

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187 ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187 www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

## ELLINGTON INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 7:00 P.M.

## ZOOM MEETING

## IN-PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE <u>IS LIMITED</u> DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS, ZOOM ATTENDANCE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items):
- **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

 Hastillo Properties, LLC owner/ TYMAC Holdings, LLC, applicant, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 8-26(e), request for positive referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission on an 11-lot subdivision application (S202004) involving land regulated as an inland wetland or watercourse at property located on Tripp Road, APN 023-001-0000.

#### V. PUBLIC HEARING(S):

 IW202001 – Skinner Properties LLC and 83 North Properties LLC, owners/applicants, request for a modification to a permit to conduct regulated activity for the maintenance and restoration of Belding Brook at 120 West Road, APN 037-002-0000 and 124 West Road, APN 037-003-0000.

#### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.
- 2. Election of Officers
- 3. Correspondence/Discussion:

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Join Meeting via ZOOM Video Communications:

In order to comply with COVID-19 limited in-person meetings and social distancing requirements, this meeting will be conducted using the online video conferencing service provider Zoom. Meeting details will be provided on the Agenda and posted on the Ellington webpage (www.ellington-ct.gov), Agenda & Minutes, Inland Wetland Agency.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/95808434588 Meeting ID: 958 0843 4588 Password: 719891 Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 958 0843 4588 Password: 719891

## **GARDNER & PETERSON ASSOCIATES, LLC**

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS • LAND SURVEYORS 178 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084

KENNETH R. PETERSON, L.S. ERIC R. PETERSON, P.E., L.S. MARK A. PETERSON, P.E. TELEPHONE: (860) 871-0808 info@GardnerPeterson.com www.GardnerPeterson.com

December 10, 2020

Mr. Kenneth Braga Chairman-Inland Wetland Commission Town of Ellington PO Box 187 Ellington, CT 06029

Re: Ridge Crossing

Dear Mr. Braga and Agency Members,

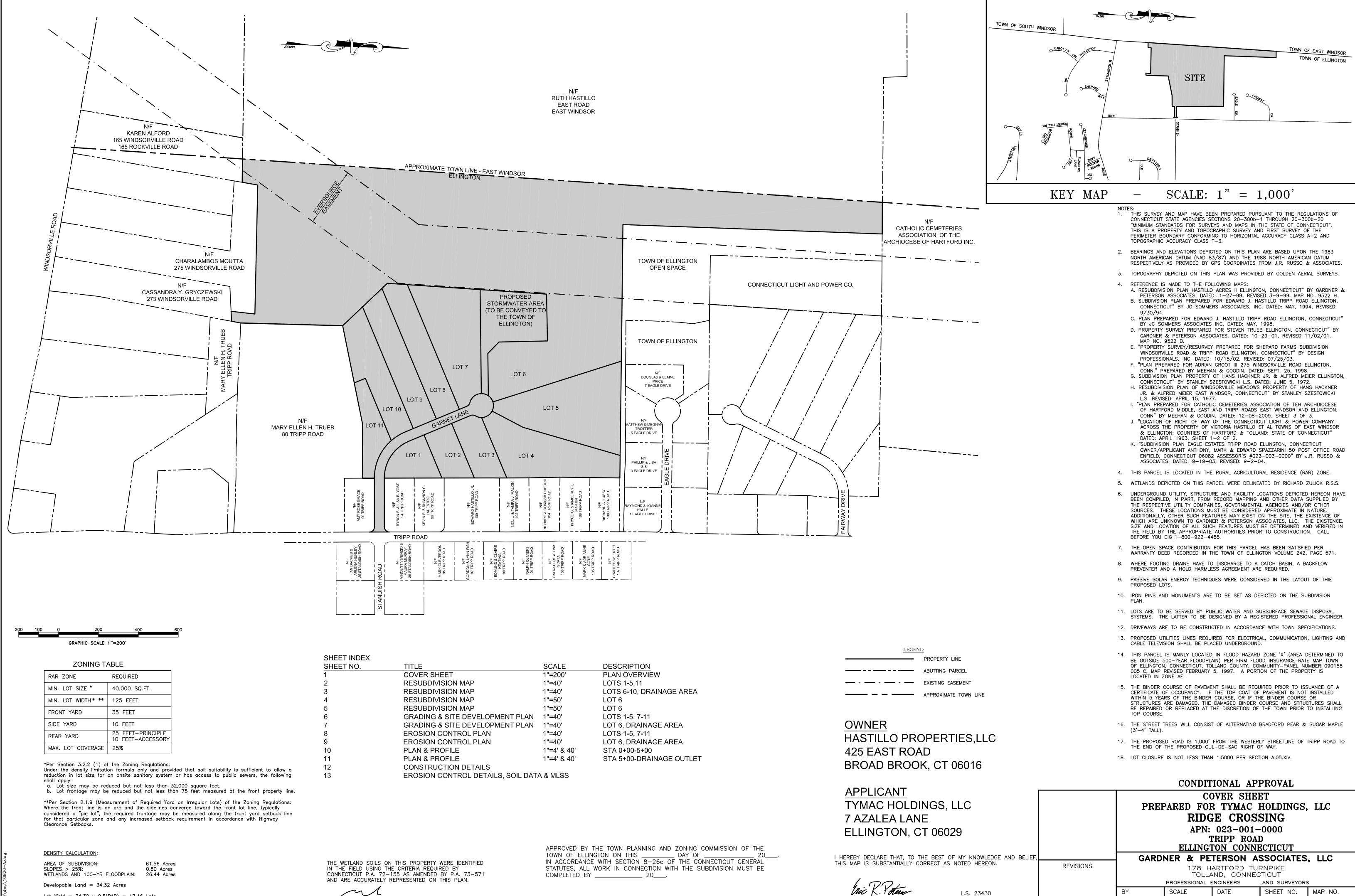
At the request of the applicant, TYMAC Holdings, LLC, I hereby request a positive referral from the Inland Wetland Agency to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the proposed Resubdivision titled Ridge Crossing. Earlier this year the IWC granted a positive referral to the PZC but the application was denied by the PZC. The revised plans reduce the road length from 1,350' to 1,000' and the and the number of lots from 17 to 11.

The proposal is for a single family resubdivision on the west side of Tripp Road which includes a new road, Garnet Lane, commencing at the intersection of Tripp Road and Standish Road. Inland Wetlands were field delineated on site by Richard Zulick, C.S.S. as depicted on the enclosed plans. The only activity within the 100' upland review area is seeding downgrade of the proposed stormwater basin which was previously approved. The resubdivision plans also include sedimentation and erosion controls to protect areas downgrade of the site construction.

Yours-

Mark A. Peterson P.E.

10820IWC2



Lot Yield =  $34.32 \times 0.5(RAR) = 17.16$  Lots The resubdivision proposes 11 lots.

	SCALE	DESCRIPTION		
	1"=200'	PLAN OVERVIEW		
N MAP	1"=40'	LOTS 1-5,11		
N MAP	1"=40'	LOTS 6-10, DRAINAGE A		
N MAP	1"=50'	LOT 6		
N MAP	1"=50'	LOT 6		
E DEVELOPMENT PLAN	1"=40'	LOTS 1-5, 7-11		
E DEVELOPMENT PLAN	1"=40'	LOT 6, DRAINAGE AREA		
TROL PLAN	1"=40'	LOTS 1-5, 7-11		
TROL PLAN	1"=40'	LOT 6, DRAINAGE AREA		
.E	1"=4' & 40'	STA 0+00-5+00		
.E	1"=4' & 40'	STA 5+00-DRAINAGE O		
N DETAILS				

RICHARD ZULICK C.S.S.

