



TOWN OF AMHERST PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Request for Bicentenn	ial Comprehensive Pl For Official Use	an Amendment
		,
File #: <u>BCPA - 2024-0/</u> Ac	creage <u>60.03</u>	Fee \$
Address Verified by Assessor's Office VERIFIED BY DATE	Application Receive by Planning Depart	
Materials & Fee Paid to Town Clerk	ACCEPTED BY DATE	
		Fill In Applicable Fees
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMMENDMENT	\$0*	
AFFIDAVIT FEE FOR PUBLIC HEARING	\$15	\$15.00
Fee schedule subject to change by futu	ure Town Board action	
	TOTAL FEE:	\$ <u>15.</u> 00

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

Petitioner:				
Name:	SBLC Development Corporation c/o Sean Hopkins, Esq.			
Address:	5500 Main Street, Suite 343			
	Williamsville, NY 14221			
	City	State	Zip Code\	
Phone:	716.510-4338	Fax		
Email:	shopkins@hsmlegal.com			

Owner of La	and (if different than abo	ove):			
Name:	ame: 1. Anthony Cimato - 1790 North French Road [SBL No. 27.04-1-12]; 2. North Forest				
Address:			BL No. 27.04-1-20]; and 3. SBLC		
	Development Corp Portion of 999 Campbell Boulevard [SBL No. 27.00-2-29]				
	City	State	Zip Code		
Phone:	716.510-4338	Fax			
E Mail:	shopkins@hsmlegal.com		I		
Renresenta	tive (Architect Enginee	r, Landscape Architect, Surv	vevor or Attorney):		
Name:	are (Architect, Enginee	r, Landscape Architect, Curt	reyor or Automosy.		
Address:	11				
Addiess.					
	City	State	Zip Code		
Phone:		Fax	-		
E Mail:					
□ ○ □ ○ □ ○ □ ○	The parce ng are all others havin ve: (describe extent of it		ch Road are owned by related entities. parcel owned by SBLC Development (ation and join herein with the pet eded)		
	-	t to Bicentennial Compreh rench Road and Portion of 999			
SBL #(s): S	BL No. 27.04-1-12, 2. SB	L No. 27.04-1-20; and SBL No	. 27.00-2-29		
INFORMATI	ION ON REQUEST				
secti	ons of the Bicentennia	al Comprehensive Plan:	n Board to amend the following	text	
Secti	ion(s) #/page(s): Not a	pplicable.			
Note: If t	the requested amendme	ent does not involve a map c	hange, skip #2 and #3.		

2.	2. The undersigned hereby requests the Honorable Use Map (Figure 6) and/or Commercial and Mixed-Use	
	□ Single Family Residential □ Mixed Residential □ Medium Residential □ Commercial/ Mixed Use* □ Special Use Center □ Commercial-Office □ Industrial-Office □ Industrial-Office □ Community Facilities □ Educational Campus □ Recreation, Open Space, & □ Greenways □ Agriculture	Rural Residential Single Family Residential Mixed Residential Medium Residential Commercial/ Mixed Use* Special Use Center Commercial-Office Industrial-Office Community Facilities Educational Campus Recreation, Open Space, & Greenways Agriculture Transportation
	☐ Suburban Center☐ Suburban Corridor☐	ditional Designations in Figure 6A: □ Suburban Center ☑ Suburban Corridor □ Traditional Areas
3.	3. Other Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan Map Ame	endments (if applicable):
	Figure # or Name: Figure 6 and 6-A	
А	4. Information on prospective action (to be provided	Lin coparate attachments
4.	A. Description of any prospective action:	in Separate attachment).
	B. Rationale for request of amendment:	
	How will the requested amendment to the !	Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan consistent
	with Section 2.2 (Vison Statement)?	
	2. How will the requested amendment to the	Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan consistent
	with Section 2.3 (Key Initiatives)?	·
	C. How is the requested amendment align with the d	efined policies in Sections;
	1. 3.0 Land Use and Development?	
	2. 4.0 Natural and Cultural Resources?	
	3. 5.0 Economic Development?	
	4. 6.0 Transportation?	
	5. 7.0 Infrastructure?	
	6. 8.0 Housing & Neighborhoods?	
	7. 9.0 Community Facilities & Services?	

SECTION 809 CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that all information required to be disclosed pursuant to Section 809 of the General Municipal Law (see below) is as follows:

The undersigned swears or affirms that all statements made herein are true, that all drawings submitted correctly show the situation involved in this petition.

Signature of Petitioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Notary Public, Erie County, New York

MD MAL NOREEN A ZIMMERMAN

Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Niagara County
My Commission Expires Aug. 31, 20

N.Y.S. General Municipal Law - Section 809 Disclosure in certain applications:

- 1. Every application, petition or request submitted for a variance, amendment, change of zoning, approval of a plat, exemption from a plat or official map, license or permit, pursuant to the provision of any ordinance, local law, rule or regulation constituting the zoning and planning regulations of a municipality shall state the name, residence and the nature and extent of the interest of any state office or any office or employee of such municipality or of a municipality of which such municipality is a part, in the person, partnership or association making such application, petition or request (hereinafter called the applicant) to the extent known to such applicant.
- 2. For the purpose of this section an officer or employee shall be deemed to have an interest in the applicant when he, his spouse, or their brothers, sisters, parents, children, grandchildren, or the spouse of any of them
 - (a) is the applicant, or
 - (b) is an officer, director, partner or employee of the applicant, or
 - (c) legally or beneficially owns or controls stock of a corporate applicant or is a member of a partnership or association applicant, or
 - (d) is a party to an agreement with such an applicant, express or implied, whereby he may receive any payment or other benefit, whether or not for services rendered, dependent or contingent upon the favorable approval of such applicant, petition or request.
- 3. In the county of Nassau the provisions of subdivisions one and two of this section shall also apply to a party officer. "Party Officer" shall mean any person holding any position or office, whether by election, appointment or otherwise, in any party as defined by subdivision four or section two of the election law.
- 4. Ownership of less than five per cent of the stock of a corporation whose stock is listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges shall not constitute an interest for the purposes of this section.
- 5. A person who knowingly and intentionally violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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Exhibit 1- List of Parcels and Ownership Information

EXHIBIT 1 OF BCPA APLICATION – LIST OF PARCELS COMPRISING THE PROJECT SITE AND OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

- 1. 1790 North French Road [SBL No. 27.04-1-12] Owner: Anthony Cimato
- 2. 1920 North French Road [SBL No. 27.04-1-20] Owner: North Forest Development Corp.
- 3. Portion of 999 Campbell Boulevard [SBL No. 27.00-2-29] Owner: SBLC Development Corp.

Exhibit 2 - Part 1 of Full Environmental Assessment Form with Attachments "A" to "C"

Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 - Project and Setting

Instructions for Completing Part 1

Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant or project sponsor. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification.

Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information; indicate whether missing information does not exist, or is not reasonably available to the sponsor; and, when possible, generally describe work or studies which would be necessary to update or fully develop that information.

Applicants/sponsors must complete all items in Sections A & B. In Sections C, D & E, most items contain an initial question that must be answered either "Yes" or "No". If the answer to the initial question is "Yes", complete the sub-questions that follow. If the answer to the initial question is "No", proceed to the next question. Section F allows the project sponsor to identify and attach any additional information. Section G requires the name and signature of the applicant or project sponsor to verify that the information contained in Part 1 is accurate and complete.

A. Project and Applicant/Sponsor Information.

t - Erie County				
The proposed redevelopment project ("action") consists of a mixed-use project to be located at 1790 and 1920 North French Road and the eastern portion 1999 Campbell Boulevard (collectively the "Project Site") consisting of the following: 1. Two mixed-use buildings each consisting of 4,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space and 15 1st floor apartments and 20 2nd floor apartments; 2. 86 townhome style units with attached garages; 3. 55 lots for detached single-family homes and 4. 64 multifamily units; 5. All related site improvements including roadways, stormwater management, landscaping, lighting, utility improvements and connections. The proposed action has been defined broadly to include all required discretionary approvals and permits needed from governmental agencies. The proposed project is a Type I action pursuant to SEQRA.				
Telephone: 716.510-4338				
E-Mail: shopkins@hsmlegal.com				
State: NY	Zip Code: 14221			
Telephone:				
E-Mail:				
State:	Zip Code:			
Telephone:				
E-Mail:				
State:	Zip Code:			
	red-use buildings each consisting of style units with attached garages; 3 dways, stormwater management, la required discretionary approvals and Telephone: 716.510-4338 E-Mail: shopkins@hsmlegal.con State: NY Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail:			

B. Government Approvals

B. Government Approvals, Funding, or Sponsorship. ("Funding" includes grants, loans, tax relief, and any other forms of financial assistance.)				
Government Entity	If Yes: Identify Agency and Approval(s) Required	Applicati (Actual or p		
a. City Counsel, Town Board, ✓Yes□No or Village Board of Trustees	Town Board - Comp. Plan Amendment and Rezoning	March 2024		
b. City, Town or Village ✓Yes ☐No Planning Board or Commission	Town of Amherst Planning Board - Site Plan and Subdivision Approval	To be Determined		
c. City, Town or ✓Yes☐No Village Zoning Board of Appeals	Town of Amherst ZBA - Area Variances	To be Determined		
d. Other local agencies ✓ Yes No	Town of Amherst Engineering (DSCA); Amherst IDA (PILOT) and Building Dept (Floodplain Permit)	To be Determined		
e. County agencies Yes No	ECWA (back flow), ECDOH (water and sewer)	To be Determined		
f. Regional agencies Yes No				
g. State agencies ✓Yes□No	NYSDEC - Wetland Permit and DSCA	To be Determined		
h. Federal agencies ☐Yes☑No				
i. Coastal Resources.i. Is the project site within a Coastal Area, o	r the waterfront area of a Designated Inland W	aterway?	□Yes ☑ No	
ii. Is the project site located in a community with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program?iii. Is the project site within a Coastal Erosion Hazard Area?			☐ Yes☑No ☐ Yes☑No	
C. Planning and Zoning				
C.1. Planning and zoning actions.				
 Will administrative or legislative adoption, or ar only approval(s) which must be granted to enab If Yes, complete sections C, F and G. If No, proceed to question C.2 and complete sections C.2. 		-	□Yes ☑ No	
C.2. Adopted land use plans.				
a. Do any municipally- adopted (city, town, village or county) comprehensive land use plan(s) include the site where the proposed action would be located? If Yes, does the comprehensive plan include specific recommendations for the site where the proposed action would be located?			✓Yes□No ✓Yes□No	
b. Is the site of the proposed action within any local or regional special planning district (for example: Greenway; Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA); designated State or Federal heritage area; watershed management plan; or other?) If Yes, identify the plan(s): NYS Heritage Areas: West Erie Canal Corridor			∠ Yes No	
c. Is the proposed action located wholly or partion or an adopted municipal farmland protection If Yes, identify the plan(s):		pal open space plan,	∐Yes ∏ No	

C.3. Zoning	
a. Is the site of the proposed action located in a municipality with an adopted zoning law or ordinance. If Yes, what is the zoning classification(s) including any applicable overlay district? Suburban Agriculture District ("SA")	☑ Yes□No
b. Is the use permitted or allowed by a special or conditional use permit?	□Yes□No
c. Is a zoning change requested as part of the proposed action?	✓ Yes □ No
If Yes, i. What is the proposed new zoning for the site? SC-3, R-3 and MFR-5	
C.4. Existing community services.	
a. In what school district is the project site located? Williamsville Central School District	
b. What police or other public protection forces serve the project site? Town of Amherst Police Department	
c. Which fire protection and emergency medical services serve the project site? Volunteer Fire Department	
d. What parks serve the project site? Various Town Parks	
D. Project Details	
D.1. Proposed and Potential Development	
a. What is the general nature of the proposed action (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial, recreational; if mixed, components)? Mixed-use (residential and commercial)	include all
b. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? 62.03 acres b. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?	
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? 47.50 acres c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned	
or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? 62.03 acres	
c. Is the proposed action an expansion of an existing project or use? i. If Yes, what is the approximate percentage of the proposed expansion and identify the units (e.g., acres, miles, logical square feet)? % Units:	☐ Yes☐No nousing units,
d. Is the proposed action a subdivision, or does it include a subdivision? If Yes,	∠ Yes □No
i. Purpose or type of subdivision? (e.g., residential, industrial, commercial; if mixed, specify types) Residential	
ii. Is a cluster/conservation layout proposed?iii. Number of lots proposed?55	□Yes ☑ No
iv. Minimum and maximum proposed lot sizes? Minimum 8,470 Maximum 13,953	
 e. Will the proposed action be constructed in multiple phases? i. If No, anticipated period of construction: months ii. If Yes: 	∠ Yes□No
Total number of phases anticipated	
 Anticipated commencement date of phase 1 (including demolition) Anticipated completion date of final phase 12 month 25 year 28 year 	
 Generally describe connections or relationships among phases, including any contingencies where progress determine timing or duration of future phases: 	

f. Does the project inc	clude new resid	ential uses?			Z Yes □ No
If Yes, show numbers					
	e Family	Two Family	Three Family	Multiple Family (four or more)	
Initial Phase					
At completion					
of all phases	141	2		132	
		::			
g. Does the proposed	action include	new non-residentia	al construction (inclu	iding expansions)?	Z Yes □ No
If Yes,					
i. Total number of s	tructures	<u>Z</u>	20 1 -: -1.4.	440 July J 235 James 4	
u. Dimensions (in ie	et) of largest pr	roposed structure:	or cooled:	140 width; and 235 length 20,300 square feet	
				result in the impoundment of any	Z Yes□No
	ation of a water	r supply, reservoir,	pond, lake, waste la	agoon or other storage?	
If Yes, i. Purpose of the imp	soundment: Sto	mwater retention			
<i>ii.</i> If a water impound	dment the princ	cinal source of the	water: [Ground water Surface water stream	ns 70ther specify:
Stormwater runoff	iniciti, the print	cipal source of the	water.	_ Ground water Burrace water stream	ns W other speerry.
iii. If other than water	, identify the ty	pe of impounded/	contained liquids and	d their source.	
Not applicable					
iv. Approximate size	of the proposed	d impoundment.	Volume:	TBD million gallons; surface area:	5.4 acres
v. Dimensions of the	proposed dam	or impounding str	ucture: TB	height; TBD length	
	nod/materials f	or the proposed da	m or impounding st	ructure (e.g., earth fill, rock, wood, cond	crete):
Earth fill					
D.2. Project Operat	ions				
				uring construction, operations, or both?	☐Yes ☐No
		ation, grading or in	stallation of utilities	or foundations where all excavated	
materials will rema	in onsite)				
If Yes:					
<i>i</i> . What is the purpos	se of the excava	ition or dredging?		1 10 4 10	
				be removed from the site?	
• Over what d	uration of time	e of materials to b	a averageted or drede	ged, and plans to use, manage or dispos	of them
ui. Describe nature an	id characteristic	es of materials to o	e excavated of diedy	ged, and plans to use, manage of dispos	or mem.
iv. Will there be ons	ite dewatering	or processing of ex	cavated materials?		Yes No
If yes, describe.					
v. What is the total a	rea to be dredg	ed or excavated?		acres	
vi. What is the maxim				acres	
vii. What would be th			or dredging?	feet	
viii. Will the excavati					∐Yes∐No
ix. Summarize site rec	clamation goals	and plan:			
-					
				crease in size of, or encroachment	√ Yes No
into any existing wetland, waterbody, shoreline, beach or adjacent area?					
If Yes:	i. Identify the wetland or waterbody which would be affected (by name, water index number, wetland map number or geographic				
uescription): Impa	acts to the 100-ft	Aujacent Area of NYS	SUEC Freshwater Wet	and TE-18 as delineated on Concept Plan C	100.
=======================================					

