# TOWN OF EAST LYME ZONING COMMISSION FEBRUARY 1, 2018 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** 

Matthew Walker, Chairman Norm Peck George McPherson John Manning Kimberly Kalajainen Terence Donovan James Liska, Alternate Anne Thurlow, Alternate

**FILED** 

February 5, 20 18 AT 3:00 AMKPM

Members Absent:

**David Mcilhenney, Alternate** 

**Also Present:** 

Bill Mulholland, Zoning Officer Rose Ann Hardy, Ex-Officio (arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

# **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Walker led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**

There were no public delegations.

# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Application of Theodore A. Harris, Esq., Agent, for Guy's Oil Service Station, Inc., Owner, for a zone change from existing RU-40 to CA of a portion of the properties at 87 W Main Street, W Main St, and 79 W Main

# Street, East Lyme Assessor's Map 11.3 Lot 101, East Lyme Assessor's Map 11.1 Lot 3, and East Lyme Assessor's Map 11.1, Lot 1.

Mr. Walker noted the legal ad published regarding this application and Mr. McPherson read Mr. Mulholland's memorandum and the Planning Commission letter dated January 10th, 2018 into the record.

Mr. Donovan read the email from Marcy Balint of DEEP dated January 16th, 2018 into the record.

Attorney Ted Harris of 351 Main Street, Niantic came forward to represent the applicant and distributed the following to the Commission and for the record:

- Exhibit 1- Certificates of Mailings
- Exhibit 2- Zone Change Map
- Exhibit 3- Colored Map of RU-40 Zone
- Exhibit 4- GIS Map of Existing Zone

Mr. Harris highlighted some details of the application for the Commission:

- The zone change will allow the removal of the small buildings to be replaced with one larger building.
- The overall aesthetic of the site will be improved.
- The zone involves 3 small parcels- this is an extension of a zone line, and quite different from spot zoning.
- The POCD has 2 themes for increasing commercial property- 1. Need and 2. Type of Services.
- This is not an unusual mode of increasing commercial property.
- The Planning Commission (the author of the POCD) found this plan consistent.
- See no negative impacts.
- Steep grades were examined and site testing occurred prior to making this plan.
- We will be back for final design approval if the zone change is approved.

Ms.Kalajainen asked about the vehicles that DEEP refers to and the applicant explained that 99% of them have been removed.

Mr. Manning asked if the tanks are staying in the same place and Mr. Harris explained that they are, and that this is strictly for a zone change.

Mr. Harris noted this zone change urges the Town to increase its commercial base and tax base, provides needed services for the Town, and allows a 79 year old Town company to continue to grow; the plan to deepen these commercial zones is consistent with the comprehensive plan and is a recognized pattern.

Mr. Donovan asked if all the property involved belongs to Mr. Gada and Mr. Harris said it does.

Mr. Donovan asked about the elevation in back of the property and Mr. Harris explained it's a 25 foot elevation and therefore impossible to see the building from Pondcliff Condominiums.

Mr. Walker said a site walk might be considered and Mr. Harris said they should be warned that the area is heavily wooded.

Ms. Kalajainen asked about truck storage if the business continues to grow and Mr. Harris said they will not be stored on the Ru-40 zone.

The Applicant, Mr. Richard Gada Sr. of 77 West Main Street came forward to speak. Mr. Gada explained he would not need a zone change if he put the new building right on the street but doesn't want to do that due to safety concerns. He added that his home is right next door so he's not going to put something up that isn't tasteful; he wouldn't do that to the Town or to his wife.

Mr. Gada pointed out Mr. John Lombardi who was also in attendance and noted that Mr. Lombardi did testing to make sure this plan is feasible.

## MOTION (1)

Mr. Donovan moved to close the Public Hearing. Mr. McPherson seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0-0.

2. Request of the Town of East Lyme for a Special Permit for the construction of seasonal water and sewer lines to Cini Park, concrete ramps for restroom access, an outdoor shower, an electrical connection and a portable restroom trailer to serve Cini Park and the adjacent beach at 22 Main Street, East Lyme. East Lyme Assessor's Map 12.2, Lot 3.

Mr. Walker noted the legal ad published regarding this application and Mr. McPherson read Mr. Mulholland's memorandum into the record.

Bill Scheer, Deputy Director of Public Works, came forward and presented the Commission with a rendering of where the proposed bathroom will be located at Cini Park.

Mr. Scheer explained the original plan involved a concrete bunker style bathroom but is no longer a possibility since FEMA changed the flood zone to a V Zone (wave velocity); regulations will not allow a building to be constructed at the lower elevations that exist in the parking lot. The Town has decided to install a portable restroom trailer which can be removed during storms and during the winter.

