If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because:</u>

The surrounding area is zoned to allow for the fueling station and there has been a convenience store in site for decades and, moreover, there is another convenience store/fueling station directly across the street on the Newington side of Gosling Road. As such, this is an appropriate use for the area.

Very plainly, there is no evidence to suggest that granting this relief would negatively impact the surrounding property values.

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

"Hardship," under NH RSA 674:33, I (b) (1) (A) and (B) is a straight forward three step analyses;

- a. What are the special conditions of the property, if any;
- b. 'No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property,' which can be said another way that if the variance is granted would it unreasonably frustrate the purpose ordinance; and,
- c. Is the proposed use reasonable?

First, the special conditions (a) are satisfied due to the small size of the Property and the use that has historically existed at this location for decades.

The Property is a corner lot that is well suited for the in/out traffic that is inherit of a fueling station/convenience store.

What is being proposed is slightly smaller than what exists today because the amount of fuel pumps will be reduced by 50%.

To the extent that any residential areas will be impacted by the Proposal there is already adequate screening. This Property is literally the Gateway from Newington into Portsmouth and is surrounded by several other commercial properties that would be expected to be in the vicinity of a fueling station.

The sign needs to be large enough so a driver can ascertain what amenities are present at the Property within a short span of time. Moreover, the sign has a lot of information to convey. First, the gas prices need to be displayed prominently – a requirement and staple of all gas stations. Second, there is a convenience store, the gas itself (Shell), and the co-brand business. As such, the extra square footage is needed to convey all the businesses and amenities.

Finally, the sign will need to be within the 10-foot setback due to the small size of the corner lot. Again, the current signs for Mobil, as well as many other commercial signs in the neighborhood, are already are within said setback.

Next is (b), whether "[n]o fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property." *See* NH RSA 674:33, *et seq*. Or, again, if the variance is granted will it *unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO*.

The purpose and goals of the applicable ordinance is to ensure that signage does not get too large, too many, too unsightly, or cause any too many distractions.

Here, despite the extra height the sign will not be abnormally large in comparison to many signs in the area. Indeed, as stated above, the Cumberland Farm signs across the street are significantly larger than signs at the Property now. We contend the sign will be attractive as the Applicant has several similar businesses located throughout New England.

The sign's extra height is needed so that the Applicant can fit all the various businesses and amenities that will be offered in a manner that can be read safely by drivers who will only have a short span of time to ascertain the sign's verbiage.

Given the dimensional constraints of the small lot the setback relief would be needed no matter what sign was being proposed.

Overall, we contend that what the Applicant is asking for with respect to this relief will not unreasonably frustrate the purpose of the PZO and is, indeed, appropriate for a fueling station.

Lastly (c), the proposed <u>use</u> for the Property is for a fueling station and the applicable Zone allows for that use and, to the extent further relief is needed for the convenience store piece, such a use has been present for so long that the proposed use is reasonable.





Letter of Authorization

I, Michael Gazdacko, of Colbea Enterprises, LLC, 695 George Washington Highway, Lincoln, RI, hereby authorize TFMoran, Inc., 170 Commerce Way, Suite 102, Portsmouth, NH, to act on my behalf concerning property owned by Colbea Enterprises, LLC, 1980 Woodbury Avene, Portsmouth, NH, known as Tax Map 239, Lot 11. I hereby appoint TFMoran, Inc. as my agent to act on my behalf in the review process, to include any required signatures.

Torsed Rependate Collea Etgeristil

Witness

1µame

11/5/24

Date

LETTER OF AUTHORITY/PERMISSION

The undersigned, being the owner of the property known as 1980 Woodbury Avenue, Map 239, Lot 11, hereby grants authority and consent to attorneys at Cronin, Bisson & Zalinsky, P.C. to sign and file ZBA and Planning Board applications and any related materials on my behalf and deliver the same to the City of Portsmouth, represent me at any hearing(s) concerning these applications, and perform all other necessary actions in connection with such applications.

all	July Sel		3/18/2025	
Signature	Duly authorized for	or Colbea Enterprises, LLC	Date	

Michael Gazdacko, Director of Construction & Maintenance

Print name



Site Photos

Proposed Gas Station and Convenience Store

1980 Woodbury Avenue Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Taken on February 12, 2021

Photo #1:



View of Gas Station and Convenience Store from Gosling Road

Photo #2:



View of Gas Station and Convenience Store from intersection of Gosling Road and Woodbury Avenue

Photo #3:



View of parking lot at rear of Convenience Store

Photo #4:



View of dumpster enclosure and storage building

Photo #5:



View of pylon sign along Woodbury Avenue

Photo #6:



