TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Town Hall 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC 29412 BZA AGENDA

May 21st, 2024 5:00 PM

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

(MEETING WILL BE STREAMED ON THE TOWN WEBSITE jamesislandsc.us)

Members of the public addressing the Board in support or opposition of these cases at Town Hall must sign in. The Town invites the public to submit comments on these cases prior to the meeting via email to kcrane@jamesislandsc.us referencing the Case #. Emailed comments not sent to this email address, and comments that do not include a home address for the record, will not be accepted. Emailed comments must be received by noon on May, 20th.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE
- III. COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
- IV. INTRODUCTIONS
- V. REVIEW SUMMARY (MINUTES) FROM THE APRIL 16th, 2024, BZA MEETING
- VI. BRIEF THE PUBLIC ON THE PROCEDURES OF THE BZA
- **VII.** ADMINISTER THE OATH TO THOSE PRESENTING TESTIMONY
- **VIII.** REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:
 - CASE #BZAV-3-24-036 Variance request for the removal of a grand tree (52" DBH Live Oak) in the Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL) Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue Town of James Island (TMS #426-09-00-030).
 (Continued from 4/16/2024 meeting, Public Hearing held on 4/16/2024)
 - CASE#: BZAV-4-24-037 Variance request for encroachment into the 15' required OCRM
 Critical Line Buffer for the placement of a pool filter backwash tank, and concrete
 decking, for community pool improvements in the Fort Johnson Estates neighborhood
 at 400 Trapier Drive Town of James Island (TMS #454-08-00-071).
 - 3. CASE #BZAS-3-24-029 Special Exception request for a fast-food use (Dutch Bros Coffee) on a vacant lot in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road Town of James Island (TMS #425-06-00-101). (Continued from 4/16/2024 meeting) Click the below link for TIA Update referenced in application:

2024-05-08 Dutch Brothers Coffee- James Isalnd - TIA Memo Final.pdf

- 4. **CASE #BZAV-4-24-038** Variance Request for the construction of a double-drive thru for a proposed fast-food use (Dutch Bros Coffee) in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road Town of James Island (TMS #425-06-00-101).
- IX. VOTE FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
- **X.** ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:
 - 1. Next Meeting Date: June 18th, 2024.
- XI. ADJOURN

^{*}Full packet available for public review on website, and Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

SUMMARY OF APRIL 16, 2024

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:04 p.m. at the James Island Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC.

<u>Comm'rs present</u>: David Savage, Vice Chair (Acting as Chair), Joshua Hayes, Roy Smith, and Massey Yannitelli. <u>Absent</u>: Comm'r Amy Fabri (gave notice). <u>Also</u>: Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Flannery Wood, Planner II, Attorney Brian Quisenberry, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk and Secretary to the BZA.

<u>Call to Order</u>: Chair Savage called the meeting to order and asked everyone to silence their phones. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

<u>Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act</u>: Chair Savage stated that this hearing is held in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act. The applicant, property owners within 300 feet of the application, and parties of interest were duly informed of the hearing and it was also live-streamed on the Town's website.

<u>Introductions</u>: Chair Savage introduced himself, members of the BZA, the BZA Attorney, and staff. He also recognized Mayor Brook Lyon and Town Administrator Michael Hemmer in attendance.

Review Summary (Minutes) from the March 19, 2024 BZA Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024, was made by Comm'r Yannitelli, seconded by Comm'r Hayes and passed unanimously. Chair Savage announced that all case rulings and minutes from BZA hearings are available for public review and inspection during normal business hours at the Town Hall.

Brief the Public on the Procedures of the BZA: Chair Savage explained the purpose of the BZA as a quasi-judicial Board empowered to approve, approve with conditions, or to deny requests. The BZA is authorized to defer a case should there be a need to obtain additional information. Chair Savage announced that three letters were received: two (2) in opposition to the Special Exception, and one (1) in opposition to the Variance. Attached for the record.

<u>Administer the Oath to those Presenting Testimony</u>: BZA Attorney Brian Quisenberry swore in persons wishing to provide testimony.

Review of the Following Applications: Chair Savage gave an overview of how tonight's cases would be conducted. Following the explanation, he brought forth a request to amend the agenda as the applicant for Case #BZAS-3-24-029, the Special Exception Request for a Fast Food Use, (Dutch Bros Coffee) has requested the case be deferred tonight. The applicant's attorney, Nicole Scott, with Maynard Nexsen, confirmed the request is to defer.

Chair Savage called for a motion to amend the agenda to defer the case. Comm'r Smith moved, seconded by Comm'r Yannitelli. No discussion.

Vote

Comm'r Hayes Aye Comm'r Smith Aye Comm'r Yannitelli Aye Chair Savage Aye

Passed Unanimously

Chair Savage announced that the application for the Special Exception would not be heard tonight and anyone attending to hear that case could leave.

Case #BZAV-3-24-036: Variance Request for the removal of a grand tree (52" DBH Live Oak) in the Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL)n Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue, Town of James Island (TMS #426-09-00-030: Chair Savage introduced the case and stated that the application must meet all criteria that is outlined in the Town's Ordinance.

Staff Review: Planning Director, Kristen Crane presented the staff's review and the findings of facts. She reported that the applicants, Thomas and Blanca Marcinko are requesting a variance for the removal of a grand tree (52" DBH Live Oak) in the Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL) Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue (TMS #426-09-00-030). Adjacent properties to the north, east, south, and west are also in the RSL Zoning District and are in the Town of James Island's jurisdiction. Other uses within 300' of the subject property include residential uses in the Town of James Island and the City of Charleston.

Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations, §153.335 (E) (2) TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION states trees that do not meet the criteria may be removed only when approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals and shall be replaced according to a schedule determined by the Zoning Administrator.

The subject property is 0.39 acres in size and has one single-family residence that was constructed in 1965, according to Charleston County records. The current property owners purchased the property in March of 2015. Charleston County Building Services issued a Building Permit in March of 2021 for "Foundation/Crawl Space Repair". There are currently 4 grand trees in the front yard of the parcel. One 32.5"+27" DBH Live Oak, located at the front right corner of the home, was permitted for removal due to disease in September of 2023. The 52" DBH live oak that is the subject of this request is in the center of the front yard, approximately 10' from the home. The applicant states in their letter of intent "We are only asking this to try and prevent any further damage to the greatest investment our family has". Please review the attached documents for further information regarding this request.

Findings of Fact:

According to §153.049 F, Zoning Variance Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Appeals makes and explains in writing the following findings:

F (a): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of

property;

Response: There may be extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to this piece of property as there are currently four grand live oak trees located in the front yard of

the parcel.

F (b): These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

Response:

These conditions may generally apply to other properties in the vicinity as most properties in the area have grand trees of a similar size and species. However, the location of grand trees and their proximity to the homes on surrounding lots varies by parcel.

F (c):

Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Response:

According to Charleston County records, the single-family home was constructed in 1965 and purchased by the applicants in 2015. Therefore, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property may not restrict the utilization of the property as a residence due to the pre-existing location and age of both the home and the tree.

F (d):

The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response:

Although Ordinance Section 153.334 Tree Protection and Preservation states that "trees are an essential natural resource, an invaluable economic resource, and a priceless aesthetic resource", the authorization of this variance may not be of substantial detriment to the adjacent property or the public good as the applicant plans to retain two other grand live oak trees in the front yard.

F (e):

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance to the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a non-conforming use of land or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map;

Response:

The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries.

F (f):

The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; and

Response:

The need for the variance may not be the result of the applicant's own actions due to the pre-existing location and age of both the home and the tree. Additionally, the applicant's letter of intent states that they "have had a structural engineer to the house multiple times and he has concluded that the tree roots have and are continuing to raise the house off its pier."

F (g):

Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Response:

The Natural Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan has a Goal to "protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment". Furthermore, Section 153.334 Tree Protection and Preservation states that "the tree protection and preservation regulations of this section are intended to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the town." However, exceptions for removal are made where trees are diseased, dead, dying, pose a safety hazard or removal has been approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

In granting a Variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§153.045 E 2).

Action:

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny Case # BZAV-3-24-036 (variance request for the removal of a grand 52" DBH Live Oak tree in the Low-Density Suburban Residential Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue) based on the "Findings of Fact" listed above, unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following conditions:

- 1. The applicant/owner shall mitigate the removal of the subject grand tree by submitting a mitigation plan to the Zoning Administrator, as described in 153.334 (E)(2) of the Ordinance, which includes inch-per-inch replacement.
- 2. The applicant/owner shall provide documentation that the remaining grand trees on the subject parcel have been treated and cared for as recommended by a Certified Arborist, to mitigate and prevent any potential spreading of disease/fungus.
- 3. Any future significant pruning to grand trees on site must adhere to Section 153.334 of the Ordinance, including obtaining proper zoning permits for excess canopy (limb) removal.

Questions for Staff:

Comm'r Yannitelli asked about tree replacement options and mitigation procedures. Ms. Crane said the staff works with applicants on a case-by-case basis for them to either replant a tree on their property or make a donation to the Town's Tree Fund; or a mixture of both. She said it is up to the applicant to obtain quotes from nurseries for inch-by-inch cost replacement. Comm'r Yannitelli asked if the applicant would have to plant a small live oak tree on the property and Ms. Crane replied a 52" is what the ordinance states or they could donate the cost to the Tree Fund. Comm'r Yannitelli asked what that cost would be and Ms. Crane said we ask for three (3) quotes at market value. Comm'r Yannitelli said he did not see pictures of underneath the house. Ms. Crane replied not seeing that either but typically it is included in the engineer's report. Comm'r Yannitelli made reference to the house being lifted off its pier and is on a crawl space rather than slab. Ms. Crane said the only pictures she has seen were those submitted by the applicant.

Chair Savage followed up with Comm'r Yannitelli 's questions stated looking at the engineering report and in reading it did not see, to a reasonable degree of engineering certainty, that the house is being lifted off of its pier. He said Comm'r Yannitelli established that it is on a crawl space opposed to a slab and asked Ms. Crane if that was correct. Ms. Crane answered yes, and mentioned a part of the home on the right side that is on slab, but the part they are concerned about is on a crawl space.

Chair Savage said in following up with Comm'r Yannitelli's questions, there were no pictures documenting or supporting the opinion that the tree is lifting the joist beam off of the pier. Ms. Crane answered that she has not seen any pictures. He asked if that was normal for what she has seen in the past in engineering reports. Ms. Crane stated typically they see pictures in support of a report.

Chair Savage recalled that Ms. Crane mentioned that a portion of the house is on slab and asked if that was the portion that had foundation repairs in 2021. She answered her understanding that is the portion. Chair Savage asked if she ever went back and looked at applications to see what they were for or the reason it stated by the homeowner for that work. Ms. Crane acknowledged having a copy of the building permit and

it was presented to the Board. She said it appears that the building permit shows the foundation work being done on the slab portion in the rear of the home and in the building permit report it states that the applicant stated that he was worried about cracks in the brick. The permit did not say any more than that; it was from a different foundation company.

Comm'r Smith asked Ms. Crane if she has often seen recommendations for alternatives. Ms. Crane said yes. The Charleston County Arborist recommended a root barrier and root trimming. She had an email from the arborist and offered to present it to the Board. She said that he was a private arborist before going to work for the County and has had success with root pruning and root barrier to mitigate vs. taking a tree down.

Chair Savage stated for clarification that the 2021 foundation that was done on the back of the house, that the Board could agree had nothing to do with this tree. Ms. Crane said that is how she understood it. She said there is another tree on the right of the house that she asked about the foundation repair; and thought it was attributed to the tree with the fungus where there is a permit to remove. Chair Savage asked if the answer that she gave in response to Comm'r Smith's question about the arborist's viability of root pruning was brought up to address the statement of the applicant's arborist that said it could not be done. She answered yes. Chair Savage asked if there is competing opinions by the arborists and Ms. Crane answered yes.

Chair Savage asked for a motion to enter the email from Kyle Foster (Charleston County Planning and Zoning) into the record. Comm'r Smith moved, seconded by Chair Savage. There was no discussion or opposition. Approved unanimously.

Comm'r Smith asked Ms. Crane when she sees structural reports, does she often see if structural alternatives are provided; or has she ever seen structural alternatives provided and she said no.

Applicant Presentation:
Thomas Marcinko
1209 Taliaferro Avenue

Mr. Marcinko said a lot of what Ms. Crane stated is factual. The home was purchased in 2015 and they immediately had work done to the trees and sidewalk requested by insurance company before they would insure the home. He said that was in 2015 and the sidewalk is completely blown out again. The structural engineer does not have a picture of underneath the house, but he knows for a fact that they were under there and his letter references a bulge going through into the living room/dining room of the home. They have pictures of the cracks of the interior and exterior of the walls. He said the arborist provided a letter and made no uncertain term that this is not a viable alternative. He said the only thing that he would disagree with Ms. Crane's presentation was what she was told by Charleston County because that is where they started the process and were ultimately told that they had to get permits through the Town of James Island. He said the arborist did not want to do it by no uncertain terms, but they provided the information that was needed in order to get it approved. He feels what they have done from the "get-go" is to provide what was requested to get the tree removed. They cannot afford to rebuild their porch every eight years and the structural engineer clearly shows the difference in the bricks from the exterior of their home vs. the front of the porch. He said there is a difference in the concrete and the joint where the porch was rebuilt prior to them owning the home. He thinks they lost the bottom steps to the porch because the sidewalk was repoured so many times on a continual higher level and this is continuous problem that will not go away. He said a tree of this size, from multiple people in the arborist field they've talked to, said in order to put in a root barrier that would be effective on the tree, that it would literally the width of their home and if those trees were disrupted and cut that close, it would not be safe through a storm. He said the tree is literally 10ft within their home and all they are trying to do is protect their home. He commented not knowing what else

to say and he provided the Board with the pictures have and the engineer's report. Mr. Marcinko said they have not done this before and doesn't know what to look for or, what he may've missed, or did not provide. What just picked up the phone and started calling the people they were asked to. They were referred to Mr. Rosen who delivered a report after many visits to their home. Mr. Marcinko said they are willing to replant if needed. They take care of the other trees in their yard as well as this one. They are not doing this because they want to because it is a very costly endeavor; but the damage that is being done to their home is far more costly and that is what they are trying to prevent.

Questions from the Board

Comm'r Yannitelli asked Mr. Marcinko if he had gotten any pricing on the root pruning and barrier. He responded that he was told by Ms. Crane to investigate the viability of that and he contacted the first tree company who recommended a certified arborist so they contacted a second arborist that had all of the credentials. That arborist came to the home and said it was not a viable option for a tree of this size and location to the home. They did not get to a price because he didn't think it would work.

Comm'r Smith asked Mr. Marcinko if he had asked Mr. Rosen if there were other structural solutions for the home to mitigate the damage to prevent further damage. Mr. Marcinko said that did not seem to be an option and this will continue to happen because of the root growing underneath the house. He said unless that is stopped it will continue to happen. Comm'r Smith asked if he was told there were no other options and Mr. Marcinko said no, he recommended that the tree be removed, and he took that as his recommendation.

Chair Savage asked if he would've used the arborist to remove the tree and Mr. Marcinko said yes, 100%. He clarified that it is not the people who wrote the letter but was someone they hired as a consultant with the certifications he thought needed to present to the Board.

Chair Savage said if the house were on a slab he would have no questions. Chair Savage gave explanation of a house on a pier. He said that you can go under the house and take pictures of the joist that is off of the pier. He said because the applicant bears the burden of proof, he wonders if he had the ability to use an iPhone to take pictures to show where the house was raised. Mr. Marcinko said he doesn't know what he would be looking for; perhaps there are more pictures but he can't answer why they were not included. He presented to the Board what he received from the engineer.

Chair Savage explained the burden of proof that is placed on the applicant and ordinances in place that protects trees that were in place when the house was purchased. As he is reading the engineer's report he documented that there is a ½ inch difference on the floor and a picture is taken at that level. As an example he explained age of his house and could see how an issue such as this could progress. He said the Board has to determine that the applicant has met the burden of proof in all of the criteria. Chair Savage said one element of concern is why the engineer did not produce a picture of something that would be evident or easy to document. He said to Mr. Marcinko's statement of having had the structural engineer to their home at multiple times to which Mr. Marcinko confirmed. Mr. Marcinko said that Cantey was the engineer for the 2021 foundation on the slab portion of the home that was caused by the other tree that was permitted. Chair Savage asked if they looked at the crawl space area and Mr. Marcinko said it was on the slab but the crack in the porch did not exist at that time. They have been watching this since August and see it grow day-by-day is why there are presenting before the Board.

Comm'r Hayes thanked Mr. Marcinko for providing a comprehensive packet. He stated as Chair Savage pointed out that his house is also on a crawl space and is something that he would want the structural engineer to identify as that could be the key to this case. It would show that something significant is happening outside of what has been provided but he cannot look at the information provided and say it is caused by a root from this tree or that tree.

Support

Amanda Simons, 1211 Taliaferro Ave. Ms. Simons is the next door neighbor to the Marcinko's. She said the tree in question was planted by her grandmother in the 1950s. Ms. Simons is a third generation and the first family to live in their home. When they moved in the 1950's, everything were fields so her grandmother planted trees and Truluck came in the 1970's and did a harbor program. She feels guilty that the Marcinko's can't do something about the tree. She knows it will probably cost more than \$10,000 to have it removed and cannot fathom the thought of paying an inch-by-inch replacement or donating money to a tree fund. The Marcinko's should be allowed to fix their home and not repair it repeatedly. Her grandmother passed away in the 90's and cannot speak for them.

Megan DuPont, 891 Simpkins St., read the following statement into the record: My name is Mary Megan DuPont, 891 Simpkins Street. I am writing in regards to Grand Oak Tree Variance (permit for removal) at 1209 Taliaferro, by Blanca and Tommy Marcinko.

I have been Tommy and Blanca's next door neighbors for the last 9 or 10 years, maybe a little longer! They are wonderful neighbors who truly tend to care for their property. I grew up on James Island, as did my mother and her father. I'm a 14th generation Charlestonian and to say I have a fondness and love of our Grand Oaks is an understatement.

With that being said, preservation of our Grand Oaks was not being considered when our homes were being built in the 1960s. If the Marcinko variance were seeking to remove their tree for an addition to their home, it would give me pause. However, their variance request is to maintain the structural integrity of their home. Most people's homes are their biggest asset and should the home become inhabitable structurally, what are they to do? What is their recourse?

Additionally, as sewer lines are to be installed in our neighborhood in the coming years, what guarantees do any in our neighborhood have that the directional boring necessary to connect homes to the main sewer lines won't impact the trees and their roots. As much as I will miss the view from my kitchen window, I would miss my neighbors more. I urge you to grant the Marcinko's their variance.

Michele Becker, 1215 Taliaferro Ave., lives with her husband and three small children with many Grand Oak trees in their yard. They love James Island and because the neighborhood has many mature trees that that is one of their favorite features. Tommy and Blanco takes good care of their trees. Grand Oak trees take a lot of work, and as a homeowner you know this before you purchase, but the fact that the tree is damaging their home is of great concern. They have a Grand Oak tree about the same size and in proximity to their house. They did not make the connection, but they have cracks in their walls. Maybe this could be happening to other people in the neighborhood. She is in support of Tommy and Blanca's request. This is a big discussion for people on the island living in neighborhoods with mature trees that are close to their homes.

Richard Jay, 1210 Taliaferro Ave., father moved the family here in 1965. As a young boy he thought the Grand Oaks were magical, which they are. Tommy and Blanca are good neighbors and understand why the tree is a problem. He has had several diseased/damaged trees taken down that were permitted but who's to say that the next hurricane won't take one out. He said one of the problems he has is what the Town's guidelines are for getting variances. He lives in Teal Acres where the last standing woods were developed, and several Grand Oaks were clear cut, and someone had to permit that. Four large houses are being built in the last bit of woods they had in the neighborhood where 8-10 Grand Oaks had to be removed. He is sure that if the oak trees were causing a problem in one of the Board's properties, they would not have a problem with granting the variance.

Chair Savage stated that some members have served on this Board for three years. The project that Mr. Jay spoke about did not come before this Board. He recognized Mayor Brook Lyon in the audience and stated that in order to change criteria, it must be done by Town Council. The Board has to follow criteria set forth by Council. Mr. Jay asked the Board to grant the variance for the Marcinko's.

Blanca Marcinko,1209 Taliaferro Ave., thanked Mayor Lyon for being in attendance tonight as well as her loving and supportive neighbors. She stated that when they purchased their home it was for the beauty and nature surrounding it, not realizing at the time that the beautiful Grand Oak was damaging the structural foundation of their home. Her husband has provided pictures of not only the walkway but also the brick damage that has been done repeatedly. She said for no other reason would they request a permit to remove any tree on their property unless it was a detriment to their home and lifesavings. She thanked the Board and greatly appreciates their consideration as if it were their home and property.

Opposition: None

Rebuttal: None

Chair Savage closed the Public Hearing at 5:51 p.m. and asked for a motion from the Board to approve the application with the conditions established by staff for the purpose of beginning discussion. The motion was made by Comm'r Smith, seconded by Comm'r Yannitelli and passed unanimously.

Chair Savage stated that his inclination is he wants to approve the application. He doesn't want to hold the applicant up, but the applicant may not have met their burden of proof on the issue of the house being raised by the root on the pier system. He noted that all Board members had similar concerns that are easy to document in a photo. Chair Savage said he doesn't want to deny the request because the applicants would have to wait one year before coming back to the Board. Chair Savage said a solution might be to defer and request photographs or clarifications from a structural engineer. He said those are his initial thoughts, but his concern is there may be a lack of a burden of proof. He is not holding the applicant at fault because they are not trained in what to look for.

Comm'r Yannitelli asked how a deferral would work and Chair Savage explained that the Board could subpoena witnesses and evidence for additional information; or ask the applicant to provide additional information. The Board would then take the matter up at its next meeting and determine whether the applicant met the burden of proof. He said this would give the applicant a second chance to satisfy the questions he has based upon the contents in the packet. Clarification was given to Comm'r Yannitelli that a new application would not be required if the applicant is able to produce the information requested at the next meeting.

Comm'r Smith said if the deferral is granted, he would like additional information about the ability to provide structural solutions. He is an architect and works in residential areas and spoke of the ability to save trees. He also noted that if the trees were planted in the 50s, they are probably 75 years old, and the engineer's report estimates the trees to be 200 years old. This gives him pause and wonders what is estimated and what is true.

Comm'r Yannitelli spoke about having a large tree next to his house and the damage it could cause during hurricanes and would like to approve the request. He also referred to comprehensive packet that was provided to the Board with the varying opinions. He would like to see documents provided that the root from the tree is causing the issues, however due diligence is required.

Comm'r Hayes asked for clarity that it is the root from the tree that is causing the issue. He would like to approve the request but has an obligation to the Town to do his due diligence and he does not want to punish

the applicant for doing what they were instructed to do . He would like to see whoever is hired to provide that information.

Comm'r Smith feels for the applicant and want to approve the request but is not satisfied with the report and he has a problem with "Condition C". He would like for the structural engineer to be specific about the gravity, what might happen, and what the options are. He is in favor of the deferral. He understands this is a big investment and it is difficult for him to make a decision. Chair Savage agreed that he wants to approve the request but needs more information (referred to Cond. F-C). Chair Savage reiterate giving the applicant the opportunity to supplement the engineer's report and asked Comm'r Hayes his thoughts. Comm'r Hayes said his concern is not costing the applicant additional funds to have the person come in. There is substantiating documentation that is leading him for approval and it would be nice to have the photos; however he leans towards approval.

Chair Savage asked the Board if there is a consensus to defer for 30 days to allow the applicant time to satisfy the information members of the Board that have some lingering concerns but are inclined to approve.

After discussion Comm'r Smith moved to withdraw the original motion to approve the application with the staff's recommendation; Comm'r Yannitelli withdrew his second. There was no discussion.

