3 PRIMROSE STREET NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470 TEL. (203) 270-4276 FAX (203) 270-4278



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting Wednesday July 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm Municipal Center – Council Chambers

These minutes are subject to approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Present: Charles Annett III, Alan Clavette, Barbara O'Connor, Ross Carley, Timothy Cronin, Jane Sharpe, Stephen Singlak, Joseph Bojnowski

Also Present: George Benson (Director of Planning), Jean St. Jean (Borough Zoning Official), Robert Sibley (Deputy Director of Land Use), Michael Lynch (Legal Counsel), Georgia Contois (Clerk)

The meeting was opened by Chairman Annett at 7:32pm, and Ms. O'Connor called the roll.

With no changes to be made on the Minutes from June 1, 2016, Mr. Carley made a motion to accept. Mr. Clavette seconded. All were in favor.

Docket # 16-05 Application of Daniel Amaral to appeal for Correction of Alleged Error in a decision of the Zoning Officer who on June 17, 2016 issued violations of certain sections (1.06.100, 1.06.600, 1.06.1300, 1.06.900) of the Newtown Zoning Regulations.

Ms. O'Connor read the call for the hearing.

Attorney Robert Hall, 43 Main Street, and Daniel Amaral, 41 Elm Street, approached the board and introduced themselves. Mr. Hall submitted an Affidavit for the mailings. He first clarified a discrepancy of the quantity of lots included in the Amaral property. Through much discussion and research, Mr. Hall determined that there is only one lot; 40 South Main Street. Mr. Hall submitted many documents to the Board including surveys, letters, and aerial photographs via GIS.

Alan Shephard, 1 Glover Avenue, presented a parking layout plan to alleviate concerns over the parking lot and correct encroachments to the wetlands. The plan included planted islands and designated spots for different sized vehicles. Mr. Hall explained that according to Newtown's Zoning Regulations, a building consisting of 8,420 square feet would require 43 parking spaces. A large part of upgrading the lot would be to clean up debris and excess materials. Rob Sherwood, 246 Federal Road (Brookfield), submitted a landscape plan to 'green-up' the site and return it to a residential feel.

Mr. Hall defended the Applicant's position against the Zoning Enforcement Officer, and briefly explained why they did not believe each named regulation was applicable. He started by disputing that "junk" by definition is open to opinion, and if organization was brought to the site, there would be no disorderly accumulation. Mr. Annett wanted to know if all of the vehicles were registered or not. Mr. Amaral believed most vehicles are. Mr. Hall asked the Board to consider holding off on making a decision until their meeting in September to allow work to be done on the property in the mean-time.

Mr. Sibley spoke towards the violation, saying he has been actively monitoring the site for possible Enforcement since August of 2015. He spoke of the violation folder for the record, which included a listing of vehicles and items on the property, maps, and photo documentation. He also made reference to a Special Exception from 1982 and a Zone Change from 1967, which are on file in the Land Use Department. Mr. Sibley spoke about the accumulated waste and abandoned vehicles, as well as the lack of a new car sales permit. Ms. O'Connor questioned the timing of the violation, stating that Mr. Amaral has not changed the lot over the course of many years. Mr. Sibley explained that violations against the property have been compiling incrementally. He also clarified that the use of a lot for commercial parking has not been allowed in any zone per the Newtown Zoning Regulations.

Mr. Hall wanted to be sure that the violation folder was submitted for the record, and asked for a recess to review all of the documents in the file. Upon returning, Mr. Hall asked to submit a map from the violation folder as its own separate exhibit. He asked the Board if they had been to the site, and could note anything visible that would affect the application. Mr. Annett told Mr. Hall and Mr. Amaral that the removal of the large trees by the road brought view to many violations that were in plain sight. However, he stated that the submitted landscaping plan is out of the purview of the ZBA. Mr. Sibley also clarified that the violation folder, as well as the Special Exception and Zone Change, continue to be available in the Land Use office. The violation folder was entered into the record.

Mr. Annett declared the hearing closed at 9:35pm, and opened a discussion between Board members. Many members agreed that there was excess junk on the property, but it did not fall to the description of a junkyard. Much discussion ensued about the sales of used vehicles given that the primary use is not the sales of new vehicles. Mr. Carley believed this use to be 'grandfathered' and many agreed. Mr. Annette asked for a five minute recess to speak with the Counsel. Upon returning, discussion continued regarding the practice of selling used cars on the property. Mr. Clavette requested information from Mr. Lynch regarding this issue. Mr. Lynch advised the Board that the property was located in a B-2 zone that allowed the sale of new cars and the accessory use of selling used cars. Those activities were therefore conforming uses of the property. When the new car sales terminated, used cars could no longer be sold as an accessory use under the regulations. The practice of selling used cars, was not a non-conforming use because it was permitted as an accessory use under the regulations. Therefore, the lot cannot be 'grandfathered' to only sell used vehicles.

The Chairman requested that the Board vote on each separate violation listed in the Enforcement Officer's Violation letter:

Section 1.06.100 – Automobile Junkyards – Voted to NOT UPHOLD			
AnnettAYE ClavetteAYE O'ConnorAYE	CarleyAYE CroninAYE		
Section 1.06.600	- Unregistered Vehicles - Voted to UPHOLD		
Annett	CarleyAYE CroninAYE		
Section 1.06.1300 – Accumulation of Waste, Abandoned or Used Materials – Voted to UPHOLD			
AnnettAYE ClavetteAYE O'ConnorNAY	CarleyAYE CroninAYE		

Vehi	cle Storage – Com	nmercial Parking Lots - `	Voted to UPHOLD
Annett	AYE	Carley	NAY
Clavette	AYE	Cronin	AYE

O'Connor.....NAY

Section 1.06.900 – Used Car Sales – Voted to **UPHOLD**

Annett AYE	CarleyNAY
ClavetteAYE	CroninAYE
O'ConnorAYE	

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Clavette thanked Mr. Cronin for his 21 years of service to the Town on various boards. He will be moving out of state, and will be greatly missed.

With no other business, Ms. Sharpe presented a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cronin seconded. All members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Newtown

Respectfully Submitted, Georgia Contois, Clerk



Exhibit A

MON 474 PLOE 560

5058

Executors' Deed of Distribution

Q ALL PEOPLE O MOHW THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Connecticut, and phoenix, Arizona, the Will of ANTHO died on January 28 Newtown, WHEREAS, the January 28, 198 e jurisdiction connecticut; a ANTHONY and JOHN DANIEL are 1989, ion of AMARAL, 1989, and the and AMARAL, of 41 Elm Drive, Newtown, MALONEY, of 2602 East Verbena Drive, duly appointed and acting Executors of MAL, late of the Town of Newtown, who and whose Estate is being administered the Probate Court for the District of

DANIEL J. AM said Anthony WHEREAS AMARAL certain a amaral at the in Article real proper he time of hi Article SECOND th L property which me of his death; thereof, dh had been and devises en owned

WHEREAS, said Daniel J. Amaral and John P. Ma Executors, now desire to distribute such rea accordance with the provisions of said Article SE Daniel J. Amaral wishes that such distribution be real property e SECOND; and Maloney, made t_o said guch

of land, with the k
"Premises"), identified
Estate of Anthony Ama
District of Newtown as
situated in the Town of and or v unto MALONEY, Executors consideration of the full satisfaction of Connecticut, Will of said which ought demand Licut, and pursuant to the terms of Article SECOND of the fall ANTHONY AMARAL do grant, bargain, sell and confirm ald DANIEL J. AMARAL all the right, title, interest, claim and which said Anthony Amaral had at the time of death, mand which said Anthony Amaral had at the time of death, charter in and to those two certain pieces or parcels to have in and to those two certain pieces or parcels to have in and to those two certain pieces or parcels to have in and to those two certain pieces or parcels to have in and to those two certain pieces or parcels to have in the buildings and improvements thereon (the ses"), identified in the Inventory of the Executors of the ses"), identified in the Probate Court for the ses"), identified in the Probate Court for the set of Newtown as the "Second Parcel," which two pieces are ed in the Town of Newtown, County of Fairfield and State and circularly described as follows: THEREFORE, KNOW DANIEL J. AMP of YE, the that Will Usual Oslida (SI.(AMARAL, DANIEL J. of ANTHONY AMARAL, in ar (\$1.00) received to their L, of 41 Elm Drive, Newtown, ms of Article SECOND of the bargain, sell and confirmight, title, interest, claim had at the time of death, AMARAL AMARAL, in ved to their and NHOL

First Piece:

Commencing at inte and State Highway thence S. 28° E. 5 10° 40" W. 200'; tl 105' 6" to the poi an Second γď o" to the prescre br the State Highway (Nond Piece hereinafter at intersection of the Town Road (Borough Lane) lighway (Main Street), thence S. 31° E. 149′ 9″; 8° E. 50′ 3″; thence S. 75° W. 237′; thence N. 200′; thence N. 86° 30′ E. 67′; thence N. 71° E. the point or place of beginning, containing .94 bounded North by the Town Road (Borough Lane); State Highway (Main Street); South and West by described. ng 94
Lane)

Helen Egan to Anthony recorded December 13, Newtown Land Records. same premises Anthony Amaral (described in dated De n the Warranty 1 December 13, ume 81, Page 6 3, 1932 68 of Deed from and the

Second Piece:

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Thence course W. Tren urse being Trend; South along land 30" west, 334.89 or formerly of of feet John E. said and last

being Thence along land 18 Mary West, 6 619.99 Amaral feet, 58 id last

Thence 50'; easterly line OH,

TAT93-52162

м 474 м 561

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Thence of beginning, said last hereinabove described; 20", last 246.47 course feet t ć along the the Fi int or

Containing 3.209 acres, more or less.

Being the same premises described in the from Mary Helen Amaral to Anthony Amaral cand recorded May 4, 1970 in Volume 218, Newtown Land Records. the Quit ral dated 1 218, Page May 4, e 90 of aim Deed 4, 1970 of the

Said Premises being known as 40 South Main Street

Said Premi being subject 6 the effect, 15 any, 01 the

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- 2 An agreemen Company dat Volume 194, agreement dated Page between May 12, ge 461 of of the 1 Anthony ny Amaral and The Nev 5 and recorded May 2 Newtown Land Records, Newtown y 23, 19 rds, and wn Water 1966 in
- A drai. October 222, Par drainage Page 151 easement 1970 and 1 of the 1 and to the State of d recorded January 1 Newtown Land Records. of 13, Connecticut 3, 1971 in Volume

hereby chey that they aforesaid. manner and form premises, w further riputee, his heirs and benefit forever covenant HAVE with have AND m aforesaid forever. to Executors the not O the power the said appurtenances the and assigns, to er. And the said I HOLD previously aid, and they, as said distributee, hi previously conveyed confirm f the distributes, has the the above above 5-thereof, Daniel as s 0 granted e described premises in as such Executors, do his heirs and assigns, red said premises as of, unto the said and their own proper el J. Amaral and John Anthony such heirs and Executors, and Amaral, unand assigns bargained the said

their Executors IN WITNESS WHEREOF, seals 88 9 9 1 Daniel niel J. Amaral and John f Anthony Amaral, have I this // "day of August n P. Maloney, hereunto set 7

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in the presence of:

James 11 Marian

MARION C TRECTSISSEN at Miss deaper

Corto A. Whatey

Daniel J Amaral

Co-Executor u/w Anthony Amaral

John P. Maloney

Eo-Executor u/w Anthony Amaral

N

rue 562

COUNTY OF ဝူ CONNECTICUT

FAIRFIELD

appeared to be the acknowledged Daniel this the Amaral, known described in day the therein cont of August, undersigned to me (or sa the contained. foregoing 1993, before me, officer, personally atisfactorily proven) sing instrument, and the capacity therein before

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, hereunto et: hand.

the

Compissioner 0 Superior Court

ဝ္ဗ ARIZONA

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

to be the person described in the acknowledged that he executed the stated and for the purposes therein appeared John P P. Maloney, known arson described in the of August, undersigned to me (or sa ď the contained.