View of pylon sign along Gosling Road

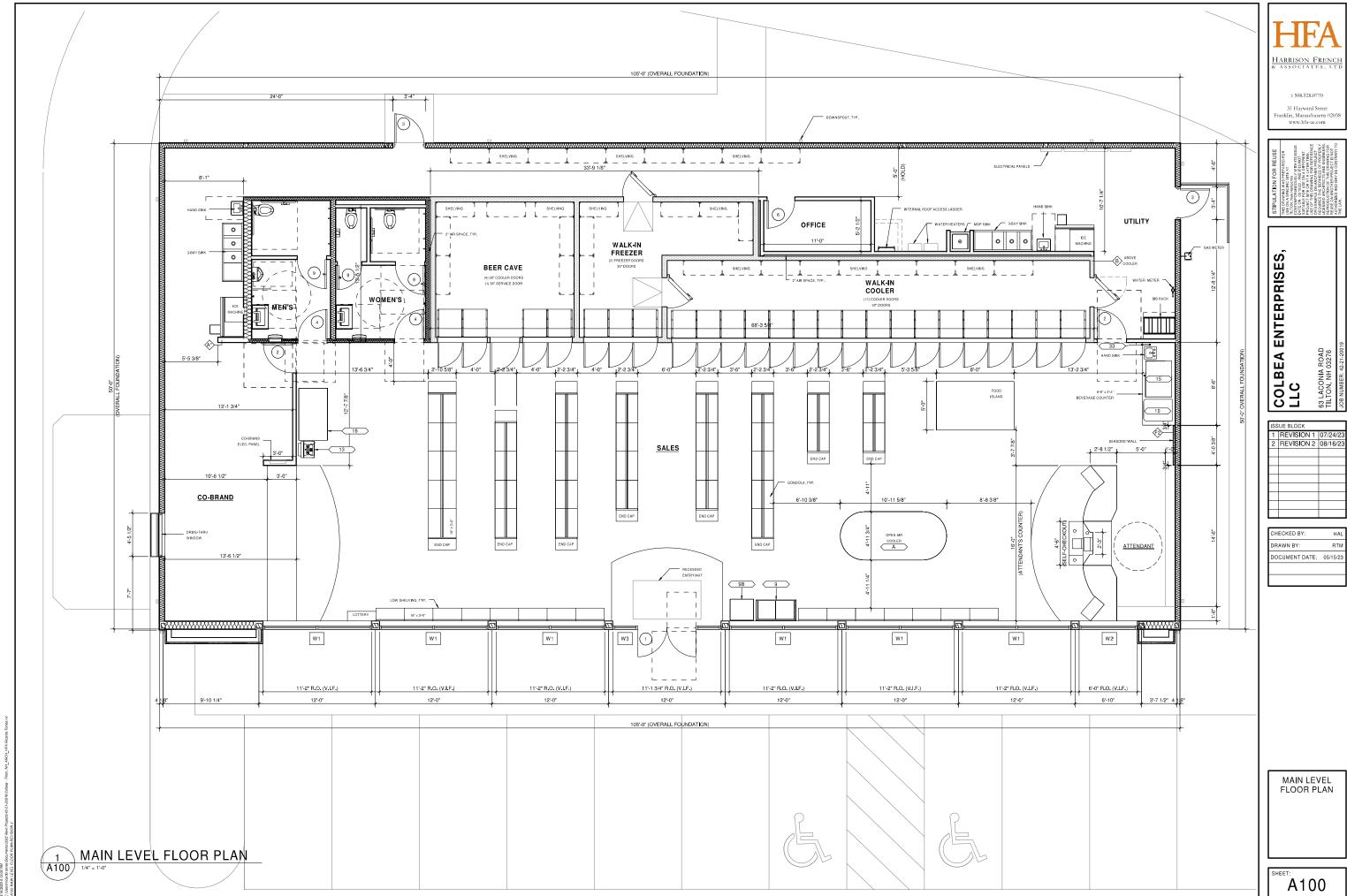
Photo #7:

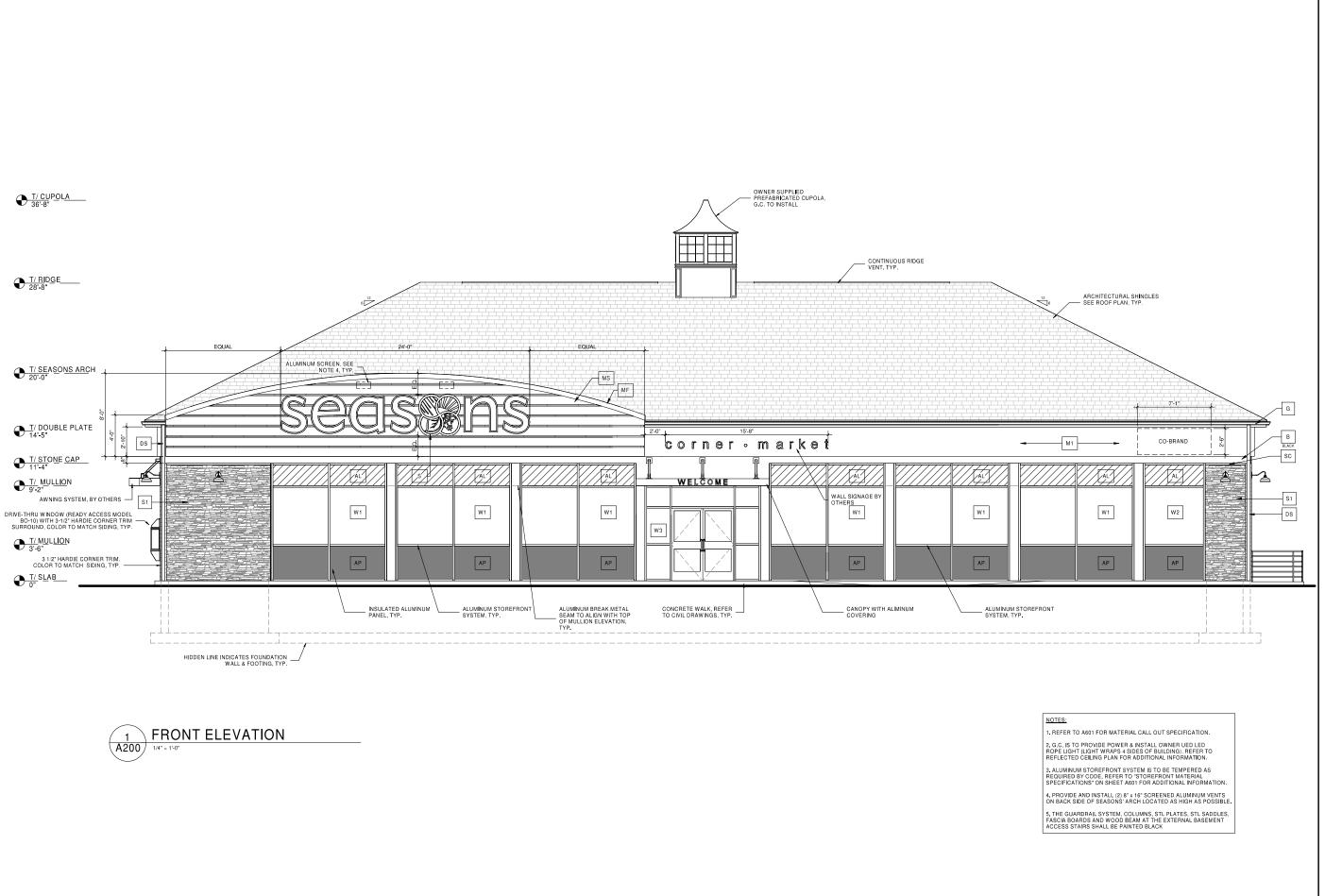


Photo #8:



View of fence and arborvitaes between convenience store and adjacent residential use





