

JEFFREY C. CHRISTENSEN, ESQUIRE (603) 224-7761 EXT. 1070 (603) 224-6457 FACSIMILE CHRISTENSENJ@CWBPA.COM TWO CAPITAL PLAZA, P.O. BOX 1137 CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03302-1137

March 19, 2025

BY WAY OF EMAIL AND HAND-DELIVERY landuse@warnerNH.gov

Chrissy Almanzar, Administrative Assistant Town of Warner Zoning Board of Adjustment 5 East Main Street Warner, NH 03278

Re:

Comet LLC - Owner

Concord Area Trust for Community Housing ("CATCH") - Applicant

Route 103

Tax Map 35, Lot 4-3

Dear Ms. Almanzar:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Comet LLC and the Concord Area Trust for Community Housing ("CATCH") are eight copies of the following documents in connection with the requirement of Article XIV-A of the Ordinance to permit the construction of an approximately 48-unit workforce housing development:

- 1. Application for Variance (original to follow);
- 2. Application for Special Exception (original to follow);
- 3. Letter of authorization (original to follow);
- 4. Deed (copies only);
- 5. Plans:
- 6. Abutters List; and
- 7. This firm's check in the total amount of \$410.00 made payable to the Town of Warner for the filing fee of the Applications, notice to Abutters and Newspaper Notification.

We understand that this matter will be placed on the Board's agenda for the April 9, 2025 meeting.

Chrissy Almanzar, Administrative Assistant Town of Warner Zoning Board of Adjustment March 19, 2025 Page 2

Please contact me if you need further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

/smm

Enclosures

cc:

Clients

4929-1246-1867, v. 1



The applicant hereby requests a Variance to the terms of:

TOWN OF WARNER

P.O. Box 265, 5 East Main St. Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0059 Land Use Office: (603)456-2298 ex. 7 landuse@warnernh.gov

Application for Variance

Article:	_XIV-A		Section:		C	of the Warner Zoning Ordinance				
Applica	ant/Contac	t Person:								
Name o	of Applicant:	Concord	Area Trust for Co	ommunity	Housing ("CATCH")	Date:			
Mailing	Address:	105 Loudoi	n Road							
Town:	Conco	rd		State:	NH			Zip:	03301	
Telepho	one: 603-	223-0810		Alternate) :		Email:	tfurtad	o@catchhousi	ng.org
Owner	of Property	y:								
Name o	of Owner:	Comet LL	_C				Date:			
Mailing	Address:	84 Range	Road							
Town:	Windhan	า		State:	NH			Zip:	03087	
Telepho	one:			Alternate	e:		Email:			
Location	on of Prope	erty:								
Мар#:	35	Lot#:	4-3	Zoning D	District:	Commercial	(C-1) D	istrict		
Addres	s: Rou	te 103								
Descri	be the requ	est:								
Арр	roximately	48-unit wor	rkforce housing d	levelopme	ent. See a	ttached.				

Application for Variance

State in writing how the following conditions pertain to the property and be prepared to present the application at a public hearing. The burden of proof is on the applicant to show that all conditions have been met.

Warner Zoning Ordinance Article XVII and RSA 674:33
Granting the variance will not be contrary to the public interest because.
See attached.
2. Granting the variance will not be contrary to the spirit of the ordinance.
See attached.
3. By granting the variance substantial justice is done.
See attached.
4. By granting the variance the value of surrounding properties are not diminished.
See attached.
5.Literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would result in an unnecessary hardship.
a. For purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area:
 i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property; and ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one.
b. If the criteria in subparagraph (a) are not established, an unnecessary hardship will be deemed to exist if, and only if, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, the property cannot be reasonably used in strict conformance with the ordinance, and a variance is therefore necessary to enable a reasonable use of it.

ALL APPLICABLE PAGES MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ACCEPTED

Authorization from Owr	ner(s):				
I (We) hereby design and present said applic				to serve as my (our) agent a nt [ZBA].	nd to appear
2. By submitting this ap without further notice. I public site visit, which w	(We) further under	reby authorize stand the ZBA	and understand may at some po	that agents of the Town may int during the review process	visit the site s schedule a
3. I (We) understand the review. The applicant sl			cation/plan and/c	or may send the application	/plan out for
4. To the best of my (our of Warner Zoning Ordin regulations which may a	nance and other la	formation prov	tions of the Towr	curate and is in accordance wan and other applicable state	ith the Town and federal
Signature of Owner(s):	Il Jukan			Date: 3/18/25	_
				Date:	
Signature of Applicant(s if different from Owner:		All	tad	Date: 3/18/25	- -
				Date:	
Printed name of person	(s) who signed abo	ve: Conet	- NUME	howive - Appli	
ThunAs	R. FUM.	400 -	CATCh	howsill - Appli	cuns
For Zoning Board of Ad	ljustment Use Only				
Assigned Case #:					
Date Received at Land	Use Office:				
Received by:					
Fee Amount:	Cash:		Check #:	Other:	
Abutter List Received:		No:			
Date of Review:	Date of H	learing:	Date Ap	proved:	

Concord Area Trust for Community Housing Route 103 (Lot 35-4-3)

APPLICATION FOR SPRECIAL EXCEPTION AND VARIANCE STATEMENT OF FACTS AND LAW

This Statement of Facts and Law is submitted on behalf of the Concord Area Trust for Community Housing ("CATCH") with respect to its application for a special exception and variance (the "Application") to permit multi-family affordable housing (the "Proposal") on certain real property located on Route 103, identified as Tax Map 35, Lot 4-3 (the "Property"), owned by Comet LLC (the "Owner" and, together with CATCH, the "Applicant"). All testimony, statements, representations, evidence, plans, reports, studies, and other information submitted or to be submitted by or on behalf of the Application in connection with the Application at or prior to the public hearing on the Application are incorporated by reference hereto. The applicant requests that the Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA") approve this Statement of Facts and Law as the specific findings required pursuant to RSA 676:3, I.

Background and Description

The Property consists of a 13.8± acre, undeveloped lot on Route 103 in the Warner Intervale (INT) Overlay District, part of the Commercial (C-1) District. The surrounding lots are primarily commercial uses near Route 103's intersection with Interstate 89.

The Proposal involves an approximately 48-unit workforce housing development. The Proposal will be a single four-story building with surface parking. The units will be a mixture of one, two, and three-bedroom units. Preliminary plans for the Proposal are submitted with the Application and incorporated by reference hereto.