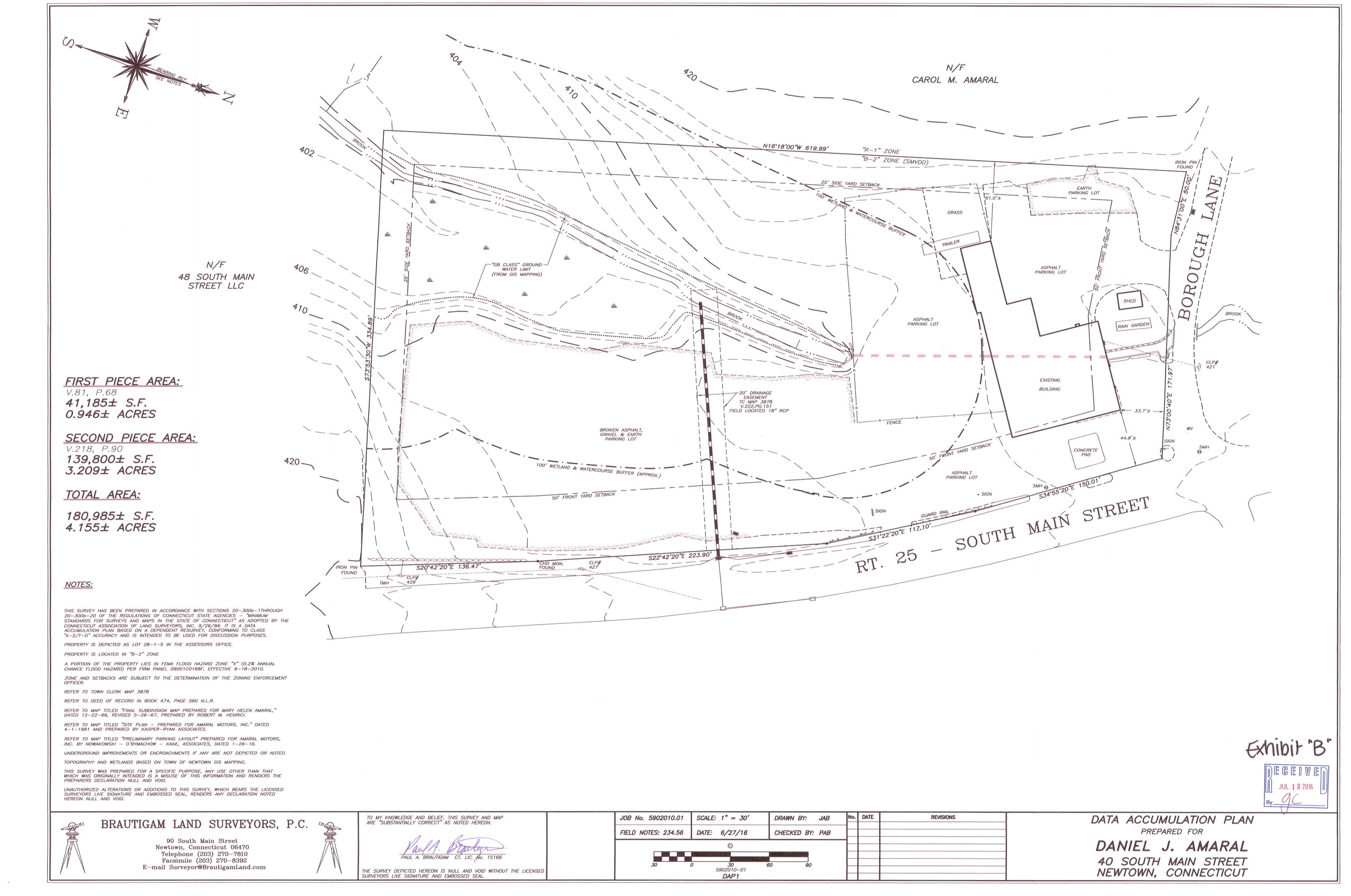
WHEREOF, hereunto set my hand.

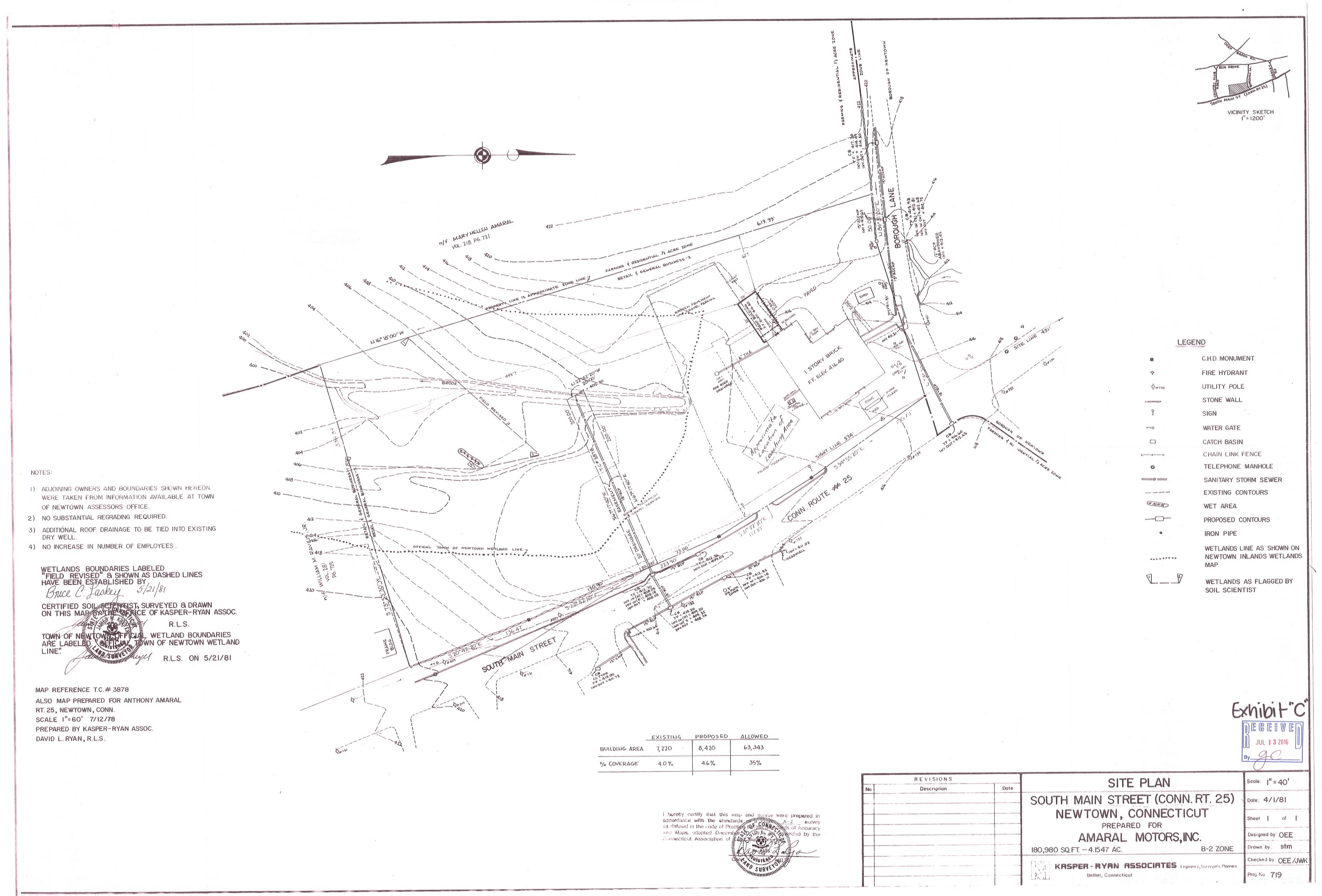
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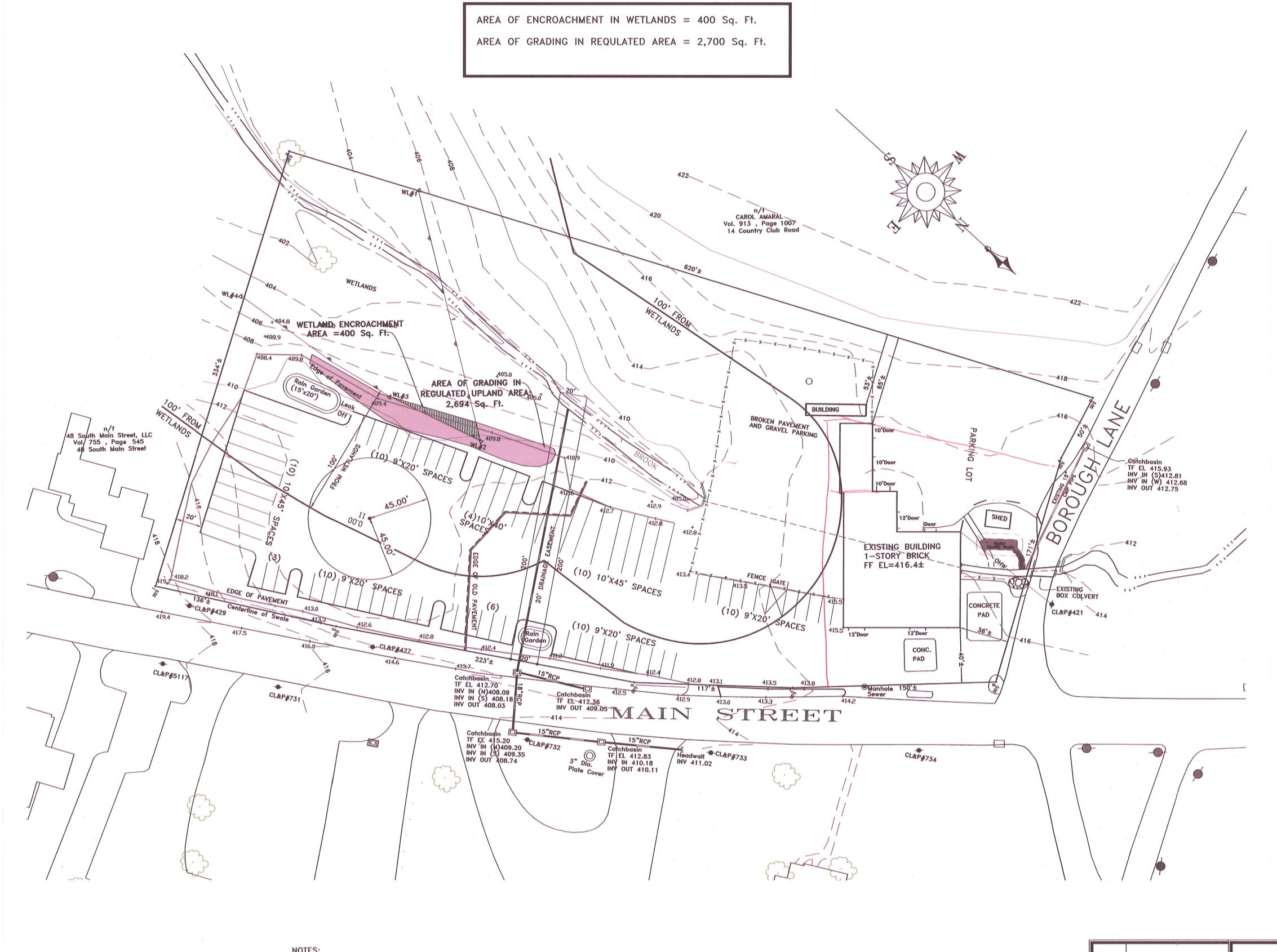
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Rec'd, for Record 8-11
Town Clerk of Newtown d. Rustri 1993

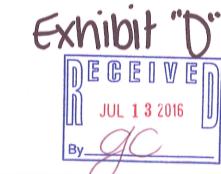








LOCATION MAP
(Approx. Scale: 1"=200")



NOTES:

- 1. Field Topography Base Information is from Site Plan prepared by Kasper—Ryan Associates, dated April 1, 1981, prepared for Amaral Motors, Inc.
- 2. Wetlands locations were taken from the Site Plan prepared by Kasper—Ryan Assocites, dated April 1, 1981, prepared for Amaral Motors, Inc.