HARRISON FRENCH

t 508.528.077

31 Hayward Street Franklin, Massachusetts 02038 www.hfa-ac.com

COLBEA ENTERPRISES, LLC

COLBEA E PORTO NA ROAD NA ROAD

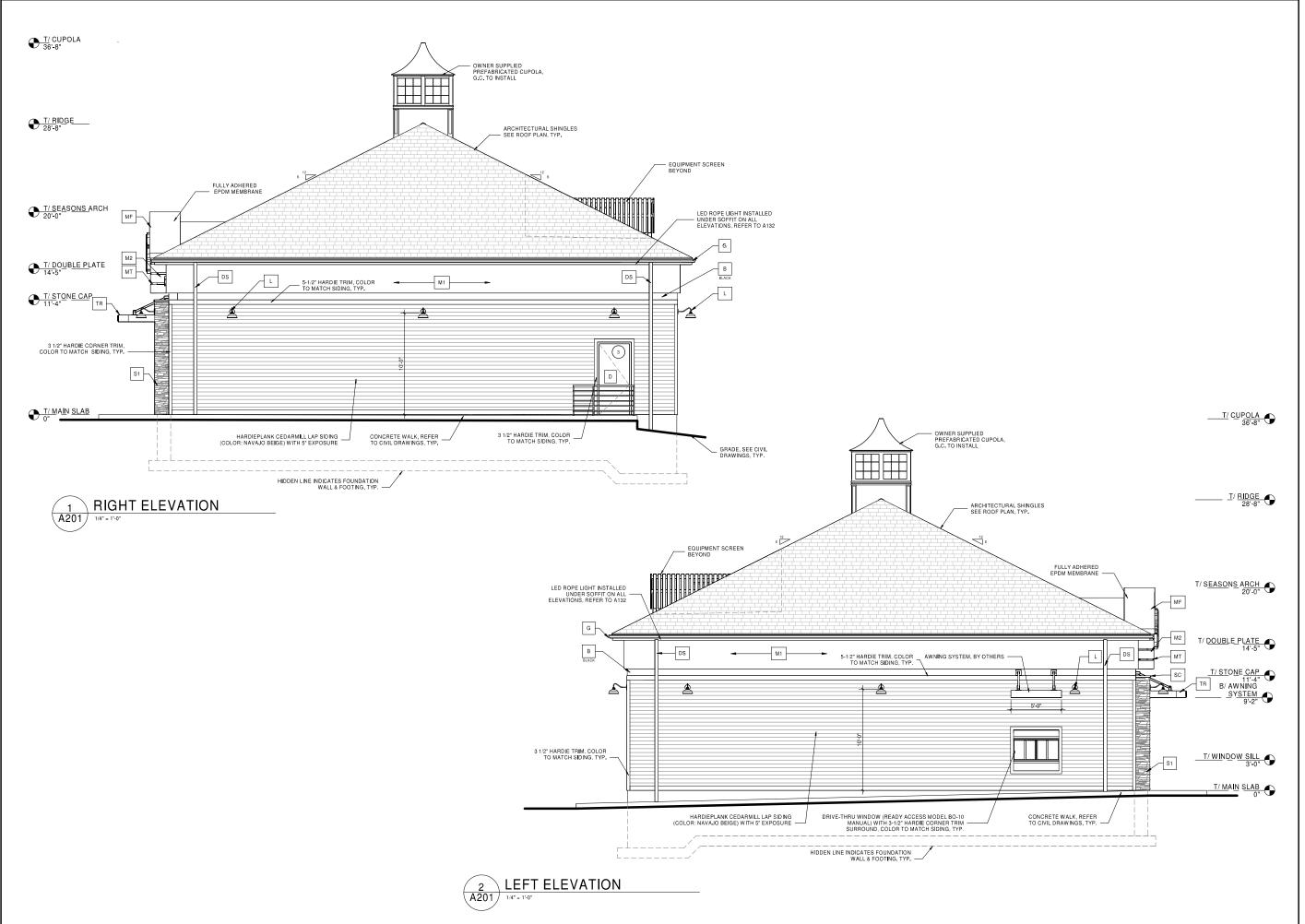
CHECKED BY: HAL

DRAWN BY: RTM

DOCUMENT DATE: 05/15/23

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS FRONT

A200



31 Hayward Street Franklin, Massachusetts 02038 www.hfa-ae.com

COLBEA ENTERPRISES, LLC 63 LACONIA ROAD TILTON, NH 03276

ISSUE BLOCK REVISION 2 08/16/2

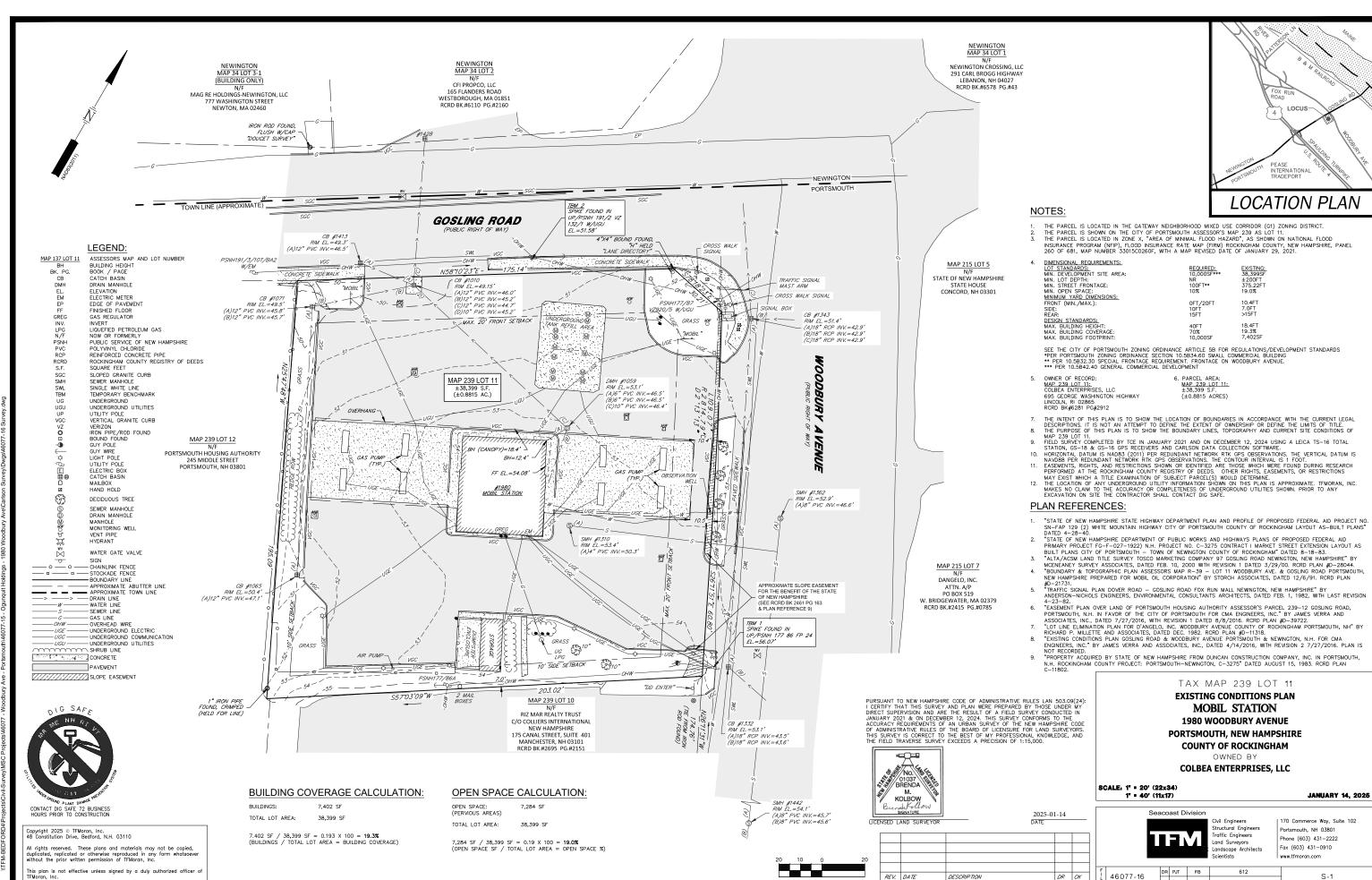
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EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS LEFT & RIGHT

