# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF SWANSEA ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**GREETINGS:** 

To either of the Constables of the Town of Swansea,

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the JOSEPH CASE HIGH SCHOOL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, Swansea, Massachusetts, on MONDAY, the TWENTIETH (20th) day of MAY, at Seven-Thirty P.M., then and there to act on the following article in the warrant:

Article 1:

To hear the report of the Advisory & Finance Board.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 2:

To act on the reports of the Town Officers and all Town Committees.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 3:

To appoint members of the Advisory & Finance Board and to fill vacancies as provided by § 7-4 of the General Bylaws.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 4:

To fix the salaries of all Town Officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectmen:	Chairman	\$5,000
	Vice Chairman	\$5,000
	Clerk	\$5,000
Town Clerk:		\$83,281
Treasurer:		\$98,968
Assessors:	Chairman	\$2,000
	Vice Chairman	\$1,000
	Clerk	\$1,000
Tree Warden		\$1000
Moderator		\$500

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 5:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray Town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. (See Budget Book)

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and to enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth and/or the County for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads, bikeways and waterways.

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$8,965,076.00 to pay the expense of meeting the insurance needs of the Town of Swansea and its employees, or take any other action in relation thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$60,500 to meet the expense of the annual audit or take any other action in relation thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$70,000 to meet the Town's expenses for Tax Title purposes, or take any other action in relation thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to set the maximum spending limits for FY2025, pursuant to § 20-8C of the General Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, for the Town's revolving funds as follows:

Social Day Care Program Revolving Fund:	\$158,000.00	
Fire Alarm Inspections Revolving Fund:	\$50,000.00	
Boat Ramp Revolving Fund:	\$12,000.00	
Shellfish Revolving Fund:	\$40,000.00	
Police Details Revolving Fund:	\$75,000.00	

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ to raise and appropriate, or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$2,333,520.81 from the General Fund, the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Receipts Account and/or the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to meet the expenses of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Account, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, and the funding of reserves and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

# PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

Purpose  Appropriations Community Preservation Administrative Expenses		Recommended Amount	
		23,818.21	
Community Housing Reserve	\$	47,634.42	
Historic Resources Reserve	\$	47,634.42	
Open Space Reserve	\$	0.00	
Payment of Debt Service on Open Space Purchases (Medeiros Farm; Rousseau; Hallock)	\$	232,045.00	
FY 24-25 Annual Budgeted Reserve	\$	24,912.95	

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$45,000, to be expended from the Undesignated Reserves portion of the Community Preservation Fund, to the Conservation Commission to subsidize the costs of the Wildlands Trust in monitoring three separate conservation restrictions that the Wildlands Trust holds over Town-owned land, specifically on Stevens Road Map 8, lot 4, Richard Rd Map 54, Lot 15 and Old Fall River Rd Map 13, Lots 6B & 6D, or take any other action relative thereto.

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$200,000 to be expended by the Police Chief to meet the expense of purchasing three (3) police cruisers with equipment, including radios, or take any other action relative thereto. (*Raise and Appropriate*)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends By Majority (12-1; 1 abstention)

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$42,000 to be expended by the Police Chief to meet the expense of purchasing bullet proof vests and related equipment, or take any other action relative thereto. (*Raise and Appropriate*)

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$125,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief to purchase turnout gear for the volunteer firefighters, or take any other action relative thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$80,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief to purchase a Ford Expedition and related equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends by Majority (12-2)

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$30,000 to be expended by the Fire Chief for paving and resurfacing needs of Fire Stations 1 and 2, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$110,000 for the design, permitting, and installation of mechanical barriers at Old Providence Road to address flooding hazards along the roadway, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

# Advisory and Finance Recommends by Majority (12-2)

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$130,000 to be expended by the Highway Department to purchase a skid steer, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$372,000 to be expended by the Highway Department to purchase a Western Star truck, chassis, and swap loader system and related equipment, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

## Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$25,000 for the purchase and implementation of e-Permitting software for various Town Departments, including the Board of Health, Town Clerk, and Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$250,000 for the field study, permitting and design of intersection improvements for Gardners Neck Road and New Gardners Neck Road at Route 103/Wilbur Avenue, or take any other action relative thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends By Majority (11-1)

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$52,500 to expand and create additional cemetery space at Vinnicum Cemetery, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends by Majority (13-1)

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow a sum of money or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$2 million for the purposes of renovating and restoring the Preserved Gardner House at Swansea Memorial Park, and to remove said building from the demolition list, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

#### Advisory and Finance Does Not Recommend (3 in Favor; 9 Opposed)

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$85,000 for the purposes of demolishing the Preserved Gardner House and regrading at Swansea Memorial Park, or take any other action relative thereto. (Certified Free Cash)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends by Majority (9-3)

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money for the continued funding of reserve accounts, by adding \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund and by adding \$250,000 into the Capital Stabilization Fund or take any other action relative thereto. (*Raise and Appropriate*)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends By Majority (13-1)

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$250,000 for the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund or take any other action in relation thereto. (Raise and Appropriate)

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (14-0)

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$86,000 for the purpose of funding the Length of Service Awards Program for the Firefighters of Swansea, or take any other action in relation thereto. (*Raise and Appropriate*)

Advisory and Finance Recommends by Majority (11-3)

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, if it deems it to be appropriate and necessary, to file with the General Court of the Commonwealth a Home Rule Petition to effectuate the adoption of legislation precisely as follows:

# AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SWANSEA TO GRANT ADDITIONAL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows.