Mr. Scheer said the trailer will be parked next to the concrete platform, and will appear as if it is a permanent restroom structure, and will follow the same operational schedule as the hole-in-the-wall and McCooks restrooms. The trailer itself will be industrial but nice and include a shower and drinking fountain.

Mr. Scheer explained they are seeking an exception from the planting requirement in Section 24.6E(4) because of flooding and salt water conditions which will only kill the plant life.

Mr. Peck asked how long it it will take from A to Z, to remove the trailer and Mr. Scheer said an hour.

Mr. McPherson asked if the tires will stay on and Mr. Scheer said yes, that it will be just like a motor home.

Mr. Mulholland observed that these types of facilities have come a very long way.

### MOTION (2)

Mr. McPherson moved to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Kalajainen seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0-0.

3. Request of the Town of East Lyme for a Special Permit for a public park, consisting of a raised terrace, granite curbing, concrete sidewalks, planting areas, grass and trees at 224 Main Street, East Lyme Assessor's Map 12.1, Lot 113.

Mr. Walker noted the legal ad published regarding this application and Mr. McPherson read Mr. Mulholland's memorandum into the record.

Mr. Scheer came forward and detailed the proposed park plans for the former Mobil Station at 224 Main Street:

- A raised terrace or platform
- A "Welcome to Niantic" sign with pillar
- Granite curbing
- Small plants
- Circular open area with blue stone
- Backless benches so people can look at the Town or the water
- The top of the platform will not obstruct the view
- New black chain link fence to replace the current Amtrak fence

Engraved bricks

Low shrubbery in front of terrace

The Commission discussed the Application with Mr. Scheer.

The location of the small electrical building was discussed, and Mr. Scheer said it will be moved to the rear corner with the Commission's permission.

Mr. Scheer said they're asking for a partial exemption from the sidewalk requirements; the regulations require the construction of sidewalks along the entire frontage of the property.

No real destination exists to the East of the proposed park and this would be a sidewalk to nowhere. The partial exemption provides a savings of \$20,000.

Mr. Donovan asked about the State signs and Mr. Scheer said he is working on getting them removed.

Mr. McPherson asked about the lighting and Mr. Scheer said it will be downlit.

The Commission and Mr. Scheer discussed the proposed plantings for the park and the tree planting exception being requested. Mr. Scheer read the letter from the Tree Warden into the record.

Mr. Peck said there is an opportunity to provide more public parking on the west side of the park.

Mr. Mulholland and Mr. Scheer explained that early on the design team decided there would be no parking, and that the approximately 2,000 spaces the Town currently offers, provides more than enough.

# MOTION (3)

Mr. McPherson moved to close the Public Hearing.

Ms. Kalajainen seconded the motion.

Motion passed, 6-0-0.