A201





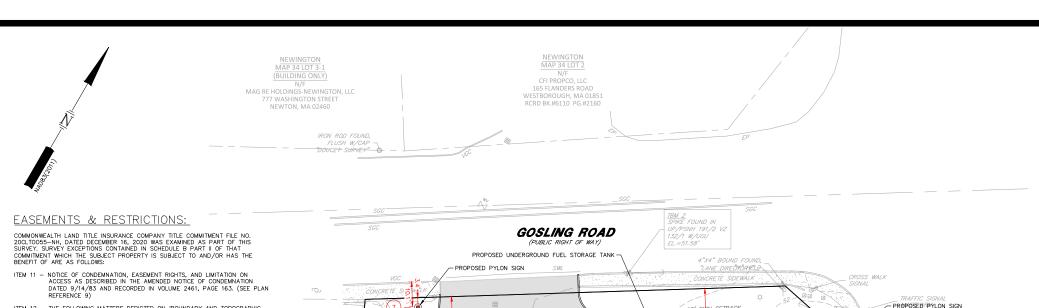


JANUARY 14, 2025

S-1

SEE MARGIN

DESCRIPTION



ITFM 14 -

REFERENCE 9)

1 12 — THE FOLLOWING MATTERS DEPICTED ON BOUNDARY AND TOPOGRAPHIC PLAN, ASSESSORS MAP R-39-LOTTI, WOODBURY AVE. & GOSLING ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, PREPARED FOR MOBIL OIL. CORPORATION'DATED 12/6/19/91 AND RECORDED AS PLAN D2/131.

A — TMOBIL SIGN:TRAVERSING THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, (SIGN SINCE HAS BEEN RELOCATED AND RESIDES ON THE PROPERTY, SHOWN HEREON).

B — CATCH BASIN AND PIPES TRAVERSING THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY. (AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN).

C — CURBING AND CONDETEN WALKWAY, TRAVERSING THE NORTHERLY, EASTERLY AND SOUTHERLE BOUNDARYES.

D — DESERVIY AND SOUTHERLE BOUNDARIES.

OBSERVIY AND SOUTHERLE BOUNDARIES.

OBSERVIY AND SOUTHERLE BOUNDARIES.

HERE PROPERTY.

13 — NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF GRESTRICTION OF THE WALKWAY. TRAVERSING THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY.

(RESTRICTION MOT PLACEABLE AND THEREFORE NOT PLOTTED).

14 — TERMS AND FROVISIONS OF LEASE BY AND BETWEEN DUNCAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. AND MOBIL OIL CORPORATIONS AS EVIDENCED BY A NOTICE OF LEASE DATED 2/25/1992 AND RECORDED IN VOLUME 2936, PAGE 1157, AS AFFECTED BY SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF LEASE RECORDED IN VOLUME 3113, PAGE 1212. ASSIGNMENTS OF THE LEASE ARE RECORDED IN VOLUME 319, PAGE 2121. ASSIGNMENTS OF THE LEASE ARE RECORDED IN VOLUME 3993, AND VOLUME 3688, PAGE 1466. ALLIANCE ENERGY CORP. CONVERTED TO ALLIANCE ENERGY LLC AS EVIDENCED AT VOLUME 4929, PAGE 2060. (NOT

ENCROACHMENTS:

ON THE WEST, STOCKADE FENCE OVER RECORD LINE:

ON THE NORTH, OVERHEARD UTILITY WIRE OVER RECORD LINE; ON THE NORTH, UTILITY POLE SUPPORT WIRE OVER RECORD LINE;

ON THE NORTH, LANE DIRECTORY SIGN OVER RECORD LINE;

0000 00 00 (±0.8815 AC.) - P BOLLARD (TYP.) PROPOSED CONCRET WHEEL STOP (TYP) ركبه 🕆 MAP 239 LOT 12 N/F PROPOSED MENU-BOARD 0 = 0 -

PROPOSED CONCRETE -SIDEWALK

NOTES

MAP 34 LOT 1

RCRD BK.#6578 PG.#43

MAP 215 LOT 5 N/F

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIR STATE HOUSE CONCORD, NH 03301