Vote

Comm'r Hayes Aye
Comm'r Smith Aye
Comm'r Yannitelli Aye
Chair Savage Aye
Motion approved unanimously

Chair Savage moved to defer Case #BZAV-3-24-036: Variance request for the removal of a grand tree (52"DBH Live Oak) in the Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL) Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue – Town of James Island (TMS# 426-09-00-030) to the next hearing for the purpose of allowing the applicant to obtain additional information, either in the form of photographs supporting the opinion of the structural engineer that the tree is lifting the beam or joist off the piers, or in the alternative, some photographs. The basis is that the Board does not believe the applicant, through no fault of his own, has met the burden of proof for Condition 4-C in the Criteria to grant due to the ambiguity of the engineer's report, the lack of a photographs, and upon the staff's recitation of the history of the project. Comm'r Smith seconded the motion.

Chair Savage restated the motion is to defer to the next hearing to allow the applicant to either provide clarification in the engineer's report and/or photographs that he can supplement his earlier presentation on the issue that the Board is having questions about that being 4-C of the variance criteria.

Vote

Comm'r Hayes Aye
Comm'r Smith Aye
Comm'r Yannitelli Aye
Chair Savage Aye
Motion approved unanimously

The decision of the Board was to defer the matter (not deny) for 30 days to allow the applicant opportunity to supplement his submission, particularly in the engineer's report as it states in conclusion that the tree is

raising the house off of its piers and/or the submission of photographs which might further support that contention so this BZA can reconsider the matter within 30 days.

*Another justification is the Board did not want to deny the application because it would prejudice the applicant by postponing any subsequent action for at least one year.

The applicant will be advised that the final decision will be mailed to them within ten (10) business days and should contact the Planning and Zoning staff about questions regarding the deferral. Chair Savage informed the applicant that they did not have to wait the ten days if they could provide the information sooner and the Board will take up the case in 30 days.

Additional Business:

<u>Vote for Chair and Vice Chair</u>: Comm'r Savage made a motion to delay the vote until the next meeting for Comm'r Fabri to be present. Comm'r Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk and Secretary to the BZA

Variance Application

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals

Town of James Island
Zoning/Planning Department
1122 Dills Bluff Road
James Island, SC 29412
Phone 843-795-4141
Fax 843-795-4878
www.jamesislandsc.us



This application must be complete and submitted in person to the Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department in order to apply for a Variance. Please read the entire form prior to completing the application. The applicant shall receive a copy of this completed form at the time the application is filed. This application will be returned to the applicant within fifteen (15) working days if these items are not submitted with the application or if any are found to be inaccurate:

- 1) Completed Variance application signed by the current property owner(s).
- Copy of Current Recorded Deed to the property (Owner's signature must match documentation). If the applicant is not the owner of the property, the Current Property Owner(s) must sign and print the Designation of Agent found below.
- 3) Restrictive Covenants & Posted Notice Affidavit(s) signed by the applicant or current property owner(s).
- A letter of intent signed by the applicant or property owner(s) stating the reason for the request that explains why this request should be granted and how it meets the Approval Criteria of §153.049 F. All proposed Variances, except single family, shall satisfy the Site Plan Review process and attend at least one Site Plan Review meeting prior to submitting this application.
- An accurate, legible **Site Plan drawn to Engineers Scale** must be attached. The site plan must show property dimensions, dimensions and locations of all existing and proposed structures and improvements, parking areas, Grand trees(24" DBH or greater, Pine, Sweetgum, SC Invasive Pest Trees are exempt), wetlands(properties containing DHEC-OCRM Critical Line areas must contain an up to date DHEC-OCRM signature on site plan or plat), holding basins and buffers when applicable.
 - One 24 x 36 copy & fifteen (15) 11 x 17 copies.

Application #:____

Zoning District:_____

Date Filed:____

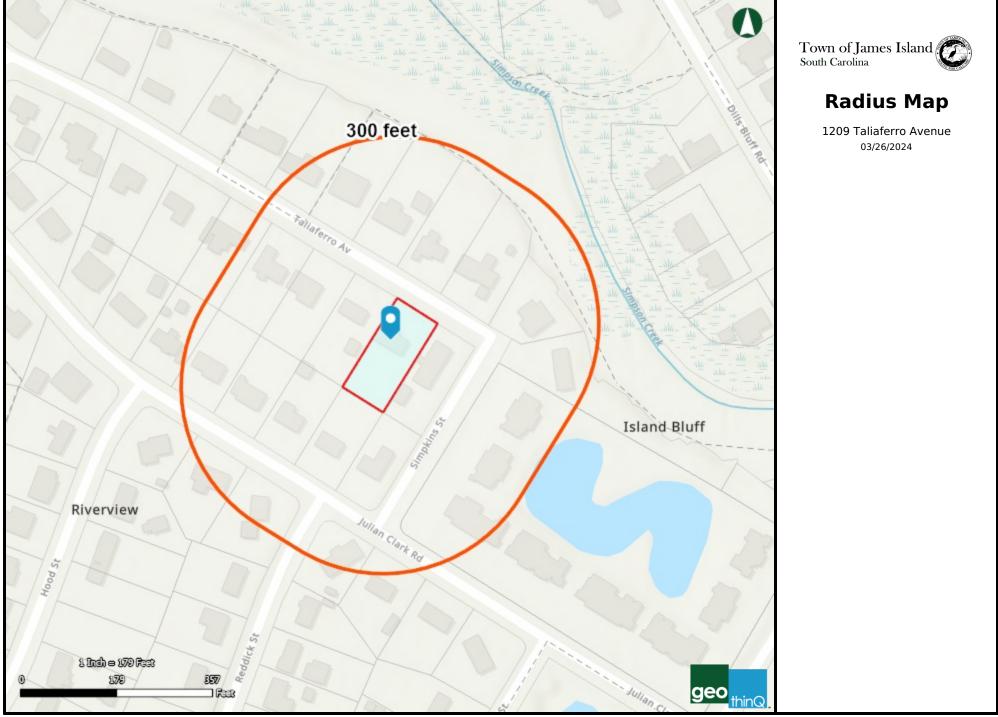
TMS#

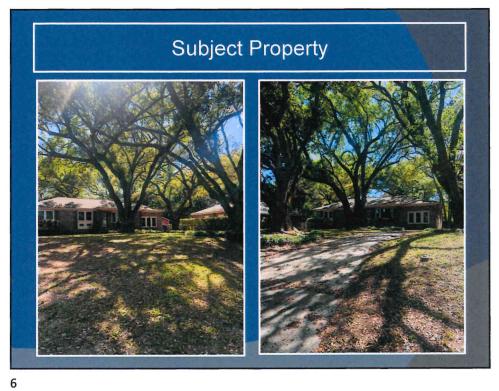
- 6) Copy of a legible Approved and Recorded Plat showing present boundaries of property.
- 7) Fee \$250 check made out to "Town of James Island". Grand tree variances add \$50 each additional tree Blanca S. Marcinko Marcinko/ Applicant Name: Mailing Address: Daytime Phone: 843.367,8080 City, State, Zip Code: C omasmarcinko eqmail.com Email Address: Subject Property Address: Present Use of Property: Variance Description: Applicant Signature Designation of Agent (Complete only if owner is not applicant): I hereby appoint the person named as Applicant above as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in this application. Owner Print Name Owner Mailing Address Owner Signature City, State, Zip Code FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

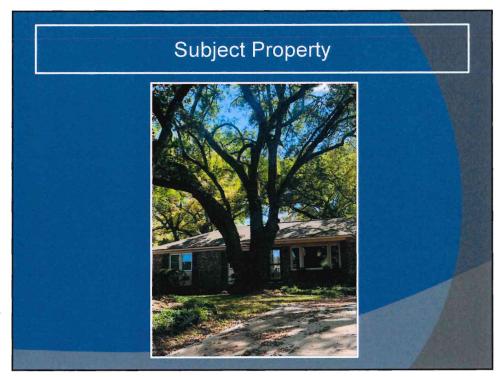
Flood Zone:

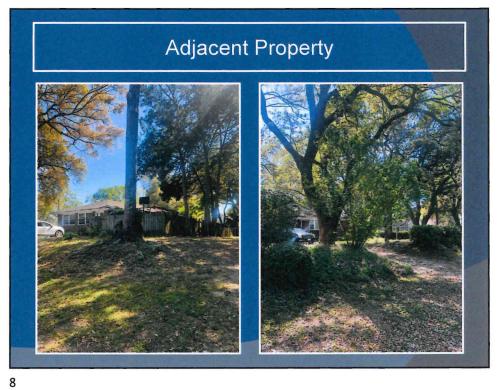
Zoning Officer:

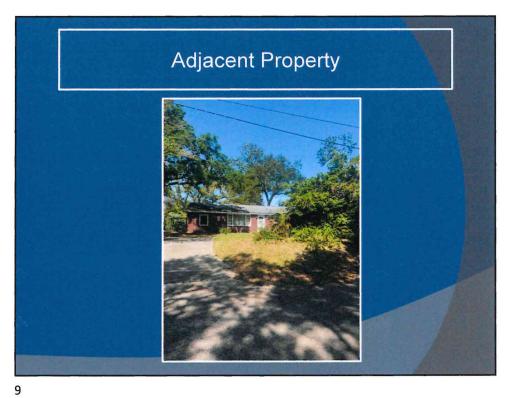
Fee Paid (\$250): CK# 1664













Staff Review:

The applicants, Thomas and Blanca Marcinko are requesting a variance for the removal of a grand tree (52" DBH Live Oak) in the Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL) Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue (TMS #426-09-00-030). Adjacent properties to the north, east, south, and west are also in the RSL Zoning District and are in the Town of James Island's jurisdiction. Other uses within 300' of the subject property include residential uses in the Town of James Island and the City of Charleston.

Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations, §153.335 (E) (2) TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION states trees that do not meet the criteria may be removed only when approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals and shall be replaced according to a schedule determined by the Zoning Administrator.

The subject property is 0.39 acres in size and has one single-family residence that was constructed in 1965, according to Charleston County records. The current property owners purchased the property in March of 2015. Charleston County Building Services issued a Building Permit in March of 2021 for "Foundation/Crawl Space Repair". There are currently 4 grand trees in the front yard of the parcel. One 32.5"+27" DBH Live Oak, located at the front right corner of the home, was permitted for removal due to disease in September of 2023. The 52" DBH live oak that is the subject of this request is in the center of the front yard, approximately 10' from the home. The applicant states in their letter of intent "We are only asking this to try and prevent any further damage to the greatest investment our family has". Please review the attached documents for further information regarding this request.

Findings of Fact:

According to §153.049 F, Zoning Variance Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Appeals makes and explains in writing the following findings:

F (a): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

Response: There may be extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to this piece of property as there are currently four grand live oak trees located in the front yard of the parcel.

F (b): These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

Response:

These conditions may generally apply to other properties in the vicinity as most properties in the area have grand trees of a similar size and species. However, the location of grand trees and their proximity to the homes on surrounding lots varies by parcel.

F (c):

Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Response:

According to Charleston County records, the single-family home was constructed in 1965 and purchased by the applicants in 2015. Therefore, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property may not restrict the utilization of the property as a residence due to the pre-existing location and age of both the home and the tree.

F (d):

The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response:

Although Ordinance Section 153.334 Tree Protection and Preservation states that "trees are an essential natural resource, an invaluable economic resource, and a priceless aesthetic resource", the authorization of this variance may not be of substantial detriment to the adjacent property or the public good as the applicant plans to retain two other grand live oak trees in the front yard.

F (e):

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance to the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a non-conforming use of land or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map;

Response:

The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries.

F (f): Response: The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; and
The need for the variance may not be the result of the applicant's own actions
due to the pre-existing location and age of both the home and the tree.
Additionally, the applicant's letter of intent states that they "have had a
structural engineer to the house multiple times and he has concluded that the
tree roots have and are continuing to raise the house off its pier."

F (g): Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive

Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Response: The Natural Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan has a Goal to

"protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment". Furthermore, Section 153.334 Tree Protection and Preservation states that "the tree

protection and preservation regulations of this section are intended to enhance

the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the town." However,

exceptions for removal are made where trees are diseased, dead, dying, pose a safety hazard or removal has been approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

In granting a Variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§153.045 E 2).

Action:

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny Case # BZAV-3-24-036 (variance request for the removal of a grand 52" DBH Live Oak tree in the Low-Density Suburban Residential Zoning District in the front yard of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue) based on the "Findings of Fact" listed above, unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following conditions:

- 1. The applicant/owner shall mitigate the removal of the subject grand tree by submitting a mitigation plan to the Zoning Administrator, as described in 153.334 (E)(2) of the Ordinance, that includes inch-per-inch replacement.
- 2. The applicant/owner shall provide documentation that the remaining grand trees on the subject parcel have been treated and cared for as recommended by a Certified Arborist, to mitigate and prevent any potential spreading of disease/fungus.
- Any future significant pruning to grand trees on site must adhere to Section 153.334 of the Ordinance, including obtaining proper zoning permits for excess canopy (limb) removal.

FROM THE DESK OF

THOMAS L. MARCINKO

March 10, 2024

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals 1122 Dills Bluff Rd. James Island, SC 29412

Dear Madame or Sir,

I am writing to request a grand tree variance for a Live Oak at 1209 Taliaferro Ave.

The tree is located approximately 10ft. from the front of our home. When we purchased the house in 2015, the insurance company required us to cut this tree back significantly due to how much it hung over the house. The sidewalk between the tree and house was also replaced at that time as the root system of the tree had grown through it. Now, not only have the roots grown through the sidewalk once again, we also have a crack through the porch and are starting to shows signs on the exterior and interior wall.

We have had a structural engineer to the house multiple times and he has concluded that the tree roots have, and are continuing to, raise the house off of it's pier. The other thing he confidently identified was the fact that the front porch has already been reconstructed at least once. Who knows how many times the sidewalk has been repoured but in his opinion, enough times that we have lost the bottom step.

We have also had a certified arborist come to the house to see if a root prune and barrier might be the solution. As you will see in his letter, the extent to which they would need to dig, and how close it would be to the tree, would cause an almost certain risk of failure to the tree in a high wind situation. It would also see an immediate decline in vitality.

We love our trees, and we also love our home. We are only asking this to try and prevent any further damage to the greatest invest our family has. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas L. Marcinko

ROSEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Consulting Engineers 65 Broad Street Charleston, SC 29401 (843) 882-7623

Email: RRosen@RosenOnLine.com

January 16, 2024

Town of James Island

Zoning Appeals Board

In re: 1209 Taliaferro - Tree

Gentlemen,

Reference is made to our earlier correspondence in re the removal of the tree at the front of 1209 Taliaferro.

General

The tree is a mature Live Oak tree. It is approximately 10' from the front porch of the home.

We estimate that the home was built in the 1960s.

The age of the tree is estimated to be 200 years.

The tree has been aggressively trimmed at some time in the past.

Conditions

There is a walkway between the tree and the house from the driveway to the front porch. The present homeowner replaced the walkway 8 years ago. The walkway rises from the driveway up at the tree and back down onto the steps to the front porch.

There is a crack in the walkway corresponding to the tree root development.

Our opinion is that the front porch was rebuilt. The brick at the steps does not match the brick to the right of the steps. However, the brick at the steps and at the right end match.

There is a "construction" joint in the porch slab that corresponds to the change in brickwork.

There are cracks, etc. at the brick at the large front window at the porch. There are shade differences in the mortar under the window.

That the top of the walkway is flush with the brick stair tread leads me to believe that originally the walkway was one riser lower. That is, the walkway grade was originally much lower than it is today. And that the elevation change is due to changes in the dirt grade.

We found a "hump" in the floor adjacent to the front door. When checked with a straight edge, the hump appears to be a 1/4" higher than the adjacent floor.

Conclusions

Based on our observations, it is our opinion that the roots of the tree caused previous damage, requiring reconstruction of portions of the porch and adjacent front wall.

Given the crack at the walkway and the hump at the interior floor, it is our opinion that the tree root system is continuing to "raise" the nearby house.

Unless specifically mentioned in this report, this inspection does not include any evaluation for environmental concerns, indoor air quality, lead based paint or asbestos.

This inspection and report are done with the best of our experience and ability. However, we cannot be responsible for items that we may have overlooked, concealed conditions, or defects that may develop later.

We believe this report reflects the condition of the property at the time of the inspection, based on visual evidence.

The inspection and this report do not constitute a guarantee of any portion of the property and no warranty is implied.

Should you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,

Russell A. Rosen, P.

RAR/rar

C:\DOC\Taliaferro 1209







F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts Company

2285 Technical Parkway North Charleston, South Carolina 29406 843-556-8696 Office 843-556-7581 Fax www.Bartlett.com

1209 Taliaferro Ave. Charleston, SC 29412 12/14/23

Re: Live Oak at front of house

To whom it may concern,

I was asked to inspect the Live Oak at the front of 1209 Taliaferro Avenue in James Island. The purpose of the inspection was to determine if we could come in and root prune the tree to mitigate the damage being caused by the root system to the foundation of the house. In order to root prune we would need to trench 5-6 feet from the base of the tree to a depth of approximately 2.5-3 feet. The trench would need to go the approximate length of the front of the house. I would not recommend or feel comfortable root pruning at this time. My concern is that the root damage would increase the risk of failure due to the close proximity to the tree and depth of pruning needed to be effective. There is a good deal of weight on the other side and even though the tree has good balance, the likelihood of failure in the event of high wind event will increase to an unacceptable level in my opinion. We would also likely see a decline in vitality due to the loss of roots.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cameron Rickett

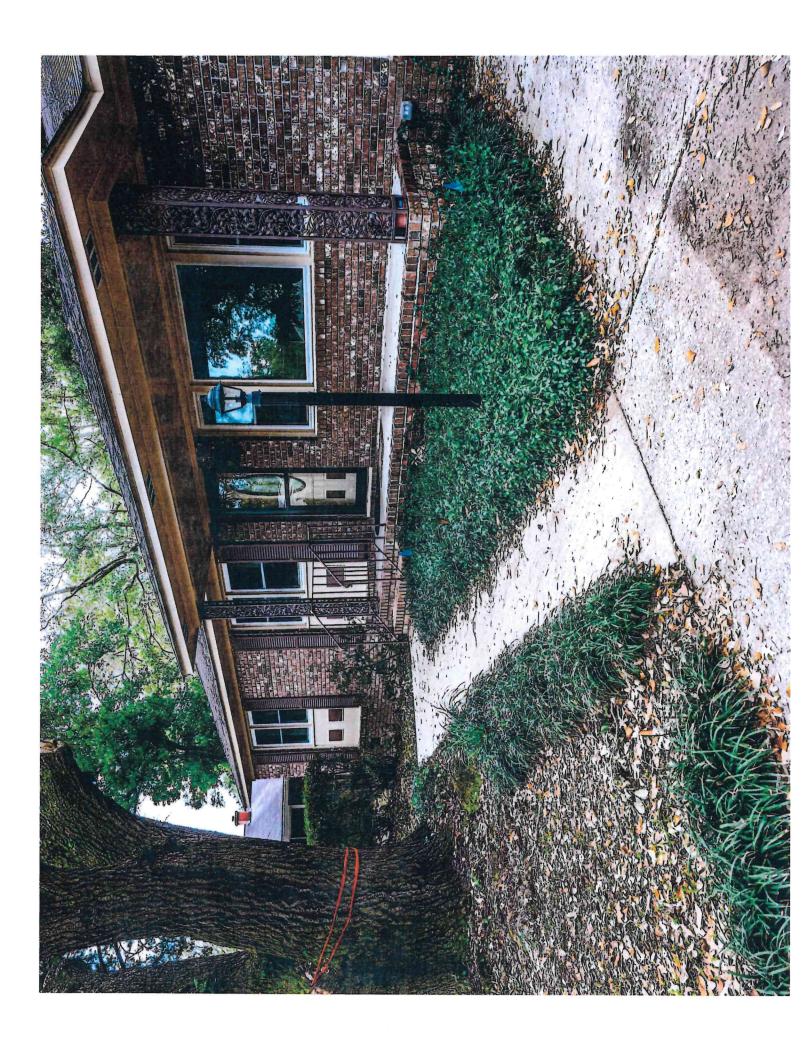
ISA Certified Arborist #SO-6583A

Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

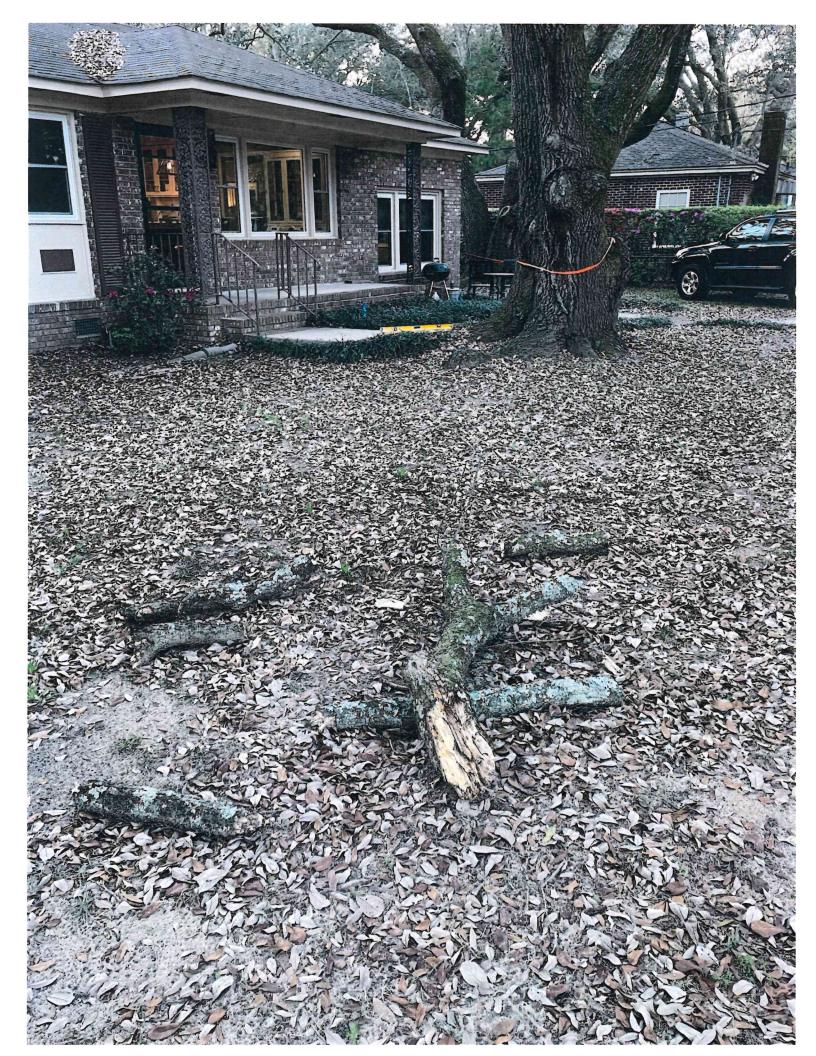
Scientific Knowledge, Professionalism, Established Safety Practices, and Environmental Stewardship.