Brace D. Horem\_

Brooke Stevens
Recording Secretary

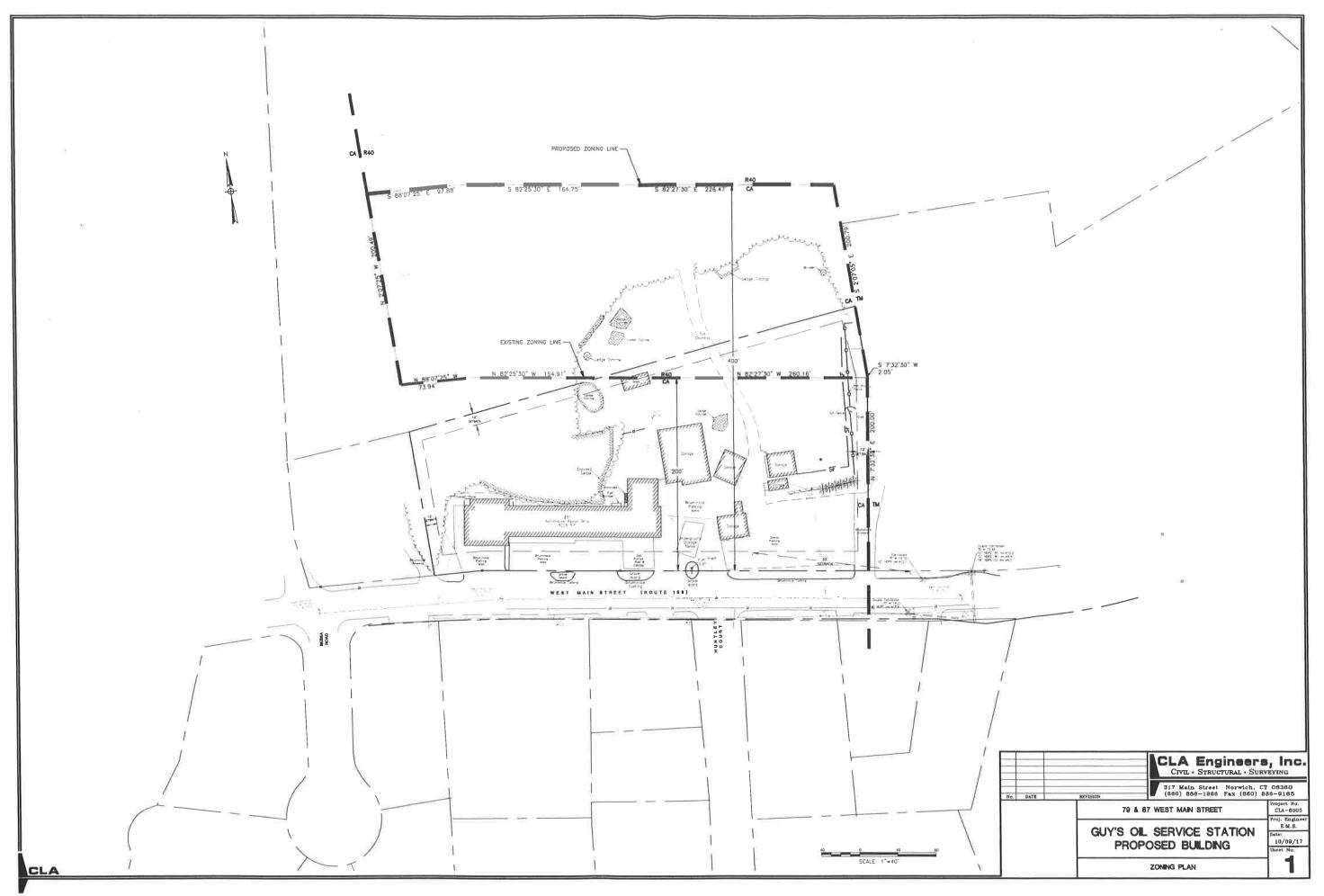


Exhibit 2

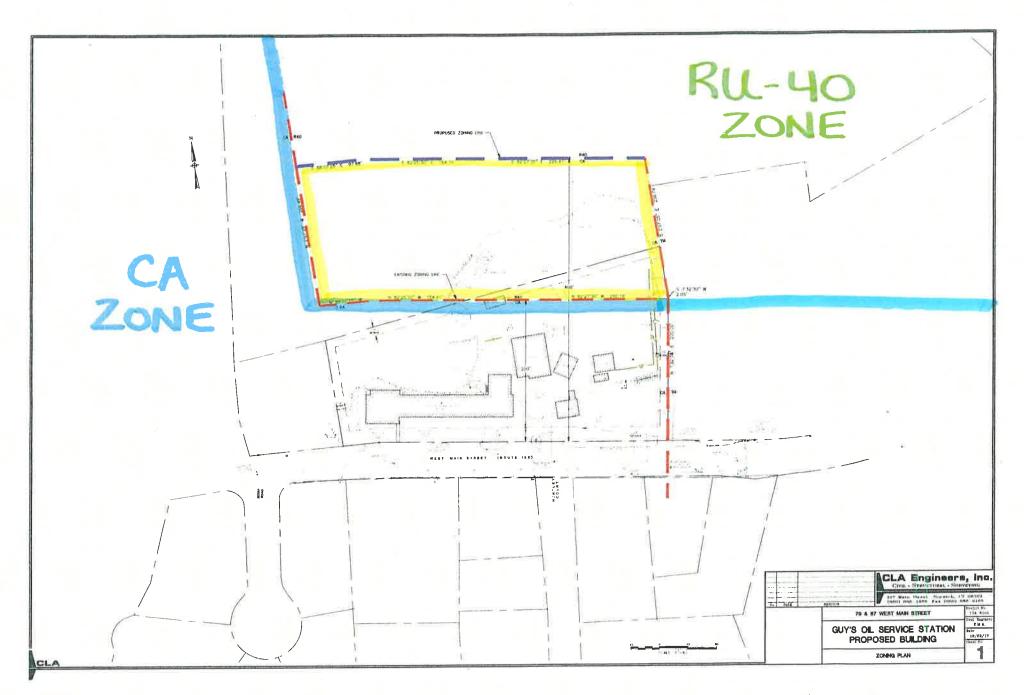
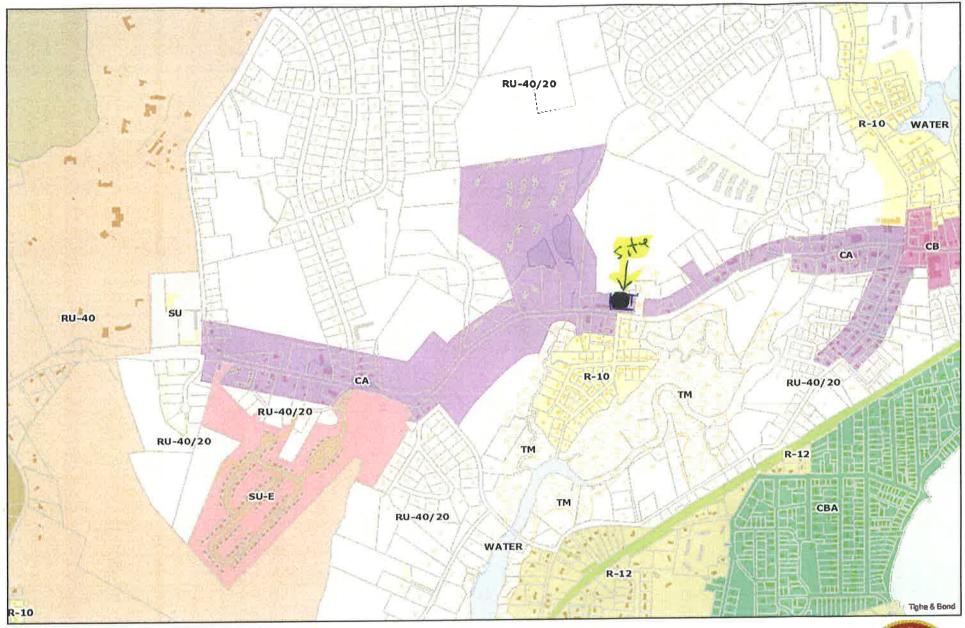