The Proposal will constitute "workforce housing" within the meaning of RSA 674:58, *et seq.* and Article XIV-A of the Town of Warner Zoning Ordinance (the "Ordinance"). Multi-family workforce housing is permitted within the C-1 and INT Districts by special exception. <u>See</u> Ordinance, Table 1.

A housing development was previously submitted to the ZBA in 2022 by the Owner under a different proposed design that was mixed workforce housing and market-rate housing. On or about August 16, 2022, the ZBA granted a special exception for workforce housing. Subsequently, the Owner applied for site plan approval with the Town of Warner Planning Board. During that process, the Town and the Planning Board took the position that the Ordinance prohibited market-rate housing as part of a rental workforce housing development, and the Owner's site plan was withdrawn or abandoned. Pursuant to Article XVII, §F.2 of the Ordinance, the 2022 special exception lapsed.

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¹ The building will only be 3 stories from the front. In either case, it complies with the height limitations of the Ordinance.

This Proposal likewise seeks a Special Exception to allow workforce housing. Unlike in 2022, this Proposal is exclusively for workforce housing units – no market-rate housing units are contemplated.

Additionally, the Proposal requires a variance from the minimum front setback for the C-1 District set forth in Article XI, §C.1.b. of the Ordinance. Due to topographic and other physical conditions of the site, the Proposal places the building 20 feet from the front property line where the minimum front setback is 40-feet.

Article XI, §C.3 allows the Planning Board to reduce the front setback by up to 50% which would allow this Proposal without a variance. That authorization, however, is conditioned upon several criteria including, without limitation, on-site shared access arrangements with adjoining properties. The adjoining property, however, a Dunkin Donuts location, is ill-suited for shared access with a residential property and the properties are separated by a small brook. Likewise, the shape of the two lots (Route 103 is not a straight line in this location) and the configuration of the properties make such a connection impractical. Moreover, in initial discussions with the Planning Board about the Proposal, it appeared that the Planning Board similarly believed that direct access to Route 103 is preferable. Accordingly, a variance is required.

Details of Request

The Applicant requests (1) a special exception to construct multi-family workforce housing on the Property and (2) a variance to allow construction of a building within 20 feet of the front boundary where 40 feet are required and shared access with an adjoining property is not reasonably feasible.

Special Exception (Multi-Family Workforce Housing)

A. The use requested is identified in the Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance as requiring a Special Exception in that respective zoning district, or as otherwise stated in the Zoning Ordinance:

Multi-family workforce housing is permitted by Special Exception in both the C-1 and INT Districts. See Ordinance, Table 1. See also Ordinance, Article XIV-A, §C.1

B. The requested use is essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare:

Workforce housing is an essential, desirable, and necessary use in Warner. The Warner Master Plan recognizes that there is a significant housing shortage in Warner and Merrimack County as a whole. "The lack of housing stock and rising prices make it difficult to find an affordable place to live, or even to afford and maintain ones existing housing." <u>See Master Plan</u>, 4-1. This Proposal will provide a meaningful supply of workforce housing that specifically addresses that problem.

The Property is also an ideal location for such a Proposal. The Property is in a commercial area, close to public services and served by municipal water and sewer. Moreover, the proximity

of Interstate 89 makes the Proposal convenient for commuters while avoiding any significant increase in traffic through Warner, such that might be created if housing were built farther from the highway.

The Proposal and the location of the Property further support the rural character of Warner. Warner needs affordable housing. By concentrating a large supply of affordable housing in this area, the Proposal alleviates the pressure on other, more rural areas of Warner that might be less suited to an influx of dense, workforce housing.

C. The requested use will not impair the integrity or character of the district or adjoining district, nor be detrimental to the health, morals or welfare:

The Proposal will not impair the integrity or character of the area. The Proposal is near residential areas where the use is similar but will be located within the Commercial District where the scale of the use will not be detrimental to the character of the neighborhood. Indeed, the higher-density residential use of the Proposal will be transitional between the commercial and rural areas. The proximity of shopping and Interstate 89 will keep the majority of traffic in the commercial area that can accommodate such traffic and out of the rural areas of Town.

D. In OC-1 and OR-1 districts only: Use of structure must conform to road access and availability of all services to that parcel at the time the Special Exception is requested.

Not Applicable.

Variance Standards (Setback)

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

A variance is contrary to the public interest when it unduly, and in a marked degree, conflicts with the Zoning Ordinance such that it violates the Zoning Ordinance's basic zoning objectives. Malachy Glen Assocs., Inc. v. Town of Chichester, 155 N.H. 102, 105 (2007). There are two methods for determining whether a variance would violate a Zoning Ordinance's basic zoning objectives: (1) "whether granting the variance would alter the essential character of the neighborhood" or (2) "whether granting the variance would threaten the public health, safety or welfare". Harborside Assocs., L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508, 514 (2011).

The variance requested here would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood. As discussed above, the area is primarily commercial and consistent with a high-density workforce housing development. The Proposal will create a transitional use between the commercial and residential areas, and, due to the site's topography, compressing the building closer to the front property line will help obscure the view of the building from Route 103.

The variance will not threaten the public health, safety, or welfare in Warner. The majority of traffic will be concentrated in the commercial area and the nearly-direct access to Interstate 89, where such traffic will not create congestion or safety hazards. If anything, the provision of a

significant supply of workforce housing will benefit Warner by making it easier for people to live and work in town and the surrounding area.

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

The requirement that the variance not be "contrary to the public interest" is "related to the requirement that the variance be consistent with the spirt of the Zoning Ordinance." Malachy Glen, 155 N.H. at 105. The general purposes of the Ordinance are "promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants, and preserving the values and charm now attached to the town." See Ordinance, Article I. Additionally, the C-1 District is intended to "encourage growth of this type in the proximity of the interstate highway interchanges. It is important to the economic success of Warner that the appearance of the town be perceived as an attractive commercial environment that reflects and compliments its heritage." See Ordinance, Article XI. Similarly, the purpose of the INT Overlay District is "to provide a framework for development in this area as a commercial and social hub for the community." See Ordinance, Article XI-A.

For the reasons discussed above, allowing the Proposal would observe the spirit of the Ordinance. The variance would allow for the Property to be used for its highest and best use, *i.e.*, as a multi-family residential development, creating workforce housing to alleviate the lack of housing in the area and make it easier for people to afford to live and work in Warner and the surrounding area.

In fact, many of the express purposes of the Ordinance are supported by the Proposal. The Proposal would "encourage growth in the proximity of the interstate highway interchanges" and improve the economic success and attractive commercial environment of Warner by creating workforce housing. Without workforce housing, the employees required by businesses necessary to that economic success and a commercial environment may not be able to afford to live nearby. On the other hand, allowing workforce housing brings more residents and potential customers to those businesses and makes it more likely that those individuals can afford to patronize businesses.

