## Buncombe County Planning Board March 4, 2013

The Buncombe County Planning Board met March 4, 2013 in the meeting room at 30 Valley Street. Members present were Jim Young, Bud Sales, Josh Holmes, Vice—Chairman Bernie Kessel, Michelle Wood, Greg Phillips, Joe Sechler, and Catherine Martin. Also present were Gillian Phillips, Planning staff; Josh O'Conner, Zoning Administrator; Dave Spector, CDM-Smith; and Michael Frue, County Attorney.

## **Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Kessel called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes (February 18, 2013)**

Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Sechler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

<u>SUB2013-00033:</u> "Biltmore Lake Subdivision, Block J," located at the end of Greenwells Glory Drive (PIN 9616-13-7499) seeking preliminary approval.

The Board was provided with the following items prior to the meeting: the recommended staff conditions for the preliminary approval (Attachment A) and the submitted plans (Attachment B). Will Buie (Lapsley and Associates) and Lee Thompson (Biltmore Farms) were present to represent the case. Mr. Buie presented the Board with a master plan of the Biltmore Lake Community (Attachment C). This was not presented to the Board for approval, but just as an overall view of the layout of the community. Mr. Buie indicated that they were proposing 32 lots as a phase of the Biltmore Lake Subdivision (Block J). He indicated that Mike Goodson had approved the submitted stormwater plans, but was waiting for a letter of credit before issuing the permit. Mr. Buie stated that water line and sewer line plans had been submitted to the appropriate agencies, and that the road was well within the Subdivision Ordinance's corridor width requirements. The Board discussed the project. Mr. Sechler asked why the number of lots had increased over the master plan. Mr. Buie indicated that a less expensive product was planned for this section of the subdivision, and Biltmore Farms would be the builder as opposed to custom home builders. Mr. Young asked some question regarding stormwater design, Metropolitan Sewerage District requirements (MSD), and water lines. There was discussion regarding access to the project, and what amenities would be provided in this section of the development. There being no one wishing to make public comment, Ms. Wood made a motion to grant preliminary approval with staff conditions. Ms. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## <u>Further Discussion Of The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update</u>

## Limitations on Height

The Board was provided with information regarding this concept (Attachment D). Mr. O'Conner described the concept to the Board, indicating that with some tall structures, such as office buildings and other taller structures, a variance in height was not the correct way to address height, as in most cases it did not meet the standards laid out for a variance for height. Staff was proposing to allow height increases, in some cases, as a Conditional Use Permit, as a CUP could be more specific to the context of a project and did not have to have show a hardship. The Board indicated that this seemed reasonable.

## **Manufactured Housing**

The Board was provided with information regarding this concept (Attachment E). Mr. O'Conner indicated that staff was proposing there be a clear separation in the Zoning Ordinance between mobile homes and mobile home parks. There was discussion regarding the different ways to achieve this. The Board discussed different types of mobile homes, and the difference between mobile homes and modular homes. The Board expressed concern regarding people being able to place mobile homes on family property for family members. There was discussion regarding placing standards on mobile homes. Mr. O'Conner indicated that past standards had been hard to enforce and had added a burden to the homeowner.

## Suitability Charts and Suitability Map

This concept was introduced at the previous meeting. The board was provided with a proposed suitability chart (Attachment F) and suitability maps (Attachment G). Mr. O'Conner provided the Board with examples of how the maps and chart would work together. Mr. O'Conner explained how staff, the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, and developers would utilize the tools. The Board expressed their approval and indicated that this would be a very useful tool for those involved in development. They indicated that they would like it to be available on the County's GIS website. There was discussion when the maps would be available to the public.

## **Public Comment**

Dede Stiles wished to make public comment, and expressed support of allowing mobile homes in more districts. Ms. Stiles then expressed the need for additional regulations for larger homes on higher elevations and steeper slopes.