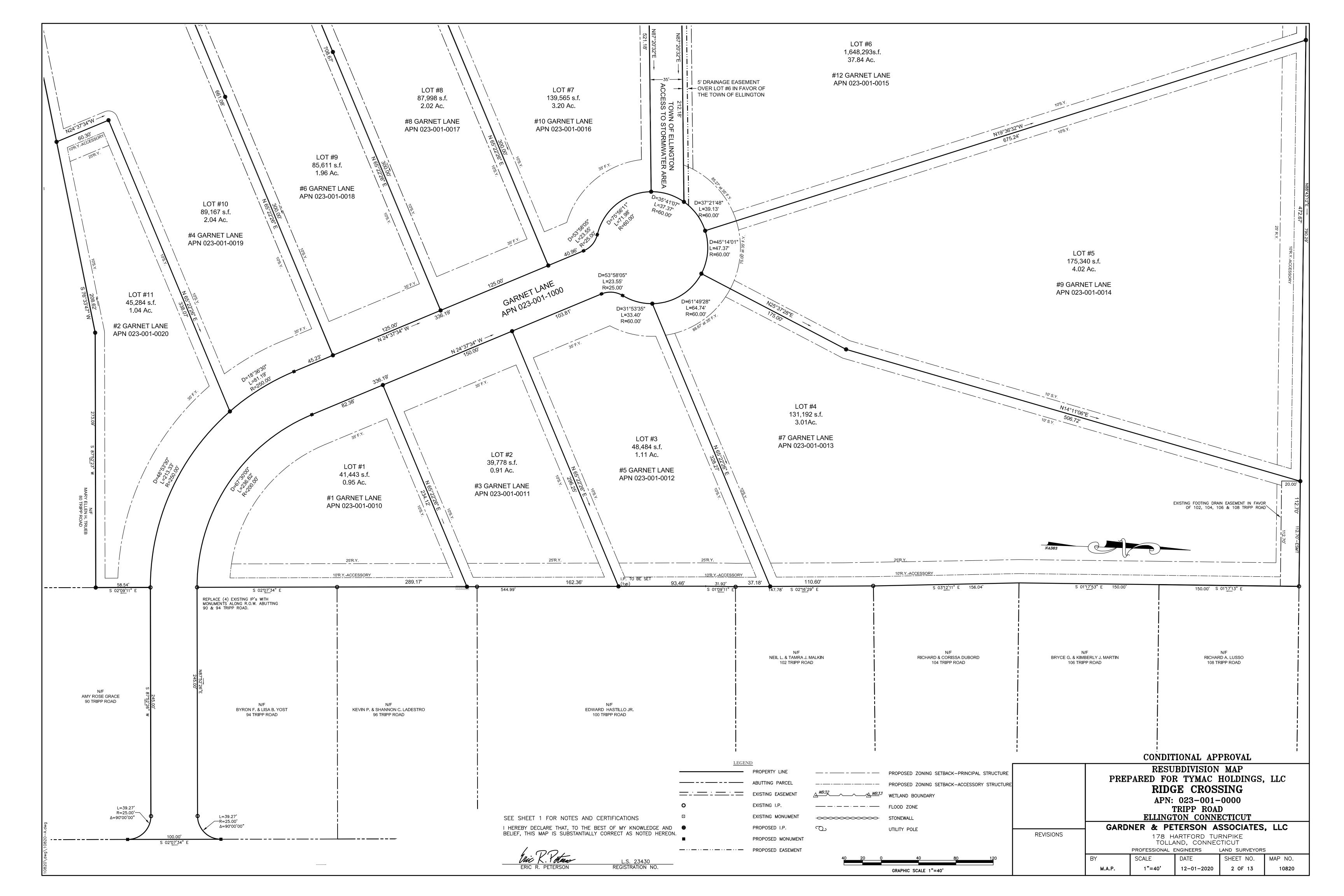
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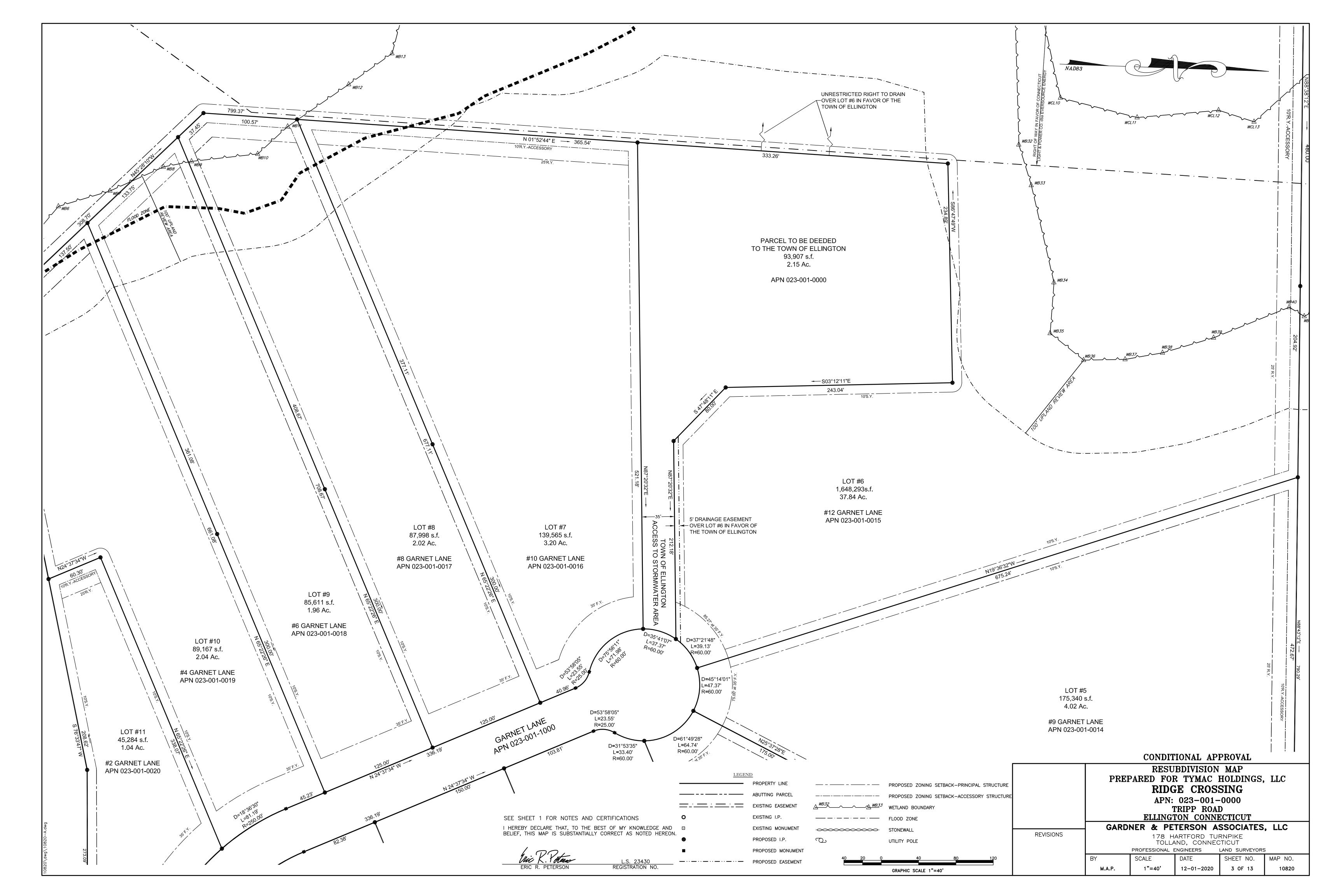
ERIC R. PETERSON