Moreover, a reduction in the setback is contemplated by the Ordinance in Article XI, §C.3. The Planning Board can reduce the setback by 50% if (a) parking is located in the rear of the building, (b) there is shared access between adjoining properties; and (c) the siting and orientation of the building is consistent with the scale and character of the Town of Warner, as determined by the planning board. In this case, the first criterion is satisfied. The third is expected to be satisfied through the site plan review process. The second is the only criterion that cannot be satisfied for the reasons discussed above – combining access between the residential development in the Proposal and the adjacent Dunkin Donuts drive-through is not practical or even preferable. In this case, however, given the location in the commercial zone and the proximity of the interstate highway, the traffic reducing benefits of shared access is unnecessary.

3. *Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:*

The "substantial justice" element of a variance is guided by two rules: that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general is an injustice, and whether the proposed development is consistent with the area's present use. <u>Malachy Glen</u>, 155 N.H. at 109.

Granting this variance would allow the beneficial addition of a significant number of workforce housing units within Warner that would benefit the current and future residents and the businesses that rely on employees and customers having affordable places to live in the area. Denying the variance, on the other hand, would be detrimental to the Applicant and the public. Given the size, shape, and particularly the wetlands on the Property, if the building were moved farther from the property line, it would significantly reduce the amount of parking available on the Property, likely making the entire project unfeasible. It would further exacerbate the housing shortage and force an increase of development into the rural areas of Warner where high-density affordable housing would be less well suited.

On the other hand, there is no benefit to the public in denying the Application that would offset those loses. The Ordinance recognizes that, in some circumstances, a 20-foot setback is reasonable in place of a 40-foot setback. The Proposal will be subject to site plan review by the Planning Board to ensure that issues such as parking layout and safe traffic patterns are appropriately addressed. The harm to the Applicant of strict enforcement of the Ordinance will outweigh any theoretical benefit to the public. Granting the variance will therefore result in substantial justice.

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

The Proposal is consistent with the surrounding area and neighborhood. There is no reason that a large multi-family residential development on this Property, located 20 feet from the front property line, would reduce the value of the nearby commercial properties. If anything, the availability of dense housing, bringing customers and employees to those businesses, will likely improve the value thereof.

- 5. Owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, denial of the variance would result in unnecessary hardship because:
 - i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property because:

The wetlands and the general shape of the Property reduce the potential layouts available for the Proposal. In order to fit the building and sufficient parking on the Property, the front setback would need to be reduced. Given the location of the wetlands, moving the building outside of the front setback would significantly reduce the parking which would not be reasonable for a residential use. The only alternative would be to both significantly reduce the parking and the number of units together, but such a significant reduction in the scale of the Proposal would endanger its overall viability by losing economies of scale, and also significantly reduce the benefits that the Proposal would bring to the town and area by providing workforce housing.

None of the harms that a zoning ordinance is typically designed to prevent (noise, traffic, safety issues, incompatible uses in close proximity to each other, negative aesthetic impact) would

be present in this case. The area is already a high traffic area and can handle the additional traffic of a residential use, most of which would be directed to the nearby Interstate 89 and not into rural Warner. As a commercial area, any noise created by a residential use would be immaterial. The building will be of modern, visually appealing design, so there will be no negative aesthetic impact. Certainly none of these factors will be impacted by a reduction in the front-setback from 40 feet to 20 feet, which would be immaterial to any noise or traffic of the Property, and actually will be improved from an aesthetic standpoint as compressing the building to the front property line will obscure the view of the building from Route 103.

In other words, none of the general public purposes of the Ordinance support denying this Application. As discussed above, the Proposal instead *furthers* many of the Ordinance's stated purposes and provides much needed workforce housing in an area of Warner that is well-suited for it.

ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one because:

A landowner need not establish that a variance is "necessary for a property's use, only that the proposed use is reasonable given the particular conditions of the property. See <u>Harborside Assocs.</u>, 162 N.H. at 519. "This factor, however, does *not* require the landowner to show that he or she has been deprived of *all* beneficial use of the land." <u>Harrington v. Town of Warner</u>, 152 N.H. 74, 80-81 (2005) (emphasis added). The question of whether the property can possibly be used differently from what the applicant has proposed is not a material consideration. <u>Malachy Glen</u>, 155 N.H. at 108.

The Proposal is reasonable. The Ordinance recognizes that multi-family workforce housing is appropriate in this area, subject to the conditions of a special exception which are all met in this case, as discussed above. Likewise, the Master Plan recognizes that workforce housing is not merely permissible and reasonable but sorely needed in Warner and in the region as a whole. The particular location of the Property allows the Proposal to serve as a transitional use from the commercial uses to the nearby residential area.

The requested variance specifically is likewise reasonable. The Ordinance expressly contemplates a reduction of the 40-foot front setback under certain conditions. In this case, one of those conditions (shared access with abutting lots) is not feasible, reasonable, or even desirable to connect a residential parking lot with the commercial parking lot of a Dunkin Donuts drive-through. Moreover, given the location of the Property, the traffic reducing intentions of shared access are simply not necessary, as discussed above.

The Applicant reserves the right to amend, modify, and/or supplement this application at or before the hearing thereon.



TOWN OF WARNER

P.O. Box 265, 5 East Main St. Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0059 Land Use Office: (603)456-2298 ex. 7 landuse@warnernh.gov

Application for Special Exception

The applicant hereby requests a Special Exception to the terms of:

Article: _	XIV-A		Section:	ection: of the Warner Zoning Ordinance					
									_
Applican	nt/Contac	t Person:							
Name of	Applicant	Concord Area	Trust for Co	mmunity	Housin	g ("CATCH")	Date:		
Mailing A		105 Loudon R							
Town:	Concord	I		State:	NH			Zip:	03301
Telephon	ie: 603.	223-0810		Alternate):		Email:		o@catchhousing.or
	f Propert								
Name of		Comet LLC					Date:		
Mailing A	.ddress:	84 Range Roa	d						
Town:	Windha	ım		State:	NH			Zip:	03087
Telephon	ie:			Alternate) :		Email:		
Location	of Prope	erty:							
Map#:	35	Lot#:	4-3	Zoning D	istrict:	Commercial (C-1)) Distric	t	
Address:	Route	103							
Describe	the requ	ıest:							
	-	18-unit workforc	e housing de	velopmer	nt. See	attached.			