DATE: DESCRIPTION REVISIONS

PRELIMINARY PARKING LAYOUT PREPARED FOR

AMARAL MOTORS, INC.

40 SOUTH MAIN STREET

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT SCALE: 1"= 40' DATE: JANUARY 26, 2016



MAP# A-4175 SEARCH 4968 FB/PG 552/25 DRAWING 102075 NOWAKOWSKI — O'BYMACHOW — KANE, ASSOCIATES

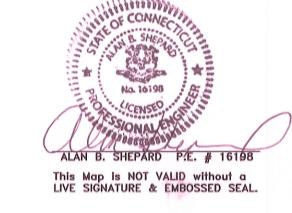
CIVIL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING

415 HOWE AVENUE

SHELTON, CONNECTICUT 06484

PHONE: (203) 924-7745 FAX: (203) 924-7526

Records Since 1950



TOWN HALL SOUTH 4 FAIRFIELD CIRCLE SOUTH NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470 TEL. (203) 270-4276 FAX (203) 270-1528



GARY FRENETTE ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER



June 24, 1999

Mr. William A. Trudeau, Jr. 47-49 South Main Street Newtown, CT 06470

RE: Storage of Newtown Oil Trucks

Dear Mr. Trudeau:

This letter is in response to your request of storing your oil trucks at Amaral Motors, Inc.

After reviewing this request, this would be allowed at that location, as Amaral's is a non-conforming situation. As I had stated in my last letter, these trucks must be off your site by July 1, 1999.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Naco

Gary Frenette

Very truly yours,

Zoning Enforcement Officer

GF/mm

cc: Joseph Walsh, Esq.

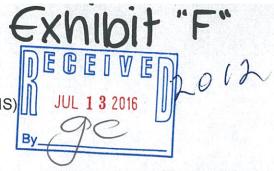
6-28-99

OK to park 2- 62 Reel Oil

Tuck

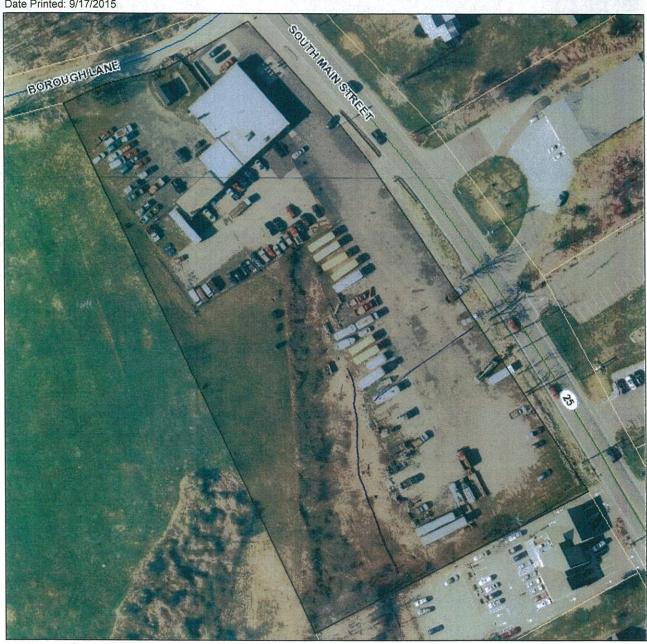
Town of Newtown

Geographic Information System (GIS)





Date Printed: 9/17/2015



MAP DISCLAIMER - NOTICE OF LIABILITY

This map is for assessment purposes only. It is not for legal description or conveyances. All information is subject to verification by any user. The Town of Newtown and its mapping contractors assume no legal responsibility for the information contained herein.

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet



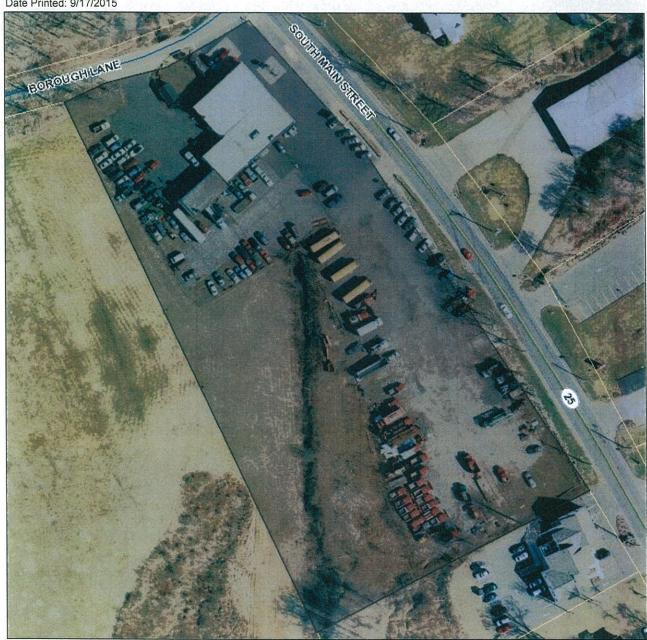


Town of Newtown

Geographic Information System (GIS)



Date Printed: 9/17/2015



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Town of Newtown

Geographic Information System (GIS)





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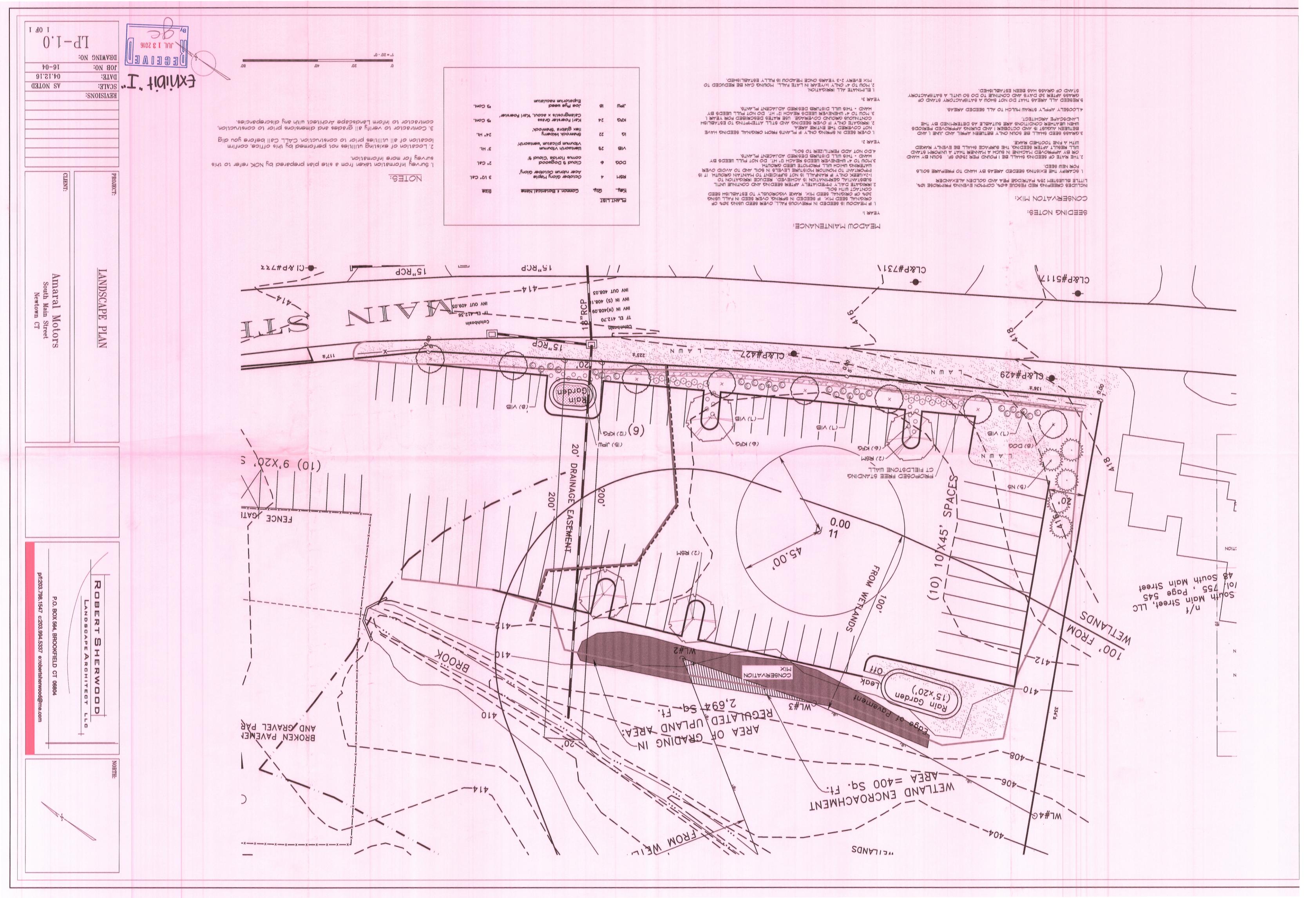




Google Maps

POINT







Monday, July 11, 2016

AMARAL MOTORS PLANT IMAGES



October Glory Maple

Acer Rubrum 'October Glory'



Cloud 9 Dogwood

Cornus Florida 'Cloud 9'



Monday, July 11, 2016

Wentworth Viburnum

Viburnum Plicatum 'Wentworth'



Shamrock Inkberry

Ilex Glabra 'Shamrock'



Monday, July 11, 2016

Karl Foerster Grass

Calamgrostis X Acut. 'Karl Foerster'



Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium Macuiatum



Exhibit "K"

CHINTZ-N-PRINTS

OF NEWTOWN, INC.

39 SOUTH MAIN STREET NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT (Route 25)

PHONE NEWTOWN GARDEN 6-2022

7/13/16

DEGEIVE

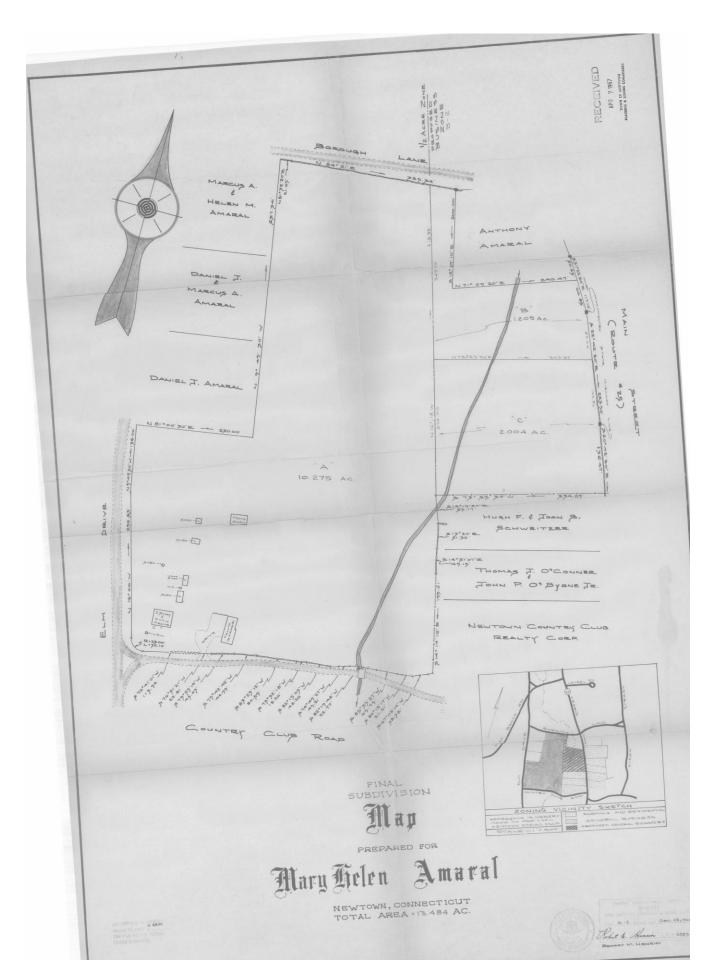
JUL 1 3 2016

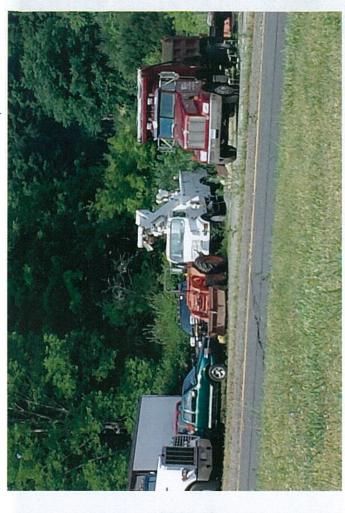
Dan,

Received notification Jour concerning parking of trucks & construction equipment, Here prior plans so can't come but, just wanted you to know I don't have a problem with the parking,

The parking has been going on for many years so don't know why it is a problem now. Is the alternative for all the arners of the rehicles to take thou some to residential neighborhoods?