PROPOSED USE: SMALL COMMERCIAL BUILDING MIN. LOT SIZE: 1.1 AC. 0.88 AC. MIN. LOT FRONTAGE: MIN. BUILDING SETBACKS: >100' 0' MIN/20' MAX.' 27.4± FRONT 34.8±° 40.7 MAX. BUILDING HEIGHT:
MAX. BUILDING COVERAGE:
MIN. OPEN SPACE:
PARKING CALCULATIONS: (8.5'X19'X24')

MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE STATION:
2 SP.+ 1/400 SF GFA (4,580 SF) = 12 SPACES

PROPOSED: 19 SPACES & 9 STACKING SPECIAL EXCEPTION

THE CONVENIENCE GOODS USE WILL REQUIRE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION WHICH IS VOTED ON BY THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

VARIANCES REQUIRED

- 1 PZO 10.5B33.20 ALL BUILDINGS MUST HAVE A FRONT LOT LINE BUILD OUT OF AT LEAST 75% FOR COMMERCIAL AND MIXED-USE BUILDING TYPES.
- 2 PZO 10.5B34.60 FRONT BUILDING SETBACK FROM LOT LINE: 0 FT MIN. TO 20 FT MAX.
- 3 PZO 10.5B83.10 REQUIRED OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES SHALL NOT BE LOCATED BETWEEN A PRINCIPAL BUILDING AND A STREET.
- PZO 10.835.31 ALL OUTDOOR SERVICE FACILITIES (INCLUDING TRANSACTION WINDOWS, MENU BOARDS, SPEAKERS, ETC.) SHALL BE LOCATED A MINIMUM OF 50 FEET FROM ANY LOT LINE.
- 5 PZO 10.835.32 ALL DRIVE—THROUGH LANES, BYPASS LANES, AND STACKING LANES SHALL BE LOCATED A MINIMUM OF 30 FEET FROM ANY LOT LINE.
- 6 PZO 10.843.33 ALL PUMP ISLANDS SHALL BE SET BACK AT LEAST 40 FEET FROM ALL LOT LINES.
- 7 PZO 10.1251.10 THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE SIGN AREA SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: 1.5' PER LINEAR FOOT OF BUILDING FRONTAGE PER ESTABLISHMENT.
- 8 PZO 10.1251.20 THE MAXIMUM SIGN AREA FOR INDIVIDUAL FREESTANDING SIGNS SHALL BE 100 S.F.
- PZO 10.1253.10 THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HEIGHTS AND MINIMUM SETBACKS FOR SIGNS IN EACH SIGN DISTRACT SHALL BE AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN: MAXIMUM HEIGHT = 20', MINIMUM SETBACK FROM LOT LINE = 10'.

VARIANCE TABLE					
NUMBER (SEE ABOVE)	REQUIRED	EXISTING	PROPOSED		
1	127.5' MIN	0'	0'		
2	20' MAX	10.4	27.4'		
3	NO PARKING	YES	YES		
4	50' MIN	N/A	34.8' & 38.7'		
5	30' MIN	N/A	11.2'		
6	40' MIN	23.1'	34.7'		
7	223.50 S.F. (149'x1.5')	-	392.11 S.F.		
8	100 S.F. MAX	-	134 S.F.		
	20' MAX HEIGHT		26.25'		
9	10' MIN	-	3.4' FROM PL >10.1' FROM TRAVELWAY		

MAP 215 LOT 7 N/F DANGELO, INC. ATTN. A/P PO BOX 519 W. BRIDGEWATER, MA 0237 RCRD BK.#2415 PG.#0785

SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

TAX MAP 239 LOT 11

VARIANCE PLAN PROPOSED GAS STATION & CONVENIENCE STORE 1980 WOODBURY AVENUE PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

> OWNED BY COLBEA ENTERPRISES, LLC

1'=40' (11'x17') SCALE: 1'=20' (22'X34')

MARCH 19, 2025

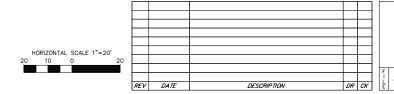
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THIS PLAN IS A PRELIMINARY CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR SITE LOCATION FEASIBILITY AND DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY. ADDITIONAL PERMITS, WAIVERS, AND VARIANCE MAY BE REQUIRED UPON FURTHER DESIGN, REVIEW, AND COORDINATION WITH THE CITY.