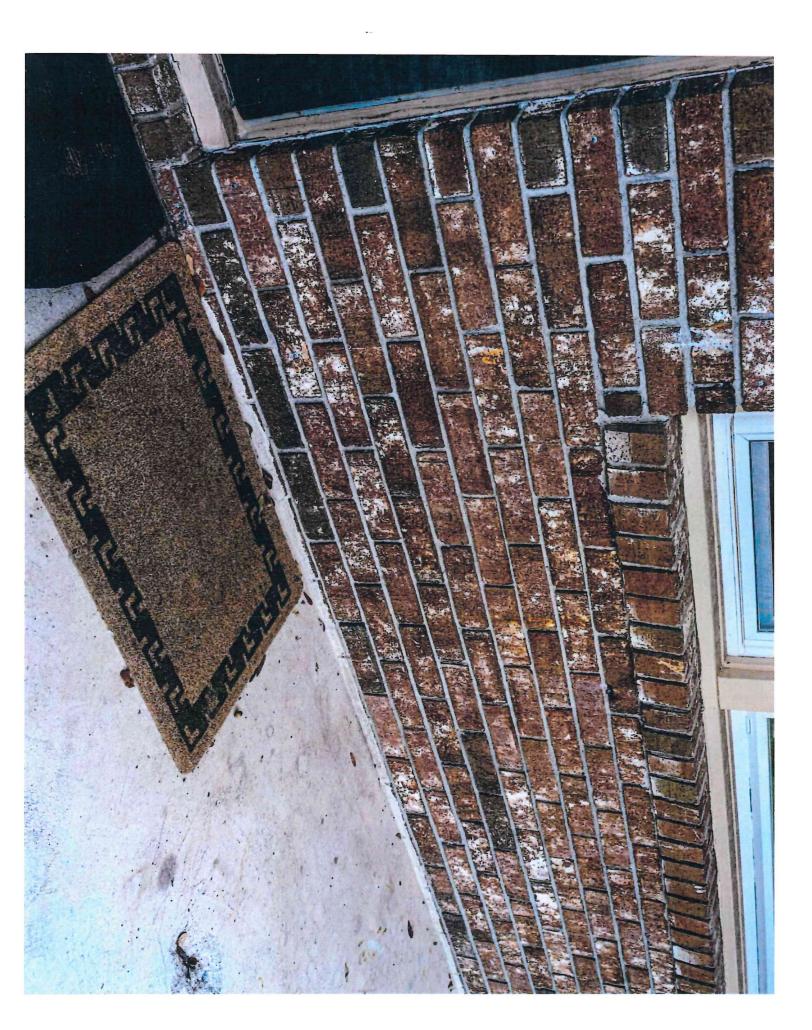
Photos provided by Applicant











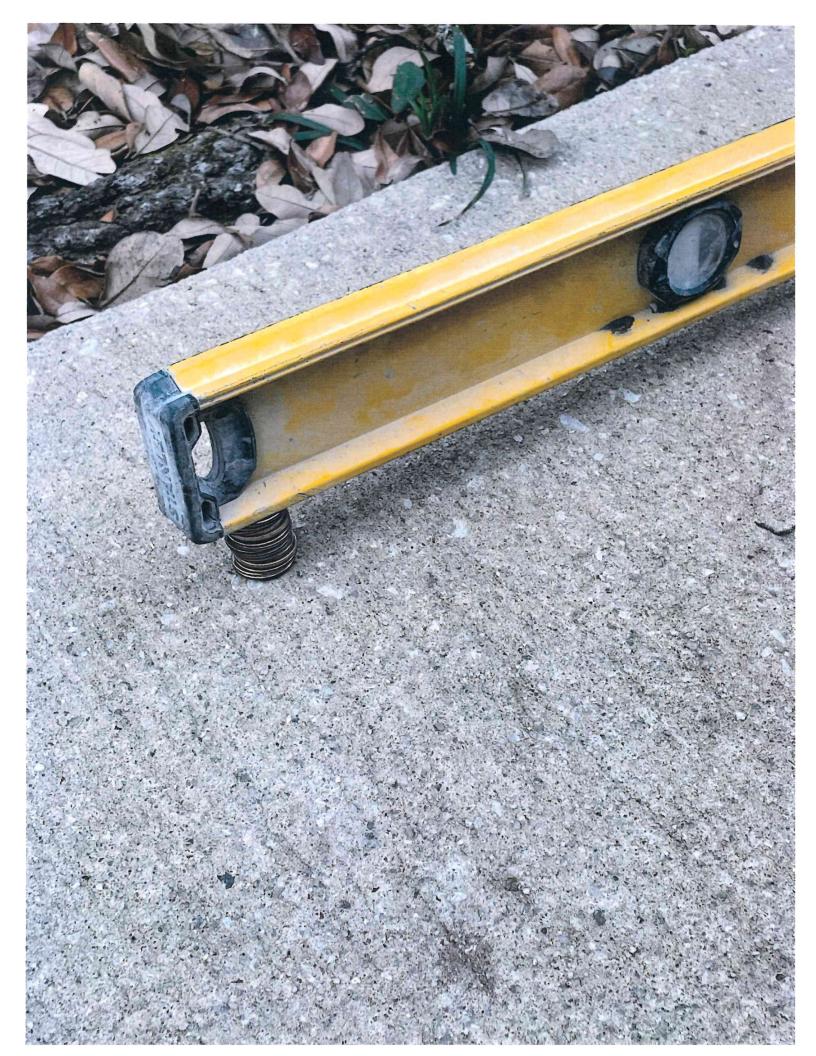


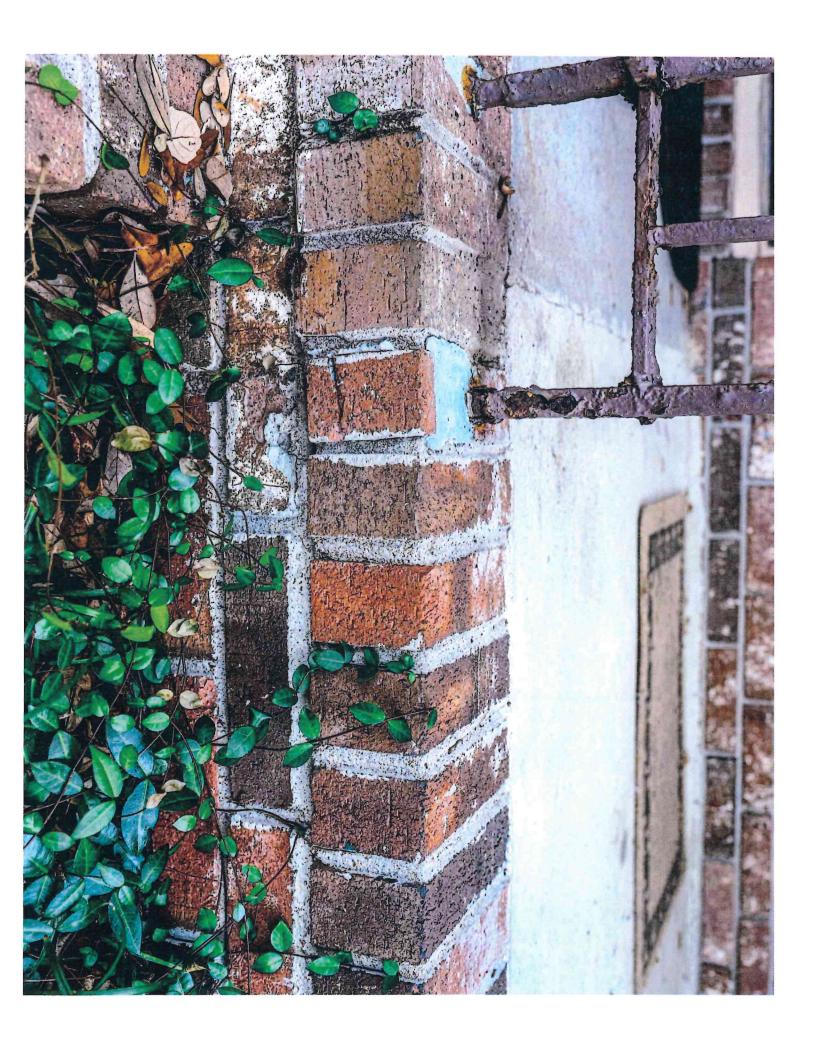


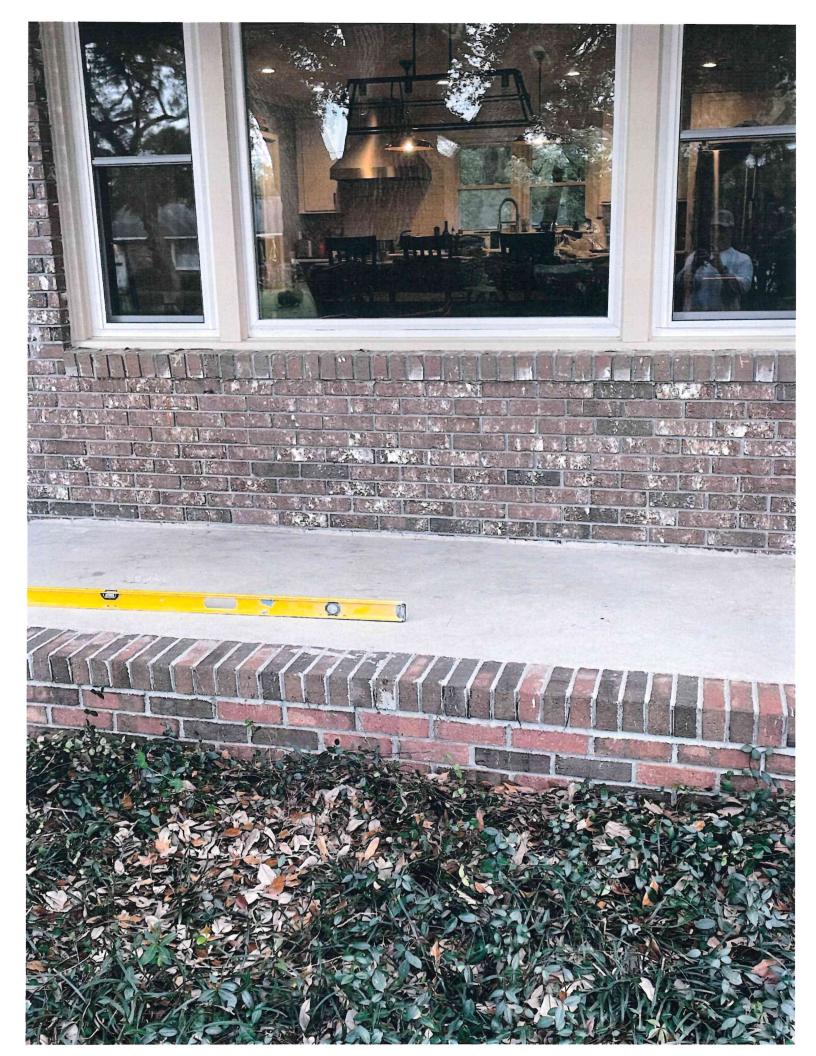


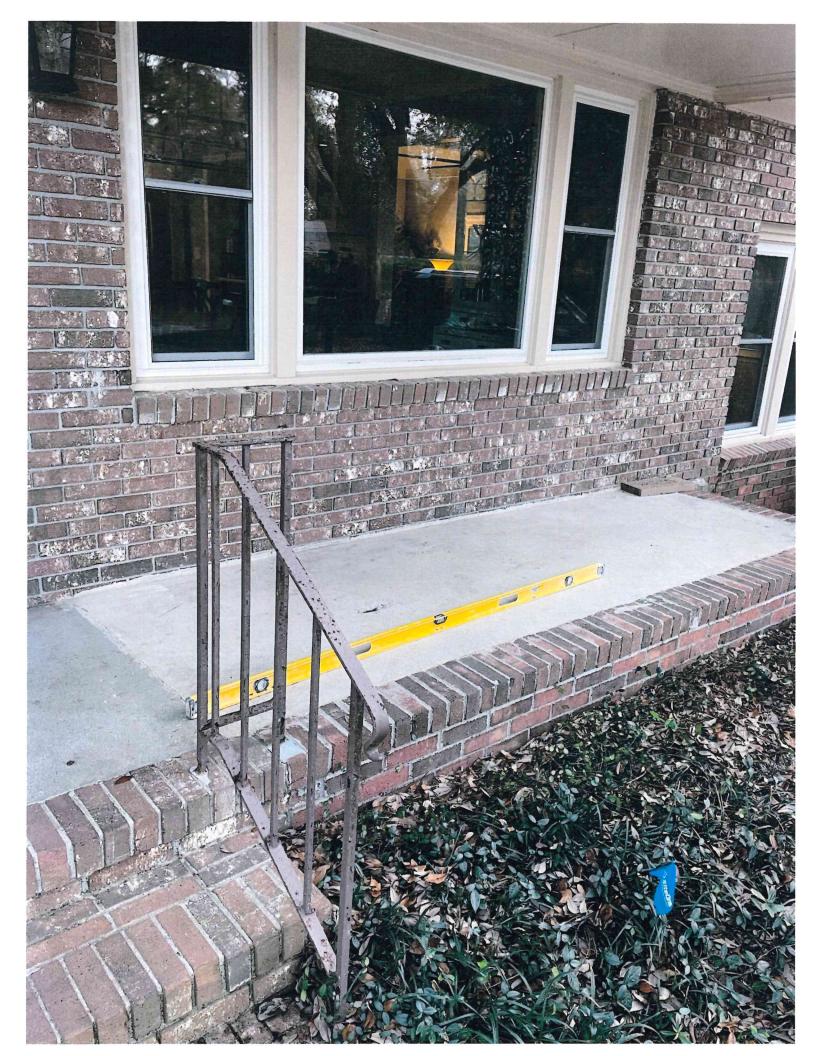


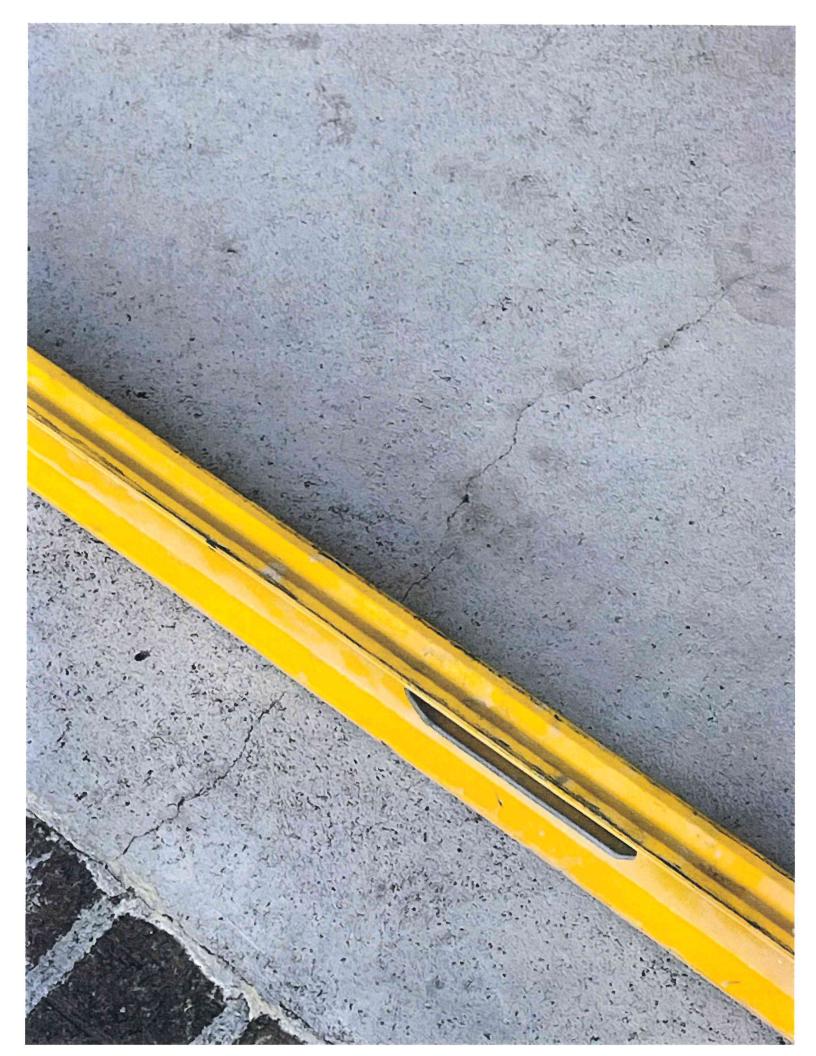


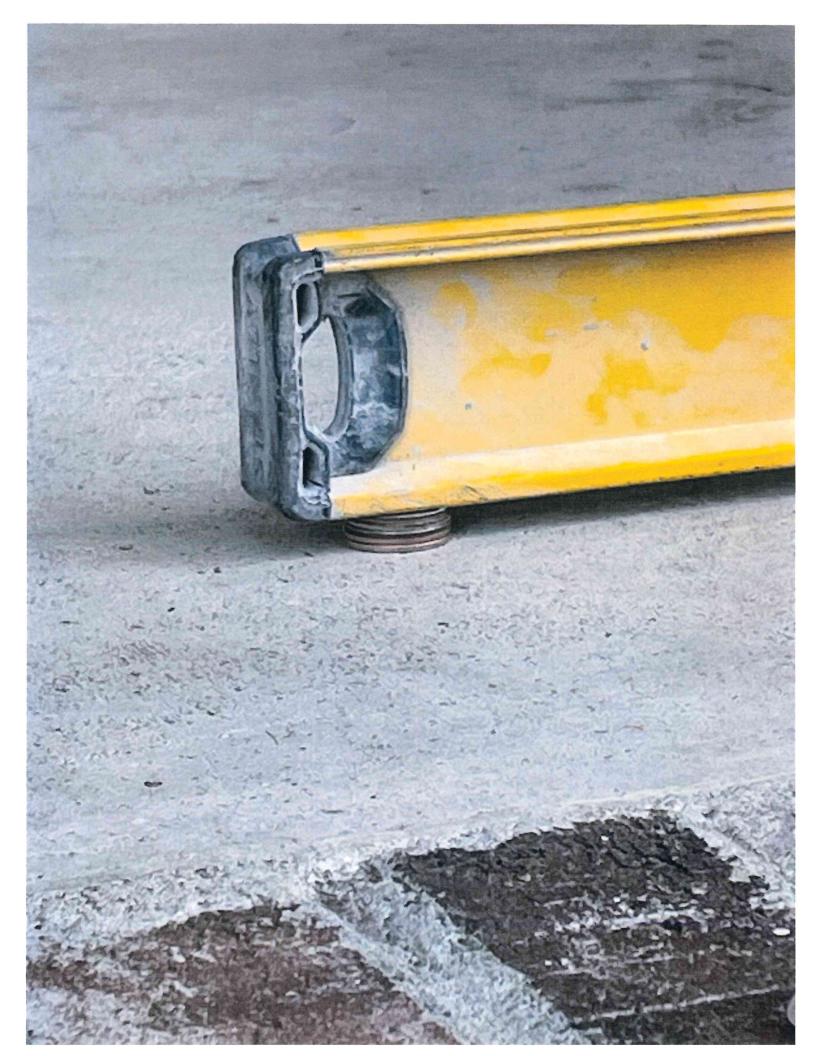


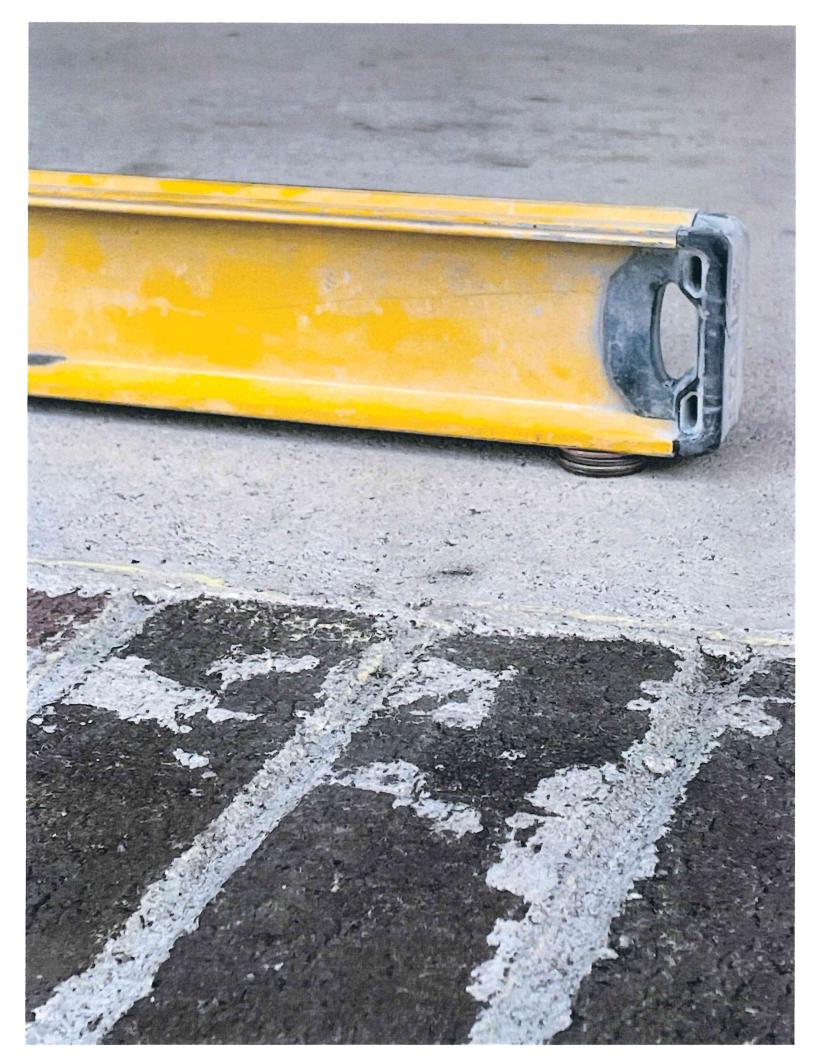


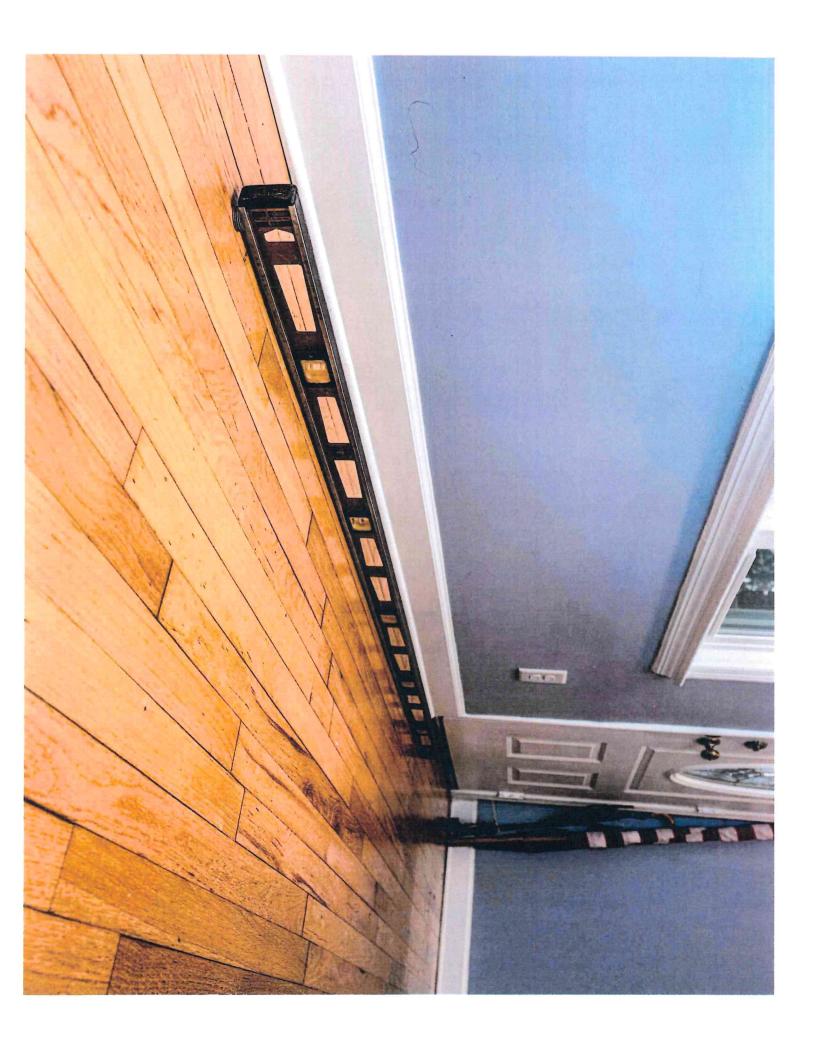




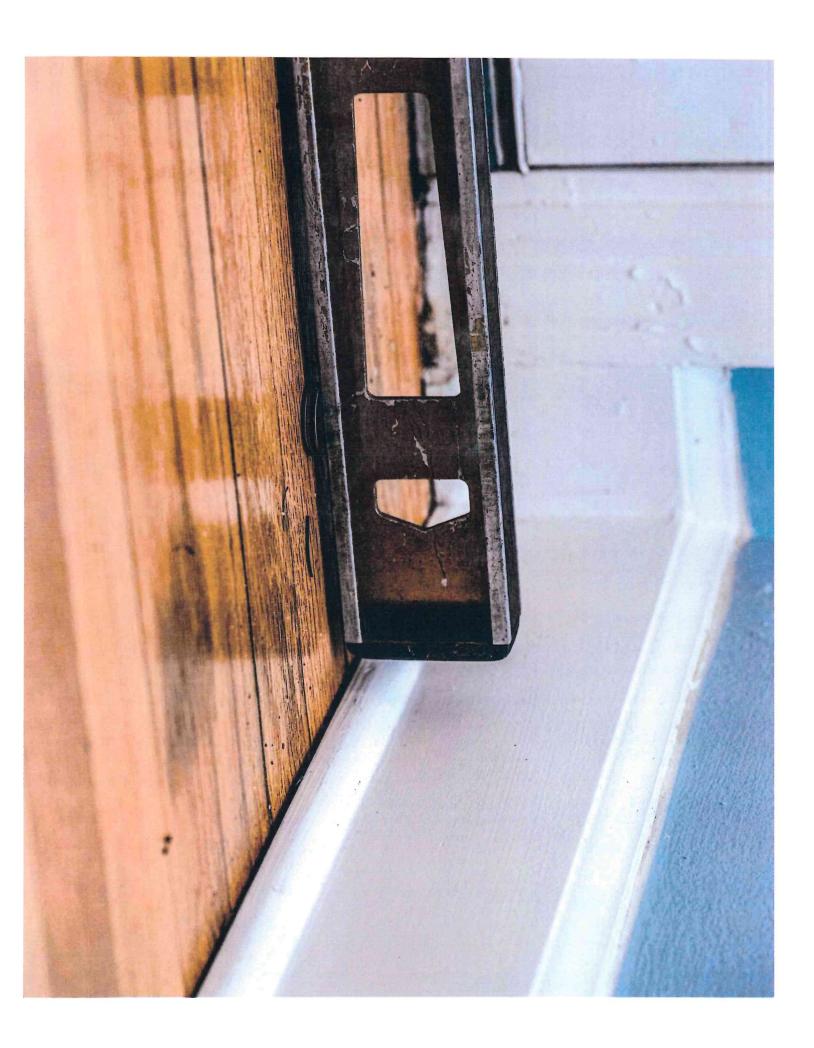


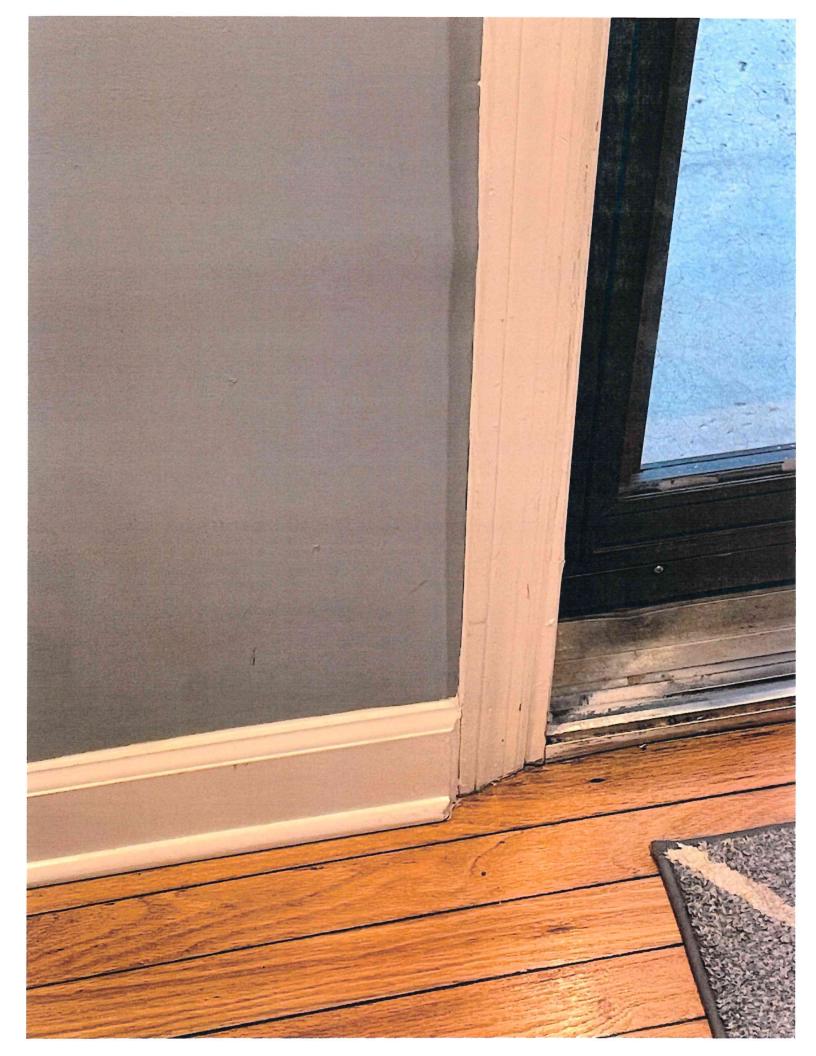


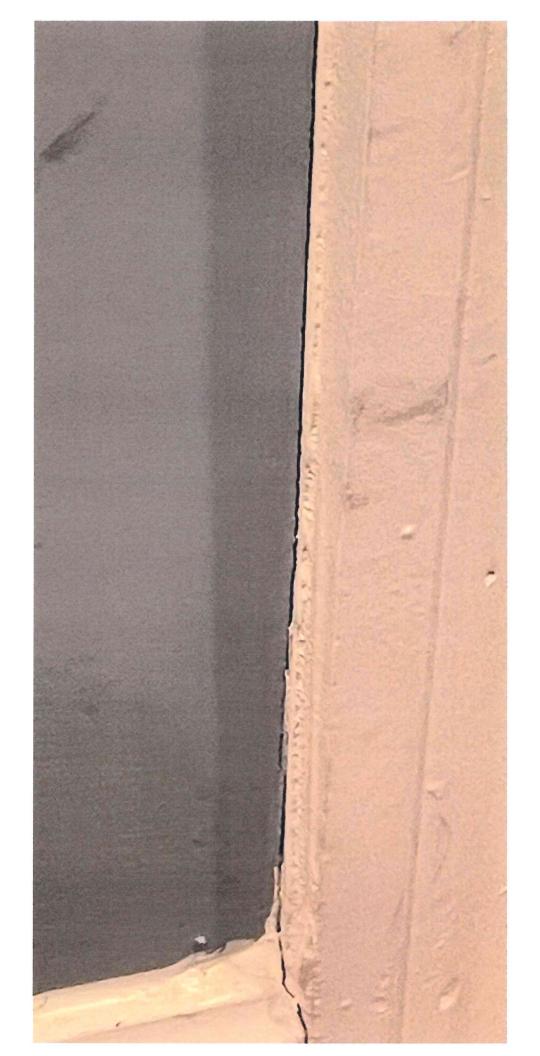














Applicant Supplemental Information Submitted 5/14/2024

The Charleston Arborist Company

Ary Fun

International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist SO-1951A

1510 Brookbank Avenue Charleston SC 29412 843-478-8831 aryifun@thecharlestonarborist.com

May 11, 2024

Tommy Mancinko 1209 Tallaferro Avenue James Island SC 29412

Dear Mr Mancinko.

This is an evaluation of a *Quercus viginiana* (Live oak) that is located in the front yard of 1209 Talleferro Avenue (GPS 32.73663*N, 79.94606*W). It has a DBH (diameter at breast height, 4.5') of 54", an approximate height of 65', and a width (drip line edge) of 65'. The tree is only 10' to the southeast of the house. The trees close proximity to the house has caused structural, foundation damage to the front porch and exterior wall of the house. This evaluation is to discuss the affects of the tree on removing the root or roots involved in causing the structural damage.

Critical Root Zone and Root Plate

The critical root zone is defined as the minimum area beneath a tree that consists of the sufficient root mass that is essential to the trees health and survival. The critical root zone is typically represented by a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk with a radius equal in feet to 1.3 times the number of inches of the trunk DBH. The critical root zone for this tree is a 70.2' radius from the center of the trunk. No more than 20% of this area should be damaged or cut to maintain the health of the tree.

The root plate is the area of the root zone comprised of pedestal roots and the zone of rapid taper. These roots are the support for the vertical weight of the tree. The root plate will typically be represented by a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk with a radius equal in feet to one-half times the number of inches of the trunk

DBH. The root plate for this tree is a radius of 27' from the center of the trunk. Catastrophic failure of the tree could result if the area is damaged or destroyed.

There is an analogy that describes this relationship between tree, root zone and root plate. Picture a wine glass sitting on a small plate. The small plate is the critical root zone. The base of the wine glass is the root plate, where the stem and cup are the trunk and tree. Removing a portion of the small plate, the wine glass will remain stable but remove any of the glass base and the wine glass will fall.