Exhibit3



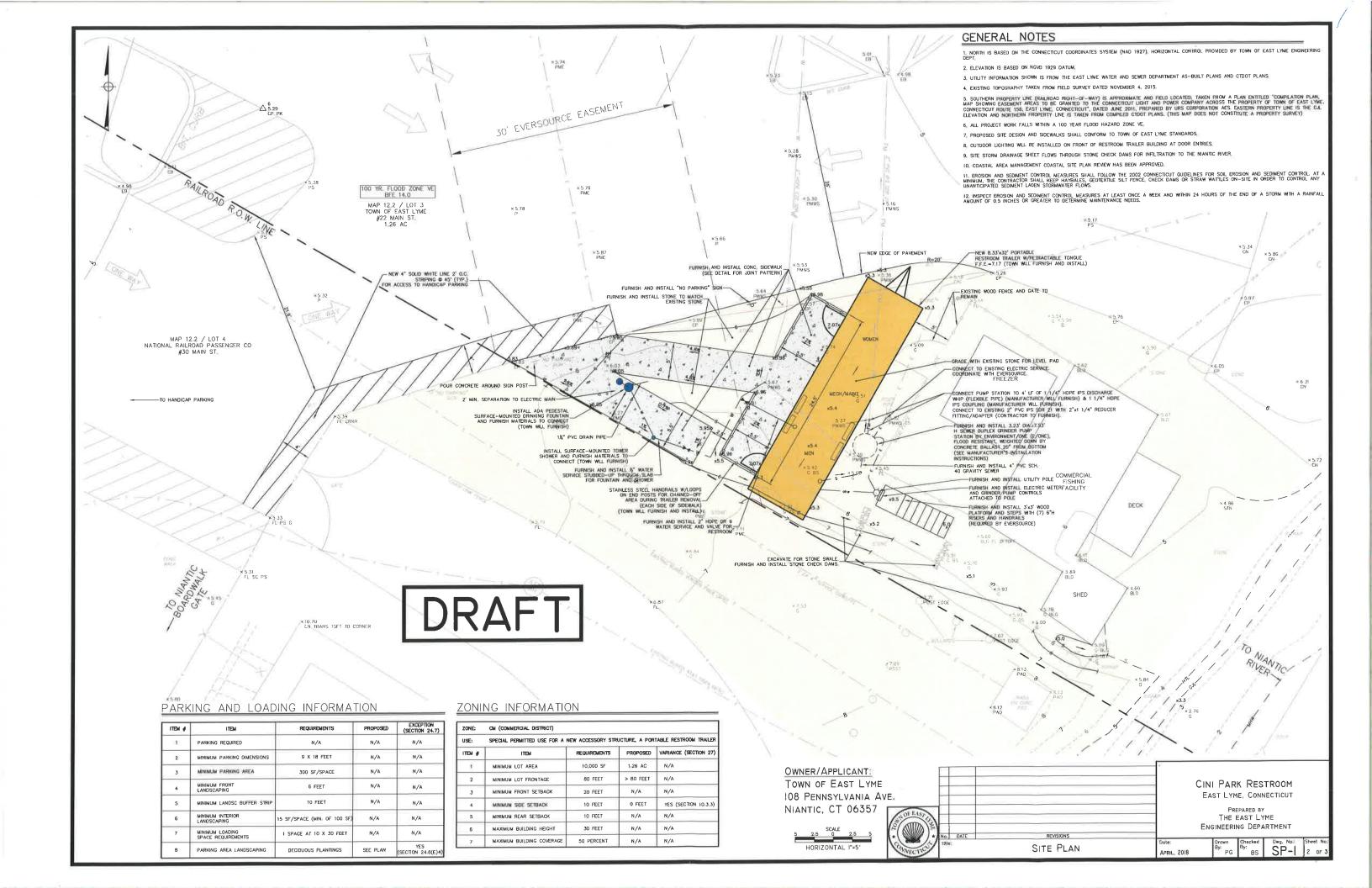
The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