#### Adjournment

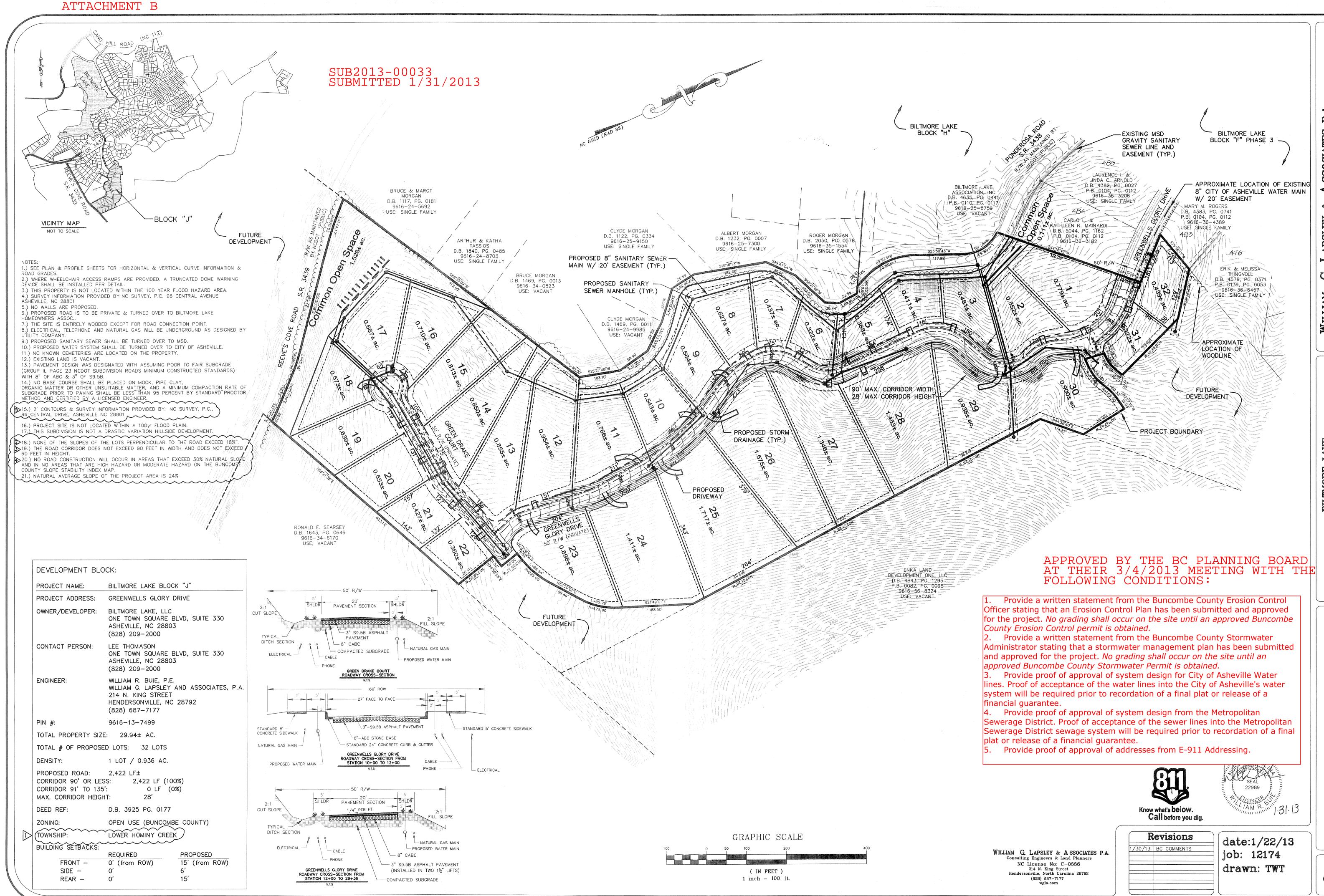
Jim Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## ATTACHMENT A

## Biltmore Lake Block J

If approved by the Buncombe County Planning Board, the applicant shall provide the following information on a revised set of plans (if necessary) submitted to the Buncombe County Department of Planning and Development:

- 1. Provide a written statement from the Buncombe County Erosion Control Officer stating that an Erosion Control Plan has been submitted and approved for the project. No grading shall occur on the site until an approved Buncombe County Erosion Control permit is obtained.
- 2. Provide a written statement from the Buncombe County Stormwater Administrator stating that a stormwater management plan has been submitted and approved for the project. No grading shall occur on the site until an approved Buncombe County Stormwater Permit is obtained.
- 3. Provide proof of approval of system design for City of Asheville Water lines. Proof of acceptance of the water lines into the City of Asheville's water system will be required prior to recordation of a final plat or release of a financial guarantee.
- 4. Provide proof of approval of system design from the Metropolitan Sewerage District. Proof of acceptance of the sewer lines into the Metropolitan Sewerage District sewage system will be required prior to recordation of a final plat or release of a financial guarantee.
- 5. Provide proof of approval of addresses from E-911 Addressing.



