WORCESTER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA Thursday, August 1, 2024

Worcester County Government Center, Room 1102 One West Market St. Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

I. <u>Call to Order</u> (1:00 p.m.)

II. Administrative Matters

- A. Planning Commission Minutes July 3, 2024
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda August 8, 2024
- C. Technical Review Committee Agenda August 14, 2024

III. Map Amendment

Rezoning Case No. 445 - rezone approximately 18.54 acres out of 80.95 acres of land from RP Resource Protection District to A-1 Agricultural District, Tax Map 23, Parcel 2, Purnell Crossing Road, Berlin; Thomas C. and Shelley M. Mason, property owners and Kristina L. Watkowski, attorney;

IV. <u>Miscellaneous</u>

V. Adjournment

Meeting Date: July 3, 2024

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Worcester County Government Office Building, Room 1102

Attendance:

Planning Commission Staff

Jerry Barbierri, Chair Jennifer Keener, Director, DRP Phyllis Wimbrow, Vice Chair Matt Laick, Deputy Director, DRP

Marlene Ott Kristen Tremblay, Zoning Administrator

Ken Church Bob Mitchell, Director, Environmental Programs

Kathy Drew Betty Smith

I. Call to Order

II. Administrative Matters

A. Review and approval of minutes, May 9, 2024 Worksession

As the first item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 9, 2024, worksession.

Following the review, a motion was made by Ms. Ott to approve the minutes as written, Ms. Wimbrow seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

B. Review and approval of minutes, June 6, 2024

As the next item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 6, 2024, meeting.

Following the review, a motion was made by Ms. Wimbrow to approve the minutes as written, Ms. Drew seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously with Mr. Barbierri abstaining from the vote.

C. Review and approval of minutes, June 13, 2024

As the next item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 13, 2024, meeting.

Following the review, a motion was made by Ms. Smith to approve the minutes as written, Ms. Ott seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Board of Zoning Appeals Agendas, July 11, 2024

As the next item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed the agenda for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. Ms. Tremblay was present for the review to answer questions and address concerns of the Planning Commission.

No comments were forwarded to the Board.

E. Technical Review Committee Agenda, July 10, 2024

As the next item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed the agenda for the Technical Review Committee meeting. Ms. Tremblay was present for the review to answer questions and address any concerns of the Planning Commission.

No comments were forwarded to the Committee.

III. Site Plan Review

Sea Oaks Commercial Buildings 1&2 - Landscape Irrigation Waiver Request

As the next item of business, the Planning Commission reviewed a request to waive the landscape irrigation requirement for an existing commercial development consisting of a 12,000 square foot and 11,480 square foot retail and contractor shops, located at 12472 and 12475 Sea Oaks Lane, on the Westerly side of MD Route 611 (Stephen Decatur Highway), north of Sinepuxent Road, Tax Map 26, Parcel 473 Lots A & B, Tax District 10.

Mr. Steven Murphy was present to introduce the waiver request. He indicated that Scott Baker, a landscaper out of Snow Hill is bonded and has been watering the native species installed from a hose located at each building. Additionally, a landscape bond has been provided to the County including an installation and maintenance agreement filed with the Clerk of Court in perpetuity.

On a motion made by Mr. Church and seconded by Ms. Ott, the Planning Commission approved the irrigation requirement waiver as requested, and the motion was carried unanimously.

IV. <u>Text Amendment – Amending the provisions for detached accessory buildings and off-</u> <u>street parking in campground subdivisions</u>

Ms. Tracey Barnhart, applicant, Mr. Joe Barnhart, and Mr. Phil Wood were present for the review. Ms. Barnhart testified that residents want to enjoy their space in the shade. Submitted as Applicant's Exhibit No. 1 were photographs of existing canopies in White Horse Park. Ms. Barnhart stated that the reason that the canopies are in place is because they did not know that

they were considered buildings requiring a permit. She admitted that they also didn't ask whether they were allowed.

Mr. Wood testified that his wife had breast cancer, and she was not allowed in the sun during her chemotherapy treatments. He had requested that hard top canopies be included in the amendment because the canvas was too hard for some residents to manage. Part of the amendment was to eliminate the six-foot separation between buildings, as it is impossible to fit accessory buildings on the lots. The applicants noted that there was nothing that would impede emergency access, fire or ambulance for ingress or egress. Mr. Barbierri provided historical context on the fire code as he was working for the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office at the time.

Ms. Ott was concerned about the elimination of one (1) parking space. Ms. Barnhart stated that there are off-site fields on nearly every street in White Horse Park where parking could be accommodated. Mr. Barnhart said that the amendment will not work for everyone, but they are trying to legally permit as many as possible. He stated that residents cannot park on the street or White Horse Park will make them move their vehicle.

Mrs. Wimbrow noted that the current zoning code dates to 2009, not the 1980's as alleged. As the former Deputy Director for the Department of Development, Review, and Permitting when the code was adopted, she stated that the purpose of zoning is to protect the health and safety of the residents. As buildings are added to a property, you take away from that. Therefore, Mrs. Wimbrow did not support this amendment.

Mr. Church said that there is merit in what they have to say, and that the photographs provided in Exhibit No. 1 are probably the good pictures. He acknowledged that there are also likely a handful of bad pictures that could be taken. However, he respectfully disagrees with Mrs. Wimbrow, and supports the amendment, though it would need some policing. Ms. Barnhart stated that White Horse Park would enforce the rules if it does pass.

Mr. Barbierri stated that in his role as the former Fire Marshal, he was in these parks measuring distances, and found so many violations due to fire spread concerns. Owners had to move buildings, even remove porches. When buildings couldn't be moved, his office had them put up cinder block fire walls. He stated that manufactured homes are great, but that they are not built to the same standards as a stick-built dwelling. With more clutter comes greater potential for danger. He noted that he would be ok with increasing the existing building size from 8' by 10' to 12' by 12', however he could not support a reduction to the separation distance due to fire spread concerns. Mr. Barbierri said that his stance is in support of life safety and finds that paramount.

Ms. Barnhart said that emergency responders can go straight through open canopies and gazebos. Mr. Barbierri explained that he had just come from a fire call on south end of the county that occurred in the middle of the afternoon, when people were present. Fire spreads quickly, and a delay is seconds taken away from a potential rescue. The Barnhart's said that their canopy is fire resistant, and while they are semi-temporary buildings, they are asking for permanency. Upon a question to clarify a setback versus a separation distance, staff explained the difference between the two.

Ms. Ott was concerned that most of these buildings could become weaponized in a storm. The Barnhart's said that was their concern as well with the temporary pop-up canopies, as they have had it blow away, even with weights. Ms. Drew inquired about whether the sites in Exhibit No. 1 retained the two (2) required parking spaces, and the applicant confirmed that they were. No action was taken on a request by Ms. Barnhart to consider a modification to the separation distance to three (3) feet.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Wimbrow to provide an unfavorable recommendation on the text amendment. Ms. Ott seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4 to 2 with Mr. Church and Ms. Drew opposed.

V. Adjourn

On a motion made by Ms. Ott and seconded by Mr. Church, the Planning Commission
adjourned.
Mary Knight, Secretary
Kristen M. Tremblay, AICP, Zoning Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS AGENDA

THURSDAY AUGUST 8, 2024

Pursuant to the provisions of the Worcester County Zoning Ordinance, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in-person before the Board of Zoning Appeals for Worcester County, in the Board Room (Room 1102) on the first floor of the Worcester County Government Center, One West Market Street, Snow Hill, Maryland.

6:30 p.m.

Case No. 24-49, on the lands of Greg Haltom, on the application of Paradise Energy Solutions, requesting an after-the-fact variance to the left side yard setback from 20 feet to 17.14 feet (encroaches 2.86 feet at furthest point) for an existing ground mounted solar array in the A-1 Agricultural District, pursuant to Zoning Code §§ ZS 1-116(c)(4), ZS 1-201(b)(5), ZS 1-305 and ZS 1-349, located at 3633 Payne Road, Tax Map 101, Parcel 47, Tax District 1, Worcester County, Maryland.

6:35 p.m.

Case No. 24-50, on the lands of Farmer's Bank of Willards, on the application of Jamie Covington, requesting a special exception to construct a freestanding, non-monument sign in the C-2 General Commercial District, pursuant to Zoning Code §§ ZS 1-116(c)(3), ZS 1-210(d)(3) and ZS 1-324(c)(4)B.4, located at 9701 Stephen Decatur Highway, Tax Map 26, Parcel 203, Lot 22A, Tax District 10, Worcester County, Maryland.

6:40 p.m.

Case No. 24-51, on the lands of Berlin Fire Company, on the application of Jamie Covington, requesting a special exception to construct a freestanding, non-monument sign in the C-2 General Commercial District, pursuant to Zoning Code §§ ZS 1-116(c)(3), ZS 1-210(d)(3) and ZS 1-324(c)(4)B.4, located at 10837 Ocean Gateway, Tax Map 20, Parcel 122, Tax District 3, Worcester County, Maryland.

6:45 p.m.

Case No. 24-48, on the lands of Box 64 B Selbyville, LLC, on the application of Kristina Watkowski, requesting a variance to the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area regulations to exceed the allowable 100 foot tidal wetland crossing by 135 for a proposed 3 foot by 235 foot walkway over tidal wetlands, pursuant to Natural Resources Code §§ NR3-125(b)(1), Zoning Code §§ ZS 1-116(m)(1) and ZS 1-305(p)(3), located on Jarvis Road, about .43 miles north of Collins Road, Tax Map 9, Parcel 287, Lot 4, Tax District 5, Worcester County, Maryland.

6:50 p.m.

Case No. 24-52, on the lands of Murphy Family Revocable Trust, on the application of Hugh Cropper, IV, requesting a modification to extend a waterfront structure in excess of 125 feet by 17.7 feet for an existing pier and platform extending a total of 142.7 feet channelward, pursuant to Natural Resources Code §§ NR 2-102(e)(1), Zoning Code §§ ZS 1-116(n)(2), located at 11524 Bay Point Lane, Tax Map 50, Parcel 2, Lot 2A, Tax District 10, Worcester County, Maryland.

Administrative Matters

WORCESTER COUNTY TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Worcester County Government Center, Room 1102, One West Market Street,
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

I. Call to Order

II. Site Plan Review (§ ZS 1-325)

A. Manklin Meadows Commercial Buildings – Major Site Plan Review

Proposed construction of two (2), two-story commercial storage buildings with residential use on the second floor on two (2) existing building pads. The first building (pad #3) is 5,429 square feet consisting of first-floor commercial storage area and four (4) second-floor apartments. The second building (pad #4) is 5,400 square feet consisting of first-floor commercial storage and four (4) second-floor apartments. Located at 11006 and 11008 Manklin Meadows Lane, Tax Map 21, Parcel 266, Tax District 03, C-2 General Commercial District, Talbott Corporation, owner, Davis Bowen and Friedel, Inc. architect.