[A copy of the Wetland Delineation Verification Letter issued by Charles P. Rosenburg of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation on January 22, 2022 is provided at Attachment "B". A copy of the Jurisdictional Determination issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 1920 North French Road dated March 14, 2023 is provided at Attachment "C".]

ii. Describe how the proposed action would affect that waterbody or wetland, e.g. excavation, fill, placer alteration of channels, banks and shorelines. Indicate extent of activities, alterations and additions in sentence of the 100-ft. Adjacent Area of NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland TE-18 includes excavation of construction of the 10-unit multifamily buildings as depicted on Concept Plan C-100.	quare feet or acres:
iii. Will the proposed action cause or result in disturbance to bottom sediments? If Yes, describe:	□Yes□No
iv. Will the proposed action cause or result in the destruction or removal of aquatic vegetation? If Yes:	☐ Yes ☐ No
acres of aquatic vegetation proposed to be removed:	
• purpose of proposed removal (e.g. beach clearing, invasive species control, boat access):	
 proposed method of plant removal: 	
 proposed method of plant removal: if chemical/herbicide treatment will be used, specify product(s): 	
v. Describe any proposed reclamation/mitigation following disturbance:	
c. Will the proposed action use, or create a new demand for water?	Z Yes □No
If Yes:	2 002 10
i. Total anticipated water usage/demand per day: 72,450 gallons/day	
ii. Will the proposed action obtain water from an existing public water supply?	□Yes □No
If Yes:	
Name of district or service area: Erie County Water Authority	
 Does the existing public water supply have capacity to serve the proposal? 	✓ Yes No
• Is the project site in the existing district?	✓ Yes No
 Is expansion of the district needed? 	☐ Yes☐ No
 Do existing lines serve the project site? 	✓ Yes No
iii. Will line extension within an existing district be necessary to supply the project? If Yes:	□Yes □No
Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project:	
Source(s) of supply for the district:	
<i>iv.</i> Is a new water supply district or service area proposed to be formed to serve the project site? If, Yes:	☐ Yes☐No
Applicant/sponsor for new district:	
Date application submitted or anticipated:	
Proposed source(s) of supply for new district:	
v. If a public water supply will not be used, describe plans to provide water supply for the project:	
vi. If water supply will be from wells (public or private), what is the maximum pumping capacity:	gallons/minute.
d. Will the proposed action generate liquid wastes?	Z Yes □No
If Yes:	
i. Total anticipated liquid waste generation per day: 72,450 gallons/day	
ii. Nature of liquid wastes to be generated (e.g., sanitary wastewater, industrial; if combination, describe	all components and
approximate volumes or proportions of each):	
sanitary wastewater	
iii. Will the proposed action use any existing public wastewater treatment facilities? If Yes:	Z Yes □No
Name of wastewater treatment plant to be used: Town of Amherst WWTP	
Name of district: Town of Amherst Consolidated Sanitary Sewer District	
Does the existing wastewater treatment plant have capacity to serve the project?	✓ Yes □No
• Is the project site in the existing district?	✓ Yes □No
Is expansion of the district needed?	□Yes□No
-	

 Do existing sewer lines serve the project site? 	✓ Yes □No
 Will a line extension within an existing district be necessary to serve the project? 	☐Yes Z No
If Yes:	
Describe extensions or capacity expansions proposed to serve this project:	
,	
. Will a new master (amount form and district he formed to game the amoinst site?	
iv. Will a new wastewater (sewage) treatment district be formed to serve the project site?If Yes:	□Yes□No
Applicant/sponsor for new district:	
Date application submitted or anticipated:	
What is the receiving water for the wastewater discharge?	
v. If public facilities will not be used, describe plans to provide wastewater treatment for the project, including speci	ifving proposed
receiving water (name and classification if surface discharge or describe subsurface disposal plans):	nymg proposou
vi. Describe any plans or designs to capture, recycle or reuse liquid waste:	
e. Will the proposed action disturb more than one acre and create stormwater runoff, either from new point	Z Yes □No
sources (i.e. ditches, pipes, swales, curbs, gutters or other concentrated flows of stormwater) or non-point	
source (i.e. sheet flow) during construction or post construction?	
If Yes:	
i. How much impervious surface will the project create in relation to total size of project parcel?	
Square feet or21.2 acres (impervious surface)	
Square feet or 62.03 acres (parcel size)	
ii. Describe types of new point sources. New point sources include storm sewers, swales and curbing.	
iii. Where will the stormwater runoff be directed (i.e. on-site stormwater management facility/structures, adjacent pr	ronerties
groundwater, on-site surface water or off-site surface waters)?	operates,
Stormwater runoff will be directed to on-site retention ponds.	
If to surface waters, identify receiving water bodies or wetlands:	
VV'11 4	
• Will stormwater runoff flow to adjacent properties? iv. Does the proposed plan minimize impervious surfaces, use pervious materials or collect and re-use stormwater?	☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Yes ☑ No
	☐Yes ☐No
f. Does the proposed action include, or will it use on-site, one or more sources of air emissions, including fuel combustion, waste incineration, or other processes or operations?	∐ Y es ∐No
If Yes, identify:	
i. Mobile sources during project operations (e.g., heavy equipment, fleet or delivery vehicles)	
1. 14100110 sources during project operations (e.g., neavy equipment, neet of derivory volicies)	
ii. Stationary sources during construction (e.g., power generation, structural heating, batch plant, crushers)	
iii. Stationary sources during operations (e.g., process emissions, large boilers, electric generation)	
g. Will any air emission sources named in D.2.f (above), require a NY State Air Registration, Air Facility Permit,	□Yes□No
or Federal Clean Air Act Title IV or Title V Permit?	
If Yes:	□Yes□No
i. Is the project site located in an Air quality non-attainment area? (Area routinely or periodically fails to meet ambient air quality standards for all or some parts of the year)	LI ESLINO
ii. In addition to emissions as calculated in the application, the project will generate:	
•Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	
• Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Bloxide (CO ₂) • Tons/year (short tons) of Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O)	
• Tons/year (short tons) of Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	
• Tons/year (short tons) of Ferndorocarbons (FFCs) • Tons/year (short tons) of Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF ₆)	
• Tons/year (short tons) of Sathur Hexandoride (SF ₆) • Tons/year (short tons) of Carbon Dioxide equivalent of Hydroflourocarbons (HFCs)	
Tons/year (short tons) of Cardon Dioxide equivalent of Hydroffourocardons (HFCs) Tons/year (short tons) of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)	

h. Will the proposed action generate or emit methane (including, but not limited to, sewage treatment plants, landfills, composting facilities)? If Yes:]Yes No
i. Estimate methane generation in tons/year (metric):	
ii. Describe any methane capture, control or elimination measures included in project design (e.g., combustion to gene electricity, flaring):	erate heat or
i. Will the proposed action result in the release of air pollutants from open-air operations or processes, such as]Yes ☐ No
quarry or landfill operations?	
If Yes: Describe operations and nature of emissions (e.g., diesel exhaust, rock particulates/dust):	
11 Test Beserve operations and nature of emissions (e.g., dieses exhaust, fook particularly dust).	
j. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels or generate substantial	Yes No
new demand for transportation facilities or services? [A Traffic Impact Study is being prepared by Passero Associat	es and will be
If Yes: submitted once it has been completed]	
i. When is the peak traffic expected (Check all that apply): ☐ Morning ☐ Evening ☐ Weekend	
Randomly between hours of to	
Randomly between hours of to ii. For commercial activities only, projected number of truck trips/day and type (e.g., semi trailers and dump trucks):	
iii. Parking spaces: Existing Proposed Net increase/decrease	
iv. Does the proposed action include any shared use parking?	Yes□No
v. If the proposed action includes any modification of existing roads, creation of new roads or change in existing acc	ess, describe:
	77.
]Yes∏No
]Yes∏No
or other alternative fueled vehicles?	
viii. Will the proposed action include plans for pedestrian or bicycle accommodations for connections to existing	Yes No
pedestrian or bicycle routes?	
k. Will the proposed action (for commercial or industrial projects only) generate new or additional demand	Yes No
for energy?	
If Yes:	
i. Estimate annual electricity demand during operation of the proposed action:	
Typical of commercial retail demand	4 .444.
ii. Anticipated sources/suppliers of electricity for the project (e.g., on-site combustion, on-site renewable, via grid/local	il utility, or
other):	
Local utility company	
iii. Will the proposed action require a new, or an upgrade, to an existing substation?	Yes No
1. Hours of operation. Answer all items which apply.	
i. During Construction: ii. During Operations:	
	~1
Monday - Friday: 7 a.m 5 p.m. Monday - Friday: 8:00 to 10:00 [retail space]	
• Saturday: 7 a.m 5 p.m. [as needed] • Saturday: 8:00 to 10:00 [retail space	
 Sunday:]
Holidays: N/A	•]

	Will the proposed action produce noise that will exceed existing ambient noise levels during construction, operation, or both?	Z Yes □No
Ify		
i.	Provide details including sources, time of day and duration:	
	Operation of constitution equipment may produce noise exceeding ambient levels. This is a temporary and unavoidable impact	ot.
2.2	Will the managed estion nemacon suicting metanol homious that equid not as a major homion on careon?	☐ Yes Z No
	Will the proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a noise barrier or screen? Describe:	LI TES MINO
	Describe:	
	Will the proposed action have outdoor lighting?	□Yes□No
	yes: Describe source(s), location(s), height of fixture(s), direction/aim, and proximity to nearest occupied structures:	
ι	Dark sky compliant light poles, mounted at 15-ft will be spaced throughout the sight to provide even light distribution.	
	Dark sky compilant light poles, mounted at 15-1t will be spaced throughout the sight to provide even light distribution.	
ii	Will proposed action remove existing natural barriers that could act as a light barrier or screen?	☐ Yes Z No
	Describe:	
		
0.]	Does the proposed action have the potential to produce odors for more than one hour per day?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If Yes, describe possible sources, potential frequency and duration of odor emissions, and proximity to nearest	
	occupied structures:	
p. \	Will the proposed action include any bulk storage of petroleum (combined capacity of over 1,100 gallons)	□Yes□No
(or chemical products 185 gallons in above ground storage or any amount in underground storage?	
If Y	res:	
i.	Product(s) to be stored	
ii.	Volume(s) per unit time (e.g., month, year)	
iii.	Generally, describe the proposed storage facilities:	
q. '	Will the proposed action (commercial, industrial and recreational projects only) use pesticides (i.e., herbicides,	☐ Yes ☐No
	insecticides) during construction or operation?	
	Yes:	
i	Describe proposed treatment(s):	
,	. Will the proposed action use Integrated Pest Management Practices?	☐ Yes ☐No
	Will the proposed action (commercial or industrial projects only) involve or require the management or disposal	
	of solid waste (excluding hazardous materials)?	KI ICZ IIIO
	es:	
	Describe any solid waste(s) to be generated during construction or operation of the facility:	
ι.	Construction: 4.8 tons ner week (unit of time)	
	 Construction: 4-8 tons per week (unit of time) Operation: 1.5 tons per week (unit of time) Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of materials to avoid disposal as solid waster. 	
ii	Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, recycling or reuse of materials to avoid disposal as solid waster	
ιι.	• Construction:	
	Operation:	
	- operation	
iii.	Proposed disposal methods/facilities for solid waste generated on-site:	
	• Construction:	
	Operation:	

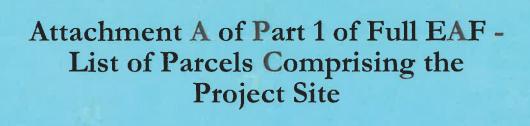
s. Does the proposed action include construction or modification of a solid waste management facility?					
If Yes:					
i. Type of management or handling of waste proposed for the site (e.g., recycling or transfer station, composting, landfill, or					
other disposal activities):					
ii. Anticipated rate of disposal/processing:	combustion/thermal treatment	or			
	 Tons/month, if transfer or other non-combustion/thermal treatment, or Tons/hour, if combustion or thermal treatment 				
	years				
		1' 1 01 1			
t. Will the proposed action at the site involve the comme	reial generation, treatment, sto	orage, or disposal of hazard	ous [[Yes [No		
waste? If Yes:					
<i>i.</i> Name(s) of all hazardous wastes or constituents to be	e generated handled or manag	ed at facility:			
t. Traine(b) of all hazardous wastes of constituents to be	generated, namerod of manag	ou ut tuomity .			
ii. Generally describe processes or activities involving l	nazardous wastes or constituer	nts:			
	7				
iii. Specify amount to be handled or generated to		an atitu data			
iv. Describe any proposals for on-site minimization, rec	eyening or reuse of nazardous of	constituents:			
v. Will any hazardous wastes be disposed at an existing	g offsite hazardous waste facil	ity?	☐Yes☐No		
		,			
If No: describe proposed management of any hazardous	wastes which will not be sent	to a hazardous waste facilit	y:		
E. Site and Setting of Proposed Action					
E. Site and Setting of Froposed Action					
E.1. Land uses on and surrounding the project site					
a. Existing land uses.					
i. Check all uses that occur on, adjoining and near the project site.					
☐ Urban ☐ Industrial ☑ Commercial ☑ Residential (suburban) ☐ Rural (non-farm)					
	r (specify):				
ii. If mix of uses, generally describe:					
The existing site consists of wooded areas and is surrounded by residential and commercial uses.					
b. Land uses and covertypes on the project site.	-1				
Land use or	Current	Acreage After	Change		
Covertype	Acreage	Project Completion	(Acres +/-)		
Roads, buildings, and other paved or impervious	=				
surfaces	0.0	21.2	+21.2		
Forested	8.9	0.1	-8.8		
Meadows, grasslands or brushlands (non-	45.0	07.0	00.0		
agricultural, including abandoned agricultural)	45.6	27.8	-28.8		
Agricultural					
(includes active orchards, field, greenhouse etc.)					
Surface water features	0.0	E 4	.E.A		
(lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, etc.)	0.0	5.4	+5.4		
Wetlands (freshwater or tidal)	7.5	7.5	0.0		
Non-vegetated (bare rock, earth or fill)					
Other Describe: Creaning and Landscaping		00			
Describe: Greenspace and Landscaping		??	??		