Application for Special Exception

State in writing how the following conditions pertain to the property and be prepared to present the application at a public hearing. The burden of proof is on the applicant to show that all conditions have been met.

Warner Zoning Ordinance Article XVII and RSA 674:33

a. The use requested is identified in the Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance as requiring a Special Exception in that respective zoning district, or as otherwise stated in the Zonin Ordinance.
See attached.
b. The requested use is essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare:
See attached.
c. The requested use will not impair the integrity or character of the district or adjoining district, nor be detrimental to the health, morals or welfare:
See attached.
d. In OC-1 and OR-1 districts only: Use of structure must conform to road access and availability of all services to that parcel at the time the Special Exception is requested.
See attached.

ALL APPLICABLE PAGES MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ACCEPTED

Authorization from Owne	er(s):		
I (We) hereby designa and present said applica	te <u>Cleveland, Waters ar</u> tion before the Warner Zo	nd Bass, P.A. Ining Board of Adjustment	_ to serve as my (our) agent and to appear [ZBA].
2. By submitting this app without further notice. I public site visit, which w	(We) further understand th	thorize and understand the ZBA may at some poin	at agents of the Town may visit the site the during the review process schedule a
3. I (We) understand th review. The applicant sh	at the ZBA will review the all pay for such a review.	e application/plan and/or	may send the application/plan out for
4. To the best of my (our) of Warner Zoning Ordin regulations which may a	ance and other land use	on provided herein is accuregulations of the Town	rate and is in accordance with the Town and other applicable state and federal
Signature of Owner(s): _	Allefal (My	Date:-3/18/25
		0	Date: <u></u>
Signature of Applicant(s)		istad	Date: 3/18/25
			Date:
Printed name of person(Michael	s) who signed above:	COMET, OW	ner usiv6 - Afflicant
Thing	P. FUMBOO	- CATCL ho	usiV6 - Afflicant
J 11 11.7			•
For Zoning Board of Ad	ljustment Use Only		
Assigned Case #:			
Date Received at Land	Use Office:		
Received by:			
Fee Amount:	Cash:	Check #:	Other:
Abutter List Received:	Yes: No:		
Date of Review:	Date of Hearing:	Date App	proved:

Concord Area Trust for Community Housing Route 103 (Lot 35-4-3)

APPLICATION FOR SPRECIAL EXCEPTION AND VARIANCE STATEMENT OF FACTS AND LAW

This Statement of Facts and Law is submitted on behalf of the Concord Area Trust for Community Housing ("CATCH") with respect to its application for a special exception and variance (the "Application") to permit multi-family affordable housing (the "Proposal") on certain real property located on Route 103, identified as Tax Map 35, Lot 4-3 (the "Property"), owned by Comet LLC (the "Owner" and, together with CATCH, the "Applicant"). All testimony, statements, representations, evidence, plans, reports, studies, and other information submitted or to be submitted by or on behalf of the Application in connection with the Application at or prior to the public hearing on the Application are incorporated by reference hereto. The applicant requests that the Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA") approve this Statement of Facts and Law as the specific findings required pursuant to RSA 676:3, I.

Background and Description

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The Proposal involves an approximately 48-unit workforce housing development. The Proposal will be a single four-story building with surface parking. The units will be a mixture of one, two, and three-bedroom units. Preliminary plans for the Proposal are submitted with the Application and incorporated by reference hereto.

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¹ The building will only be 3 stories from the front. In either case, it complies with the height limitations of the Ordinance.

This Proposal likewise seeks a Special Exception to allow workforce housing. Unlike in 2022, this Proposal is exclusively for workforce housing units – no market-rate housing units are contemplated.

Additionally, the Proposal requires a variance from the minimum front setback for the C-1 District set forth in Article XI, §C.1.b. of the Ordinance. Due to topographic and other physical conditions of the site, the Proposal places the building 20 feet from the front property line where the minimum front setback is 40-feet.

Article XI, §C.3 allows the Planning Board to reduce the front setback by up to 50% which would allow this Proposal without a variance. That authorization, however, is conditioned upon several criteria including, without limitation, on-site shared access arrangements with adjoining properties. The adjoining property, however, a Dunkin Donuts location, is ill-suited for shared access with a residential property and the properties are separated by a small brook. Likewise, the shape of the two lots (Route 103 is not a straight line in this location) and the configuration of the properties make such a connection impractical. Moreover, in initial discussions with the Planning Board about the Proposal, it appeared that the Planning Board similarly believed that direct access to Route 103 is preferable. Accordingly, a variance is required.

Details of Request

The Applicant requests (1) a special exception to construct multi-family workforce housing on the Property and (2) a variance to allow construction of a building within 20 feet of the front boundary where 40 feet are required and shared access with an adjoining property is not reasonably feasible.

Special Exception (Multi-Family Workforce Housing)

A. The use requested is identified in the Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance as requiring a Special Exception in that respective zoning district, or as otherwise stated in the Zoning Ordinance:

Multi-family workforce housing is permitted by Special Exception in both the C-1 and INT Districts. See Ordinance, Table 1. See also Ordinance, Article XIV-A, §C.1

B. The requested use is essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare:

Workforce housing is an essential, desirable, and necessary use in Warner. The Warner Master Plan recognizes that there is a significant housing shortage in Warner and Merrimack County as a whole. "The lack of housing stock and rising prices make it difficult to find an affordable place to live, or even to afford and maintain ones existing housing." <u>See Master Plan</u>, 4-1. This Proposal will provide a meaningful supply of workforce housing that specifically addresses that problem.

The Property is also an ideal location for such a Proposal. The Property is in a commercial area, close to public services and served by municipal water and sewer. Moreover, the proximity

of Interstate 89 makes the Proposal convenient for commuters while avoiding any significant increase in traffic through Warner, such that might be created if housing were built farther from the highway.

The Proposal and the location of the Property further support the rural character of Warner. Warner needs affordable housing. By concentrating a large supply of affordable housing in this area, the Proposal alleviates the pressure on other, more rural areas of Warner that might be less suited to an influx of dense, workforce housing.

C. The requested use will not impair the integrity or character of the district or adjoining district, nor be detrimental to the health, morals or welfare:

The Proposal will not impair the integrity or character of the area. The Proposal is near residential areas where the use is similar but will be located within the Commercial District where the scale of the use will not be detrimental to the character of the neighborhood. Indeed, the higher-density residential use of the Proposal will be transitional between the commercial and rural areas. The proximity of shopping and Interstate 89 will keep the majority of traffic in the commercial area that can accommodate such traffic and out of the rural areas of Town.