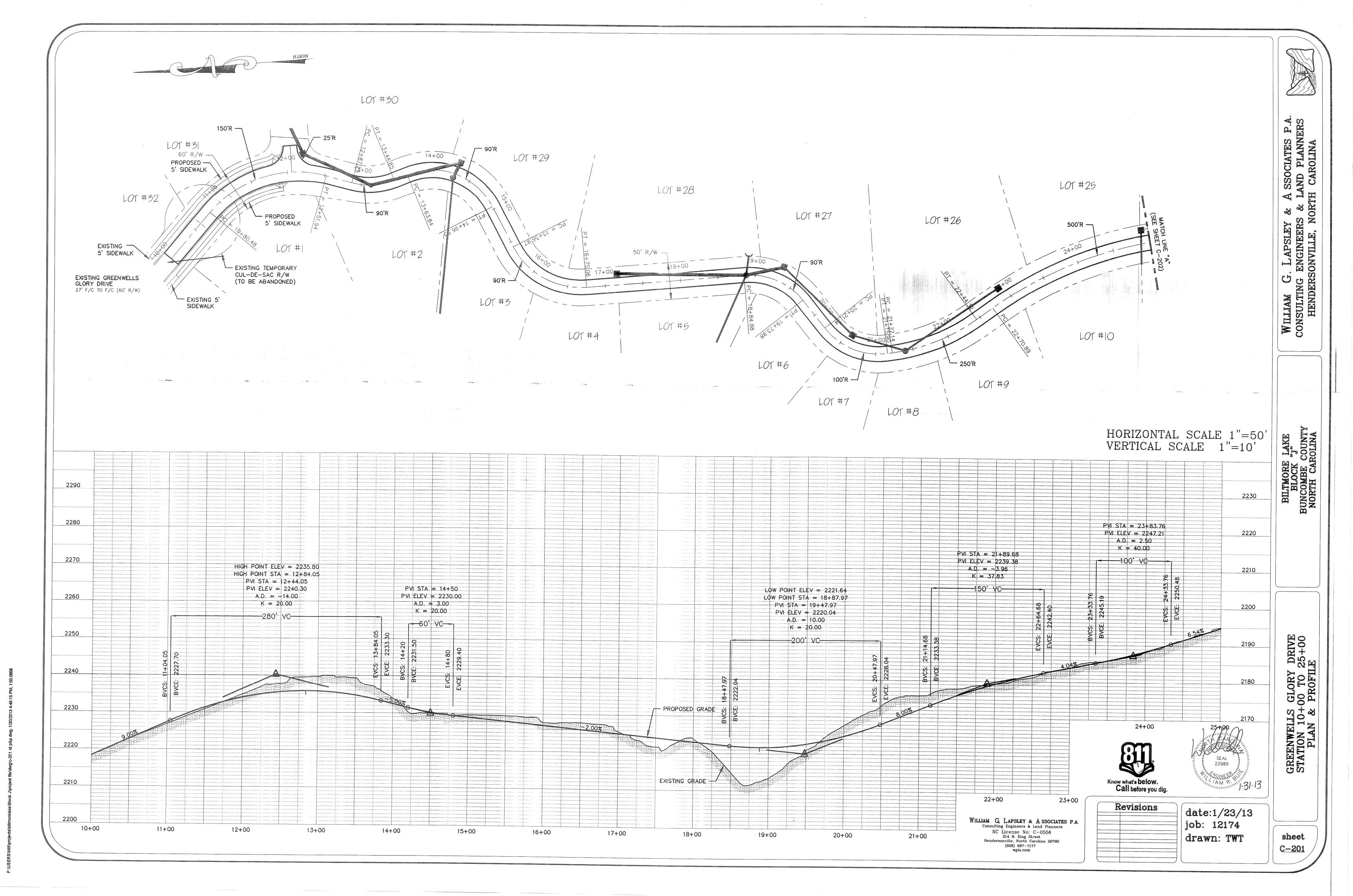
WILLIAM G. LAPSLEY & CONSULTING ENGINEERS HENDERSONVILLE, NO