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the numerical limitations for such licenses that are imposed upon the Town of Swansea pursuant to Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, or by any other general or special law to the contrary, the Swansea licensing authority may grant up to six additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises under Section 12 of said Chapter 138.

SECTION 2. The additional Section 12 licenses that are allowed pursuant to this Act may be granted by the Swansea licensing authority only for the types of establishments that are otherwise eligible for Section 12 licenses, and only for such establishments that are located on the property known as and comprising the "Swansea Mall Redevelopment Area"; this property being identified as the area located on the northerly and southerly parcels along Route 6 from the westerly boundary of Gardner Neck Road to the westerly boundary of Milton Reiser Road, as contained in the Town of Swansea Zoning Map, Business B District, and from Route 6 and Route 118 in a northerly direction 3,900 feet +/- to the northerly most point of the Swansea Mall, so called, as contained in the Town of Swansea Zoning Map, Business B District.

SECTION 3. Any additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act and is granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority shall not be transferable to any other person, corporation, or organization for a period of five (5) years from the date of original issuance. Nor may any such license be transferred in violation of the limitations of Section 2 of this Act. Any transfer in violation of Sections 2 or 3 of this Act shall render said license null and void.

<u>SECTION 4</u>. Notwithstanding Sections 12 and 77 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the Swansea licensing authority may, in its sole discretion, restrict the grant of any additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act to holders of common victualler licenses.

<u>SECTION 5</u>. Whenever an additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act is granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority and subsequently revoked by said licensing authority or determined by said licensing authority to no longer be in use at the location of original issuance, then said license shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights and privileges pertaining thereto, to said licensing authority.

<u>SECTION 6</u>. No additional Section 12 license that is allowed pursuant to this Act may be granted hereunder by the Swansea licensing authority unless the applicant files with said licensing authority letters from both the Department of Revenue and a letter from the Division of Unemployment Assistance indicating that the applicant is in good standing with those entities and that all applicable taxes, fees, and contributions have been paid.

SECTION 7. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the additional Section 12 licenses that are allowed hereunder shall be subject to all provisions, restrictions and requirements of said Chapter 138.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves substantive amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve such substantive amendments, provided that they are within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by inserting a new Article VI under Chapter 7 Boards, Commissions, and Committees as follows:

Article VI Attendance Requirements

- § 7-22 Removal for failure to attend meetings.
- A. Unless such consequence is preempted by any special or general law, any appointed member of any board, commission or committee who, without reasonable excuse, fails either to attend three consecutive meetings, or fails to attend 25% of meetings in a calendar year will automatically be removed from office effective immediately, without further action needed.
- B. The vacancy created by the removal of any appointed member of any board, commission or committee pursuant to this Article VI shall be filled by the relevant appointing authority in the same prescribed manner for filling any other vacancy on said board, commission or committee; provided, that the same individual who was removed from office pursuant to § 7-22A shall not be reappointed to the same board, commission or committee for three years.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to delete the language of § 77-7 of the General Bylaws in its entirety, excepting only the title, and replace it with the following:

The Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and without requiring any further vote of Town Meeting, may sell and convey on behalf of the Town, and may execute deeds for such conveyance of, any land the title to which the Town acquired either through the foreclosure of a tax title or through a deed from the owner in lieu of unpaid taxes, and regardless of whether such acquisition occurred prior to the adoption of this § 77-7.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

- Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to delete § 230-1 of the General Bylaws, excepting only the title, and replace it with the following:
  - A. No person shall throw, place, dump, deposit or strew, or cause to be thrown, placed, dumped, deposited or strewn, upon any public way, or any private way that is open and accessible to the general public, or any public park, public beach or other public property, any of the following: solid waste, recyclables, yard waste, construction materials, agricultural waste, composting, manure and other byproducts, earth materials, hazardous waste or other disposable materials.
  - B. The provisions of this § 230-1 shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement. The first violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$100, the second violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$200, and each additional violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$300. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

And further, to delete existing § 230-7 of the General Bylaws in its entirety, and to renumber §§ 230-5 and 230-6 of the General Bylaws as §§ 230-6 and 230-7.

And further, to add a new § 230-5 under Article I of Chapter 230 of the General Bylaws as follows:

# § 230-5 Discharge of Water and Other Liquids.

- A. No person shall cause or allow any water or other liquid substance to be pumped, drained or discharged by artificial or engineered means into or across any public way, any private way that is open and accessible to the general public, or any public park, public beach or other public property.
- B. Any activity that is otherwise allowed under § 227-8 shall nonetheless be prohibited under § 230-5A whenever such activity causes nuisance or dangerous conditions on the surface of the public way, open and accessible private way, or other public property.

C. The provisions of this § 230-5 shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement. The first violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$100, the second violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$200, and each additional violation in a given calendar year shall result in a noncriminal fine of \$300. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

# Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to delete in its entirety Article IV of Chapter 230 of the General Bylaws, and replace it with the following:

# Article IV Construction within the Public Way

#### § 230-12 Scope.

No person, corporation or other legal entity shall cause, allow, direct or otherwise assist in any construction activities within the layout of any public way, except in accordance with the restrictions and requirements of this Article IV.