B. The Farm – Fritz Eisenbrandt – Minor Site Plan Review

Proposed accessory use of principle agricultural structure or use of land for the commercial hosting of non-agricultural functions and events in the A-1 Agricultural District. Located at 11930 Ocean Gateway, Tax Map 26, Parcel 260, Tax District 10, A-1 Agricultural District, Frederick Eisenbrandt, owner, Frank Lynch Jr., Surveyor.

C. Adjourn

WORCESTER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Thursday August 8, 2024

Worcester County Government Center, Room 1102, One West Market St. Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

- **I.** <u>Call to Order</u> (1:00 p.m.)
- II. Comprehensive Plan Update

Review of Draft Goals and Objectives.

III. Adjournment

STAFF REPORT

REZONING CASE NO. 445

PROPERTY OWNER: Thomas Christopher Mason and Shelley M. Mason

10610 Siren Lane Berlin, MD 21811

ATTORNEY: Kristina Watkowski and Hugh Cropper, IV

9927 Stephen Decatur Highway, F-12

Ocean City, Maryland 21842

TAX MAP/PARCEL INFO: Tax Map 23, Parcel 2, Tax District 3

SIZE: The petitioned area consists of 18.54 acres out of an approximately 80.95-acre parcel.

LOCATION: Northerly side of Purnell Crossing Road, Berlin, approximately 0.35 Miles east of Bishop Lane Road.

CURRENT USE OF PETITIONED AREA: The petitioned area is currently an unimproved, wooded parcel. It was the subject of a Timber Harvest permit in 1997. There is a gravesite located on the subject parcel as outlined on the attached Burial Site Data Form prepared by James Trader. A three-lot minor subdivision application is currently under review.

CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: RP Resource Protection District.

As defined in the Zoning Code, the intent of this district is to preserve the environmentally significant areas of the County and to protect its natural resources in all areas. The district includes those areas of the County which pose constraints for development or where development could have a substantially adverse environmental effect. This district serves to maintain the environmental functionality of the landscape by avoiding or minimizing disturbance of sensitive areas which generally include tidal and nontidal wetlands, state-owned natural areas, selected riparian corridors, conservation areas, and muck and alluvial soils. Development potential within this district is severely limited; however, some minor development may be carried out, provided it is done in a manner sufficiently sensitive to the existing natural environment and visual character of the site.

REQUESTED ZONING CLASSIFICATION: A-1 Agricultural District.

As defined in the Zoning Code, the intent of this district is to preserve, encourage and protect the County's farms and forestry operations and their economic productivity and to ensure that agricultural and forestry enterprises will continue to have the necessary flexibility to adjust their production as economic conditions change. The Code also states, in part, that this district is also intended to protect the land base resources for the County's agricultural and forestry industries from the disruptive effects of major subdivision or nonagricultural commercialization.

APPLICANT'S BASIS FOR REZONING: The application indicates that a mistake was made in zoning the petitioned area RP Resource Protection District on November 3, 2009.

ZONING HISTORY: At the time zoning was first established in 1964, the petitioned area was given an A-1 Agricultural District classification, which was retained in the subsequent 1978 and 1992 comprehensive rezonings. In 2009, the property was included in the RP Resource Protection District.

SURROUNDING ZONING: Adjoining properties to the east, west and south are zoned A-1 Agricultural District. Properties to the north are zoned RP Resource Protection District.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the County Commissioners on March 7, 2006, and is intended to be a general guide for future development in the County. Whether a proposed rezoning is compatible with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan is one of the criteria that is considered in all rezoning requests, as listed in § ZS 1-113(c)(3) and as summarized at the end of this Staff Report.

According to Chapter 2 – Land Use of the Comprehensive Plan and associated land use map, the petitioned area lies within the Agricultural Land Use Category. A small portion of the parcel (not within the petitioned area) is located within the Green Infrastructure Land Use Category where it borders Franklin Swamp. Regarding the Agricultural Land Use Category, the Comprehensive Plan states the following:

"The importance of agriculture to the county cannot be overstated. Its significance is economic, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic. Agriculture is simply the bedrock of the county's way of life. The county must do all it can do to preserve farming as a viable industry. This category is reserved for farming, forestry and related industries with minimal residential and other incompatible uses permitted. Large contiguous areas of productive farms and forest shall be maintained for agricultural uses... Residential and other conflicting land uses although permitted are discouraged." (Page 18)

Pertinent objectives cited in Chapter 2 – Land Use state the following:

- 2. Continue the dominance of agriculture and forestry uses throughout the county's less developed regions.
- 3. Maintain the character of the county's existing population centers.
- 4. Provide for appropriate residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses.
- 5. Locate new development in or near existing population centers and within planned growth centers.
- 6. Infill existing population centers without overwhelming their existing character.

- 8. Regulate development to minimize consumption of land, while continuing the county's rural and coastal character.
- 9. Minimize conflicts among land uses due to noise, smoke, dust, odors, lighting, and heavy traffic.
- 11. Set high environmental standards for new development, especially in designated growth areas.
- 12. Develop green infrastructure system.
- 19. Limit rural development to uses compatible with agriculture and forestry.
- 20. Direct new development in growth areas to planned communities.

(Pages 12, 13)

In Chapter 3, Natural Resources, the Plan states that "Worcester County's natural resources are valued for quality of life, environmental, economic, public health, and aesthetic reasons. The tourism, forestry, and agriculture industries rely on natural resources. These industries are the county's economic backbone. Natural resources provide valuable services such as flood protection, pollution assimilation, water quality, and clean air that benefit public health and safety as well as the Coastal and Chesapeake Bays' productivity."

"Forests are a good example of a natural resource's direct and indirect benefits to the county. The forestry industry contributes jobs and income to the economy. The county's aesthetic appeal relies heavily on our forested and field cropped landscape. Trees have documented economic value. Trees cycle nutrients, conserve water, and improve soil quality" (Pages 31-32).

Pertinent objectives include the following:

- 1. Use a systems approach to environmental planning addressing pollution at or close to its source and use sustainable development techniques.
- 2. Instill environmental stewardship as a universal ethic.
- 3. Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- 4. Restore and/or enhance natural resource functions where possible.
- 5. Reduce imperviousness of existing and new development.
- 8. Conserve resources by reducing unnecessary consumption.
- 9. Channel development within a particular site to any existing disturbed areas if possible.
- 10. Establish sufficient buffers for sensitive areas.

(Page 33)

In Chapter 7 – Transportation, the Comprehensive Plan states that "[t]he county's rural road system continues to have an excellent service record. Local car and truck traffic share this system with farm machinery. On-going maintenance will remain the primary need for these roads. Due

to their configuration, rural roads within this plan's growth areas will require improvements to handle the expected additional traffic." (Page 80)

WATER AND WASTEWATER: According to the attached response memo from Mr. Mitchell, the subject property has a designation of a Sewer and Water Service Category of S-6/W-6 (no planned service) in the Master Water and Sewerage Plan. Mr. Mitchell's records indicate that the petitioned area recently underwent a seasonal soils evaluation, and five sewage reserve areas have been identified on the survey provided with the application. The approved areas are sufficient to support residential use.

The primary soil types on the petitioned area according to the Worcester County Soil Survey are AsA – Askecksy loamy sand and KsA – Klej loamy sand. As illustrated on the attached soil map, the westerly portion of the petitioned area is poorly drained with hydric soils, while the easterly portion of the petitioned area is moderately well drained.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Fire and ambulance service will be available from the Berlin Volunteer Fire Company approximately 6.2 miles from the subject property. No comments were received from the fire company regarding this review. Police protection will be available from the Maryland State Police Barracks in Berlin, approximately 7.5 miles away, and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office in Snow Hill, approximately 14 miles away. No comments were received from the Maryland State Police Barracks or from the Sheriff's Office.

ROADWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION: The petitioned area fronts on Purnell Crossing Road, a County-owned and -maintained road. It is located approximately 0.5 miles west of Libertytown Road (MD Route 374). No comments were received from the County Roads Division of the Department of Public Works. The Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration commented that the proposed rezoning there will not have a negative impact on the surrounding state roadway network.

SCHOOLS: The petitioned area is within Zone 3 of the Worcester County Public School Zones and is served by the following schools: Buckingham Elementary School, Berlin Intermediate School, and Stephen Decatur Middle and High Schools. No comments were received from the Worcester County Board of Education (WCBOE).

CHESAPEAKE/ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS CRITICAL AREAS: Mr. Mitchell also notes in his memorandum that the petitioned area is located outside of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area (CBCA). Any anticipated subdivision activity will be subject to the Forest Conservation Law. The Forest Conservation Plan provided illustrated 18.5 acres of clearing.

FLOOD ZONE: The FIRM map (24047C0150H, effective July 16, 2015) indicates that the petitioned area of the property is located outside of the floodplain in Zone X (Area of Minimal Flood Hazard), with the northerly portion located in flood zone A.

PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS: The petitioned area is not within a designated Priority Funding Area (PFA). The closest PFA is Libertytown approximately 0.5 miles east.

INCORPORATED TOWNS: This property is approximately 4 miles from the Town of Berlin.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS RECEIVED: The following agencies submitted responses with no comment (attached):

- Email from Will Dyer, DNR.
- Email from Chris Clasing, P.E., Department of Public Works.
- Email from Matt Owens, Fire Marshal and Director of Emergency Services.
- Email from Lt. Earl Starner, Maryland State Police.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MUST MAKE FINDINGS OF FACT IN EACH SPECIFIC CASE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- 1. What is the applicant's definition of the neighborhood in which the subject property is located? (Not applicable if request is based solely on a claim of mistake in existing zoning.)
- 2. Does the Planning Commission concur with the applicant's definition of the neighborhood? If not, how does the Planning Commission define the neighborhood?
- 3. Relating to population change.
- 4. Relating to availability of public facilities.
- 5. Relating to present and future transportation patterns.
- 6. Relating to compatibility with existing and proposed development and existing environmental conditions in the area, including having no adverse impact on waters included on the State's impaired waters list or having an established total maximum daily load requirement.
- 7. Relating to compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan.
- 8. Has there been a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood where the property is located since the last zoning of the property (November 3, 2009) or is there a mistake in the existing zoning of the property?
- 9. Would a change in zoning be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan?