D. In OC-1 and OR-1 districts only: Use of structure must conform to road access and availability of all services to that parcel at the time the Special Exception is requested.

Not Applicable.

Variance Standards (Setback)

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

A variance is contrary to the public interest when it unduly, and in a marked degree, conflicts with the Zoning Ordinance such that it violates the Zoning Ordinance's basic zoning objectives. Malachy Glen Assocs., Inc. v. Town of Chichester, 155 N.H. 102, 105 (2007). There are two methods for determining whether a variance would violate a Zoning Ordinance's basic zoning objectives: (1) "whether granting the variance would alter the essential character of the neighborhood" or (2) "whether granting the variance would threaten the public health, safety or welfare". Harborside Assocs., L.P. v. Parade Residence Hotel, LLC, 162 N.H. 508, 514 (2011).

The variance requested here would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood. As discussed above, the area is primarily commercial and consistent with a high-density workforce housing development. The Proposal will create a transitional use between the commercial and residential areas, and, due to the site's topography, compressing the building closer to the front property line will help obscure the view of the building from Route 103.

The variance will not threaten the public health, safety, or welfare in Warner. The majority of traffic will be concentrated in the commercial area and the nearly-direct access to Interstate 89, where such traffic will not create congestion or safety hazards. If anything, the provision of a

significant supply of workforce housing will benefit Warner by making it easier for people to live and work in town and the surrounding area.

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

The requirement that the variance not be "contrary to the public interest" is "related to the requirement that the variance be consistent with the spirt of the Zoning Ordinance." Malachy Glen, 155 N.H. at 105. The general purposes of the Ordinance are "promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants, and preserving the values and charm now attached to the town." See Ordinance, Article I. Additionally, the C-1 District is intended to "encourage growth of this type in the proximity of the interstate highway interchanges. It is important to the economic success of Warner that the appearance of the town be perceived as an attractive commercial environment that reflects and compliments its heritage." See Ordinance, Article XI. Similarly, the purpose of the INT Overlay District is "to provide a framework for development in this area as a commercial and social hub for the community." See Ordinance, Article XI-A.

For the reasons discussed above, allowing the Proposal would observe the spirit of the Ordinance. The variance would allow for the Property to be used for its highest and best use, *i.e.*, as a multi-family residential development, creating workforce housing to alleviate the lack of housing in the area and make it easier for people to afford to live and work in Warner and the surrounding area.

In fact, many of the express purposes of the Ordinance are supported by the Proposal. The Proposal would "encourage growth in the proximity of the interstate highway interchanges" and improve the economic success and attractive commercial environment of Warner by creating workforce housing. Without workforce housing, the employees required by businesses necessary to that economic success and a commercial environment may not be able to afford to live nearby. On the other hand, allowing workforce housing brings more residents and potential customers to those businesses and makes it more likely that those individuals can afford to patronize businesses.

Moreover, a reduction in the setback is contemplated by the Ordinance in Article XI, §C.3. The Planning Board can reduce the setback by 50% if (a) parking is located in the rear of the building, (b) there is shared access between adjoining properties; and (c) the siting and orientation of the building is consistent with the scale and character of the Town of Warner, as determined by the planning board. In this case, the first criterion is satisfied. The third is expected to be satisfied through the site plan review process. The second is the only criterion that cannot be satisfied for the reasons discussed above – combining access between the residential development in the Proposal and the adjacent Dunkin Donuts drive-through is not practical or even preferable. In this case, however, given the location in the commercial zone and the proximity of the interstate highway, the traffic reducing benefits of shared access is unnecessary.

3. *Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:*

The "substantial justice" element of a variance is guided by two rules: that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general is an injustice, and whether the proposed development is consistent with the area's present use. <u>Malachy Glen</u>, 155 N.H. at 109.

Granting this variance would allow the beneficial addition of a significant number of workforce housing units within Warner that would benefit the current and future residents and the businesses that rely on employees and customers having affordable places to live in the area. Denying the variance, on the other hand, would be detrimental to the Applicant and the public. Given the size, shape, and particularly the wetlands on the Property, if the building were moved farther from the property line, it would significantly reduce the amount of parking available on the Property, likely making the entire project unfeasible. It would further exacerbate the housing shortage and force an increase of development into the rural areas of Warner where high-density affordable housing would be less well suited.

On the other hand, there is no benefit to the public in denying the Application that would offset those loses. The Ordinance recognizes that, in some circumstances, a 20-foot setback is reasonable in place of a 40-foot setback. The Proposal will be subject to site plan review by the Planning Board to ensure that issues such as parking layout and safe traffic patterns are appropriately addressed. The harm to the Applicant of strict enforcement of the Ordinance will outweigh any theoretical benefit to the public. Granting the variance will therefore result in substantial justice.

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

The Proposal is consistent with the surrounding area and neighborhood. There is no reason that a large multi-family residential development on this Property, located 20 feet from the front property line, would reduce the value of the nearby commercial properties. If anything, the availability of dense housing, bringing customers and employees to those businesses, will likely improve the value thereof.

- 5. Owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, denial of the variance would result in unnecessary hardship because:
 - i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property because:

The wetlands and the general shape of the Property reduce the potential layouts available for the Proposal. In order to fit the building and sufficient parking on the Property, the front setback would need to be reduced. Given the location of the wetlands, moving the building outside of the front setback would significantly reduce the parking which would not be reasonable for a residential use. The only alternative would be to both significantly reduce the parking and the number of units together, but such a significant reduction in the scale of the Proposal would endanger its overall viability by losing economies of scale, and also significantly reduce the benefits that the Proposal would bring to the town and area by providing workforce housing.

None of the harms that a zoning ordinance is typically designed to prevent (noise, traffic, safety issues, incompatible uses in close proximity to each other, negative aesthetic impact) would

be present in this case. The area is already a high traffic area and can handle the additional traffic of a residential use, most of which would be directed to the nearby Interstate 89 and not into rural Warner. As a commercial area, any noise created by a residential use would be immaterial. The building will be of modern, visually appealing design, so there will be no negative aesthetic impact. Certainly none of these factors will be impacted by a reduction in the front-setback from 40 feet to 20 feet, which would be immaterial to any noise or traffic of the Property, and actually will be improved from an aesthetic standpoint as compressing the building to the front property line will obscure the view of the building from Route 103.

In other words, none of the general public purposes of the Ordinance support denying this Application. As discussed above, the Proposal instead *furthers* many of the Ordinance's stated purposes and provides much needed workforce housing in an area of Warner that is well-suited for it.

ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one because:

A landowner need not establish that a variance is "necessary for a property's use, only that the proposed use is reasonable given the particular conditions of the property. See <u>Harborside Assocs.</u>, 162 N.H. at 519. "This factor, however, does *not* require the landowner to show that he or she has been deprived of *all* beneficial use of the land." <u>Harrington v. Town of Warner</u>, 152 N.H. 74, 80-81 (2005) (emphasis added). The question of whether the property can possibly be used differently from what the applicant has proposed is not a material consideration. <u>Malachy Glen</u>, 155 N.H. at 108.

The Proposal is reasonable. The Ordinance recognizes that multi-family workforce housing is appropriate in this area, subject to the conditions of a special exception which are all met in this case, as discussed above. Likewise, the Master Plan recognizes that workforce housing is not merely permissible and reasonable but sorely needed in Warner and in the region as a whole. The particular location of the Property allows the Proposal to serve as a transitional use from the commercial uses to the nearby residential area.

The requested variance specifically is likewise reasonable. The Ordinance expressly contemplates a reduction of the 40-foot front setback under certain conditions. In this case, one of those conditions (shared access with abutting lots) is not feasible, reasonable, or even desirable to connect a residential parking lot with the commercial parking lot of a Dunkin Donuts drive-through. Moreover, given the location of the Property, the traffic reducing intentions of shared access are simply not necessary, as discussed above.

The Applicant reserves the right to amend, modify, and/or supplement this application at or before the hearing thereon.

March 18, 2025

Chrissy Almanzar, Administrative Assistant Town of Warner Zoning Board of Adjustment 5 East Main Street Warner, NH 03278

RE: Concord Area Trust for Community Housing ("CATCH")

Comet LLC Route 103

Tax Map 35, Lot 4-3

Dear Ms. Almanzar:

As identified on the applications for special exception and variance and in connection with the above-referenced property, Cleveland, Waters and Bass, P.A. ("CWB") and Ranger Engineering Group, Inc. ("Ranger"), are authorized to represent CATCH and Comet LLC in connection therewith, as are any other experts or professionals consulted by CWB or Ranger to further represent our interests in connection with the above-represented property.

Thank you.

4902-6651-1915, v. 1

Thomas R. FINSTROO, President CATCH HOUSING MERRIMACK COUNTY RECORDS Hatti & Hoy CPO, Register

Mark Dunn 1800 25-

9000 WARRANTY DEED

MRT INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a New Hampshire limited liability company, in good standing, with a principal place of business of P.O. Box 7115, Milford, NH 03055, for consideration paid, grants to COMET LLC, a New Hampshire limited liability company, in good standing, with a principal place of business of 355 Middlesex Avenue, Suite 7, Wilmington, MA 01887, with

WARRANTY COVENANTS:

A certain tract or parcel of land, with buildings and improvements thereon, if any, situate on the southerly side of NH Route 103, a/k/a West Main Street, so-called, in the **Town of Warner, County of Merrimack and State of New Hampshire**, being Lots 1, 2 & 3 on a plan entitled "Subdivision Plan, Assessors Map 35, Lot 4, West Main Street/N.H. Route 103, Warner, New Hampshire", for R.A.W. Investments, Inc., drawn by T.F. Bernier, Inc., dated April, 2000, as revised, scale 1"=60 feet and recorded as Plan 16243 in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds to which reference may be had for a more particular description and containing all lots as shown on said Plan.

Subject to a Conservation Easement in favor of the Town of Warner as described in Corrective Conservation Easement Deed of R.A.W. Investment Trust, Inc. to the Town of Warner dated July 2, 2003 and recorded at Book 2547, Page 1295 in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds;

Subject to slope and embankment easements, drainage easements and damage release in favor of the State of New Hampshire for reconstruction and widening of NH Route 103/West Main Street dated May 12, 1966 and recorded at Book 984, Page 507 in said Registry;

Subject to covenants and restrictions in favor of Sun Oil Company as described in deed of Richard & Patricia Sandy to Sun Oil Company dated November 29, 1966 and recorded at Book 998, Page 496 in said Registry restricting Sandy, their successors and assigns from constructing and operating a gasoline station within 1,000 feet of the property described in the deed at Book 998, Page 496 as to the remaining land of said Sandy;

Subject to power transmission line easement in favor of The Contoocook Electric Light Company dated May 5, 2016 and recorded at Book 434, Page 528 in said Registry and as depicted on Plan 16243;

Subject to slope and embankment easements and damage release in favor of the State of New Hampshire dated June 8, 1966 and recorded at Book 986, Page 180 in said Registry for the construction of the I-89 highway corridor and the reconstruction of NH Route 103 as the same may affect the subject property;

Subject to a Boundary Line Agreement between High View Church Farm, Inc. and Dorothy Sawyer dated July 19, 1990 and recorded at Book 1842, Page 1517 in said Registry establishing the westerly boundary line of Tax Lot 35-3 and the easterly boundary line of Lot 35-4 as depicted on Plan 11670 and the easterly boundary line of Lot 3, Plan 16243 as depicted on said Plan 16243;

Subject to a 12 foot wide driveway easement in favor of Dorothy C. Sawyer, her heirs and assigns, dated July 19, 1990 and recorded at Book 1842, Page 1520 in said Registry for access to Tax Lot 35-3 as depicted on Plan 11670 and Plan 16243.

Meaning and intending to describe and convey the same premises as described in the Foreclosure Deed of R.A.W. Investments Trust, Inc. by MRT Investment & Development, LLC, as holder of power of sale mortgage, to MRT Investment & Development, LLC dated August 17, 2009 and recorded at Book 3150, Page 871 in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds.