c. Is the project site presently used by members of the community for public recreation? i. If Yes: explain:	□Yes□No			
d. Are there any facilities serving children, the elderly, people with disabilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, licensed day care centers, or group homes) within 1500 feet of the project site?	□Yes□No			
If Yes,				
i. Identify Facilities:				
e. Does the project site contain an existing dam?	☐Yes☐No			
If Yes:				
i. Dimensions of the dam and impoundment:				
• Dam height: feet				
• Dam length: feet				
• Surface area: acres				
Volume impounded: gallons OR acre-feet				
ii. Dam's existing hazard classification:				
iii. Provide date and summarize results of last inspection:				
f. Has the project site ever been used as a municipal, commercial or industrial solid waste management facility,	☐Yes☐No			
or does the project site adjoin property which is now, or was at one time, used as a solid waste management facil	ity?			
If Yes:				
i. Has the facility been formally closed?	☐ Yes☐ No			
If yes, cite sources/documentation:				
ii. Describe the location of the project site relative to the boundaries of the solid waste management facility:				
m Deserted the recurrence of the project site returned to the confidence of the confidence in the return for the project site returned to the confidence in				
iii. Describe any development constraints due to the prior solid waste activities:				
g. Have hazardous wastes been generated, treated and/or disposed of at the site, or does the project site adjoin	□Yes□No			
property which is now or was at one time used to commercially treat, store and/or dispose of hazardous waste?				
If Yes:				
i. Describe waste(s) handled and waste management activities, including approximate time when activities occurred:				
h. Potential contamination history. Has there been a reported spill at the proposed project site, or have any	☐Yes☐ No			
remedial actions been conducted at or adjacent to the proposed site?				
If Yes:				
i. Is any portion of the site listed on the NYSDEC Spills Incidents database or Environmental Site	☐Yes☐No			
Remediation database? Check all that apply:				
Yes - Spills Incidents database Provide DEC ID number(s):				
Yes – Environmental Site Remediation database Provide DEC ID number(s):				
☐ Neither database				
ii. If site has been subject of RCRA corrective activities, describe control measures:				
a. It sho has seen subject of feeter confective activities, accorde control measures.				
iii. Is the project within 2000 feet of any site in the NYSDEC Environmental Site Remediation database?	☐ Yes ✓ No			
If yes, provide DEC ID number(s):				
iv. If yes to (i), (ii) or (iii) above, describe current status of site(s):				
The second the second s				

v. Is the project site subject to an institutional control limiting property uses?				
 If yes, DEC site ID number: Describe the type of institutional control (e.g., deed restriction or easement): 				
Describe any use limitations:				
 Describe any engineering controls: Will the project affect the institutional or engineering 			☐ Yes ☐ No	
Explain:				
-				
E.2. Natural Resources On or Near Project Site				
a. What is the average depth to bedrock on the project	site?	>6 feet		
b. Are there bedrock outcroppings on the project site?		0/	☐ Yes Z No	
If Yes, what proportion of the site is comprised of bed				
c. Predominant soil type(s) present on project site:	Getzville Silt loam Swormville clay loam	<u>20</u> % 52 %		
	Wayland soils complex			
d. What is the average depth to the water table on the	project site? Average:>6 f	eet		
e. Drainage status of project site soils: Well Draine				
☐ Moderately ✓ Poorly Drain	Well Drained: % of site ned 100 % of site			
f. Approximate proportion of proposed action site with		% of site		
i. Approximate proportion of proposed action site with	10-15%:			
	15% or greater:	% of site		
g. Are there any unique geologic features on the proje			☐ Yes Z No	
If Yes, describe:				
h. Surface water features.				
i. Does any portion of the project site contain wetlan ponds or lakes)?	ds or other waterbodies (including st	reams, rivers,	Z Yes□No	
ii. Do any wetlands or other waterbodies adjoin the p	roject site?		Z Yes□No	
If Yes to either i or ii , continue. If No, skip to E.2.i.			∠ Yes □No	
iii. Are any of the wetlands or waterbodies within or adjoining the project site regulated by any federal, state or local agency?				
iv. For each identified regulated wetland and waterbo		llowing information: Classification ^C		
	S Wetland, Federal Waters, Fe	Approximate Size NYS V	Vetland (in a	
• Wetland No. (if regulated by DEC) TE-18, T v. Are any of the above water bodies listed in the most	E-19 st recent compilation of NVS water of	mality-impaired	□Yes ☑ No	
waterbodies?				
If yes, name of impaired water body/bodies and basis	for listing as impaired:			
i. Is the project site in a designated Floodway?			☐Yes Z No	
j. Is the project site in the 100-year Floodplain?			✓ Yes No	
k. Is the project site in the 500-year Floodplain?			Z Yes □No	
l. Is the project site located over, or immediately adjoint	ining, a primary, principal or sole so	urce aquifer?	☐Yes Z No	
If Yes: i. Name of aquifer:				
i. Ivaille of aquiter.			-	

m. Identify the predominant wildlife species that occupy or use the project site: Typical suburban species	
n. Does the project site contain a designated significant natural community? If Yes: i. Describe the habitat/community (composition, function, and basis for designation):	□Yes ☑ No
ii. Source(s) of description or evaluation: iii. Extent of community/habitat: • Currently: • Following completion of project as proposed: • Gain or loss (indicate + or -): acres acres	
 o. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by the federal government or NYS as endangered or threatened, or does it contain any areas identified as habitat for an endangered or threatened spec If Yes: i. Species and listing (endangered or threatened): 	Yes No ies?
 p. Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by NYS as rare, or as a species of special concern? If Yes: i. Species and listing: 	☐Yes Z No
q. Is the project site or adjoining area currently used for hunting, trapping, fishing or shell fishing? If yes, give a brief description of how the proposed action may affect that use:	∐Yes∐No
E.3. Designated Public Resources On or Near Project Site	
a. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in a designated agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? If Yes, provide county plus district name/number:	∐Yes Z No
b. Are agricultural lands consisting of highly productive soils present? i. If Yes: acreage(s) on project site? ii. Source(s) of soil rating(s):	∐Yes □No
c. Does the project site contain all or part of, or is it substantially contiguous to, a registered National Natural Landmark? If Yes: i. Nature of the natural landmark: Biological Community Geological Feature ii. Provide brief description of landmark, including values behind designation and approximate size/extent:	∐Yes Z INo
d. Is the project site located in or does it adjoin a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes: i. CEA name: ii. Basis for designation: iii. Designating agency and date:	☐Yes Z No

e. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a but which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for If Yes: i. Nature of historic/archaeological resource: Archaeological Site ii. Name: iii. Brief description of attributes on which listing is based:	that has been determined by the Commission	
		
f. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an are archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SH		☐Yes Z No
g. Have additional archaeological or historic site(s) or resources been id If Yes:	• •	□Yes □No
i. Describe possible resource(s):ii. Basis for identification:		
u. basis for identification.		=
 h. Is the project site within fives miles of any officially designated and p scenic or aesthetic resource? If Yes: 	publicly accessible federal, state, or local	□Yes□No
i. Identify resource:		
ii. Nature of, or basis for, designation (e.g., established highway overlo	ook, state or local park, state historic trail or	scenic byway,
etc.):		
iii. Distance between project and resource:m	illes.	
 i. Is the project site located within a designated river corridor under the Program 6 NYCRR 666? If Yes: 	e Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers	☐ Yes No
i. Identify the name of the river and its designation:		
ii. Is the activity consistent with development restrictions contained in	6NYCRR Part 666?	□Yes □No
F. Additional Information Attach any additional information which may be needed to clarify you If you have identified any adverse impacts which could be associated measures which you propose to avoid or minimize them.		npacts plus any
G. Verification I certify that the information provided is true to the best of my knowled Applicant/Sponsor Name SBLC Development Corp.	edge. Date March 25, 2024	
Approved Sponsor Traine ODEO Development Oorp.	Date Horott boy bob !	
Signature_ Lem Repkins	Title Counsel for Project Sponsor	



ATTACHMENT "A" OF PART 1 OF FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM – LIST OF PARCELS COMPRISING THE PROJECT SITE AND OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

- 1. 1790 North French Road [SBL No. 27.04-1-12] Owner: Anthony Cimato
- 2. 1920 North French Road [SBL No. 27.04-1-20] Owner: North Forest Development Corp.
- 3. Portion of 999 Campbell Boulevard [SBL No. 27.00-2-29] Owner: SBLC Development Corp.

Attachment B of Part 1 of Full EAF Wetland Delineation Verification Letter
issued by Charles P. Rosenburg of the
NYS Dept. of Environmental
Conservation on January 22, 2022

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, Region 9 700 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 P: (716) 851-7010 I F: (716) 851-7005 www.dec.ny.gov

January 22, 2024

Fred Cimato
Cimato Enterprises
9220 Transit Road
East Amherst, New York 14051

Dear Fred Cimato:

Wetland TE-18 Delineation Verification SBLC Property
Town of Amherst, Erie County

This letter serves as notification that I verified the wetland delineation performed by Earth Dimensions, Inc. (EDI) of Freshwater Wetland TE-18 within the SBLC property (1790 & 1860 North French Road, 999 Campbell Blvd; Parcels 27.00-2-29; 27.04-1-16.1; & 27.04-1-12) in the Town of Amherst, Erie County. I field inspected EDI's delineated wetland boundaries on July 26, 2023. I verified a portion of EDI-delineated wetland W2, from delineation flags W2-1 to W2-40 and W2-99 to W2-143, is part of State-jurisdictional Freshwater Wetland TE-18 and that the location of this wetland is accurately depicted in EDI's delineation map (Figure 6, enclosed here) of their April 20, 2023 wetland delineation report. A 100-foot wide regulated adjacent area surrounds Wetland TE-18.

My field inspection also determined the following areas are <u>not</u> part of Wetland TE-18 since they are located greater than 50 meters from the field-delineated boundary of wetland W2/Wetland TE-18: the remaining portion of EDI-delineated wetland W2 (north of delineation flags W2-40 and W2-99), EDI-delineated wetlands W1 and W3, and wetlands observed within the adjoining 1920 North French Road parcel.

Please note that Wetland TE-19 is no longer a State-regulated freshwater wetland following a November 2016 field inspection that determined the total area of its associated wetlands is less than the 12.4-acre size threshold for state wetlands jurisdiction and the wetlands do not qualify for state wetlands jurisdiction under the NYSDEC's "unusual local importance" designation.

Please be aware that wetland boundaries may change over time and this letter does not fix wetland boundaries indefinitely. If you would like to document the precise boundaries of the wetlands that comprise Wetland TE-18 relative to the property boundaries, it is your responsibility to have the wetland boundaries surveyed. If you choose to complete a survey, the wetland boundary survey map should be submitted to me for verification. A copy of this Department's *Requirements for Wetland Survey and Mapping* is enclosed. Please note that a surveyed wetland boundary that has been verified by this Department will be considered valid for five years.



Fred Cimato January 22, 2024 Page 2

In 1975, the New York State Legislature passed the Freshwater Wetlands Act to preserve and protect wetlands and their functions, such as flood protection and fish and wildlife habitat. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is required to map all wetlands protected by this law, and to make those maps available for inspection in all local government clerks' offices. Certain activities within the wetland or its regulated 100-foot adjacent area require a permit from this Department, including but not limited to filling, clearing vegetation, draining, and construction. Contact our Division of Environmental Permits Office for information about permit requirements at:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Permits 700 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14209 Telephone: (716) 851-7165

Finally, please be advised that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may also have wetland and stream jurisdiction irrespective of the Department of Environmental Conservation. For more information, you may contact the Corps at:

United States Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 478 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
Telephone: (716) 879-4330

If you have any questions about this wetland delineation verification, feel free to contact me in the Buffalo office at (716) 851-7024 or Charles.Rosenburg@dec.ny.gov.

Sincerely.

Charles P. Rosenburg

Charles P. Lovenburg

Region 9 BEH Habitat Protection Manager

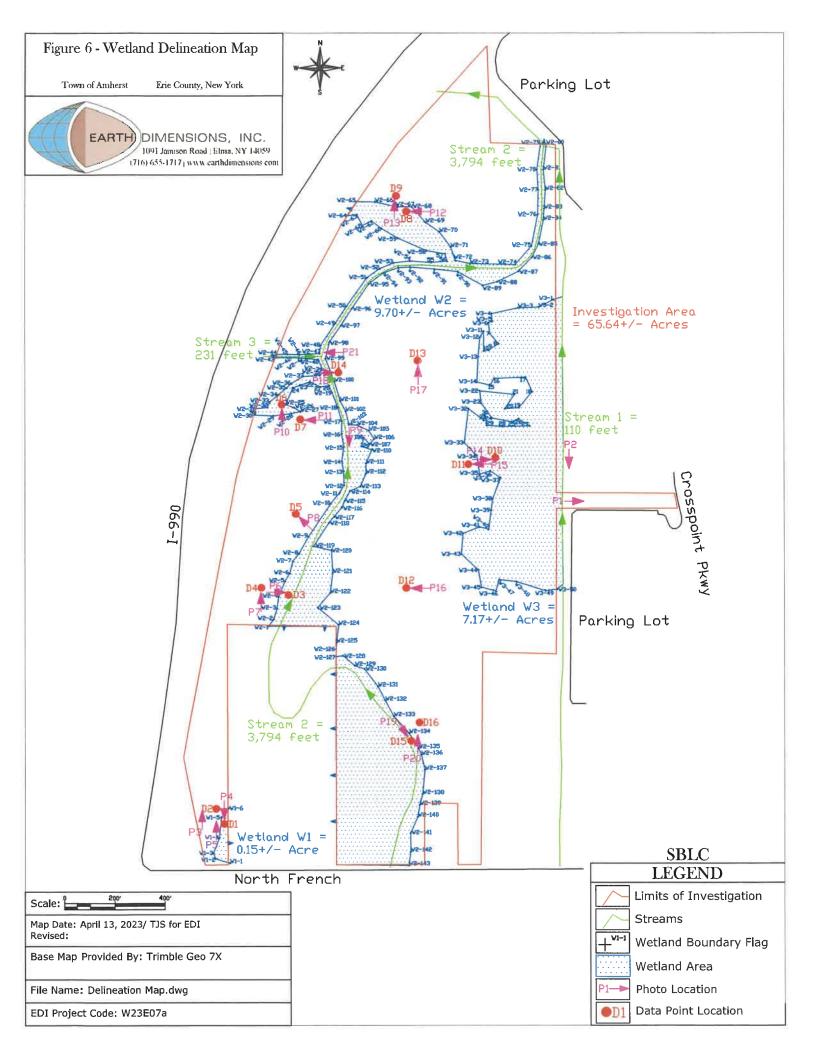
CPR:ck

Encl: Earth Dimensions Wetland Delineation Map (Figure 6)

Requirements for Wetland Survey and Mapping

cc: Tom Somerville, Earth Dimensions, Inc.