GRANET

BURIAL SITE DATA FORM

(Pursuant to Section 14-121, Real Property Article, Annotated Code of Md.) 3/7/99 VISIT Effective 10/1/1994 DATE: 6/17/1998 RIVERTIDE & Tax-Property Article, Section 2-213 NAME OF SITE (Family, Church, etc.) SUSAN C. BURBAGE CEMETERY (WO-77) LOT 2 Election District 3 Tax Map No. 23 Parcel No. 2 (80 KCS) LOCATION: Road Name PURNELL CROSSING ROAD Directions to Site From JCTN, OF MO. 374 + PURNELL'S CROSSING RD. AT LIBERTY TOWN, GO N.W. ON PURNELL CHOSSING RD. 0.85 MILE (4488') TO DIRT RD. ON RIGHT (N.E.) THRU CUT OVER WOODLAND: GO N.E. ON DIRTRO. 490 TO IST DIRTRO. ON RIGHT. FOLLOW DIRTRO. S.E. 70 TO A BLAZE MARKED TREE, THEN CONTINUE S.E. 190 TO SINGLE GRAVE STONE ON N.E. LOWER PART OF THE SLOPING LAND TO THE S.W. OF THE DIRT RD. ! TREES RECENTLY HARVESTED IN AREA. (410-641-0067) PROPERTY OWNER (If known) RALPH L. MASON, JR. 210 2/841 Address P.O. BOX 100, NEWARK, MD. Grid No. /8 Md. Grid Coordinates: /285 East; 184 North DOCUMENTATION OF BURIAL SITE Deed reference FWH 224:664: FWH 90:14: CWN 10:313; JEB 17:52: ODC 11:423; BB 30:202; FHP 6:418; FHP 5:293 Subdivision Name & Plat Record 3 LOTS Will or Estate Record MERRILL D. SMITH ESTATE (ODC 11: 423 - THIS LAND-LOT 2) CGM.W0-77 Genealogical Publication CAM. RECORDS OF WOR. Co., RUTH T. DRYOEN (1988), PG. 5, PG. 30 (2) MILLARD F. HUDSON; 1979; PE. 77; 11/3/1926 INVENTORY (SEE SOILMAP14) James R. Trader PERSON PROVIDING INFORMATION Phone 410-860-2364 Address 528-B Alabama Ave., Salisbury, Md. Zip 21801-5765 COPIES TO: SITE PUN-OVER -> 1. County Dept. of Assexsments & Taxation GRAVE-DATA-OVER -2. Mr. Frank Gonce Phone: (410) 225-5765 Supervisor, Map Division 4. OWNER Md. State Dept. of Assessments PERIMINGLE GROUND COVER OVER MUCH OF THE Room 902, 301 West Preston St. HIGHER LAND TO S.W. OF GRAVE AREA. DAFFOOLLS Baltimore, Md. 21201 . ALSO FOUND HERE AND NEAR OLD HOME SITE. SEVERAL 3. Planning & Zoning Commission OLD CARS ABONDONED ON SITE. RECENT TIMBER HARVEST 4 FALLEN TREET NEAR GRAVESTONE - NO DEMAGE NOTED. 10/24/94(JRT)

SUSAN C. BURBAGE CEMETERY

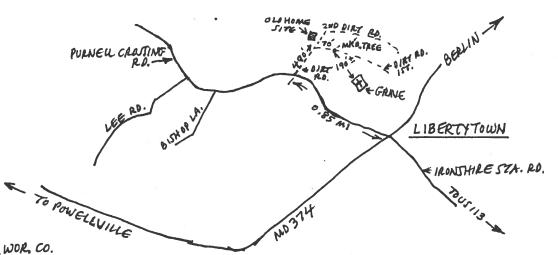
N.E. OF PURNELL CROSSING ROAD

(ON CUT OVER WOOD LAND)

N.W. OF RT. 374, LIBERTY TOWN

DIRT. ENTR.RD. 15 0.85 MILE (4488') N.W. OF RT. 374

(0157, 3, GRID 18 MAP 23 PARCEL 2) "THOMAS SMITH FARM"



SEG 1877, ATUS MAD, WOR CO. DIST. 9, WEST BERLIN RES(2) OF GEO.SMITH

NETHWOF PURNELL CROTTING RD. BAPTIST CHURCH TO WEST OF GEO. SMITH FARM

SEE SOILMAP 14)

(PERIWINGLE GROWING OVER A LARGE AREA) GRAVESTONE DATA (MARBLE STONE) (VAULT LOCATED BY PROBE) (HIS IST WIFE) b. 9/2/1843 d. 2/1/1881 SUSAN C. BURBAGE, WIFE OF EMORY H.

NOTES

- 1. JOHN HASTINGS + EUZABETH SELBY 4/27/1841 WOR. CO. MARR. LICENSE a. DAV. SUSAN C., MARR. EMORY H. BURBAGE - 5/2/1868 WOR. CO. (HAD 2 CHILDREN; HIS 15T WIFE)
- 2 THOMAS SMITH MARR: ELIZABETH BURBAGE -2/23/1850 WOR. CO. A. HH 699, 1850 WOR CO. CENTUS - EMONY H. BURBAGE, AGE 2, IN HH
- 3. JOHN HASTINGS + ELIZABETH SELBY a. 1850 WOR. CENSUS, HH400, 300 DIST. - (7 IN HH); SUSAN C., AGE 5 b. 1860 WOR CENTUS, HH901, BERLIN DIST. (9IN HH); SUSAN C., AGE 15
- 4. EMORY H. BURBAGE + SUSAN C. HASTINGS A. 1870 WIC. CO. CENSUS, HH 40, DERRICKSON'S X ROADS (PITTSVILLE) BURBAGE, EMORY, 28, M, BLACKSMITH R.E. 100 (SON, ERNEST E. b. 5/13/1874) - 1880 CENSUS ", ELLA, I,F
- 5. EMORY H. BURBAGE b. 1/15/1848 d. 3/31/1903; BUR. BURBAGE-WHITE CEM., TIMMONS RO, WIC.CO. 1880 W.C. CA CENSUS - PONSELVILLE DIST., 6/1/1880, 44 35, PAON 35

1. EMBRY H. 32; SUSAN C., 33; (+3 DAV'S + 2 SONT NAMED)

6. DEED 8/18/1894, FHP NO.5: 293 - BEGIN ATA POST AT S.E. CORNER OF THE BAPTIST CHURCHLOT (SEE 1877 ATLASMAP, DIST. 9, W. BERLIN) PART OFTRACTS "CONFIRMATION" + "GRAPE ISLAND" (SEE WOR. CO. LAND RECORDS, 1666-1810, RUTH T. DRYDEN, PES. 130, 271 + 462; MAPZG ON PG. 755)



Worcester County Department of Environmental Programs

Worcester County Government Center, 1 West Market Street, Rm 1306 | Snow Hill MD 21863 Tel: (410) 632-1220 | Fax: (410) 632-2012

Memorandum

To: Jennifer Keener, AICP, Director, DDRP

From: Robert J. Mitchell, LEHS, REHS/RS

Director, Environmental Programs

Subject: EP Staff Comments on Rezoning Case No. 445

Worcester County Tax Map 23, Parcel 2

Reclassify approximately 18.94 acres out of 80.95 acres

From RP Resource Protection District to A-1 Agricultural District

Date: 7/19/24

This response to your request for comments is prepared for the map amendment application associated with the above referenced property. The Worcester County Zoning and Subdivision Control Article, Section ZS1-113(c)(3), states that the applicant must affirmatively demonstrate that there has been a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood since the last zoning of the property or that a mistake has been made in the existing zoning classification. The application argues that a mistake was made since the last Comprehensive Rezoning that was approved by the County Commissioners on November 3, 2009. The Code requires that the Commissioners find that the proposed "change in zoning" would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Department of Environmental Programs has the following comments:

- 1. This property has an Agricultural land use designation in the Land Use Map in the Worcester County Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan), as do properties surrounding this property to the south, east and west. The northernmost portion of the property has a Green Infrastructure land use designation as it borders Franklin Swamp to the north and connects to lands containing significant Public Drainage Association (PDA) ditch branches (Libertytown and Timmonstown) that feed that swamp, which in turn feeds the upper Pocomoke River. Part of the intent of the Green Infrastructure designation is that "Greenways improve water quality, provide flood control and maintain the county's rural and coastal character".
- 2. We have recently tested and approved (year 2023) a total of five (5) sewage reserve areas for the subject property. All of those tested locations are adjacent to Purnell Crossing Road and within the petitioned area for zoning reclassification. The approved areas will each be sufficient to serve a residential use. The subject property has a designation of a Sewer and Water Service Category of S-6/W-6 and (No Planned Service) in the *Master Water and Sewerage Plan*.
- 3. We have received a minor subdivision plat of this property for a three (3) lot subdivision and given that preliminary approval from our Environmental Programs Division. Any subdivided lot will need to have the sewage area within the proposed lot to conform to minimum ownership standards under the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). The plat as presented does conform to that standard. The subdivision plat also included a Forest Conservation Plan (FCP) for review. At this point our Natural Resources Division has reviewed the plan, but have reserved final comments. The FCP provided calls for 18.5 acres of clearing. This amount of clearing elevates the project to a major site plan. Based on the proposed clearing, a Forest Stand

Delineation (FSD) will be required. We have not received a FSD at this time. The purpose of the FSD is to identify priority forest for retention and factors including FIDS (Forest Interior Dwelling Species), threatened or endangered species, specimen or champion trees, soil types, perennial streams etc. We expect that the owner's consultant will address these issues in the FSD. This property has been timbered in the past, save the northernmost portion that carries a Green Infrastructure land use designation.

4. We would also note there is a burial site on the property and have passed on that property information to the owner's representative. There was an old homesite drawn into the gravesite map as well as two old logging roads.