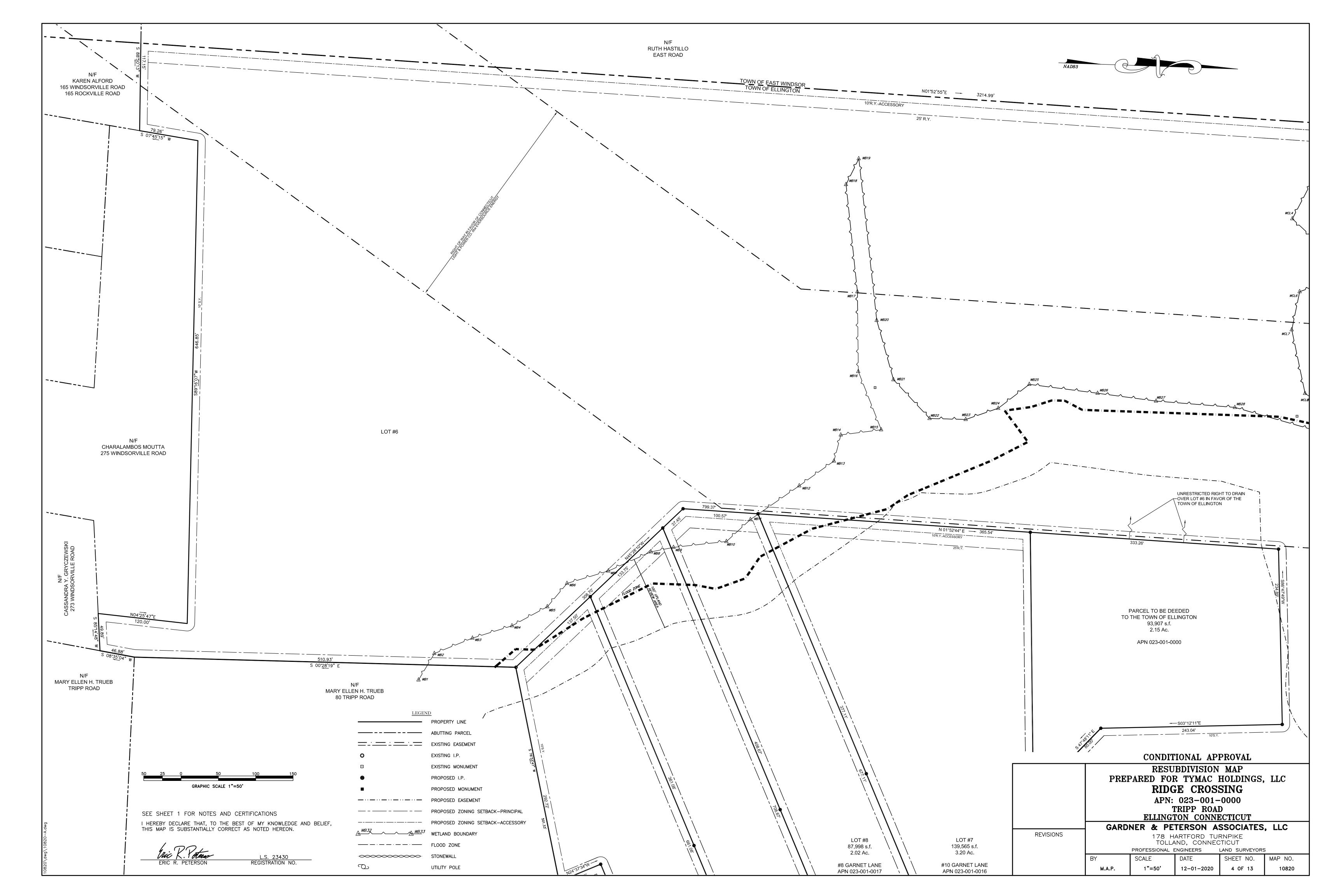
SECRETARY

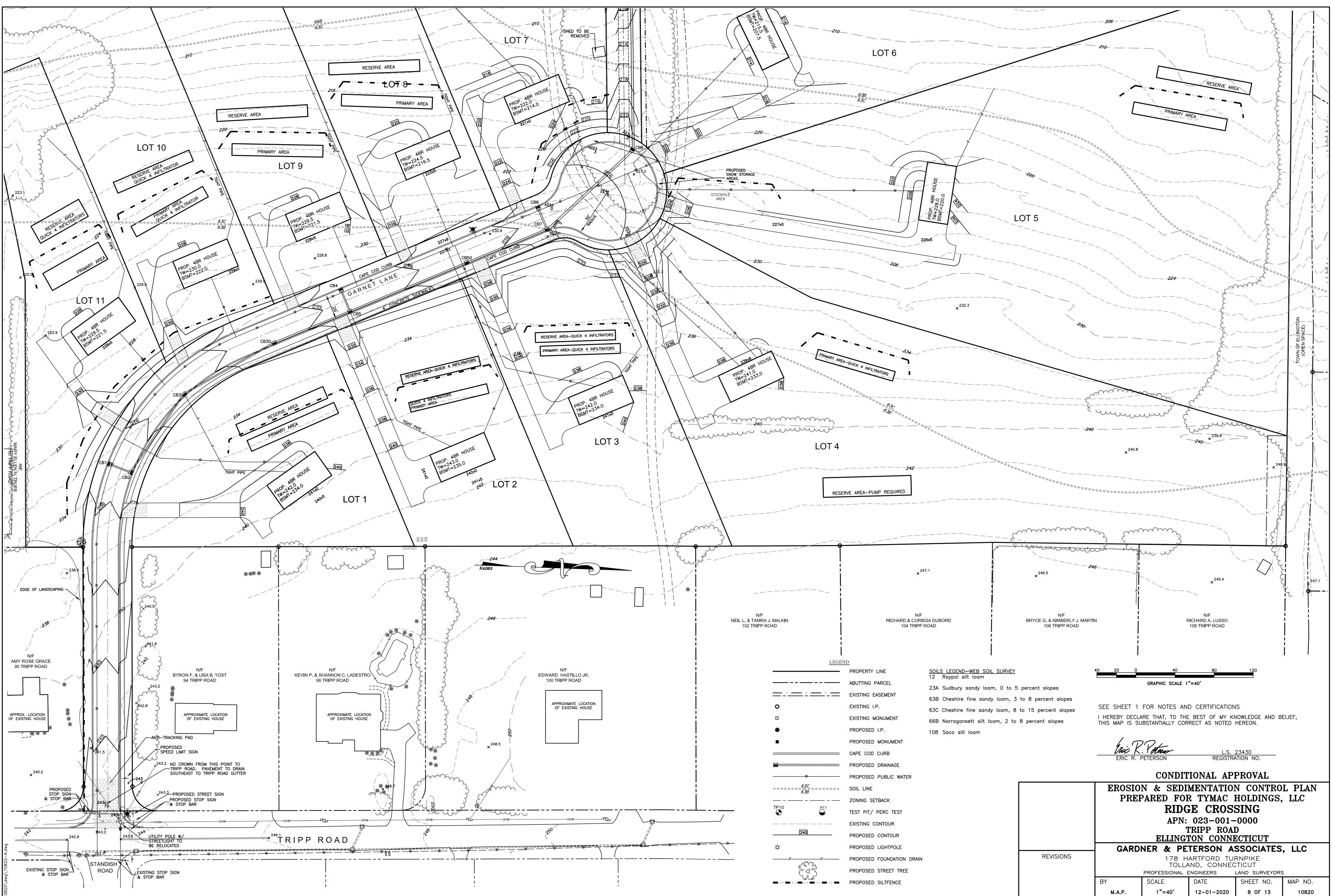
CHAIRMAN

MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF,		GARDI	NER & PE	TERSON A	SSOCIATES	. LLC		
OTED HEREON.	REVISIONS	178 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT						
		PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS LAND SURVEYORS						
L.S. 23430		BY	SCALE	DATE	SHEET NO.	MAP NO.		
GISTRATION NO.		м.а.р.	1"=200'	12-01-2020	1 OF 13	10820		