Wetland TE-18 file



Attachment C of Part 1 of Full EAF - Jurisdictional Determination issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 1920 North French Road dated March 14, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BUFFALO DISTRICT 478 MAIN STREET BUFFALO, NY 14202-3278

March 14, 2024

Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: Approved Jurisdictional Determination for Department of the Army

Processing No. LRB-2023-00911

Elliot Lasky
PO Box 1454
Williamsville, New York 14231
Email: elasky@forbesdevcorp.com

Dear Mr. Lasky:

I have reviewed the approved jurisdictional determination (JD) request submitted by Earth Dimensions, Inc. for an for the approximate 5.71-acre review area located north and adjacent to North French Road, in the Town of Amherst, Erie County, New York (latitude 43.0351 N, and longitude -78.7532 W), as shown on sheets 1-2 of 2.

I have determined that the review area as depicted on attached Sheets 1-2 of 2 is comprised entirely of dry land and contains no potential aquatic resources regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Therefore, a Department of Army permit is not required for any activities occurring within the review area.

Enclosed is an approved JD. This approved JD will remain valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of this correspondence unless new information warrants revision of the approved JD before the expiration date. At the end of this period, a new aquatic resource delineation will be required to support any request for a new JD.

Further, the delineation included herein has been conducted to identify the location and extent of the aquatic resource boundaries and/or the jurisdictional status of aquatic resources for purposes of the Clean Water Act for the particular review area identified in this request. This delineation and/or jurisdictional determination may not be valid for the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should discuss the applicability of a certified wetland determination with the local USDA service center, prior to starting work.

If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal

Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: Approved Jurisdictional Determination for Department of the Army Processing No. LRB-2023-00911

Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal the above JD, you must submit a completed RFA form within 60 days of the date on this letter to the Great Lakes/Ohio River Division Office at the following address:

Katherine McCafferty Regulatory Appeals Officer **US Army Corps of Engineers** Great Lakes and Ohio River Division 550 Main Street, Room 10780 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222 Phone: 513-684-2699 Fax: 513-684-2460

e-mail: katherine.a.mccafferty@usace.army.mil

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete; that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 C.F.R. part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by May 12, 2024.

It is not necessary to submit an RFA to the Division office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Earth Dimensions, Inc.

Questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to me at (716) 879-4240, by writing to the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 478 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14202, or by e-mail at: Shaina.R.Souder@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

Shaina Souder Biologist

Shaina R Jander

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BUFFALO DISTRICT 478 MAIN STREET BUFFALO. NEW YORK 14202-3278

CELRB-TD-R

14 March 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023), 1 LRB-2023-00911 [MFR 1 of 1]²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

^{3 33} CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of Sackett v. EPA, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), LRB-2023-00911

as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

a. The review area is comprised entirely of dry land (i.e., there are no waters such as streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes, ponds, tidal waters, ditches, and the like in the entire review area and there are no areas that have previously been determined to be jurisdictional under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 in the review area).

A review of the submitted delineation report, which included wetland data points, showed no evidence of wetland criteria (hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils) being present, and no evidence of aquatic resources/waters within the 5.71-acre review area, as described in item 3 below and as shown on attached map sheets 1 and 2 of 2.

During a September 18, 2023 site visit, the forested area was walked through from the north. Specifically, I checked the location of Data point 2, due to the mixed vegetation (hydrophytic and upland vegetation) recorded on the data form. The forested area consisted of Facultative and Facultative Wet vegetation with some upland species intermixed; the area seemed remnant or transitional of wetland but lacked hydrology throughout the site. The adjacent property to the west was walked the same day and similar forested and non-forested areas had evidence of hydrology (standing water, saturation, drainage patterns) and none of these things were observed on this site. The observations made during the site visit were consistent with the dry land reported in the submitted delineation report.

An in-office resource review supports that there are no aquatic resources within the review area. The U.S. Geographical Survey topographic map does not show waters within the review area but does show wetland symbols north of the review area and a dotted, blue-line stream feature to the east of the review area starting at the northeast corner (outside the review area). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) web soil survey listed the following soils within the review area: Ge - Getzville silt loam with a hydric rating of 85 within the forested portion of the review area and Sw – Swormville clay loam with a hydric rating of 10 located in the maintained residential portion of the review area. The soils information supports that there is possibility of wetland conditions forming in these soils. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps do shows wetland in the forested area of the review area, labeled as PFO1Bd – [P] Palustrine [FO] Forested [1] Broad-leafed deciduous [B] Seasonally Saturated [d] partially drained/ditched and another water adjacent to the review area to the east consisting of a blue-line labeled R4SBC - [R] Riverine [SB] Streambed, [C]

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of Sackett v. EPA, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), LRB-2023-00911

seasonally flooded. A review of aerial imagery suggests some saturation some areas in the forested areas in the April 25,2020 oblique imagery. However, more recent aerial imagery (Google Earth dated November 2021, May 2022, and May 2023 do not show any saturation or evidence of hydrology.

The Antecedent Precipitation Tool (APT) was conducted for the aerial dates, USACE site visit date, and delineation date.

							Antecedent	Antecedent
			Date	PDSI	PDSI		Precip	Precip
Latitude	Longitude	Date	explanation	Value	Class	Season	Score	Condition
			Date of					Wetter
			USACE site		Mild	Wet		than
43.0351	-78.7532	9/18/2023	visit	1.47	wetness	Season	15	Normal
			Date of		Mild	Wet		Drier than
43.0351	-78.7532	9/1/2020	delineation	-1.32	drought	Season	9	Normal
			Oblique					
			Aerial					
			(Connect			Wet		Normal
43.0351	-78.7532	4/25/2020	Explorer)	-0.17	Normal	Season	13	Conditions
			Google		Moderate	Wet		Normal
43.0351	-78.7532	5/8/2022	Earth aerial	2.04	wetness	Season	11	Conditions
								Wetter
			Google		Mild	Wet		than
43.0351	-78.7532	5/17/2023	Earth aerial	1.22	wetness	Season	15	Normal
			Google		Severe	Wet		Normal
43.0351	-78.7532	11/23/2021	Earth aerial	3.6	wetness	Season	14	Conditions
13.0331	,0.,552	,,	_aren aenar	3.0	110011033	3003011		Conditions

The APT indicates a period of minor drought on the date of the delineation, September 1, 2020. No wetland criteria were reported at any of the data points, not just hydrology. The APT report of drought conditions at the date of the site visit, which recorded no wetland conditions, indicates that the area is not wetland during normal conditions. The date of the USACE site visit was reported as wetter than normal conditions and hydrology indicators were not observed, supporting that hydrology is not typical within the review area even with wetter than normal conditions. The aerial/oblique imagery all reported normal conditions except for May 2023. No evidence of hydrology was observed in aerial/oblique

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of Sackett v. EPA, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), LRB-2023-00911

imagery except for the April 25, 2020 oblique, which was reported as normal conditions during the wet season.

Based on a detailed review of the submitted delineation report, a detailed in-office resource analysis, and the observations made during the September 18, 2023 USACE site visit as described above, it has been determined that the 5.71-acre review area is completely comprised of dry land and does not contain any aquatic resources or waters of the United States.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. Sackett v. EPA, 598 U.S. _, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- 3. REVIEW AREA. An approximately 5.71-acre review area with relatively flat topography, located north and adjacent to North French Road, in the town of Amherst, Erie County, New York. The northern portion of the review area is forested. The southern portion of the review area is a single-family residential home with maintained (mowed) lawn. (Latitude: 43.0351, Longitude: -78.7532) See map sheets 1 and 2 of 2.
- 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A.
- 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A.
- 6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic

⁶ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

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resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.7 N/A.

- 7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in Sackett. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A.
 - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A.
 - c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A.
 - d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A.
 - e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A.
 - f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A.
 - g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A.

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not "waters of the United States" even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature

⁷ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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- within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).8 *N/A*.
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). N/A.
- DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Corps of Engineers' site visit: <u>September 18, 2023</u>. In-Office resource evaluation: <u>September 15, 2023</u>, <u>October 2, 2023</u>, and <u>February 27, 2024</u>.
 - b. Submitted Aquatic Resource Delineation Report: "Wetland Delineation Report, 1920 North French Road, Town of Amherst, NY," dated November 2, 2020 and includes data forms dated September 1, 2020; prepared for Elliot Lasky; Prepared by Davey Resource Group. Submitted to the USACE by Earth Dimensions, Inc on September 15, 2023.
 - c. U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: HA-730.
 - _X_ USGS NHD data.
 - X USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
 - d. U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:

 https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/ USGS; Tonawanda East NY; 2019 –

 and as provided in the submitted delineation report.
 - e. Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:

 https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx Erie County,

 New York; accessed September 15, 2023 and as provided in the submitted delineation report.
 - f. National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlandsinventory/wetlands-mapper, accessed on February 27, 2024 and as provided in the delineation report.

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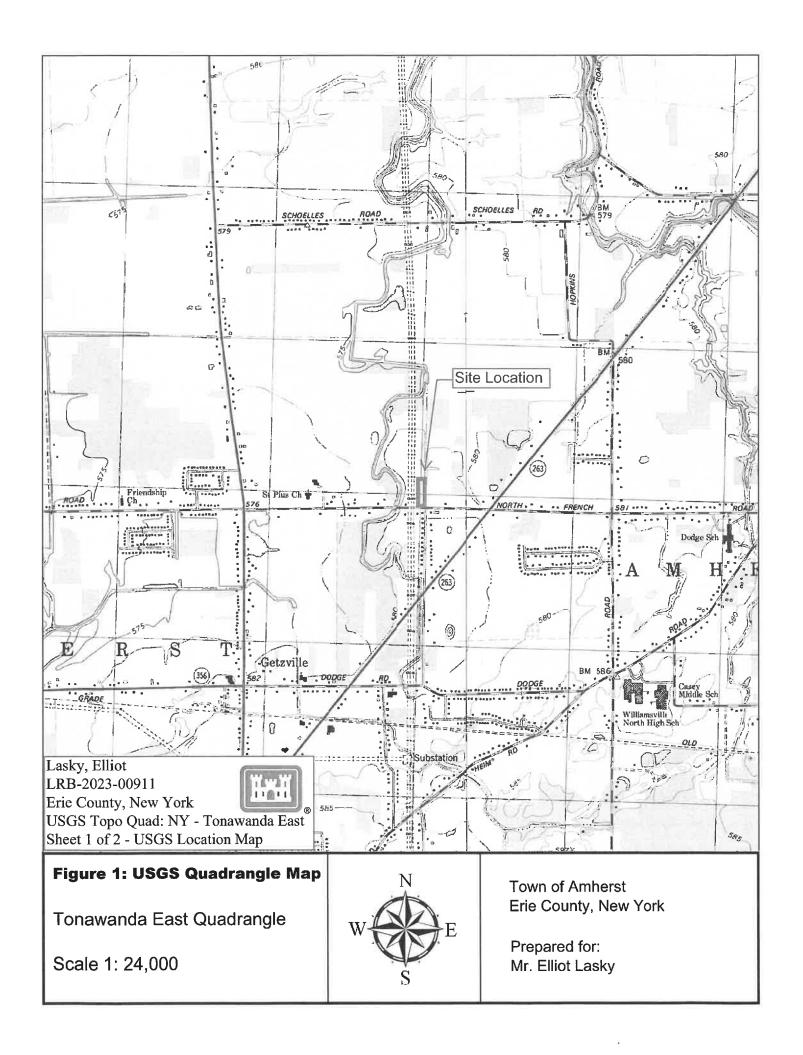
^{8 88} FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

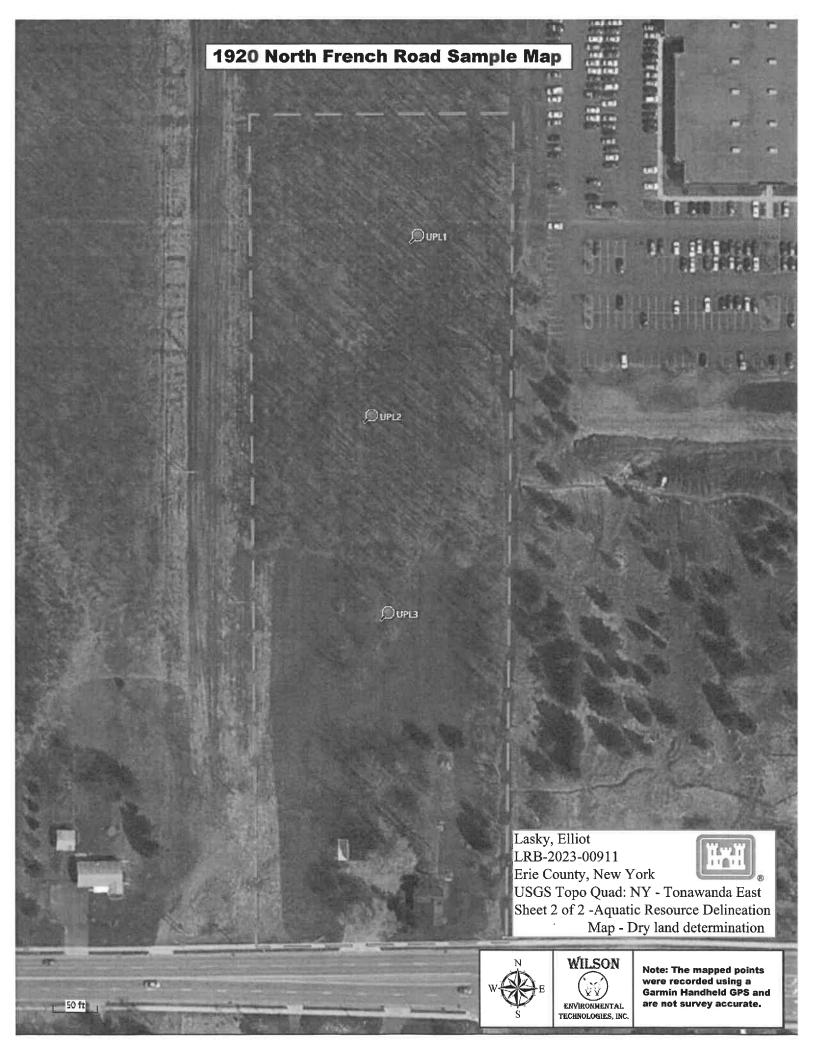
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- g. State/local wetland inventory map(s): <u>New York State Department of Environmental Resource Mapper https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/erm/.</u>
- h. Photographs:
 - Aerial (Name & Date): Google Earth aerial imagery November 2021, May 2022, May 2023. Connect Explorer Oblique imagery dated April 25, 2020 https://explorer.eagleview.com/.
 - Other (Name & Date): <u>Photographs included in the delineation report,</u> dated September 1, 2020.
- Antecedent Precipitation Tool conducted for dates: <u>September 18, 2023 date of USACE site visit</u>, 9/1/2020 date of delineation, April 25, 2020 date of oblique imagery, and dates of Google Earth aerials November 23, 2021, May 8, 2022, May 17, 2023.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A.