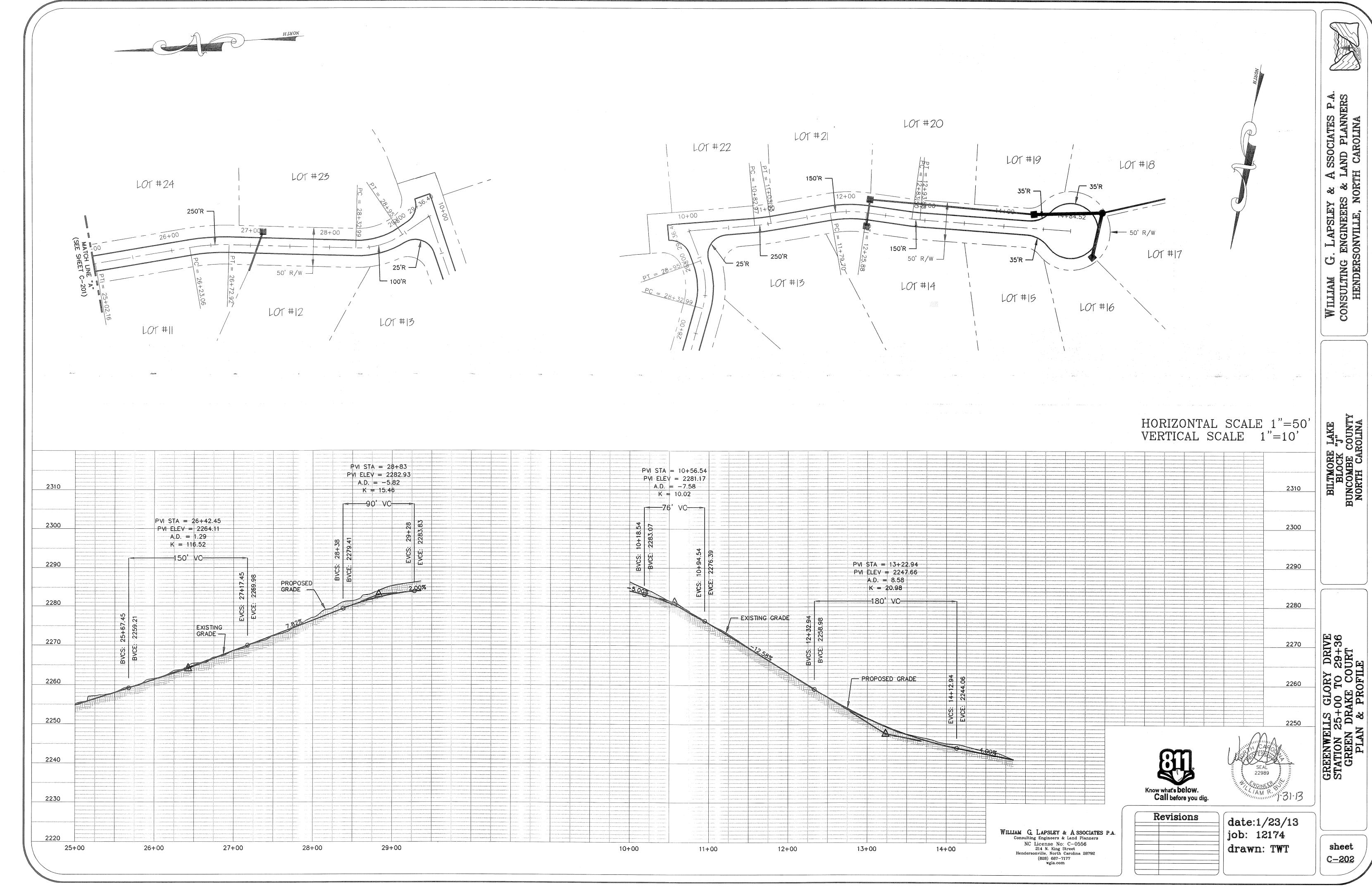
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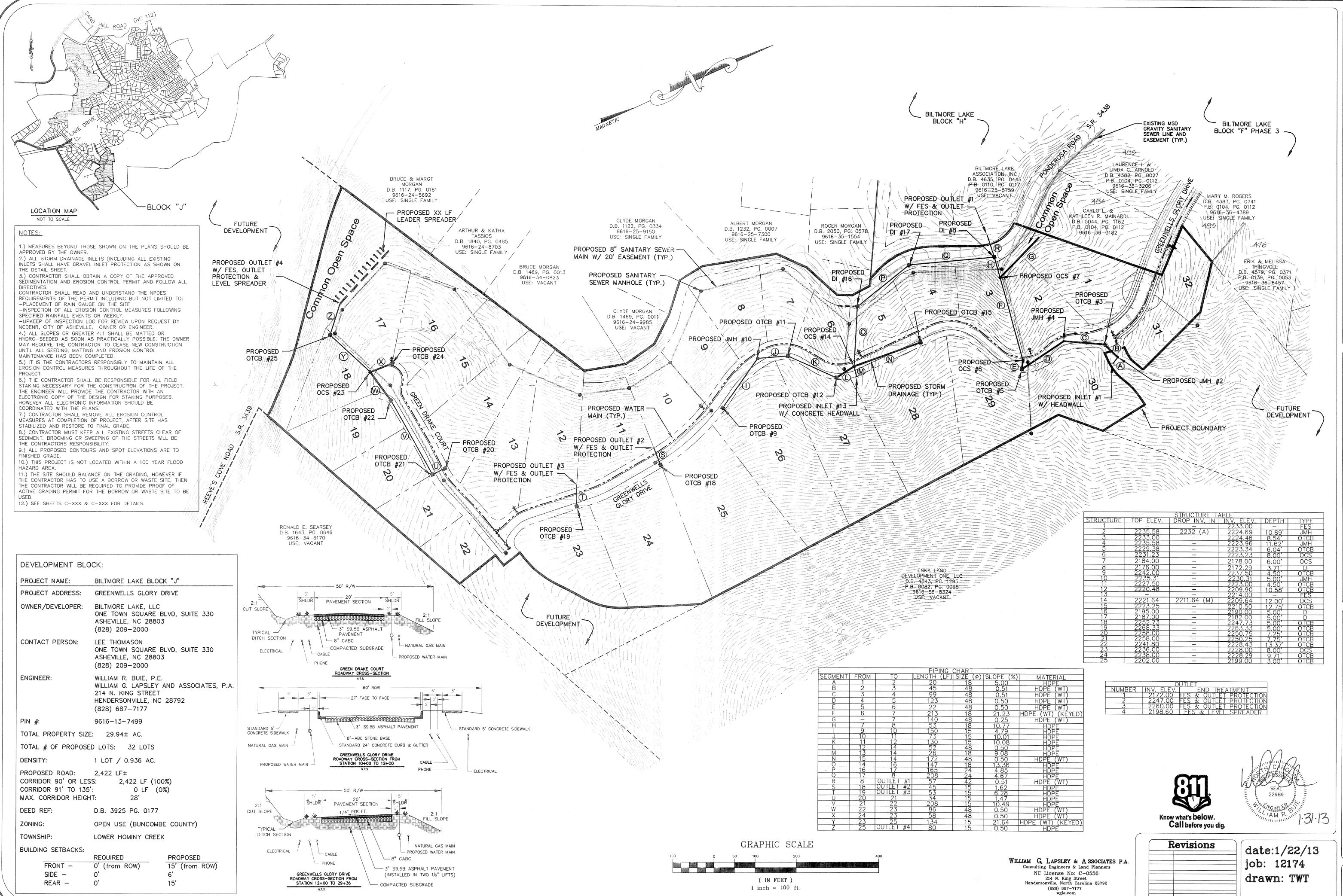
