# **Town of Blowing Rock**

## **Planning Board**

Agenda

Thursday November 21, 2019

5:30 p.m.

**Call to Order** 

**Approval of Agenda** 

**Approval of Minutes** 

**Business** 

1. Conditional Rezoning 2019 – 03 (CB to CZ-CB) – The Blue Ridge Hotel

**Other Business** 

Adjournment

#### **DRAFT**

## Planning and Zoning Board

#### **Minutes**

#### Monday, October 28, 2019

5:30 p.m.

The Blowing Rock Planning and Zoning Board met on Monday, October 28, 2019 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Chairman Harwood called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present were Wes Carter, Don Hubble, Kim Hartley, Sam Glover, Pete Gherini and Harrison Herbst. Members Mike Page and Joe Papa were absent. Staff members present were Town Manager Shane Fox, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock and Planning and Zoning Support Specialist Tammy Bentley.

Chairman Harwood asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Herbst made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gherini. All members were in favor of the motion.

Chairman Harwood asked if there were any changes to the July 18, 2019 meeting minutes. There were none. Mr. Hubble made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Hartley. All members were in favor of the motion.

Chairman Harwood asked to be recused by the Board for the Conditional Zoning request, as he is the Architect of record for this project. Mr. Carter made a motion to recuse Chairman Harwood, seconded by Mr. Page. All members were in favor of the motion.

Chairman Harwood thanked the Board, turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Carter and left the room.

## CZ 2019 – 02 Conditional Rezoning 2019 – 02 (GB CZ-GB) – The Village on the Headwaters

Mr. Rothrock gave the staff report. The Headwaters of the New River, LLC is requesting a conditional rezoning of the former New River Inn property from General Business to Conditional Zoning – General Business (CZ-GB). The 4.926-acre property is located at 6875 Valley Boulevard. The Applicant is proposing to renovate the former New River Inn office building for use as 4 Forty Four's office building and construct several residential cottages and treehouses. Mr. Rothrock said the project meets Town Code and added that the Applicant is asking for four conditions as follows:

- 1. Five-year vested rights period upon the approval of this application to allow project completion in phases;
- 2. The ability to mix the number of cottages and treehouses on the site to meet market demands;
- 3. The ability to alter the location of the residential uses, if the fire apparatus distance requirements are met; and
- 4. Use of photovoltaic panels on the southern roof of the office building.

Mr. Rothrock said the setbacks for the property are 20' from 321 and 8 feet on the sides and rear. Mr. Rothrock added the existing office building is located partially in the 100-year

floodway, that all new construction will not expand the current footprint and will not add to the floodway encroachment, and that a flood study and/or certification will be required to verify the new construction will meet the Town's floodplain ordinance.

Mr. Rothrock said that all buildings are consistent with the commercial design standards and colors in the Land Use Ordinance. Mr. Rothrock advised that access will be the current entrance on Highway 321, and access to the remainder of the property will be via the existing bridge and will follow the existing road. Mr. Rothrock advised that the existing grade is 20%, but the Applicant is proposing adjusting the grade to not more than 15% to meet Town Code.

Mr. Rothrock said parking requirements can be met and will be phased as the project progresses. Mr. Rothrock said storm water, utilities, garbage collection and landscaping will all meet Town Code. Mr. Rothrock added that a detailed landscape plan has not been submitted but will be submitted with construction drawings.

Mr. Hubble asked if this project will challenge the Town's water/sewer capacity. Mr. Rothrock advised that it will not.

Mr. Kevin Troyer, Applicant, thanked the Board for their time. He said that he and his wife, Lily, own 4 Forty-four and that the team had worked very hard on this, had done their due diligence and were very excited. Mr. Troyer added that they feel this will be an asset to Blowing Rock.

Mr. Troyer went through the PowerPoint presentation and gave a history of the property. Mr. Troyer said the design meets 17 objectives of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, that the Middle Fork Greenway (MFG) path location is now proposed and the parking areas for the residential units will be placed on the old hotel building pads.

Mr. Troyer said the treehouse units will be first rate with full amenities. Mr. Troyer added that the plan is to have no steps into the treehouse units and that the site design is very intentional in having a very light environmental footprint.

Ms. Emily Anderson, Designer, said the design is sensitive to Blowing Rock's architectural history and fabric and blends in with the mountain heritage. Ms. Anderson said that the existing building footprint cannot be increased horizontally, therefore it is being increased vertically. Ms. Anderson noted the request for photo voltaic panels on the south facing side of the building. Ms. Anderson detailed the planned exterior finishes as shown on the design board.

Mr. Preston Spencer told the Board he is excited to work on this project and added that collaborating with Municipal Engineering has been great. Mr. Spencer said there are several site conditions including a wetland in the middle of the site, the river, stream, floodplain and floodway. Mr. Spencer advised there is no sewer on the site, and they must bore under 321 to tap to the Town line and they are in preliminary discussions with NCDOT and the Town Engineer regarding this and that the sewer pump station will be very discreet. Mr. Spencer said the project will have a low-density impervious surface; that all retaining

walls will be no taller than 6 feet in height and have very minimal impact on to the wetland and stream.

Mr. Troyer said that they are requesting four conditions, but no variances and indicated that letters of support for the project from the MFG and Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, adding that the Chamber had helped to brainstorm the cottage and treehouse concept.

Mr. Mike Trew, of Municipal Engineering, said there are several site issues including topography, the river, wetland and MFG. He added there is an old spring capture system that will need to be replaced and has been permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Trew said the motel 'plateaus' will be used for the residential unit parking. Mr. Trew said the Town storm water requirements will be met adding it will be under the parking lot and release into the stream. Mr. Trew said that this will keep the water cooler and be much better for the trout waters. Mr. Trew reiterated that this is considered a low-density development with 19% impervious surface. Mr. Trew added that the MFG is a great addition and will enhance and benefit the Town.

Mr. Gherini asked the total square footage of the planned office building. Mr. Troyer said 3,600 square feet.

Ms. Hartley asked if the utilities will be above or below ground. Mr. Troyer advised below ground.

Mr. Gherini asked if signage could be erected to alert northbound traffic of the turn into the project. Mr. Troyer said that the larger building and landscaping will define the entrance and that NCDOT did not think that signage was necessary. Mr. Gherini said that people drive fast there, and the issue needs to be raised. Mr. Troyer responded that the road straightens out for a few hundred yards before the entrance past the Moon restaurant. Mr. Hubble asked where the speed limit increases from 35 mph to 50 mph. Mr. Troyer advised just before the project entrance.