11.NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.





NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Lasky, Elliot		File Number: LRB-2023-00911	Date: March 14, 2024
Attached is:			See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of		A
	permission)		
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)		В
	PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE		С
	PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE		D
X	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETE	ERMINATION	Е
	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DI	ETERMINATION	F

SECTION I

The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/appeals/ or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C. PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE: Not appealable

You received a permit denial without prejudice because a required Federal, state, and/or local authorization and/or certification has been denied for activities which also require a Department of the Army permit before final action has been taken on the Army permit application. The permit denial without prejudice is not appealable. There is no prejudice to the right of the applicant to reinstate processing of the Army permit application if subsequent approval is received from the appropriate Federal, state, and/or local agency on a previously denied authorization and/or certification.

D: PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE: You may appeal the permit denial

You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information for reconsideration

- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- RECONSIDERATION: You may request that the district engineer reconsider the approved JD by submitting new information or data to the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice. The district will determine whether the information submitted qualifies as new information or data that justifies reconsideration of the approved JD. A reconsideration request does not initiate the appeal process. You may submit a request for appeal to the division engineer to preserve your appeal rights while the district is determining whether the submitted information qualifies for a reconsideration.

F: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: Not appealable

You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also, you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision you may contact:

Shaina Souder U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 478 Main St, Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone: (716)879-4240

Email: Shaina.R.Souder@usace.army.mil

If you have questions regarding the appeal process, or to submit your request for appeal, you may contact:

Katherine McCafferty
Regulatory Appeals Officer
US Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
550 Main Street, Room 10780
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222

Phone: 513-684-2699 Fax: 513-684-2460 e-mail: katherine.a.mccafferty@usace.army.mil

SECTION II – REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT				
administrative record.)	e statements. Use additional pages as necessary. You y where your reasons or objections are addressed in the			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.				
RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15-day notice of any site investigation and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.				
	Date:			
Signature of appellant or agent.				
Email address of appellant and/or agent:	Telephone number:			

Exhibit 3A – Reduced Size Copy of the Concept Site Plan [Drawing C-100] for the Project as Prepared by Carmina Wood Morris DPC [Note: Full Size Copy of the Concept Site Plan is also attached]

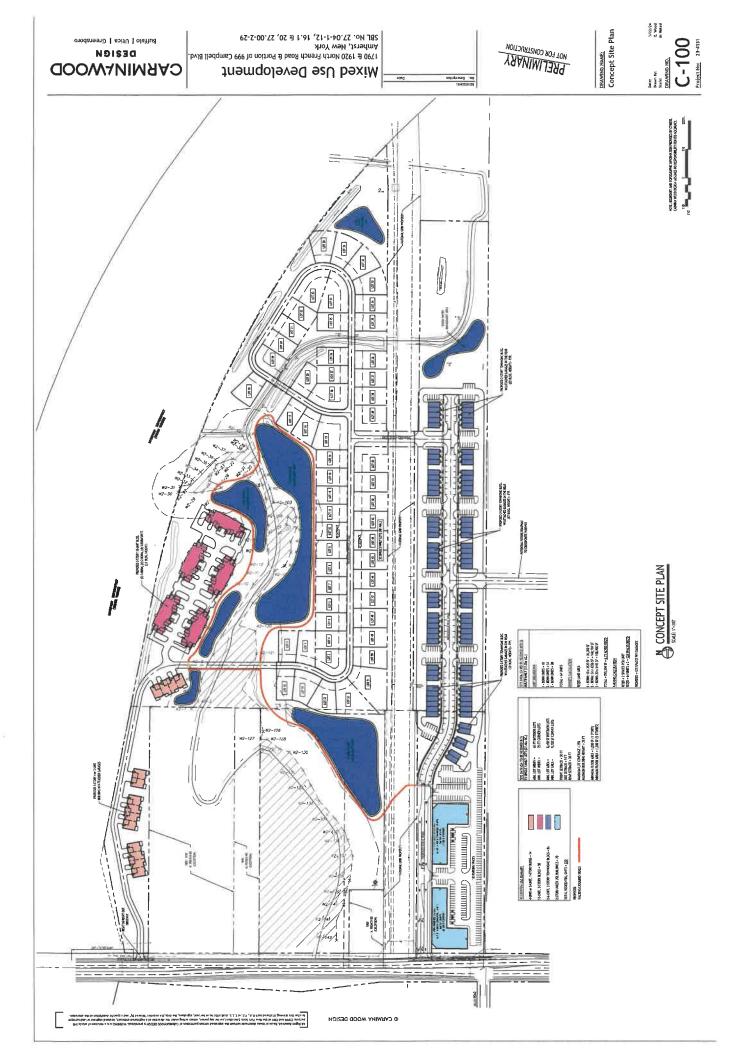


Exhibit 3B – Reduced Size Copy of the Concept Zoning Plan [Drawing C-100] for the Project as Prepared by Carmina Wood Morris DPC [Note: Full Size Copy of the Concept Site Plan is also attached]

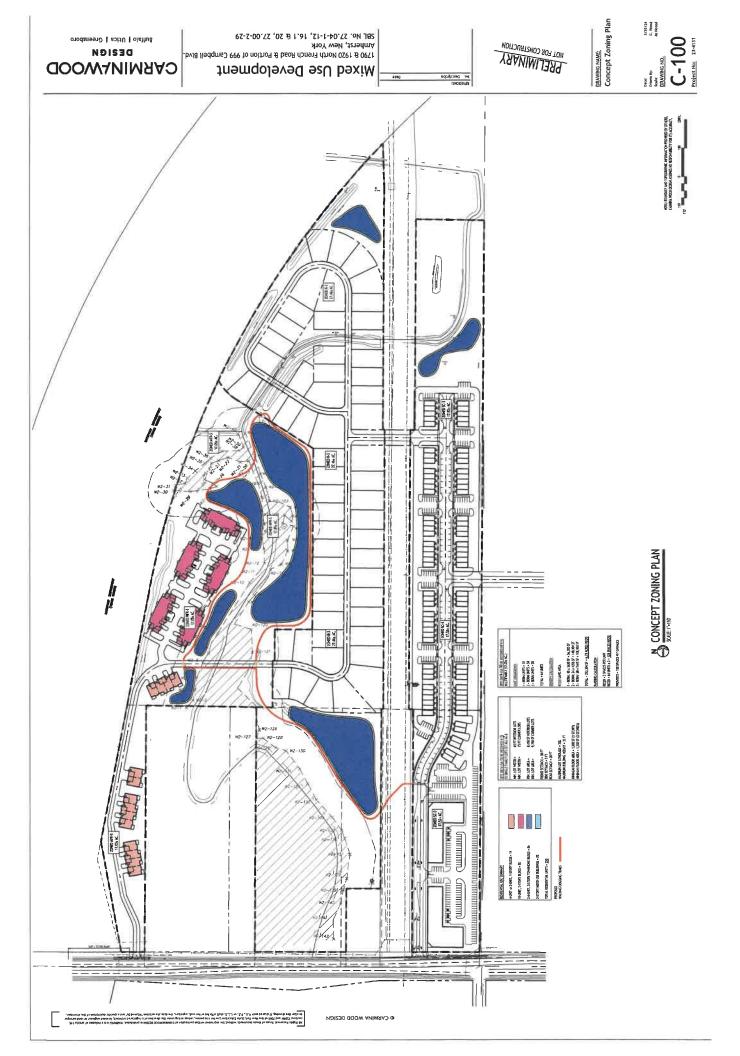


Exhibit 4 - Responses to Questions in Section 4A of the of the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan Application

EXHIBIT 4

RESPONSES TO QUESTION IN SECTION 4A OF BICENTENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPLICATION

Section 4A of the BCPA Application requests that information be provided regarding the description of any prospective action. The Project Sponsor is seeking to develop the parcels comprising the Project Site as a mixed-use project based on the Shallow Corridor Three ("SC-3"), Residential District Three ("R-3") and Multifamily Residential District Five ("MFR-5") zoning classifications as depicted on the Concept Zoning Plan [Drawing C-100]. A reduced size copy of the Concept Zoning Plan [Drawing C-100] is provided at **Exhibit "3A"** and a full size copy is also attached.

The proposed mixed-use project consists of the following components:

- 1. Two mixed-use buildings each consisting of 4,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space and 15 1st floor apartments and 20 2nd floor apartments;
- 2. 86 townhome style units with attached garages;
- 3. 55 lots for detached single-family homes;
- 4. 64 multifamily units; and
- 5. All related site improvements including roadways, stormwater management, landscaping, lighting, utility improvements and connections.

The proposed action has been defined broadly to include all required discretionary approvals and permits needed from governmental agencies. A copy of the completed Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form with Attachments "'A to "C" is provided at **Exhibit "2"**. The proposed project is a Type I action pursuant to SEQRA. A full-size copy of the Concept Site Plan [Drawing C-100] prepared by Carmina Wood Morris DPC is attached and a reduced-size copy is also attached as **Exhibit "3A"**.

The proposed mixed-use project requires Figure 6 [titled "Conceptual Land Use Plan"] and Figure 6-A [titled "Commercial and Mixed-Use Designations"] of the Comprehensive Plan to be amended. Marked-up color copies of Figure 6 and 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan are attached as **Exhibit "7"** and **Exhibit "8"**. Figure 6 of the Comprehensive Plan designates the Project Site as appropriate for "Recreation, Open Space and Greenways".

The Project Sponsor is requesting that the designation be amended to "Commercial/Mixed Use". The Project Site is not designated as appropriate for a commercial or mixed-use designation on Figure 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan. The Project Sponsor is requesting that the Project Site be designated as "Suburban Corridor" on Figure 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan.

Page 3-43 of the Comprehensive Plan sets forth the process for establishing a mixed-use project at a location not designated for such use on Figure 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan and the relevant language states as follows:

Expansion of Existing Centers

The Town's commercial and mixed-use centers are generally well established; many of the residential neighborhoods have developed around these areas. Expansion and encroachment of commercial land uses into neighborhoods or extension along roadways should rarely occur. Amherst has adequate commercial and mixed-use zoning in place to accommodate anticipated future demand without expanding the amount of land zoned for these purposes. As commercial market demands are changing it may be appropriate to expand mixed-use development with land currently zoned for office or multi-family purposes where such land abuts an existing center or is substantial enough to function as a center itself.

If additional land area is added to commercial and mixed-use centers in the future, the maps in this section must be amended by the Town Board prior to rezoning the property. This will allow for a community conversation about the proposed expansion of centers before any detailed conversation and design of specific development takes place. (Amended 12-11-17; BCPA-2017-01)

New Centers

Based on the pattern of existing commercial and mixed-use centers, there is little reason to designate new commercial or mixed-use centers in Amherst. If a new commercial or mixed-use center is desired in the future, map figures 6 and 6A in this section must be amended by the Town Board prior to applying new zoning to

the property. This should only occur after thoughtful consideration. (Amended 12-11-17; BCPA-2017-01)

In connection with the requested amendment of Figures 6 and 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan, the Project Sponsor is requesting that appropriate consideration be given to the history of the Project Site, which is located to the west of the Cross Pointe Business Park, which is designated as "Suburban Corridor" on Figure 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan. It is also important to mention that the "Recreation, Open Space and Greenways" designation per Figure 6 of the adopted Comprehensive Plan is not appropriate given that the Project Site consists of privately owned land directly that does not consist exclusively of wetlands.

Exhibit 5 – Responses to Questions in Section 4B of the of the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan Application

EXHIBIT 5

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS IN SECTION 4B OF BICENTENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPLICATION

Section 4B of the BCPA Application requests that information be provided in support of the rationale for a requested Comprehensive Plan Amendment in the context of the following two (2) questions:

- 1. How will the requested amendment to the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan be consistent with Section 2.2 (Vison Statement)?
- 2. How will the requested amendment to the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan be consistent with Section 2.3 (Key Initiatives)?

Section 2.2 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Vision Statement" and states that the Town is renowned for an exceptional quality of life that derives from three fundamental attributes:

- Livability: Our healthy neighborhoods, outstanding public facilities and services, and active community life make Amherst an exceptional place to live and raise a family.
- Community Character: We wisely manage growth to preserve natural and historic resources, maintain green space throughout the community, and revitalize older neighborhoods and commercial corridors while accommodating quality new development.
- Shared Direction: As partners in the renewed prosperity of the Buffalo-Niagara region, we work together with neighboring communities and institutions and balance our multiple roles as a premier residential community and a complementary regional center of economic, cultural, and educational activity.