> Sincerely, David Sarcher - Caner



















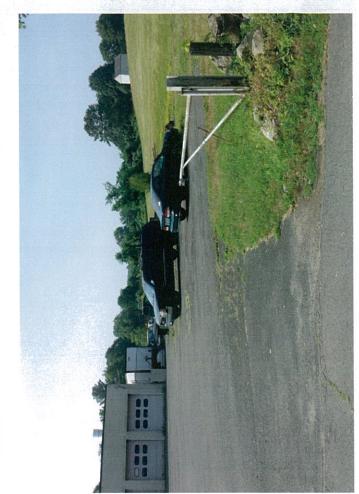
























No

LAW OFFICES

ROBERT H. HALL, P.C.

43 MAIN STREET

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470

TELEPHONE (203) 426-8177 FAX (203) 426-6529

ROBERT H. HALL

May 23, 2016

MAY 2 4 2016

EMAIL ADDRESS roberthhallpc@yahoo.com

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. George M. Benson Land Use Director 3 Primrose Street Newtown, CT 06470

Mr. Robert Sibley Associate Land Use Director 3 Primrose Street Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Dan Amaral/Subdivision of Property

Dear George and Rob:

First of all, thank you for talking to me on such short notice. I am sure that I was "loaded for bear" when I came in.

Something was troubling me while we were talking and I could not put my finger on it. I realize now that what was troubling me was I used to go to that garage when I was six years old and that was long before the subdivision law in Newtown! The fact is, the corner piece shown as "Anthony Amaral" became a separate piece in 1932, when he built the garage. From what I see in your notes on the map, you had already learned that.

In any event, there has been no other cut to expand the "Anthony Amaral" parcel. Adding extra land is not a subdivision. The addition of land to the "Anthony Amaral" parcel was not a subdivision, only a readjustment of the boundaries.

I realize that you have an understanding that by filing the map for a zoning change it "morphed" in to a subdivision map showing the extra two acre lot at the southerly end of the Danny Amaral property.

ROBERT H. HALL, P.C.

Mr. George M. Benson Mr. Robert Sibley May 23, 2016 Page 2

I am looking forward to seeing what you find in the file because it will shed light on whether or not that is a correct analysis or whether, if it was an attempt to create a second lot, it was futile.

I realize that you believe a two acre lot in a business zone might be beneficial, but I am not sure that Danny sees it that way. It is, of course, a subject for discussion in connection with seeking to make Danny's property more acceptable.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Hall

RHH/kls

cc: Mr. Daniel Amaral

RE: 42 SOUTH MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN, CT 06470 TOWN OF NEWTOWN VS. DANIEL J. AMARAL, AMARAL MOTORS INC.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SS: NEWTOWN

APRIL 11, 2016

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD

Then and there, by virtue hereof, of the original Notice Of Zoning Violation - Cease And Desist Letter and Supporting documents (13 pages), I made service upon the within named defendant(s):

DANIEL J. AMARAL

By leaving, a true and attested copy, of the original, Notice Of Zoning Violation - Cease And Desist Letter and Supporting documents (13 pages), in the foregoing matter, with and in the hands of:

DANIEL J. AMARAL, at, AMARAL, AMARAL MOTORS INC., 42 SOUTH MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

one such copy for each of the within named defendant(s).

The within and foregoing is a true and attested copy of the original Notice Of Zoning Violation - Cease And Desist Letter and Supporting documents (13 pages), with my doings hereon endorsed.

Fees	
Travel	\$ 14.80
Copies	14.00
Service	40.00

Endorsement 1.20 Total \$70.00 Attest:

Richard T. DeLucia

Connecticut State Marshal, Fairfield County

3 Primrose Street Newtown, CT 06470 (203) 270-4276 (203) 270-4278 Fax www.newtown-ct.gov



Notice of Zoning Violation- Cease and Desist

March 31, 2016

Mr. Daniel J. Amaral Amaral Motors Inc. 40 South Main Street Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Vacant Lot (Assessors Map 21, Block 1, Lot 5A) 42 South Main Street - Old Construction Equipment, Trucks, Debris, etc.

Dear Mr. Amaral,

This letter is in regard to the above referenced matter.

Your building lot at 42 South Main Street in Newtown, Ct 06470, has several zoning violations on it.

Specifically the following items:

- 1. The storage of junk, numerous old snow plows, wooden pallets, construction debris, construction equipment and approximately 59 vehicles of assorted makes and models, 18 wheelers, tri-axles, vans, etc. (see attached list).
 - a. These items are a violation of section 1.06.006 (see copy).
 - b. These items are a violation of section 1.06.1300 (see copy).
 - c. These items are a violation of section 1.06.100 (see copy).
- The use of the parcel as a parking lot without a primary use. The parcel is currently zoned B-2 (see attached map) with uses permitted, and Special Exception uses permitted in Article IV section 3. The zone does not allow for a parking lot as a primary use.

Upon, receipt of this letter, you will have a period of forty-five (45) days to remove all the debris, vehicles, trailers, etc. from 42 South Main Street.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Very fruly yours

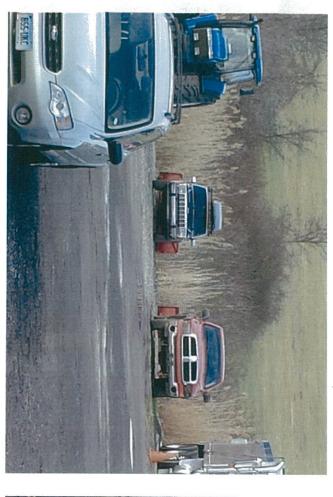
Gary Frenette, Zoning Officer

























3/17/200

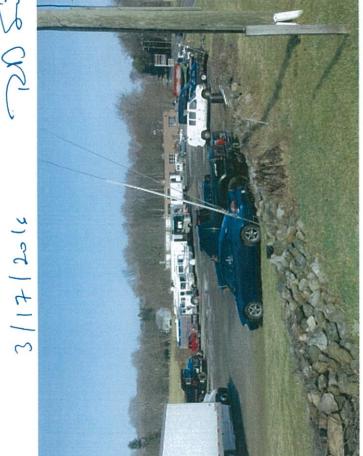
2 South

Main

(20) Simy 72 South Man St.









3117/2016 Evening

3 | 17 /2016

Rob Siblery @ 10 Am

	Tractor Trajer + Cab - 1 Vactoriler - 1
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(2) 5 ysco	cub only - THI Spray take - 1
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	Tri agle Domp Trock - 11 Bocket attendom
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	Box truck - 11
	office Trailer - 11
	Convertor on Truler - 1
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8/27 (2015











8/27/15

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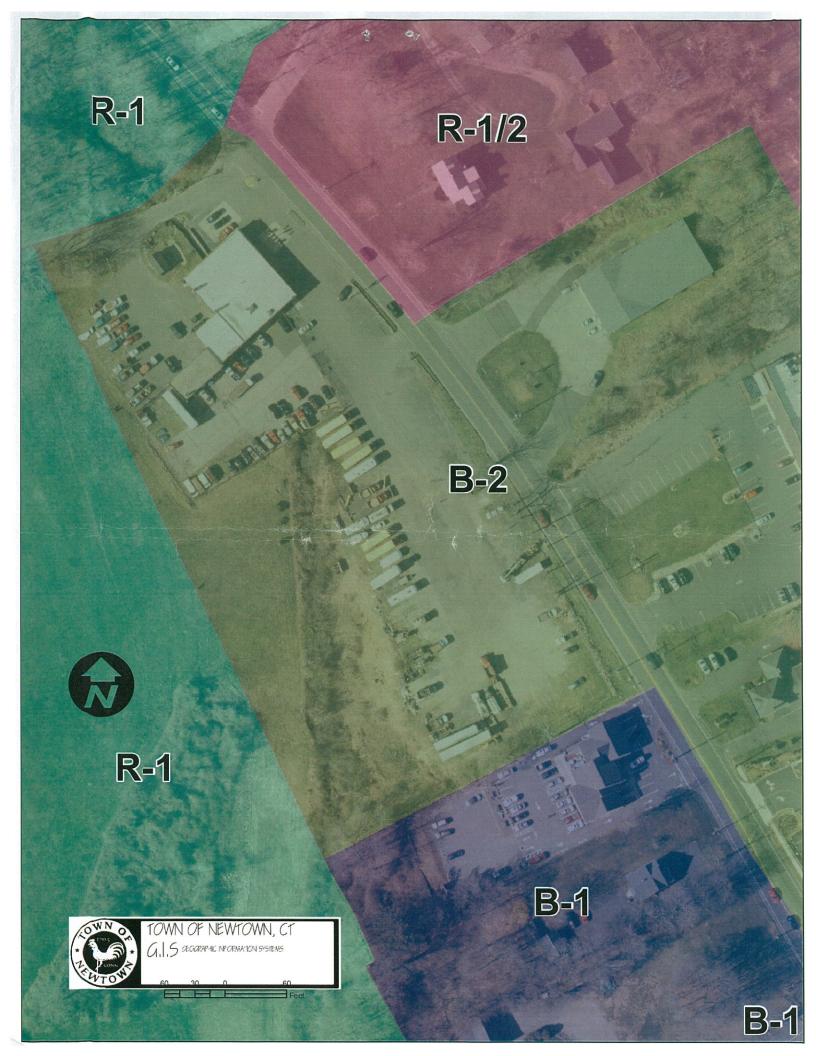


ARTICLE I - GENERAL

SECTION 6 - PROHIBITED USES

- **1.06** The following uses, buildings or structures are specifically prohibited throughout all zones, even if only an accessory use:
- **1.06.100** Automobile *junkyards*, *junkyards*, the processing of junk materials, or motor vehicle body shops;
- 1.06.200 Amusement parks, drive-in theaters and race tracks;
- 1.06.300 Manufacture of poison, toxic chemicals or explosives;
- **1.06.400** *Mobile home parks, trailer* parks and individually occupied *mobile homes* or *trailers*, except as set forth in 8.11.130 and 8.11.140 herein;
- 1.06.500 Rock or stone crushers, processing of sand, sand and gravel, or concrete batch plants. Rock crushing except as set forth in Section 8.08.330 herein.
- 1.06.600 Storage outdoors of any unregistered motor vehicle or obsolete and/or unused contractors' machinery or equipment. This section shall not prohibit outdoor storage of unregistered operable motor vehicles used on farms.
- 1.06.700 Slaughterhouse, rendering plant or refinery,
- **1.06.800** Tank farm or individual above ground storage tanks over 5,000 gallons capacity, except that the 5,000 gallon limitation shall not apply to above ground tanks located in industrial *zones*; (Amended March 18, 2002)
- 1.06.900 Used car sales *lot* except where conducted on the same premises as a new car sales *lot* and clearly incidental thereto.
- **1.06.1000** Dissemination of smoke, dust, observable gas or fumes, noise, odor, vibration, or light beyond the *lot* on which the *use* is being conducted. Violation of the specific performance standards established by Article VIII, Section 10 of these regulations for the Industrial *Zones* in which they apply shall automatically be considered a violation of this section. This section may also be found to be violated in any *zone* where the *Zoning Enforcement Officer* finds the existence of the items listed in the first sentence of this section without regard to said performance standards.
- 1.06.1100 Menace by reason of fire, explosion or other potential hazard to person or property.
- 1.06.1200 Any discharge into the atmosphere, the ground or any watercourse or other body of water of any substance which, in the form and quantity discharged, will damage the fauna and flora of the *lot* in question, or which will be harmful to persons breathing the atmosphere or drinking or bathing in the water on or off the *lot*.