Vice-Chair Carter noted that one-half the building is in the floodway and asked how that affected increasing the building footprint. Mr. Rothrock said the footprint cannot be increased.

Vice-Chair Carter asked how many residences are allowed on the site now. Mr. Rothrock advised 25. Mr. Carter noted that proposed number of residential units is well below that number.

Vice-Chair Carter asked how the property will be owned. Mr. Troyer advised that the entire property will have one owner. Mr. Glover asked who that owner will be. Mr. Troyer advised that he own it; that it will not be owned by 4 Forty Four.

Mr. Glover asked if the residential units will be Airbnb. Mr. Rothrock advised that short-term rentals are allowed in the General Business zoning district.

Vice-Chair Carter asked if any retail use is being requested. Mr. Troyer said no.

Vice-Chair Carter asked if there is any issue with the building proximity to the stream. Mr. Trew said there is not.

Vice-Chair Carter asked if firetruck access on the site has been considered. Mr. Spencer said they had met with the Blowing Rock Fire Department and the site plan meets the end-to-end distances. Mr. Rothrock advised there is a 't' turnaround between the two parking lots.

Vice-Chair Carter asked if the routing of the existing stream will be changed. Mr. Trew said that it will be repaired, but not moved.

Mr. Hubble asked Mr. Rothrock if a 5-year vesting period has been historically allowed. Mr. Rothrock said no, but that State Statute allows it.

Vice-Chair Carter asked if all the residential units will be handicap accessible. Mr. Troyer advised that the cottages will be, but the treehouses will not. Mr. Carter asked if this is ok for commercial properties. Mr. Rothrock advised that these are residential properties, not commercial properties, and they will meet the residential building code.

Mr. Glover asked about the 5-year besting period and planned phasing of the project. Mr. Troyer said they plan to build 3 units and see how the market responds.

Mr. Gherini commented that the solar panels do not meet code and will need to be changed. Mr. Rothrock confirmed and added that it is limited to 20% of the roof plane, but that anything over 20% can be part of the Conditional Zoning approval. Vice-Chair Carter noted that the solar panels will be on the south side of the building and not visible from the road.

Vice-Chair Carter noted that the property is zoned General Business, that this use is allowed in this district, and asked why the change is being requested. Mr. Rothrock said the Applicant chose Conditional Zoning with four conditions. Vice-Chair Carter asked if any of the conditions are not met by current code. Mr. Rothrock said no, that there are no variances requested.

Ms. Hartley inquired as the phases. Mr. Troyer said the first phase would be the office building.

Mr. Glover asked if the future office space would require additional approval and additional parking. Mr. Rothrock said that ultimately the Town Council approves this request and they can stipulate that they approve the design of the future office building. Mr. Rothrock added that he thinks this a reasonable condition. Vice-Chair Carter asked why this is not a condition now. Mr. Rothrock said it can be added now. Vice-Chair Carter said if not added now, they must come back for approval. Mr. Rothrock said the future building is on the plan now as a placeholder, but it would be prudent to ask the Applicant to return to the Planning Board and/or the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Glover made a motion to open public comment, seconded by Mr. Herbst. **All members** were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Marshall Sealy of Norwood Circle asked for an explanation of floodway versus floodplain. Mr. Rothrock said the floodway is closest to the stream and most regulated and that he is not aware of any water getting into the existing building. Mr. Trew said the floodway is the area of moving water and the floodplain is the area of standing/pooling water.

Mr. Tim Gupton of Meadow Lane asked if the culvert is grandfathered by the Blue Ridge Conservancy. Mr. Trew advised that it is a bottomless culvert; an arch. Mr. Gupton asked if it will be or must be restored. Mr. Troyer said the Middle Fork Greenway advised against removing it as it is more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Gherini made a motion to close the public comment, seconded by Mr. Herbst. **All** members were in favor of the motion.

Vice-Chair Carter asked why some units are called treehouses. Mr. Troyer advised that there is quite a market/audience for treehouses, adding that he and Lily traveled to Arkansas to stay in a treehouse and there were visitors from all over the US and abroad.

Vice-Chair Carter said he appreciated him working with the MFG and asked if he will make granting the easement a condition of the request. Mr. Troyer advised that he is willing to if the final plans from the MFG are in keeping with their conversations to date. Vice-Chair Carter asked again if this could be a condition. Mr. Troyer said that this is his intention, but without final plans from the MFG, he would be putting himself in a position of being beholden to the Town. Mr. Hubble said he does not see this as a part of the Conditional Zoning request. Mr. Troyer said he would provide a letter of his intention to grant the easement.

Mr. Gherini complemented Mr. Troyer and his team on the presentation, adding that it is a very well thought out plan and it covers all the bases.

Ms. Hartley made a motion to recommend to Town Council as presented. The Board discussed the motion. Mr. Hubble seconded Ms. Hartley's motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

Chairman Harwood returned to the meeting and resumed as Chairman.

#### Other Business

Mr. Rothrock advised the Board of the second 321 Visioning Workshop being held at Town Hall on Tuesday, October 29 at 7 p.m. He also advised the Board of the Neighborhood Meeting for the Blue Ridge Hotel which is proposed on the old Blue Ridge Motor Court property on Main Street. This meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7 at Town Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gherini asked about updating the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Rothrock advised this is updated on every ten years and the next update should be in 2024. He advised the Board that he will provide them a snapshot of how we are progressing with the 2014 plan items.

Mr. Rothrock advised the Board that the Sunset Streetscape project should be finished by the third week of November. Vice-Chair Carter asked if all the pavement will be removed. Mr. Rothrock advised that some will be milled and added that the contractor had done a great job in matching the existing grade and tying in the water and sewer lines.

Charmain Harwood told the Board members that he appreciated them all rearranging their schedules to have this meeting.