Section 2.2 of the Comprehensive Plan states that the Town's Vision of the Future is defined the Town's quality of life based on the following valued **characteristics of community:**

LIVABILITY

- Our **livable neighborhoods** offer a range of lifestyle and housing choices in urban, suburban, and rural settings.
- Pedestrian-friendly, interconnected, mixed-use **development patterns** provide citizens with convenient access to services and facilities and encourage walking, biking, and use of public transportation as alternatives to automobile trips.

- A safe, functionally efficient, and well-maintained **transportation system** provides choices for citizens through interconnected roadways, sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use and natural trails, and transit options.
- The **community facilities and services** offered by the Town and other providers such as accessible parks and recreational programs, outstanding public schools, and public safety services that help maintain our reputation as one of the safest communities in America, are an integral part of our exceptional quality of life.
- Our active **community life** culture and entertainment, sports and recreation, programs for people of all ages, and other activities, events, and places for people to gather provides opportunities for all citizens to participate and enjoy shared experiences.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- Vibrant **older neighborhoods**, such as Eggertsville, Snyder, Swormville, Getzville, and Williamsville, and the **commercial areas** serving them are revitalized and attract continuing investment.
- We protect and preserve valued **open spaces** and **natural and scenic resources** throughout the community.
- We respect our **history and heritage** by preserving historic resources and by remembering and interpreting Amherst's history for future generations.
- We maintain a clean, **healthy environment** by dedicating resources to protect against noise, light, air, and water pollution.
- We set high standards for the quality of development and redevelopment to complement our established community character.
- The visual character of the Town is enhanced by landscaping, protection of woodlands and tree canopy, and careful attention to the design of roadways, scenic corridors, and public places.

SHARED DIRECTION

- The Town takes a leadership role in promoting **intergovernmental cooperation** and in pursuing partnership initiatives to address issues shared with our neighboring communities.
- Our healthy, diverse economy provides a strong tax base and good job opportunities, contributing to the retention of our talented youth and attracting others to live, work, and invest in our community.

- In carefully managing growth, we balance the benefits of economic development with the need to maintain livability and preserve community character.
- The Town, together with the University at Buffalo and other educational institutions, work together to address issues of common concern, such as retaining young people in the community, diversifying the economy, and strengthening neighborhoods around the campuses.
- Town government exercises leadership, responds to the concerns of citizens, and challenges them to become positively involved in community affairs.

The requested Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate the proposed mixed-use project is consistent with the Town's Vision of the Future since it will offer a range of housing choices in a suburban setting in close proximity to many large employment centers. The proposed mixed-use project will not result in any significant impacts to important environmental resources and will also be consistent with the Design Standards the Town has established to encourage development that will enhance the Town's community character. The proposed mixed-use project will also enhance the visual character of the Project Site by providing extensive landscaping per the Town's landscaping standards.

The mixed-use project will also contribute to the Town's strong tax base without the need for any public infrastructure improvements since the Project Site represents an infill site with access to public infrastructure including North French Road and the surrounding roadway network including the I-990, sanitary sewer infrastructure, etc.

Section 2.3 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Key Initiatives". It states that there are four (4) Key Initiatives proposed to provide a focus for the Town's efforts to achieve the Vision Statement. These initiatives represent areas in which the Town will "raise the bar" in order to move towards a position of excellence consistent with the Vision.

• Aesthetic/Community Character: To be renowned for the beauty, character, and environmental quality of the Town – its parks, greenways, tree canopy, and protected open space; a diverse environment, including areas with rural character; walkable,

livable neighborhoods; and high aesthetic standards for commercial development. Examples of Comprehensive Plan policies that will support this initiative include:

- 3-5 Apply design standards to enhance community character and sense of place
- 3-6/6-1 Designate "special character roads" as scenic corridors and apply design standards to maintain their appearance
- 3-13 Designate a town-wide open space and greenway network to be achieved through a variety of mechanisms
- 4-11 Implement a "Greening Amherst" planting initiative consistent with a program to manage the "Town Landscape"
- *Education:* To become known as a leading national "knowledge-based" community that has set high standards for public education and fully integrated a major university into the life of the community. Areas of potential focus include economic development, sports and culture, information and research-based technologies, and life-long learning initiatives. The following Comprehensive Plan policies will support this initiative:
- 5-4 Work with educational institutions on lifelong learning and other programs to train, attract, and retain a skilled workforce
- 5-7 Work with UB to create mixed-use activity centers around the periphery of the campuses
- 5-8 Work with UB to promote more educational, social, and cultural ties to the Town and to reinforce the role of both campuses as activity centers.
- 5-9 Establish an ongoing, collaborative planning structure with UB
- Revitalization: To become a model for effective reinvestment and revitalization of older neighborhoods and commercial areas, though creative use of investment incentives targeted toward revitalization and reduced pressure for the development of raw land at the suburban-rural fringe. Examples of relevant Comprehensive Plan policies include:
- 3-8 Provide tax incentives for reinvestment, revitalization, and redevelopment of commercial properties and housing in older areas with significantly less emphasis on new "greenfield" development
- 3-9 Rezone and/or provide incentives for reuse of underutilized/ obsolescent land for economically viable uses
- 3-10 Tailor commercial zoning districts to the unique physical characteristics of older commercial areas in need of revitalization

- 8-7 Initiate a neighborhood revitalization program to promote revitalization of designated neighborhoods through measures such as code enforcement, capital improvements, and design standards
- Governance: To exercise leadership at the local and regional levels by:
 - Retaining the Town's reputation for excellent services and facilities while ensuring fiscal balance
 - Establishing a framework for managing development that promotes predictability, fairness, and quality and eliminates conflicts over development decisions

Examples of relevant Comprehensive Plan policies include:

- 3-16 Improve the predictability and consistency of the zoning and other development approval processes through the application of clear town- wide land use policies
- 3-17 Set clear standards for development quality to increase the level of certainty in the development review and approval process
- 9-1 Establish an on-going system to identify and prioritize community facility and service needs
- 9-8 Reconcile needs for community facilities and services with the fiscal capacity of the Town through the capital programming process

The requested Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate the proposed mixed-use project is consistent with the applicable Key Initiatives as listed above including "Aesthetic/Community Character" since it will enhance the visual character of the Project Site and the SC-3 zoning portion of the project will be generally consistent with the Town's Design Standards for mixed-use projects that encourage the creation of a sense of place. The mixed-use project is consistent with the "Revitalization" Key Initiative since the Project Site represents an infill location serviced by existing public infrastructure. The requested rezoning of the Project Site from SA to SC-3, R-3 and MFR-5 is consistent of the policy referenced on Page 2-6 of the Comprehensive Plan of rezoning sites that are currently underutilized.

Exhibit 6 – Responses to Questions in Section
4C of the of the Bicentennial Comprehensive
Plan Application

EXHIBIT 6

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS IN SECTION 4C OF BICENTENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPPLICATION

Section 4C of the BCPA Application requests that information be provided regarding the reasons the Comprehensive Plan Amendment aligns with the defined policies in Sections 3-9 of the Comprehensive Plan. As described in Exhibit "4" of this Application, the Project Sponsor is seeking to develop the three parcels comprising the "Project Site" as a mixed-use and residential project based on the SC-3, MFR-5 and R-3 zoning classifications. The entire Project Site is currently zoned Suburban Agriculture District ("SA").

The proposed project consists of the following components:

- 1. Two mixed-use buildings each consisting of 4,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space and 15 1st floor apartments and 20 2nd floor apartments;
- 2. 86 townhome style units with attached garages;
- 3. 55 lots for detached single-family homes;
- 4. 64 multifamily units; and
- 5. All related site improvements including roadways, stormwater management, landscaping, lighting, utility improvements and connections.

A full-size copy of the Concept Site Plan [Drawing C-100] prepared by Carmina Wood Morris DPC is attached and a reduced-size copy is also attached as **Exhibit "3A**.

The proposed mixed-use and residential project requires both Figure 6 [titled "Conceptual Land Use Plan"] and Figure 6-A [titled "Commercial and Mixed-Use Designations"] of the Comprehensive Plan to be amended. Copies of Figure 6 and 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan are attached as **Exhibit "7"** and **Exhibit "8"**. Figure 6 of the Comprehensive Plan designates the Project Site as appropriate for "Recreation, Open Space & Greenways". The Project Sponsor is requesting that the designation of the Project Site be amended to "Commercial/Mixed Use". The

Project Site is not designated as appropriate for a commercial or mixed-use designation on Figure 6-A of the Comprehensive Plan. The Project Sponsor is requesting that the Project Site be designated as "Suburban Corridor", which is the designation for the Cross Pointe Business Park directly to the east of the Project Site [Designation 69].

I. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 3 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE</u> PLAN (TITLED "LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT"):

Section 3 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Land Use and Development" and according to Section 3.2 the Goal is "An interconnected mix of land uses that includes revitalized older neighborhoods and commercial centers and corridors, quality new development, vibrant activity centers, agriculture, and green spaces throughout the community." The six (6) Objectives for "Land Use and Development" as set forth in Section 3 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- Promote the development/revitalization of walkable higher density, mixed-use centers surrounded by lower density development;
- Implement context-sensitive zoning and incentives to improve the quality and appearance of non-residential development;
- Encourage revitalization and reinvestment in older neighborhoods and commercial corridors in Amherst;
- Target capital improvements to leverage private investment and enhance community appearance;
- Establish a town-wide network of parks, open spaces, and greenway corridors;
 and
- Improve the predictability and consistency of the development review and decision-making process²

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¹ See Page 3-4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

² See Page 3-4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

POLICIES:

A. <u>Development Patterns</u>:

According to the language on Page 3-4, "[T]he Comprehensive Plan land use policies should guide the distribution of development, but are not intended to alter the amount of development in Amherst. The Plan is a tool to redistribute densities to appropriate locations while maintaining lower density development in the surrounding areas. This will result in more sustainable land use patterns that help to implement objectives such as promoting pedestrian-friendly development; preserving open space; and establishing centers of community activity."

3-1 Expand provisions and incentives for mixed-use development of commercial centers.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 3-1 since it will result in a mixed-use and residential project at a location in close proximity to large office parks including Cross Pointe Business Park and also with direct access to the I-990. The conceptual layout of the mixed-use portion of the project as depicted on the Concept Site Plan [Drawing C-100] is based on the appropriate consideration of the Design Standards contained in Section 5A of the Zoning Code as adopted by the Town Board on September 3, 2019 that require high quality layouts. Page 3-5 of the Comprehensive Plan states that the following strategies can be used to achieve mixed use development:

- Provide a focus for new development and revitalization in the Town, consistent with protecting the character of adjacent residential areas; and
- Enhance the viability of surrounding neighborhoods by providing identifiable centers of community activities such as shopping, work, recreation, and meetings

The proposed mixed-use and residential project is consistent with the above two strategies since it will assist the Town in its continued efforts to encourage mixed-use and residential projects in close proximity to large office parks as well as the I-990. Additionally, the proposed mixed-use

component of the project is consistent with many the advantages of mixed-use forms of development set forth on Pages 3-5 to 3-7 of the Comprehensive Plan including the following:

- To provide added economic incentive and flexibility for revitalization of aging and obsolescent commercial areas
- To provide additional housing opportunities and choices, including higher density and affordable housing in appropriate areas
- To provide a more compact livable and walkable alternative to the prevalent pattern of commercial strip development and separated uses
- To provide a focus for new development, infill, and redevelopment of commercial centers, as opposed to furthering strip commercial development along corridors such as Main Street, Sheridan Drive, Maple Road, North French Road, and Millersport Highway
- To promote development that supports pedestrian and bicycle travel as well as transit use, thereby reducing auto usage and resulting roadway congestion and air pollution
- To encourage higher density centers of activity that exhibit high-quality design and a sense of place
- Mix of uses³
- Connectivity and integration of uses
- Urban design amenities⁴
- Active street frontage

³ The text on Page 3-7 of the Comprehensive Plan states: "It should be noted that certain types of use mixes offer little or no benefit and may exacerbate land use conflicts and traffic congestion. These may include, for example, disconnected out parcels for gas stations, fast food, or other forms of strip commercial development. Because such uses emphasize vehicular access, their use in a mixed-use development should be discouraged." The proposed mixed-use and residential project does not represent a discouraged form of a mixture of land uses.

⁴ The text on Page 3-7 of the Comprehensive Plan states that mixed-use projects should include a variety of urban design amenities, such as sidewalks, landscaping, and public spaces are used to create recognizable, pedestrian-friendly activity centers with a sense of place.

- Compactness⁵
- Convenient vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle access from surrounding neighborhoods
- Modified parking layout⁶

3-2 Encourage compact, pedestrian-friendly development through Planned Residential options, including but not limited to neo-traditional design.

Policy 3-2 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the Project Sponsor is not seeking to develop the Project Site based on a Planned Residential District (PRD) option as described on Pages 3-7 and 3-8 of the Comprehensive Plan.

3-3 Modify provisions of the Suburban Agricultural District to reduce conversions of rural to suburban development patterns.

The Project Site is not appropriately located for long-term agricultural use given its location directly next to the I-990 and at a location serviced by public infrastructure.

3-4 Reduce future new commercial development in North Amherst and along highway strips.

The mixed-use component of the project will provide 8,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space in 2 two-story mixed-use buildings. d as described on Page 3-10 of the Comprehensive Plan.

⁵ The text on Page 3-7 of the Comprehensive Plan states, "Mixed-use developments are typically denser than suburban-style and strip commercial development. Such compactness contributes to the walkability of the development."

⁶ The text on Page 3-7 of the Co

⁶ The text on Page 3-7 of the Comprehensive Plan states as follows: "In order to achieve a walkable, integrated development with an active street frontage, parking must be carefully designed. Parking is typically ancillary to the development, located behind or to the sides of buildings, with clearly defined pedestrian walkways hat link parking to nearby buildings." The mixed-use component of the project has been designed to avoid large parking lot and the parking area will include interior landscaping and dark sky compliant lighting.

B. <u>Development Character</u>:

3-5 Employ design standards to enhance community appearance and a strong identity and character.

Policy 3-5 states "[T]hat Design standards are effective tools to guide and shape new development and revitalization initiatives and are important in addressing such issues as impacts on the visual character of public roadways and on adjacent residential areas." The text accompany Policy 3-5 states that Design standards should address the following nine "Development Considerations":

- Landscaping and lighting;
- Screening of visually obtrusive elements;
- Placement of building and parking areas;
- Use and placement of land use transitions;
- General building design;
- Scale:
- Access and connectivity;
- Public safety; and
- Signage

The proposed mixed-use and residential project will be consistent with above list of "Development Considerations" and will include extensive landscaping as well as screening and the on-site lighting will comply with the Town's stringent lighting standards. A Landscape Plan and Photometric Plan will for the project will both need to be approved in connection with a future request for Site Plan Approval and Subdivision from the Planning Board for the proposed project.