If you have any questions on these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

From: Jennifer Keener

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 11:36 AM

To: Jennifer Keener

Subject: FW: Rezoning Case #445

From: Jeffrey Fritts < JFritts@mdot.maryland.gov > Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 11:20 AM

To: April Mariner <amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Cc: Steve Orth <<u>steven.orthfire@gmail.com</u>>; Robert Rhode <<u>rrhode@co.worcester.md.us</u>>; Billy Birch

<bbirch@co.worcester.md.us>; Chris Clasing <cclasing@co.worcester.md.us>; Dallas Baker

<dbaker@co.worcester.md.us>; Daniel Wilson <DWilson12@mdot.maryland.gov>; Garth McCabe

<garth.mccabe@usda.gov>; Kevin Lynch <klynch@co.worcester.md.us>; LHtaylor@worcesterk12.org;

<u>earl.starner@maryland.gov</u>; Matt Owens < <u>mowens@co.worcester.md.us</u>>; Matthew Crisafulli

<mcrisafulli@co.worcester.md.us>; Melanie Pursel <mpursel@co.worcester.md.us>; Rebecca Jones

<<u>riones@maryland.gov</u>>; Robert Mitchell <<u>bmitchell@co.worcester.md.us</u>>; Will Dyer <<u>Will.Dyer@maryland.gov</u>>

Subject: Rezoning Case #445

April,

After a review of rezoning case #445, SHA determined that there will be no negative impact to the surrounding State roadway network.

Thanks,



Jeff Fritts

Inspector Access Management

410.677.4039 office 443.397.5063 mobile Jfritts@mdot.maryland.gov

Maryland Department of Transportation 660 West Road, Salisbury, MD 21801

From: Jennifer Keener

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 2:54 PM

To: Jennifer Keener

Subject: FW: Agency Memo Case #445

From: Earl Starner -State Police- < earl.starner@maryland.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 2:46 PM

To: April Mariner amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Subject: Re: Agency Memo Case #445

No comments from MSP.

On Thu, Jul 18, 2024 at 9:10 AM April Mariner amariner@co.worcester.md.us wrote:

Good Morning, just a reminder that comments are due tomorrow July 19th for the above rezoning case. If you need another copy of the packet please let me know and I will send it. If you have already sent in comments, thank you.

April L. Mariner

Office Assistant V

Development Review & Permitting

Worcester County Government

1 W Market Street, Room 1201

Snow Hill, MD 21863

Email: amariner@co.worcester.md.us

Phone: 410-632-1200 x1172

Fax: 410-632-3008

Website: www.co.worcester.md.us

From: Jennifer Keener

Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 7:48 AM

To: Jennifer Keener

Subject: FW: Rezoning Case #445

From: Will M. Dyer -DNR- <will.dyer@maryland.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 12:43 PM

To: April Mariner amariner@co.worcester.md.us

Subject: Re: Rezoning Case #445

Hi April, I have no issues with the proposed rezoning changes to Case #445.

Thank you

On Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 10:31 AM April Mariner < amariner@co.worcester.md.us > wrote:

Please find attached a comment request for Rezoning Case #445.

April L. Mariner

Office Assistant V

Development Review & Permitting

Worcester County Government

1 W Market Street, Room 1201

Snow Hill, MD 21863

Email: amariner@co.worcester.md.us

Phone: 410-632-1200 x1172

Fax: 410-632-3008

Website: www.co.worcester.md.us

From: Jennifer Keener

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:54 AM

To: Jennifer Keener

Subject: FW: Agency Memo Case #445

From: Matt Owens <mowens@co.worcester.md.us>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:48 AM

To: April Mariner amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Subject: RE: Agency Memo Case #445

I have no comments on this rezoning request.

Matt



Matthew Owens, CFI, CFPSFire Marshal
Director of Emergency Services

(410) 632-5666(Office) | (410) 632-1311 (443) 783-0071 (Mobile) | (410) 632-5664 (Fax)

co.worcester.md.us/departments/firemarshal

mowens@co.worcester.md.us

1 West Market St - Room 1302 - Snow Hill, MD 21863

IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.

From: April Mariner <amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:10 AM

To: Robert Rhode <rrhode@co.worcester.md.us>; Chris Clasing <cclasing@co.worcester.md.us>; Dallas Baker

- <dbaker@co.worcester.md.us>; Daniel Wilson <dwilson12@mdot.maryland.gov>; Garth McCabe
- <garth.mccabe@usda.gov>; Kevin Lynch <klynch@co.worcester.md.us>; Lou Taylor (LHtaylor@worcesterk12.org)
- <<u>LHtaylor@worcesterk12.org</u>>; Lt. Earl Starner <<u>earl.starner@maryland.gov</u>>; Mark Crampton
- <mcrampton1@mdot.maryland.gov>; Matt Owens <mowens@co.worcester.md.us>; Matthew Crisafulli
- <mcrisafulli@co.worcester.md.us>; Melanie Pursel <mpursel@co.worcester.md.us>; Rebecca Jones
- <riones@maryland.gov>; Robert Mitchell <bmitchell@co.worcester.md.us>; Will Dyer <Will.Dyer@maryland.gov>

Subject: Agency Memo Case #445

Good Morning, just a reminder that comments are due tomorrow July 19th for the above rezoning case. If you need another copy of the packet please let me know and I will send it. If you have already sent in comments, thank you.

From: Jennifer Keener

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 7:40 AM

To: Jennifer Keener

Subject: FW: Rezoning Case #445

From: Chris Clasing <cclasing@co.worcester.md.us>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 7:14:54 AM

To: April Mariner amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Cc: Kevin Lynch <<u>klynch@co.worcester.md.us</u>>; Dallas Baker <<u>dbaker@co.worcester.md.us</u>>; Tony Fascelli

<tfascelli@co.worcester.md.us</td>Subject: RE: Rezoning Case #445

Good morning April,

No comments from DPW at the moment for Rezoning Case #445. Thank you for the opportunity to review.

Thank you, Chris Clasing

Christopher S. Clasing, P.E.
Deputy Director
Worcester County Department of Public Works
6113 Timmons Road
Snow Hill, MD 21863
410-632-5623



From: April Mariner <amariner@co.worcester.md.us>

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 10:32 AM

To: Robert Rhode < rrhode@co.worcester.md.us; Chris Clasing < cclasing@co.worcester.md.us; Dallas Baker

<dbaker@co.worcester.md.us>; Daniel Wilson <dwilson12@mdot.maryland.gov>; Garth McCabe

<garth.mccabe@usda.gov>; Kevin Lynch <klynch@co.worcester.md.us>; Lou Taylor (LHtaylor@worcesterk12.org)

<<u>LHtaylor@worcesterk12.org</u>>; Lt. Earl Starner <<u>earl.starner@maryland.gov</u>>; Mark Crampton

<mcrampton1@mdot.maryland.gov>; Matt Owens <mowens@co.worcester.md.us>; Matthew Crisafulli

<mcrisafulli@co.worcester.md.us>; Melanie Pursel <mpursel@co.worcester.md.us>; Rebecca Jones

<ri>ones@maryland.gov; Robert Mitchell
bmitchell@co.worcester.md.us; Will Dyer <Will.Dyer@maryland.gov</p>

Subject: Rezoning Case #445

Please find attached a comment request for Rezoning Case #445.

April L. Mariner

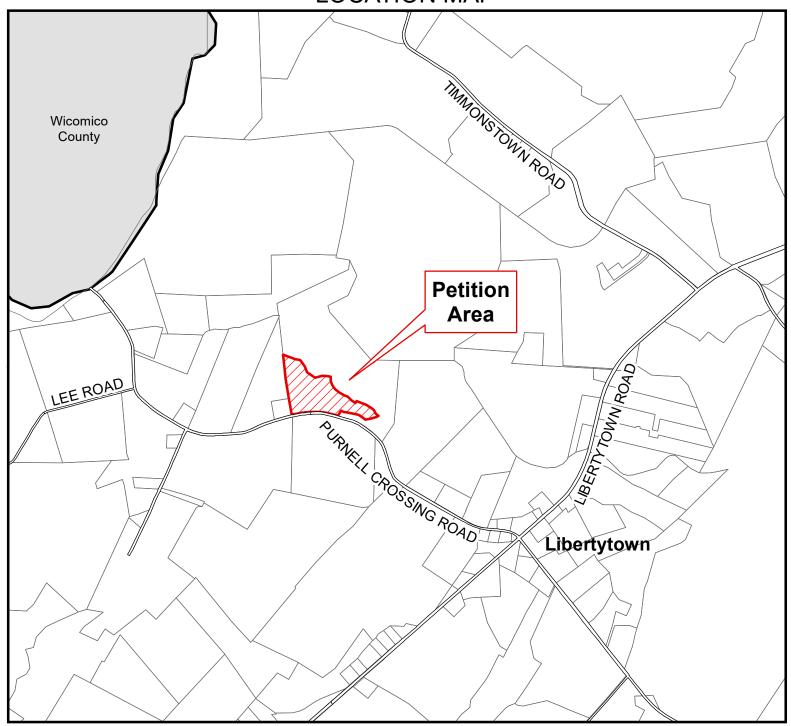
Office Assistant V



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



LOCATION MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 5001,000 L___L___ Feet