Mr. Herbst made a motion to adjourn, of the motion.	seconded by Ms. Hartley. All members were in favor
Chairman Harwood adjourned the med	eting at 6:40 p.m.
Chairman David Harwood	Tammy Bentley Planning & Zoning Support Specialist

## **Blowing Rock Planning Board**

#### STAFF REPORT

**Project:** CZ 2019-03 Conditional Rezoning from CB to CZ-CB

Meeting Date: November 21, 2019

**Applicant:** John Winkler

**Staff:** Kevin Rothrock, Planning Director

#### **REQUEST**

John Winkler is requesting a conditional rezoning of the former Blue Ridge Motor Court property from Central Business to Conditional Zoning – Central Business (CZ-CB). The .44-acre property is located on Main Street. The Applicant is proposing the construction of a 12-unit hotel on the property. The property is further identified by Watauga County PIN 2807-98-6873-000.

#### General

The Applicant is seeking the conditional rezoning to construct a 12-room hotel on the former Blue Ridge Motel property.

#### Setbacks

The setback on Main Street is 15 feet from back of the proposed sidewalk and the setback off Sunflower Lane is 15 feet from the edge of the road. The side setbacks on the property are 5 feet. The proposed hotel meets all setback requirements as the building is shown at 54 feet from the back of the sidewalk to the closest point of the building.

#### Architectural Design

All building materials as proposed on the hotel appear to meet the commercial design standards. The overall height of the building is 37 feet 10 inches from the grade at the primary entrance. The overall height includes a parapet to screen HVAC equipment. To allow the building height as shown, the front southwest corner of the building will need to be moved back one (1) foot.

#### Access

Access to the site will be a revised and relocated driveway entrance off Main Street. The previous driveway was through the middle of the site and the new access will be moved slightly west and to the left of the property frontage. No access will be provided to Sunflower Lane.

#### **Parking**

The proposed hotel requires 12 spaces and 15 spaces are shown on the site plan.

#### Storm Water

The storm water runoff from the site will be conveyed to an onsite detention system under the parking area and released to the storm drainage system on Main Street, consistent with the Land Use Ordinance.

## **Garbage Collection**

Garbage collection will be through roll-out containers and will be picked up the owner or a private service.

## Landscaping

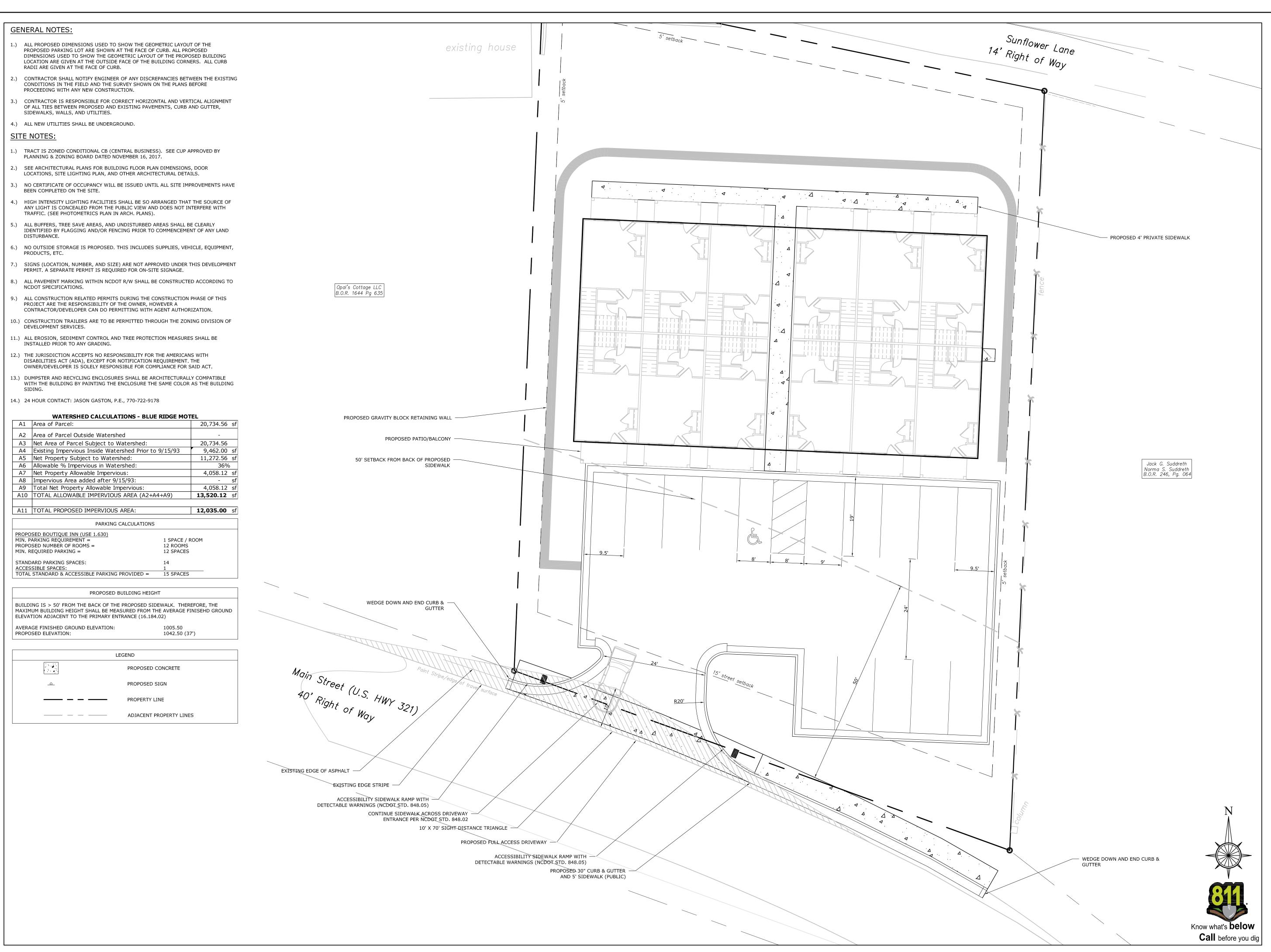
A landscape plan shows some large shade trees to be planted and will meet the screening requirements. The buffer on the northwest corner of the site needs to be increased from 4 to 8 feet but there is sufficient room to accommodate. There are 2 or 3 large shade trees along Sunflower Lane that can be retained to enhance the rear street yard.