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⁷ <u>See</u> Page 3-10 of the Comprehensive Plan.

The layout of the proposed project as depicted on the Concept Site Plan [Drawing C-100] is suitable in terms of the design and placement of land-use transitions since the higher density portion of the project consisting will be located along the North French Road frontage and the eastern portion of the Project Site that is adjacent to Cross Pointe Business Park. Additionally, the layout of the mixed-use component of the project will include new buildings that will be consistent with the Town's Design Standards for mixed-use projects and the project will require a review and recommendation from the Design Advisory Board in connection with the Site Plan Application review process. The mixed-use components of the project are consistent with the language regarding "Streetscape, access and connectivity" on Pages 3-11 and 3-12 of the Comprehensive Plan since there will one new curb cut onto North French Road that will provide access to the mixed-use components of the project. North French Road is an Erie County

While the signage for the proposed mixed-use project has not yet been designed, the signage will be consistent with the architectural style and scale of buildings and will be an integral

Highway.9

⁸ The relevant text on Page 3-11 of the Comprehensive Plan states, "Many of Amherst's commercial and mixed-use areas are directly adjacent to residential areas with varying distances between them. When dissimilar land uses are located adjacent to one another undesirable impacts may result. These impacts can be mitigated through thoughtful design and purposeful placement of transitional space, landscaping, and screening. Guidelines for providing effective transitions should be included in the Town Zoning Code (*Amended 12-11-17; BCPA-2017-01*).

⁹ The relevant text on Pages 3-11 and 3-12 of the Comprehensive Plan states, "The Town's Context-Sensitive Highway Design Report provides guidance on issues such as street geometry, sidewalks and bicycle use, and streetscape elements such as trees, lighting, and other aesthetic elements. Access and connectivity considerations include limiting the number of curb cuts, providing vehicular/pedestrian connections."

component of the proposed mixed-use buildings along the North French Road frontage of the Project Site.¹⁰

3-6 Apply context-sensitive design standards to designated character roads.

The layout of the proposed mixed-use components of the project will ensure there is landscaping and an upscale appearance along the North French Road.

3-7 Protect and retain the identity of special places through design guidelines.

Policy 3-7 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the Project Site is not located as described on Page 3-13 of the Comprehensive Plan.¹¹

C. Reinvestment:

3-8 Consider tax incentives for reinvestment, revitalization, and redevelopment of commercial properties and housing in older areas with less emphasis on new "greenfield" development.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a proposed mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 3-8 since it will result in a project that has been designed to consider environmental resources including no impacts to the on-site jurisdictional NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland. Mixed-use projects can quality for incentives from the Town's Industrial

The text accompany Policy 3-7 states as follows: "Certain places within the Town of Amherst have a special identity defined by factors such as historic character (e.g., former "hamlets" such as Getzville and Swormville), geographic location (e.g., at a highway interchange or gateway entrance to the Town), or presence of an important community resource (e.g., a major park, public or private buildings or open space, or an educational campus)."

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scale of buildings and be an integral component of the building and site.

¹⁰ The relevant text on Pages 3-11 and 3-12 of the Comprehensive Plan states, The relevant text on Pages 3-11 and 3-12 of the Comprehensive Plan states, "Signs can play an important role in defining the character and context of an area. Sign regulations and standards need to be more sensitive to the local context, improve aesthetic character, and reduce "visual clutter" along commercial corridors. In general, signage should be consistent with the architectural style and

Development Agency ("AIDA") and a decision whether to seek incentives from the AIDA will be made by the Project Sponsor at the appropriate time in the project review process.

3-9 Advance the redevelopment and revitalization of underutilized, obsolete, and vacant properties for economically viable uses.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 3-9 since it will result in a mixed-use and residential project on underutilized property that is vacant and not properly zoned for a long-term economically viable use ¹²

3-10 Target capital investments to improve the aesthetic character of key locations within the Town.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate the proposed mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 3-10 since it will result in a substantial investment of funds that will improve the aesthetic character of a key location on the north side of North French Road between the I-990 and Cross Pointe Business Park.

3-11 Initiate public capital investment projects to encourage/support private investment.

Policy 3-11 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the proposed mixed-use and residential project is not dependent on a public capital investment project.

¹² The text on Page 3.17 of the Comprehensive Plan describes "Suburban Centers and Corridors"

1) creating opportunities for incremental change, 2) improving the relationship between streets and buildings, 3) improved accessibility through accommodation for multiple modes of travel, and 4) managing vehicular access on major roadways. (Amended 9-3-19; BCPA-2017-01A)

as one of the identified land use scenarios in which revitalization may occur or be desired and states as follows: "Suburban areas typically include larger parcels connected by higher speed thoroughfares without many walkable connections and may have little existing place identity. These centers and corridors may not be able to accommodate contemporary forms of retail and other commercial uses and may require revitalization through reinvestment, redevelopment, or retrofitting existing buildings/sites to remain competitive. Goals for revitalizing these areas include

E. Open Space System:

3-12 Designate a town-wide open space and greenway network to be achieved through a variety of mechanisms.

While Policy 3-12 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment, it is important to mention that a substantial portion of the Project Site will consist of permanent open space and there will be an on-site recreational trail.

3-13 Encourage conservation development with incentives for the dedication of open space in private developments.

The project layout includes a substantial amount of permanent open space. Per Policy 3-13, the Project Sponsor would be willing to dedicate the permanent open space within the private development to the Town.

3-14 Initiate a public open space acquisition program consistent with the open space, recreation, and greenway network.

Policy 3-14 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

F. <u>Development Review and Approval Process</u>:

- 3-15 Improve the predictability and consistency of the rezoning and other development approval processes through the application of clear town-wide land use policies.
- 3-16 Set clear standards for development quality to increase the level of certainty in the development review and approval process.
- 3-17 Provide for periodic review and revision of the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.

Policies 3-15 to 3-17 as set forth above are not specifically applicable to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and pertain more generally to the review processes to be utilized for proposed projects in the Town.

II. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 4 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE</u> PLAN (TITLED "NATUARAL AND CULTURAL RESOUCES"):

Section 4 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Natural and Cultural Resources and according to Section 4.3 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goal is "Sensitive environmental and cultural resources identified and preserved as part of the physical fabric of the community".¹³ The two (2) Objectives for "Land Use and Development" set forth in Section 4 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- Establish an interconnected open space network that incorporates significant natural and cultural resources.
- Protect sensitive environmental resources through improved regulations, policies, and management, including:
 - Water resources and wetlands
 - Air quality
 - Trees and woodlands
 - Historic and cultural resources¹⁴

There are fourteen (14) policies contained in Chapter 4 of the Comprehensive Plan and the policies pertain largely to the appropriate consideration of environmental resources in connection with proposed projects. It is important to mention that the Project Site does not consist entirely of a wetland subject to the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as depicted on Figure 7 of the Comprehensive Plan [titled "Water Resources"].

The location of the portion of NYSDEC Wetland TE-18 with a size of approximately 7.5 acres that is subject to the jurisdiction per the NYSDEC Wetland TE-18 Delineation Verification

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¹³ <u>See</u> Page 4-2 of the Comprehensive Plan.

¹⁴ See Page 4-2 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Letter issued by Charles Rosenburg of the NYSDEC on January 22, 2024.¹⁵ The layout of the project has been designed deliberately to avoid impacts to the NYSDEC Wetland TE-18 [only impacts to the regulated 100 ft. Adjacent Area are proposed].

The proposed mixed-use and residential project will also be required to comply with the stringent stormwater quality and quantity standards of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the stormwater quantity standards of the Town of Amherst.

III. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 5 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (TITLED "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT")</u>:

Section 5 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Economic Development" and according to Section 5.2 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goal is "A Town with a strong tax base and ample economic opportunities for a diverse base of employers and employees, housed in attractive, state-of-the-art commercial developments in convenient and accessible locations." The five (5) Objectives for "Economic Development" as set forth in Section 5 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- Maintain Amherst's strong tax base
- Attract more high-paying jobs to the Town
- Ensure that economic development and redevelopment respect the character and quality of life of Amherst's residential communities
- Capitalize on the presence of the University at Buffalo to leverage University-related economic development opportunities
- Build partnerships with development agencies, private industry, and educational and research institutions to promote economic development in Amherst and throughout the region¹⁶

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¹⁵ A copy of the NYSDEC Wetland TE-18 Delineation Verification Letter issued by Charles Rosenburg of the NYSDEC on January 22, 2024 is provided at Attachment "B" of the Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form attached as Exhibit "1".

¹⁶ See Pages 5-2 and 5-3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

POLICIES:

A. <u>Tax Base and Employment:</u>

According to the language on Page 5-3, "A healthy tax and employment base are essential not only to Amherst's economy, but also to the Town's quality of life. Studies have shown that commercial retail, office, and industrial development partially subsidize the cost of providing high-quality community facilities and services to residents. Without such development, the burden on residential taxpayers would be significantly higher. Competitive employment is also important in providing economic opportunities to Amherst residents." The Project Site currently consists of vacant land that generates insubstantial annual tax revenues. The proposed project will dramatically increase the annual property tax revenues to be received by the Town, the school district and Erie County and a large portion of the residential components consisting of multifamily units for lease will not generate a substantial demand for educational services.

5-1 Target economic development policies, programs, capital expenditures, and incentives to attract and retain higher paying employment and promote desired forms and locations of development and redevelopment.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a project that includes a mixed-use component is consistent Policy 5-1 since mixed-use is a form of development to be promoted per the text on Page 5-4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

5-2 Build flexibility into non-residential zoning so that options are available for the various stages of business development.

Policy 5-2 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

5-3 Promote economic development through collaborations between government, educational institutions, health care organizations, and private industries.

While Policy 5-3 does not specifically apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment, it is important to mention that the Project Site is located in close proximity to private industries

including the large Cross Pointe Business Park directly to the east. There are numerous businesses in nearby office parks that employ individuals who will benefit from having the ability to live in an upscale residential unit with direct and easy access their place of employment as well as the I-990.

5-4 Work with educational institutions on lifelong learning and other programs to train, attract, and retain a skilled workforce.

Policy 5-4 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

B. <u>Community Character and Quality of Life:</u>

5-5 Promote commercial development patterns that reduce neighborhood impacts.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent with Policy 5-5. In developing parts of central and northern Amherst, mixed-use centers are designated in strategic locations to accommodate commercial development in compact rather than dispersed patterns, providing convenient access without infringing upon residential areas and encouraging the formation of commercial strips." The Project Site is located on the north side of North French Road, which is an Erie County Highway that bisects the Town in an east-west direction and is more suitable for a mixed-use and residential project rather than the very limited uses expressly permitted in the existing Suburban Agriculture ("SA") zoning district.

5-6 Adopt commercial development standards for neighborhood compatibility with context sensitive design guidelines.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent with Policy 5-6 since the layout of the project as depicted on the Concept Site Plan has been designed to be generally consistent with the standards set forth in Section 5A of the Zoning Code [titled "Mixed Use Districts"].

C. <u>University of Buffalo</u>:

Policies 5-7 to 5-9 of the Comprehensive Plan pertain to the synergies that can result from collaboration between the Town and the University of Buffalo and as such do not apply to the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment. It is important to mention that the Project Site is not located very far from the UB North Campus and as such would offer the thousands employees of SUNY who work at the UB North Campus with housing that is directly accessible to the campus via the I-990.

D. <u>Regional Economic Development:</u>

Policies 5-10 and 5-11 of the Comprehensive Plan pertain to the benefits that can result from a healthy economy in Western New York and positioning the Town as a regional technology center. An important aspect of positioning the Town as a regional technology center is providing various types of high quality housing choices for employees and the proposed mixed-use and residential project will result in high quality attached and detached housing units at a very convenient location with easy access to the I-990.

III. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 6 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (TITLED "TRANSPORTATION")</u>:

Section 6 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Transportation" and according to Section 6.2 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goal is "An efficient, multi-modal transportation system that accommodates the automobile, maintains neighborhood character, and emphasizes alternative means of travel, including walking, biking, and public transportation."

The four (4) Objectives for "Transportation" as set forth in Section 6 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

• Create a roadway network that improves efficiency and connectivity while preserving neighborhood character;

- Develop the existing bicycle/pedestrian system into a townwide, interconnected network that facilitates connections between vehicular and non-vehicular transportation;
- Work with the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to provide adequate public transit service, particularly to mixed use activity centers identified in the Conceptual Land Use Plan; and
- Establish a town traffic assessment and planning capability to manage and maintain local highways¹⁷

POLICIES:

A. Road Network:

6-1 Designate roadway corridors for application of context sensitive design standards to maintain their character.

North French Road is designated as Minor Arterial on Figure 9 of the Comprehensive Plan [titled "Future Thoroughfare System"]. The mixed-use components of the proposed project is consistent with Policy 6-1 since the project layout includes a focus on North French Road and includes on-site pedestrian friendly amenities such as sidewalks and a recreational trail.

6-2 Modify the Town's engineering standards for roadways to reduce neighborhood impacts.

Policy 6-2 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the proposed project which includes public and private roadways has been designed based on current standards.

6-3 Establish a town highway planning capability to manage the local road network.

Policy 6-3 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

6-4 Enhance transportation system capacities through operational improvements, including improved access management and a comprehensive signal-timing plan.

Policy 6-4 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. It is important to mention that the Project Sponsor has authorized Passero Associates to prepare a Traffic Impact

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¹⁷ See Pages 6-3 and 6-4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Study to evaluate the potential traffic impacts that will result from the proposed mixed-use and residential project. The Traffic Impact Study will be submitted to the Planning Department once

it has been finalized.

6-5 Undertake a capital program to maintain or improve the efficiency of the existing road system.

Policy 6-5 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

6-6 Accept a certain level of traffic congestion as a "given" and expand investments in alternative transportation modes and compact, mixed-use development patterns.

The text on Pages 6-14 and 6-15 of the Comprehensive Plan states as follows: "Given the limits placed on future roadway improvements by funding constraints and the need to preserve neighborhood character, combined with Amherst's established and growing function as a regional employment center, it is not expected that the above policies will "solve" congestion problems in the Town. Instead, the Comprehensive Plan transportation policies involve a shift away from an emphasis on functional efficiency for the automobile towards a more balanced transportation system that achieves other community objectives. As described in Sections B and C below, this shift includes expanded investment in facilities to support alternative travel modes (e.g., trails, sidewalks, bikeways, and transit). Equally important is the coordination of transportation and land use policies to promote compact, mixed-use development patterns that reduce automobile dependency and encourage walking."