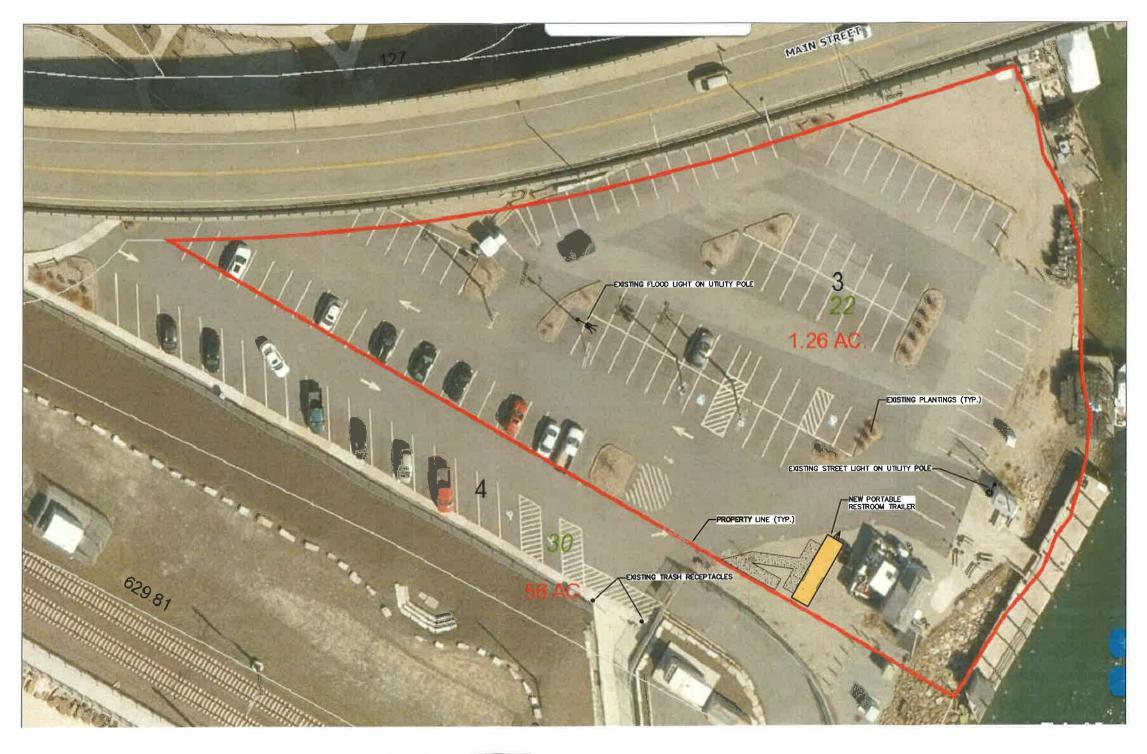
1/31/2018 8:31:38 AM Scale: 1"=1000' Scale is approximate