Source: GIS Data Layers

Drawn By: KLH

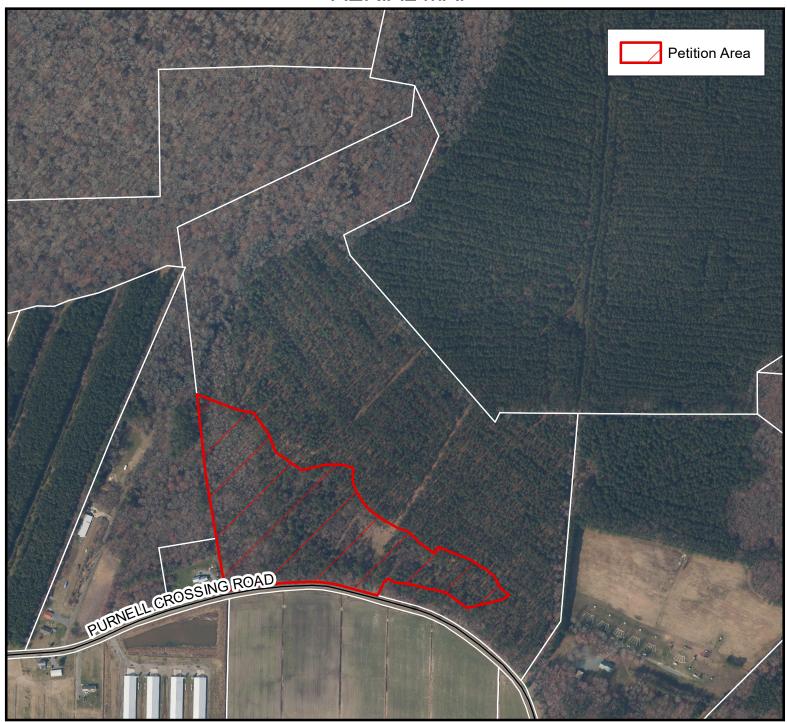
Reviewed By:JKK



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



AERIAL MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 260 520 L L L Feet

Source: 2022 Aerial Imagery

Drawn By: KLH

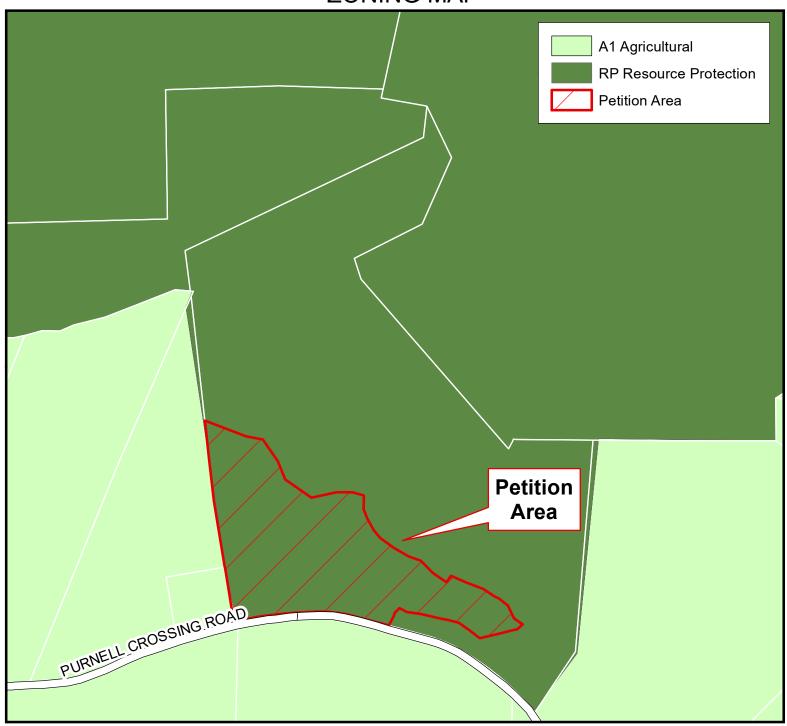
Reviewed By:JKK



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



ZONING MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 250 500 L L L Feet

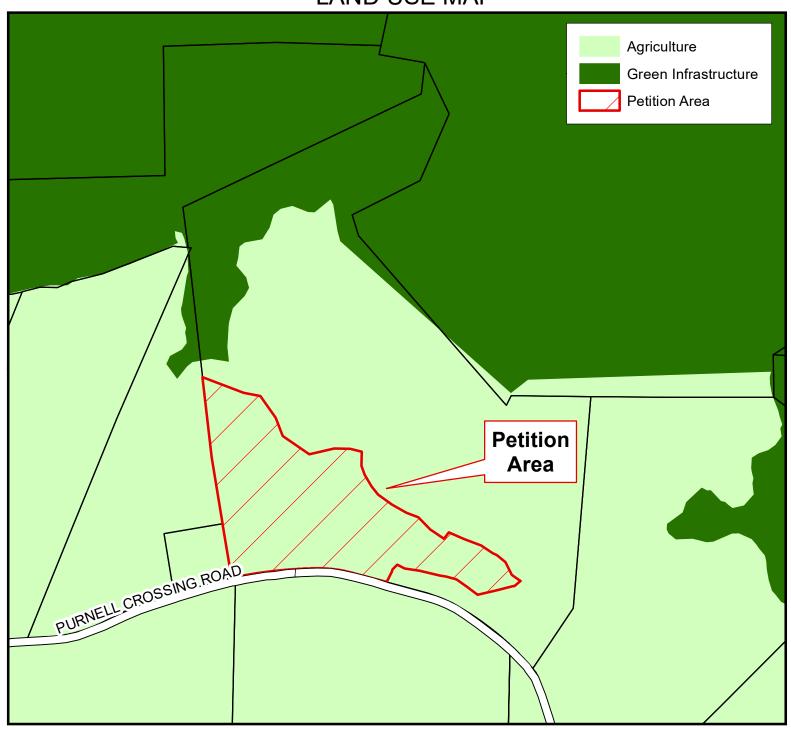
Source: 2009 Official Zoning Map Layer



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



LAND USE MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 250 500 L L L Feet

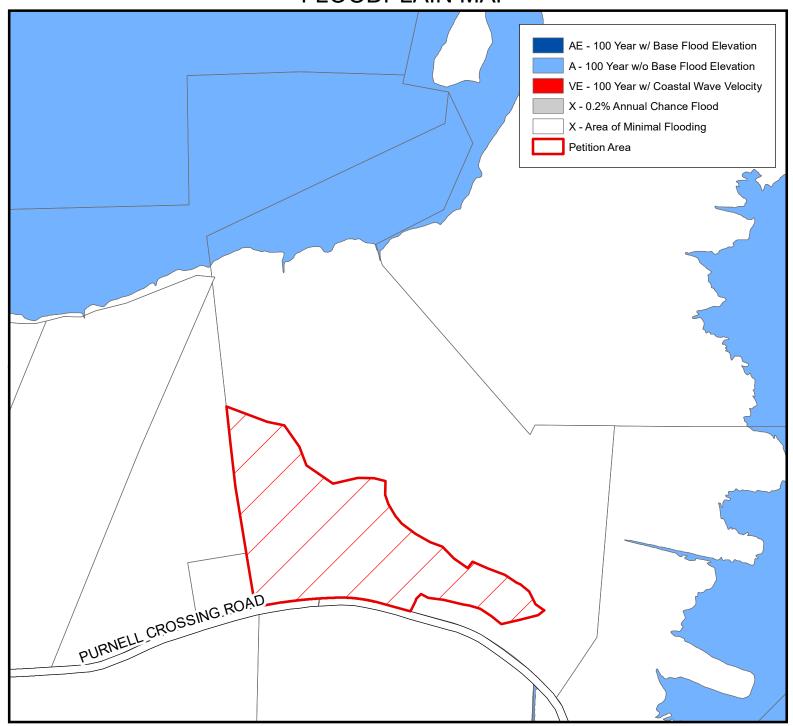
Source: 2006 Official Land Use Map Layer



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



FLOODPLAIN MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 250 500 L L L L

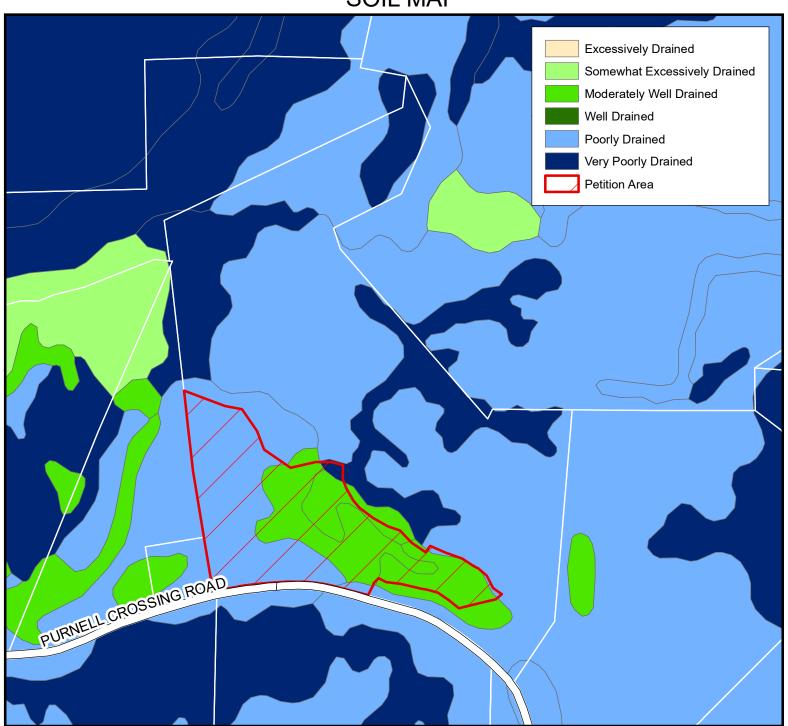
Source: 2015 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



SOIL MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 250 500 L L L Feet

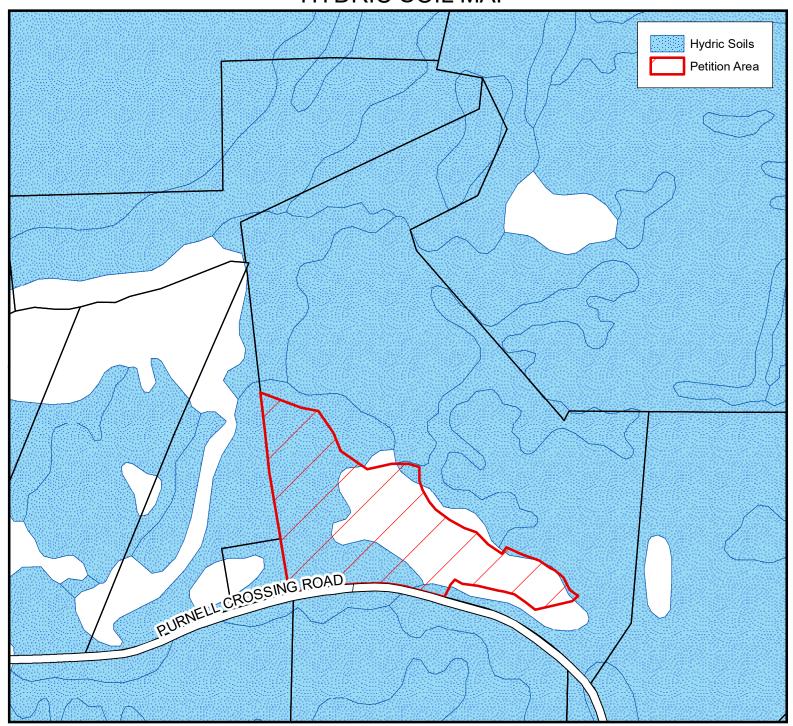
Source: 2007 Soil Survey



REZONING CASE NO. 445
RP Resource Protection to A-1 Agricultural
Tax Map: 23, Parcel 2



HYDRIC SOIL MAP



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING Technical Services Division - Prepared June 2024

0 250 500 L L L L Feet

Source: 2007 Soil Survey

Drawn By: KLH

Reviewed By:JKK



Worcester County Commissioners Worcester County Government Center One W. Market Street, Room 1103 Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