# § 230-13 Driveway Permits.

Except as provided in Paragraphs B and D, the construction, installation, upgrading, replacement, alteration or extension of any driveway or sidewalk that is, whether in whole or in part, within the layout of any public way, and that occurs subsequent to the adoption of this Article IV, shall require first obtaining a Driveway Permit from the Highway Director.

- A. For the purposes of this § 230-13, a driveway shall be inclusive of any improved location that is utilized for vehicular or pedestrian access to a parcel of land from a public way.
- B. No Driveway Permit shall be required solely for the repaving or other resurfacing of a driveway where such activity meets the following criteria;
  - 1. No change in the width of the curb cut;
  - 2. Any excavation does not exceed six (6) inches in depth;
  - 3. Any excavation, repaving or other resurfacing does not extend beyond the line of the curb cut into the improved public way; and
  - 4. No laying, repair, extension, alteration or relocation of any utilities or drainage culverts.

- C. The application and application fee requirements for Driveway Permits shall be as provided in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; provided, that there shall be no fee for any application to replace an existing driveway without changing the location or dimensions of the same; further provided, that any such application shall be executed by both the property owner of record and the contractor.
- D. If the Highway Director determines that any of the following apply, then the Highway Director shall deny the application and instead require the submission of an application for an Excavation Permit as provided in § 230-14:
  - 1. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will extend more than two (2) feet from the curb, or will involve more than sixty (60) square feet of the layout of the public way;
  - 2. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will involve significant excavation within the layout of the public way;
  - 3. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will involve the laying, repair, extension or alteration or relocation of utilities or drainage culverts within the layout of the public way; or
  - 4. The proposed driveway or sidewalk work will require a police detail in order to maintain public safety.
- E. The Highway Director may impose reasonable conditions on any issued Driveway Permit.
- F. The applicants shall notify the Highway Director in writing of the date on which work will begin pursuant to the Driveway Permit, and no such work shall begin prior to that date. Once such work begins, all such work, including restoration of the public way, shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee in accordance with § 230-18A, within five (5) days. If said inspection indicates that additional work is required in order to come into compliance with § 230-16B, then the such work shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee, within five (5) days.
- G. For a period of five years from the issuance of a completion certificate by the Highway Director pursuant to § 230-18B, or from the date of restoration of the public way by the Town in the event that the posted surety is utilized for that purpose pursuant to §§ 230-17A, the property owner of record, including any successors-in-interest, shall be solely responsible for maintaining the portion of the driveway or sidewalk that is within the layout of the public way in a safe and suitable condition for use by pedestrians and vehicles, as determined by the Highway Director. Should the Town be required to correct any violations of this provision, then said property owner of record shall be liable to the Town for reimbursement of the Town's actual

costs in doing so, with complete payment being made to the Town within 30 days of billing.

#### § 230-14 Excavation Permit.

Any excavation within the layout of a public way shall require first obtaining an Excavation Permit from the Highway Director, unless a Driveway Permit has been obtained for the same pursuant to § 230-13. For the purposes of this Article IV, the Swansea Water District shall be considered a utility.

- A. The application and application fee requirements for Excavation Permits shall be as provided in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15.
  - 1. For utility work, if the utility hires a contractor to undertake the work, then both the utility and the contractor must execute the application. In the event that the proposed utility work extends onto any private property, then each such private property owner of record must execute the application as well.
  - 2. For driveway or sidewalk work that the Highway Director, pursuant to § 230-13C, determined requires an Excavation Permit, both the property owner of record and the contractor shall execute the application.
- B. A police detail is required to be present during any work that is undertaken pursuant to an Excavation Permit. The applicant(s) shall be solely responsible for the cost of any such police detail.
- C. Any driveway or sidewalk work that is undertaken pursuant to an Excavation Permit nonetheless shall be subject to the requirements of § 230-13F.
- D. The Highway Director may impose reasonable conditions on any issued Excavation Permit.
- E. The applicants shall notify the Highway Director in writing of the date on which work will begin pursuant to the Excavation Permit, and no such work shall begin prior to that date. Once such work begins, all such work, including restoration of the public way, shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee in accordance with § 230-18A, within five (5) days, or as otherwise approved as the Highway Director. If said inspection indicates that additional work is required in order to come into compliance with § 230-16B, then such work shall be completed and thereafter inspected by the Highway Director or their designee, within five (5) days. In the event that a temporary patch is utilized in accordance with the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, then this entire process, from notice of the date on which work will begin through timely inspection, shall be undertaken with respect to the temporary patch and thereafter repeated for the subsequent final restoration of the public way.