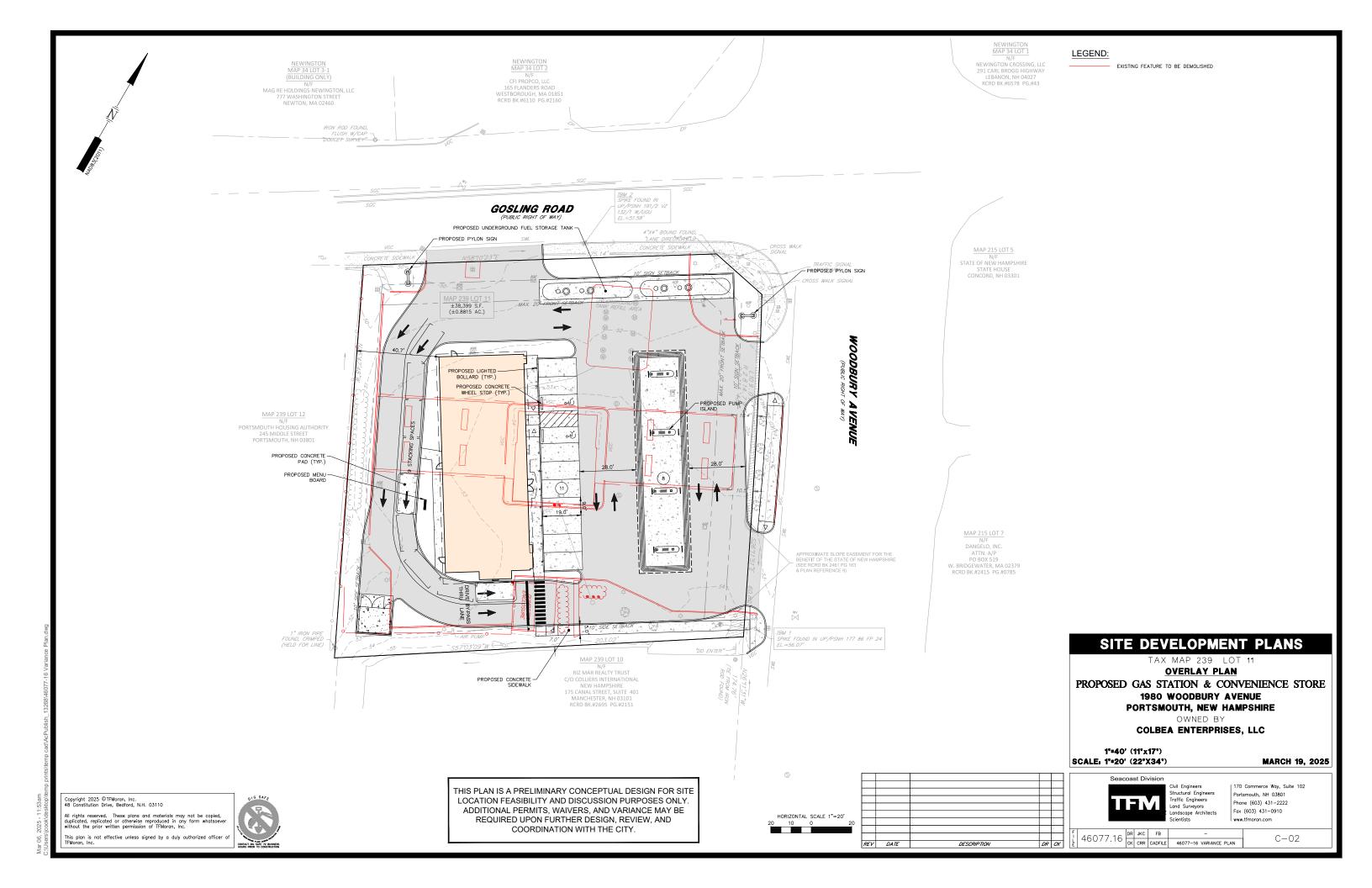
C/O COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL NEW HAMPSHIRE