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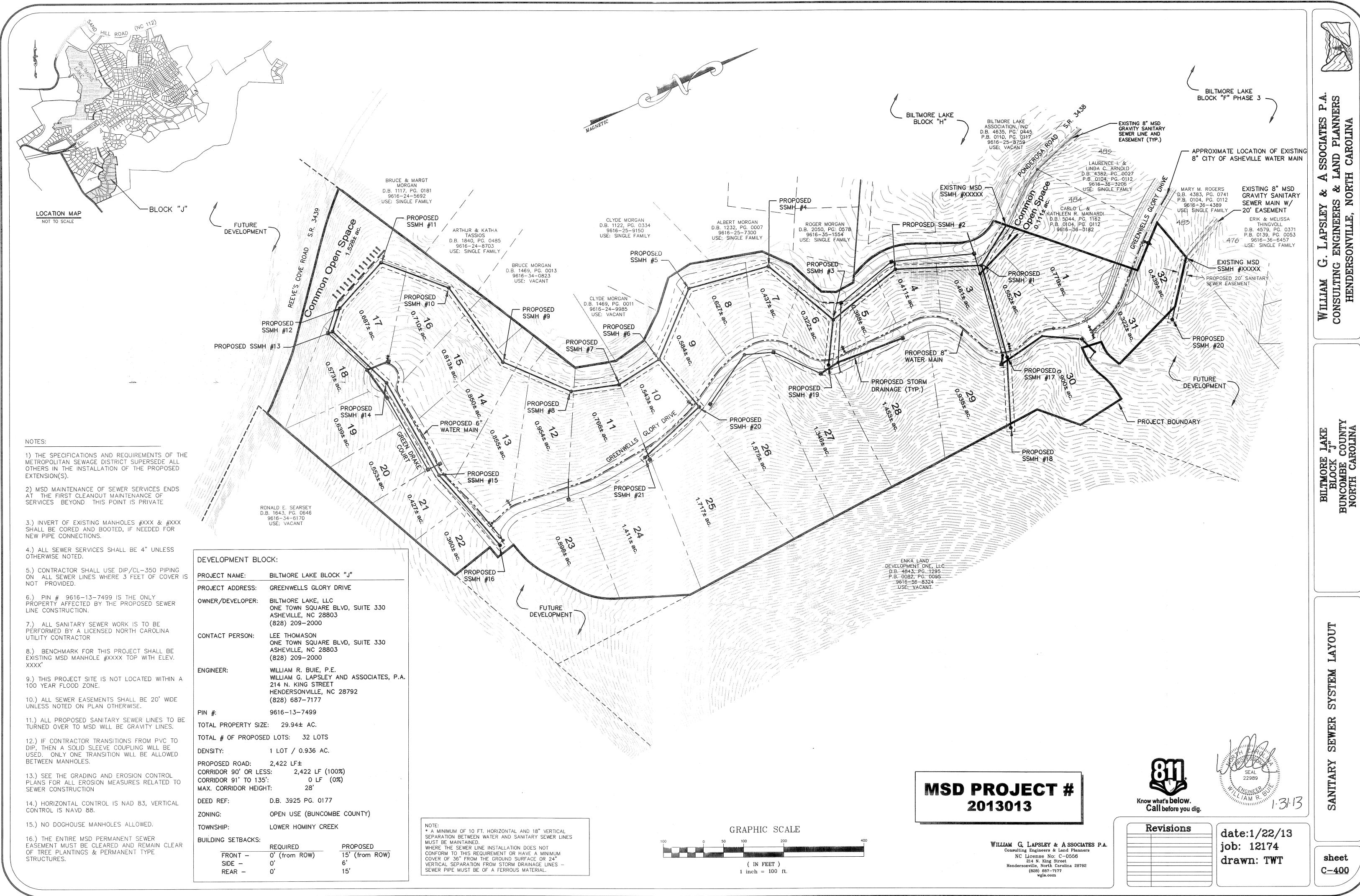