- F. Whenever emergency excavation of the public way must occur immediately in order to correct or alleviate a hazardous condition that presents an imminent risk of injury to persons or property, then the utility and/or its contractor may begin work in the public way without first obtaining an Excavation Permit, provided that the following requirements are met:
  - 1. The utility notifies the Highway Director or their designee in advance of beginning such work. If the emergency situation arose outside of business hours, then notice shall be provided to an email address or telephone number that is designated by the Highway Director for that purpose and provided to all relevant utilities;
  - 2. An application for an Excavation Permit is submitted by the next business day following the commencement of such work;
  - 3. Any pre-Permit work adheres to the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15;
  - 4. The utility ensures, at its sole cost, that a police detail is on-site for any pre-Permit work; and
  - 5. The utility has on file with the Town an executed agreement in which it states that it will indemnify and hold harmless the Town, and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, accountants, attorneys, departments, boards, commissions and committees from and against any liability for injury, loss, accident or damage to any person or property, and from and against any suits, claims, actions, proceedings, liabilities, administrative actions, fees, damages, fines, penalties, forfeitures, expenses and costs (including, without limitation, attorney's fees): (i) arising from the omission, fault, willful act, negligence or other misconduct of the utility and any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers; (ii) resulting from the failure of the utility and any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers to perform or ensure the performance of all work in accordance with this Article IV and any regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; or (iii) resulting from the violation of any other federal, state or local statute, bylaw, code, rule or regulation by the utility and any of its officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers. For the purposes of these indemnification obligations, any corporate parents, subsidiaries, sisters and affiliates of the utility, and any officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers of the same, shall be considered agents of the utility.

#### § 230-15 Regulations.

The Board of Selectmen shall promulgate regulations in order to implement and enforce this Article IV. Without limiting the possible scope of these regulations, the Board of Selectmen shall ensure that said regulations include the following:

A. Performance Standards for undertaking and completing all work, ensuring public safety during all work, and completing restoration of the public way after the

completion of all work, that is undertaken pursuant to Driveway Permits and Excavation Permits;

- B. Application requirements, including with respect to fees, plans and information to be submitted;
- C. Minimum insurance coverage requirements, as applicable, for all property owners, contractors and utilities;
- D. Standards and timeframes for utilizing temporary patches; and
- E. Allowed days and hours of operation.

#### § 230-16 Restrictions on Use of Permit.

- All Driveway Permits and Excavation Permits are subject to the following restrictions:
- A. By accepting, and undertaking work pursuant to, a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, all applicants for said Permit shall, and agree that they will, indemnify and hold harmless the Town, and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, accountants, attorneys, departments, boards, commissions and committees from and against any liability for injury, loss, accident or damage to any person or property, and from and against any suits, claims, actions, proceedings, liabilities, administrative actions, fees, damages, fines, penalties, forfeitures, expenses and costs (including, without limitation, attorney's fees): (i) arising from the omission, fault, willful act, negligence or other misconduct of any of the applicants, or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers; (ii) resulting from the failure of the applicants or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers to perform or ensure the performance of all work in accordance with the issued Permit and its conditions, this Article IV and any regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; or (iii) resulting from the violation of any other federal, state or local statute, bylaw, code, rule or regulation by the applicants or any of their household members, tenants, guests, officers, agents, contractors, employees, servants, invitees or volunteers. For the purposes of these indemnification obligations, any corporate parents, subsidiaries, sisters and affiliates of any utility or contractor, and any officers, agents, contractors, employees and volunteers of the same, shall be considered agents of said utility or contractor, and regardless of whether such agents are otherwise authorized to assist, participate in or direct any of the work in accordance with § 230-16F. These indemnification obligations shall automatically constitute a condition on any issued Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit.
- B. The Highway Director and any of their designees shall have the right at any time, and without notice, to be present during, and inspect the progress of, any work that is being undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit. The applicants shall adhere to any orders that the Highway Director or their designee

issues with respect to such work, whether for the correction of deficiencies, the ensuring of public safety or otherwise.

- C. All work shall be undertaken in accordance with any conditions that are imposed upon a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, with the plans that were submitted and approved with application, and with any performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15. In no event shall the public way be excavated, altered or disturbed in any area except as explicitly marked on the approved plan. Should circumstances occurring during the work necessitate expanding the footprint of the public way to be excavated, altered or disturbed, then the applicant(s) must cease the work and apply to amend the Permit.
- D. No work shall be undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit until the applicant(s) have obtained confirmation from Dig Safe regarding the location of underground utilities, and have obtained confirmation from the Highway Director or their designee of the location of underground traffic control devices.
- E. A copy of the Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be kept on-site at all times and be available for inspection.
- F. In no event shall any contractor or subcontractor, or any corporate parent, subsidiary, sister or affiliate, that is not included in the application as a co-applicant be allowed to assist, participate in or direct any of the work being undertaken pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit.
- G. All permanently removed granite curbing shall be returned to the Highway Department.

# § 230-17 Surety and Insurance Certificate

- A. No approved Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be issued to the applicant(s) until and unless the applicant(s) post a bond or other surety with the Town that satisfies the following requirements.
  - 1. The amount of the surety shall be determined by the Highway Director, and must be sufficient to ensure restoration of the public way in accordance with the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, and regardless of whether the non-restoration portion of the contemplated work is otherwise completed by the applicants;
  - 2. The surety shall be valid through, and only released after, the following benchmarks:
    - a. For work that is completed in accordance with a Driveway Permit, upon the issuance of a completion certificate pursuant to § 230-18B; and

