

Date: Monday, July 12, 2021
To: Richard F. Gosselin, Jr, Chairman; Paul A. Piktelis, Vice Chairman; Terry Burke Dotson, Member; Mathew Ashmankas, Member; Bruce M. Devault, Member; and Millbury Planning Board
From: Steven S. Stearns
Reference: Public Hearing Comments (from a son of the owners and resident of **Map 62 Parcel 98**)
McLaughlin Family Living Trust; John Antaya; and Kathleen (McLaughlin) Mardirosian (the “owners”)
Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC (the “developer”)
17 Rice Road, Millbury, MA (a/k/a Rice Pond Village Project)

In reviewing the developer's engineer's proposed enhancements to the Rice Road / Providence Road intersection (and railroad crossing) and Rice Road / South Main Street, their proposed plans unfortunately miss the mark and do not fully address the concerns of the neighborhood or Planning Board members. As a long-time resident, from listening to other neighbors, and the Planning Board members comments, I have taken some time to mark up their proposed plan with alternatives for each intersection for discussion and refinement purposes. Please note that the alternative plans submitted are not to scale.

Key Points – Rice Road / Providence Road (and Railroad Crossing):

1. The width of the railroad crossing should be increased to a minimum of 28-feet to provide for an adequate and safe crossing and added painted cross-hatched lines that increase as vehicles approach the railroad crossing and then decrease after crossing the railroad tracks, indicating to drivers to stay in their own lanes. Today, people drive on the wrong side of the road or in the center of the road.
2. Rice Road width throughout should have a minimum width of 24-feet of finished pavement without exception, add an appropriate center line painted lines, as deemed appropriate by the Millbury Department of Public Works or other traffic standards.
3. This railroad crossing originally had crossing gates in the 1960s, 1970s, and maybe into the 1980s. These gates should be restored to ensure the safety of traffic, the same as the Curve Street and South Main Street railroad crossings.
4. Create turning lanes at Providence Road (north and south) and add a stop sign(s) at the end of Rice Road.
5. Restore railroad crossing signs and pavement marking to ensure awareness of drivers that the crossing exists, also add a sign that indicates the sharp angle change .

Key Points – Rice Road / South Main Street:

1. The width of Rice Road pavement needs to be increased on the odd numbered side of Rice Road to permit vehicles turning off of South Main Street to permit safe turning and staying within their lane. Currently, when drivers navigate this turn, they are on the wrong side of the road or in the middle of the road causing daily near misses (potential traffic accidents).
2. Rice Road is narrow in width and increase/decreases in grade from approximately 1 Rice Road through 5 Rice Road and there is low visibility due to the grade change. Again, the finished pavement width should increase and painted lanes should be added again with increasing/decreasing marking indicating to drivers to stay in their own lanes.
3. Signage should be added to Rice Road (both sides) at a minimum from 1-7 Rice Road (odd side) and 2-4 Rice Road (even side) indicating no parking, standing or stopping, as resident's visitors and delivery vehicles stop and park, thus creating a safety and visibility issue for road users.
4. Currently, the school bus stop (pick-up/drop-off) is at the intersection of Rice Road and South Main Street, this should be changed back to the previous location or a new location for the safety of children and parents as it is dangerous. If the school department continues this as the school bus stop then the safety issues must to be addressed.

24 Foot Width Pavement (typical minimum)

28 Foot Width Pavement (at/over crossing)

Extended Pavement Areas

Extended Railroad Crossing Beyond Pavement Width (4+/- feet or as needed)

Remove, Trim and Maintain Vegetation to not obstruct vehicle sightlines

Retaining Wall, Rip-Rap and Fence or Guardrail (as needed)

(a) Relocate utility pole (north)

(b) Relocate utility pole (north)

(c) Relocate railroad signals and reinstall crossing gates originally installed in the 1960s

(d) Install retaining wall or rip-rap with guard rail or fence as needed

(e) Install retaining wall and fence as needed

(f) Relocate railroad signals and reinstall crossing gates originally installed in the 1960s

(g) Paint double yellow lines that widen at railroad crossing and then narrow to visually cue drivers to stay in their own lane (i.e., keep right) *

(h) Paint visual cues lines for turning lanes (out) and to provide south turning radius onto Rice Road (in)

NOTE:

EXISTING TOPGRAPHY AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES ARE THE WORK PRODUCT OF THOMPSON-LISTON ASSOCIATES, INC.