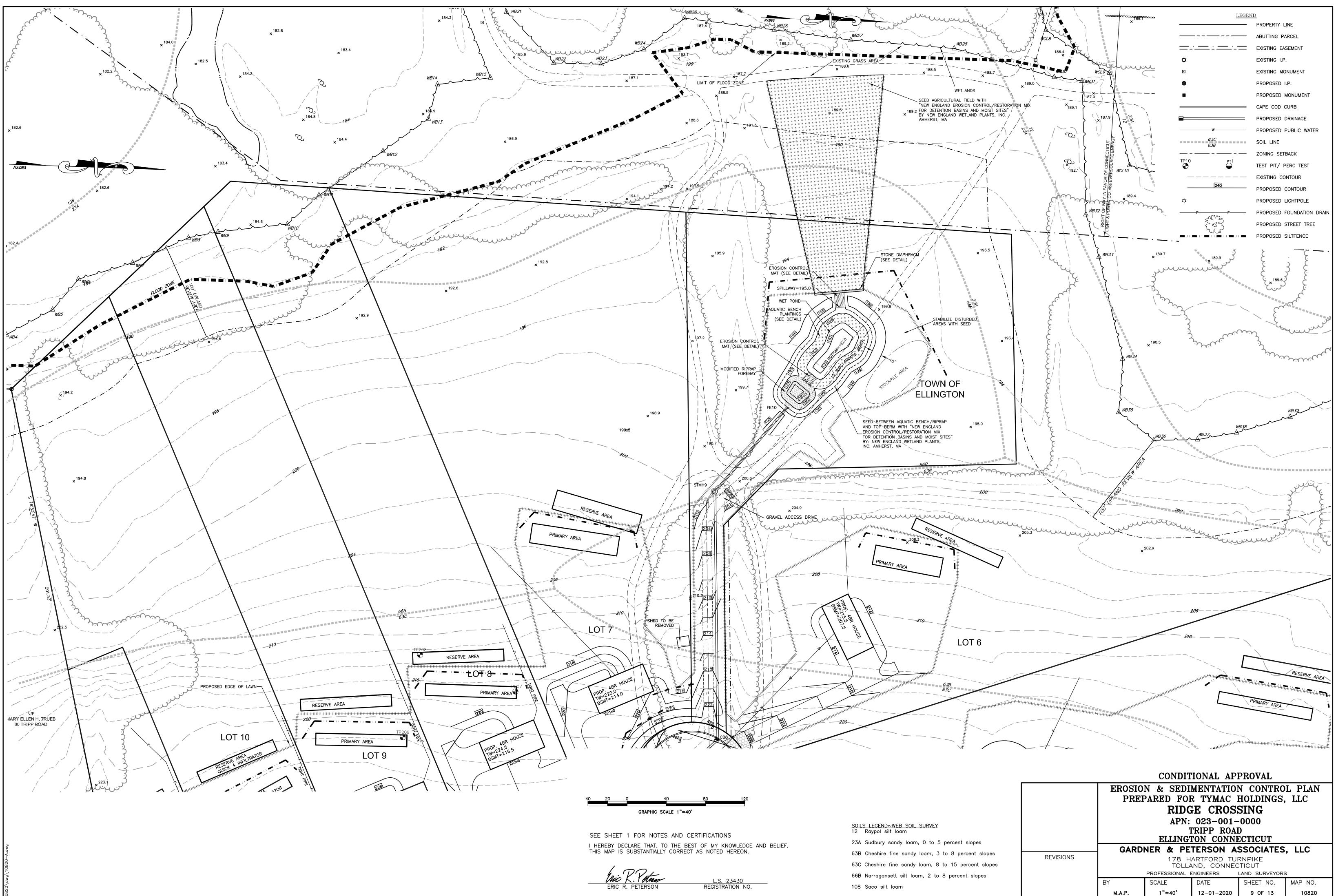








	RIDGE CROSSING APN: 023-001-0000 TRIPP ROAD ELLINGTON CONNECTICUT						
	GARDI	NER & PE	TERSON A	SSOCIATES	, LLC		
REVISIONS	178 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS LAND SURVEYORS						
	BY	SCALE	DATE	SHEET NO.	MAP NO.		





Ecology
Soil & Wetland Studies
Water Quality Monitoring • GPS
Environmental Planning & Management
Ecological Restoration & Habitat Mitigation
Aquatic, Wildlife and Listed Species Surveys
Application Reviews • Permitting & Compliance

VIA E-MAIL

December 11, 2020

Town of Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency 55 Main Street Ellington, CT 06029

ATTN: Mr. Kenneth Braga, Chairman

## RE: *MAINTENANCE/RESTORATION OF BELDING BROOK* Permit Modification (IW202001) West Road (west side), Ellington, CT

*REMA Job # 19-2187-ELL16* 

Dear Chairman Braga:

At the request of Mr. Everett Skinner, IV, P.E., applicant, REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC (REMA) has prepared this brief report, to be submitted as part of a request for modification of a permit granted by the IWA on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The requested modification is for the maintenance and restoration of the severely eroding Belding Brook banks, which is jeopardizing properties to the north and the south, owned by the applicant, as well as the area for the footings of the approved covered bridge that would connect the two properties. Moreover, the ongoing bank erosion is impacting the riparian habitat itself.

REMA visited the site on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to inspect the stream channel and bank, especially after recent intense storms that had further scoured and undercut the bank, resulting in significant slumping of sediment into the channel (see attached annotated photographs). We revisited the site on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, to re-delineate the wetland/watercourse boundaries, since we found that many of our wetland boundary markers were gone, presumably fallen into the stream channel due to bank erosion (see attached annotated photographs).



In reviewing the archival aerial photographs (see Figures 3, 4, and 5), which had been submitted with the original application, it is obvious that the stream was at one point "straightened" as part of the intense agricultural activities of several decades ago (see 1965 aerial). In the years that followed, and as the watershed of Belding Brook above the subject site was progressively developed, flow velocities and volumes increased, and without any further intervention, a sinuous channel began to form, and bank erosion increased. Figure A (attached) is quite instructive. On a 2003 base aerial photograph, we have drawn the centerline of the channel as shown on a February 2020 aerial, at the same scale. It clearly shows the changes, especially at the first upstream bend. This trend of bank undercutting has progressed even further since February 2020, based on our field inspections.

The Erosion Mitigation Plan prepared by F.A. Hesketh & Associates, Inc., dated December 11, 2020, shows measures that will ensure that the stream will not continue to erode its banks through this segment, while at the same time preserving and enhancing the in-stream and near stream habitats. This will be accomplished by providing a wider stable channel, with appropriate hard armoring at critical areas, and by utilizing bio-engineering methods for balance of the stream banks. A stilling pool, lined with rip-rap will be constructed at the outfall of the twin CMPs under West Road, to dissipate flow forces, and the widening and deepening of stream channel just prior to covered bridge will provide refugia for finfish and other wildlife, and also create aesthetic appeal.