- b.For work that is completed in accordance with an Excavation Permit, after five (5) years have elapsed after the issuance of the completion certificate; provided, that if a permanent resurfacing of the public way is required by the performance standards that are included in the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, then the surety shall not be released until ten (10) years have elapsed after the issuance of a completion certificate.
- 3. The Town shall be entitled to utilize the surety in any of the following events:
  - a. The applicant(s) violate the timeframes of §§ 230-13E or 230-14E;
  - b. After a second failed inspection, whether of a temporary patch or of the final restoration of the public way;
  - c. Upon the failure of any temporary patch, unless that failure is repaired, to the satisfaction of the Highway Director or their designee, by the applicant(s) within fourteen (14) days, at the sole cost of the applicant(s); and
  - d.Upon the failure of any final restoration of the public way, unless that failure is repaired, to the satisfaction of the Highway Director or their designee, by the applicant(s) within fourteen (14) days, at the sole cost of the applicant(s)
- 4. In no event shall the surety be utilized for, and in no event shall the Town be responsible for, completing any work on private property or completing any work in the public way on behalf of the applicant(s) other than ensuring the temporary patching or final restoration of the public way.
- 5. Nothing shall preclude the Highway Director, in their discretion, from forbearing the use of the posted surety under § 230-17A(3)(a) or § 230-17A(3)(b), and instead authorizing the applicant(s) additional time to complete the work, pass inspection and receive a completion certificate pursuant to § 230-18. Any such forbearance shall not operate to waive the use of the surety by the Town at any point thereafter.
- B. No approved Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit shall be issued to the applicant(s) until and unless the applicant(s) provide certificate(s) of insurance each indicating the following:
  - 1. That coverages exist in the amounts that are required by the Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15; and
  - 2. That these coverages will not expire, or be discontinued or canceled, without 14 days prior notice to the Highway Director.

# § 230-18 Inspection and Completion Certificate.

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant(s) to schedule in a timely manner, in accordance with the applicable timeframe of either §§ 230-13E or 230-14E, the inspection(s) of the work that has been completed pursuant to a Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit. Such inspections shall be undertaken by the Highway Director or their designee.
- B. If the Highway Director or their designee determines that the work has been completed in a manner that satisfies the requirements of § 230-16B, then the Highway Director shall issue a completion certificate to the applicant(s); provided, that whenever seasonal conditions require the placement of a temporary patch, a completion certificate shall not be issued until after inspection of the subsequent final restoration.

#### § 230-19 Enforcement

- A. The provisions this Article IV, the terms and conditions of any Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, and the provisions of any Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, shall be enforced by any police officer through the noncriminal disposition method of enforcement.
  - 1. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation, and nothing shall preclude a particular action or inaction from constituting multiple distinct and separate fineable offenses.
  - 2. Any violation by a contractor shall result in separate fines being issued to both the contractor and the property owner or utility that hired that contractor.
  - 3. Each violation shall result in a fine of \$250.00.
- B. The Highway Director, upon the approval of the Board of Selectmen, may seek the enforcement of the provisions this Article IV, the terms and conditions of any Driveway Permit or Excavation Permit, and the provisions of any Regulations that are promulgated pursuant to § 230-15, through the issuance of injunctive or other equitable relief by the Superior Court.

## § 230-20 Severability.

The provisions of this Article IV are severable. Should any court of competent jurisdiction invalidate any particular provision, the remainder of this Article IV shall continue in full force and effect.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, as a gift for a nominal fee, a non-exclusive emergency access easement over the property located at 57 Main Street, being shown as Assessor's Map 8, Lot 3-A and Assessor's Map 72, Lot 3, for the benefit of the Town land on which the Town Hall and public library are located, being 81 Main Street and shown as Assessor's Map 73, Lot 33, for the purpose of allowing access to and from said Town land by emergency personnel and vehicles.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to accept the action of the Board of Selectmen in laying out as public ways High Hill Road and White Rock Lane in the High Hill Estates subdivision as further depicted upon the plans attached to the warrant and filed with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

#### Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to accept the action of the Board of Selectmen in laying out as public ways Keith Circle and Kyle Court in the Titania Estates subdivision, as further depicted upon the plans attached to the warrant and filed with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

#### Advisory and Finance Does Not Recommend (5 in favor, 7 opposed)

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of \$21,600,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of Phase 1A of the Route 6 Corridor and Route 118 wastewater collection system throughout the Town including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws.

And further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and for the purpose of meeting this appropriation, to borrow any and all of said \$21,600,000, and to issue bonds or notes therefore, under and pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws and any other enabling authority, with such bonds or notes being general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations to be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of said Chapter 29C.

And further, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and for the purpose of meeting this appropriation, to borrow any and all of said appropriation from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to said Chapter 29C, and, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen,

to secure such loan by general revenues or such local systems revenues to the extent required by said Trust.

And further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission, and their respective designees, to enter into, execute, submit and file any and all applications and agreements that are necessary or expedient to effectuate the receipt of any grants, reimbursements, aid, loans or other funds from any local, state or federal source, including without limitation pursuant to said Chapter 29C with the Trust and with the Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of funding or financing all or any portion of said Phase 1A construction;

And further to clarify, that the total expenditure for the Phase 1A construction from all combined sources, including, without limitation, grants, reimbursements, aid, loans (and whether secured or unsecured), and issuance of bonds and notes (and whether general or limited), shall not exceed said amount of \$21,600,000.

And further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission, and their respective designees, to expend all funds available for said Phase 1A construction and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out said Phase 1A construction.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, §53F ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purpose of establishing Sewer Services as an enterprise fund effective Fiscal Year 2025, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Advisory and Finance Recommends Unanimously (12-0)

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And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof seven (7) days at least before the day of said meeting as prescribed by law.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk within twenty-four (24) hours after making service thereof.