* Currently drivers tend to drive the centerline of the road or on the left side of road due to the current road deficiencies.

Consult with MassDOT about the potential of improving turn onto Rice Road from Providence Road (heading south) with turning lane and shifting Providence Road in a northerly direction to create a turning lane for northern turn onto Rice Road, since driver's currently pass on right of turning vehicles.

5/28/2021

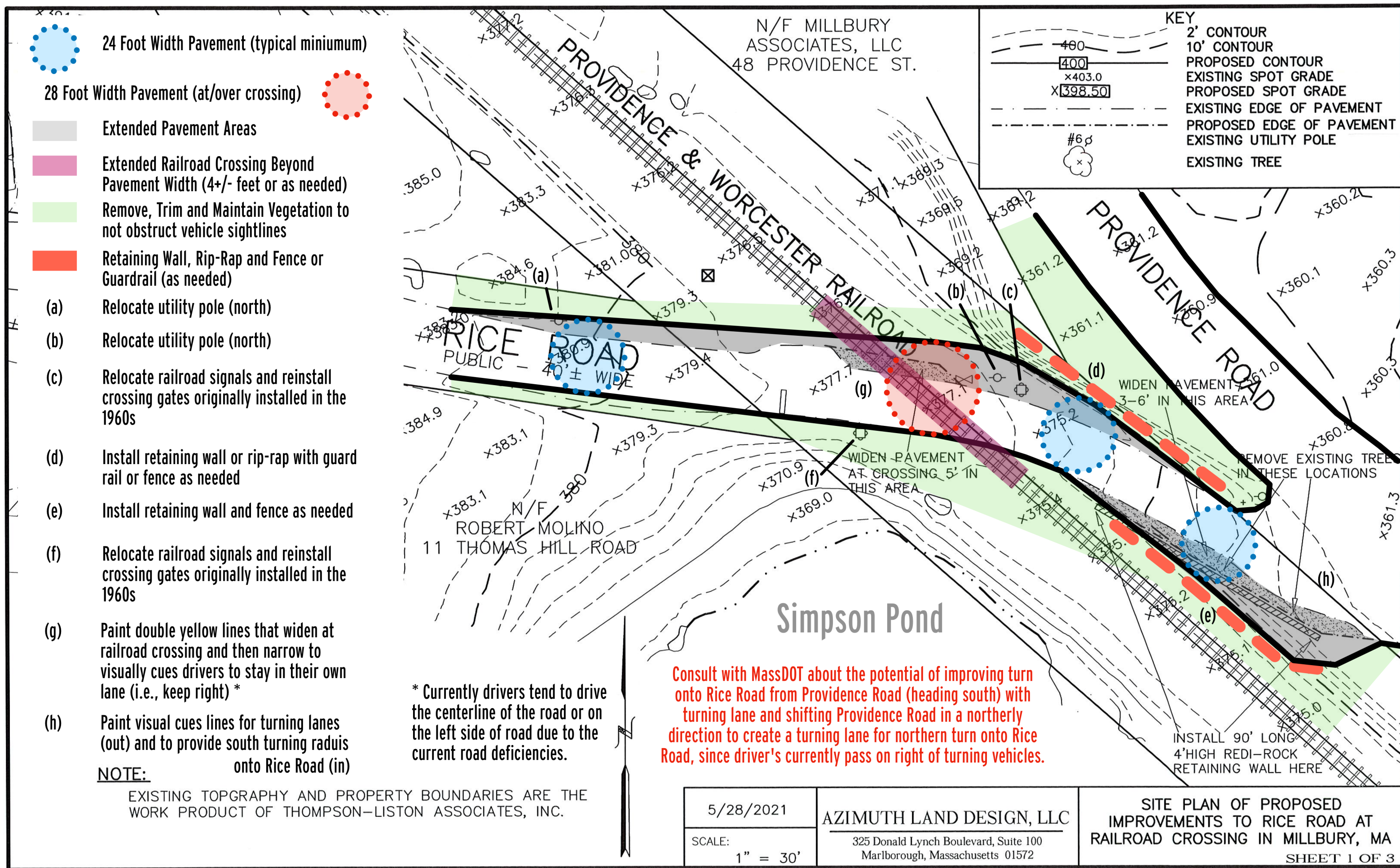
SCALE:
1" = 30'