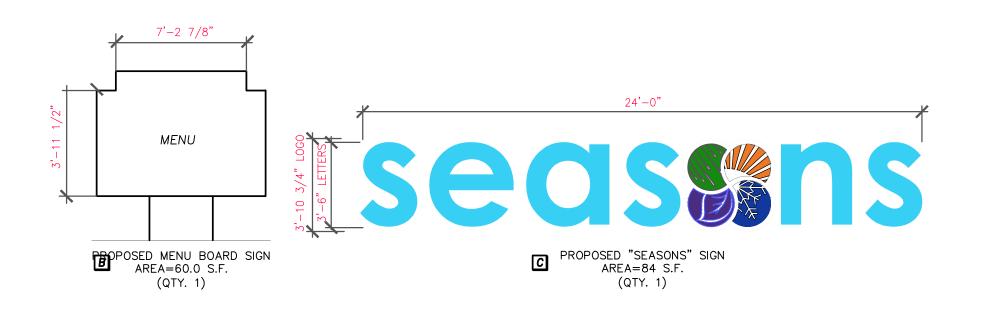


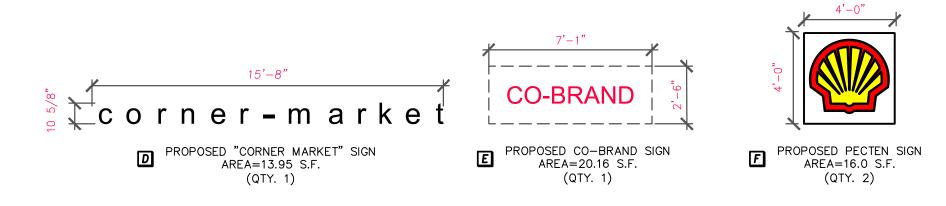
WOODBURY Y BUBUO

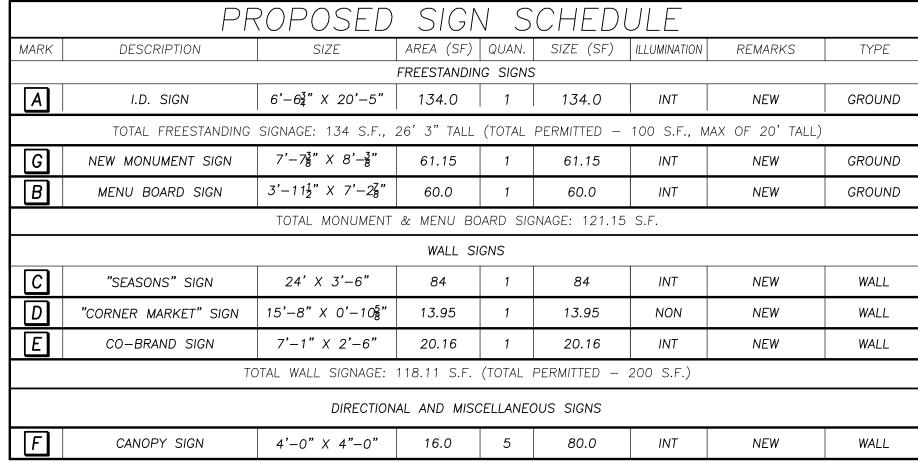
Civil Engineers Structural Engineers Traffic Engineers Land Surveyors andscape Architects | 170 Commerce Way, Suite 102 Portsmouth, NH 03801 Phone (603) 431-2222 Fax (603) 431-0910

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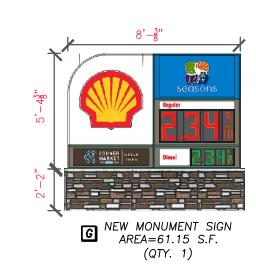


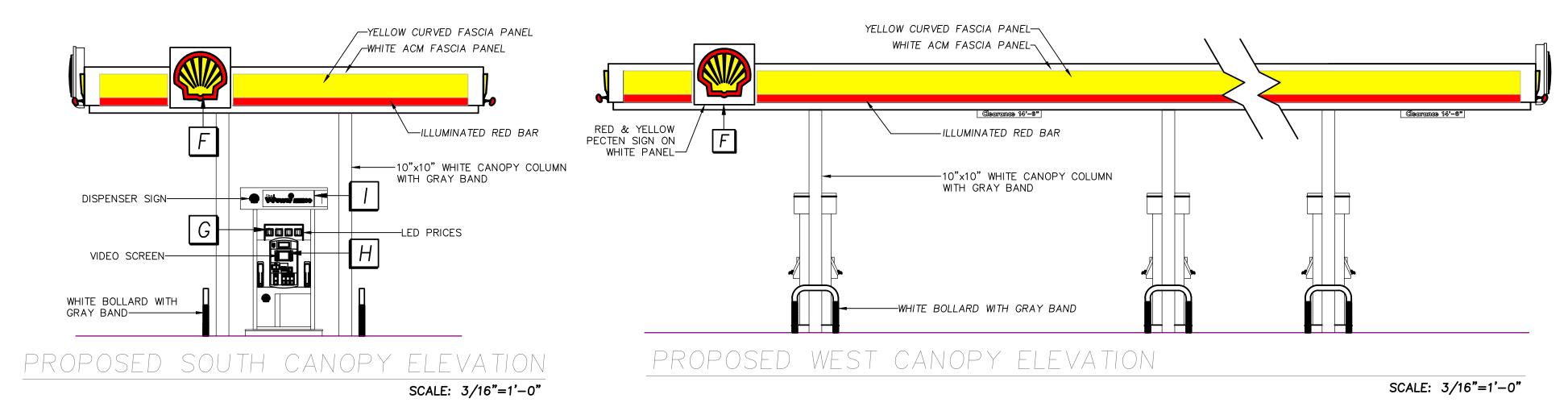




TOTAL DIRECTIONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS SIGNAGE: 80 S.F.

TOTAL SIGNAGE: 453.26 S.F.





SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

TAX MAP 239 LOT 11

SIGN PLAN

PROPOSED GAS STATION & CONVENIENCE STORE

1980 WOODBURY AVENUE

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COLBEA ENTERPRISES, LLC

SCALE: NTS

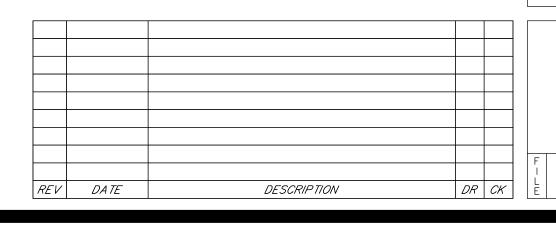
MARCH 19, 2025

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This plan is not effective unless signed by a duly authorized officer of TFMoran, Inc.







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