Exhibit 4



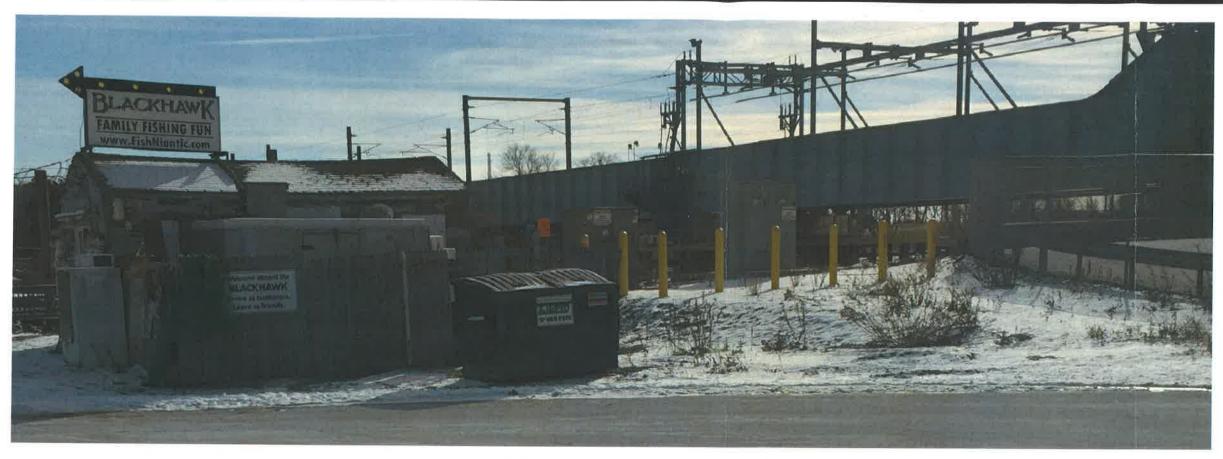




OWNER/APPLICANT:			
TOWN OF EAST LYME			
108 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.			
NIANTIC, CT 06357	AST .	147	
20 10 0 10 20 *	No. DATE	REVISIONS	
HORIZONTAL 1"=20"	Title	OVERALL SITE PLAN	Dale: APRI

CINI PARK RESTROOM
EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

PREPARED BY
THE EAST LYME
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



VIEW LOOKING SOUTH (BEFORE)