(For Office Use Only – Please Do Not Write in this Space)
Rezoning Case No. 445
Date Received by Office of the County Commissioners
Date Received by Development Review and Permitting 5/24/8084
Date Reviewed by the Planning Commission
I. Application: Proposals for amendments to the Official Zoning Maps may be made only by the property owner, contract purchaser, option holder, lease, or their attorney or agent of the property to be directly affected by the proposed amendment. Check applicable status below: A. Governmental Agency: B. Property Owner: C. Contract Purchaser: D. Option Holder: E. Leasee: F. Attorney for _B (insert A, B, C, D or E) X
G. Agent for (insert A, B, C, D or E) II. Legal Description of Property
A. Tax Map/Zoning Map Number(s): 23 B. Parcel Number(s): 2 C. Lot Number(s), if applicable: 03

111.	Physical Description of Property
	A. Located on <u>north</u> side of <u>Purnell Crossing</u> Road, approximately <u>feet/miles to the</u> side of Road.
	B. Consisting of a total of 80.95 acres of land.
	C. Other descriptive physical features or characteristics necessary to accurately
	locate the petitioned area:
	18.54 acres of upland area bordered by Purnell Crossing Road to the south, Parcel 40 and Parcel 41 to the west, and the remainder of the subject parcel to the north and
	east that will remain RP, Resource Protection District.
	D. Petitions for map amendments shall be accompanied by a plat drawn to scale showing property lines, the existing and proposed district boundaries and other such information as the Planning Commission may need in order to locate and plot the amendment on the Official Zoning Maps.
IV.	Requested Change to Zoning Classification(s)
	A. Existing zoning classification(s): RP, Resource Protection District
	(name and zoning district)
	B. Acreage of zoning classification(s) in "A" above: 80.95 acres
	C. Requested zoning classification(s): A-1, Agricultural District
	(name and zoning district)
	D. Acreage of zoning classification(s) in "C" above:18.54 acres
V.	Reasons for Requested Change
	The County Commissioners may grant a map amendment based upon a finding that there: (a) has been a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood where the property is located since the last zoning of the property, or (b) is a mistake in the existing zoning classification and a change in zoning would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.
	A. Please list reasons or other information as to why the zoning change is requested, including whether the request is based upon a claim of change in the character of the neighborhood or a mistake in existing zoning: The request for change in zoning is based upon mistake in the existing zoning classification and a change in zoning would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

VI. Filing Information and Required Signatures

- A. Every application shall contain the following information:
 - 1. If the application is made by a person other than the property owner, the application shall be co-signed by the property owner or the property owner's attorney.
 - 2. If the applicant is a corporation, the names and mailing addresses for the officers, directors and all stockholders owning more than 20 percent of the capital stock of the corporation.
 - 3. If the applicant is a partnership, whether a general or limited partnership, the names and mailing addresses of all partners who own more than 20 percent of the interest in the partnership.
 - 4. If the applicant is an individual, his/her name and mailing address.
 - 5. If the applicant is a joint venture, unincorporated association, real estate investment trust or other business trust, the names and mailing addresses of all persons holding an interest of more than 20 percent in the joint venture, unincorporated association, real estate investment trust or other business trust.
- B. Signature of Applicants in Accordance with VI.A. above. Signature(s): Vistral. Walkowski/Hugh Cropper IV, Attorneys for Property Owner Mailing Address: 9927 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite F-12, Ocean City, MD 21842 Phone Number: 410-213-2681 Email: kwatkowski@bbcmlaw.com Date: May 24, 2024 C. Signature of Property Owner in Accordance with VI.A. above. Signature(s): Melly M. Moson

 Printed Name(s): Christopher T. & Shelley M. Mason Mailing Address: 10610 Siren Lane, Berlin, MD 21811 Phone Number: 443-614-2281 Email: shelleymillsmason@gmail.com Date: may 14, 2014 D. Signature of Attorney in Accordance with VI.A. above. Signature(s): Kistmal. Wathwasi Printed Name(s): Kristina L. Watkowski/Hugh Cropper IV

Mailing Address: 9927 Stephen Decatur Highway, Suite F-12, Ocean City, MD 21842

Phone Number: 410-213-2681 Email: kwatkowski@bbcmlaw.com

Date: May 24, 2024

(Please use additional pages and attach to the application if more space is required.)

VII. General Information Relating to the Rezoning Process

- A. Applications shall only be accepted from January 1st to January 31st, May 1st to May 31st, and September 1st to September 30th of any calendar year.
- B. Applications for Map Amendments shall be addressed to and filed with the Office of the County Commissioners. The required filing fee must accompany the application.
- C. Any officially filed amendment or other change shall first be referred by the County Commissioners to the Planning Commission for an investigation and recommendation. The Planning Commission may make such investigations as it deems appropriate or necessary and for the purpose may require the submission of pertinent information by any person concerned and may hold such public hearings as are appropriate in its judgment.

The Planning Commission shall formulate its recommendation on said amendment or change and shall submit its recommendation and pertinent supporting information to the County Commissioners within 90 days after the Planning Commission's decision of recommendation, unless an extension of time is granted by the County Commissioners.

After receiving the recommendation of the Planning Commission concerning any such amendment, and before adopting or denying same, the County Commissioners shall hold a public hearing in reference thereto in order that parties of interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. The County Commissioners shall give public notice of such hearing.

D. Where the purpose and effect of the proposed amendment is to change the zoning classification of property, the County Commissioners shall make findings of fact in each specific case, including but not limited to the following matters: population change; availability of public facilities; present and future transportation patterns; compatibility with existing and proposed development and existing environmental conditions for the area including having no adverse impact on waters included on the State's Impaired Waters List or having an established total maximum daily load requirement; the recommendation of the Planning Commission; and compatibility with the County's Comprehensive Plan. The County Commissioners may grant the map amendment based upon a finding that (a) there was a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood where the property is located since the last zoning of the property or (b) there is a mistake in the existing zoning classification and a change in zoning would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

The fact that an application for a map amendment complies with all of the specific requirements and purposes set forth above shall not be deemed to create a presumption that the proposed reclassification and resulting development would in fact be compatible with the surrounding land uses and is not, in itself, sufficient to require the granting of the application.

E. No application for a map amendment shall be accepted for filing by the office of the County Commissioners if the application is for the reclassification of the whole or any part of the land for which the County Commissioners have denied reclassification within the previous 12 months as measured from the date of the County Commissioners' vote of denial. However, the County Commissioners may grant reasonable continuance for good cause or may allow the applicant to withdraw an application for map amendment at any time, provided that if the request for withdrawal is made after publication of notice of public hearing, no application for reclassification of all or any part of the land which is the subject of the application shall be allowed within 12 months following the date of such withdrawal, unless the County Commissioners specify by formal resolution that the time limitation shall not apply.

REZONING FINDINGS OF FACT FORM

Applicant shall provide information with regard to the following items:

A.	Is the request for rezoning based upon a claim that there has been a change in the character of the neighborhood where the property is located since the last zoning of the property or upon a claim that there is a mistake in the existing zoning and that a change in zoning would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. The request for change on zoning is based upon a mistake in the existing zoning classification and
	a change in zoning would be more desirable in terms of the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.
В.	What is the definition of the neighborhood in which the subject property is located, as determined by the applicant.
	This request is based solely upon a mistake in the existing zoning, therefore the definition of the
	neighborhood is not necessary.
C.	Findings of Fact as to Section 1-113(c)(3) of the Zoning Code:
	1. Relating to population change: The portion of the parcel would add at most five (5) single family dwellings. Thus, very little change
	in the population.
	2. Relating to the availability of public facilities: The planned minor subdivision identifies five (5) Sewage Reserve Areas and three (3) well locations.
	3. Relating to present and future transportation patterns: The A-1, Agricultural District, allows a minor subdivision in accordance with the provisions of
	ZS 1-311 and the use would not be a significant increase in transportation and would be similar
	to that which exists.
	4. Relating to the compatibility with existing and proposed development and existing environmental conditions for the area:
	The zoning is inaccurate as many of the wetlands maps are historically incorrect.
	5. Relating to compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan: <u>Limits and regulates rural development to minimize consumption, while continuing the County's rural character Land use is also compatible with the Comprehensive Plan. See attached supplement also.</u>

Attachment in Support of Rezoning Application

This is a request to rezone a portion of Worcester County Tax Map 23, Parcel 2, approximately 18.54 acres (the "petitioned area") of 80.95 acres, from RP, Resource Protection District, to A-1, Agricultural District, based upon a mistake in the November 3, 2009 Comprehensive Rezoning.

The property is located on the north side of Purnell Crossing Road, west of the Town of Berlin. To the north are wooded properties zoned RP, Resource Protection District. To the south are large parcels of farmland zoned A-1, Agricultural District, with what appears to be various single-family residences. To the east and west are largely A-1, Agricultural District properties with a mix of agricultural structures and single-family residences. The Town of Berlin municipality is less than five miles east of the property.

The subject property is 80.95 acres, wooded and not with any structures at this time. The November 3, 2009 Comprehensive Rezoning relies on the wetlands mapping done by the Department of Natural Resources in 1989. That mapping was created with a broad-brush approach. A field delineation was completed for the first time this year, 2024. The mistake is evident as the actual field delineation illustrates the petitioned area is entirely comprised of uplands. The Maryland Department of Environment has reviewed, and verbally approved, the wetland delineation performed by Spencer Rowe in 2024 as shown on the plat. There are likely still uplands to be left in the RP, Resource Protection zoned portion of the parcel. A majority of the parcel remaining will be designated as a Forest Conservation Easement as shown on the attached plat.

As defined in the Zoning Code, the intent of the RP, Resource Protection District, is to preserve the environmentally significant areas of the County and to protect its natural resources in all areas. The district includes those areas of the County which pose constraints for development or where development could have a substantially adverse environmental effect. The Code further states that development potential within this district is severely limited; however, some minor development may be carried out, provided it is done in a manner sufficiently sensitive to the existing natural environment and a visual character of the site.

There are various restrictions and limitations that are imposed by development in the RP, Resource Protection District, as opposed to the A-1, Agricultural District. For example, a special exception is required to build a house or an agricultural structure. Also, the ability to subdivide in the RP, Resource Protection District is limited. The rezoning would result in a reasonable use and enjoyment of the property. By rezoning only 18.54 acres to A-1, Agricultural District, the property owners would keep the remaining 62.41 acres in RP, Resource Protection District, thereby preserving and protecting the natural resources.

The A-1, Agricultural District, is intended to preserve, encourage, and protect the County's farms, as well as to protect the land base resources for the County's agricultural and forestry industries from the disruptive effects of major subdivision or nonagricultural commercialization. Permitted uses and structures include agriculture, stables, and minor subdivisions. As further evidence of the mistake, the attached Maps for Worcester County depict a vast amount of agricultural land use and zoning to the north and south. Rezoning the petitioned area to A-1, Agricultural District would be in harmony with the surrounding area.