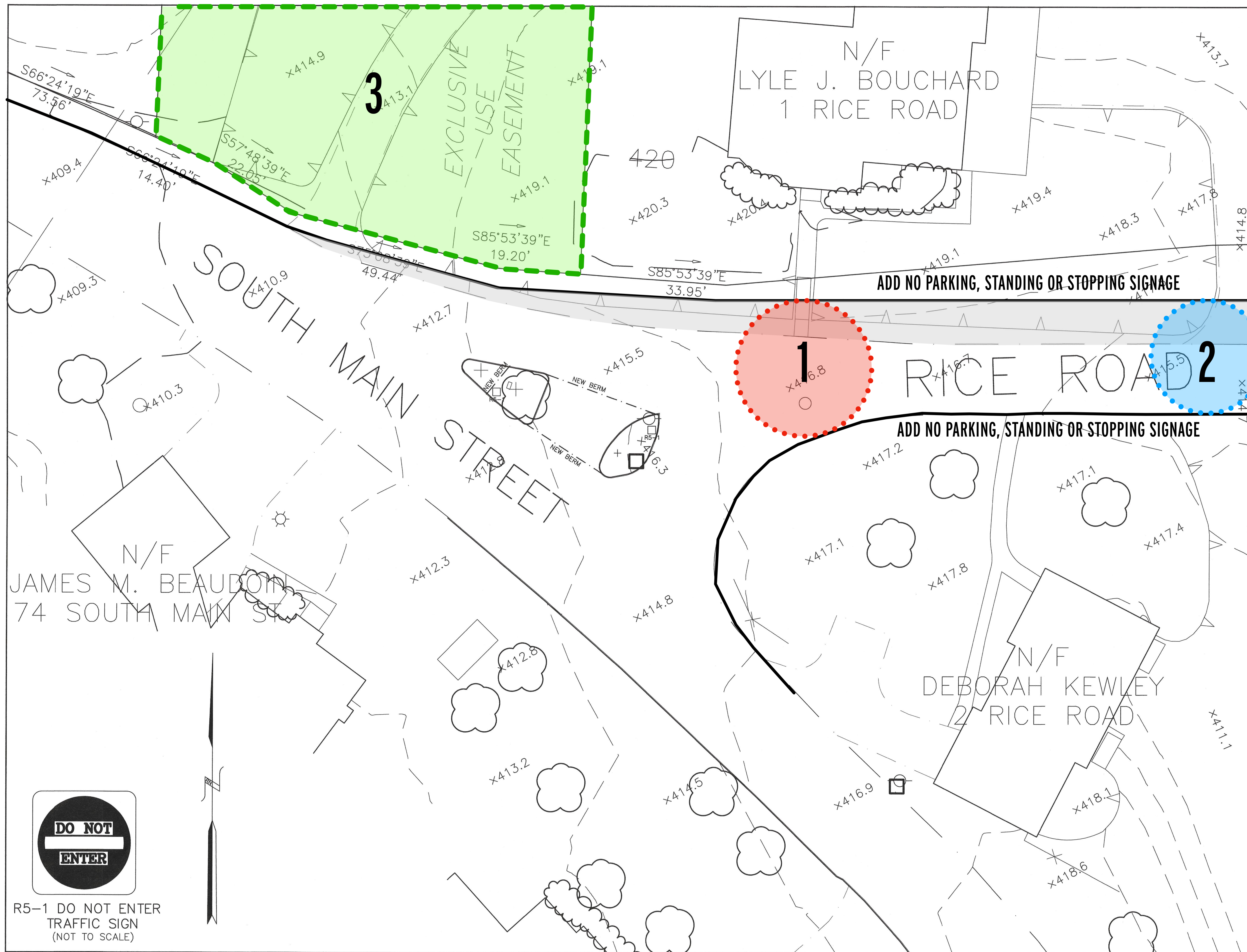
AZIMUTH LAND DESIGN, LLC

325 Donald Lynch Boulevard, Suite 100
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01572

SITE PLAN OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO RICE ROAD AT RAILROAD CROSSING IN MILLBURY, MA

SHEET 1 OF 3





KEY

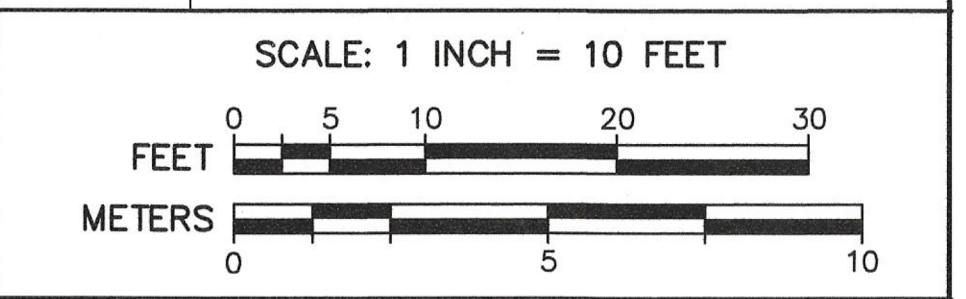
	WETLAND EDGE
	100' BUFFER ZONE EDGE
	2' CONTOUR
	10' CONTOUR
	PROPOSED CONTOUR
	EXISTING SPOT GRADE
	PROPOSED SPOT GRADE
	PROPOSED DRAIN MANHOLE
	PROPOSED CATCHBASIN
	PROPOSED SEWER MANHOLE
	PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DRAIN OR SEWER PIPE
	WATER GATE
	WATER SHUT OFF
	PROPOSED HYDRANT
	EXISTING EDGE OF PAVEMENT
	PROPOSED MASS DOT TYPE 3 BERM
	PROPOSED 24" R5-1 DO NOT ENTER TRAFFIC SIGN
	EXISTING UTILITY POLE
	OVERHEAD WIRES
	STONE WALL
	TREE
	PROPOSED TREELINE
	DEEP OBSERVATION HOLE

- NOTES:**
1. THE APPLICANT FOR THE RICE POND VILLAGE PROJECT WOULD EITHER PERFORM THE PROPOSED WORK OR PAY FOR THE TOWN'S EXECUTION OF IT.
 2. THE EXISTING KEEP RIGHT SIGN WILL BE REMOVED WHEN THE NORTHERNMOST ISLAND IS RESHAPED.