Given under our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Robert'C. Medeiros, Chairman

Steven H. Kitchin, Vice Chairman

A true copy, Attest:

Constable of Swansea:

I hereby certify that the above warrant has been posted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws and the By-Laws of the Town of Swansea in the following eight places:

**Town Hall** C.O.A./Community Center Swansea Water District

**United States Post Office** 

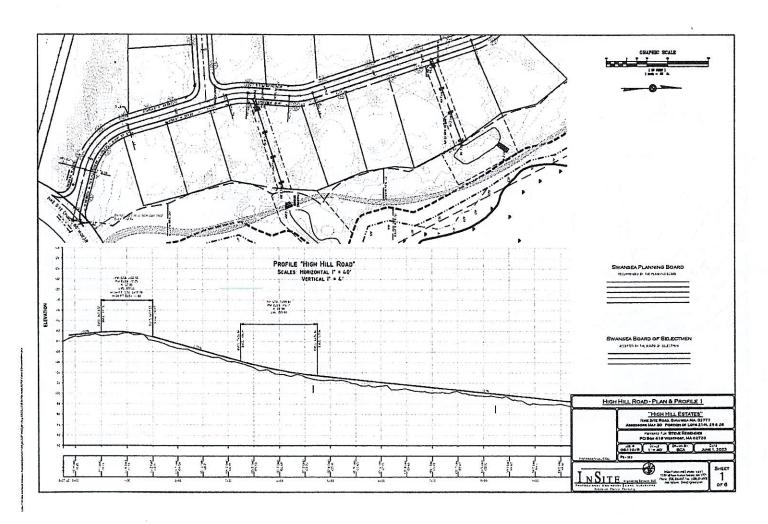
Police Station

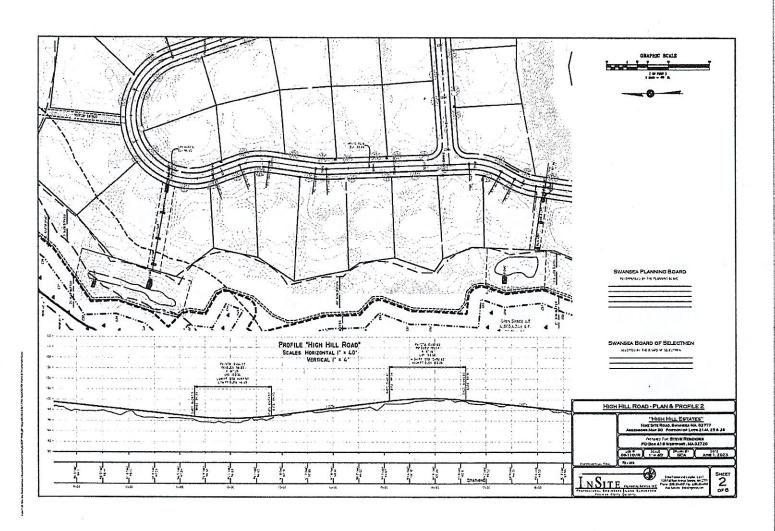
**Somerset Federal Credit Union** 

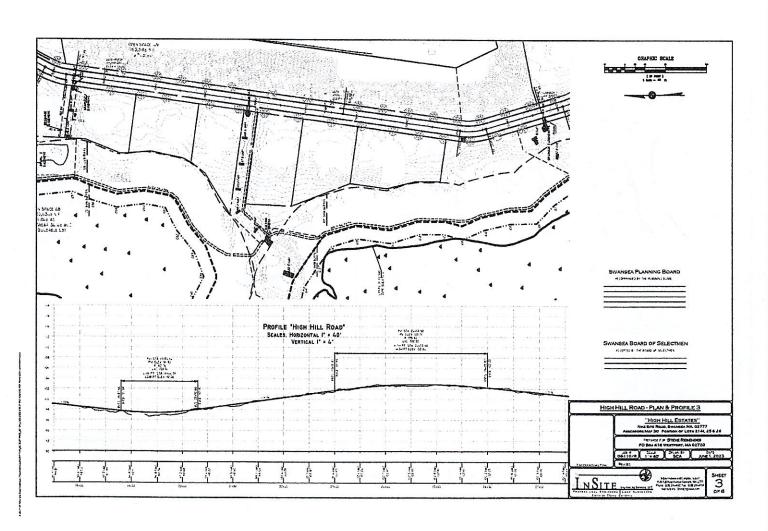
Fire Station No. 2

Harvest Market Tap and Table

(Constable)