The channel within the segment of the stream to be restored, which runs approximately 315 feet downstream from the twin culverts, will be lined with bank run gravel and stone of a variety of sizes (i.e., 3 to 12 inches), and a three to four foot low flow channel will be constructed, slightly meandering. Larger cobbles and boulders will be placed along the flow channel to create in-stream habitat for finfish and aquatic organisms. Prior to the work as much of the existing channel gravel and stone as possible will salvaged to be used to line the restored channel.

Above the stream's mean high water flowline (as determined in the field) coconut fiber coir logs (a.k.a., biologs) will be keyed into the bank, tubelings of willows and dogwoods will be installed immediately behind them, and willow facines (i.e., dormant live stakes of willows) will be planted in the coir logs themselves. Over a couple of seasons, as the coir logs begin to disintegrate, these shrubs will continue grow into the banks and stabilize them. A conservation seed mix (i.e., New England Erosion Control/Restoration Mix for Detention Basins and Moist Sites) will be used in the lower portions of the newly formed stream banks.



We should note that the proposed stream mitigation plantings will be blended with the previously submitted riparian corridor enhancement planting plan. Under the current conditions that enhancement plan was also in jeopardy due to the severe bank erosion. Therefore, the proposed permit modification will also ensure that the riparian enhancement plan will be successful.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions on the above.

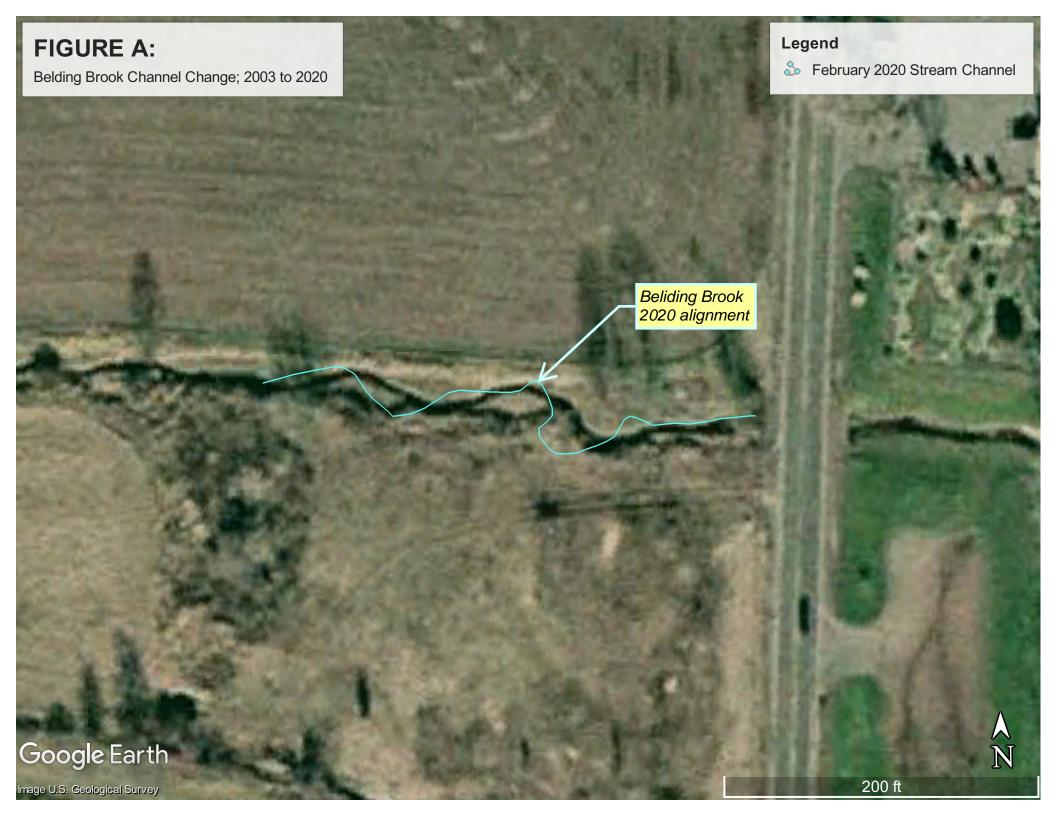
Respectfully submitted,

**REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC** 

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George T. Logan, MS, PWS, CSE Registered Soil Scientist/Professional Wetland Scientist Certified Senior Ecologist

Attachments: Figures A, 3, 4, and 5 Photos 1 to 12





**FIGURE 4:** West Road, Ellington, CT as seen on a 1986 aerial photograph (CT State Library)

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Belding Brook

PRODUCED BY: REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC DATE: 12-11-2020 SCALE: NTS

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Photo 1: Easterly view of Belding Brook at subject site



Photo 2: Westerly view of Belding Brook at subject site



Photo 3: Eroding bank; first bend from culverts; facing northwesterly



*Photo 4*: Eroding bank (northerly) at second bend downstream of culverts; facing northwesterly



Photo 5: Section upstream of first bend; facing easterly



*Photo 6*: Recent accelerated erosion of bank; note wetland flag fallen at water's edge; facing southwesterly



Photo 7: Downstream limit of December 2020 wetland delineations; facing westerly



Photo 8: Upstream limits of December 2020 wetland delineations; facing westerly

West Road, Stream Erosion Mitigation, Ellington, CT Photos taken in October and December 2020, by REMA Ecological Services, LLC



*Photo 9*: Bank erosion at first bend downstream of culverts; December 2020; facing southeasterly



Photo 10: Twin corrugated metal pipes; facing southeasterly

West Road, Stream Erosion Mitigation, Ellington, CT Photos taken in October and December 2020, by REMA Ecological Services, LLC