1.06.1300 Disorderly accumulation of waste, abandoned or used materials, where visible from adjacent *streets* or *lots*.



Johnson, 1993 WL 452147 (Vertefeville, J.) (must show irreparable harm and lack of adequate remedy at law). Even if a showing of irreparable harm and lack of adequate remedy of law is not required for a temporary (or permanent) injunction, the municipality must still demonstrate that it is equitable to grant the injunction. Masayda v. Pedroncelli, 43 Conn. App. 443, 447 (1996). Note that a decision to issue a temporary injunction is not appealable, and one judge cited that fact as a reason for not granting a temporary injunction even though the court was likely to approve a permanent injunction. Hausman v. Bernardo, 2008 WL 279802.

d. <u>Defenses to municipal enforcement action.</u>

- (1) <u>Estoppel:</u> Besides defenses on the merits (e.g. the zoning officer misinterpreted the regulations, or the activity alleged did not occur), a municipality may be estopped from enforcing zoning regulations. The party claiming estoppel must prove that:
 - i. an authority of the municipality had done or said something
 calculated or intended to induce the party to believe that certain facts
 existed and the party acted on the belief;
 - ii. the party had exercised due diligence to ascertain the truth and not only lacked the knowledge of the true state of things, but also had no convenient means of acquiring that knowledge; and
 - iii. the party would be subjected to substantial loss if the municipality were permitted to negate the acts of its agents. <u>Dornfried v. October</u>

 <u>Twenty-Four. Inc.</u>, 230 Conn. 622, 634-36 (1994); <u>West Hartford v.</u>

Rechel, 190 Conn. 114, 121 (1983); Woodbury Donuts, LLC v.

Zoning Board of Appeals, 139 Conn. App. 748 (2012). See also,

Levine v. Town of Sterling, 300 Conn. 521 (2011)("substantial loss" element requires party to demonstrate significant expenditures on project but does not require party to demonstrate a capital investment in property).

Estoppel defenses are not usually successful. But see Crisman v. Zoning

Board of Appeals, 137 Conn. App. 61, cert. denied, 307 Conn. 908 (2012)

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(Municipality estopped from revoking building permit after building permits were issued and construction of dwelling was 95% complete at a cost of \$500,000).

Selective Enforcement. Although several cases have suggested that selective enforcement may be a defense to a zoning enforcement action, I have not found a case where this has been successful. Goulet v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 117 Conn. App. 333, 343-44 cert. denied, 294 Conn. 909 (2009) (ZEO and ZBA not bound by earlier mistaken interpretation of regulation with respect to a different property in absence of other circumstances); Fillion v. Hannon, 106 Conn. App. 745 (2008) (fact that vehicles illegally parked on other properties did not establish that regulations were selectively enforced against plaintiff because plaintiff failed to show the ZEO had received and

Section 1.4 - INDUSTRIAL (M-1) DISTRICT

Permitted Uses

- All principal and accessory uses permitted in the Residential and Farming District and the two business districts (Retail Business and General Business).
- b. Laboratories devoted to research, design and exprimentation.
- General, operational and service offices of local or regional public utility companies.
- d. Office buildings.
- e. Light industrial uses including fabricating, processing, converting, altering, or assembling of products, the operations of which are conducted solely within a building or a group of buildings.
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- g. No use shall cause or result in dissemination of dust, smoke, observable gas, fumes or odor.
- h. Other requirements:
 - Exterior Lighting Exterior spot lighting or other illumination shall be installed so as to prevent any nuisance to adjacent residential areas or to traffic on the highway.
 - Traffic Safety Access and service roads shall be properly related to the street system to avoid unsafe conditions and traffic congestion.
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 maintained in an attractive manner. No grading shall take place and
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 property.
- Radio towers, utility towers, water towers, and water tanks ere-permitted subject to the granting of a special exception by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Before granting any such special exception, the Board of Appeals-shall find that:
 - The proposed use will not substantially impair property values in the neighborhood.
 - 2. The proposed use is in harmony with the general intent and purpose of these regulations.

The special exception requirements of this sub-section i. shall not be applicable to an industrial operation in existence in the Town of Newtown on August 25, 1958, including one which thereafter becomes located in an Industrial District and meets all of the other requirements of that District. The restrictions and requirements on maximum height of buildings and structures contained in Section 2 of Article IV of these regulations shall not apply to any structure erected or permitted in conformance with this sub-section i.

Section 1.5 - INDUSTRIAL (M-2) DISTRICTS

Permitted Uses

- a. All principal and accessory uses permitted in the Industrial M-1 District.
- b. Storage of contractor's equipment and machinery in current use.
- No use shall cause or result in dissemination of dust, smoke, observable gas, fumes or odor.
- d. Other requirements The same requirements as to exterior lighting, traffic safety and landscaping applicable to the Industrial M-1 District shall also apply to the Industrial M-2 Districts.



NONCONFORMING USES

By Lewis K. Wise, Esq.
Rogin, Nassau, Caplan, Lassman & Hirtle, LLC
Hartford, CT
Edited and Updated (2003) by Marvin P. Bellis, Esq.
Murtha Cullina LLP
Hartford, CT

I. Definition and Status of Nonconforming Us.

A nonconforming use is usually defined as a use lawfully in existence Α. on the date regulations are adopted that would make such use unlawful if begun thereafter. See Cummings v. Tripp, 204 Conn. 67, 91-92 (1987). The use must be actually in existence on that date, "known in the neighborhood" and not merely contemplated. The property must be so utilized as to be "irrevocably committed" to the use. Francini v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 228 Conn. 785 (1994). However, "neither the extent, quantity nor quality of the use" is relevant to determining whether a use was in existence. . .' The court is not generally required to speculate as to the number of acts or business transactions necessary to constitute an existing use." Helicopter Associates. Inc. v. Stamford, 201 Conn. 700,713 (1986). Thus, five commercial flights from a heliport in approximately one year were deemed sufficient to establish the nonconforming commercial use of the facility in Helicopter Associates. On the other hand, a state permit allowing the expansion of a landfill from 90 feet in height to 190 feet in height did not constitute the basis for a nonconforming use of the expanded landfill where there was no actual use in excess of 90 feet. Bauer v. Waste Management, 234 Conn. 221 (1995).

generator instead of a hand screener at a gravel pit was held to be an unlawful expansion of the nonconforming use because of the increase in noise, vibration and dust.

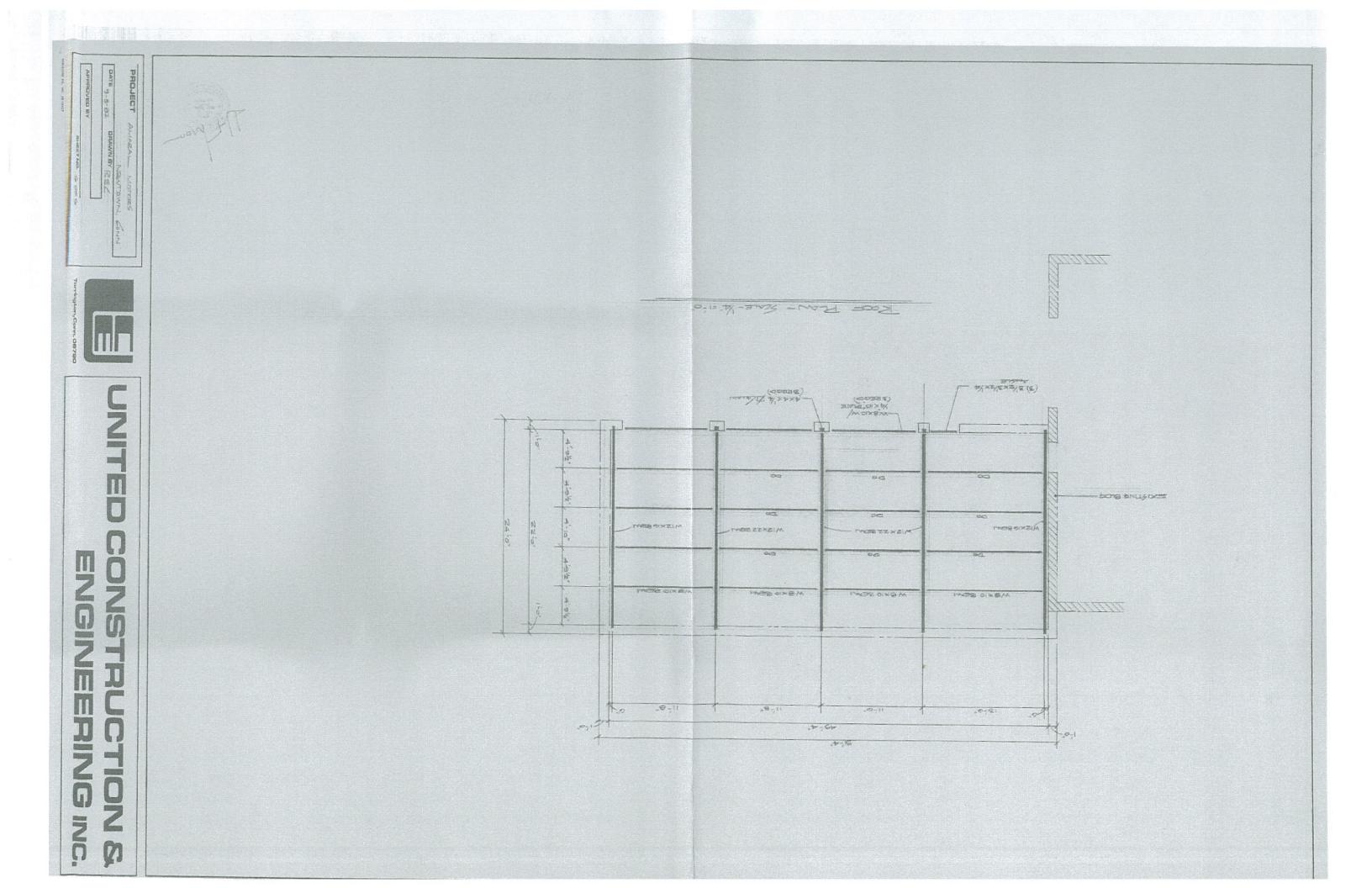
D. Area of Use.