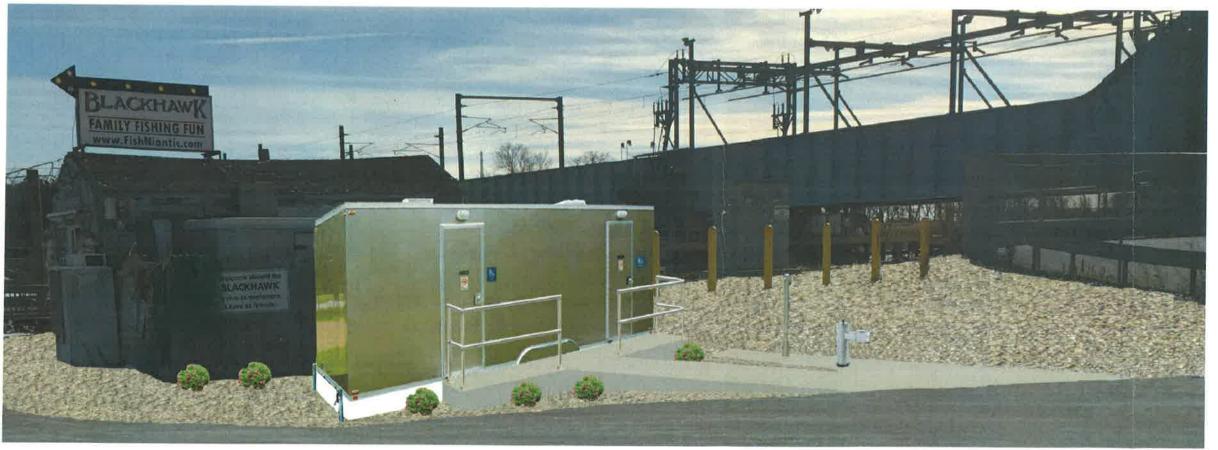
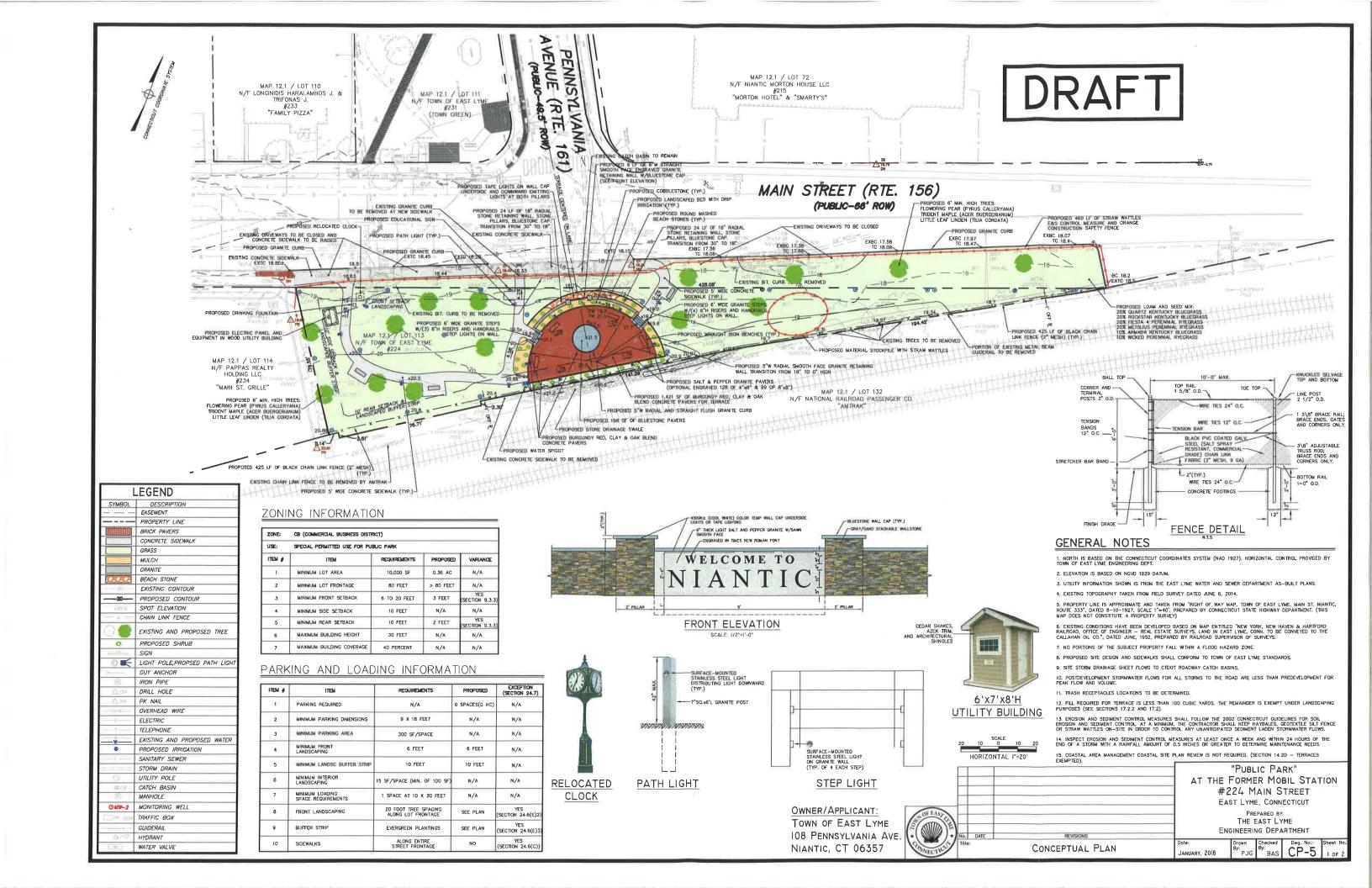
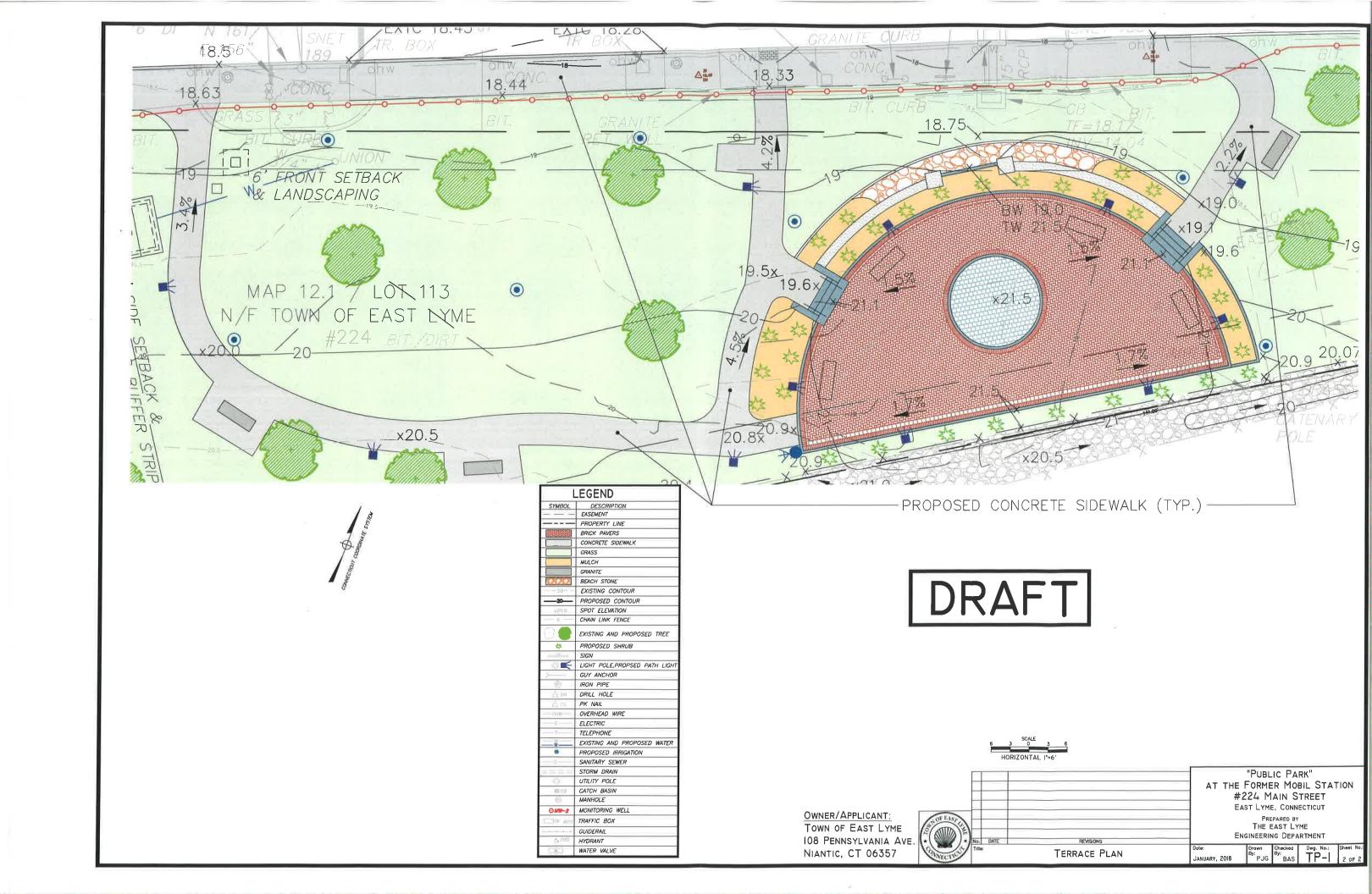