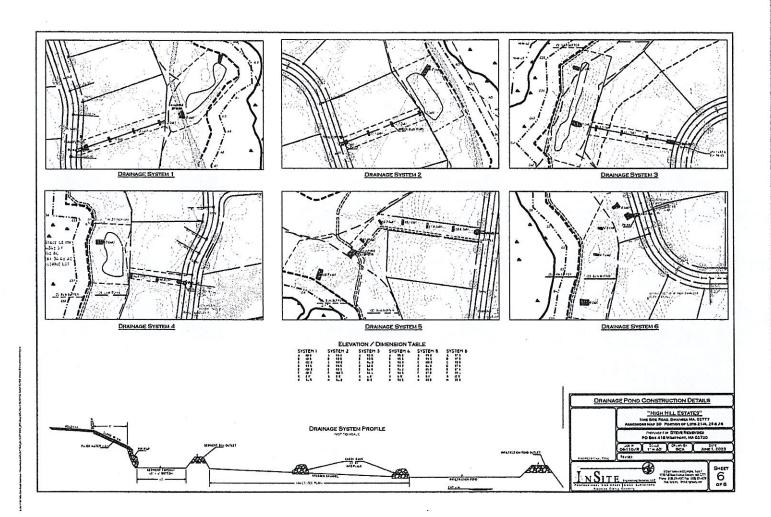


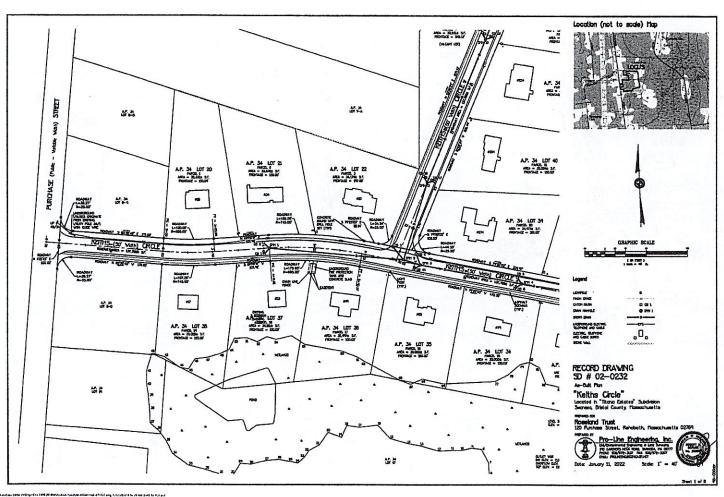


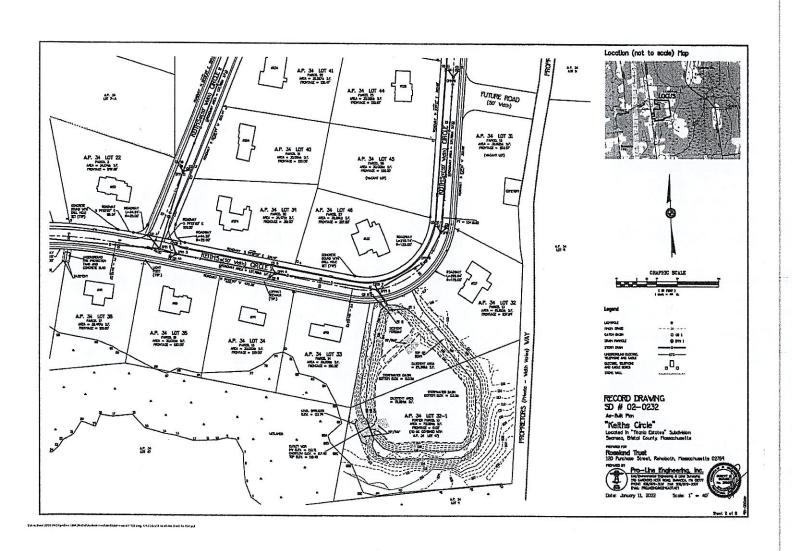


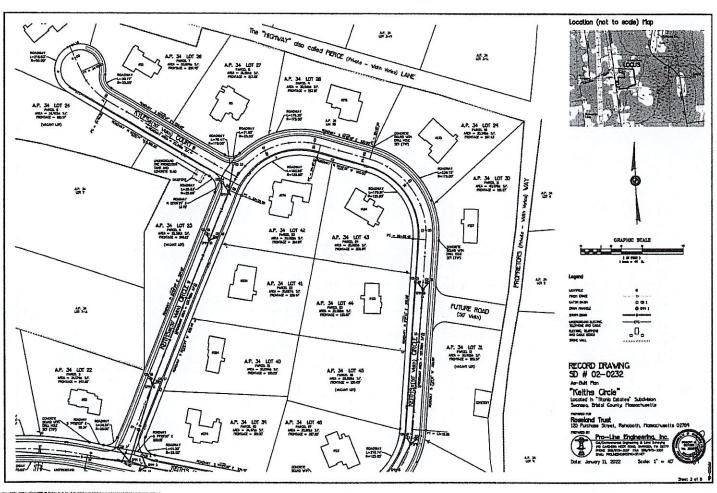
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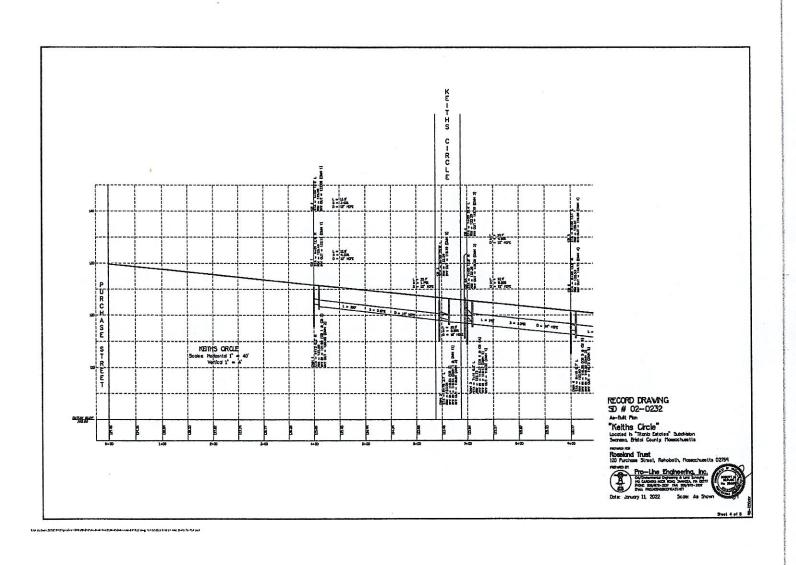
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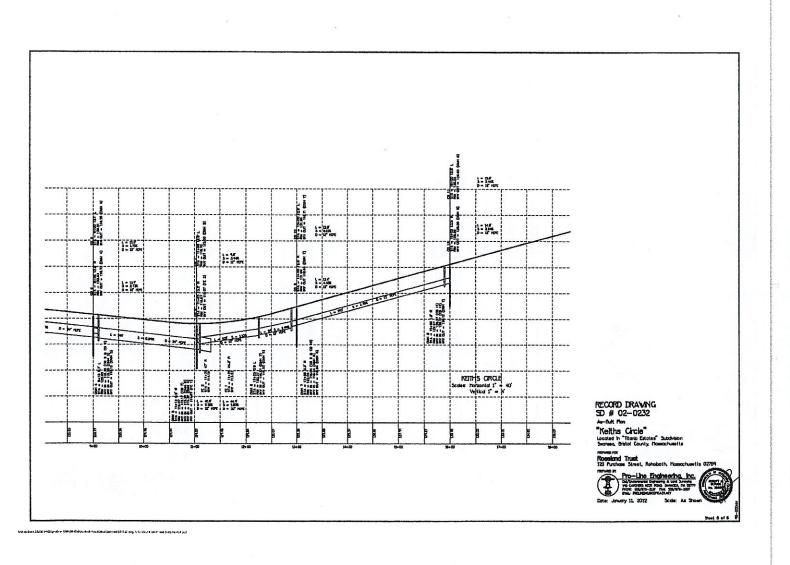