## **Applicant Proposed Conditions**

None proposed

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Site and architectural plan package
- 2. Landscape plan
- 3. Photos and aerial view of site





A Commercial Development

ADDRESS:

830 Main Street
Blowing Rock, NC

DEVELOPER:

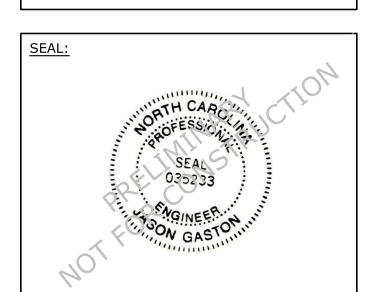


215 Boone Heights Drive, Ste. 100 Boone, NC 28607 828-262-3431

CONTACT: MR. JOHN WINKLER



215 Boone Heights Drive, Ste. 107
Boone, NC 28607
828-262-9807
www.valorengineering.com



VISIONS	DATE

PROJECT MANAGER:

DRAWING BY:

JURISDICTION:

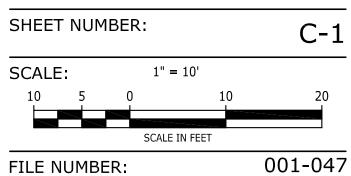
TOWN BLOWING ROCK

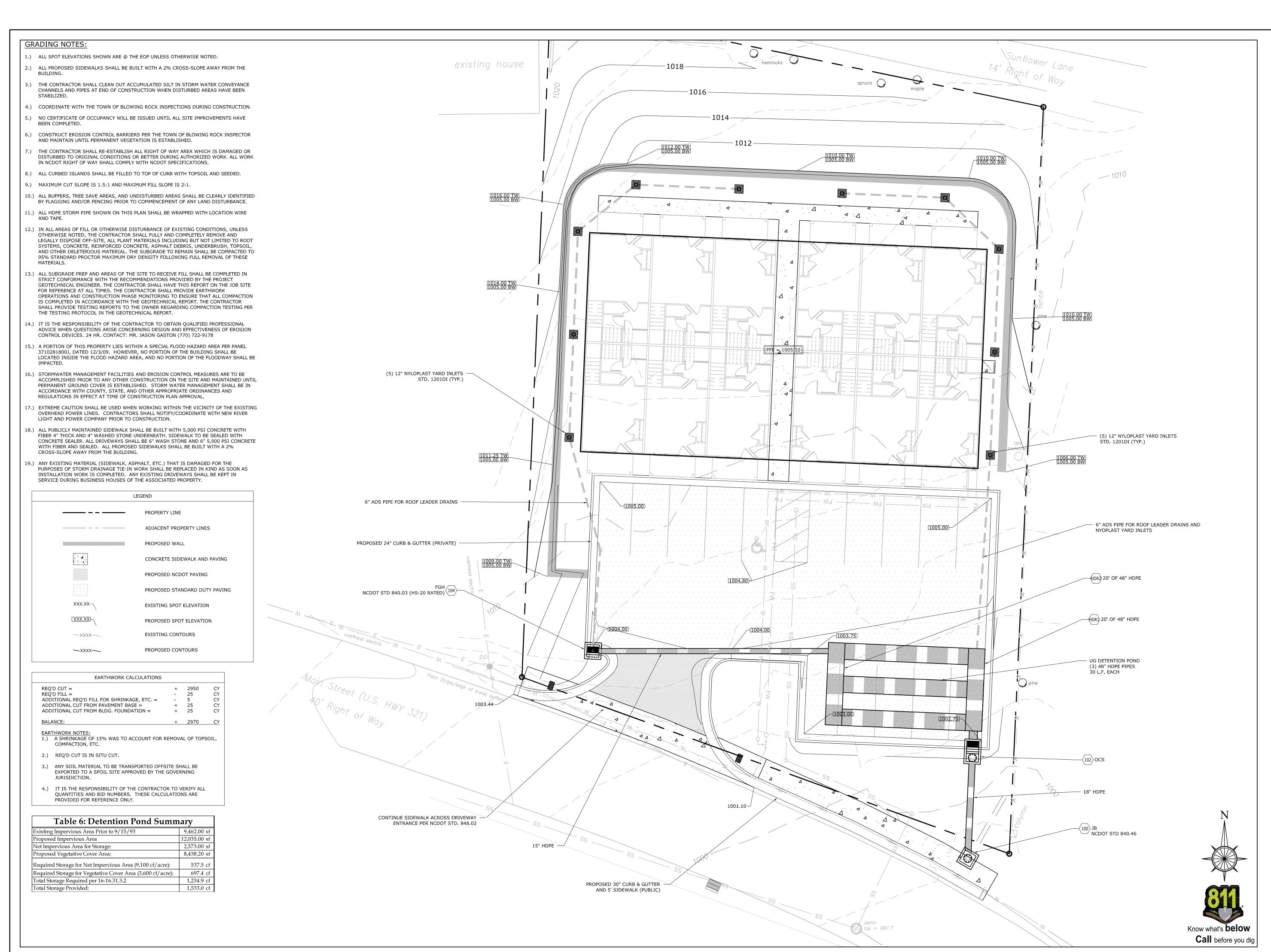
DATE:

09/30/19

SHEET TITLE:

# PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN





Blue Ridge Hotel

A Commercial Development

ADDRESS:

830 Main Street
Blowing Rock, NC

DEVELOPER:

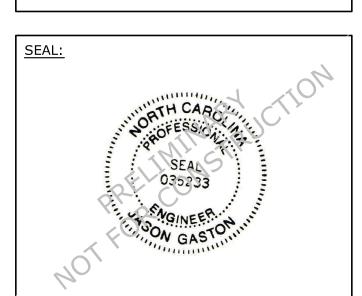


215 Boone Heights Drive, Ste. 100 Boone, NC 28607 828-262-3431

CONTACT: MR. JOHN WINKLER



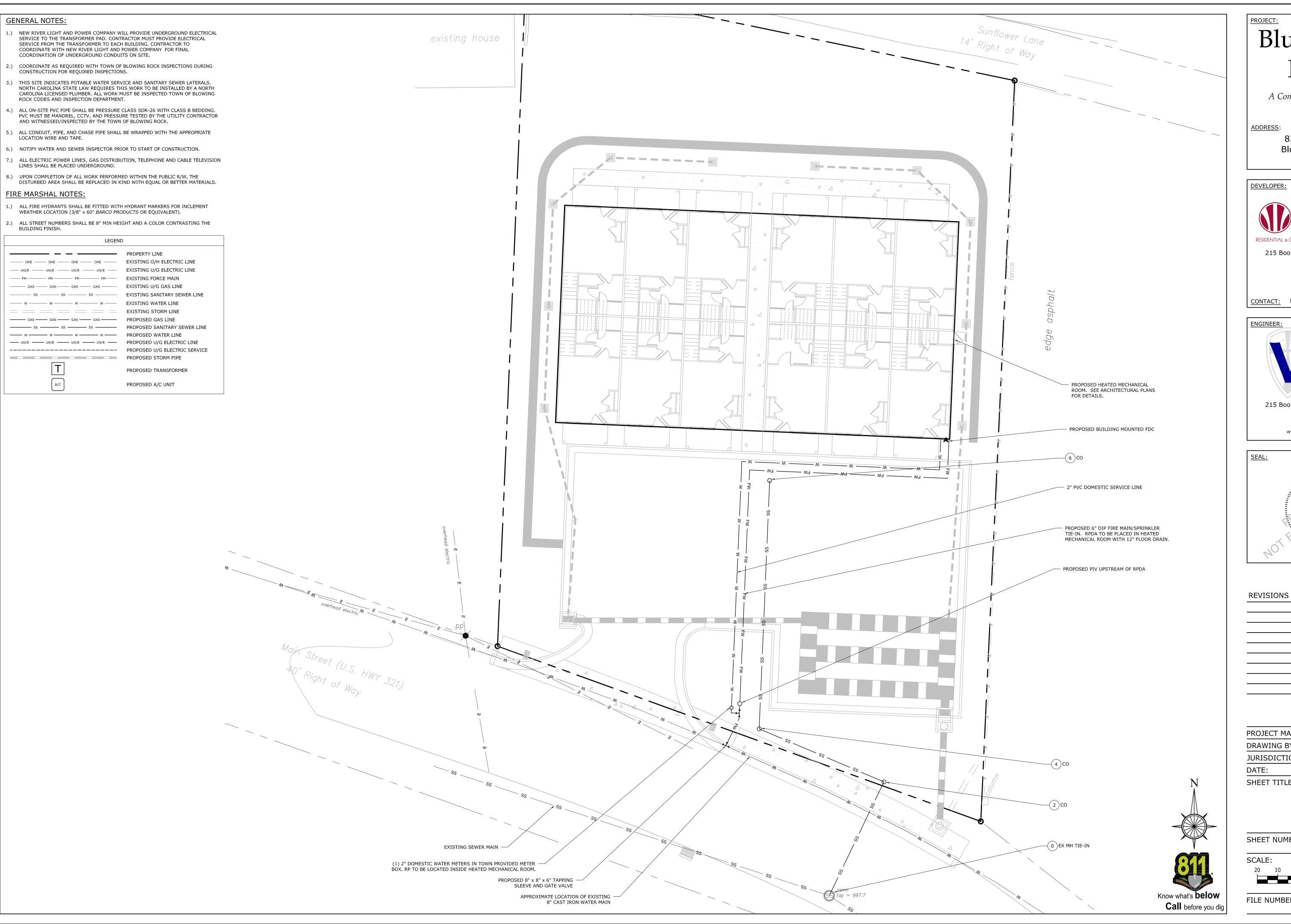
215 Boone Heights Drive, Ste. 107
Boone, NC 28607
828-262-9807
www.valorengineering.com



REVISIONS	DATE
	_

PROJECT MANAGER:	JEG
DRAWING BY:	JEG
JURISDICTION:	TOWN BLOWING ROCK
DATE:	09/30/19
SHEET TITLE:	

PRELIMINARY GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN





A Commercial Development

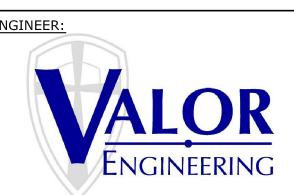
830 Main Street Blowing Rock, NC

DEVELOPER:



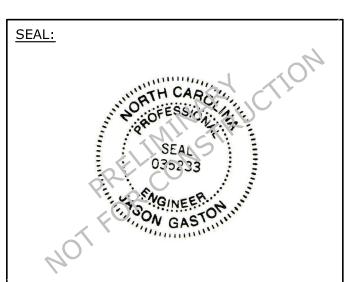
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CONTACT: MR. JOHN WINKLER