This *Quercus virginiana* has had a house built next to and on its root plate and in its critical zone. Through the years the critical root zone has healed, regrown in different areas to adapt to the house location. The root plate does not have the option of regrowing in a different area, It has to grow at the base of the tree to support the weight of the tree. The root plate has grown to lift the front sidewalk, lift the front porch area and now begin to lift the front foundation of the house. Repairs have been done to both the sidewalk and front porch, only to continue to be damaged. A more permanent repair for the home is to completely remove the root/roots that are causing the damage. This will greatly affect the health and stability of the grand tree.

In conclusion it is my professional opinion, as an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, that removing any root structure within the tree's root plate will cause irreparable damage to the health and stability of the tree. The house is 10' from the trunk of the tree, that is well within the 27' area of the root plate. If the roots were to be removed to repair the house, the tree would have to respond with more growth in this area in order for the tree to remain standing. The roots can be prevented from growing under the structure but will not prevent the root plate from pushing against the structure. My recommendation would be to remove the tree if any of the the root plate has to be removed in order to repair the damaged foundation.

Amelon

Sincerely yours,

Ary Fun

ISA Certified Arborist SO 1951-A



April 24, 2024

Mr. Tommy Marcinko 1209 Taliaferro Ave Charleston, SC 29412

Mr. Marcinko,

Per our discussion at your home today, I can see the evidence of the movement in the porch and sidewalk from the oak tree in the front yard. Below is an estimate of cost to repair.

Preliminary, Demo

Permitting, preliminary costs: \$1500

Demolition and disposal of existing pathway: \$720

Removal of porch columns and rails, temp shoring for demo: \$580 Demolition and disposal of existing porch brick and concrete: \$1175

Removal of landscaping, store soil on site: \$390

Prep

Re-grade area and form slabs: \$2400

Construction

New Porch slab - reinforced (70sf): \$1300 New brick skirt (approx. 350 brick): \$1100

New Concrete path – (86sf) 18" thickened edge for 50%: \$1000

Two new porch columns: \$1200

New handrail and grab rails (aluminum): \$1800

Cleanup/Landscape

Re-plant area: \$670

Clean: \$300

TOTAL COST: \$14,135

This includes all labor, materials, builder fees, etc. Total time to allow: 6-8 weeks.

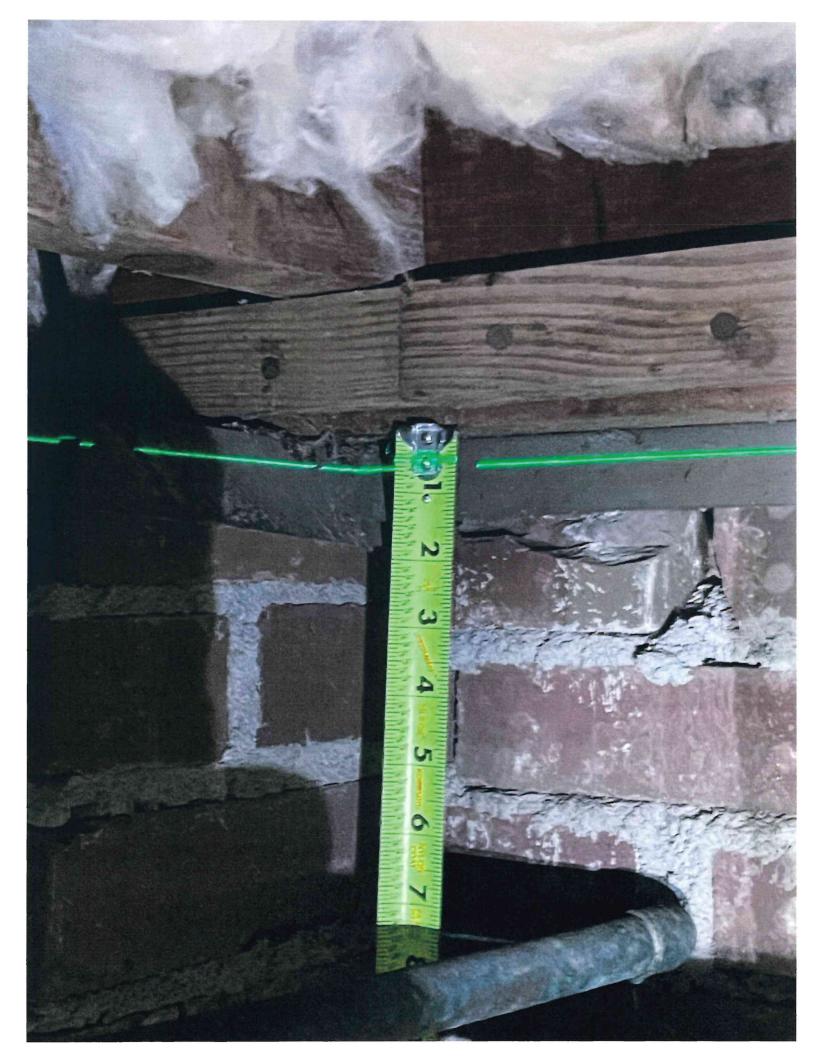
Note: brick likely will not match existing. Potential damage to tree roots.

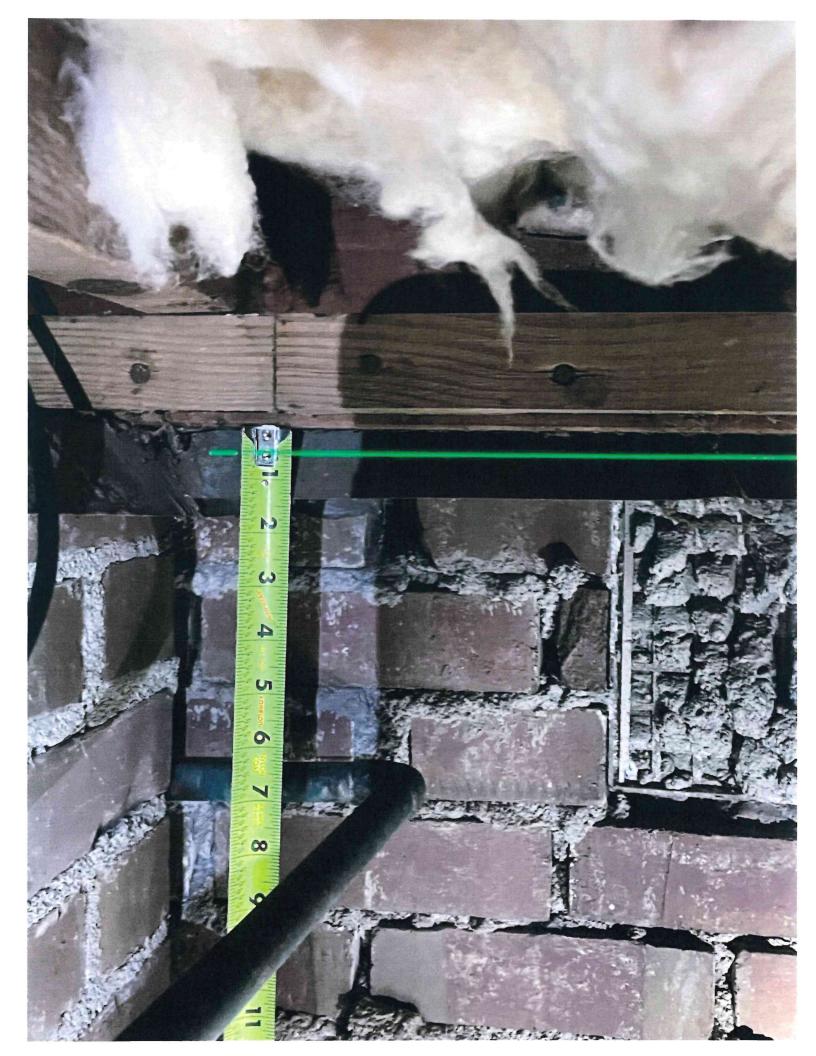
Best,

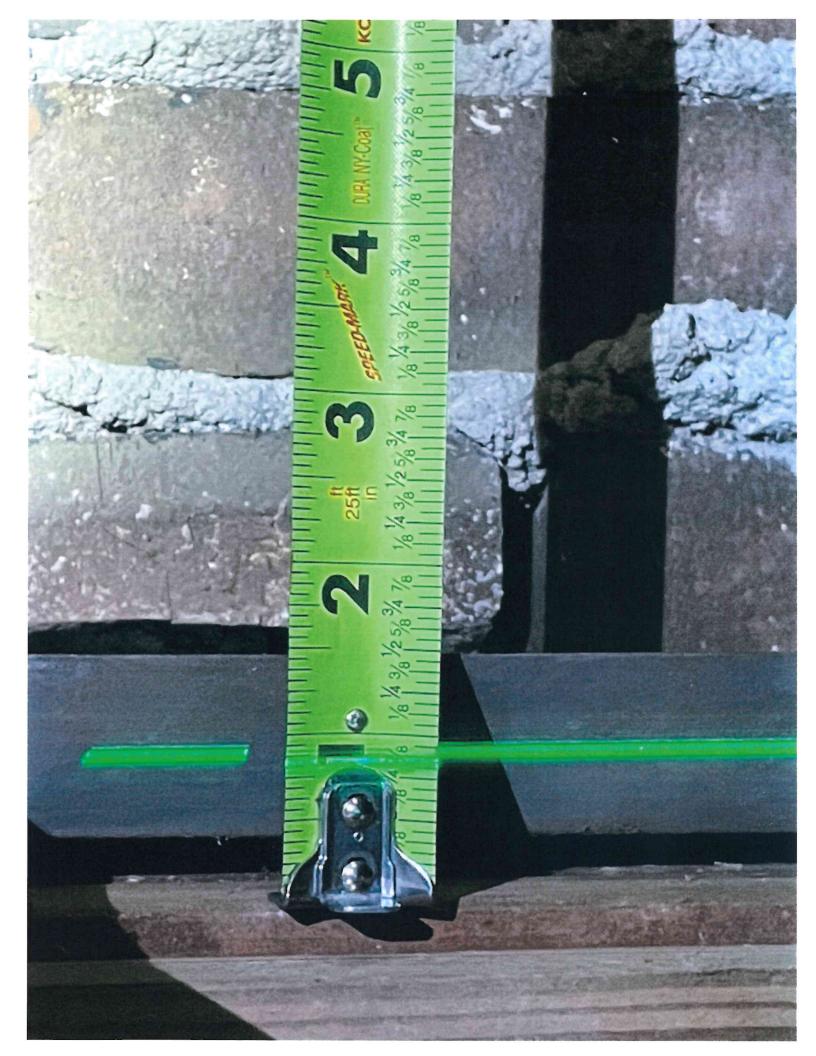
Scott Koenig President



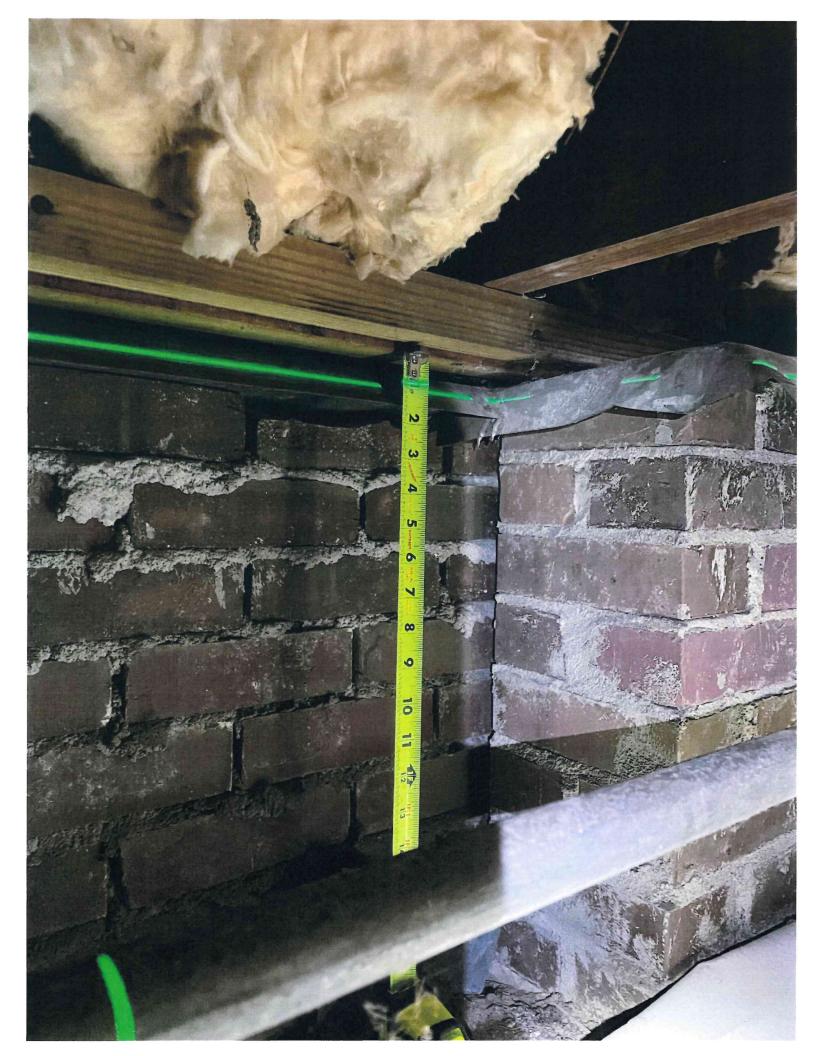














Variance Application

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals

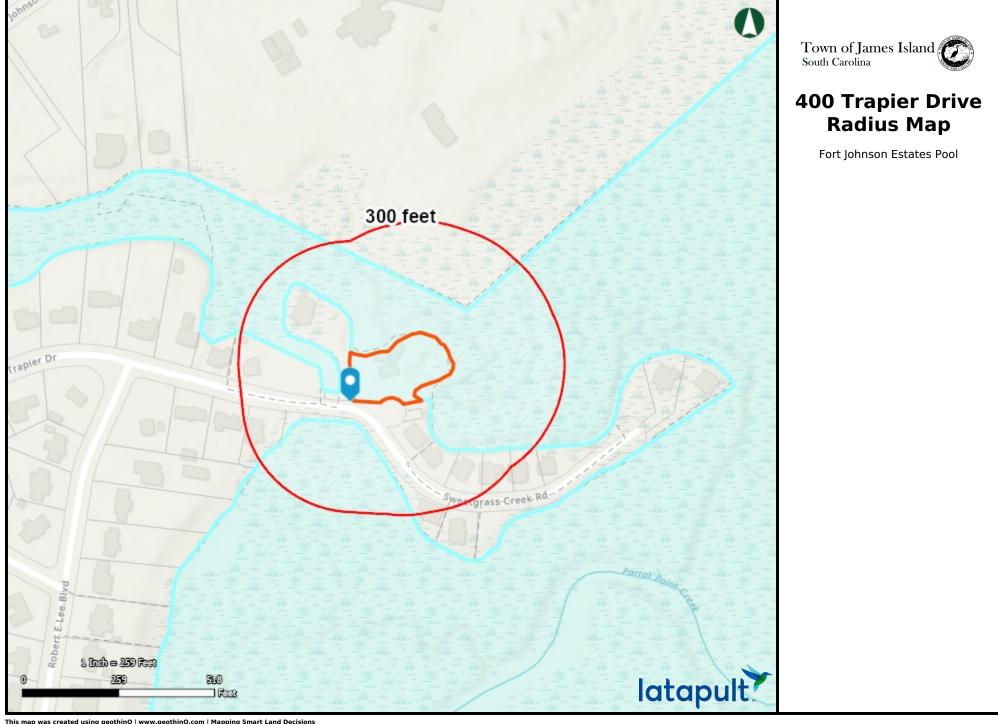
Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department 1122 Dills Bluff Road James Island, SC 29412 Phone 843-795-4141 Fax 843-795-4878 www.jamesislandsc.us