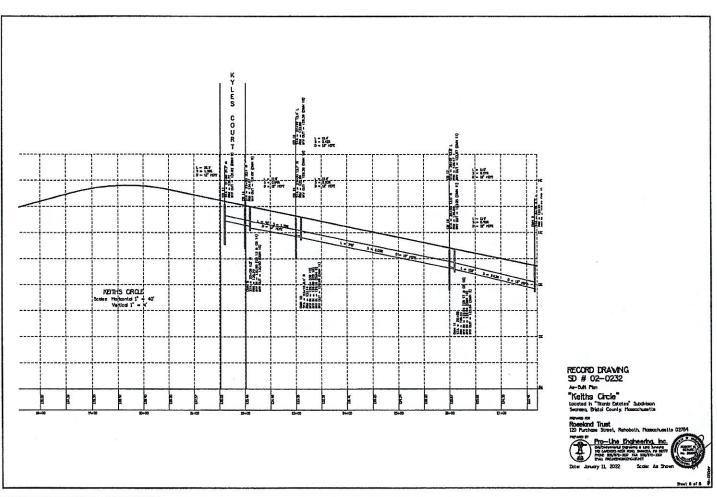




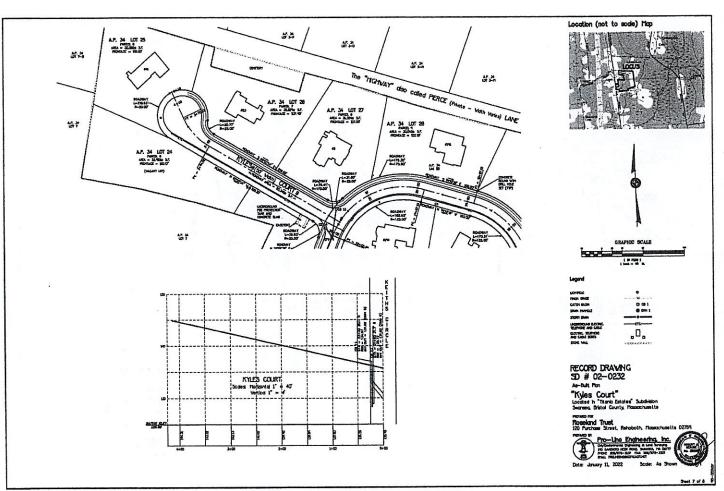




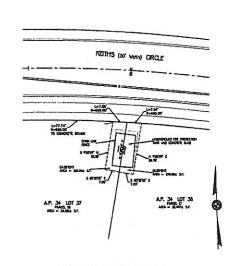




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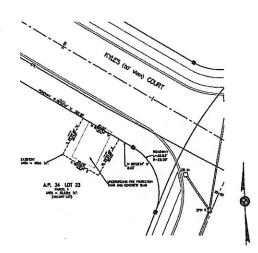


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PRE PROTECTION EASEMENT AP. 34, Lot 36, Parcel 17 AP. 34, Lot 37, Parcel 18 Scale: 1"=10"

out Since PriCapation (1996) A City Annick County and City of the City of the



FIRE PROTECTION EASEMENT A.P. 34, Lot 23, Porcel 4 Scale: 1"=10"

Bristol County Registry of Deeds (Fall River District References:

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General Notes:

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RECORD DRAWING SD # 02-0232 As-But Flon "Kelthis Circle" Located in "Titania Estates" Secresa, Bristol County, Flor