Photo 11: Aerial view of subject area; November 2020

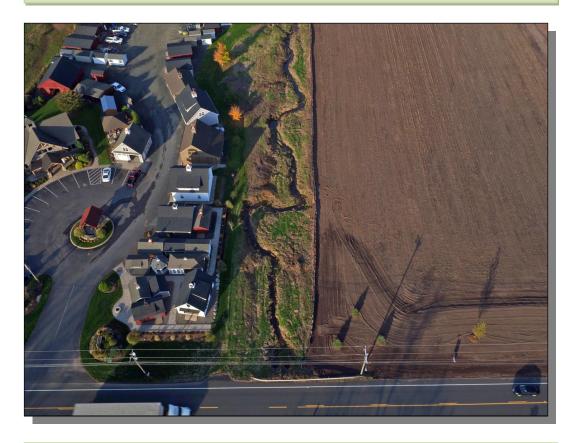
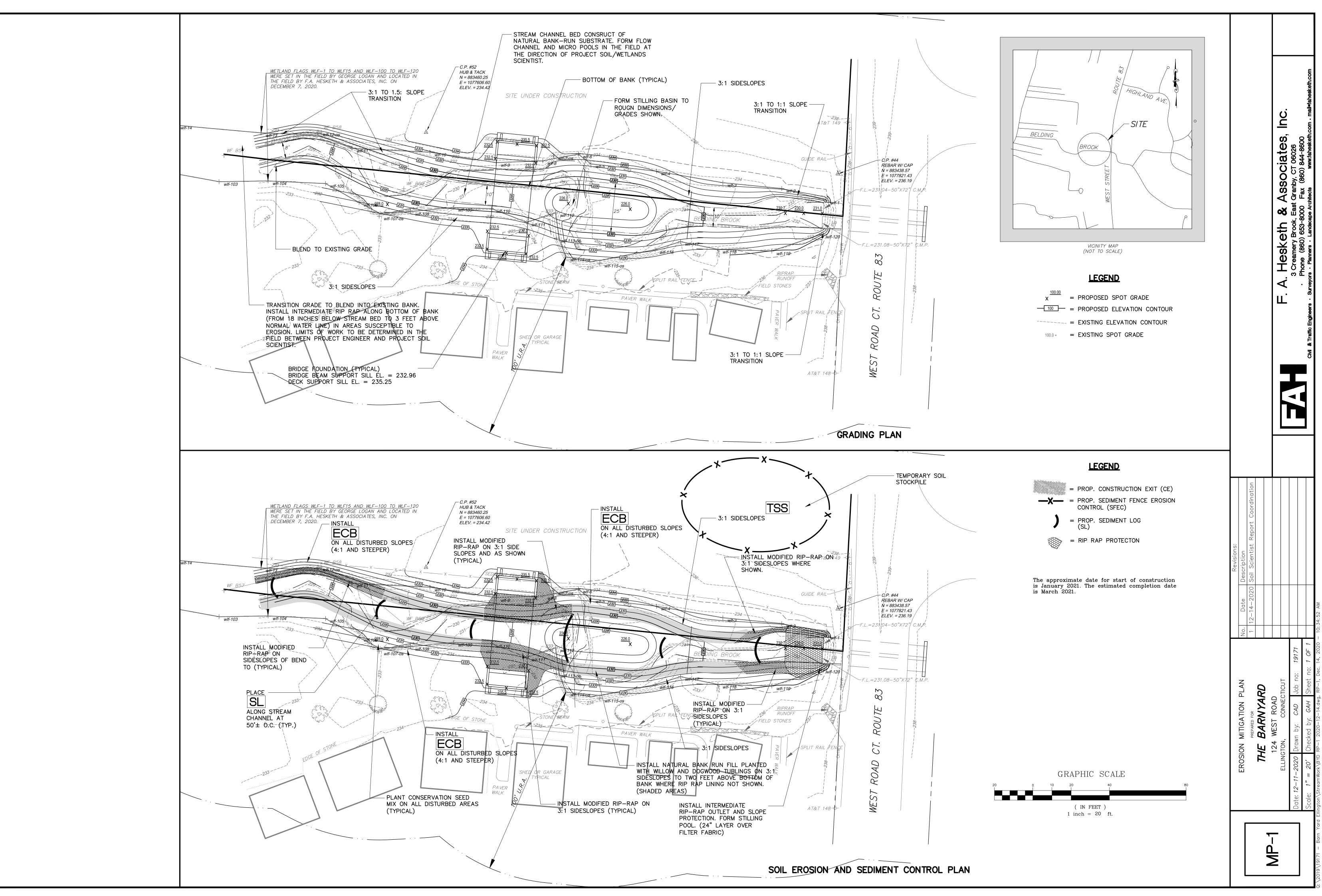
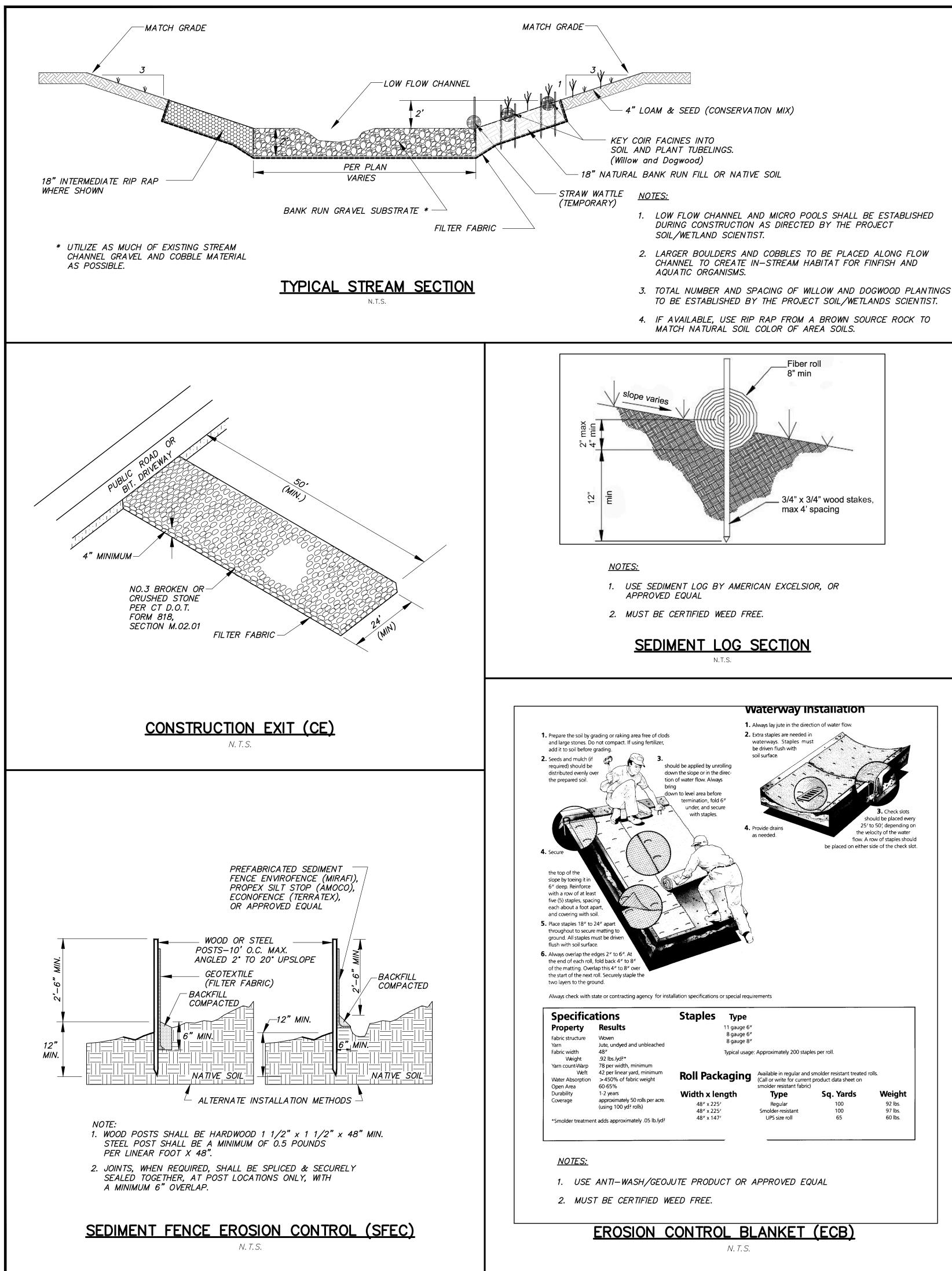


Photo 12: Aerial view (oblique) of subject area; November 2020, facing westerly





## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

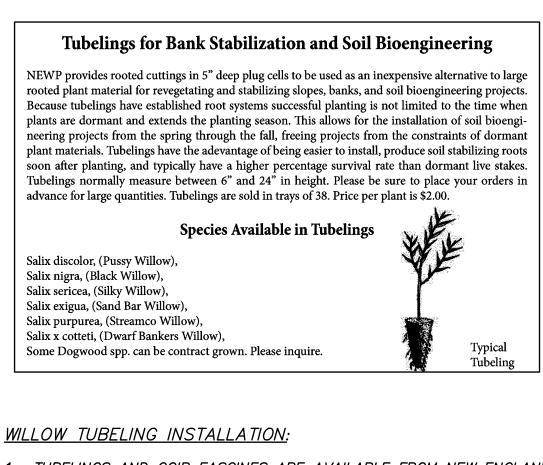
The BarnYard is proposing to remediate a significant erosion problem that is occurring in the watercourse located at the northern perimeter of its operations yard. The proposal includes re-shaping the watercourse to its approximate alignment noted on historical photos dating back to the 1960s and to rectify significant erosion of its banks, and better control deposition of eroded sediments downstream. The remediation will stabilize the watercourse and prevent further collapse of banks which are a potential impact to the Barn Yard's operations to the south. It will also allow a stable base for installation of a foundation for a pedestrian bridge structure that will connect the adjacent parcels.