Whether agricultural use, a minor subdivision, or a mix of both, there will be little to no impact on the population as there has been little change in the area since the Comprehensive Rezoning in 2009. Additionally, the parcel does not receive public sewer or water service at this time. A single-family dwelling on the petitioned area would require a private septic system regardless of zoning. If the petitioned area was subdivided, a maximum of five lots for single-family dwellings can be platted. There are five approved sewage reserve areas, and three well locations identified in the petitioned area at this time. There will be no negative impact on the transportation patterns on Purnell Crossing Road.

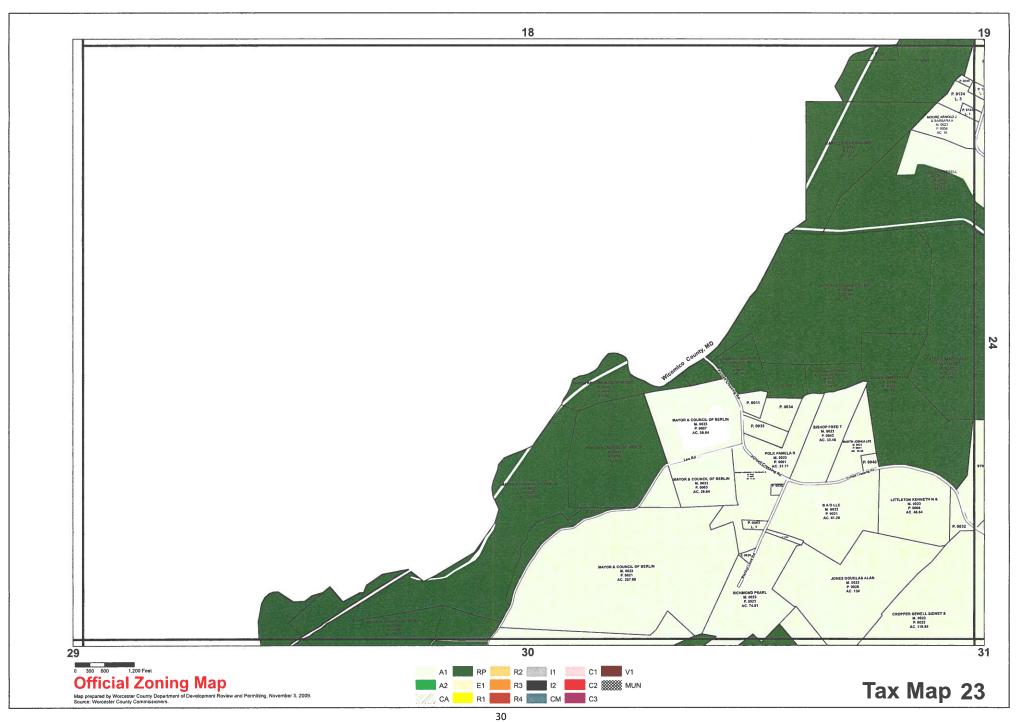
The Agricultural designation of the 18.54 acres will give the property owners the opportunity to do an agricultural subdivision, for the benefit of their children. By limiting the rezoning request to just the petitioned area, the parcel would serve and protect both zoning districts, while the use would be similar to the surrounding properties. By keeping the remainder of the parcel, approximately 62.41 acres, in RP, Resource Protection District, there would be restrictions in place to protect the sensitive areas both by virtue of the zoning, as well as a Forest Conservation Easement.

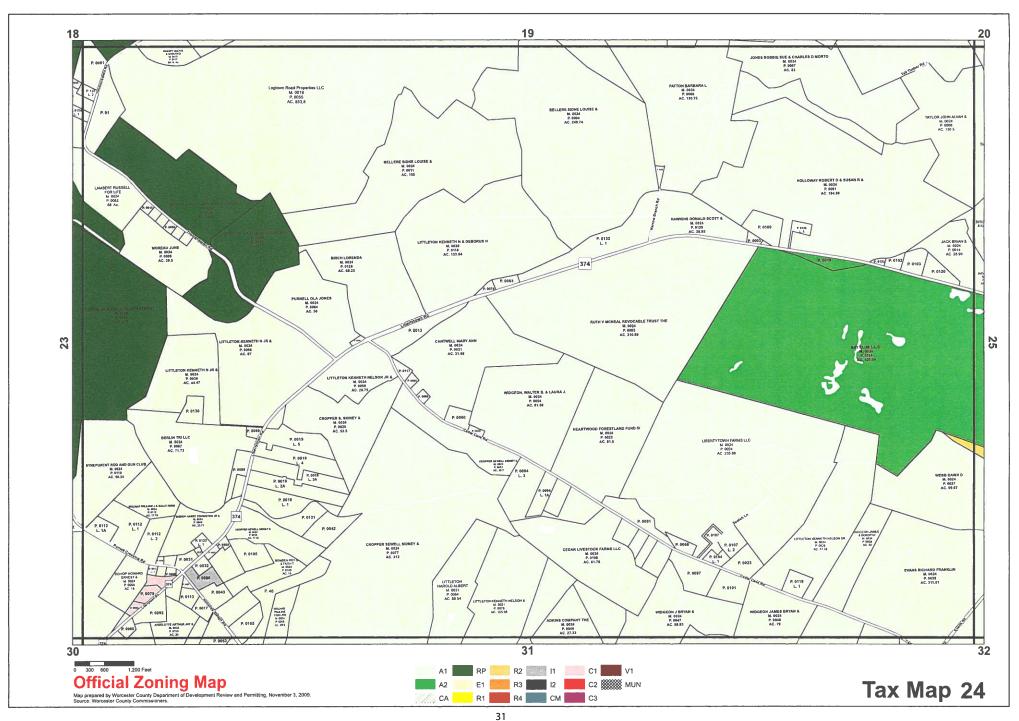
To zone the portion of the property along Purnell Crossing Road that is all uplands as A-1, Agricultural District would be consistent with the attached Land Use Map, as well as the written Comprehensive Plan. The property owner and applicant respectfully request the rezoning be granted.

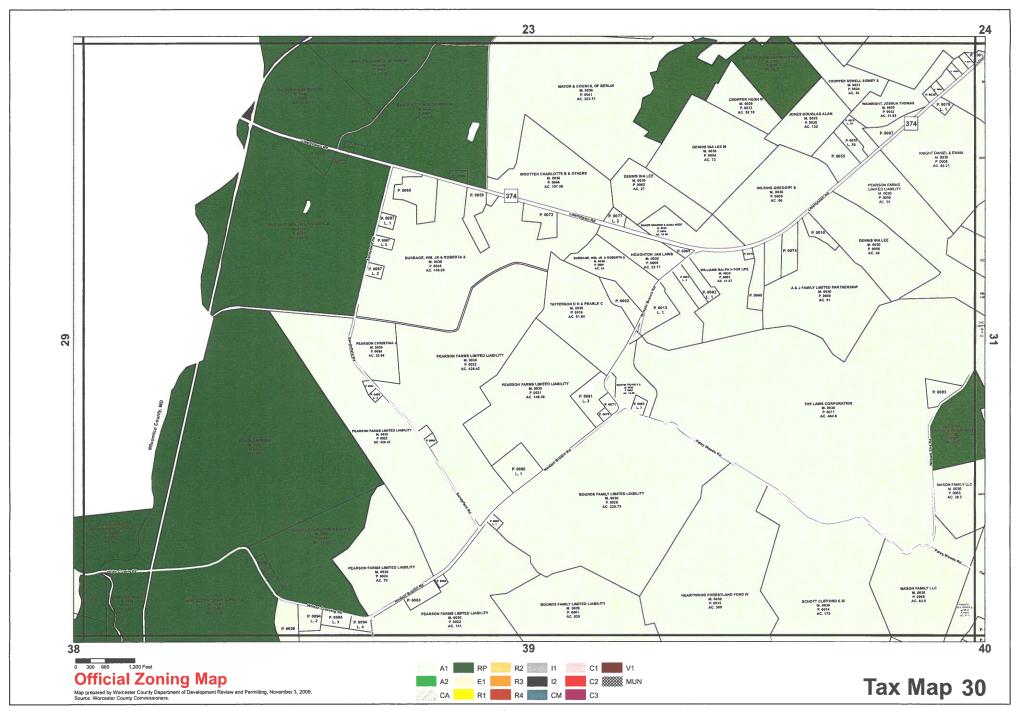
Respectfully submitted,

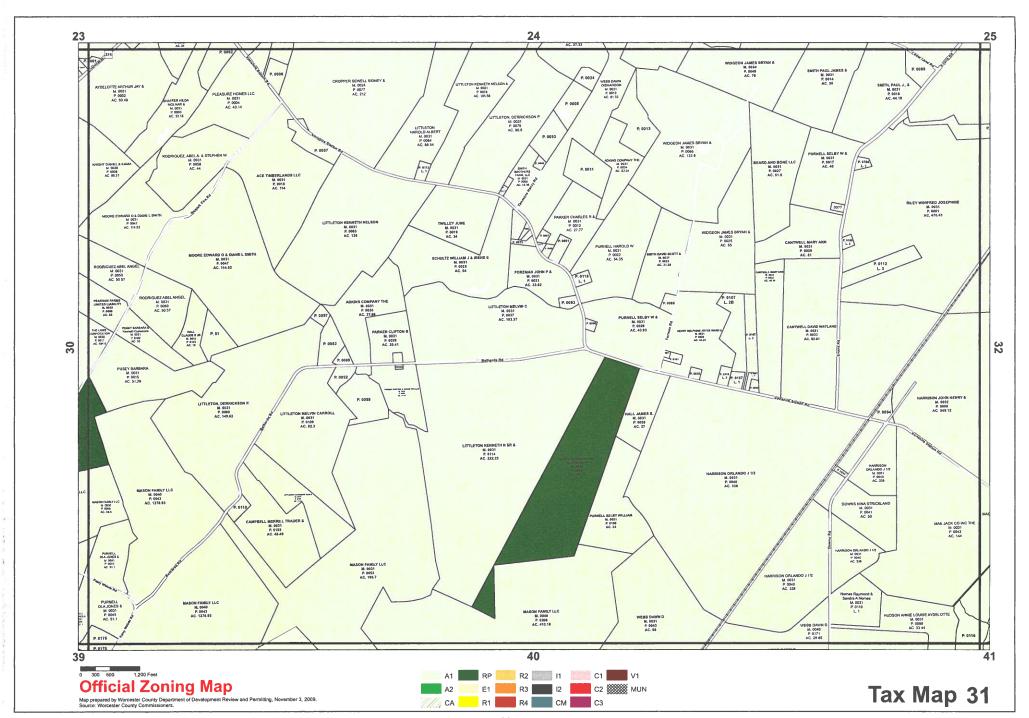
Kristina L. Watkowski, Attorney for Owners