215 Boone Heights Drive, Ste. 107 Boone, NC 28607 828-262-9807

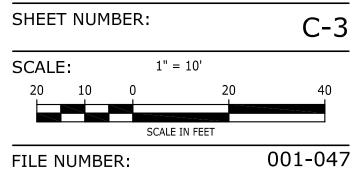
www.valorengineering.com

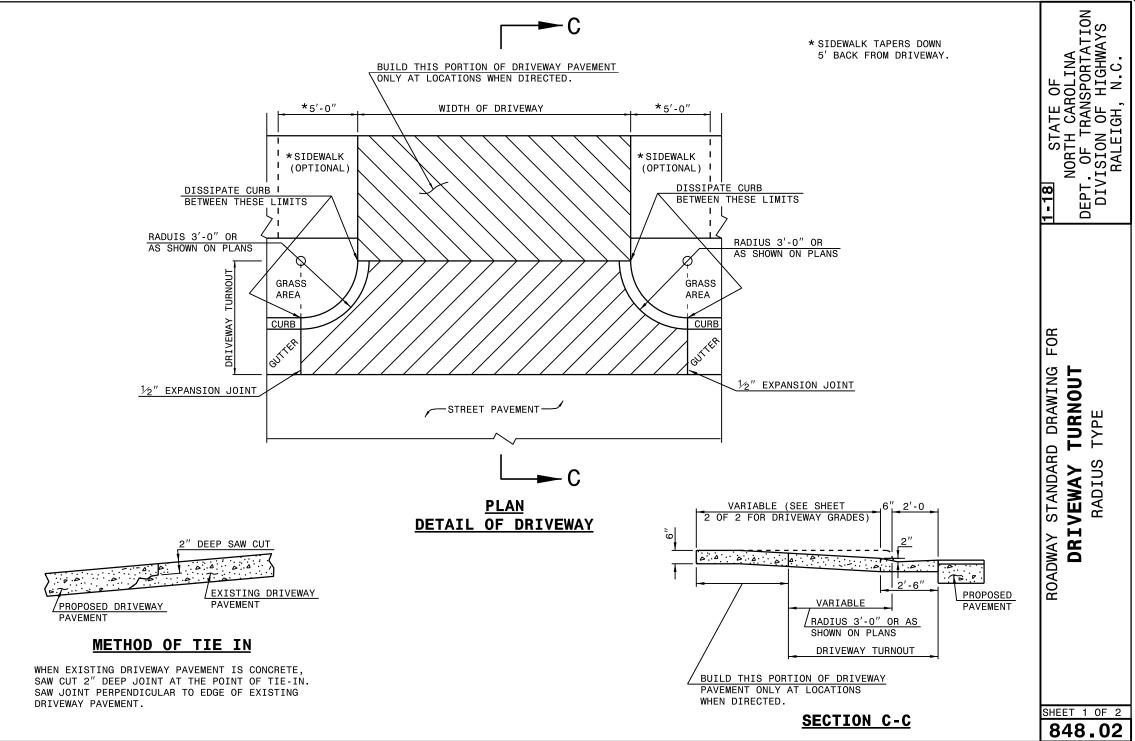


EVISIONS	DATE

PROJECT MANAGER: DRAWING BY: JURISDICTION: TOWN BLOWING ROCK DATE: 09/30/19 SHEET TITLE:

> **PRELIMINARY** UTILITY PLAN

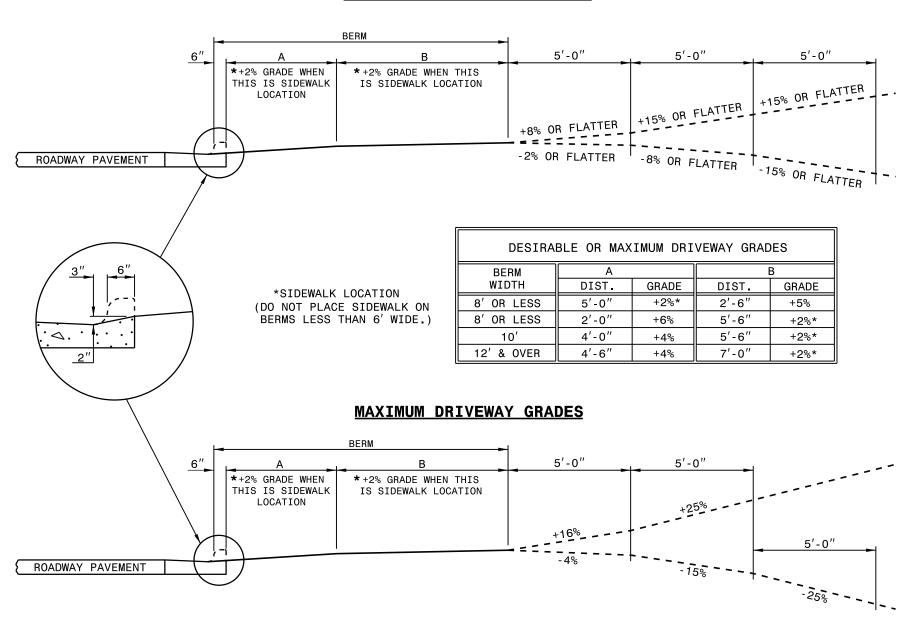




848.02

DIVISION OF RALEIGH,

## **DESIRABLE DRIVEWAY GRADES**



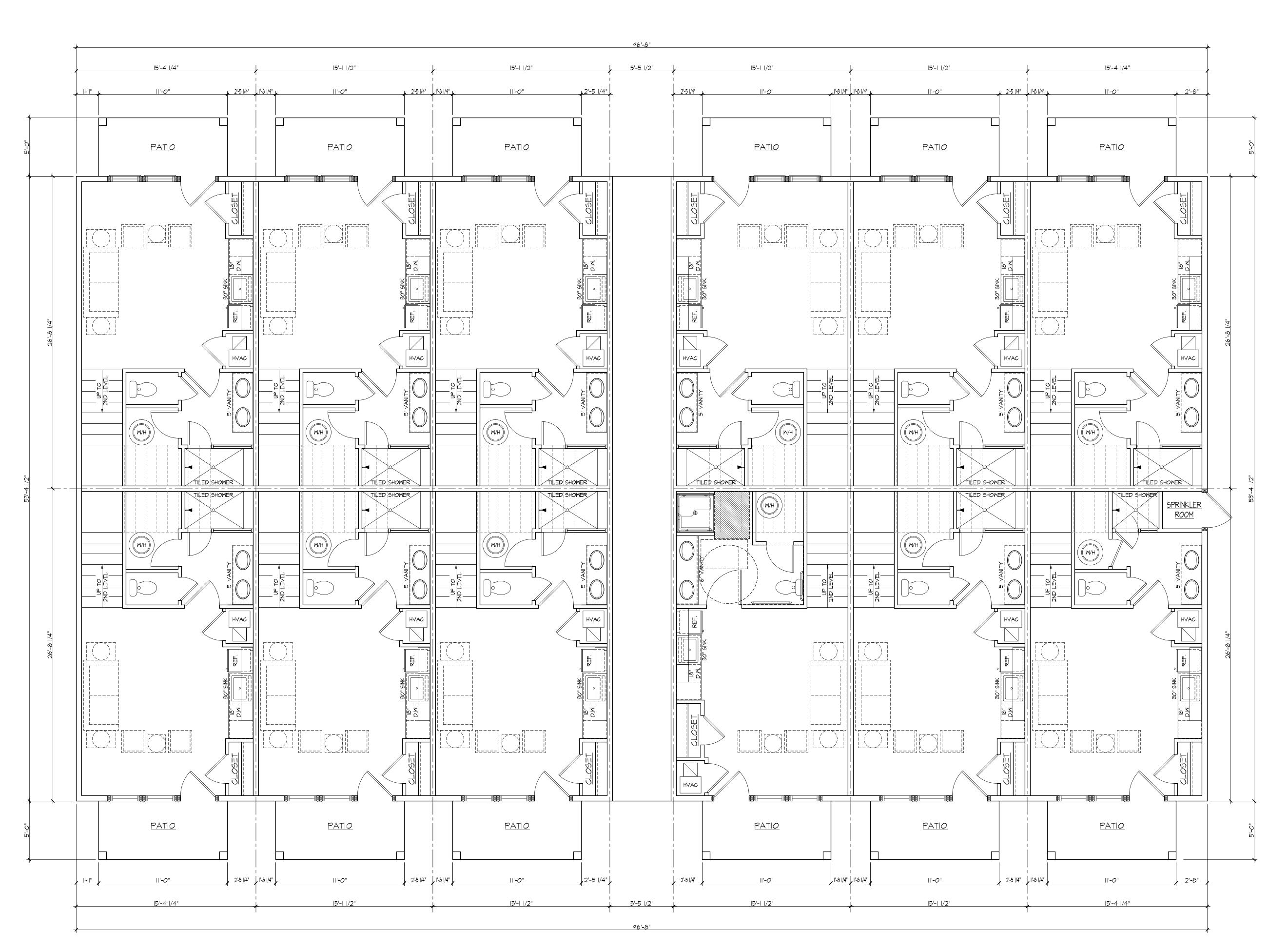
1-18 STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATI
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
RALEIGH, N.C.