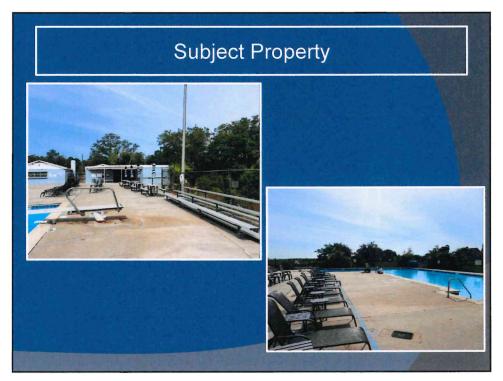
This application must be complete and submitted in person to the Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department in order to apply for a Variance. Please read the entire form prior to completing the application. The applicant shall receive a copy of this completed form at the time the application is filed. This application will be returned to the applicant within fifteen (15) working days if these items are not submitted with the application or if any are found to be inaccurate:

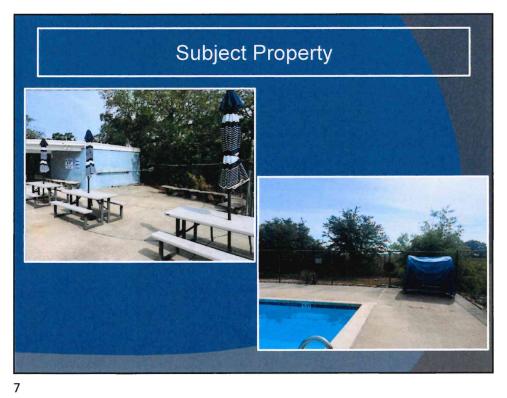
- 1) Completed Variance application signed by the current property owner(s).
- Copy of Current Recorded Deed to the property (Owner's signature must match documentation). If the applicant is not the owner of the property, the Current Property Owner(s) must sign and print the Designation of Agent found below.
- Restrictive Covenants & Posted Notice Affidavit(s) signed by the applicant or current property owner(s).
- A letter of intent signed by the applicant or property owner(s) stating the reason for the request that explains why this request should be granted and how it meets the Approval Criteria of §153.049 F. All proposed Variances, except single family, shall satisfy the Site Plan Review process and attend at least one Site Plan Review meeting prior to submitting this application.
- An accurate, legible Site Plan drawn to Engineers Scale must be attached. The site plan must show property dimensions, dimensions and locations of all existing and proposed structures and improvements, parking areas, Grand trees(24" DBH or greater, Pine, Sweetgum, SC Invasive Pest Trees are exempt), wetlands(properties containing DHEC-OCRM Critical Line areas must contain an up to date DHEC-OCRM signature on site plan or plat), holding basins and buffers when applicable.
 - One 24 x 36 copy & fifteen (15) 11 x 17 copies.
- 6) Copy of a legible Approved and Recorded Plat showing present boundaries of property.
- 7) Fee \$250 check made out to "Town of James Island". Grand tree variances add \$50 each additional tree

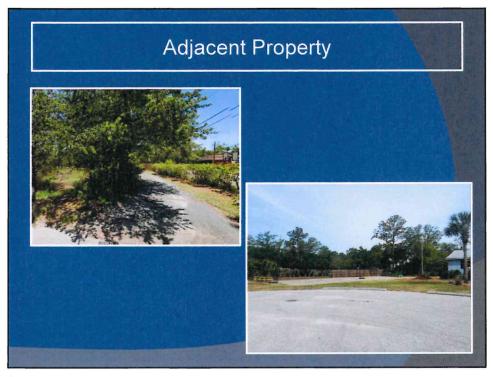
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Applicant Name:	Katie Henderson for Fort Johnson Community Foundation						
Mailing Address:	400 Trapier Drive						
City, State, Zip Code	: Ch	arleston, SC 2	9412		Daytime Phone:	843-478-6961	
Email Address:	ktwh	it98@gmail.d	com				
Subject Property Ad	dress:	400 Trapier	Drive,	Charles	ston, SC 29412		
Present Use of Prop	erty:	Community p	ool/cl	ubhous	e		
Variance Description: Encroachment into 15' OCRM buffer.							
Latie He	nOl	1			4/17/2	024	
Applicant Signature				Date			
Designation of Agent named as Applicant at					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Owner Print Name			Date	_	Owner Mailing Add	Iress	
Owner Signature					City, State, Zip Cod	le	
FOR OFFICE USE OF	NLY:						
Application #: BZA	VLL	-24-037		Flood Zo	one:		
Zoning District:	<u>L</u>			Fee Pai	d (\$250): cc+	02	
Date Filed: 419	2024	1		Zoning (Officer: K		
тмs#: <u>454 - 08</u>	-00	-071					

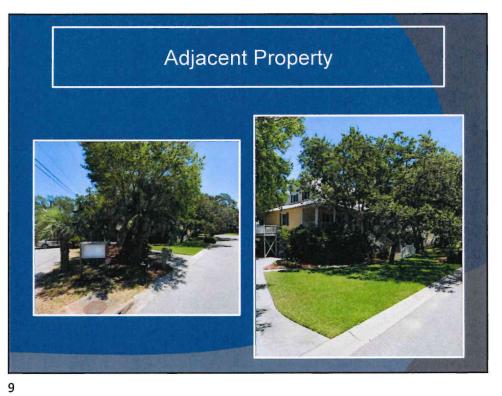


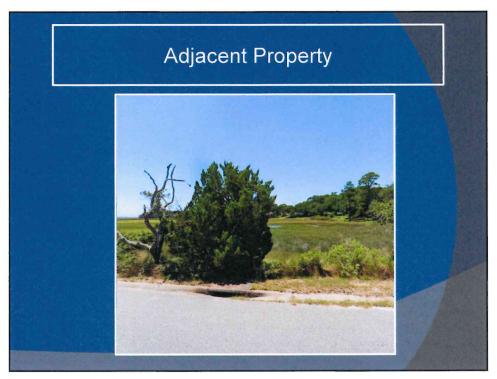
This map was created using geothinQ | www.geothinQ.com | Mapping Smart Land Decisions











Staff Review:

The applicant, The Fort Johnson Community Foundation, is requesting a variance for encroachment into the 15' required OCRM Critical Line Buffer for the placement of a pool filter backwash tank, and concrete decking, for community pool improvements in the Fort Johnson Estates neighborhood at 400 Trapier Drive (TMS #454-08-00-071). Adjacent property to the north & east is marshland and adjacent properties to the south and west are in the Low-Density Suburban Residential Zoning District and are in the Town of James Island's jurisdiction. Other properties within 300' of the subject property include residential uses in the Town of James Island, the City of Charleston, and a James Island PSD Pump Station.

Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations, § 153.337 WETLANDS, WATERWAYS, AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE (1) (c) "reduction in any required buffer shall be made by appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals."

The subject property is 0.83 acres in size and has a swimming pool that was constructed in the 1960s according to the applicant's letter of intent. There is also a clubhouse, restrooms, and several concrete pads/patios located on the property. The applicant states in their letter of intent that "the addition of the surge tank will ensure the pool equipment meets current regulatory standards but also be beneficial in assuring that clean water is being discharged and significantly lessen any environmental impact from normal pool operations". Additionally, they state that the "existing concrete extends well into the 15-foot buffer line and needs to be replaced following the existing pavement limits for as minimum a distance as we can to maintain a safe deck area around the pool". Please review the attached documents for further information regarding this request.

Findings of Fact:

According to §153.049 F, Zoning Variance Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Appeals makes and explains in writing the following findings:

F (a): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

Response: There may be extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to this piece of property due to the use itself (community/neighborhood pool), combined with the use's existing location and age, along with their close proximity to the continually shifting OCRM critical line.

F (b): These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

Response: These conditions may not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity as

surrounding properties do not have a community function with older facilities that were constructed prior to the current OCRM buffer requirements being in

place.

F (c): Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular

piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the

utilization of the property;

Response: Tank: According to the applicant's letter of intent the pool "is in need of

refurbishment/repair to continue operations" and the addition of the surge tank will ensure "the pool equipment meets current regulatory standards". Therefore, the application of this ordinance to the piece of property may unreasonably restrict the utilization of the swimming pool on the property.

Deck: The application of this ordinance to the piece of property may unreasonably restrict the safe utilization of the concrete pool deck. According to the letter of intent the proposed decking encroachment is "to accommodate the growing number of families who use the pool" and to "maintain a safe deck area around the pool".

F (d): The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent

property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be

harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response: Tank: The applicant's letter of intent explains that "the existing pool backwash

system discharges directly into the marsh" and that "the addition of a surge tank is mandated by SCDHEC as a means to contain the backwash discharge wastewater from the pool in a way that does not harm the surrounding environments nor overcome the existing public sanitary system." Therefore, the authorization of this variance may not be of substantial detriment to the

adjacent property or the public good.

Deck: The applicant explains in their letter of intent that "along the south side of the pool deck the existing concrete extends well into the 15-foot buffer line". They further indicate that the proposed decking encroachment "is for a small area in the corner where the pre-existing deck and expanded deck meet."

Therefore, due to the minimal area of proposed decking encroachment, the

Page **2** of **4**

authorization of this variance may not be of substantial detriment to the adjacent property or to the public good.

F (e): The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance to the effect of which

would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a non-conforming use of land or to change the

zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map;

Response: The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district,

nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning

district boundaries.

F (f): The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; and

Response: Tank: The applicant explains in their letter of intent that "As directed by

SCDHEC to properly treat and discharge the water from the pool, we have no choice but to add this surge tank." Furthermore, the applicant's letter states that "the existing pool equipment is located just outside of the Town's 15' OCRM encroachment buffer with no adjacent space available without extending into the buffer" and that they are asking to place the surge tank in this location to "most efficiently tie into the water/sewer lines that are currently in place for the pool". Therefore, the need for the variance may not be the result of the applicant's own actions due to the age and existing location

of the pool and equipment, and the shifting OCRM line.

Deck: The need for the variance may not be the result of the applicant's own actions due to the existing location of the pool, decking, and the shifting OCRM

line.

F (g): Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive

Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Response: The Natural Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan has a goal to

"protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment" while the purpose of the required buffers are to provide a visual, spatial, and ecological transition zone between development and the town's saltwater wetlands and waterways and to protect water quality and wildlife habitat. Because the "existing pool backwash system discharges directly into the marsh per design standards from 1960" and the "addition of the surge tank will ensure the pool equipment meets current regulatory standards but also be beneficial in assuring that clean

water is being discharged and significantly lessen any environmental impact from normal pool operations", this variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

In granting a Variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§153.045 E 2).

Action:

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny Case # BZAV-4-24-037 variance request for encroachment into the 15' required OCRM Critical Line Buffer for the placement of a pool filter backwash tank, and concrete decking, for community pool improvements in the Fort Johnson Estates neighborhood at 400 Trapier Drive.— Town of James Island (TMS #454-08-00-071) based on the "Findings of Fact" listed above, unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following conditions:

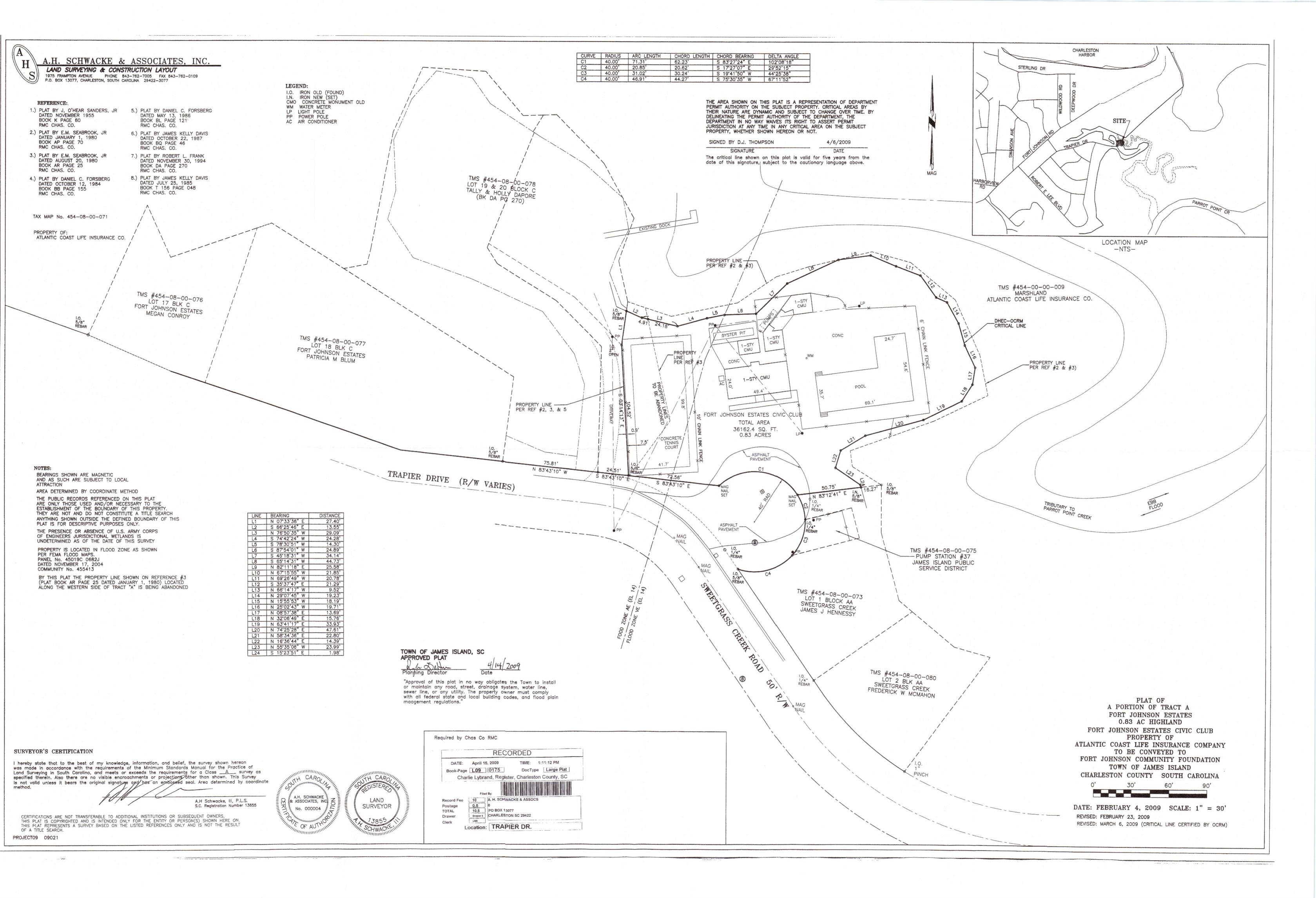
- 1. Any alteration or removal of plant life must be replaced in a manner that will not alter the existing pattern of vegetation.
- 2. Prior to obtaining zoning permits for any improvements, the applicant/owner shall install tree protection around grand and protected trees, as described in §153.334 of the *Ordinance*.
- 3. Prior to obtaining permits for improvements, the applicant/owner shall install silt fencing, as described in Chapter 51 of the *Ordinance*.

Fort Johnson Community Foundation | 400 Trapier Drive, Charleston, SC 29412

To the Town of James Island Board of Zoning,

The Fort Johnson Community Foundation seeks to be granted two (2) variances to the Town of James Island's Zoning and Land Development Regulations, *Section 153.337 Wetlands, Waterways, and OCRM Critical Line*, where a 15-foot-deep buffer is required abutting the determined OCRM Critical Line.

- 1. Pool Filter Backwash Surge Tank: The first variance request is for the placement of a premanufactured surge tank for pool filter backwash water from the Fort Johnson Estates swimming pool filter cleaning system. The FJE pool was originally built in the 1960s and is in need of refurbishment/repair to continue operations. The addition of the surge tank is mandated by SCDHEC as a means to contain the backwash discharge wastewater from the pool in a way that does not harm the surrounding environments nor overcome the existing public sanitary sewer system. The pool is situated along the marsh and within proximity to the OCRM critical setback line. The existing pool backwash system discharges directly into marsh per design standards from the 1960's. However, updated standards no longer allow this type of discharge, and the wastewater must be discharged to an approved stormwater or wastewater treatment system, thus discharge to the James Island PSD operated sanitary sewer wastewater system located in Trapier Drive. The PSD, in accordance with DHEC regulations, limits the rate of discharge to 20 gallons per minute. Thus, the tank is mandatory to store the backwash water and slowly release it to the public system at a greatly reduced flow rate. We understand the necessity to protect our waterways by adding the surge tank and water treatment processing. The proposed surge tank will be approximately 8.5'wide x 13.5' long x 10'high, with 4' buried below ground and 6' above ground.. These are nominal dimensions only as the actual tank as purchased may differ slightly to obtain the minimum required storage of 5250 gallons. As directed by SCDHEC to properly treat and discharge the water from the pool, we have no choice but to add this surge tank. The existing pool equipment is located just outside of the Town's 15' OCRM encroachment buffer with no adjacent space available without extending into to the buffer. We are asking for the variance to place the surge tank inside the Town's 15' OCRM encroachment buffer (not reaching the OCRM setback) in order to most efficiently tie into the water/sewer lines that are currently in place for the pool. Please note, at the time the pool was built, these regulations were not written and therefore untreated water was discharged into the surrounding marsh. The addition of the surge tank will not only ensure the pool equipment meets current regulatory standards but also be beneficial in assuring that clean water is being discharged and significantly lessen any environmental impact from normal pool operations.
- **2. Concrete Pool Deck:** A second variance is requested for a smaller encroachment along the southeastern corner of the pool decking. The proposed renovation to the pool property includes an extension along the north and east sides of the pool in order to accommodate the growing number of families who use the pool. The proposed extension will stop at the 15-foot buffer line. However, along the south side of the pool deck the existing concrete extends well into the 15-foot buffer and this needs to be replaced following the existing pavement limits for as minimum a distance as we can to maintain a safe deck area around the pool. The encroachment is for a small area in the corner where the pre-existing deck and the expanded deck meet. This encroachment is limited to 4.3' x 10.6', as indicated on the attached Site Plan.



1) THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY FORT JOHNSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

2) TMS # 454-08-00-071.

3) THE TOTAL AREA ABOVE THE CRITICAL LINE = 0.779 ACRES.

4) ACCORDING TO FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP 45019C 0682 K DATED JANUARY 29, 2021 THIS PROPERTY LIES IN ZONE AE (EL 12).

5) THIS SURVEY IS NOT INTENDED TO SHOW THE EXISTENCE OR NONEXISTENCE OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS "JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS".

6) THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS REFERENCED TO NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 (2011 SHIFT). THE VERTICAL DATUM IS REFERENCED TO NORTH AMERICAN

7) THIS SURVEY DOES NOT REFLECT A TITLE SEARCH. IT IS BASED ON THE REFERENCES LISTED AND THE EVIDENCE FOUND IN THE FIELD. ANY EASEMENTS OR ENCUMBRANCES OF RECORD NOT SHOWN ON THE REFERENCES MAY NOT BE SHOWN ON THIS SURVEY.

8) WATER AND SEWER LINE LOCATIONS ARE TAKEN FROM RECORD DRAWINGS AND UTILITY MAPS PROVIDED BY UTILITY COMPANIES AND ARE THEREFORE

REFERENCES

1) PLAT BY E.M. SEABROOK, JR. DATED JANUARY 1, 1980, REVISED ON AUGUST 20, 1980 AND RECORDED IN THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ROD OFFICE IN PLAT BOOK AR PAGE 25.

2) PLAT BY JAMES KELLY DAVIS DATED OCTOBER 22, 1987 AND RECORDED IN THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ROD OFFICE IN PLAT BOOK BQ PAGE 46.

3) PLAT BY A.H. SCHWACKE, III DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2009, LAST REVISED MARCH 6, 2009 AND RECORDED IN THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ROD OFFICE IN PLAT BOOK LO9 PAGE 0175.

4) DEED RECORDED IN THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ROD OFFICE ON APRIL 21, 2009 IN DEED BOOK 0049 PAGE 041.