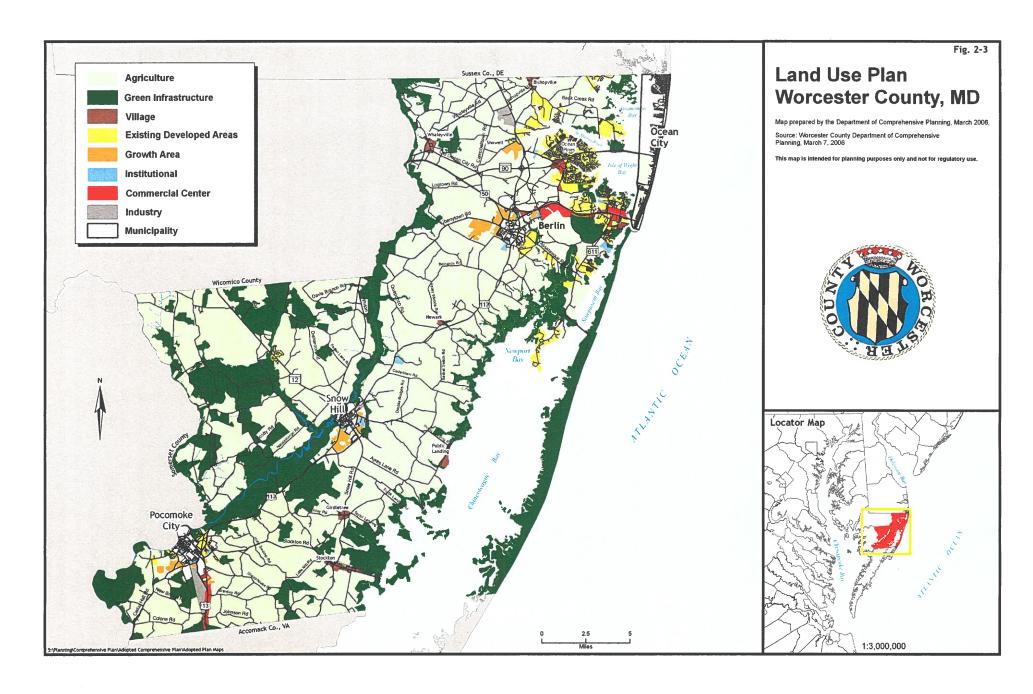
Christopher T. & Shelley M. Mason

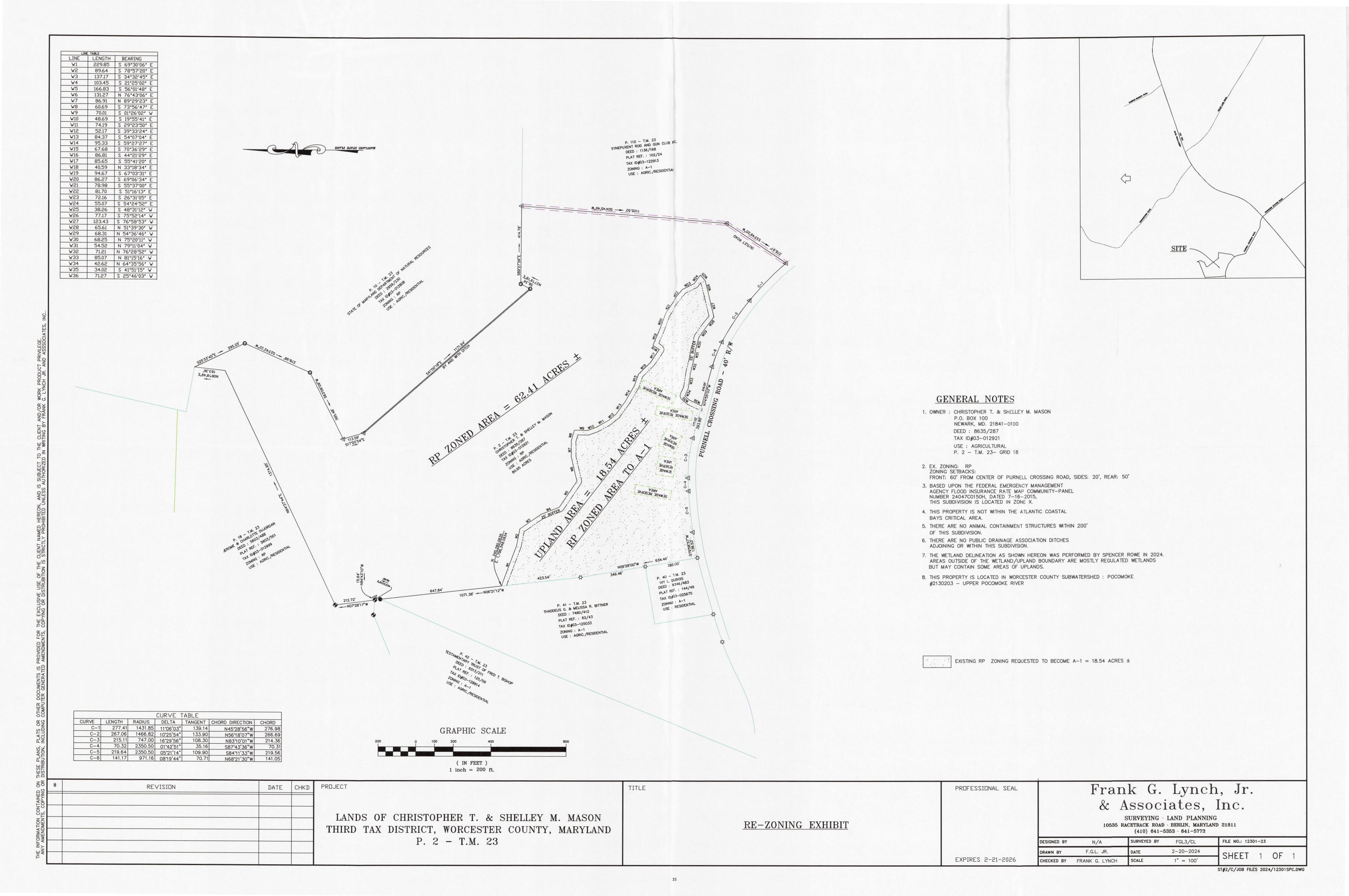


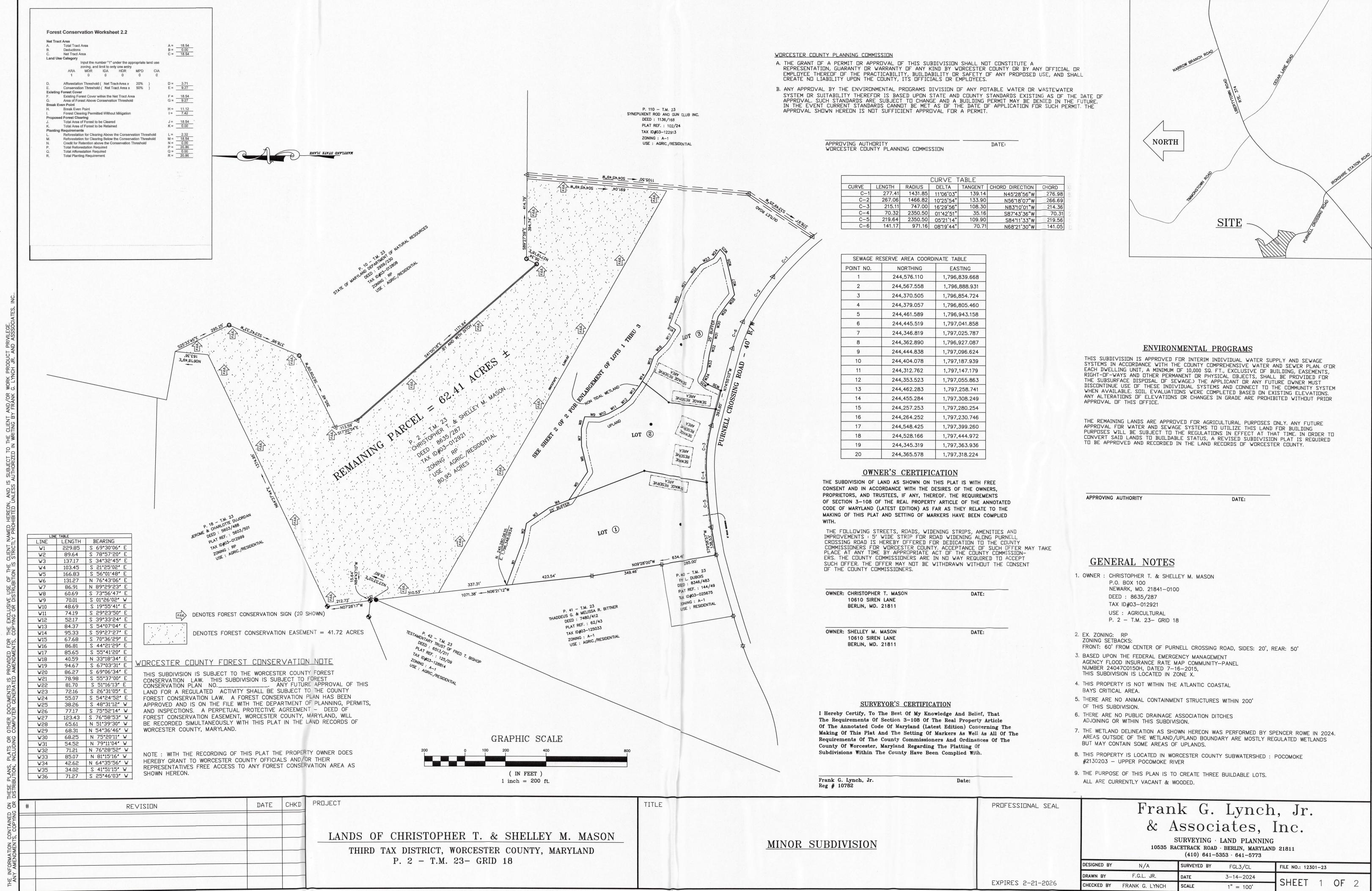












ST#2/C/JOB FILES 2024/12301SPC.DWG