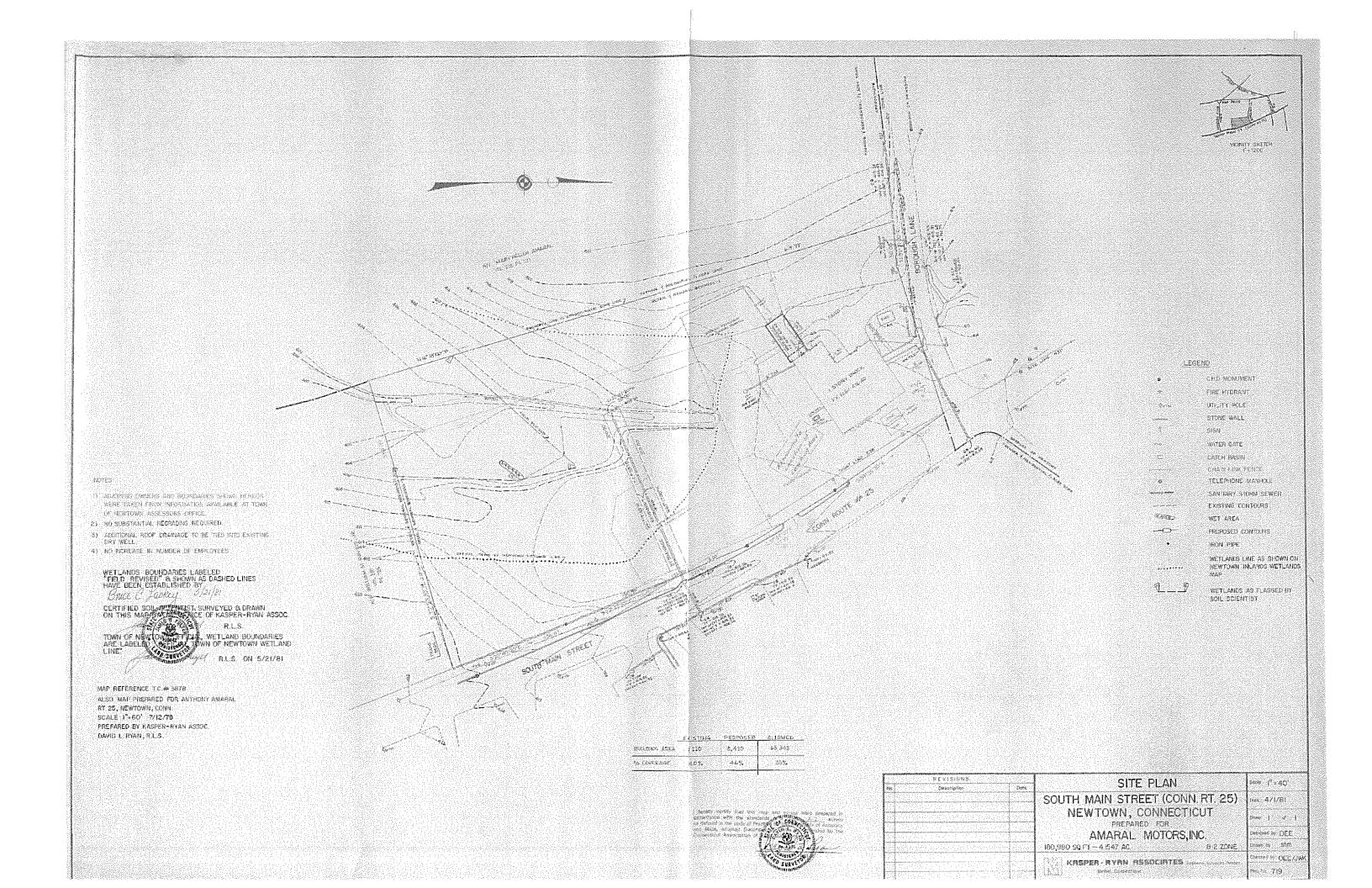
- 1. It is also settled in Connecticut that generally "... an extension of the space allotted to a nonconforming use is a proscribed extension of that nonconforming use ..." Raffaele v. Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals, 157 Conn. 454,462 (1969).
- 2. A nonconforming use, however, may be extended to other portions of a building or structure if the structure "was specifically designed with the intention that there would be a subsequent extension of the use from the portions in which it was initiated to other portions. Where it was designed for the purpose, extension of the use to those portions not theretofore utilized does not involve a change in the nature and character of the use. Consequently, it is not considered as an expansion." 4 Ziegler, Rathkopf's The Law of Zoning and Planning, Chap. 51.07, p. 51-123 (4th ed. 1985). In Keller v. City of Bellingham, 600 P.2d. 1276 (Wash. 1979), a plant manufactured chlorine through the use of 26 electrolytic cells. The plant had been built to accommodate 32 cells. The addition of six cells after the plant had become nonconforming was held not to constitute an unlawful expansion of the use because the plant was originally designed for 32 cells.
- 3. Similarly, under the "natural expansion doctrine" a nonconforming use may be expanded beyond the area of a tract that it occupied

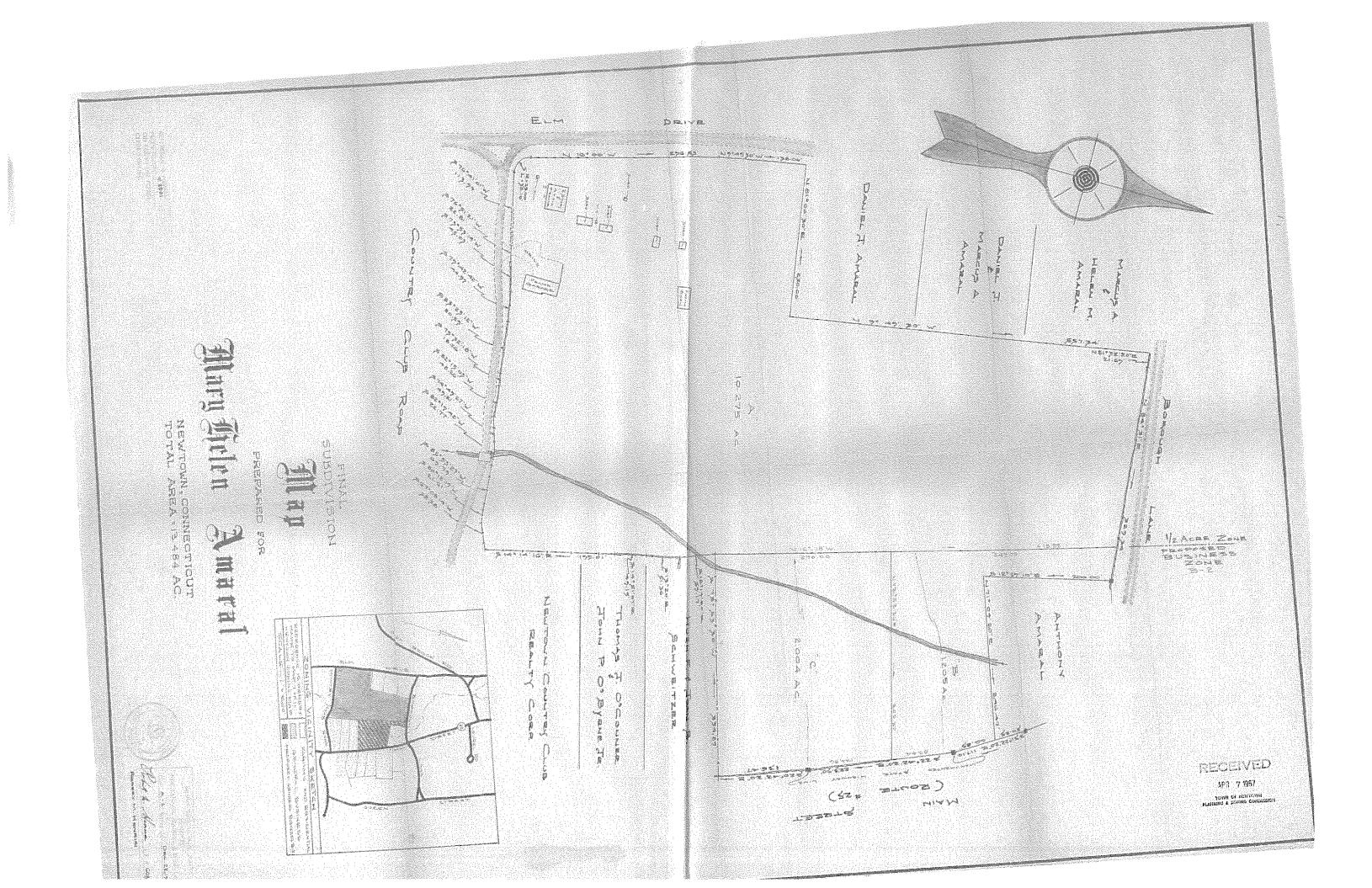
when zoning was adopted. Generally, there must be an objective manifestation of intent to appropriate the remainder of the parcel for the use at the time of nonconformity. Connecticut Resources Recovery Auth. v. Planning & Zoning Commission, 225 Conn. 731 (1993). However, where a "diminishing asset" use is at issue, such as a mining or excavation operation, no objective manifestation of intent is necessary since, by its nature, such an operation involves the continuance of such use over the entire parcel of land. Kovacs v. Zoning Board of Appeals of New Milford, CV 01085684S, 2002 Conn. Super. LEXS 4111 (December 17, 2002). Even so, nonconforming excavation operations may still be regulated and subject to permitting requirements. Id.; see also Section IV below.

E. Change to Less Offensive Use.

Not all changes in the character of a nonconforming use are considered. to be unlawful. If the change is to a "less offensive" use, it may be protected. Thus, the owners of property who enjoyed a nonconforming use as a foundry were entitled to a variance for a change to a "less offensive" nonconforming use as an automobile repair shop. Adolphson v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 205 Conn. 703 (1988). On the other hand, the court held in Dornfried v. Plainville, 7 Conn. L. Rptr. 6 (Aug. 31, 1992) that it was impermissible to allow a change from a nonconforming mobile home to a nonconforming two-family house even though the latter was "less offensive" because the hardship standard was not satisfied.







Mr. Earle W. Smith, Attorney at Law 955 Main Street Bridgeport, Connecticut

Re: Application of Mary Helen Amaral for the purpose of changing the Zoning Map and Zoning Classification from Farming and Residential to General Business-2 a parcel of land abutting the westerly side of Route 25 between property of Anthony Amaral and Hugh F. and Joan S. Schweitzer.

Dear Mr. Smith:

With reference to the above, the Commission is pleased to inform you that at its regular meeting of July 7, 1967, action was taken to approve the application as submitted.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Spector, Chairman Planning and Zoning Commission

blr Cert. Mail: #335792 Enc. (1)

TOWN OF NEWTOWN NEWTOWN, CONN.



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that at its regular monthly meeting held on July 7, 1967, the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission took action upon the following subdivisions of land:

Val Hair, -"Pond Brook Terrace", final map, Berkshire Road, Rte 34, 9.695 Acres, 8 Lots, R-1 - APPROVED.

- J. Sherwood Edwards final map, Little Brook Lane, 13 Lots, 18.9

 Acres, R-1 APPROVED ONLY Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12

 and 13. REJECTED Lots 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- T. David and Rose Falker preliminary map, "Wyldwood Hills", Jeremiah and Bennett's Bridge Roads, 15.951 Acres, 10 Lots, R-1 and R-2 - APPROVED.

Joseph B. Keating, final map, Sandy Hook District, Riverside Road, 3 Parcels, 3.18 Acres, R-1 - APPROVED.