LEGEND

FFE - FINISHED FLOOR ELEVATION RF - REBAR FOUND

OTPF - OPEN TOP PIPE FOUND RS - REBAR SET

MNS - MAG NAIL SET PP - POWER POLE LP - LIGHT POLE

GUY - GUY WRE

EHH - ELECTRIC HAND HOLE SSMH - SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE

IE - INVERT ELEVATION CI - CURB INLET DI - DROP INLET

RCP - REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE DIP - DUCTILE IRON PIPE

AC - AIR CONDITIONER ON WOODEN STAND x 4.6 - SPOT ELEVATION (PERMOUS SURFACE)

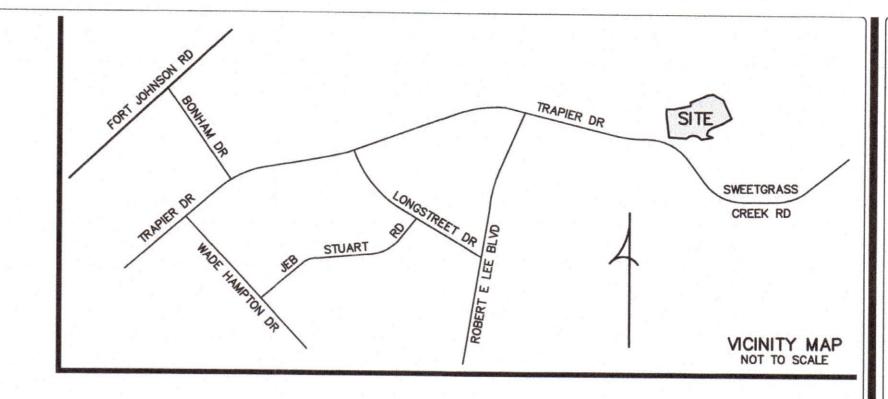
× 4.95 - SPOT ELEVATION (IMPERVIOUS SURFACE)

PAL - PALMETTO

36" OAK (D) - 36" DIAMETER DOUBLE TRUNK OAK

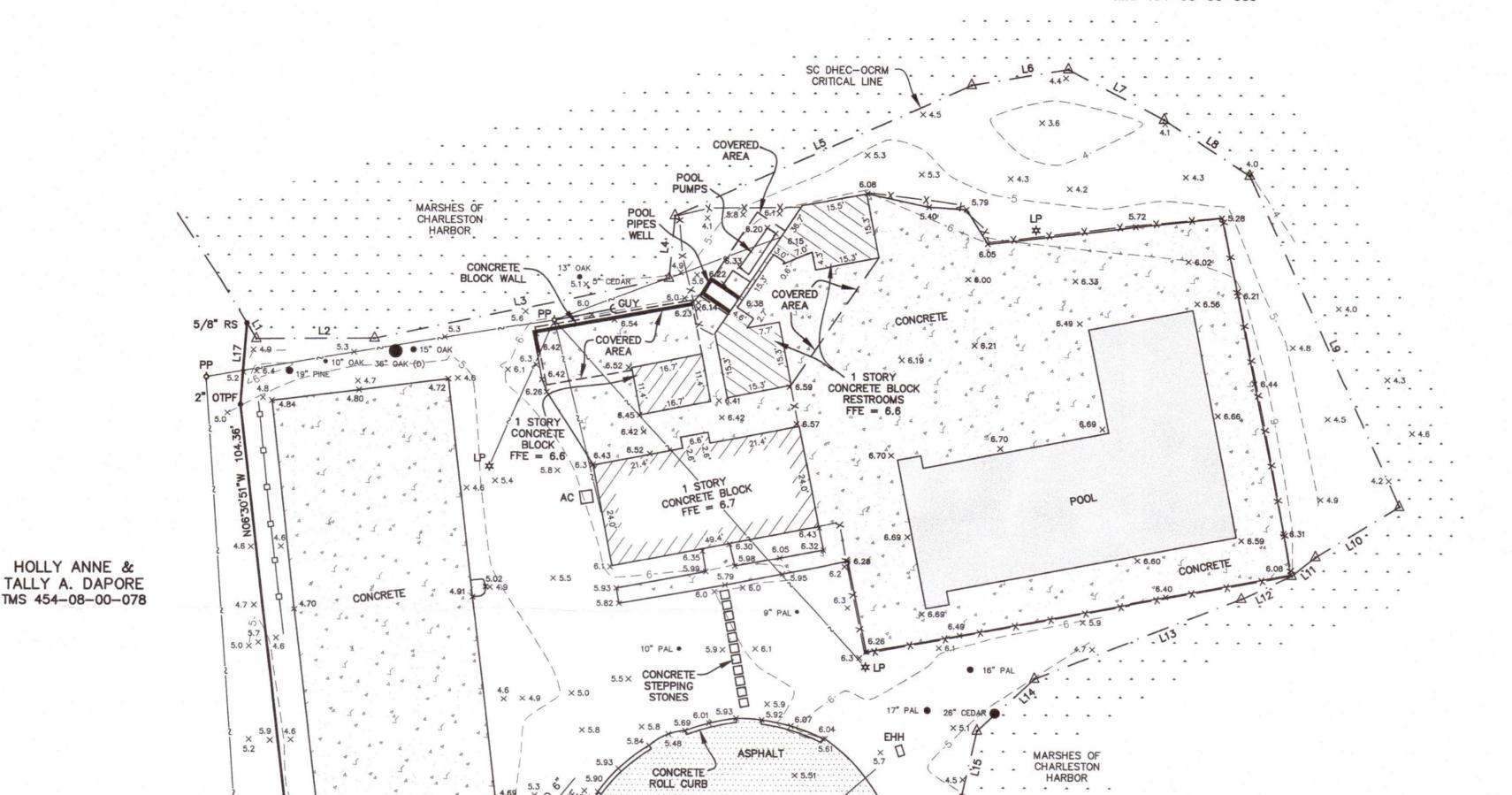
PARCEL LINE TABLE LINE # DIRECTION LENGTH L17 N4"16'58"E

		PAR	RCEL CUF	RVE TABLE	
CURVE #	LENGTH	RADIUS	DELTA	CHORD DIRECTION	CHORD LENGTH
C1	71.30'	40.00'	102°07'58"	N86° 42' 37"W	62.23'
C2	20.58'	40.00	29"28'40"	N22° 02° 52"W	20.35'
С3	31.09'	40.00'	44"31"59"	N16° 31' 58"E	30.31
C4	46.96	40.00'	6715'37"	N72° 14' 42"E	44.31'



HARBOR MARSH ACRES LLC TMS 454-00-00-009

JAMES ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT PUMP STATION No 37 TMS 454-08-00-075



5.28 × IE=3.05

CONTINUED ROUTE OF

IE(18)=2.42

IE(15)=2.74

X 5,61

5.16 SEWER LINE UNKNOWN

5.19

IE=(-)2.96

POLE o

JANET ELIZABETH &

RICHARD LEE JOHNSON

TMS 454-08-00-073

CRITI	CAL LINE	TABLE
LINE #	DIRECTION	LENGTH
L1	S31°03'40"E	4.36'
L2	N89°27'58"E	27.79
L3	N77°54°18"E	70.48
L4	N5°09'00"E	14.92'
L5	N65*54'06"E	76.47'
L6	N80°21'55"E	23.00'
L7	S6213'46"E	25.30'
L8	S56°40'39"E	24.17
L9	S24°25'32"E	85.82'
L10	S58*26'20"W	23.01'
L11	S51"16'23"W	7.19'
L12	S64"6'06"W	13.10'
L13	S68*26'42"W	52.05'
L14	S47°05'21"W	18.25'
L15	S12*50'02*W	16.91
L16	S6819'39"E	26.00'

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

The South Carolina STATE LAW requires that excavators give a 72-Hour notice, (3 working days excluding weekends and holidays), for the locators to get out to mark the area. After a ticket has been processed, you will know when you are legally free to proceed with the digging work and which utilities in the area P.U.P.S. will be notifying for you. Any utilities that P.U.P.S. does not notify, you will be responsible for notifying directly. The Utility Companies ask that you leave a 2 1/2 feet margin on each side of a marked utility line. Also note that your request is good for 15 working days after it has been processed by our system.

I HEREBY STATE THAT TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF, THE SURVEY SHOWN HEREON WAS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS MANUAL FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE RE-QUIREMENTS FOR A CLASS A SURVEY AS SPECIFIED THEREIN.

5/8" RF

N86'58'23"W 100.35'

TRAPIER DRIVE

(S-10-1659) 50' R/W

JEFFREY STEVEN COOPER, R. L. S. No. 12516

THE AREA SHOWN ON THIS PLAT IS A REPRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT (SCDHEC-OCRM) PERMIT AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. CRITICAL AREAS BY THEIR NATURE ARE DYNAMIC AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE OVER TIME. BY DELINEATING THE PERMIT AUTHORITY OF SCDHEC-OCRM, SCDHEC-OCRM IN NO WAY WAIVES ITS RIGHT TO ASSERT PERMIT JURISDICTION AT ANY TIME IN ANY CRITICAL AREA ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WHETHER SHOWN OR NOT.

X 4.5

5/8" RF_{× 5.2}

CONCRETE ROLL CURB

8" SEWER MAIN

4" FORCE MAIN X 5.18

. X.4.95

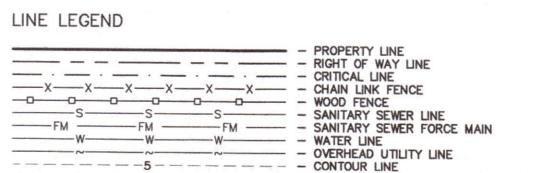
N86*58*23*W 72.56' 5.

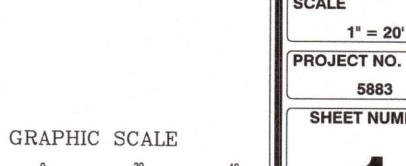
X 5.35

TOP=5.43 IE=(FILLED WITH DIRT)

ASPHALT.

SIGNED BY McKENZIE O'CONNOR ON MAY 2, 2022 The critical line shown on this plat is valid for five years from the date of this signature, subject to the cautionary language above.





(IN FEET)

1 inch = 20 ft.

LAND SURVEYOR JEFFREY S COOPER

ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC.

No. C00343

JANUARY 27, 2022 DRAWN/CHECKED

JSC/LSM LAST REVISED

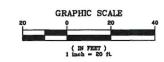
MAY 3, 2022 **APPROVED**

SCALE

1" = 20'

5883 SHEET NUMBER

OF 1





PRE-CONSTRUCTION IMPERVIOUSNESS

IMPERVIOUSNESS=56.7%

POST CONSTRUCTION IMPERVIOUSNESS

BUILDINGS=3,199 SF CONCRETE=12,868 S ASPHALT=2,697 SF POOL=3,138 SF

NET INCREASE=2654 SF TOTAL LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE=0.60 ACRES PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

RENOVATION OF EXISTING CLUB HOUSE, POOL DECK, AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WALKS, SPORTS COURTS, AND ACCESSORY ITEMS.

MAIN CONSTRUCTION EGRESS/INGRESS SHALL BE EXISTING DRIVEWAY ON TRAPIER DRIVE

PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON TRAPIER DRIVE

CONTRACTOR WILL ENSURE THAT ALL ASPECTS OF CONSTRUCTION WILL MEET OR EXCEED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND AND CHARLESTON COUNTY MS4 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT EXCAVATORS GIVE 724HOUR NOTICE, IS WORKING DAY'S EXCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS, FOR THE LOCATORS TO GET OUT TO MAKE THE AREA, AFTER A TICKET HAS BEEN PROCEED WHI THE DIGGOING WORK AND WHICH UTILITIES IN THE AREA PURP. B. WILL BE NOTIFYING FOR YOU, ANY UTILITIES THAT PLU PS DOE NOT NOTIFY. YOU MILL BE REPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING BIRECTLY. THE UTILITY COMPANIES ASK THAT YOU LEAVE A 2 FEET MARGIN ON EACH SIDE OF A MARKED UTILITY WILL ALSO MOTE THAT YOU REQUEST IS GOOD FOR IS WORKING DAYS AFTER IT HAS BEEN PROCESSED BY OUR SYSTEM.





GIE OF NUTRO

JOHNSON ESTATES COMMUNITY CENTER SITE PLAN 398 TRAPIER DRIVE NEW FORT



GRAY M. LEWIS, PE

DATE 11/6/2023

DRAWN/CHECKED

BIB/GML LAST REVISED

APPROVED

4/18/2024

SCALE

1"=20' PROJECT NO. 5883

SHEET NUMBER

Application for Special Exception

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals

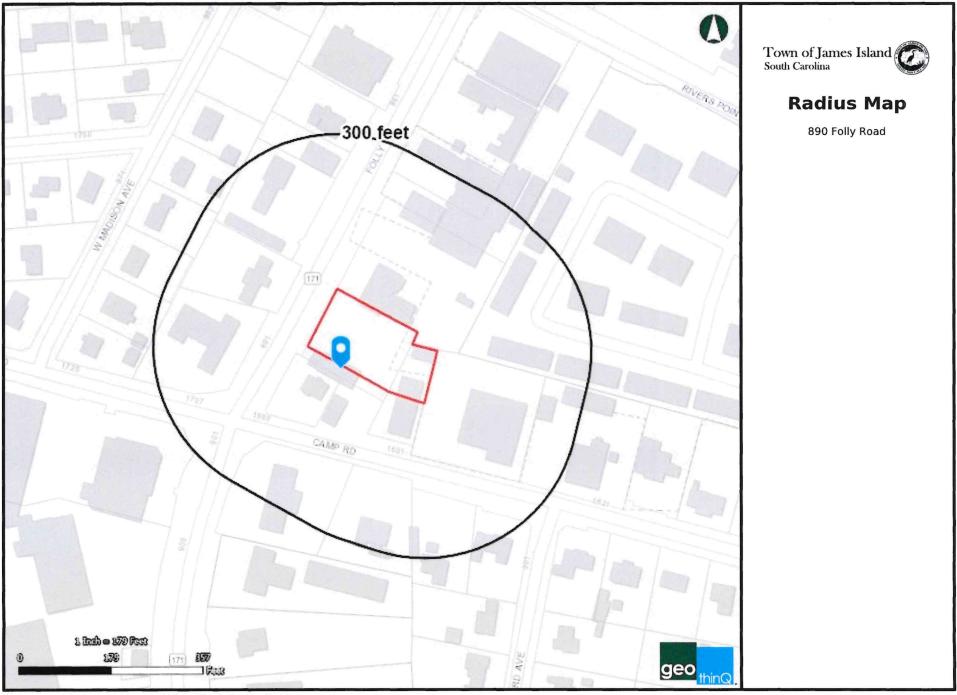
Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department 1122 Dills Bluff Road James Island, SC 29412 Phone 843-795-4141 Fax 843-795-4878 www.jamesislandsc.us



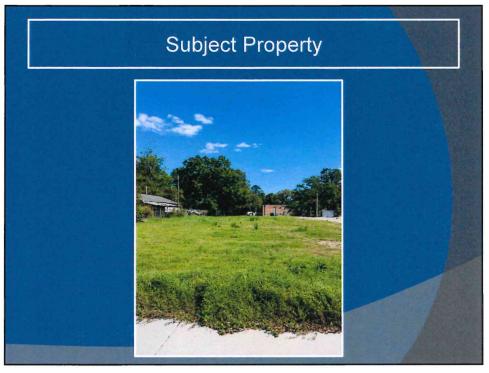
This application must be complete and submitted in person to the Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department in order to apply for a Special Exception. Please read the entire form prior to completing the application. The applicant shall receive a copy of this completed form at the time the application is filed. This application will be returned to the applicant within fifteen (15) working days if these items are not submitted with the application or if any are found to be inaccurate:

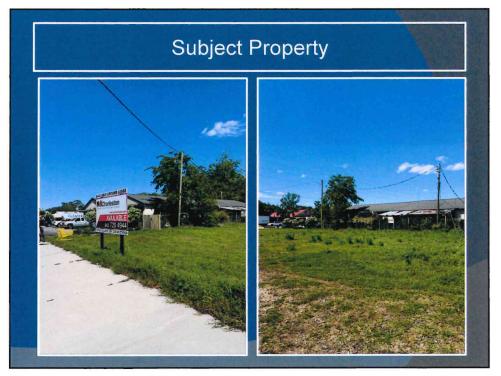
- Completed Special Exception application signed by the current property owner(s).
- Copy of Current Recorded Deed to the property (Owner's signature must match documentation). If the applicant is not the owner of the property, the Current Property Owner(s) must sign and print the Designation of Agent found below.
- Restrictive Covenants & Posted Notice Affidavit(s) signed by the applicant or current property owner(s).
- A letter of intent signed by the applicant or property owner(s) stating the reason for the request that explains why this request should be granted and how it meets the Approval Criteria of §153.045 E. All proposed Special Exceptions, except single family, shall satisfy the Site Plan Review process and attend at least one Site Plan Review meeting prior to submitting this application.
- An accurate, legible **Site Plan drawn to Engineers Scale** must be attached. The site plan must show property dimensions, dimensions and locations of all existing and proposed structures and improvements, parking areas, Grand trees(24" DBH or greater, Pine, Sweetgum, SC Invasive Pest Trees are exempt), wetlands(properties containing DHEC-OCRM Critical Line areas must contain an up to date DHEC-OCRM signature on site plan or plat), holding basins and buffers when applicable. **One 24 x 36 copy & fifteen (15) 11 x 17 copies.**
- 6) Copy of a legible Approved and Recorded Plat showing present boundaries of property.
- 7) Fee \$250 check made out to "Town of James Island".

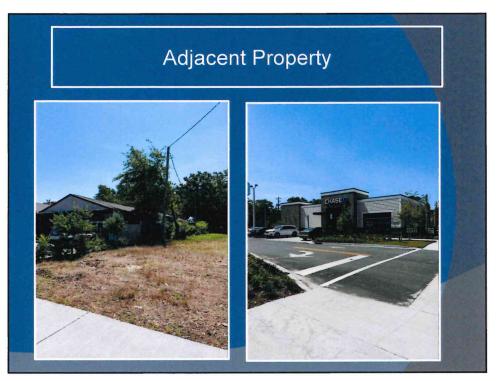
Applicant Name: Dutch Bros., LLC dba Dutch Bros Coffee			
Mailing Address: PO Box 1929			
City, State, Zip Code: Grants Pass, OR 97528 Daytime Phone: (541) 955-4700			
Email Address: Legal@dutchbros.com, shamblin@fg-inc.net			
Subject Property Address: 890 Folly Rd, Charleston, SC 29412			
Present Use of Property: Vacant			
Special Exception Description: Fast food restaurant in the Community Commercial (CC) zone			
Dail J. By 3-11-24			
Applicant Signature Date			
Designation of Agent (Complete only if owner is not applicant): I hereby appoint the person named as Applicant above as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in this application.			
Owner Print Name Owner Mailing Address			
Owner Signature St. Petersburg, FL 33701 City, State, Zip Code			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:			
Application #: <u>BZA5 - 3 - 24 - 029</u> Flood Zone:			
Zoning District: CC FRCO Can Care Fee Paid (\$250): 5250 ck# 29095			
Date Filed: 3/15/2024 Zoning Officer: L			
TMS#: 425-06-00-101			

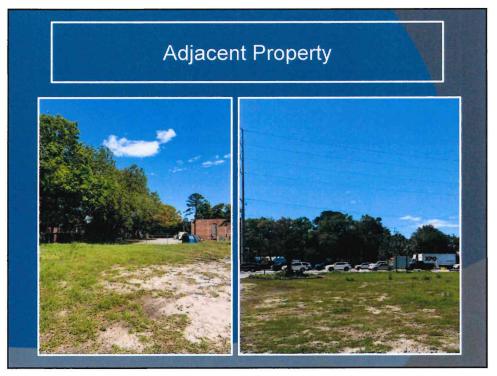


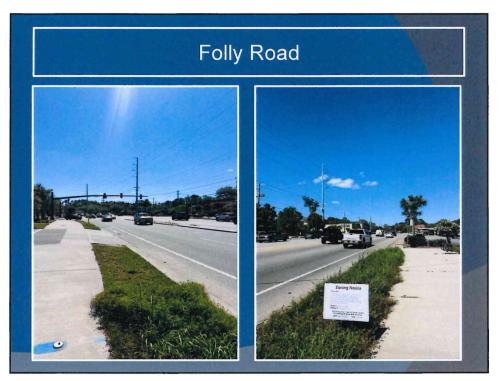
This map was created using geothinQ | www.geothinQ.com | Mapping Smart Land Decisions











Staff Review:

The applicant, Dutch Bros, LLC, is seeking a Special Exception request for a fast-food use (Dutch Bro Coffee) on a vacant lot in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road. In March of 2021, the lot lines at the site were reconfigured to their existing layout, and the existing building (previously Pizza Hut) on the site was demolished. 890 Folly Road (TMS #425-06-00-101) is 0.65 acres in size and is currently vacant. Adjacent properties to the south, north, and west are in the Town of James Island and are zoned CC (Chase Bank, Hyam's Garden & Accent, and a vacant lot, proposed Jimmy John's). The adjacent parcel to the east is in the City of Charleston's jurisdiction and is zoned General Office (Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, utilized by AT&T). Additional uses within 300' include convenience stores and service stations (Circle K), vehicle service (Super Suds Carwash), general restaurant (Tropical Smoothie Café) social club or lodge (VFW), florist (Floriography Studio), drug store (Walgreens), personal improvement services (Folly Jujitsu) and parcels in the Town of James Island zoned RSL and DR-1F in the City of Charleston.

Restaurant, fast-food, including snack bars, shall comply with the special exception procedures on a parcel zoned CC, according to Use Table 153.110.

Section 153.093, FRC-O (H) (2) states that uses requiring a Special Exception include fast-food restaurants.

The applicant is seeking to utilize the property for the operation a drive-thru coffee establishment "Dutch Bros Coffee". Pebble Hill MP, LLC is the current owner of the subject parcel, and the lot is considered legal and conforming.

Findings of Fact:

According to §153.045 E, Special Exceptions Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Special Exceptions may be approved only if the Board of Zoning Appeals finds that the proposed use:

E. (a): Is consistent with the recommendations contained in the Town of James Island

Comprehensive Plan and the character of the underlying zoning district "Purpose".

and Intent";

Response:

According to the Comprehensive Plan, the CC Zoning District is "intended to allow diverse retail and service uses that serve the residential population of the Island and that do not negatively impact the surrounding community" while the Commercial Core of the FRC-O Zoning District "consists of higher intensity commercial uses such as chain type restaurants, vehicle service and repair, drug stores, and shopping centers with minimal buffering along Folly Road. Future development in this area is intended for higher intensity commercial uses than those found in the other areas of the corridor". Furthermore, The Town of James

Island Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Element states a strategy as "encouraging a variety of diverse commercial uses that will benefit the Town as a whole".

E (b): Is compatible with existing uses in the vicinity and will not adversely affect the general welfare or character of the immediate community;

The use may be compatible with most existing uses in the vicinity as nearby Response: properties have a wide range of current uses including convenience stores, service stations, vehicle service, restaurant general, social club or lodge, florist, drug store, personal improvement services, banks, & garden supplies centers. The applicant's letter of intent states "The proposed Dutch Bros Coffee would not adversely affect the general welfare or character of the immediate community. In fact, we believe the proposed Dutch Bros Coffee will provide a great benefit to the community because traffic backs up into Folly Road in the drive-thru line for the nearby Starbucks Coffee. This shows there is a great need for drive-thru coffee in the area, and the addition of Dutch Bros may help alleviate the traffic problems at Starbucks by diverting traffic to the new store."

E (c): Adequate provision is made for such items as: setbacks, buffering (including fences and/or landscaping) to protect adjacent properties from the possible adverse influence of the proposed use, such as noise, vibration, dust, glare, odor, traffic congestion and similar factors;

> A comprehensive landscaping plan is required during the Site Plan Review process to address supplemental buffering, fencing requirements, parking, lighting, and setbacks. The applicants have presented a site plan showing required landscape buffering and in their letter of intent state that "No adverse influence is expected from the proposed use. A drive-thru coffee shop would not contribute any significant noise, dust, glare, or odor; however, a landscape buffer shall be provided along Folly Road and around all parking areas, as established by Town Code. As for traffic congestion, we have provided a traffic memo that does not recommend any offsite improvements and indicates the project would not contribute significantly to traffic congestion".

E (d): Where applicable, will be developed in a way that will preserve and incorporate any important natural features;

The parcel is currently vacant and has been previously prepped for future Response: construction, therefore there are no important natural features on site that will be impacted. Landscaping and vegetation will be incorporated per requirements in the Town's zoning regulations.

Response:

E (e): Complies with all applicable rules, regulations, laws and standards of this

Ordinance, including but not limited to any use conditions, zoning district

standards, or Site Plan Review requirements of this Ordinance; and

Response: The applicant is in the process of ensuring compliance with the applicable

regulations.

E (f): Vehicular traffic and pedestrian movement on adjacent roads shall not be

hindered or endangered.

Response: The applicant's letter of intent states that they "have included a traffic memo

which supports the development of a Dutch Bros Coffee on this site with no offsite improvements recommended. These recommendations are unchanged from the previously approved 896 Folly Road Redevelopment Traffic Impact Analysis (Kimley Horn, October 2020). The memo indicates that the overall intersection delay at the intersection of Camp Road at Folly Road is anticipated to increase by only 3.0 seconds in the AM peak hour and decrease by 0.7 seconds in the PM peak hour. This is considered a negligible increase in level of service." Additionally, the applicant states that "with the development of the adjacent Chase Bank, a 12' multi-use trail was installed along the frontage of this site. Dutch Bros is proposing to connect a sidewalk from their building to

this existing trail to promote pedestrian connectivity".

In granting a Special Exception, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§153.045 E 2).

Action:

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions, or deny CASE #BZAS-3-24-029 (Special Exception request for a fast-food use (Dutch Bros Coffee) on a vacant lot in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road) based on the "Findings of Fact" listed above, unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following condition:

1. Any future proposed fast-food use on the subject parcel must also follow Special Exception procedures as a new application.