THIS IS RAW LAND AND NOT HOMESTEAD PROPERTY

Witness my hand this 132. day of December, 2017

MRT INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT, LLC

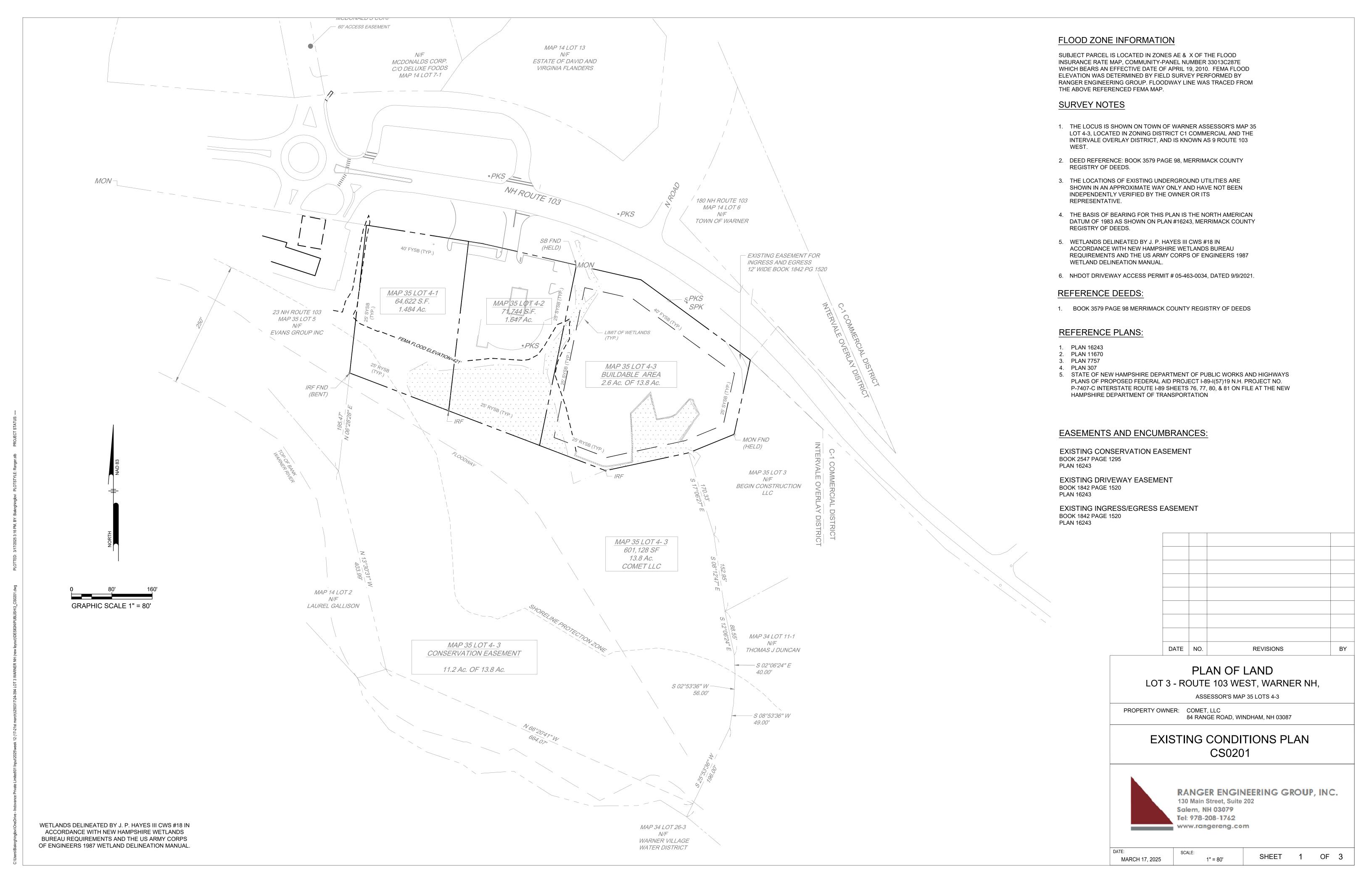
Annmarie Pintal Turcotte, Manager

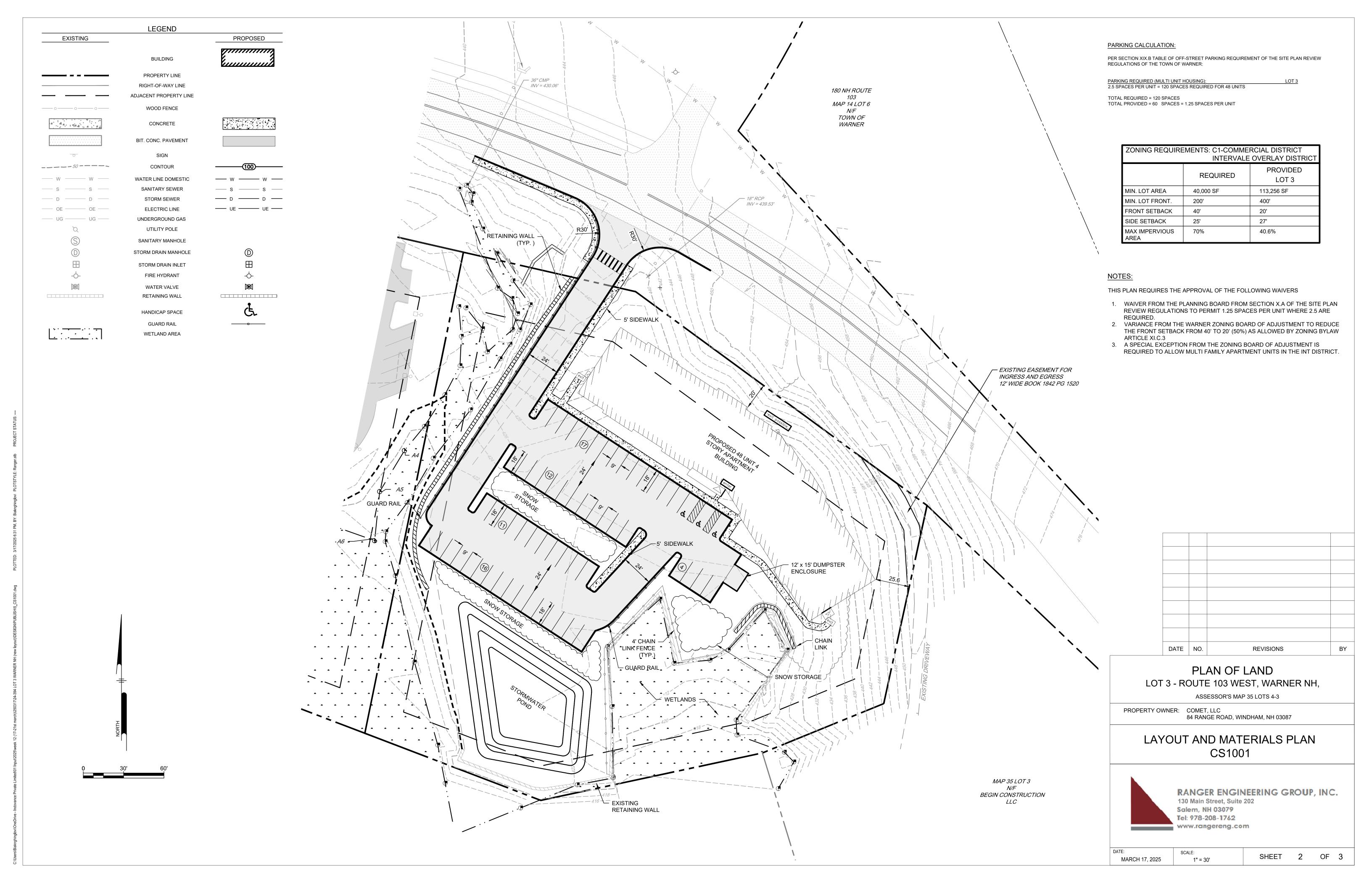
Duly Authorized

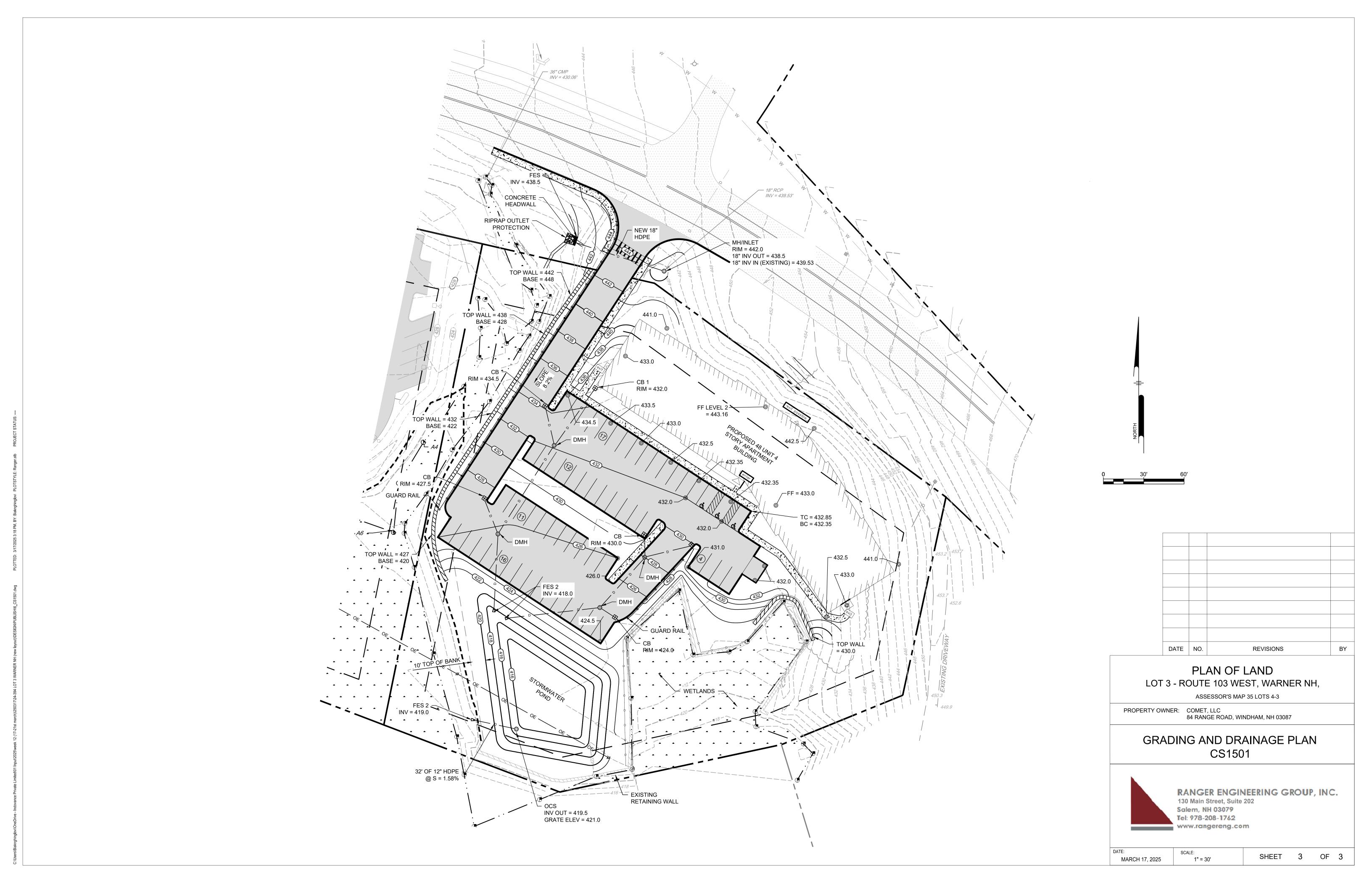
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, SS.

On this the ____ day of December, 2017, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Annmarie Pintal Turcotte, in her capacity as Manager of MRT Investment & Development, LLC, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person who executed and acknowledged the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained in her capacity as Manager of MRT Investment & Development, LLC.

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace Printed Name: Mark R. Dunn, Esq. My Commission Expires: 10/29/2019







LIST OF ABUTTERS/NOTIFICATION LIST Warner, New Hampshire Map/Lot 35-4-3

Owner	Street Address	Map/Block/Lot
Comet LLC	9 Route 103 West	35-4-3