ROADWAY STANDARD DRAWING FOR DRIVEWAY TURNOUT DRIVEWAY GRADES

SHEET 2 OF 2

848.02





DEVELO

BLUE RIDGE HOTEL
BLOWING ROCK

ATE JOB NO :
24/19 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
/2/19 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

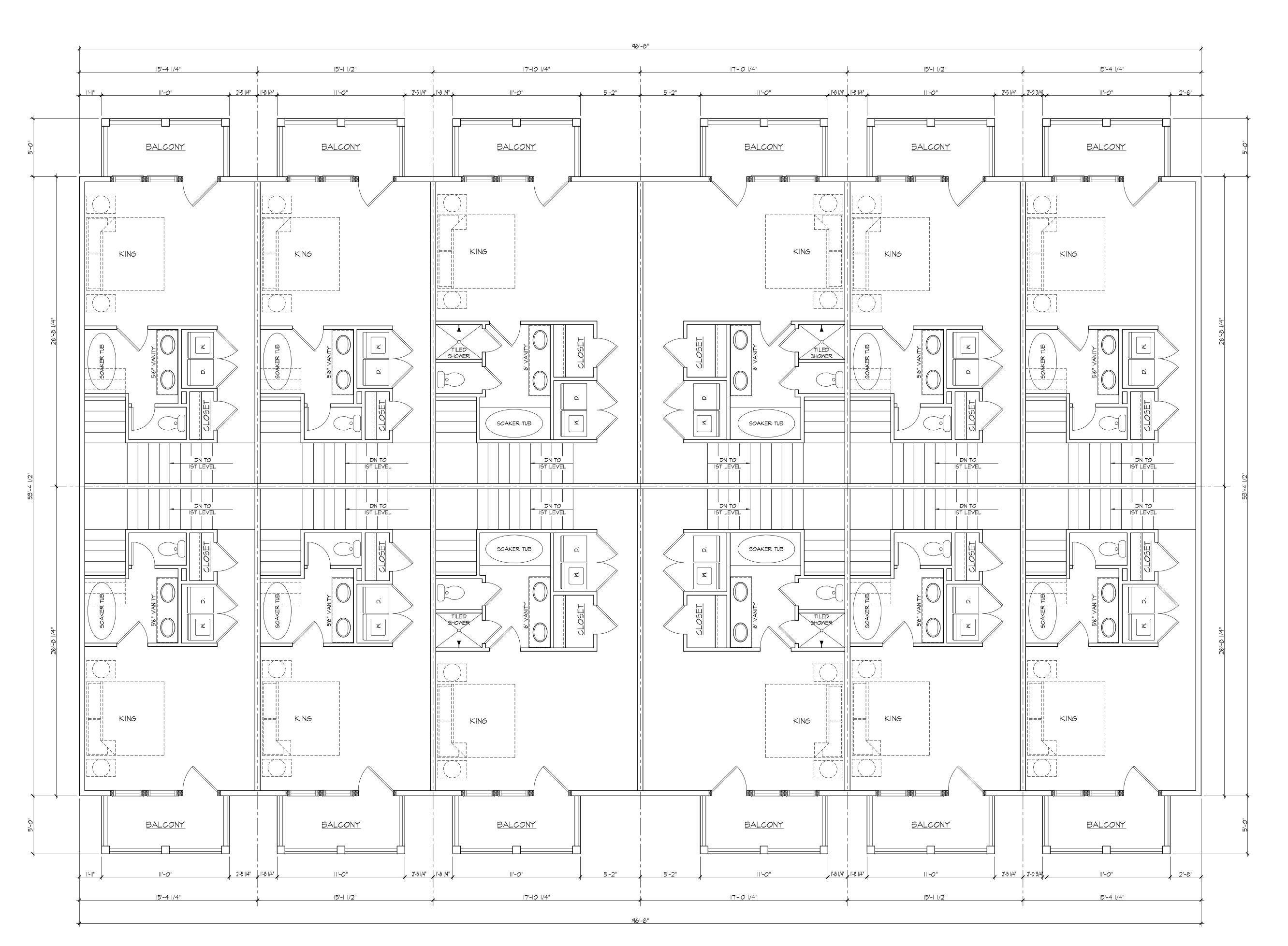
VIS ARCHITECTURE INC.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

SHEET A1.0

PRELIMINARY

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



BLUE RIDGE HOTEL
BLOWING ROCK
NORTH CAROLINA

DATE JOB NO :
9/24/19 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
10/2/19 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