960 Morrison Drive, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
o | 770.368.1399
f | 770.368.1944
w | www.foresitegroup.net

March 14, 2024

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals 1122 Dills Bluff Road James Island, SC 29412

RE: Special Exception Request – 890 Folly Road, Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Members of the Board:

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to review our submittal package and consider our request for a special exception to the Town of James Island Code of Ordinances. Below is a list of the approval criteria for a special exception, as defined in Section 153.045 E, and the manner in which they have each been satisfied:

a) Is consistent with the recommendations contained in the Town Comprehensive Plan and the character of the underlying zoning district "purpose and intent;"

The site, 890 Folly Road, is currently zoned Community Commercial (CC) and is within the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District in the Commercial Core Area. Based on feedback from the Planning Director, Kristen Crane, at the Site Plan Review meeting on December 12, 2023, the Town classifies Dutch Bros Coffee as a "fast food restaurant". Fast food restaurants are a permitted use within the Commercial Core Area and are consistent with the Town Comprehensive Plan. Per the Town Code, "this area consists of higher intensity commercial uses such as chain type restaurants... Future development in this area is intended for higher intensity commercial uses... and should place high priority on pedestrian connectivity between businesses and neighborhoods with attractive planted streetscapes and building architecture." With the development of the adjacent Chase Bank, a 12-foot multi-use trail was installed along the frontage of this site. Dutch Bros is proposing to connect a sidewalk from their building to this existing trail to promote pedestrian connectivity. They are also proposing a walk-up order window and a large, covered patio for outdoor dining. Additionally, a minimum 15' vegetated buffer will be planted along Folly Road.

b) Is compatible with existing uses in the vicinity and will not adversely affect the general welfare or character of the immediate community;

A drive-thru coffee chain is compatible with the existing uses in the vicinity, which include a Chick-fil-A, Sonic, Taco Bell, Domino's, gas stations and drug stores, amongst many other commercial businesses. The proposed Dutch Bros Coffee would not adversely affect the general welfare or character of the immediate community. In fact, we believe the proposed Dutch Bros Coffee will provide a great benefit

to the community, because currently traffic backs up into Folly Road in the drive thru line for the nearby Starbucks Coffee. This shows there is a great need for drive thru coffee in the area, and the addition of Dutch Bros may help alleviate the traffic problems at the Starbucks by diverting traffic to the new store.

 Adequate provision is made for such items as: setbacks, buffering (including fences and/or landscaping) to protect adjacent properties from the possible adverse influence of the proposed use, such as noise, vibration, dust, glare, odor, traffic congestion, and similar factors;

No adverse influence is expected from the proposed use. A drive thru coffee shop would not contribute any significant noise, dust, glare, or odor; however, a landscape buffer shall be provided along Folly Road and around all parking areas, as established by the Town Code. As for traffic congestion, we have provided a traffic memo that does not recommend any offsite improvements and indicates the project would not contribute significantly to traffic congestion.

d) Where applicable, will be developed in a way that will preserve and incorporate any important natural features;

There are no known significant natural features on the site, as it was previously cleared and graded. However, if any important natural features are discovered at any time during the life of this project, all appropriate steps will be taken to preserve said features.

 e) Complies with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and standards of this chapter, including but not limited to any use conditions, zoning district standards, or site plan review requirements of this chapter; and

Dutch Bros Coffee has met with Town Staff once already and will continue to work with Town Staff to meet all requirements of the Code of Ordinances throughout the site plan review process.

f) Vehicular traffic and pedestrian movement on adjacent roads shall not be hindered or endangered.

We have included a traffic memo which supports the development of a Dutch Bros Coffee on this site, with no off-site improvements recommended. These recommendations are **unchanged** from the previously approved 896 Folly Road Redevelopment Traffic Impact Analysis (Kimley-Horn, October 2020). The memo indicates that the overall intersection delay at the intersection of Camp Road at Folly Road is anticipated to increase by only 3.0 seconds in the AM peak hour and decrease by 0.7 seconds in the PM peak hour. This is considered a negligible increase in level of service.

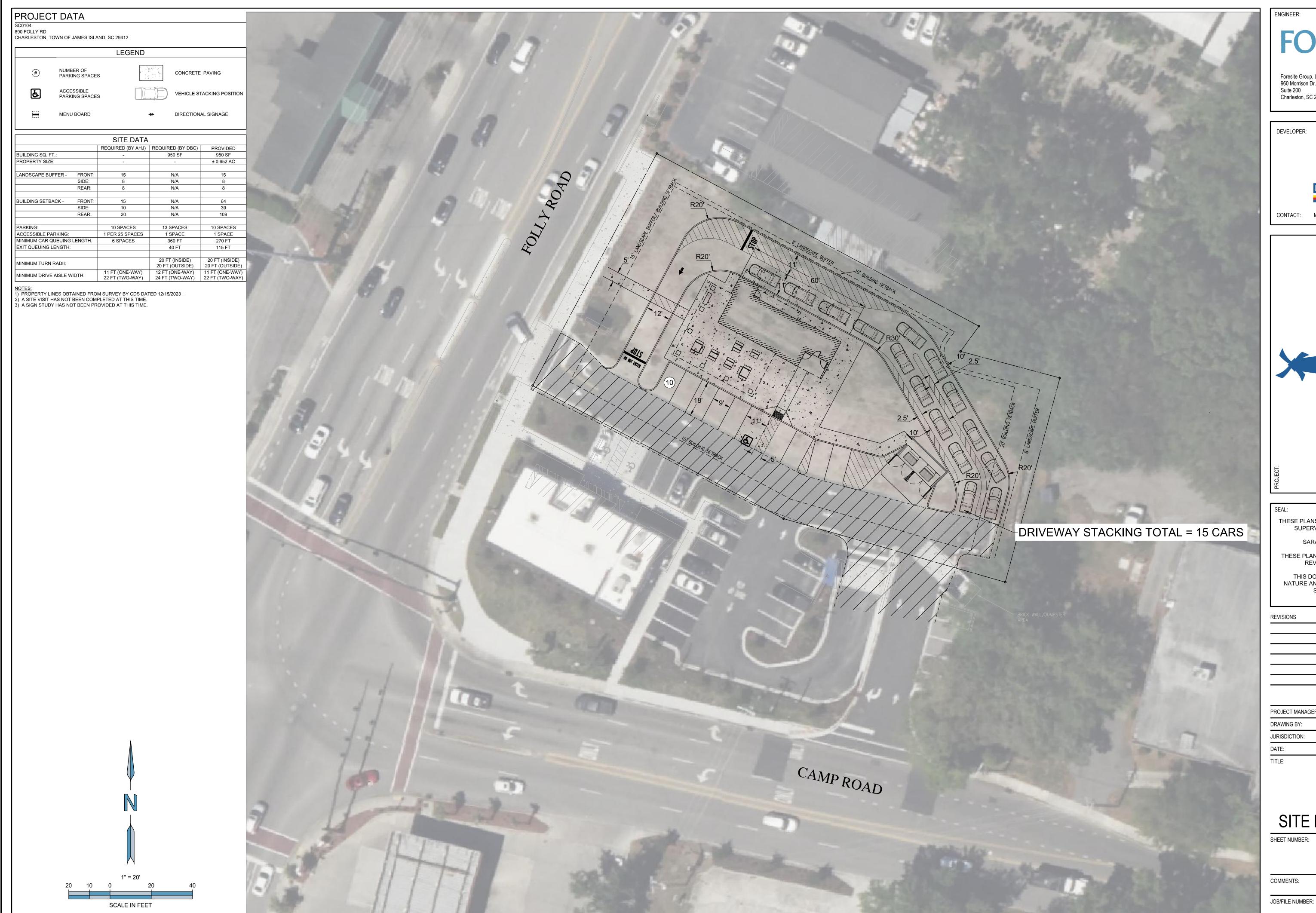
Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

FORESITE GROUP, LLC

Sarah, Hamblin

Sarah Hamblin, PE Division Leader

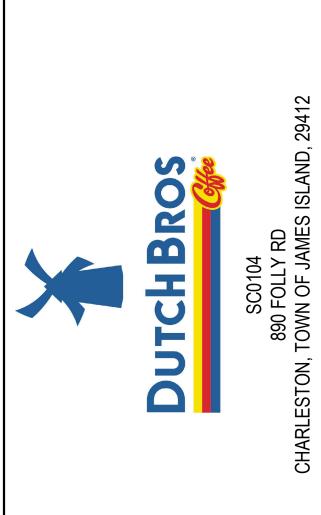


o | 770.368.1399 f | 770.368.1944 Foresite Group, LLC 960 Morrison Dr. **w** | www.foresitegroup.net Suite 200 Charleston, SC 29403

DEVELOPER:



CONTACT: MS. MELANIE DYE



THESE PLANS WERE PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF

SARAH HAMBLIN, PE #35977

THESE PLANS ARE RELEASED FOR INITIAL REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRELIMINARY IN NATURE AND IS NOT A FINAL, SIGNED AND SEALED DOCUMENT

PROJECT MANAGER:	SMH
DRAWING BY:	BSD
JURISDICTION:	TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND
DATE:	03/15/2024

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN (AERIAL)

1 OF 1

NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION

1519.067

CONCRETE PAVING

VEHICLE STACKING POSITION

PARKING SPACES MENU BOARD

ACCESSIBLE

DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

		SITE DATA		
		REQUIRED (BY AHJ)	REQUIRED (BY DBC)	PROVIDED
BUILDING SQ. FT.:		-	950 SF	950 SF
PROPERTY SIZE:		-	-	± 0.652 AC
LANDSCAPE BUFFER -	FRONT:	15	N/A	15
	SIDE:	8	N/A	8
	REAR:	8	N/A	8
BUILDING SETBACK -	FRONT:	15	N/A	64
	SIDE:	10	N/A	39
	REAR:	20	N/A	109
PARKING:		10 SPACES	13 SPACES	9 SPACES
ACCESSIBLE PARKING:		1 PER 25 SPACES	1 SPACE	1 SPACE
MINIMUM CAR QUEUING	LENGTH:	6 SPACES	360 FT	270 FT
EXIT QUEUING LENGTH:			40 FT	115 FT
MINIMUM TURN RADII:			20 FT (INSIDE)	20 FT (INSIDE)
WINNING TOTAL TOTAL			20 FT (OUTSIDE)	20 FT (OUTSIDE)
MINIMUM DRIVE AISLE W	/IDTH:	11 FT (ONE-WAY)	12 FT (ONE-WAY)	11 FT (ONE-WAY)
		22 FT (TWO-WAY)	24 FT (TWO-WAY)	22 FT (TWO-WAY

PROPERTY LINES OBTAINED FROM SURVEY BY CDS DATED 12/15/2023 .

A SITE VISIT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AT THIS TIME.
 A SIGN STUDY HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED AT THIS TIME.

LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS:

ROADWAY BUFFER TYPE S1: 2 CANOPY TREES, 30 SHRUBS, 2 STREE TREES, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES (AT LEAST 50% EVERGREEN) PER 100 LF

FOLLY ROAD (99 LF)

99 LF / 100 LF = 2 CANOPY TREES/STREET TREES, 30 SHRUBS, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES REQUIRED 2 CANOPY TREES/STREET TREES, 30 SHRUBS, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES PROPOSED

NORTH LAND USE PERIMETER BUFFER: 1 CANOPY TREE PER 50 LF; A HEDGE OR OTHER LANDSCAPE MATERIAL OF AT LEAST THREE FEET IN HEIGHT, AT MATURITY, SHALL BE PLANTED WITHIN THE PERIMETER LANDSCAPE AREA TO PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS

227 LF / 50 LF x 1 = 5 CANOPY TREES REQUIRED

4 CANOPY TREES PROPOSED 1 EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN

EAST LAND USE BUFFER TYPE B: 3 CANOPY TREES, 20 SHRUBS, AND 4 UNDERSTORY TREES (AT LEAST 50% EVERGREEN) PER 100 LF

103 LF / 100 LF = 3 CANOPY TREES, 21 SHRUBS, AND 4 UNDERSTORY TREES REQUIRED 3 CANOPY TREES, 21 SHRUBS, AND 2 UNDERSTORY TREES PROPOSED 2 EXISITING PALM TREES TO REMAIN

PARKING LOT LANDSCAPE: MINIMUM OF ONE LANDSCAPE ISLAND PER 10 PARKING SPACES, ISLANDS SHALL BE MINIMUM 325 SF. EACH LANDSCAPE ISLAND MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE CANOPY TREE

1 LANDSCAPE ISLAND AND TREE REQUIRED 1 LANDSCAPE ISLAND AND TREE PROPOSED

PLAN [*]	T SCHE	DULE				
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT	CAL	SIZE	
TREES			·			
	6	QUERCUS PHELLOS / WILLOW OAK	B & B	3"CAL	12` MIN. HT	
	6	QUERCUS SHUMARDII / SHUMARD RED OAK	B & B	3"CAL	12` MIN. HT	
	5	SABAL PALMETTO / CABBAGE PALMETTO	B&B		8` MIN. HT	
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT	SIZE		SPACIN
SHRUBS					_	
	51	ILEX VOMITORIA 'NANA' / DWARF YAUPON HOLLY	3 GAL	MIN. 18"-24" HT		36" o.c.
()	46	ILLICIUM PARVIFLORUM 'FLORIDA SUNSHINE' / FLORIDA SUNSHINE ANISE TREE	3 GAL	MIN. 18"-24" HT		36" o.c.
0	35	THUJA OCCIDENTALIS 'CONGABE' / FIRE CHIEF™ ARBORVITAE	3 GAL	MIN. 18"-24" HT		36" o.c.
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT			SPACIN
GROUND C	OVERS					
	1,523 SF	MULCH	MULCH			
	114	PANICUM VIRGATUM 'HEAVY METAL' / HEAVY METAL SWITCH GRASS	1 GAL			18" o.c.
SOD/SEED						
	5,756 SF	CYNODON DACTYLON `TIF 419` / BERMUDA GRASS	SOD			

PLANT TYPE	MINIMUM SIZE		
CANOPY TREE	2-1/2 INCHES CALIPER AND 12 FEET IN HEIGHT		
EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE 5 FEET IN HEIGHT			
SHRUBS 3 GALLON AND 18-24 INCHES IN HEIGHT OR SP			
UNDERSTORY/ORNAMENTAL TREES 8 FEET IN HEIGHT			
NOTE: AT LEAST 50% OF REQUIRED UNDERSTORY TREES SHALL BE EVERGREENS. ANY PLANT MATERIAL THAT GROWS TO AN ULTIMATE HEIGHT OF LESS THAN 18 INCHES SHALL BE CONSIDERED A GROUNDCOVER AND CANNOT BE USED TO FULFILL ANY OF THE SHRUB REUQUIREMENTS			



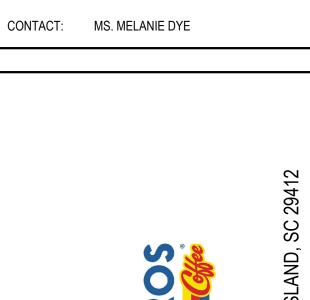


Foresite Group, LLC 960 Morrison Dr. Suite 200 Charleston, SC 29403

o | 770.368.1399 f | 770.368.1944 **w** | www.foresitegroup.net

DEVELOPER:





PROJECT MANAGER: DRAWING BY: TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND JURISDICTION: 05/03/2024 TITLE:

CONCEPT LANDSCAPE PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

1 OF 1

COMMENTS: NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION JOB/FILE NUMBER: 1519.067









A Professional Corporation 3801 Kirby Dr., Suite 600 Houston, Texas 77098 tel: 713 664 7974 fax: 713 664 9756

> Steven D. Pratt, AIA, NCARB

This/These documents are not for regulatory approval, permitting, or construction.

MARCH 12, 2024

CDG PROJECT NUMBER: 202311-339

 $\frac{9}{2}$

ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION:

REV: DATE: DESCRIPTION:

SHEET NAME:

BUILDING ELEVATIONS

SHEET NUMBER:

© 2024 DB Franchising USA, LLC

MATERIALS AND COLORS

Dutch Bros Coffee CHARLESTON, SC

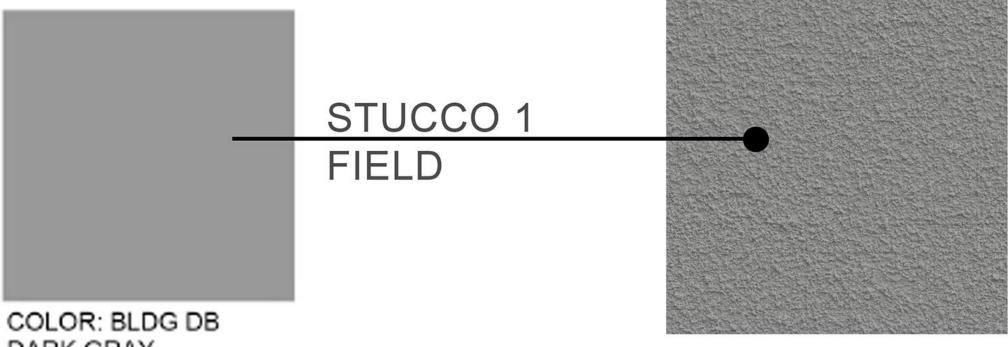
EXTERIORS







ALUMINUM CANOPY METAL CORNICE



STUCCO 2

REAR ACCENT





ELDORADO STONE CLIFFSTONE BANFF SPRINGS





Variance Application

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals

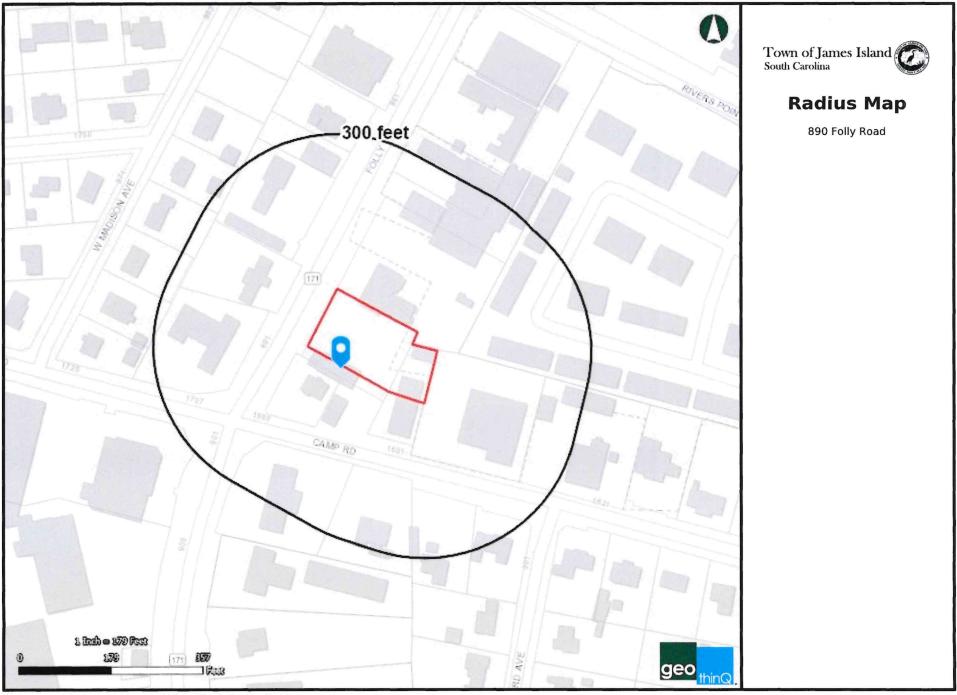
Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department 1122 Dills Bluff Road James Island, SC 29412 Phone 843-795-4141 Fax 843-795-4878 www.jamesislandsc.us



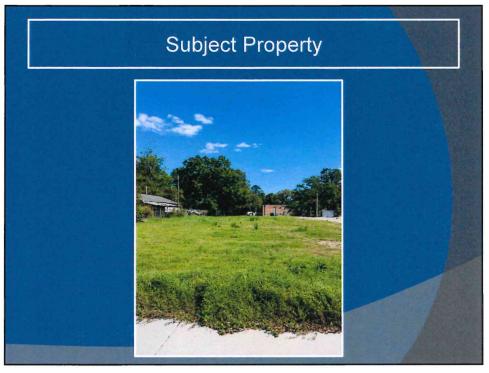
This application must be complete and submitted in person to the Town of James Island Zoning/Planning Department in order to apply for a Variance. Please read the entire form prior to completing the application. The applicant shall receive a copy of this completed form at the time the application is filed. This application will be returned to the applicant within fifteen (15) working days if these items are not submitted with the application or if any are found to be inaccurate:

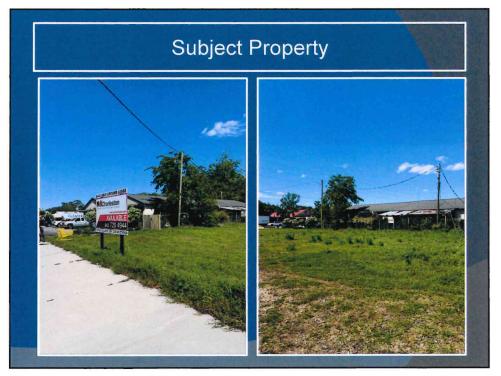
- 1) Completed Variance application signed by the current property owner(s).
- 2) Copy of Current Recorded Deed to the property (Owner's signature must match documentation). If the applicant is not the owner of the property, the Current Property Owner(s) must sign and print the **Designation of Agent** found below.
- 3) Restrictive Covenants & Posted Notice Affidavit(s) signed by the applicant or current property
- 4) A letter of intent signed by the applicant or property owner(s) stating the reason for the request that explains why this request should be granted and how it meets the Approval Criteria of §153.049 F. All proposed Variances, except single family, shall satisfy the Site Plan Review process and attend at least one Site Plan Review meeting prior to submitting this application.
- 5) An accurate, legible Site Plan drawn to Engineers Scale must be attached. The site plan must show property dimensions, dimensions and locations of all existing and proposed structures and improvements, parking areas, Grand trees(24" DBH or greater, Pine, Sweetgum, SC Invasive Pest Trees are exempt), wetlands(properties containing DHEC-OCRM Critical Line areas must contain an up to date DHEC-OCRM signature on site plan or plat), holding basins and buffers when applicable.
 - One 24 x 36 copy & fifteen (15) 11 x 17 copies.
- Copy of a legible Approved and Recorded Plat showing present boundaries of property. 6)

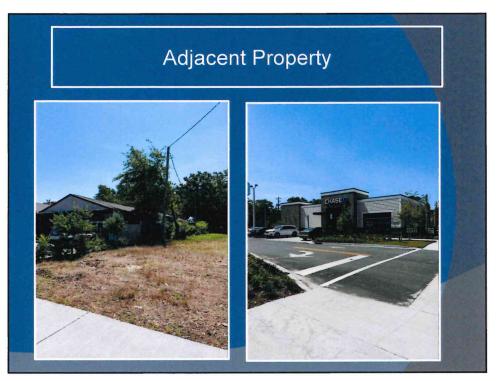
ree \$250 check made out to Town of James Island . Grand free variances and \$50 each additional free
Applicant Name: Dutch Bros., LLC dba Dutch Bros Coffee
Mailing Address: PO Box 1929
City, State, Zip Code: Grants Pass, OR 97528 Daytime Phone: (541) 955-4700
Email Address: Legal@dutchbros.com, shamblin@fg-inc.net
Subject Property Address: 890 Folly Rd, Charleston, SC 29412
Present Use of Property: Vacant
Variance Description. Double drive-through lane
1/1/2 1/1 4/12/A
Date Designation of Agent (Complete only if owner is not applicant): I hereby appoint the person named as Applicant above as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in this application. 200 2nd Avenue, # 402
Owner Print Name Date Owner Mailing Address
St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Owner Signature City, State, Zip Code
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
Application #: <u>BZAV - 4 - 24 - 038</u> Flood Zone:
Zoning District: Fee Paid (\$250):
Date Filed: 4 19 2024 Zoning Officer: UC
TMS#: 425-06-00-101

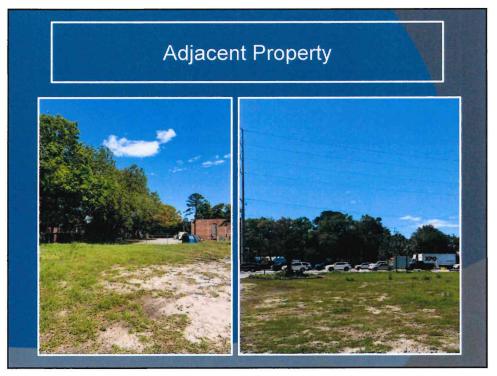


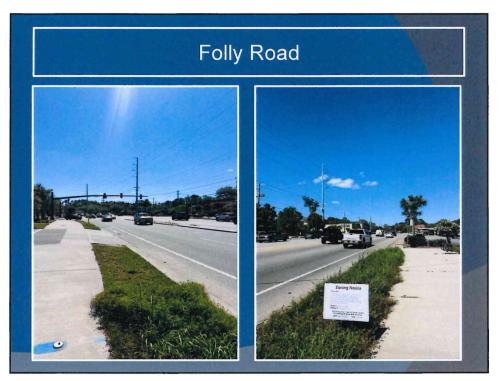
This map was created using geothinQ | www.geothinQ.com | Mapping Smart Land Decisions











Staff Review:

The applicant, Dutch Bros, LLC, is seeking a Variance for the construction of a double-drive thru for a proposed fast-food use (Dutch Brothers Coffee) on a vacant lot in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road (TMS #425-06-00-101). In March of 2021, the lot lines at the site were reconfigured to their existing layout, and the existing building (previously Pizza Hut) on the site was demolished. The property is 0.65 acres in size, zoned Community Commercial (CC), and is currently vacant and was previously prepped for development. Adjacent property to the south, north, and west is in the Town of James Island and zoned Community Commercial (Chase Bank, Hyam's Garden & Accent, and a vacant lot, future Jimmy John's). The adjacent parcel to the east is in the City of Charleston's jurisdiction and is zoned General Office (Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, utilized by AT&T). Additional uses within 300' include convenience stores and service stations (Circle K), vehicle service (Super Suds Carwash), general restaurant (Tropical Smoothie Café) social club or lodge (VFW), florist (Floriography Studio), drug store (Walgreens), personal improvement services (Folly Jujitsu) and parcels in the Town of James Island zoned RSL and DR-1F in the City of Charleston.

Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance, § **153.336 D(2)(c) ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES.** "Only single lane drive-throughs are allowed. Multi-lane drive-throughs are only allowed for banks (or similar financial institutions), post office, or utilities."

According to the applicant's letter of intent they are "seeking a variance to ordinance section 153.336(D)(2)(c) and requesting a double drive-through lane to increase the stacking capacity on site and improve traffic flow" for the operation a drive-thru coffee establishment Dutch Bros Coffee. Pebble Hill MP, LLC is the current owner of the subject parcel, and the lot is considered legal and conforming.

Findings of Fact:

According to §153.049 F, Zoning Variance Approval Criteria of the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Appeals makes and explains in writing the following findings:

F (a): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

Response:

There may be extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to this piece of property due to its constricting size and the existing location of a shared access drive on the property. As the letter of intent states, "the subject property is 0.652 acres, of which 0.127 acres is already developed with a shared access drive with the adjacent Chase Bank". Additionally, the applicant states that the "existing access drive has easements and restrictive covenants in place which would prohibit the rearrangement of the drive."

F (b): Response: These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

These conditions may not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity.

These conditions may not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity as no commercial properties nearby have a shared access drive utilizing 0.12 acres of property nor the existing configuration and layout of the subject property. Although there are five commercial properties in the vicinity that are smaller than 0.525 acres according to Charleston County records, there is only one double-drive thru fast food use, in which the parcel is larger.

F (c):

Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Response:

The application of this Ordinance, specifically section §153.336, Architectural and Landscape Design Guidelines, may not prohibit the utilization of the property as a drive-through fast food use. However, according to the letter of intent Dutch Bros Coffees "use double drive through lanes, dynamic ordering, and drink runners to help make the order experience smoother and more enjoyable" and "granting of this variance allows Dutch Bros Coffee to operate to the best of their ability, provide the highest quality service and experience to their customers, and mitigate any negative impacts to the adjacent properties and the surrounding community". Therefore, not granting the variance may unreasonably restrict the use from operating at full capacity or to the best of their ability.

F (d):

The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response:

The authorization of this variance may not be a detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance. As the applicant's letter of intent states, "a double drive-through lane allows more cars to get on site and out of the shared access drive with Chase and reduces overflow onto the surrounding

streets, Folly Road, and Camp Road." Furthermore, the applicant indicates that the variance request is made "to protect the safety of our customers and employees, and to improve traffic flow" and that "granting of this variance allows Dutch Bros Coffee to operate to the best of their ability, provide the highest quality service and experience to their customers, and mitigate any negative impacts to the adjacent properties and the surrounding community."

F (e):

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance to the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a non-conforming use of land or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map;

Response:

The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries.

F (f): Response: The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; and Constraints such as the size of the property and the location of the shared access drive are existing site conditions and may not be the result of the applicant's own actions. Additionally, the need for the variance, as the applicant explains, is to "increase the stacking capacity on site and improve traffic flow."

F (g):

Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

Response:

Ordinance section 153.336 ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES state the purpose of the standards is "to promote and protect the appearance, character, and economic value of new development; to encourage creativity in new development (as opposed to homogeneity or "look-alike" projects); and to foster attractive streetscapes and pedestrian environments, while accommodating safe vehicular movements and access." Therefore, the variance may not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, specifically the Transportation Element needs of "Mitigating the impacts of a changing population on the existing transportation system".

In granting a Variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§153.045 E 2).

Action:

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny Case # BZAV-4-24-038 Variance Request for the construction of a double-drive thru for a proposed fast-food use (Dutch Brothers Coffee) in the Community Commercial (CC) Zoning District and in the Commercial Core of the Folly Road Corridor Overlay (FRC-O) Zoning District at 890 Folly Road—Town of James Island (TMS #425-06-00-101) based on the "Findings of Fact" listed above, unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following condition:

1. Any future proposed double-drive thru on the subject parcel must also follow Variance procedures as a new application.



960 Morrison Drive, Suite 200 Charleston, South Carolina 29403 o | 770.368.1399

w www.foresitegroup.net

770.368.1944

April 19, 2024

Town of James Island Board of Zoning Appeals 1122 Dills Bluff Road James Island, SC 29412

RE: Variance Request – 890 Folly Road, Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Members of the Board:

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to review our submittal package and consider our request for a variance to the Town of James Island Code of Ordinances. We are seeking a variance to Ordinance 153.336(D)(2)(c) and requesting a double drive-through lane to increase the stacking capacity on site and improve traffic flow. Below is a list of the approval criteria for a variance, as defined in Section 153.049 F, and the manner in which they have each been satisfied:

 There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

The subject property is 0.652-acres, of which 0.127 acres is already developed with a shared access drive with the adjacent Chase Bank. The existing access drive has easements and restrictive covenants in place, which would prohibit the rearrangement of this drive. Therefore, the total developable area of the site is 0.525-acres. That is already a very small commercial site, but the shared access drive further restricts the space for the drive thru to stack around the building, like a stand along site could accommodate.

b. These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

To my knowledge, there are not any other properties of comparable size within the Town of James Island that have a shared access drive with the adjacent property.

 Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Due to the size and configuration of the property and the existing shared access on the site, the application of the single drive-through lane Ordinance (153.336(D)(2)(c)) would unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property as a drive-through business. A single drive-through lane would stack up much faster and negatively impact the shared access utilized by the existing Chase Bank, and could back up to Folly Road and Camp Road, thus negatively impacting the community.

d. The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Authorization of a double drive-through would not cause any detriment to the adjacent property or the public good, nor would it negatively affect the character of the zoning district. Conversely, the application of this Ordinance would cause a detriment to the adjacent Chase Bank and to those traveling on Folly Road and Camp Road, because a single drive-through lane stacks up faster than a double drive-through lane. A double drive-through lane allows more cars to get on site and out of the shared access drive with Chase and reduces overflow onto the surrounding streets, Folly Road and Camp Road.

e. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a non conforming use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map;

The proposed development is an allowed use within this zoning district, with the granting of the special exception also requested of the BZA.

f. The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; and

The site constraints are existing and were not created as a result of the applicant's own actions.

g. Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of this Ordinance.

The proposed development is compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to meeting the approval criteria, a precedent has been set by granting the variance for a double drive-through lane for the nearby Chick-fil-a. Although the site constraints are different, the request is made in the same spirit — to protect the safety of our customers and employees, and to improve traffic flow.

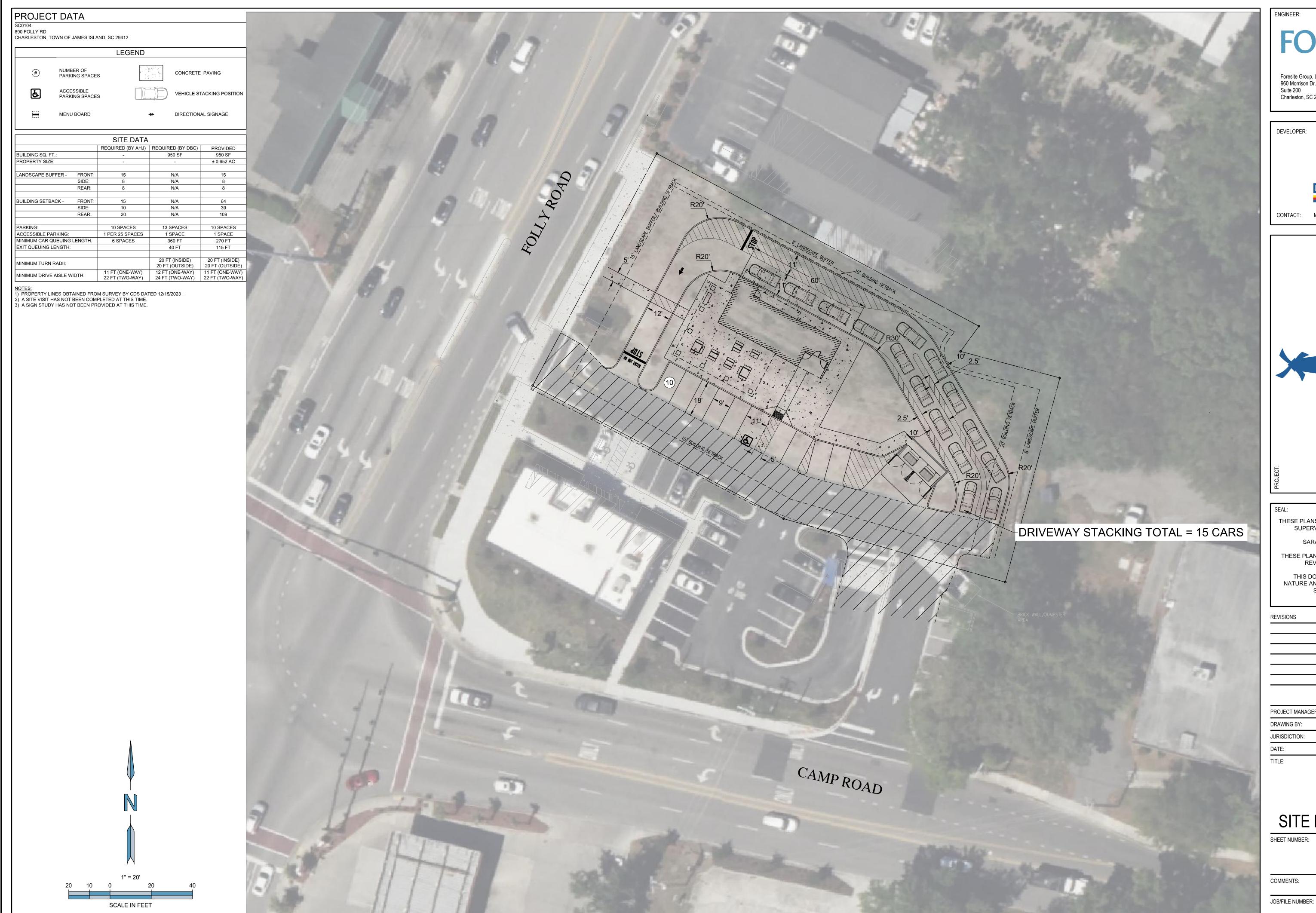
Dutch Bros Coffee operates in a very similar way to Chick-fil-a. There is no order box. They use double drive-through lanes, dynamic ordering, and drink runners all to help make the ordering experience smoother and more enjoyable. Granting of this variance allows Dutch Bros Coffee to operate to the best of their ability, provide the highest quality service and experience to their customers, and mitigate any negative impacts to the adjacent properties and surrounding community.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

FORESITE GROUP, LLC

Sarah Hamblin, PE Division Leader

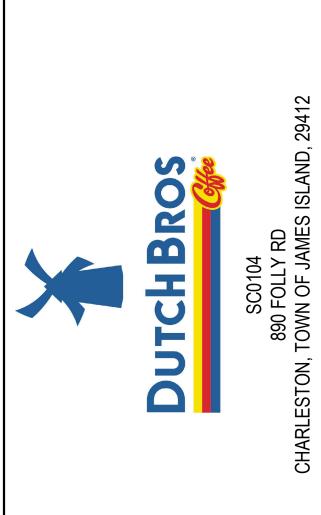


o | 770.368.1399 f | 770.368.1944 Foresite Group, LLC 960 Morrison Dr. **w** | www.foresitegroup.net Suite 200 Charleston, SC 29403

DEVELOPER:



CONTACT: MS. MELANIE DYE



THESE PLANS WERE PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF

SARAH HAMBLIN, PE #35977

THESE PLANS ARE RELEASED FOR INITIAL REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRELIMINARY IN NATURE AND IS NOT A FINAL, SIGNED AND SEALED DOCUMENT

PROJECT MANAGER:	SMH
DRAWING BY:	BSD
JURISDICTION:	TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND
DATE:	03/15/2024

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN (AERIAL)

1 OF 1

NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION

1519.067

CHARLESTON, T	OWN OF JAMES ISLAND, SO	C 29412	
		LEGEND	
#)	NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES	4 a	CONCRETE PAVING
৳	ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES		VEHICLE STACKING POSITION
\blacksquare	MENU BOARD	-0-	DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

		SITE DATA		
		REQUIRED (BY AHJ)	REQUIRED (BY DBC)	PROVIDED
BUILDING SQ. FT.:		-	950 SF	950 SF
PROPERTY SIZE:		-	-	± 0.652 AC
LANDSCAPE BUFFER -	FRONT:	15	N/A	15
	SIDE:	8	N/A	8
	REAR:	8	N/A	8
BUILDING SETBACK -	FRONT.	15	N/A	64
	SIDE:	10	N/A	39
	REAR:	20	N/A	109
PARKING:		10 SPACES	13 SPACES	9 SPACES
ACCESSIBLE PARKING:		1 PER 25 SPACES	1 SPACE	1 SPACE
MINIMUM CAR QUEUING	LENGTH:	6 SPACES	360 FT	270 FT
EXIT QUEUING LENGTH:			40 FT	115 FT
			OO ET (INICIDE)	OO ET (INICIDE)
MINIMUM TURN RADII:			20 FT (INSIDE) 20 FT (OUTSIDE)	20 FT (INSIDE) 20 FT (OUTSIDE)
MINIMUM DRIVE AISLE WIDTH:		11 FT (ONE-WAY) 22 FT (TWO-WAY)	12 FT (ONE-WAY) 24 FT (TWO-WAY)	11 FT (ONE-WAY) 22 FT (TWO-WAY)

NOTES:
1) PROPERTY LINES OBTAINED FROM SURVEY BY CDS DATED 12/15/2023.
2) A SITE VISIT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AT THIS TIME.
3) A SIGN STUDY HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED AT THIS TIME.

LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS:

ROADWAY BUFFER TYPE S1: 2 CANOPY TREES, 30 SHRUBS, 2 STREE TREES, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES (AT LEAST 50% EVERGREEN) PER 100 LF

99 LF / 100 LF = 2 CANOPY TREES/STREET TREES, 30 SHRUBS, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES REQUIRED 2 CANOPY TREES/STREET TREES, 30 SHRUBS, AND 3 UNDERSTORY TREES PROPOSED

NORTH LAND USE PERIMETER BUFFER: 1 CANOPY TREE PER 50 LF; A HEDGE OR OTHER LANDSCAPE MATERIAL OF AT LEAST THREE FEET IN HEIGHT, AT MATURITY, SHALL BE PLANTED WITHIN THE PERIMETER LANDSCAPE AREA TO PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS

227 LF / 50 LF x 1 = 5 CANOPY TREES REQUIRED 4 CANOPY TREES PROPOSED

1 EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN

EAST LAND USE BUFFER TYPE B: 3 CANOPY TREES, 20 SHRUBS, AND 4 UNDERSTORY TREES (AT LEAST 50% EVERGREEN) PER 100 LF

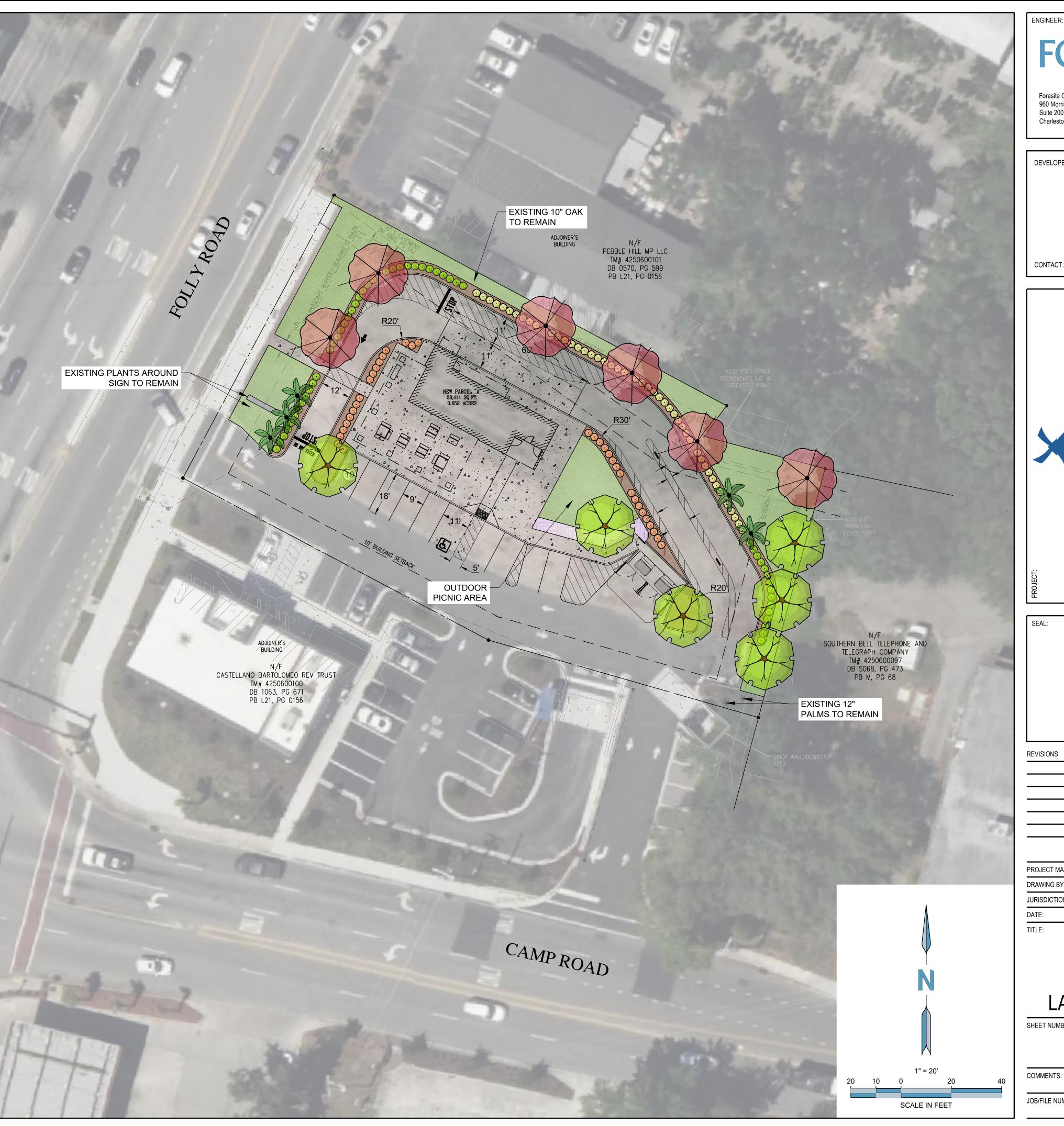
103 LF / 100 LF = 3 CANOPY TREES, 21 SHRUBS, AND 4 UNDERSTORY TREES REQUIRED 3 CANOPY TREES, 21 SHRUBS, AND 2 UNDERSTORY TREES PROPOSED 2 EXISITING PALM TREES TO REMAIN

PARKING LOT LANDSCAPE: MINIMUM OF ONE LANDSCAPE ISLAND PER 10 PARKING SPACES, ISLANDS SHALL BE MINIMUM 325 SF. EACH LANDSCAPE ISLAND MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE CANOPY TREE

1 LANDSCAPE ISLAND AND TREE REQUIRED 1 LANDSCAPE ISLAND AND TREE PROPOSED

PLAN [*]	PLANT SCHEDULE					
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME CONT CAL SIZ			SIZE	
TREES						
	6	QUERCUS PHELLOS / WILLOW OAK	B & B	3"CAL	12` MIN. HT	
	6	QUERCUS SHUMARDII / SHUMARD RED OAK B & B 3"CAL 12` M		12` MIN. HT		
	5	SABAL PALMETTO / CABBAGE PALMETTO	B&B		8` MIN. HT	
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT	SIZE		SPACING
SHRUBS			_			
	51	ILEX VOMITORIA 'NANA' / DWARF YAUPON HOLLY	3 GAL	MIN. 18"-24" HT		36" o.c.
0	46	ILLICIUM PARVIFLORUM 'FLORIDA SUNSHINE' / FLORIDA SUNSHINE ANISE TREE	3 GAL	MIN. 18"-24" HT		36" o.c.
0	35 THUJA OCCIDENTALIS 'CONGABE' / FIRE CHIEF™ ARBORVITAE 3 GAL MIN. 18"-24" HT			36" o.c.		
SYMBOL	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT			SPACING
GROUND C	OVERS					
	1,523 SF	SF MULCH MULCH				
	114	PANICUM VIRGATUM 'HEAVY METAL' / HEAVY METAL SWITCH GRASS	1 GAL			18" o.c.
SOD/SEED						
	5,756 SF	CYNODON DACTYLON `TIF 419` / BERMUDA GRASS	SOD			

PLANT TYPE	MINIMUM SIZE		
CANOPY TREE	2-1/2 INCHES CALIPER AND 12 FEET IN HEIGHT		
EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE	5 FEET IN HEIGHT		
SHRUBS	3 GALLON AND 18-24 INCHES IN HEIGHT OR SPREAD		
UNDERSTORY/ORNAMENTAL TREES	8 FEET IN HEIGHT		
NOTE: AT LEAST 50% OF REQUIRED UNDERSTORY TREES SHALL BE EVERGREENS. ANY PLANT MATERIAL THAT GROWS TO AN ULTIMATE HEIGHT OF LESS THAN 18 INCHES SHALL BE CONSIDERED A GROUNDCOVER AND CANNOT BE USED TO FULFILL ANY OF THE SHRUB REUQUIREMENTS			





Foresite Group, LLC 960 Morrison Dr. Suite 200 Charleston, SC 29403

w | www.foresitegroup.net

f | 770.368.1944

DEVELOPER:



CONTACT: MS. MELANIE DYE

PROJECT MANAGER: DRAWING BY: TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND JURISDICTION: 05/03/2024 TITLE:

CONCEPT LANDSCAPE PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

1 OF 1

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