 3. ALL PROPOSED BERMS WILL BE MASS. DOT TYPE 3.
 4. "DO NOT ENTER" R5-1 SIGNS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE NORTHERN ACCESS FACING SOUTH MAIN STREET TRAFFIC AND AT THE SOUTHERN ACCESS FACING RICE ROAD TRAFFIC.

AZIMUTH LAND DESIGN, LLC
 Professional Engineers & Erosion Control Specialists
 325 Donald Lynch Boulevard, Suite 100, Marlborough, MA 01752
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Professional Engineer Seal: JAMES I. ETREHAULT, CIVIL ENGINEER, No. 12345, State of Massachusetts, Exp. 12/31/2023

CLT. NO.	501	JOB NO.	186-501
DATE:	JULY 7, 2021	DWG. NO.	RICECURRENT
REVISIONS			
DATE:		DESCRIPTION	



PLAN OF PROPOSED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT RICE ROAD AND SOUTH MAIN STREET
 IN
 MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

OWNER
MCLAUGHLIN FAMILY LIVING TRUST
 17 RICE ROAD
 MILLBURY, MASS. 01527

APPLICANT
WHITNEY STREET HOME BUILDERS, LLC
 ONE GOLDEN COURT
 WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581



R5-1 DO NOT ENTER TRAFFIC SIGN (NOT TO SCALE)