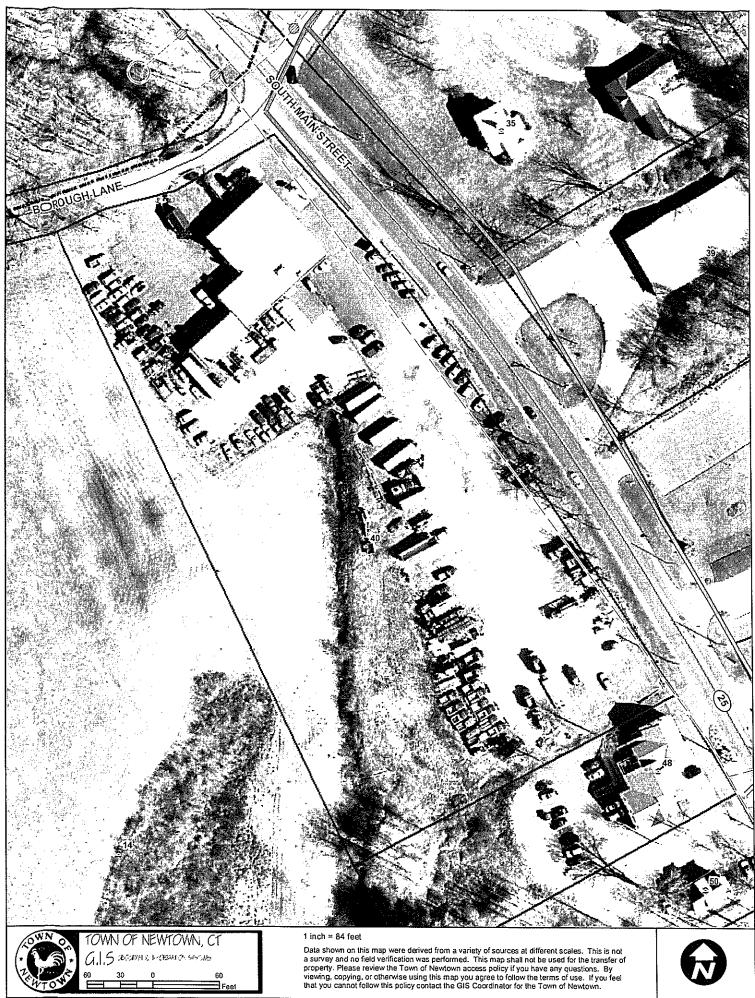
Application for two changes of zone heard at public hearing on May 19, 1967 were acted upon as follows:

Application of Mary Helen Amaral for the purpose of changing the zoning map and zoning classification from farming and residential to General Business-2, a parcel of land abutting the westerly side of Route 25 between property of Anthony Amaral and Hugh F. and Joan S. Schweitsar = APPROVED.

Application of Val G. Hair for the purpose of changing the zoning map and zoning classification from residential to B-1, Retail Business, that 3.02 acres located at the southeasterly junction of Meadowbrook Road and Route 25 - DISAPPROVED.

NEWTOWN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

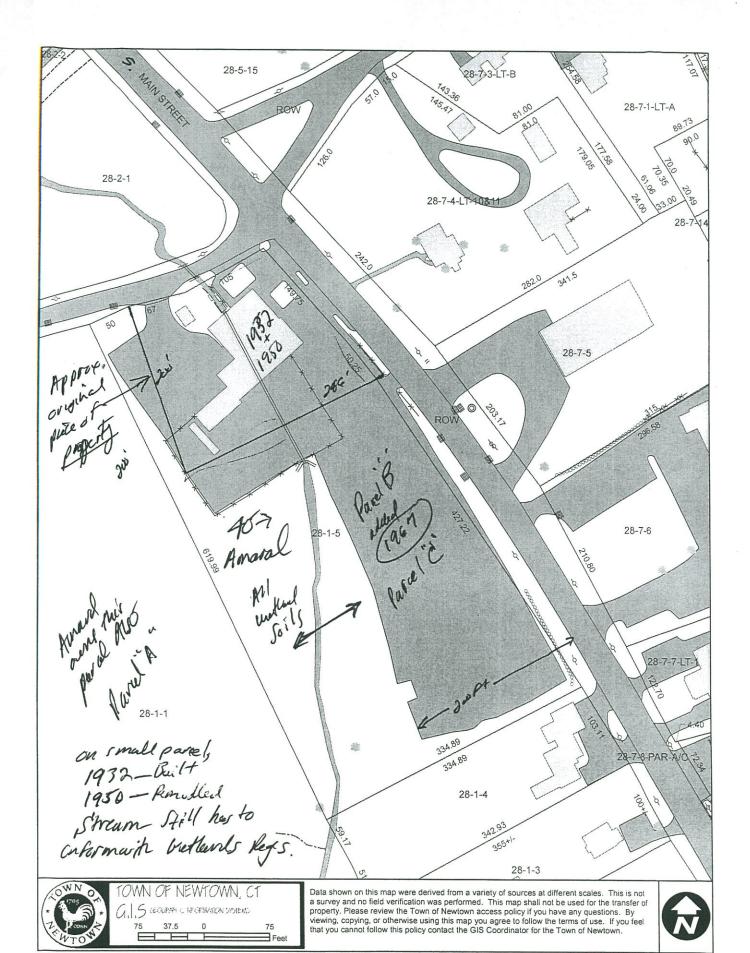
RECÉIVED JUL 1966 TO Brushy HILL ROAD FINAL SUB-DIVISION MAD
PROPERTY OF
DANIEL OT, AMARAL
SOUTH CENTER DISTRICT
TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONN.
TOTAL PREAS. 00.097 PORES.
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Lestinede & Letter was been Nintellindard Lindardam . 3 3,05-42-58A The conference of the conferen 4- Refer to mad Property of Davide V. Amary ... Amary .. 2 3- Parcel B TO BE CONVEYED TO-(GONTLY)- DANIEL J. AMBBAL AND MARCUS AMARAL. Porcel B NOTE - 1- PORCE IR TO BE RETRINED BY DAVIEL J. AMARAL. V 2- Parael "A" TO BE CONVEYED TO 4 moca 4/4 MARCUS AMARAL. The Bourt of The Base So 5 2 35 -10 E. 3666



21.27







Est Hall



BOOK 474 PLGE 562

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

On this the $//^{\pi}$ day of August, 1993, before me, \mathcal{J}_{Amcs} $W \cdot V_{cmn} \cdot \pi M$, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Daniel J. Amaral, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand.

James W. Venman
Commissioner of the Superior Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

85:

on this the day of August, 1993, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared John P. Maloney, known to me (or satisfactorily purven) to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

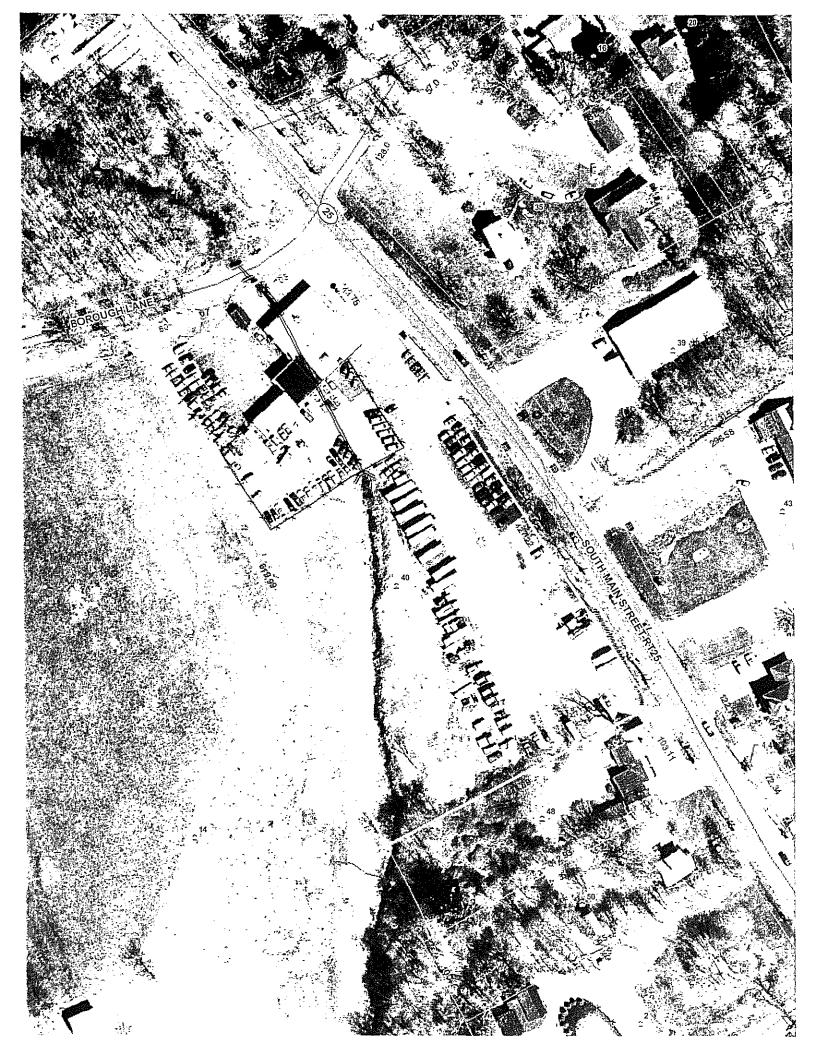
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand.

Notary Public My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires April 90, 1899

9:00am Rec'd. for Record 8-11 1993 Town Clerk of Newtown Lysthie S. Lustic

Volume: 474 Page: 560 File Number: 5058 Seq: 3





Data shown on this map were derived from a vanety of sources at different scales. This is not a survey and no field venification was performed. This map shall not be used for the transfer of property. Please review the Town of Newtown access policy if you have any questions. By viewing, copying, or otherwise using this map you agree to follow the terms of use. If you feel that you cannot follow this policy contact the GIS Coordinator for the Town of Newtown.

GREGGE VO HARDEN THEREON 5/19 TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CT

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1993

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one greve

Executors' Deed of Distribution

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

WHEREAS, DANIEL J. AMARAL, of 41 Elm Drive, Newtown, Connecticut, and JOHN P. MALONEY, of 2602 East Verbena Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, are the duly appointed and acting Executors of the Will of ANTHONY AMARAL, late of the Town of Newtown, who died on January 28, 1989, and whose Estate is being administered under the jurisdiction of the Probate Court for the District of Newtown, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, said Will, in Article SECOND thereof, devises to DANIEL J. AMARAL certain real property which had been owned by said Anthony Amaral at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, said Daniel J. Amaral and John P. Maloney, as such Executors, now desire to distribute such real property in accordance with the provisions of said Article SECOND; and said Daniel J. Amaral wishes that such distribution be made to him;

NOW THEREFORE, KNOW YE, that DANIEL J. AMARAL and JOHN P. MALONEY, Executors of the Will of ANTHONY AMARAL, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) received to their full satisfaction of DANIEL J. AMARAL, of 41 Elm Drive, Newtown, Connecticut, and pursuant to the terms of Article SECOND of the Will of said ANTHONY AMARAL do grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto said DANIEL J. AMARAL all the right, title, interest, claim and demand which said Anthony Amaral had at the time of death, or which they, as Executors of the Will of Anthony Amaral, have or ought to have in and to those two certain pieces or parcels of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon (the "Premises"), identified in the Inventory of the Executors of the Estate of Anthony Amaral filed in the Probate Court for the District of Newtown as the "Second Parcel," which two pieces are situated in the Town of Newtown, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut and more particularly described as follows:

First Piece:

Commencing at intersection of the Town Road (Borough Lane) and State Highway (Main Street), thence S. 31° E. 149′ 9"; thence S. 28° E. 50′ 3"; thence S. 75° W. 237′; thence N. 10° 40" W. 200′; thence N. 86° 30′ E. 67′; thence N. 71° E. 105′ 6" to the point or place of beginning, containing .94 of an acre bounded North by the Town Road (Borough Lane); East by the State Highway (Main Street); South and West by the Second Piece hereinafter described.

Being the same premises described in the Warranty Deed from Helen Egan to Anthony Amaral dated December 13, 1932 and recorded December 13, 1932 in Volume 81, Page 68 of the Newtown Land Records.

Second Piece:

Commencing at a point on the Westerly side of Main Street, also known as Route #25, that marks the southeast corner of the First Piece, hereinabove described; thence proceeding southerly along the westerly side of said Main Street for a distance of 427.22 feet;

Thence South, 73°, 53' 30" West, 334.89 feet, said last course being along land now or formerly of John W. and Ruth W. Trend;

Thence North, 16°, 18' West, 619.99 feet, said last course being along land of Mary Helen Amaral;

Thence easterly along the southerly line of Borough Lane, 50':

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MON 474 PIGE 561

Thence South, 12°, 29' 10" East, 200 feet, said last course being along the First Piece hereinabove described;

Thence North, 71°, 9', 20", 246.47 feet to the point or place of beginning, said last course being along the First Piece, hereinabove described;

Containing 3.209 acres, more or less.