84 Range Road		35-4-1
Windham, NH 03087		35-4-2
Applicant	Street Address	Map/Blcok/Lot
Concord Area Trust for Community	N/A	N/A
House (CATCH)		
105 Loudon Road		
Concord, NH 03301		
Applicant's Consultants	Street Address	Map/Block/Lot
Cleveland Waters and Bass, P.A.	N/A	N/A
Two Capital Plaza, 5 th Floor		
Concord, NH 03301		
Attn: Jeffrey C. Christensen, Esq.		
Ranger Engineering Group, Inc.	N/A	N/A
130 Main Street, Suite 202		
Salem, NH 03079		
Abutters	Street Address	Map/Block/Lot
Town of Warner	180 West Main Street	14-6
P.O. Box 265		
Warner, NH 03278		
Lindsay Britton	143 West Main Street	34-11-1
Michael Yereniuk		
143 West Main Street		
Warner, NH 03278		
Warner Village Water District	Off Chemical Lane	34-26-3
P.O. Box 252		
Warner, NH 03278		
White Clover LLC	183 West Main Street	35-3
257 Mansion Road		
Dunbarton, NH 03046		
Evans Group Inc.	Route 103 West	35-5
P.O. Box 246		
Lebanon, NH 03766		
VS Warner, LLC	North Road	14-13
P.O. Box 1378		
New London, NH 03257		

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