The project will include excavation and filling to restore the alignment as well as reconstruction of the channel bed with bank-run material and stabilizing rip rap and vegetative planting controls on its lower banks. The upper banks will be stabilized with vegetation.

## **CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE:**

In general, the overall project will follow the sequence below:

- 1. Contact "call before you dig" at 1-800-922-4455 at least 48 hours prior to the start of construction to have existing utilities marked.
- 2. Attend a pre-construction meeting with the Owner, Project Engineer, and Town of Ellington staff.
- 3. Conduct work in low-flow conditions, only when long term forecasts indicate no precipitation is in the foreseeable future.
- 4. Access site from existing drive and construction exit on north parcel, presently under construction.
- 5. Strip topsoil in impact area. Stockpile for re-use. Ring with SFEC.
- 6. Rough grade channel. Stockpile excess fill. Ring with SFEC.
- 7. Construct rip rap erosion protection at twin culvert outfall and along bottom of sideslopes, as shown. Install over filter fabric.
- 8. Construct bank run stream bottom. Install over filter fabric. Construct lower stream bank and vegetative stabilization (willow and dogwood tublings) in areas not to receive rip rap.
- 9. Construct foundations for bridge structure. Construct bridge structure.
- 10. Finish grade and install topsoil on upper banks. Transition into existing grades. Seed and install erosion control fabric.
- 11. Construct low-flow channel in stream channel bed. Construct micro pools and place boulders and large cobbles to create in-stream habitat.
- 12. Remove erosion controls after disturbed areas are seeded and mulched and vegetation is well established.
- 13. The approximate date for start of construction is January 2020. The estimated completion date is March 2021.



- 1. TUBELINGS AND COIR FASCINES ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. (413) 584-8000.
- 1.1. UTILIZE PUSSY WILLOW (SALIX DISCOLOR) OR SILKY WILLOW (SALIX SERICEA).
- COIR FASCINES ARE 12" DIAMETER COIR FIBER LOGS (12" DIA. X 1.2. 10' LONG)
- 2. INSTALL COIR FASCINES. SECURE IN PLACE WITH 30"-LONG OAK STAKES AT 1-FOOT ON CENTER, BOTH UP-GRADIENT AND DOWN-GRADIENT OF FASCINE.
- 3. BACKFILL AREA BETWEEN FASCINES AND BETWEEN FASCINES AND RIP RAP WITH BANK RUN MATERIAL SIMILAR IN GRADATION OF EXISTING, NATURAL BANK MATERIAL
- 4. INSTALL WILLOW TUBELINGS AT INTERVALS RECOOMENDED BY THE PROJECT WETLAND/SOIL SCIENTIST.
- 4.1. INSTALL TUBELING WITHIN FASCINE AS SHOWN. 4.2. INSTALL TUBELINGS IN GRANULAR BANK MATERIAL BETWEEN FASCINES, AS SHOWN.

New England Conservation / Wildlife Mix

By: New England Wetland Plants, Inc. or approved equal

Seed rate: 25 pounds per Acre

Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparius), Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), Deertongue (Panicum clandestinum), Fowl Bluegrass (Poa palustris), Canada Wild-rye (Elymus canadensis), Pennsylvania Smartweed (Polygonum pensylvanicum), Partridge Pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata), Annual Sunflower (Helianthus annuus), Showt Tick-trefoil (Desmoodium canadense), Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), New York Aster (Aster novi-belgii), Nodding Bur-marigold (Bidens cernua)

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL NOTES

- 1. Disturbance of soil surfaces is regulated by State Law. All work shall comply with an approved "Erosion and Sediment Control Plan" to prevent or minimize soil erosion.
- 2. The installation and maintenance of erosion control devices is the responsibility of the land owner, developer, and the excavation contractor. Town officials shall be notified in writing of the name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for this work (including any changes) at the required pre-construction conference.
- 3. The contractor shall use the "Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" (2002), as amended as a guide in constructing the erosion and sediment controls indicated on these plans. The guidelines may be obtained from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection store, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127.
- 4. The contractor shall schedule operations to limit disturbance to the smallest practical area for the shortest possible time. Overall site disturbance shall be confined to those limits delineated on the plans.
- 5. The contractor is responsible for the timely installation, inspection, repair or replacement of erosion control devices to insure proper operation.
- 6. The contractor shall notify the design engineer of unsatisfactory erosion conditions not controlled by the erosion and sediment control plan and shall install additional measures as required.
- 7. All disturbed areas not covered by buildings, pavement, mulch or ground cover plantings shall be planted with grass per the landscape plan.
- 8. Accumulated sediment removed from erosion control devices is to be spread and stabilized in level, erosion resistant locations as general fill.
- 9. The contractor shall be responsible for cleaning any construction debris or sediment from existing roads as ordered by the Town and/or State, if any debris or sediment from construction activities enter onto these roadways.
- 10. Limit work within wetland regulated areas to the least disturbance necessary for construction. Restore disturbed areas as closely as possible to their original natural state.
- 11. Additional dust control measures as specified in D.O.T. 817 Section 9.39, Section 9.42 and Section 9.43 shall be furnished by the contractor as site conditions warrant or as directed by Town or State officials.
- 12. The contractor is responsible for cleaning and removal of sediment and/or debris from the storm drainage system throughout the duration of the project (i.e. sumps, plunge pools, level spreaders, etc.)
- 13. The erosion and sedimentation control measures shown on the plans are the minimum requirements for the work. Specific erosion control plans shall be developed by the Contractor for each phase of the work and shall be modified as construction conditions warrant. These phased plans shall be submitted to the Engineer and to Town staff for review and approval.

## **EROSION CONTROL DEVICES:**

Refer to the "Connecticut Guidelines For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control - 2002" (see Erosion and Sediment Control Note 3) when constructing erosion control devices shown on this plan.

CE - CONSTRUCTION EXIT: a broken stone pad providing a hard surface points where vehicles will leave the site. The construction exits reduce tracking of sediment into adjacent pavement. Excess sediment should be periodically removed from the stone surface.

ECB – EROSION CONTROL BLANKET: A manufactured blanket composed of biodegradable/photo-degradable natural or polymer fibers and/or filaments that have been mechanically, structurally or chemically bound together to form a continuous matrix.

RR - RIP RAP: crushed angular stone meeting gradations of CT DOT Form 817 Section M12. Used to absorb the energy of flowing water and reduce flow velocities to prevent erosion of the channel.

RRPP - RIP RAP PLUNGE POOL: a rip rap lined apron installed at a zero percent grade to absorb the initial impact of stormwater discharge from the storm drainage system and further reduce flow velocities to prevent erosion downstream. RRPP is designed per the "Connecticut Department of Transportation, Drainage Manual - 2000"

SFEC - SEDIMENT FENCE EROSION CHECK: a synthetic textile barrier designed to filter sediment from surface water runoff. Placement shall be similar to HBEC and installation requires anchoring the fence bottom to prevent bypass. All sediment shall be removed if deposits reach one (1) foot in depth. Additional support (such as snow fence or wire fence) on the downhill face may be required to strengthen sediment fence in high flow locations.