Being the same premises described in the Quit Claim Deed from Mary Helen Amaral to Anthony Amaral dated May 4, 1970 and recorded May 4, 1970 in Volume 218, Page 90 of the Newtown Land Records.

Said Premises being known as 40 South Main Street.

Said Premises being subject to the effect, if any, of the following:

- An easement to The Newtown Water Company dated November 29, 1929 and recorded December 2, 1929 in Volume 76, Page 130 of the Newtown Land Records;
- An agreement between Anthony Amaral and The Newtown Water Company dated May 12, 1966 and recorded May 23, 1966 in Volume 194, Page 461 of the Newtown Land Records, and
- .3. A drainage easement to the State of Connecticut dated October 26, 1970 and recorded January 13, 1971 in Volume 222, Page 151 of the Newtown Land Records.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted and bargained premises, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said distributee, his heirs and assigns, to his and their own proper use and benefit forever. And the said Daniel J. Amaral and John P. Maloney, as Executors of the Will of Anthony Amaral, 'do hereby covenant with the said distributee, his heirs and assigns that they have full power and authority, as such Executors, to grant, bargain, sell and confirm the above described premises in manner and form aforesaid, and they, as such Executors, do further covenant to the said distributee, his heirs and assigns, that they have not previously conveyed said premises as aforesaid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Daniel J. Amaral and John P. Maloney, as Executors of the Will of Anthony Amaral, have hereunto set their hands and seals as of this // day of August, 1993.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in the presence of:

() . , /

Janes W. Verrand

JAMEE W. VERMAN

Pat Skinder Thibodayan

course A. Whatey

anielf linaral L.S

Daniel J./Amaral ·
Co-Executor u/w Anthony Amaral

Co-Executor u/w Anthony Amaral

John P. Maloney
Co-Executor u/w Anthony Amaral

Volume: 474 Page: 560 File Number: 5058 Seq: 2

...

BOOK 474 PAGE 562

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ss:

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD

On this the $1/1^{st}$ day of August, 1993, before me, J_{amrs} W V_{rmas} , the undersigned officer, personally appeared Daniel J. Amaral, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

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Commissioner of the Superior Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

65:

COUNTY OF MARICOPA

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My Coramission Expires April 90, 1999

9:00am Rec'd. for Record 8-11 1993 Town Clerk of Newtown Lythie S. Lutti Johnson, 1993 WL 452147 (Vertefeville, J.) (must show irreparable harm and lack of adequate remedy at law). Even if a showing of irreparable harm and lack of adequate remedy of law is not required for a temporary (or permanent) injunction, the municipality must still demonstrate that it is equitable to grant the injunction. Masayda v. Pedroncelli, 43 Conn. App. 443, 447 (1996). Note that a decision to issue a temporary injunction is not appealable, and one judge cited that fact as a reason for not granting a temporary injunction even though the court was likely to approve a permanent injunction. Hausman v. Bernardo, 2008 WL 279802.

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 existed and the party acted on the belief;
 - ii. the party had exercised due diligence to ascertain the truth and not only lacked the knowledge of the true state of things, but also had no convenient means of acquiring that knowledge; and
 - iii. the party would be subjected to substantial loss if the municipality were permitted to negate the acts of its agents. <u>Dornfried v. October Twenty-Four, Inc.</u>, 230 Conn. 622, 634-36 (1994); <u>West Hartford v.</u>

Rechel, 190 Conn. 114, 121 (1983); Woodbury Donuts, LLC v.

Zoning Board of Appeals, 139 Conn. App. 748 (2012). See also,

Levine v. Town of Sterling, 300 Conn. 521 (2011) ("substantial loss" element requires party to demonstrate significant expenditures on project but does not require party to demonstrate a capital investment in property).

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(municipal estoppel established when ZEO granted zoning permit for garage and property owner spent \$100,000 on project prior to issuance of cease and desist orders); Cangiano v. Mingione, 2004 WL 1784748 (2004) (Zoarski, J.)

(Municipality estopped from revoking building permit after building permits were issued and construction of dwelling was 95% complete at a cost of \$500,000).

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1/1/65

Each application for a special exception under this sub-section shall be accompanied by:

- 1. A scale drawing of the proposed illuminated sign, specifying the location and manner of the illumination;
- A drawing showing the general appearance of the proposed illuminated sign from each street from which such illuminated sign may be visible; and
- 3. A plot plan showing the location of the proposed illuminated sign with relation to existing buildings on the same lot and on all adjacent lots (including lots which would be adjacent but for the existence of a street), the names of the owners of which shall be clearly shown thereon.
- j. Uses clearly accessory to the foregoing principal uses.

Section 1.3 - GENERAL BUSINESS (B-2)

Permitted Uses

- All principal and accessory uses permitted in the Farming and Residential and Retail Business Districts.
- b. Printing and publishing establishments.
- c. Hotels and motels.
- d. Public passenger terminals.
- e. Restaurants and tearnorms without alcoholic beverages (where sale of alcoholic beverages is contemplated, Article V, Section 5 applies.)
- f. Sale of alcoholic beverages at wholesale and retail and for on-premises consumption subject to the provisions of Article V, Section 5.
- g. Hand laundries, laundromats and dry cleaning establishments.
- h. New motor vehicle salesrooms.
- i. Wholesale business. Storage in bulk of, or warehouse for, such material as building material, clothing, cotton, drugs, dry goods, feed, food, furniture, hardware, ice, machinery, oil and petroleum in quantities less than tank car—lots, paint and paint supplies, pipe, rubber, shop supplies, tobacco or wood.
- j. Veterinary hospitals.
- k. Boarding kennels.

I. Uses clearly accessory to the foregoing principal uses.

Zoning Regulations in effect when property at 40 South Main was charged from Rendertral to B-2.

Section 1.4 — INDUSTRIAL (M-1) DISTRICT

Permitted Uses

- All principal and accessory uses permitted in the Residential and Farming District and the two business districts (Retail Business and General Business).
- b. Laboratories devoted to research, design and exprimentation.
- General, operational and service offices of local or regional public utility companies.
- d. Office buildings.
- e. Light industrial uses including fabricating, processing, converting, altering, or assembling of products, the operations of which are conducted solely within a building or a group of buildings.
- f. Uses clearly accessory to the principal use.
- g. No use shall cause or result in dissemination of dust, smoke, observable gas, fumes or odor.
- h. Other requirements:
 - Exterior Lighting Exterior spot lighting or other illumination shall be installed so as to prevent any nuisance to adjacent residential areas or to traffic on the highway.
 - 2. Traffic Safety Access and service roads shall be properly related to the street system to avoid unsafe conditions and traffic congestion.
 - Landscaping and Grading The front yard shall be graded, planted and
 maintained in an attractive manner. No grading shall take place and
 no trees shall be removed in such manner as to be injurious to adjacent
 property.
- Radio towers, utility towers, water towers, and water tanks are permitted subject to the granting of a special exception by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Before granting any such special exception, the Board of Appeals shall find that:
 - The proposed use will not substantially impair property values in the neighborhood.
 - The proposed use is in harmony with the general intent and purpose of these regulations.

The special exception requirements of this sub-section i. shall not be applicable to an industrial operation in existence in the Town of Newtown on August 25, 1958, including one which thereafter becomes located in an Industrial District and meets all of the other requirements of that District. The restrictions and requirements on maximum height of buildings and structures contained in Section 2 of Article IV of these regulations shall not apply to any structure erected or permitted in conformance with this sub-section i.

Section 1.5 — INDUSTRIAL (M-2) DISTRICTS

Permitted Uses

- a. All principal and accessory uses permitted in the Industrial M-1 District.
- b. Storage of contractor's equipment and machinery in current use.
- No use shall cause or result in dissemination of dust, smoke, observable gas, fumes or odor.
- d. Other requirements The same requirements as to exterior lighting, traffic safety and landscaping applicable to the Industrial M-1 District shall also apply to the Industrial M-2 Districts.



In 1967 who Pavals BtC when reendas B-2 and combined with the 1932 parcel, storing equipment was not a leyel use in 1967.

3 treg byen storing construction while on ___

are is a proscribed extension of the Most nonconfirming use.

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NONCONFORMING USES

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I. Definition and Status of Nonconforming Us.

A nonconforming use is usually defined as a use lawfully in existence A. on the date regulations are adopted that would make such use unlawful if begun thereafter. See Cummings v. Tripp, 204 Conn. 67, 91-92 (1987). The use must be actually in existence on that date, "known in the neighborhood" and not merely contemplated. The property must be so utilized as to be "irrevocably committed" to the use. Francini v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 228 Conn. 785 (1994). However, "neither the extent, quantity nor quality of the use" is relevant to determining whether a use was in existence. . . ' The court is not generally required to speculate as to the number of acts or business transactions necessary to constitute an existing use." Helicopter Associates. Inc. v. Stamford, 201 Conn. 700,713 (1986). Thus, five commercial flights from a heliport in approximately one year were deemed sufficient to establish the nonconforming commercial use of the facility in Helicopter Associates. On the other hand, a state permit allowing the expansion of a landfill from 90 feet in height to 190 feet in height did not constitute the basis for a nonconforming use of the expanded landfill where there was no actual use in excess of 90 feet. Bauer v. Waste Management, 234 Conn. 221 (1995).

generator instead of a hand screener at a gravel pit was held to be an unlawful expansion of the nonconforming use because of the increase in noise, vibration and dust.

D. Area of Use.

- 1. It is also settled in Connecticut that generally "... an extension of the space allotted to a nonconforming use is a proscribed extension of that nonconforming use ..." Raffaele v. Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals, 157 Conn. 454,462 (1969).
- 2. A nonconforming use, however, may be extended to other portions of a building or structure if the structure "was specifically designed with the intention that there would be a subsequent extension of the use from the portions in which it was initiated to other portions. Where it was designed for the purpose, extension of the use to those portions not theretofore utilized does not involve a change in the nature and character of the use. Consequently, it is not considered as an expansion." 4 Ziegler, Rathkopf's The Law of Zoning and Planning, Chap. 51.07, p. 51-123 (4th ed. 1985). In Keller v. City of Bellingham, 600 P.2d. 1276 (Wash. 1979), a plant manufactured chlorine through the use of 26 electrolytic cells. The plant had been built to accommodate 32 cells. The addition of six cells after the plant had become nonconforming was held not to constitute an unlawful expansion of the use because the plant was originally designed for 32 cells.
- 3. Similarly, under the "natural expansion doctrine" a nonconforming use may be expanded beyond the area of a tract that it occupied

when zoning was adopted. Generally, there must be an objective manifestation of intent to appropriate the remainder of the parcel for the use at the time of nonconformity. Connecticut Resources Recovery Auth. v. Planning & Zoning Commission, 225 Conn. 731 (1993). However, where a "diminishing asset" use is at issue, such as a mining or excavation operation, no objective manifestation of intent is necessary since, by its nature, such an operation involves the continuance of such use over the entire parcel of land. Kovacs v. Zoning Board of Appeals of New Milford, CV 01085684S, 2002 Conn. Super. LEXS 4111 (December 17, 2002). Even so, nonconforming excavation operations may still be regulated and subject to permitting requirements. Id.; see also Section IV below.

E. Change to Less Offensive Use.

Not all changes in the character of a nonconforming use are considered. to be unlawful. If the change is to a "less offensive" use, it may be protected. Thus, the owners of property who enjoyed a nonconforming use as a foundry were entitled to a variance for a change to a "less offensive" nonconforming use as an automobile repair shop. Adolphson v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 205 Conn. 703 (1988). On the other hand, the court held in Dornfried v. Plainville, 7 Conn. L. Rptr. 6 (Aug. 31, 1992) that it was impermissible to allow a change from a nonconforming mobile home to a nonconforming two-family house even though the latter was "less offensive" because the hardship standard was not satisfied.