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to facilitate the proposed mixed-use component of the project is not inconsistent with Policy 6-6 since the mixed-use component

¹⁸ The reference to B and C relates to Policies 6-7 to 6-9 of the Comprehensive Plan.

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represents compact, mixed-use development that will encourage on-site walking between the various land use components.

B. Bicycle/Pedestrian Network:

6-7 Develop a comprehensive bicycle network, using a rating system to identify and prioritize improvements.

Policy 6-7 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

6-8 Develop a comprehensive pedestrian network of sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails.

Policy 6-8 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

C. Transit Service:

6-9 Work with NFTA to improve transit service and provide connections to activity centers (e.g., UB and Eggertsville).

Policy 6-9 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

IV. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 7 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (TITLED "INFRASTRUCTURE")</u>:

Section 7 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Infrastructure" and according to Section 7.2 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goal is as follows: "Well-maintained and cost-effective infrastructure systems that provide public water, sewer, stormwater, and other utility services within the Town of Amherst, consistent with Comprehensive Plan policies to promote sustainable land use and economic development and protect natural resources."

The two (2) Objectives for "Infrastructure" as set forth in Section 7 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

• Establish a town-wide program with plans and policies to effectively manage stormwater runoff, including flooding and stormwater quality; and

 Maintain and upgrade existing sanitary sewer infrastructure to support existing and projected needs. Limit future service extensions to those needed to serve development areas designated on the Conceptual Land Use Plan¹⁹

POLICIES:

A. Stormwater Management:

7-1 Develop a program to address flooding and other stormwater management issues in coordination with other responsible agencies.

Policy 7-1 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment which states the Town should implement flood mitigation measures as recommended in the Town Flood Mitigation Plan Report and the Ransom Creek Improvement Study.

7-2 Implement "low impact development" standards and techniques designed to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff from development.

Policy 7-2 does not specifically apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. However, it is important to that during the future Site Plan and Subdivision review processes for the proposed mixed-use and residential project, engineered plans will be required to demonstrate compliance with the stringent stormwater quality and quantity standards of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Engineered plans and a SWPPP with Engineer's Report will accompany the future submission of Site Plan and Subdivision Applications.

B. Sanitary Sewer System:

7-3 Give priority to repairs to existing infrastructure systems, rather than extensions to serve new greenfield development.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 7-3 since the Project Site is serviced by existing sanitary sewer infrastructure. The mixed-use and residential project will also be required to comply with

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¹⁹ See Page 7-3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

the NYSDEC Inflow and Infiltration policy that applies to specified categories of projects that will generate a daily average of greater than 2,500 gpd of daily sanitary sewer flow.

7-4 Redefine the boundaries of the Consolidated Sanitary Sewer District in the northern part of the Town to exclude rural and agricultural areas designated for protection and include areas designated for more intensive development. Promote the importance of proper maintenance of private disposal systems or septic systems to limit sewer extensions into protected areas. (Amended 09-08-15; BCPA-2014-01)

Policy 7-4 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

V. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 8 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (TITLED "HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS")</u>:

Section 8 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Housing and Neighborhoods" and according to Section 8.2 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goals are as follows

- Decent and affordable housing choices available to all residents; and
- Healthy and diverse neighborhoods, including conserved and revitalized older parts of Amherst²⁰

The three (3) Objectives for "Housing and Neighborhoods" as set forth in Section 8.2 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- Ensure the availability of housing affordable to all socioeconomic groups in Amherst;
- Promote a diverse housing stock, with higher density housing focused on mixeduse activity centers; and
- Implement a coordinated program to conserve and revitalize Amherst's neighborhoods.²¹

POLICIES:

A. Affordable Housing:

8-1 Continue existing housing policies that promote home ownership and affordability.

²⁰ See Page 8-2 of the Comprehensive Plan.

²¹ See Page 8-3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Project Sponsor is willing to consider a workforce housing component if feasible and this topic will be discussed with the Amherst IDA. The residential component includes lots for detached single-family homes that will promote home ownership in the Town.

Housing Diversity:

8-2 Promote the development of a variety of housing types.

The text on Pages 8-3 and 8-4 of the Comprehensive Plan states as follows:

"Approximately two-thirds of Amherst's current housing stock consists of single-family detached homes, with the remainder comprised of a mix of duplexes, townhouses, apartments, and other living arrangements (e.g., dormitories and assisted living). Recent housing development has consisted mostly of multifamily units and single-family detached, suburban subdivisions. Demographic trends will reinforce the need for a more diverse housing stock to accommodate groups such as the elderly, empty nesters, and students. As previously noted, housing diversity enhances affordability and, if properly managed, can contribute to neighborhood stability and character. Older neighborhoods like Eggertsville, for example, could benefit from decreasing household sizes and the increasing appeal of traditional development, which make smaller homes in pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods more attractive.

The Town should encourage the proportional development of diverse housing types and price levels, including single-family detached (at a variety of lot sizes), townhouses, condominiums, apartments, and housing as part of mixed-use developments. Higher density housing should be located to complement established residential areas through appropriate standards for location and design (see Policies 8-3 and 8-5)."

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use and residential project is consistent Policy 8-2 since the project includes various housing types including apartments in two proposed mixed-use buildings and attached townhomes with garages on the east side of the Project Site on property to be rezoned to SC-3 as well as traditional multifamily buildings to be located on the western side of the Project Site on property to be rezoned to MFR-5. The on-site residential units for lease are consistent with demographic trends

demonstrating there is an increased demand for apartments and townhomes for lease in communities in Western New York including the Town of Amherst.

8-3 Encourage higher density residential uses in mixed-use developments and other appropriate locations.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a mixed-use component on property to be rezoned to SC-3 is consistent Policy 8-3 since the Project Site is an appropriate location a mixed-use and residential project. The language contained on Page 8-4 of the Comprehensive Plan discuss the benefits of higher density residential uses at appropriate locations that decrease the potential impacts of development on sensitive lands and also states that that incorporating mixed-use activity centers will help maintain and reinforce the character of established neighborhoods. The Project Site is located on the north side of North French Road between the I-990 and Cross Pointe Business Park and the SA zoning is inconsistent with nearby land uses and zoning classifications.

8-4 Work with UB to establish mixed-use centers around the periphery of both campuses.

Policy 8-4 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the proposed mixed-use project.

8-5 Establish standards for multi-family housing to promote high quality design and neighborhood compatibility.

The text on Page 9-8 and 9-9 of the Comprehensive Plan states as follows:

"Policy 8-5 addresses the need to manage the location of higher density housing to ensure that it does not negatively affect the overall character of Amherst's neighborhoods. Equally important is the establishment of standards addressing the design and appearance of multi-family housing and its relationships to adjoining land uses. In addition to improving the quality and livability of multi-family developments for residents and improving the "fit" of these developments into the community, design standards will also help to create a more positive public perception of multi-family housing. A greater public tolerance of multi-family housing will ultimately aid the Town in preserving open space and providing alternatives to single-family detached units that are dependent on automobile use.

Design standards should address the creation of multi-family housing via renovation or redevelopment of existing properties as well as new development. Design standards should also address the creation of multi-family housing for the elderly and other special needs residents. The standards should address all forms of multi-family housing including apartments, townhouses, and mixed-use developments."

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate a project that includes a mixed-use component is consistent Policy 8-5 since the mixed-use component of the project has been deliberately designed to be generally consistent with the Design Standards for mixed-use projects.

B. Neighborhood Revitalization:

8-6 Provide incentives for residential property repairs and improvements on a town-wide basis.

Policy 8-6 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

8-7 Initiate a Neighborhood Conservation Program to promote revitalization of designated neighborhoods through measures such as code enforcement, capital improvements, and design standards.

Policy 8-7 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

8-8 Promote the revitalization of older commercial areas as a focus of neighborhood activity and include support for building and property maintenance code enforcement.

Policy 8-8 does not apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the Project Site is not located in designated older commercial area in the southern and western portions of the Town.

8-9 Encourage participation from residents when the Town is developing action/improvement plans for specific neighborhoods.

Policy 8-9 does not specifically apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment but is important to mention that the review process for the proposed mixed-use and residential project will involve multiple public hearings to be held by both the Planning Board and the Town Board.

VI. <u>CONSISTENCY WITH POLICIES IN SECTION 9 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (TITLED "COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES")</u>:

Section 9 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Community Facilities and Services" and according to Section 9.2 of the Comprehensive Plan the Goal is as follows

• Community facilities and services that meet residents' needs and contribute to the Town's high quality of life²²

The three (3) Objectives for "Community Facilities and Services" as set forth in Section 9.2 of the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- Establish standards or performance criteria to determine community facility and service needs; and
- Enhance the role of public facilities as centers of neighborhood and community activity; and
- Provide quality facilities and services cost effectively by managing expenses and diversifying revenue sources

There are nine (9) policies contained in Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan and with the exception of Policies 9-4 and 9-5 these policies do not specifically apply to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment since the proposed mixed-use project does not consist of a community facilities project.

B. <u>Community Facilities as Activity Centers:</u>

9-4 Integrate community facilities within mixed-use activity centers.

Policy 9-1 that is referenced within Policy 9-4 pertains to the need for the Town to identify and prioritize community facilities and service needs. While the proposed mixed-use and residential project does not consist of a community facility use, the Project Site is accessible to various Town parks and other community facility amenities in the Town.

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²² See Page 9-2 of the Comprehensive Plan.

C. Community Facility and Service Costs:

9-5 Allow continued growth of the nonresidential tax base consistent with the Comprehensive (Land Use) Plan.

The relevant text states as follows: "Amherst's nonresidential (commercial retail, office and industrial) development partially subsidizes the costs of providing community facilities and services to residents. National studies have shown that commercial development derives excess revenues as compared to residential development. Results from a similar local study by the AIDA confirm these findings for Amherst. Thus growth in the nonresidential tax base is needed if the Town of Amherst (and other providers such as the public school districts) is to continue to provide quality facilities and services at rates affordable to taxpayers. Nonresidential development and redevelopment should be managed to be consistent with Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives, and policies for Land Use and Development and other elements, and with the Mixed-use activity centers should wherever possible include existing or new community facilities. concept of balance between economic development, livability, and community character expressed in the Vision Statement."

The mixed-use project include commercial space occupying the first floor a portion of the two mixed-use buildings and the project will contribute to the Town's growth of its overall tax base quite substantially since the Project Site currently generates insubstantial annual property tax revenues. Given the mixture of land uses, the Project Sponsor anticipates that the project will have positive net impact for taxing jurisdictions including the Town of Amherst, the school district and Erie County.

Exhibit 7 – Color Copy of Figure 6 of the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan

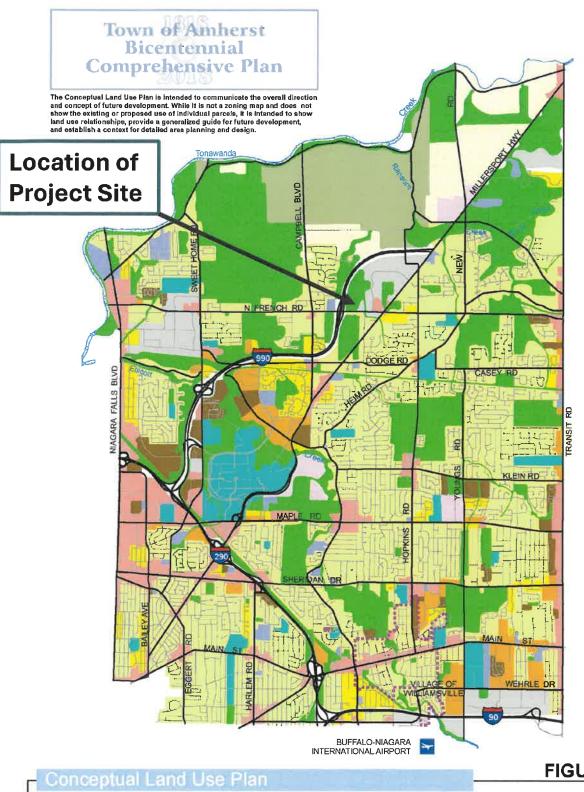
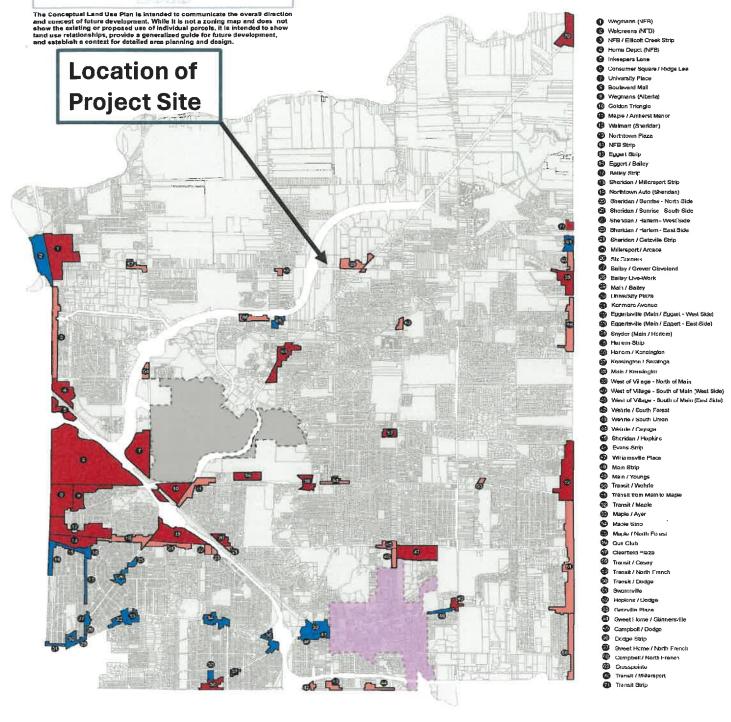




Exhibit 8 – Color Copy of Figure 6-A of the Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan

Town of Amherst Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan



Suburban Center Suburban Corridor Traditional Areas FIGURE 6-A Source Notes: Onginal Source Lata Provided by the lowr of Antherst (Information Technology Department, URS Corporation and Walness Roberts & Toda, LLC Map Compiled by the Town of Antherst Plauring Department. Date: December 2020 O 02 04 0.6 0.8 1