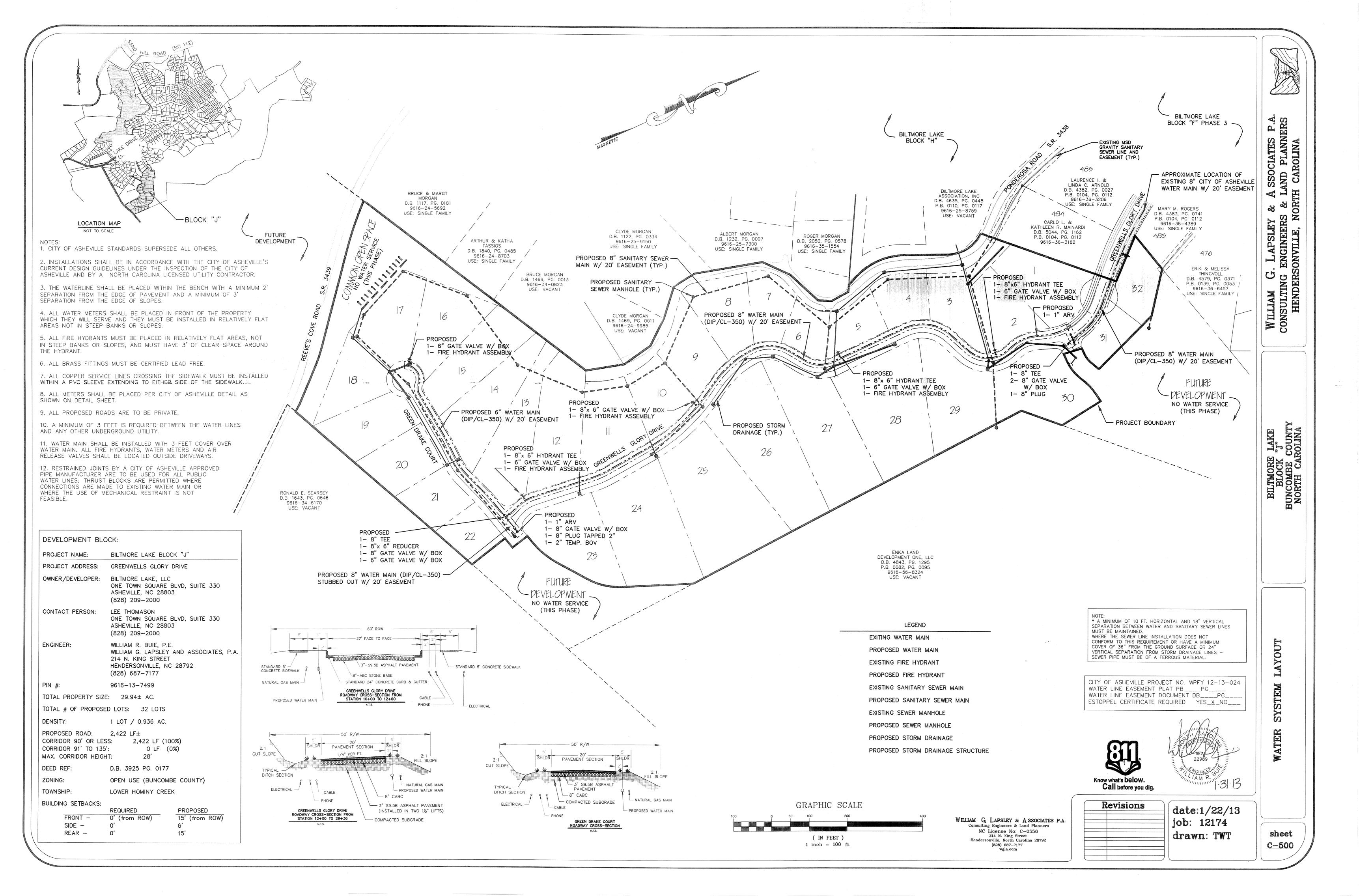


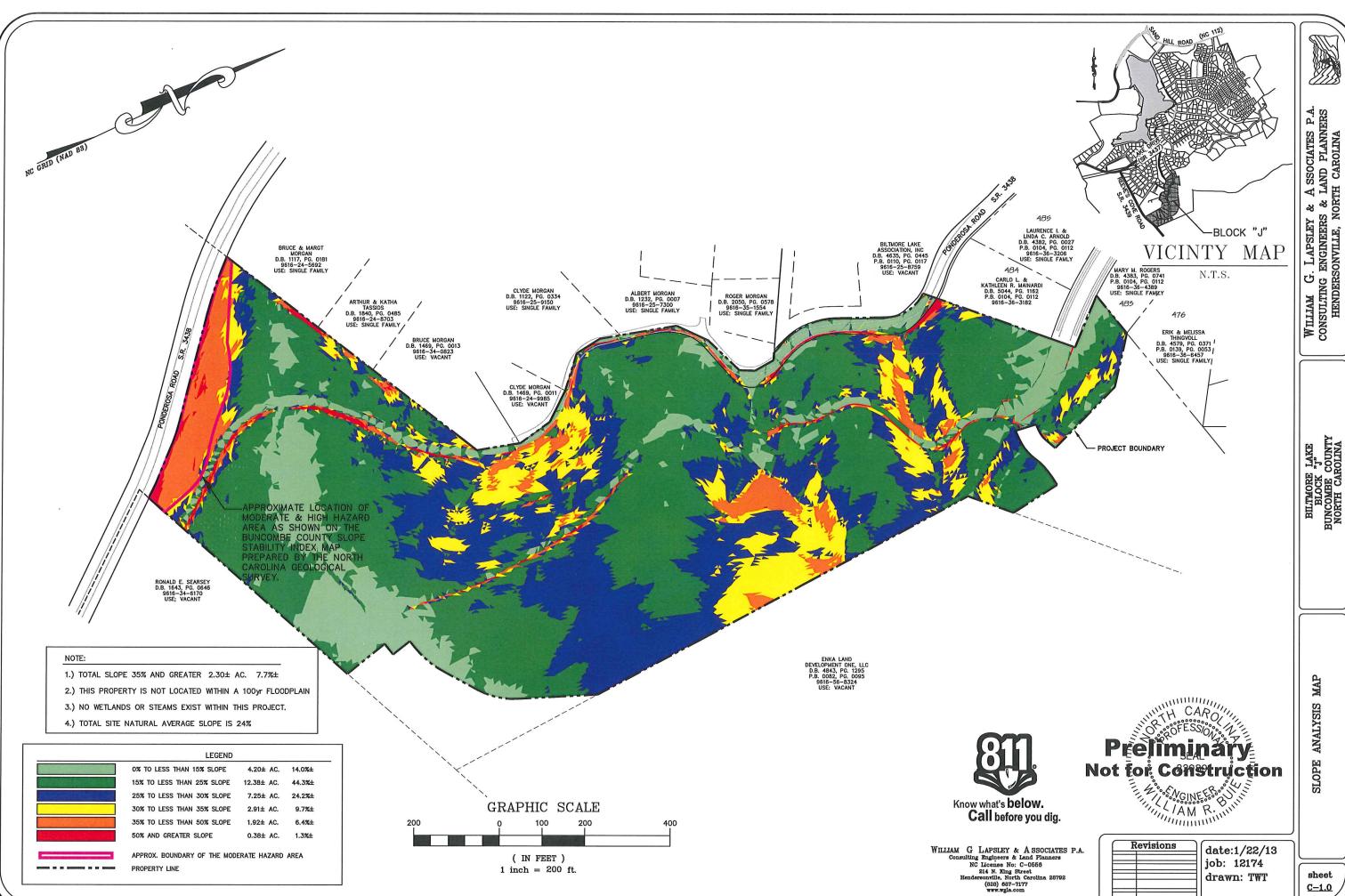
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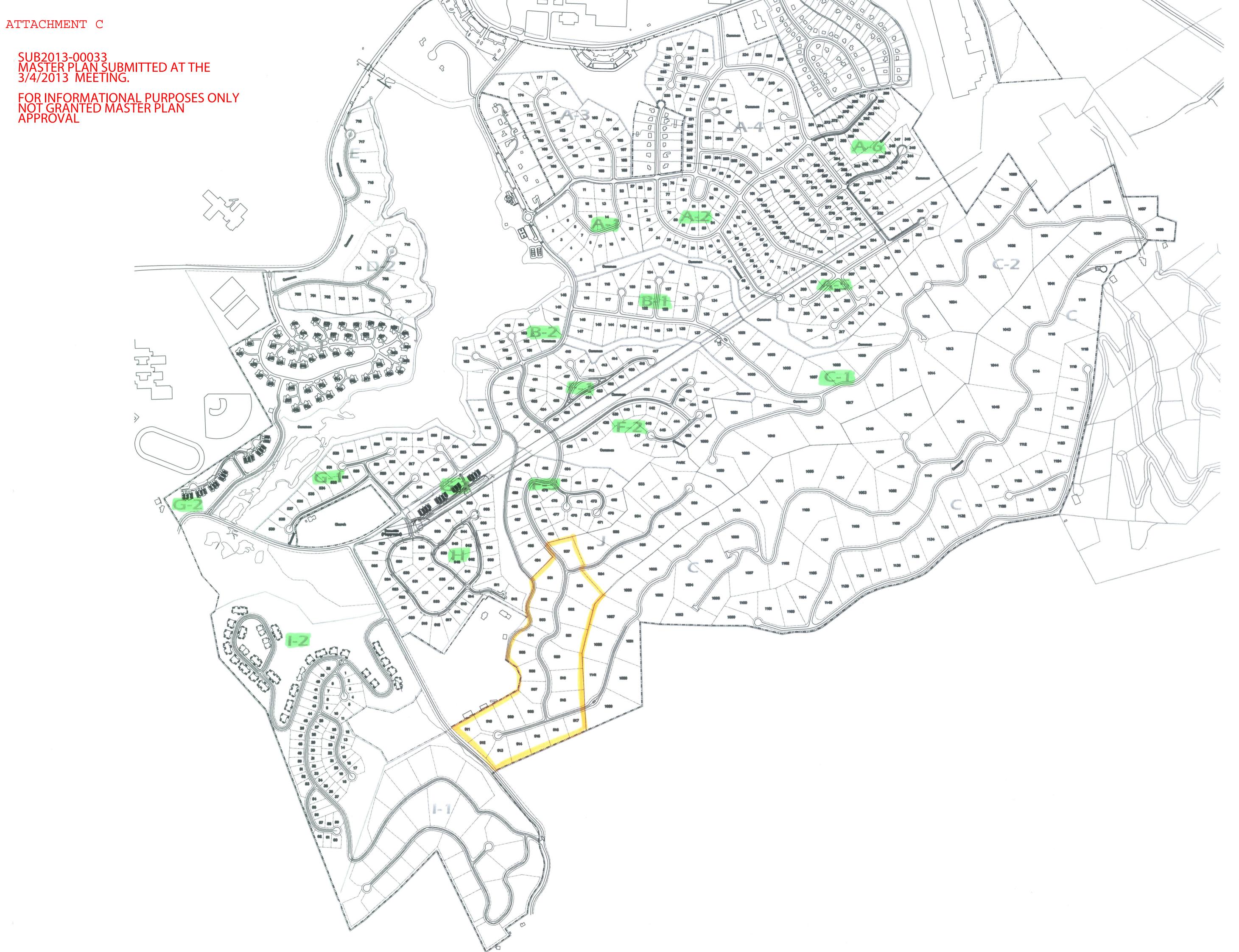
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William G. Lapsley & Assoc., P.A. 214 N. King Street Hendersonville, NC 28792 (828) 687-7177 wgla.com