AVIS ARCHITECTURE, INC.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

SHEET
A1.1

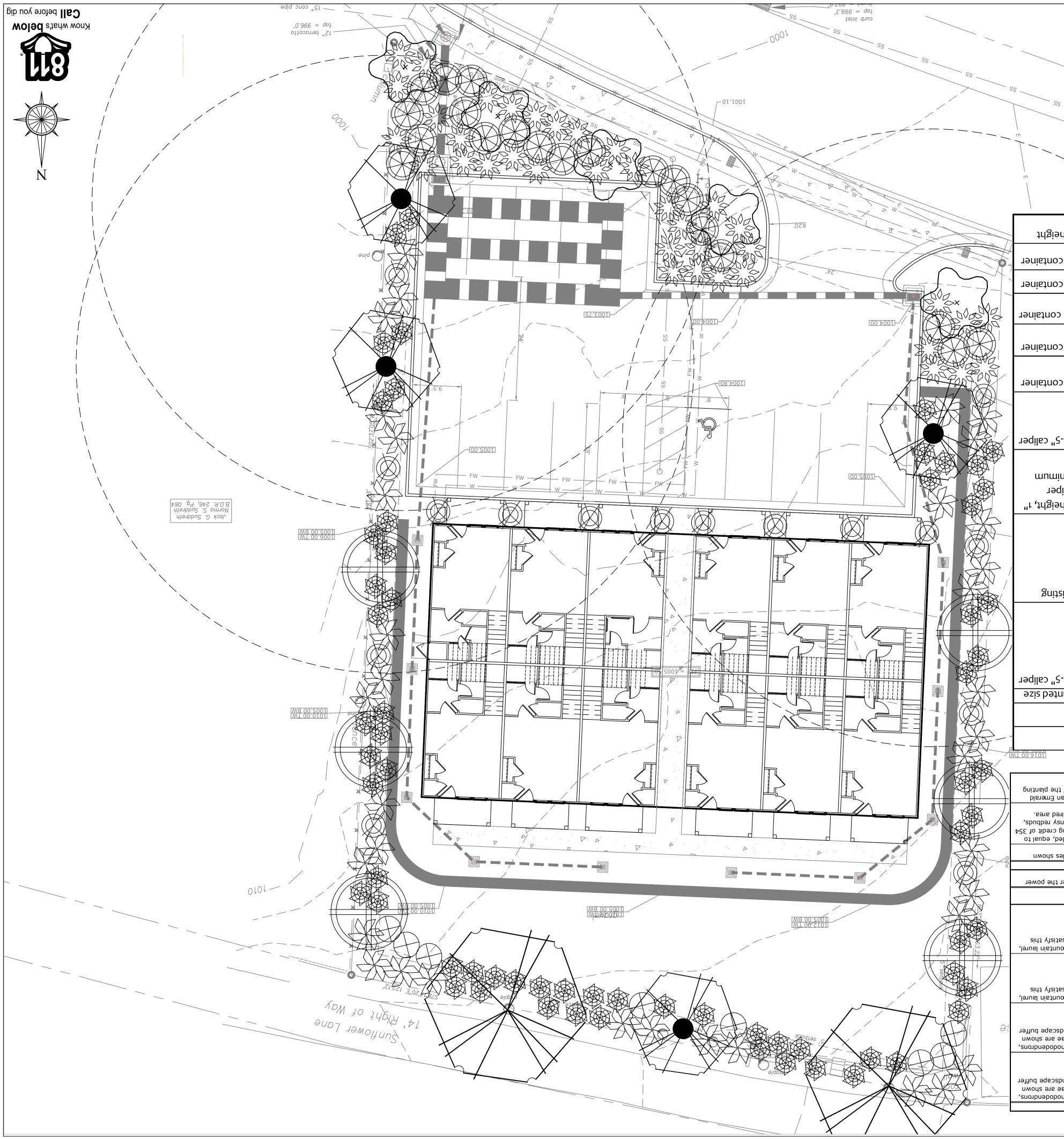






Blue Ridge Hotel

SCALE:



Planted size Qty Plant Botanical Name Plant Common Name Blue Ridge Hotel Plant Legend 4' in width. Green arbovitae. Each of those will, in time, fill the area of each of the planting of a structureby a landcaped planting area of at least (8) planting beds, each approximately 4'X4' are each planted with an Emerald Parking areas shall be separated from the exterior wall each with a shading credit of 157 sf, contribute 471 sf to the required area. Ist, contribute 1062 of to the required area. (3) adjacent Forest Pansy redbuds, omamental tree. shaded by either a large shade tree or small 1190 square feet (sf). (3) adjacent red maples, each with a shading credit of 354 20% of the 5,950 sf vehicle accommodation area needs to be shaded, equal to An area equal to 20% of the parking area shall be adjacent to parking. All parking spaces are within 60' of one or more of the (3) red maples shown No parking spots shall be more than 60' from a shade Section 16-22.19: Vehicle Accommodation Area lines which parallel the entire street side of the property. a dbh of 12 inches every 30 feet of frontage (5) Small ornamental trees (Forest Pansy redbuds) are shown under the power Frontage along Main Street. One tree that will grow to 125.7 Section 16-22.14: Required Trees Along Dedicated years after planting. Above that is an intermittent allowing for evergreen shrubs to grow in for several screen from the ground to a height of at least 3', requirement. The landscape buffer width is a minimum of 15'. property line. The requirement is to provide an opaque and (24) leucothoe are shown along the northern property line to satisfy this screen to a height of 20'. Linear feet of Type 'B' screen required along southern 125.7 (1) red maples, (2) existing red maples, (11) rhododendrons, (8) mountain laurel, years after planting. Above that is an intermittent allowing for evergreen shrubs to grow in for several screen from the ground to a height of at least 3', requirement. The landscape buffer width is a minimum of 15'. property line. The requirement is to provide an opaque and (24) leucothoe are shown along the northern property line to satisfy this (1) red maples, (2) existing red maples, (11) rhododendrons, (8) mountain laurel, Linear feet of Type 'B' screen required along northern screen to a height of 20'. allowing for evergreen shrubs to grow in for several years after planting. Above that is an intermittent .'Z to muminim s si Atbiw along the eastern property line to satisfy this requirement. The landscape buffer screen from the ground to a height of at least 3', (3) mountain laurel, (21) leucothoe and (4) emerald green arborvitae are shown property line. The requirement is to provide an opaque screen to a height of 20'. Linear feet of Type 'B' screen required along eastern 181.33 (1) Forest Pansy redbud, (2) red maples, (3) serviceberries, (15) rhododendrons, years after planting. Above that is an intermittent allowing for evergreen shrubs to grow in for several along the western property line to satisfy this requirement. The landscape buffer width is a minimum of 5'. screen from the ground to a height of at least 3', property line. The requirement is to provide an opaque (3) mountain laurel, (21) leucothoe and (4) emerald green arborvitae are shown (1) Forest Pansy redbud, (1) red maples, (2) serviceberries, (15) rhododendrons, Linear feet of Type 'B' screen required along western Satisfaction of Requirements Section 16-22.5: Screen Requirements Blue Ridge Hotel Landscape Calculations