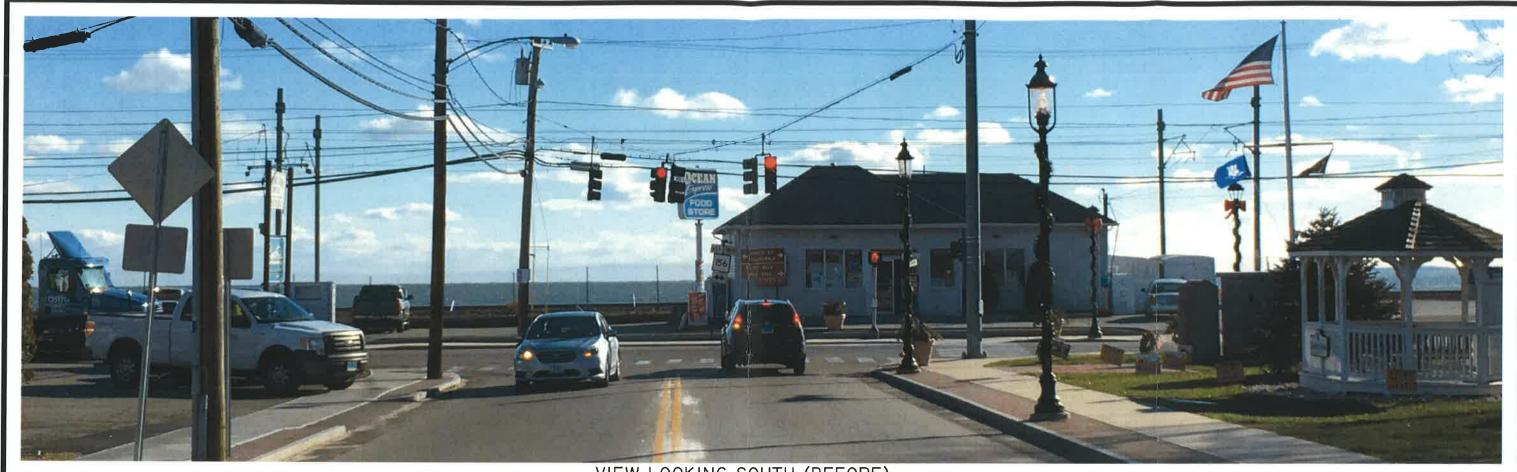
FIGURE I
PORTABLE RESTROOM TRAILER
CINI PARK
ZONING SUBMISSION
JANUARY, 2018



VIEW LOOKING SOUTH (AFTER)







VIEW LOOKING SOUTH (BEFORE)





BLOW UP VIEW LOOKING SOUTH (AFTER)

FIGURE 2
PUBLIC PARK
#224 MAIN STREET
ZONING SUBMISSION
JANUARY, 2018