PRELIMINARY
MAR 0 4

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

March 4, 2013
Buncombe County Planning Board
Land Use Plan Discussion

## Height

**Issue:** Recently several cases have highlighted issues regarding limitations in height within commercially-oriented zoning districts. The current Zoning Ordinance limits heights to 90' or less in each of the current commercial districts. Since the adoption of County-Wide zoning, several applications have been received for variances within commercial districts both for commercial buildings and for structures associated with the urban environment (such as cell phone towers). At the present time, the only process for adjusting height limitations within these commercial districts is for the applicant to make application for a variance. The variance process is not ideal for these situations as it does not allow the board the flexibility to impose conditions related specifically to increases in height and because it's not the most legally sound manner for handling such requests.

**Recommendation:** Given that there is a demand for structures which exceed the current height limitations in commercial districts, commercial districts should allow a specific height by right, while requests for additional height would be regulated as a Planned Unit Development/Conditional Use Permit. This shift should apply only to commercially-focused zoning designations. In addition, heights which require a Planned Unit Development/Conditional Use Permit should be subject to specific conditions which protect residential properties, viewsheds, transportation corridors, and regulated airspace. Use of the Planned Unit Development/Conditional Use Permit will allow the Board of Adjustment to specifically address the merits of each site without requiring the applicant to prove a hardship, which is difficult to do in relation to height standards.

## **Key Points:**

- Variances are being used to deal with requests for height and in this context it is very difficult to prove the required hardship.
- Allowing height to be considered under the conditional use process allows more flexibility in design while also allowing for contextual decision-making that protects the community.

## $\mathbf{E}$

## **Manufactured Housing**

Issue: Manufactured housing is currently allowed within four zoning districts within Buncombe County. In the districts where manufactured homes are allowed, only two are specifically residential districts (Open Use and Employment allow for both commercial and residential uses). The Open Use district is typically located outside of major transportation corridors and does not provide access to public utilities. The Residential Low Density district allows manufactured homes, but requires a minimum lot size of one acre. The R-3 Residential District allows manufactured homes and manufactured home parks. The possibility of allowing manufactured home parks to be established generates substantial public opposition when requests to have property rezoned to R-3 are heard. The current zoning scenario within Buncombe County does not allow for flexibility in the placement of manufactured homes and places limitations on where manufactured homes can be placed (although manufactured homes are allowed in over 90% of the County's zoning jurisdiction).

**Recommendation:** In unison with other refinements to the zoning districts, the Zoning Ordinance should be modified to create a clear separation between manufactured homes and manufactured home parks within residential districts which are not constrained by environmental factors. Separating manufactured homes and manufactured home parks would reduce opposition in rezoning requests and would allow such requests to better align with the character of existing neighborhoods. In addition to these efforts, options to allow manufactured homes to be placed in a more flexible manner way (while still respecting the character of the surrounding neighborhood) should be investigated.

## **Key Points:**

- Manufactured homes are allowed within a limited number of districts.
- The association between manufactured homes and manufactured home parks creates issues during public hearings.

## ATTACHMENT F

	Reasonable proximity to major transportation corridors	Reasonable proximity to infrastructure (combined water/sewer service area)	Outside of steep slope areas (25% +)	Outside of high elevations (2500' +)	Outside of moderate and high slope stability hazards	Outside of flood hazard areas	Separation from low- density residential uses
Residential		J. 207		,	2002.007		
Low-Density Residential	<b>◊</b>	<b>◊</b>	<b>◊</b>	<b>◊</b>	<b>◊</b>	•	N/A
Single-Family/Duplex	0	0	0	0	•	•	N/A
Multi-Family	•	•	0	0	•	•	0
Planned Community or Development							1
Mixed Use Development	•	•	•	•	•	0	0
Infill/ Higher Density	0	•	•	•	•	•	<b>◊</b>
Large Lot/Lower Density	0	0	0	0	•	•	N/A
Commercial/Industrial	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Recreational							
Resort	0	0	0	0	0	•	<b>◊</b>
Conference Centers	0	0	0	0	0	•	<b>◊</b>
Outdoor Recreation	$\Diamond$	<b>♦</b>	$\Diamond$	<b>♦</b>	<b>♦</b>	0	•
Other							
Institutional	•	•	•	•	•	0	0
Public Service	•	•	•	•	•	0	0
Commercial							
Neighborhood-Scale Commercial	0	0	•	•	•	0	0
Moderate Commercial	•	•	•	•	•	0	•
Intense Commercial	•	•	•	•	•	0	•
Industrial					T T		T
Manufacturing	•	•	•	•	•	0	0
Mining/Extracting/Refining	•	•	•	•	•	0	•
Other Intense Uses	0	0	•	•	•	0	•

- ♦ Not Required
- o Suggested
- Highly Suggested

## ATTACHMENT G

# Suitability Map Concept

Presented to Buncombe County Planning Board on February 18, 2013