SL - SEDIMENT LOGS: A sediment control device consisting of an outside, open weave containment fabric filled with fibers. It is designed to provide a flexible, lightweight, porous, sediment control device with the ability to conform to the terrain upon which it is installed. It is designed to dissipate velocity of flow and filter and trap sediments up-gradient and within the device. (Also known as coir fiber logs.)

				F. A. Heskein & Associates, Inc.	3 Creamery Brook, East Granby, CT 06026	· Phone (860) 653-8000 Fax (860) 844-8600		
No. Date Description	1 12-14-2020 Soil Scientist Report Coordination							10-20-18 AM
EROSION MITIGATION DETAILS AND NOTES	PREPARED FOR	THE BARNYARD	WEST	ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT	Date 12-10-2020 Drawn by CAD Job no. 19171		Scale: 1" = 20' Checked by: GAH Sheet no: 1 OF 1	0./ 2010/10171 - Barn Vard Ellinaton/StreamWork/BVD BD-1 2020-12-14 dwa SD-1 Dec 14 2020 - 10:20:18 AM
			טכיו					1. \ 2010 \ 10171 _ Barn Vard Fillin

From:	Dana Steele
То:	John Colonese; Lisa Houlihan
Cc:	Barbra Galovich
Subject:	IW202001 - Skinner Properties LLC & 83 North Properties LLC, Belding Brook restoration, 120 West Road
Date:	Tuesday, January 05, 2021 5:03:53 PM
Attachments:	image003.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

John,

I've reviewed the Maintenance/Restoration of Bedding Brook by REMA Ecological Services, LLC dated 12/11/20 and the Erosion Mitigation Plan prepare by FA Hesketh & Associates revised 12/14/20. The improvements appear to be appropriate and should help to stabilize and improve the resource area. I have no objections to the proposal.

Dana P. Steele, P.E. Ellington Town Engineer



J.R. RUSSO & ASSOCIATES, LLC P.O. Box 938, 1 Shoham Road East Windsor, CT 06088 (CT) 860.623.0569 (MA) 413.785.1158 dsteele@jrrusso.com | www.jrrusso.com



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187 ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187 www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

## INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 14, 2020 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM MEETING

- **PRESENT:** Chairman Ken Braga and Katherine Heminway; Present via ZOOM meeting: Vice Chairman Ron Brown, Art Aube, Hocine Baouche, Steve Hoffman and Alternate Francis Hann
- **ABSENT:** Jean Burns

## STAFF

- **PRESENT:** John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer; Present via ZOOM meeting: Barbra Galovich, Land Use Assistant/Recording Clerk
- I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ken Braga called the Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None
- III. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None
- IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

## V. NEW BUSINESS:

 IW202010 – Oakridge Dairy, Owner/ Rev LNG, LLC applicant, request for acceptance of uses permitted as of right to install a gas line associated with the installation of a manure digester for Oakridge Dairy at 11 Jobs Hill Road & 161 Maple Street.

Seth Bahler and David Moser, Oakridge Dairy, 76 Jobs Hill Road, Karl Czymmek (Consultant), Sean Gleason and Jim Burdett, Rev LNG, LLC, 20 Assembly Drive, Suite 103, Mendon, NY 14505, and Suzanne Choate, Design Professionals, 21 Jeffrey Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074, were present to represent the application.

Chairman Braga stated the Agency was in receipt of comments from the Army Corps of Engineers dated November 19, 2020 and comments from the Ellington Town Engineer dated December 11, 2020. Mr. Burdett said the application is for an agricultural project to process manure produced by cows at the dairy farm to produce and capture renewable natural gas. Mr. Gleason explained that 100% of the manure will be from Oakridge Dairy

Inland Wetlands Agency Minutes December 14, 2020 Page 1 of 3 and there will not be any additional manure imported or additional nutrients added to the digester system from off-site sources.

Vice Chairman Brown asked what impact the proposed manure digester will have on the environment. Mr. Gleason stated they are planning to be in total compliance with all state requirements to operate the digester system and will be submitting an application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for an air quality permit to proceed with the project. Mr. Bahler added that the digester will have many environmental benefits such as reducing odor, reducing the release of methane gas into the atmosphere, and producing a renewable gas.

Vice Chairman Brown asked how the proposed project would minimize the current odor that comes from the site. Mr. Czymmek explained the process by which anaerobic digestion will reduce the odor when biogas is harvested from the manure. Mr. Gleason added that another benefit to the project is the digestion process which kills some of the pathogens in the manure, therefore, since the bedding material for the cows is sourced from the solids in the manure it will lead to better cow health.

Chairman Braga asked how the manure will get to the digester and then to the long term storage area. Mr. Gleason explained the proposed digester will intercept the manure as from where it is currently piped from the existing barn, and after digestion the manure will be directed to the long term storage area.

Vice Chairman Brown inquired about the history of the proposed technology. Mr. Gleason explained the technology that they are deploying has been proven in Europe and North America, and there has never been a digester based failure.

Chairman Braga asked about the Town Engineer's comments, suggesting the following possible conditions of approval should a permit be required: 1) erosion controls following CT Guidelines, and 2) drainage narrative demonstrating no adverse impact. Ms. Choate said they plan to comply with the comments provided by the Town Engineer.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the gas line would be within the wetlands. Ms. Choate noted the line will be installed within the upland review area, not the wetlands. Mr. Burdett explained the gas transfer line will be owned and operated by the local utility. He believes the pipe will be between 2" to 4" in diameter and will be trenched down at least 40 inches deep meeting the installation specifications. He expects the soils that are removed for the gas line will be kept on site and replaced after the line is installed. He added that Eversource may extend the line along the road from Maple Street to Jobs Hill Road making it accessible to the site, but that possibility is still being discussed.

Commissioner Hoffman asked how the product will be removed from the site. Mr. Gleason stated the gas will be removed either by pipeline or by tanker truck. Mr. Hoffman asked if there are any other byproducts from the process that could be damaging to the wetlands. Mr. Gleason said no and added that byproduct contaminants from the gas are filtered out and taken off-site when the filter is changed and carbon dioxide is burnt off.

Inland Wetlands Agency Minutes December 14, 2020 Page 2 of 3 **MOVED (HEMINWAY) SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT IW202010** – Oakridge Dairy, Owner/ Rev LNG, LLC applicant, request for acceptance of uses permitted as of right to install a gas line associated with the installation of a manure digester for Oakridge Dairy at 11 Jobs Hill Road, APN 072-002-0000 & 161 Maple Street, APN 072-004-0000.

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

# MOVED (HEMINWAY) SECONDED (BAOUCHE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

- 2. Correspondence/Discussion:
  - a. Discussion on future barn to rear of existing barn at Oakridge Dairy, 11 Jobs Hill Road.

Seth Bahler, David Moser, and Suzanne Choate were present to explain the future proposal. Mr. Bahler stated they are looking to construct an approximately 115' x 895' barn with access drive and a hallway building attaching the proposed barn to the existing barn so additional cows can access the milking parlor. The activity will have a direct impact to the wetlands. Mr. Braga suggested they propose creating wetlands in order to mitigate the loss of the wetlands being filled. Ms. Choate noted they will be hiring a soil scientist to provide a report at time of application. Commission Hoffman asked about the importance of the barn location to the overall operation. Mr. Moser stated these cows will be milked and therefore it is important that they are close to the milking parlor. Mr. Colonese noted that based on how the Agency members have commented, an application for a wetlands permit will be required for the activity and suggested they also contact the Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the CT Department of Agriculture.

b. Trails Committee - Completion of Batz Observation Platform

Chairman Braga complimented the Trails Committee on a great job building the observation platform.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HEMINWAY) SECONDED (BRAGA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY AT 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk