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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Boisvert and the opening statement was read by the Board Secretary.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>: Showed the following members were present: Joseph Cristiano, Brian Greenfield, Nicholas Huszar, Robert Seaman, Megan Talente, Brian Tannenhaus, Councilman Fred Gasior, Matthew Kyle, Christopher Mercer and Chairman Paul Boisvert.

Also in attendance were Ron Cucchiaro, Board Attorney, Laura Neumann, Board Engineer, Christine Bell, Board Planner, Shari Spero, Board Licensed Tree Expert and Eileen Rubano, Board Secretary.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There were no minutes to approve.

**VOUCHERS:** None

<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>: The Board Secretary had a letter from Robert F. Simon, Attorney asking that the application AASTHW Property LLC which is scheduled to be heard tonight, be carried to March 2, 2023 with no further notice. The Board Attorney made an announcement for members of the public that the application for Case No. SP-1102 AASTHW Property LLC would be carried to the Board's March 2, 2023 meeting with no further notice and it would be a virtual meeting.

The Board Secretary also sent out an email with a copy of Ordinance 23-5, An Ordinance of the Township of Howell Clarifying Implementing Ordinance O-22-24. The Board needs to comment on whether this ordinance is consistent with the master plan.

Ms. Talente made a motion that the ordinance was substantially consistent with the Master Plan. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gasior and carried with Mr. Cristiano, Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Huszar, Mr. Seaman, Ms. Talente, Mr. Tannenhaus, Councilman Gasior, Mr. Kyle and Chairman Boisvert voting for the motion.

**RESOLUTIONS:** There were no resolutions to memorialize at this meeting.

#### **SUBMISSION WAIVERS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

### a. Case No. SP-1111 / Kmetz Inc.

Dante Alfieri, Attorney for the Applicant, appeared for the applicant and said they will provide items I and Q in Ms. Neumann's review so they are no longer seeking those waivers. Ms. Neumann testified that the waivers are listed in her January 12, 2023 report and the engineer has provided her with a memo that they will also be providing items J through P on a subsequent plan revision along with the Woodlands Management. He also informed her that the Natural Resource Inventory is included in the Environmental Impact Statement. Since they are now providing items I through Q she takes no exception to the granting of the remaining items for the purposes of deeming the application complete.

## HOWELL TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2023** 

Mr. Cristiano made a motion to grant the submission waivers for Kmetz Inc. Motion was seconded by Mr. Tannenhaus and carried with Mr. Cristiano, Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Huszar, Mr. Seaman, Ms. Talente, Mr. Tannenhaus, Councilman Gasior, Mr. Mercer and Chairman Boisvert voting for the motion.

#### APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE BOARD:

Prior to the start of the first application Mr. Huszar informed the Chairman that he had to recuse himself from this application and left the meeting.

a. Case No SP-1085/AAFFHW Property, LLC-Forman – Whispering Woods Settlement Hearing

#### SEE TRANSCRIPT ATTACHED

#### b. Case No. SD-3005 / Stanley Domin

Before this application began, Chairman Boisvert left the meeting. Mr. Huszar returned and as Vice-Chairman he took over chairing this portion of the meeting. Mr. Cristiano recused himself from this application.

Dennis Galvin, Attorney for the Applicant appeared and said this was a simple matter. The applicant received approval for a subdivision for 2 residential lots and a farm lot which was 5 acres in size. They have an easement that looks like a road and both houses face that road. This creates technical issues since it isn't a roadway. The street along the roadway is being treated as a front yard and they need clarification. There is also a farmland/conservation easement that needs to be clarified and they are looking to put up a deer fence as the deer eat all the plants. They are looking to treat the front yard as a side yard.

Stanley Domin, Applicant, was duly sworn and testified on the orientation of the homes and said the lot functions as a corner lot. He also said there is a shed in the front yard which was approved with a variance at the last subdivision approval. They would like the front yard treated as a practical side yard. He further stated that there is a fence around the entire perimeter of the three lots instead of just the farm. During the original application for the subdivision the farmland buffer was transitioned into a conservation easement. With the second subdivision application the two residential lots were made smaller and the farm lot larger. The Township recognized the error with the buffer and repealed the one on the farm lot. They are now looking to remove the conservation easement on the residential properties.

Mr. Cucchiaro made a comment that if the Board is agreeable to the farmland buffer they cannot compel the state to give up their rights and Mr. Galvin agreed and said he just need to get through the planning board process then they will work with the state.

When the question of whether the roadway in front of the two homes was an access easement or a right of way Ms. Neumann said the stem of the farmland property is a 50' wide access easement and right of way and acts like a street. Mr. Cucchiaro said it is an easement.

Jeffrey Carr, PE was duly sworn, gave his credentials to the Board and was accepted as an expert. He gave a little history of the project and said no one at the time of the original plot plan design thought that the orientation of the homes would have this impact with regards to the front yard

# HOWELL TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

**FEBRUARY 16, 2023** 

setback for a fence especially since the homes are set back 205' off Newtons Corner Road. Mr. Carr also agreed to all the technical comments in Ms. Neumann's review letter.

Chairman Huszar opened the hearing up to members of the public and the following appeared:

Marc Parisi, 2 Castle Court, who did not have his hand raised for this application.

Christopher Catalfano, 485 Newtons Corner Road, who is an adjacent property owner. Mr. Catalfano said he opposed the orientation of the homes during the original application and said it was a mistake. He now has a house looking into his backyard. He also said the back property was supposed to be a farm and it should have a 50' buffer to his residence and from the very beginning this has been a nightmare for him. During the amended application to the Board he asked for a privacy fence and the applicant tried to put up a chicken wire fence. He said the front yard should be treated like a front yard as he treats his as a front yard and their mistake does not constitute an approval and he should have to pay for their mistakes. Mr. Catalfano said he was also supposed to get a 50 foot wide buffer along the farm and his property and they have a greenhouse on the property line. He said Mr. Domin cleared the property right up to the property line and he believes there may even be wetlands there. He was further concerned with the deer fence being 7 feet tall and right on the property line. He feels that if it is damaged they will have to trespass on his property to fix it.

Mr. Galvin said if the neighbor has concerns it is up to the Board to weigh them when making their decision. He also asked Mr. Carr about the wetlands and Mr. Carr said he was not aware of any wetlands on the property. Mr. Galvin said they would provide an absence presence letter as a condition of approval.

Michael Catalfano, 485 Newtons Corner Road, appeared and asked why there were no trees in the farmland buffer. He said the buffer was for privacy from the farm and even the natural vegetation would have been 4 or 5 feet tall if it was left alone. He also thought it was poor planning with the house orientation as it faces a 50 foot utility easement instead of the road.

Mr. Cucchiaro asked if they were proposing any changes to the buffer from the prior application and Mr. Galvin stated that they are not. Mr. Galvin said they are ratifying an 8 foot high deer fence and any buffer required from the prior approval will remain. They would like the conservation easement changed to a farmland buffer and whatever those requirements were they remain.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to ask questions or comment on this application Chairman Boisvert closed the public portion of the hearing.

Mr. Seaman asked if we were reclassifying the easement on the north and Mr. Cucchiaro said we don't see the need for it to be a conservation easement it is a farmland buffer.

Mr. Huszar asked the applicant if the Board acted favorably on the application would they be willing to put more effort into a larger buffer for a sense of privacy and Ms. Bird answered that she originally wanted to do a living fence instead of a six foot fence but she spent \$5000 for the fence and can't do anything more.

Mr. Galvin said he thought this was a simple matter and they are at the mercy of the board. There are two houses and a farm and they want to make better utilization of the property. They will work on the easement. The deer fencing is necessary and is wire so you can see right through it. They also want the front yard setback seen as a side yard setback.

Ms. Talente asked if this was a corner lot and Mr. Galvin said in reality it is not a true corner lot.

Mr. Tannenhaus made a motion to approve the application for Stanley Domin. Motion was seconded by Mr. Greenfield and carried with Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Seaman, Ms. Talente, Mr. Tannenhaus, Councilman Gasior, Mr. Kyle, Mr. Mercer and Chairman Huszar.

MASTER PLAN STATUS REPORT: Mr. Tannenhaus said there was no update but they are working on the Farmland Preservation Element and he would like to make a strong argument that they work on the Utility Plan especially with electric vehicles. The Committee needs to understand their limits and would like feedback from the Council and Town Manager.

Mr. Tannenhaus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Seaman and carried with all Board members voting for the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Rubano Recording Secretary

NOTE: A CD or DVD of this meeting is available on request.

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1	TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL PLANNING BOARD
2	COUNTY OF MONMOUTH - STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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4	REGULAR MEETING FOR:
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6	AAFFHW PROPERTY LLC (FORMAN FAMILY)
7	BLOCK 164, LOT 5.01 29 HOWELL ROAD WHISPERING WOODS SETTLEMENT AND REMAND HEARING
8	PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MAJOR SITE PLAN
9	WHISPERING WOODS SETTLEMENT AND REMAND HEARING FOR
10	PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MAYOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL
11	APPLICATION NO. 1085 
12	
13	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023
14	7:00 P.M.
15	
16	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
- <sup>3</sup>	REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING
18	* * *
19	
20	
21	
22	AB COURT REPORTING, LLC
23	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS 26 ALGONQUIN TERRACE
24	MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY 08535 TEL: (732)882-3590
25	angelabuonocsr@gmail.com

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2 1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: 2 PAUL BOISVERT, CHAIRMAN 3 RANDY BISHOP 4 JOSEPH CRISTIANO 5 FRED GASIOR, COUNCILMAN 6 BRIAN GREENFIELD 7 NICHOLAS HUSZAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN (Recused) 8 MATTHEW KYLE 9 CHRISTOPHER MERCER 10 ROBERT SEAMAN MEGAN TALENTE 11 12 BRIAN TANNENHAUS 13 14 BOARD PROFESSIONALS AND STAFF PRESENT: 15 RONALD CUCCHIARO, ESQUIRE, Board Attorney - Weiner Law Group, LLP 16 LAURA NEUMANN, P.E., Board Engineer 17 - CME Associates 18 JENNIFER BEAHM, P.P., AICP, Board Planner - Leon S. Avakian, Inc. 19 SHARI SPERO, Certified Tree Expert 20 - CME Associates 21 EILEEN RUBANO, Planning Board Secretary -Howell Township 22 23 STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY: 24 LAURA A. CARUCCI, C.C.R., R.P.R. 25 License #XI02050

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    A P P E A R A N C E S: (Via Video Conference)
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2
    HEROLD LAW, P.A.
3
         ROBERT F. SIMON, ESQUIRE
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            Warren, New Jersey 07059-6747
            T: (908) 657-2022
5
            F: (908) 647-7721
            EMAIL: rsimon@heroldlaw.com
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    - Counsel for the Applicant
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	APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
A-1	Submission Letter prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design dated 2/2/23	*
A-2	List of Professionals testifying	*
A-3	Utilities applications prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 4/6/21	*
A-4	Certified List of Property Owners, dated 11/12/20	*
A-5	Monmouth County Planning Board application, dated 4/6/21	*
A-6	Freehold Soil Conservation District application, dated 4/6/21	*
A-7	Site Plans consisting of thirty-four (34) sheets prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design dated 4/6/21,	*
A-8	Preliminary Assessment and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment prepared by Maser Consulting, dated November 2020	*
A-9	Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Manual prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22	*
A-10	Supplemental Preliminary Infiltration Evaluation report prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 12/8/22	*
A-11	Traffic Impact Study prepared by Bright View Engineering, dated 4/1/21	*
A-12	Natural Resource Inventory report prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 4/23/21	*
	A-1 A-2 A-3 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-8 A-9 A-10	NO. DESCRIPTION  A-1 Submission Letter prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design dated 2/2/23  A-2 List of Professionals testifying  A-3 Utilities applications prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 4/6/21  A-4 Certified List of Property Owners, dated 11/12/20  A-5 Monmouth County Planning Board application, dated 4/6/21  A-6 Freehold Soil Conservation District application, dated 4/6/21  A-7 Site Plans consisting of thirty-four (34) sheets prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design dated 4/6/21, last revised 8/18/22  A-8 Preliminary Assessment and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment prepared by Maser Consulting, dated November 2020  A-9 Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Manual prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22  A-10 Supplemental Preliminary Infiltration Evaluation report prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 12/8/22  A-11 Traffic Impact Study prepared by Bright View Engineering, dated 4/1/21  A-12 Natural Resource Inventory report prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 1/21

			6
1	NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
2	A-13	Environmental Impact Report prepared by Maser Consulting, dated April 2021	<sub>7</sub> *
3 4 5	A-14	Water Tank Sight Line Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22	*
6 7	A-15	WB-67 Circulation Plan Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22	*
9 10	A-16	Garbage Truck Circulation Plan Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22	*
11 12	A-17	Fire Truck Circulation Plan consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/18/22	*
13 14	A-18	Buffer Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 9/1/22	*
15 16	A-19	Site Plan Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 9/1/22	*
17 18	A-20	Existing Conditions Aerial Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 9/2/21	*
<ul><li>19</li><li>20</li><li>21</li></ul>	A-21	Overall Existing Conditions Aerial Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 9/2/21	*
22	A-22	ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 3/8/21	*
25	A-23	Alternate Lighting Plan consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 9/30/21	*

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			7
1	NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
2	A-24	Right of Way Dedication Description	*
3		prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/16/21	
4	A-25	Right of Way Dedication Exhibit	*
5		consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 8/16/21	
6	7 06		
7	A-26	Architectural Plans consisting of four (4) sheets prepared by Mitchell and Hugeback Architects, Inc.,	*
8		dated 8/18/22	
9	A-27	Roadway Improvement Plans consisting of three (3) sheets prepared by	*
10		Bright View Engineering, dated 8/17/22	
11	A-28	Utility Will Serve Letters	*
12	A-29	Stormwater Management Report prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design	*
13		dated March 26, 2021, last revised August 18, 2022	
14	A-30	Submission Letter for Remand Hearing	*
15		submitted by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/2/23	
16	A-31	Stormwater Management Report prepared	*
17	71 01	by Colliers Engineering & Design dated March 26, 2021, last revised	
18		February 1, 2023	
19	A-32	Supplemental Preliminary Infiltration Evaluation prepared by Colliers	*
20		Engineering & Design, dated 12/8/22	
21	A-33	Fully Compliant Architectural Plans, Revision 5, consisting of four (4)	*
22		sheets prepared by Mitchell and Hugeback Architects, Inc.,	
23		dated 8/16/21, last revised 2/1/23	
24	A-34	Fully Compliant Architectural Rendering, Revision 5, consisting of	*
25		one (1) sheet prepared by Mitchell and Hugeback Architects, Inc., dated 2/1/23	

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1	NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE	
2	A-35	Landscape Plan Exhibit consisting of	<u> </u>	
3		one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23		
4	A-36	Trash Compactor Enclosure Exhibit	*	
5		consisting of one (1) sheet prepared Colliers Engineering & Design,	рÀ	
6		dated 2/1/23		
7	A-37	Loading Dock Landscape Plan (North) Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet	*	
8		<pre>prepared by Colliers Engineering &amp; Design, dated 2/1/23</pre>		
9	A-38	Loading Dock Landscape Plan (South)	*	
10		Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23		
11	7 20		*	
12	A-39	Sidewalk Ramp Compliance Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared		
13		Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23		
14	A-39A	Alternative Sidewalk Ramp Compliance	*	
15		Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23		
16	7 40		*	
17	A-40	Retaining Wall Compliance Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared Colliers Engineering & Design,		
18		dated 2/1/23		
19	A-41	Utility Consolidation Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared	*	
20		Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23	<i>~</i> y	
21	7. 40		*	
22	A-42	Utility Consolidation Exhibit consisting of one (1) sheet prepared		
23		Colliers Engineering & Design, dated 2/1/23		
24	A-43	Water Tank Sight Line Exhibit	*	
25		consisting of one (1) sheet prepared Colliers Engineering & Design dated 2/1/23	υγ	

MS. RUBANO: Planning Board

Meeting, Thursday, February 16, 2023. I hereby declare this meeting of the Howell Township Planning Board to be open.

Adequate notice having been given pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act in the following manner: First, on January 6th, 2023, a copy of said notice was mailed to <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jheps:2023/">The Asbury Park</a>
<a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jheps:2023/">Press</a> and the <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jheps:2023/">Star Ledger</a>.

Second, on January 6th, 2023, a copy of said notice was hand delivered to the clerk of the Township of Howell.

Third, on January 6, 2023, said notice was posted in the office of the Planning Board and on the bulletin board in the Howell Township Municipal Building, 4567 Route 9, Howell Township, New Jersey.

Members of the public will have a chance to ask questions and comment on applications once the Chairman opens the hearing up to members of the public.

If you wish to ask questions or comment on an application, you will need to use the raise-your-hand feature. And you will be brought into the meeting one at a time.

You will need to have audio and video

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capability. You will be sworn in. And you will be
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    required to provide your name and address.
           For anyone calling in, you could press *9 to
3
    raise or lower your hand and *6 to mute or unmute
4
5
    yourself.
           This meeting is being videotaped for possible
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7
    future broadcast on Howell Township TV 77.
8
           Thank you.
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                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Roll call, please.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. -- hold on one
    second. He's not here.
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                  Mr. Cristiano?
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                  MR. CRISTIANO: Present.
                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Greenfield?
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15
                  MR. GREENFIELD: Here.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Huszar?
                  VICE CHAIRMAN HUSZAR: Here.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Seaman?
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                  MR. SEAMAN: Here.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Ms. Talente?
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                  MS. TALENTE: Here.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Tannenhaus?
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    (No response.)
                  MS. RUBANO: Brian, you're muted.
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25
                  MR. TANNENHAUS:
                                    Sorry.
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12 1 Here. 2 MS. RUBANO: Thank you. 3 Councilman Gasior? COUNCILMAN GASIOR: Here. 4 5 MS. RUBANO: Mr. Kyle? MR. KYLE: 6 Here. 7 MS. RUBANO: Mr. Mercer? 8 MR. MERCER: Here. 9 MS. RUBANO: Thank you. 10 And, Chairman Boisvert? 11 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Here. 12 MS. RUBANO: We have a quorum. 13 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: All right. 14 Great. 15 You can all rise for the pledge of 16 allegiance, and then a moment of silence for our 17 troops serving both home and abroad. 18 19 (Whereupon, all rise for a recitation 20 of the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing in a moment of silence for troops 21 22 serving both home and abroad.) 23 24 (Whereupon, the board conducts other 25 agenda items from 7:04 to 7:15 p.m. when they

13 1 begin the public hearing on this matter.) 2 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Next up is Case 3 No. 1085, AAFFHW Properties, LLC, Forman. 4 This is the Whispering Woods settlement 5 and remand for preliminary and final site plan 6 7 approval. 8 VICE-CHAIRMAN HUSZAR: Mr. Chair, I'm 9 going to have to recuse myself from this 10 application. 11 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. 12 VICE-CHAIRMAN HUSZAR: If somebody 13 would just give me a text when the next one's on, all right? 14 15 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: You got it. 16 MS. RUBANO: Thank you, Nick. 17 VICE-CHAIRMAN HUSZAR: All right. 18 Thank you. 19 (Whereupon, Vice Chairman Huszar 20 recuses himself and logs out of the meeting.) MS. RUBANO: Give me one second. 21 22 (Pause.) 23 MR. CUCCHIARO: Mr. Simon, if you just 24 want to enter your appearance. 25 MR. SIMON: Sure.

Good evening, good to be before this Board. Rob Simon from the firm of Herold Law, here on behalf of the Applicant.

MR. CUCCHIARO: Mr. Chairman, if I could just sort of give a brief history of where we've been and where we are and what we are tasked with tonight. I think it would be helpful to the Board, members of the public, the Applicant and everybody.

CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Go ahead.

MR. CUCCHIARO: As everyone may recall, this application originally came to the Board. The Applicant was seeking preliminary and final site plan approval with some ancillary design waiver relief.

The Board denied the application. The Applicant filed an action in lieu of prerogative writs challenging the board's decision in Superior Court.

Prior to the Superior Court holding hearings and issuing a decision, the parties entered into settlement negotiations.

The Board approved a settlement agreement which permitted the applicant to come back for what we call a Whispering Woods hearing.

Whispering Woods is just the name of the Court case that establishes the procedural process.

That application involves -- or that proposal involved some modifications of the originally denied plan, such as the erection of a sound barrier wall, reorientation of buildings, and some tractor trailer parking and a few other things that the Applicant felt would be a benefit to some of the residential neighbors.

The Board did approve the settlement agreement. The settlement agreement didn't approve the application, but it permitted the Board to hear the application at a hearing, at a public hearing.

Upon hearing the application and taking testimony from the public, the Board ultimately denied that settlement application as well.

And I was directed to proceed with the litigation. That, in fact, did happen. The Court, Judge Acquaviva ruled against the Board and held that the Applicant had complied with its statutorily required burdens of proof, with the exception of the design waiver relief which wasn't really addressed because the Board had denied the application on other grounds.

So Judge Acquaviva remanded the matter back to the Board simply to consider the design waiver relief, not to talk about traffic or the grave sites or environmental issues. The Judge had ruled against the Board on all of those things.

Subsequent to that decision, I re-engaged the Applicant in settlement discussions and the Applicant/Plaintiff did agree to return to what was the previous settlement plan, which included the sound barrier and the reorientation of the buildings, rather than moving forward in the first instance with the original plan that didn't have any of that, that the Judge basically just remanded for the consideration of the two design waivers.

So what we have tonight is I have worked out language that's mutually acceptable to the plaintiff and myself with a settlement agreement that the Board members have.

Essentially, what that settlement agreement does is just say that they're going to re-present that plan that had been previously denied, the settlement plan with the sound walls.

And if the Board denies it again, then they would move forward with the plan that the Judge

remanded, which, it was the original plan that was denied where we're just looking at a couple of design waivers.

So the first task that the Board has tonight is to vote on whether it wants to hear the settlement proposal in a hearing. That's number one. So I would ask the Board -- and if the Board has any questions regarding the settlement agreement that was circulated, the draft agreement, you can certainly ask.

But as I said, the agreement basically says they are going to re-present that second plan that we saw at the last settlement conference.

So, Mr. Chairman, we would need a motion to either approve or deny the settlement agreement at this juncture.

17 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. I will take 18 a motion.

MR. TANNENHAUS: I'll make a motion for -- Ron, correct me, but if I say I am approving the settlement agreement, that means we are hearing the modified plan?

MR. CUCCHIARO: Correct.

MR. TANNENHAUS: Okay.

Then that's my motion.

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                  MR. CRISTIANO: I'll second Brian's
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    motion.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Cristiano?
                  MR. CRISTIANO: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Greenfield?
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                  MR. GREENFIELD: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Seaman?
                  MR. SEAMAN: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Ms. Talente?
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                  MS. TALENTE: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Tannenhaus?
                  MR. TANNENHAUS: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Councilman Gasior?
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                   COUNCILMAN GASIOR: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Kyle?
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                  MR. KYLE: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Mercer?
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                  MR. MERCER: Yes.
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                  MS. RUBANO: And, Chairman Boisvert?
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                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Yes.
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                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. So,
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    Mr. Chairman, what we'll do now is we'll mark that
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    as one of the Board's exhibits so that it's part of
24
    the record.
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                   I also just want to speak briefly
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about what it is you're going to hear now, what the
Court did and what our focus is.

So let me -- let me just start with what you're going to hear.

The Applicant is going to put on testimony which goes through the differences from the first plan that was denied, the one that did not have the sound wall or the reorientation, go through all the changes, why the changes were made, why they think it's a benefit.

There is still some relief,

particularly relief associated with some of the

things that they're doing to put the sound wall up

and a few other things.

They're going to put some testimony on as to why they think they should be granted relief.

I want to speak a little bit about what the Court did and what we are bound by. You know, there was -- the Court has simply rejected the traffic arguments.

The Board, you know, has no choice, it has to listen to what the Court said. So while there may be concern about the traffic that's generated, and we specifically linked it to the ingress and egress, the Court has rejected that.

So the Court is not going to entertain or permit us to revisit traffic generation on the site.

The Court also rejected our environmental arguments with regard to the areas that need to be remediated.

So, again, in that instance, the Court is not going to accept us revisiting that issue that it has already ruled upon.

The same thing with regard to the existence of the grave sites. The Court has rejected that.

So it's a very narrow focus that we have. And it's still -- it's limited to: Do they comply with site plan requirements? And where they don't, do we think they've satisfied their burden of proof. And they're going to speak directly to that tonight.

But our inquiry is limited by the Court's decision. It's not your own decision to limit it, but it's the Court's decision. And we have no choice but to follow the decision that the Court has issued.

So they're really limiting -- we are limited, by the Court, to listening to the changes,

reviewing those changes. Do they comply with the ordinance? And if they don't comply, is there a benefit that -- that, you know, to the planning on the site. And they're going to go through that.

But all of those other areas, the Court has specifically told us, in a written opinion, are not areas that we can revisit.

And again, if the Board denies this, then we have to follow what the Court said in its opinion, which is the original -- we have to then immediately hear the original proposal again and limit our discussion only to the two design waivers that are necessary.

It's -- again, it's not an indication to revisit anything, it's very limited to the two design waivers associated with that application.

So it may be that we hear one proposal tonight and approve it. It may be that we hear two proposals tonight. But the scope of what we hear and how we can participate, and the testimony that we can take from the public, is limited by what the Court has told us, and it's -- and it's those parameters.

With that, Mr. Chairman, if anyone has any questions of me, you know, certainly ask away.

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1
    Otherwise, I think Mr. Simon can begin his
2
    presentation.
3
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Any Board Members
    have any questions?
4
5
                   (No response.)
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
6
                                       Okay.
7
                  Mr. Simon?
                   MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
8
9
    and Mr. Cucchiaro.
10
                  And, certainly I concur with Ron's
11
    summary as to what brought us here and the charge of
12
    the Board going forward with regard to a Whispering
13
    Woods hearing.
                  Just by way of some housekeeping, I
14
15
    believe that we have provided to the Board an
16
    updated list of exhibits as marked, and I think it
17
    ended in terms of the Applicant's Exhibits as A-31.
18
                  So, Ron, I believe that the settlement
19
    agreement should be marked as A-32, unless I'm
20
    off --
21
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Well, I was -- we were
    marking it as our own exhibit.
22
23
                   MR. SIMON: Okay. That's fine.
24
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: That is a B exhibit.
25
                   MR. SIMON: So that would be -- what
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would that exhibit be then? Would that be B-5? 1 2 MR. CUCCHIARO: Yes, I think that's the next B exhibit. 3 Correct, Eileen? 4 MS. RUBANO: Yes. 5 6 MR. CUCCHIARO: Yes, B-5. 7 MR. SIMON: Very good. 8 9 (Exhibit B-5, Settlement Agreement is 10 received and marked in evidence.) 11 12 MR. SIMON: And then I presume that 13 this Board has jurisdiction certainly to hear this 14 Whispering Woods hearing, and that the exhibit list 15 that I just referred to is part of the record of the 16 proceedings? 17 MR. CUCCHIARO: Yes. 18 MR. SIMON: So with that -- and your 19 attorney, Mr. Cucchiaro, gave an excellent summary 20 of what we are here for with regard to a Whispering 21 Woods hearing and to demonstrate the changes from 22 the prior plan. 23 So we intend to place on the record and 24 present the testimony this evening of Jeromie Lange, 25 the Applicant representative and a professional

engineer and a professional planner; as well as Christine Cofone, the professional planner of record on the project, again identifying the changes to the application and the site plan as part of and consistent with the settlement. And to the extent necessary, as again mentioned by Mr. Cucchiaro, justification for any relief required of the Board associated with the changes to the application in furtherance of the settlement.

- We certainly have available other professionals on behalf of the applicant should their testimony be required, including: The civil engineer of record; the traffic engineer of record; the architect of record; the environmental scientist of record. And, certainly, as needed, we can certainly present their testimony.
- But we're going to initially rely on the testimony that's going to be presented by Mr. Lange.
- So unless there's any other further questions of the Applicant -- of the Board -- excuse me -- I would like to have Mr. Lange sworn in and I would get him qualified.
- MR. CUCCHIARO: Good evening,

  Mr. Lange, are you -- is he on camera?

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1
                  MS. RUBANO: Yes, he is.
2
                  MR. LANGE: Yes.
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay.
3
                  Do you swear or affirm the testimony
 4
    you're about to give this board is the truth, the
5
    whole truth and nothing but the truth?
6
7
                  MR. LANGE: I do.
8
9
    JEROMIE
                      L A N G E, P.E., P.P.
10
           having been duly sworn, testifies as follows:
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Please state and spell
11
12
    your name for the record.
13
                  MR. LANGE: It's Jeromie,
14
    J-E-R-O-M-I-E, Lange, L-A-N-G-E.
15
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Mr. Simon, in what
16
    capacity is Mr. Lange testifying tonight?
17
                  MR. SIMON: So Mr. Lange is a
18
    representative of the applicant.
19
                  As I stated in my preliminary remarks,
20
    he's also a professional engineer and a professional
21
    planner.
22
                  And what he's going to do is walk
23
    through, for the benefit of the Board and the
24
    public, the changes to the site plan and identifying
25
    any relief that may be needed incident to those
```

1 changes.

And then after that, we'll go to

Christine Cofone, our professional planner, to

provide testimony, whether it's -- I believe there's

one or two variances that are required, as well as

some exception/waiver relief.

MR. CUCCHIARO: Go ahead, Mr. Lange.

MR. LANGE: Thank you.

Good evening.

#### EXAMINATION

BY MR. SIMON:

- Q. So, Mr. Lange, you are a professional engineer and a professional planner?
- 16 A. Yes, my background I am.

But tonight I am testifying in my capacity as director of development for Active Acquisitions, who is a related entity to the applicant entity.

Q. Thank you.

And you were present at the beginning of this hearing when Mr. Cucchiaro and myself spoke to the scope of this Whispering Woods hearing and what is anticipated by way of testimony, correct?

A. Yes.

- And I'm ready to present that testimony.
- Q. Why don't you proceed then.
  Thank you.
  - A. So I'm going to beginning -- begin -- excuse me -- with Exhibit A-19, which is the site plan exhibit.

That's coming up before you here. It's dated September 1st. It was prepared by Colliers
Engineering & Design.

So I want to jump right in and talk about what is really the primary change.

So if you look in the upper right-hand corner of this exhibit, you'll see a smaller building. It's labeled as Building B in the northeast corner of the site.

That building, essentially, between the original plan that was denied and what is now the settlement plan has been flipped from east to west. So along the north/south access, so what used to be facing east is now facing west, and vice versa.

So more specifically, the truck loading docks and the whole truck court area used to be on the east side of Building B. We flipped that. Now

that truck court is located internal to the site
between Buildings A and B.

And then in its place on the east side we now have the passenger vehicle parking that used to be in the center of the site.

So that is the major change. There's a series of other smaller changes that kind of come off of that, but that is, by far, the biggest change on the plan.

The other, somewhat significant, change is the addition of a sound wall. So you'll see where we're indicating here (indicating) along the -- essentially the easterly property line, it's really the side yard area, with the exception of a piece of it that punctures into the Michael Curtin Lane front yard.

But other than that, it's located in the side yard.

And the purpose of this is to provide an additional visual and sound attenuation buffer between us and the neighboring residential property.

So that's the other, somewhat, major change here.

Q. And that's along the eastern side as you referenced on the exhibit?

A. Correct.

That easterly side. You can -- you can see it here (indicating) in this kind of faint brown line, the little hand is, kind of, showing you where it's at.

But it's along that side yard.

It does go into the required front yard of Michael Curtin Lane, which is of note. And I will get to that in a short bit.

Now, so  $\mbox{--}$  a few other more ancillary things I want to go over.

In flipping the building, it changes, obviously, the truck circulation. So we have reconfigured the drive aisles to direct the trucks to the truck court now located in the center of the site as it relates to Building B.

That means the drive aisles now that service the parking on the east side do not have to be 30 feet anymore. Now they can be 25 feet under the ordinance.

So that has been reduced to 25 feet, the parking area itself, as well as the driveway leading to it.

The truck court, itself, has expanded by 5 feet. It went from 65 feet to 70 feet deep.

The purpose of that was to help with the truck circulation. By putting the truck court in the middle it does change the circulation.

As you can see, we've got two different entry points to the truck court, one on the north side and one on the southwest portion. That extra 5 feet just assists with that circulation.

Another thing that is really not a change, but something I want to address, we did provide curb ramps at least every 65 feet in the parking areas and at all the relevant intersections -- driveway intersections, I should say.

We are not providing curb ramps along the drive aisles that aren't associated with parking or that aren't at an intersection.

The reason for that is it's not part of the pedestrian circulation plan. And, generally, mid-block crossings are discouraged because of safety concerns.

 $\label{eq:want to focus on now is the buffer, so I am going to switch exhibits now to $$A-18.$$ 

On this plan you'll see there's two substantial buffers proposed, one on the left, one

- 1 on the right or west and east.
- The one on the west is identical to the
- 3 original site plan. That's a farmland buffer.
- 4 | There's been absolutely no change to that
- 5 | whatsoever.
- The one on the right, the buffer is
- 7 | very similar, it's almost not changed. There was a
- 8 little bit of changing of the berm. But the big
- 9 addition here is that sound wall.
- 10 So not only do we have the sound wall I
- 11 described earlier, but we continue to have the
- 12 | landscape buffer that we always had in this entire
- 13 | side yard area.
- 14 | So now we're going from just a
- 15 landscape buffer to the landscape buffer and the
- 16 | sound wall.
- So nothing was lost in adding the sound
- 18 | wall. The sound wall is an add-on, additional means
- 19 of buffering our operation to the adjacent
- 20 residential lot.
- 21 That sound wall, just to give you a
- 22 | little specifics on it, will be a sound transmission
- 23 | Class 30 sound wall, and that has to do with how
- 24 | much sound it can absorb. It's, kind of, a national
- 25 | standard rating. It will be an earth tone in color,

so it will blend in with that landscaping. That
way, as you're perceiving it from the residential
lot looking through the trees, it will blend in with
the, you know, the color of the branches and the
wooded nature of that vegetation, so it should not
stand out as seen through the vegetation.

But it will, of course, block -obviously it would completely block light emanating
from the site up to the combined berm/wall height of
15 feet. And it will also, obviously, mitigate
sound significantly.

So in terms of the variance relief necessary, because the wall goes into the required front setback, that triggers some ordinance requirements, one of which is that the wall cannot exceed four feet in height in the required front yard.

In this case, because we're proposing a combined height of the berm and wall of 15 feet, it's obviously exceeding that.

However, this is a very unusual area,
Michael Curtin Lane, which is the northeast corner.
Michael Curtin is a dead-end street. There are no
driveways in close proximity to the wall.

So you're not, you know, blocking any

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critical view paths from any vehicle circulation
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2
    situation, but at the same time we are -- that area
    is blocking the development from some of the rear
3
    yards of the adjacent residential uses.
 4
                   So we do think it's worth extending the
5
6
    wall into the front yard. If the Board felt
7
    otherwise, we could retreat the wall back to the
    front yard setback line, and that would actually
8
9
    eliminate that height variance.
10
                  MR. TANNENHAUS: Mr. Lange?
11
                   THE WITNESS: In a very similar vein,
12
    another --
13
                  MR. TANNENHAUS:
                                    Mr. Lange?
                  THE WITNESS: Yes.
14
15
                  MR. TANNENHAUS: Real quick question.
16
                  THE WITNESS: Yes.
17
                  MR. TANNENHAUS: I'm assuming the
18
    height of the sound wall and the length of the sound
19
    wall you're proposing is to maximize the sound
20
    absorption and transmission from the site to the
    residents to the east?
21
22
                   THE WITNESS: That's correct.
23
    basically to separate --
24
                  MR. TANNENHAUS: Would it also be fair
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to say that any modification to that would reduce

25

its ability to absorb that sound? 1 2 THE WITNESS: Correct. The bigger the better, it's kind of --3 Thank you, appreciate 4 MR. TANNENHAUS: it. 5 6 THE WITNESS: -- in that sense. 7 MR. TANNENHAUS: Thank you. 8 THE WITNESS: Yep. So the other variance that comes out of 9 10 that similar is there's also a requirement in the 11 required setback for it to be 50 percent open. 12 But actually to the point that was just made, obviously if it was 50 percent open it would 13 not be nearly as effective in blocking, you know, 14 15 sound or light or anything else, so that obviously 16 makes no sense. So we are seeking that variance as 17 well for it to be solid. 18 And then finally, there is an 8-foot 19 retaining wall height maximum when you're outside 20 the required setback, and we do have up to a 21 9-foot-tall retaining wall that is supporting -directly supporting, actually, the sound wall. 22 23 So that 9-foot retaining wall is part 24 of what is elevating the sound wall.

So, again, we think that makes total

25

sense.

While we could comply on all three of these things, it would definitely reduce the height of the wall, reduce the extent of the wall and make it less effective.

And as I already noted, we're still complying with 188-63E as in Edward, where we are providing the berm and landscaping, to satisfy that ordinance standard.

So this is, kind of, a belt and suspenders or an additional method that we're adding.

There is another waiver that we are seeking, that has to do with the screening of solid waste and recycling areas.

So you'll see on the -- like, for instance here, we're looking at Building B on the left side or west side, both at the north and south end, there are some solid gray rectangles.

Those are fully enclosed, compactor-fed recycling and/or refuse containers.

They are not being landscaped immediately around them. What is being done, though, there is landscaping at both ends -- and this is true for both warehouses by the way, both A

1 and B.

So at the north and south end of the truck court, there is landscaping. And then in the case of Building B, Building A actually blocks the view to the truck court. And then for Building A, that farmland buffer that we looked at earlier, blocks the view to that truck court.

So while we're not literally complying with the ordinance in that we don't have the landscaping immediately around the container, it is still buffered, and the intent of the ordinance is still met.

Next thing that we did, this is kind of a minor change but something I want to bring to your attention, if you would go to Exhibit A-14, and that has to do with the water tank.

In, you know, advancing this project as time has gone on, we have refined the sanitary system.

So originally we had a central sanitary pump station. In cooperation with the Township sewer department, though, we have switched that to be six, what we call E1 sanitary pump stations. And these are small, they're the size of a manhole basically, pump stations that will service the

individual users so there are six of them. They're underground.

The benefit of that is -- there's some engineering benefit to that, but the benefit as it applies here is that it freed up area in the vicinity of the water tank such that the water tank could be pushed further into the site.

So the tank now is about 74 feet further away from Howell Road than it was on the original plan, and that's what's depicted here.

And then we have the associated pump house and, you know, equipment house immediately to the west of that.

So both of these now are roughly 74 feet further back than they used to be from Howell Road, which I think is another benefit.

Going back to Exhibit A-19, I'm just going to touch on a few other things in terms of the driveways at either end.

We -- as part of the layout change, what we did on Howell Road, the inbound driveway, we narrowed up. You could just zoom in there. That used to be 30 feet. We narrowed that down to 20 feet inbound.

And then as I already mentioned

- 1 | earlier, the circulation aisle north and east of
- 2 | Building B, we reduced from 30 feet to 25 feet.
- 3 | And, again, that's because that's all passenger
- 4 | vehicles, there's no longer a truck court there on
- 5 | the east side of Building B. So that's why we did
- 6 that.
- 7 As far as the ordinance is concerned,
- 8 | there's two ordinance sections, 188-106A, requires
- 9 the planning board to approve driveways when they're
- 10 | wider than 24 feet.
- 11 But in this case the ordinance also
- 12 mandates that for an industrial development, that
- 13 | wider driveways are actually required.
- And that's specified at 188-106F as in
- 15 Frank, 1A as in Andrew and B as in boy, for 30 feet
- 16 and 25 feet, respectively.
- And we have met all that criteria, and
- 18 | that has also been reviewed by Chief Lewis from the
- 19 fire department in both his November 21, 2022 review
- 20 | memorandum, which he just reconfirmed in a
- 21 | February 3, 2023 e-mail.
- 22 So, again, fully satisfying the fire
- 23 department. And we believe fully satisfying the
- 24 ordinance.
- Next, if we can go to Exhibit A-31, the

Board Engineer, in her February 10th, 2023 letter had a comment, this is comment C(2), that discussed the trucks passing each other, the ability of trucks in the circulation aisles to pass one another going in opposite directions.

So we went ahead and made those revisions so that the trucks could do that. That's the two areas that are shaded in red here (indicating).

Those -- the radii of those curves has been changed to accommodate the trucks passing one another, so that should satisfy that comment entirely.

Next, if we can, you know, just go back to the main plan now, A-19. I just want to note to the Board on the lighting, originally we had submitted a lighting plan that was fully conforming with the ordinance. What we are offering instead to do, although we're kind of agnostic about this, we'll go either way with it, is to comply -- instead of complying with the ordinance, we would comply with the Illuminating Engineering Society standards.

We do believe, I believe, that that is more appropriate for a warehouse use.

But we're happy to go either why,

either to comply with the ordinance or accept the 1 2 waiver and comply with the IES standards. So we'll leave that --3 BY MR. SIMON: 4 And, Jeromie --5 Q. 6 Α. Yes. 7 Yes, Jeromie, I'm sorry I'm Q. 8 interrupting. 9 So the alternative lighting plan that's 10 A - 23?11 Actually, I think the alternative plan Α. 12 is in A-7. 13 A-23 is also an alternate lighting 14 plan, but that was for the remand hearing. 15 When we resubmitted the last time, last 16 year, the Whispering Woods plan, the lighting plan 17 was updated, because we, at that time, understood 18 the Board was interested in the IES lighting plan, 19 so we actually made that the lighting plan in the 20 Whispering Woods set of plans, which is A-7. 21 Q. Right. Thank you for the 22 clarification. Thanks. 23 Α. No problem. 24 But either -- but either way, we'll

either comply with the ordinance or with the IES,

25

whichever the Board would prefer. We're happy to do either.

And then, you know, finally there was a few other just grading and stormwater management changes that are ancillary to all this.

As you can imagine, moving everything around, there have been some gradings, some stormwater drainage had to move, so that's all been done.

The impervious coverage still completely complies. We're still well under the 70 percent maximum.

And in the spirit of good faith, the Applicant is still honoring all of our prior commitments, which include things like milling and overlay, overlaying Okerson Road in Howell Township, and also installing bollards along the parking spaces where they front the buildings.

So that's -- they're all things we're still honoring.

And then, just to finish addressing the February 10th letter from the Board Engineer, I already addressed that -- that one comment regarding the trucks passing.

There's another comment in there, 2A,

that had to do with the Howell Road driveway, so

just to make sure it's clear, because this wasn't

originally the case, there are no trucks entering

from Howell Road. So that driveway is not

accommodating truck traffic, because Howell Road is

a weight-restricted road. So that driveway is only

for passenger vehicle use.

2.2

And then, in terms of -- there is another comment, 2B, in that letter, and that has to do with another truck overlap area, and that used to be in the northeast corner of Building B. That's no longer there because the building is flipped.

I will tell you, though, that the truck circulation is designed really to be one way. The trucks can go both ways, but trucks want to, relative to the building, operate in a counterclockwise fashion.

So what that means here is the truck would come into the site from Okerson Road, enter from the north side of the truck court, go to its assigned bay, and then exit from the south and go back out to Okerson Road.

So the truck sweeps entering the truck court do not accommodate trucks going from two-way, and that's one of the consequences of this building

1 flip.

But I think, you know, the benefit or the intended purpose of the flip would outweigh, you know, that functional issue. There's excellent sight distance and, having done a lot of this work both as an engineer and as the director of development for Active Acquisitions, I am very comfortable operationally that this flow is safe and efficient and will work for the intended purpose.

And then two more housekeeping things then I'm done. 5A in the letter, I had mentioned this to the Board Engineer at one point, but in terms of plans, we will provide roadway profile and roadway cross sections for all areas of the roadway, which is really Howell Road that we are widening; but areas where we are doing mill and overlay, we're just going to show the extent of the mill and overlay on the plan view.

And then finally, with regard to environmental, the environmental issues, particularly AOC No. 1, will be addressed at the time the site work commences.

So with that, that's the end of my testimony, and then, Rob, I will turn it back to you.

```
1
                  I don't know if we're going to go right
2
    into Christine's planning testimony or if we're
    going to pause for questions.
3
                  MR. SIMON: Yes, right.
 4
5
                  So, Mr. Chairman, we would ask, if it's
6
    okay with the Board, that if we can proceed directly
7
    with Ms. Cofone's testimony, because it sort of
    weaves in with Mr. Lange's testimony, and then at
8
    the end we would open up both witnesses for
9
10
    questions of the Board and the public.
                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. Yeah,
11
12
    that's fine.
13
                  MR. SIMON: Ms. Cofone?
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. Do you swear or
14
15
    affirm the testimony you're about to give this Board
16
    is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
    truth?
17
18
                  MS. COFONE: Yes, I do.
19
20
    CHRISTINE COFONE, P.P.,
21
           125 Half Mile Road, Suite 200, Red Bank, New
22
           Jersey, having been duly sworn, testifies as
23
           follows:
24
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Place state and spell
25
    your name for the record.
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1
                  MS. COFONE: My name is Christine,
2
    C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, Cofone, C-O-F-O-N-E. Business
    address is 125 Half Mile Road, Suite 200, Red Bank,
 3
    New Jersey, 07701.
 4
                  I'm testifying this evening as a
 5
    licensed professional planner.
 6
 7
                  I've been testifying as such for
    27 years in the State of New Jersey. And I have
8
9
    been qualified in Howell on many, many occasions, as
10
    well in excess of over 400 or so planning and zoning
11
    boards.
12
                  I teach planning and zoning courses for
13
    the Rutgers Center for Government Services.
14
                  And my licenses are current and valid.
15
                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. We'll
16
    accept your credentials.
17
                  MS. COFONE:
                                Thank you.
18
                  MR. SIMON: Thank you.
19
20
                    EXAMINATION
21
22
    BY MR. SIMON:
23
                  So, Ms. Cofone, you've been present to
24
    hear the testimony of Mr. Lange with regard to this
25
    Whispering Woods settlement hearing?
```

A. Yes, I have.

Q. And he referenced some variances and waivers that are triggered by the revised plan.

If you can go over them in terms of the applicable criteria for the relief that is needed to be granted by the Board, incident to those variances and waivers.

A. Of course.

So the variance relief that Mr. Lange spoke about earlier this evening relates to the construction of the sound wall.

There were three variances that he spoke about that were associated with that wall. It was for the height of the wall; the fact that the wall is not 50 percent open; as well as the height of the retaining wall to support the construction of that sound wall.

From a planning point of view statutorily, the Board can grant those bulk variances under two mechanisms, C-1 or C-2.

Those criteria are not unique to this application. And they're certainly relative to any Board granting a variance in the State of New Jersey.

The C-1 relate to a hardship, the C-2

criteria relate to a better zoning alternative.

This, to me, is a textbook case of a C-2 variance. And the reason I say that is because while the Applicant is proposing this sound wall, the Applicant in no way needs to construct this sound wall for either the benefit of constructing Building A or B; meaning, that we can construct those buildings, we can comply with the buffers per Howell's Ordinance, we meet the sound regulations without building this sound wall.

The reason we're building the sound wall is to provide greater screening and greater sound attenuation for the benefit of our neighbors.

Mr. Lange explained extensively how the construction of the wall will certainly allow for better buffering to the rear yard setbacks of the adjoining homeowners.

So with that being said, I find this to be, in my opinion, a textbook C-2 variance, meaning that it's a better zoning alternative. It's more palatable to the neighbors to have it, but we certainly don't need to have it in order to construct one single square foot of our building related to Building A or B.

So the purposes of the land use law

that would be advanced if the Board grants this, in
my opinion, would be Criteria A, promoting the
general welfare. There's obviously been a lot of
public interest in this case, and certainly the
ability to create screening and sound attenuation
for the -- additional screening and sound
attenuation for the benefit of our neighbors would
certainly promote the general welfare.

Criteria I also talks about promoting a desirable visual environment.

Those stated purposes are found at Section 40:55D-2 of the Municipal Land Use Law. And statutorily, in order to sustain our burden of proof, we only have to advance one.

I believe those two are solidly advanced by the grant of the variance relief associated with the sound wall.

As far as the negative criteria, the land use law does not ask you to hold us or any other applicant to a standard that there be no detriment, just that the benefits of the grant of the variance outweigh any detriment.

You heard Mr. Lange testify extensively this evening, there are things that we can do to the wall. We can eliminate the wall in its entirety, we

do not need it. We can modify the wall. We can put up a 50 percent solid wall. We can make the wall shorter. There are things that we can do to it to make it a different -- a different -- and we would have a different impact or, as Mr. Tannenhaus

indicated, less of an effective impact.

But when you don't need to have the wall there to meet your state guidelines or to meet your township ordinance requirements, you do have that flexibility as an Applicant.

So to come to the conclusion that the grant of the variance would have a substantial detriment on either the public good or the zone plan, I just don't see it. I think that the variance relief associated with that wall is reasonable in nature, advances the positive criteria, as well as the negative criteria.

And not only will it not have a substantial negative impact on the -- it will not have a substantial negative impact on the neighborhood, it actually creates benefits with regard to sound attenuation and screening. It's a muted color program. And I think that we certainly substantiate our burden of proof with respect to the positive and negative criteria.

As far as the waivers, Mr. Lange identified those as well. He spoke about the waiver for the landscaping around the dumpsters, the refuse areas associated with both Building A and Building B. It's really -- we are meeting the intent of the ordinance. Those structures will absolutely be screened from view.

The issue is the landscaping isn't immediately adjacent to them. So, certainly, there are some practical issues there.

And as far as the lighting, the illumination, we are -- we can comply with the ordinance, it's not as if we can't comply. It is our design professional's belief that the IES, the Illuminating Engineers Society standards are more appropriate for a warehouse.

But we could certainly comply with the ordinance if we needed to, but we feel it's a better alternative to seek that waiver.

The standard for a waiver, and the land use law specifically allows for the Board to grant waivers if you feel as though they are reasonable, and the general purpose and the intent of the ordinance are met with respect to the site plan review.

In both instances relative to the siting and the lighting, we are meeting the intent of the ordinance. Those refuse areas and recycling areas will absolutely be screened from view. There is more than enough landscaping, in compliance with the ordinance requirements. It's not as if we're asking for relief from the quantity or the quality or the size of the plants to be provided, just that they're simply not immediately adjacent to the refuse area.

So with the standard for those two waivers being that they be reasonable and still meet the intent of the ordinance, I feel as though the Applicant has certainly met its burden of proof with respect to the grant of the waivers.

 $\label{eq:And with that, I have nothing further} % \left( \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \right) = \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2}$ 

18 BY MR. SIMON:

Q. And, Ms. Cofone, with regard to the waivers, just a couple of things.

One of the considerations always is impracticability.

Can you just go to -- in terms of whether it's practical to comply with the ordinance for the reasons that Mr. Lange stated --

- A. Well, it's certainly not practical --
- 2 Q. -- just touch on --
- 3 (Simultaneous Speaking.)
- 4 A. Yeah, of course.

The practicality of complying with installing landscaping immediately adjacent to a refuse area, particularly one that's not visible from the adjoining roadway networks or any of the neighbors, is not practical.

It makes more sense to provide screening perhaps not immediately adjacent, but surrounding, as the Applicant is proposing, but still meeting the intend of the ordinance, which is the test here.

- Q. Thank you.
- A. You're welcome.
- Q. And there was also a question, I think, regarding maybe one of the prior review memos, as to whether it was necessary to have certain spacing between the curbing ramps, with regard to the requirement of having curb ramps every 65 feet, and that they should not apply to drive aisles, except at intersections because mid-block crossings or drive aisles do serve parking areas, and -- as compared to areas where there is no pedestrian

- circulation. 1 2 Α. Correct. And I think the Board wouldn't even 3 want to encourage the pedestrian location in there. 4 So I think the plan that we have before 5 the Board is certainly appropriate and has -- meets 6 the intent of the ordinance. 7 8 Q. And you would agree that it would be 9 impractical to comply, since it would create a 10 safety concern, under those circumstances? 11 Α. Yes. It would create a less desirable 12 13 pedestrian crossing. 14 MR. SIMON: And so with that, 15 Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions for 16 Ms. Cofone, for Mr. Lange. 17 And so I open up both witnesses first 18 to the Board. 19 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Sure. 20 Anybody from the Board have any 21 questions? 22 MR. TANNENHAUS: No, thank you, 23 Mr. Chairman.
- 24 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Could you stop 25 screen share -- there we go.

1 Thank you. 2 MR. TANNENHAUS: I have no questions, 3 Mr. Chairman. CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: 4 Okay. Anybody else from the Board have any 5 questions? 6 7 MR. GREENFIELD: Just to confirm, they're going to honor paving Okerson Road they 8 said? 9 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, we did. 11 MR. GREENFIELD: Okay. 12 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. 13 Everybody from the Board good? 14 (No response.) 15 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: So before I open 16 it up to the public, Mr. Cucchiaro, is there a scope as far as what... 17 MR. CUCCHIARO: Sure. 18 19 Basically questions can be asked about 20 anything that was testified to tonight, comments 21 about anything that was testified to tonight. 2.2 But, you know, the public is 23 restrained, as the Board are, by the Court decision. We cannot entertain issues about traffic; it's 24 25 already been ruled upon. Issues upon the

- 1 environmental impact; it's already been ruled upon.
- 2 Issues upon -- issues relating to the cemetery; it's
- 3 | already been ruled upon.
- The -- really, we are limited to what has been testified to tonight.
- And, again, that's not a Board decision, that's from the Court.
- 8 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay, thank you.
- 9 All right. With that being said, we'll open up for questions from the public.
- MR. CUCCHIARO: Questions and comments.
- 13 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: And comments.
- MS. RUBANO: At this time the Chairman
- has opened up the hearing for questions and comments of the public.
- I ask you to please use the raise-your-hand feature, I'll bring you into the
- 19 meeting one at a time. You will be sworn in and
- 20 have to give your name and address.
- To raise your hand, if you're calling
- 22 | in press \*9, to raise or lower your hand; \*6 to mute
- 23 or unmute yourself.
- 24 And to start, I have Rosemarie Bird.
- MR. CUCCHIARO: Just let me know when

```
1
    she's in.
                   MS. RUBANO: She's there.
2
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. Ms. Bird, if
 3
    you could just unmute yourself.
 4
                  Do you swear or affirm --
 5
                   MS. BIRD:
                              I'm a little confused.
 6
7
    This is on the warehouse unit, right?
                   MS. RUBANO: Yes.
8
9
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: That is correct.
                   MS. BIRD: I don't want to discuss
10
    this, I'm here to discuss the Domin --
11
12
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay, that'll --
13
    that'll be the next application.
14
                   MS. BIRD: Right, right.
15
                   MS. RUBANO: Please don't raise your
16
    hand until he opens it to the public then.
17
                  Thank you.
18
                   MS. BIRD:
                              Oh, I'm sorry. I must have
19
    bumped it by accident.
20
                   MS. RUBANO: Okay. One second.
21
                  Next I have Mamu Chopra.
2.2
                   MR. CUCCHIARO:
                                  Okay.
23
                  Do you swear or affirm the testimony
24
    you're about to give this Board is the truth, the
25
    whole truth and nothing but the truth?
```

57 1 MR. CHOPRA: Yes, sir. 2 MAMU CHOPRA, 3 7168 Westfield Court, Alexandria, Virginia, 4 having been duly sworn, testifies as follows: 5 MR. CUCCHIARO: Can you please state 6 7 and spell your name and give us your address. MR. CHOPRA: My name is Mamu Chopra, 8 9 M-A-M-U, C-H-O-P-R-A. 10 My address, 7168 Westfield Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. 11 12 MR. CUCCHIARO: Do you own property in 13 Howell? MR. CHOPRA: Yes. 14 15 My dad owns a townhouse and it's by a 16 basketball and a tennis court, and usually on nice 17 days like this I just get to play basketball and --18 and it's in my neighborhood. 19 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. 20 MR. CHOPRA: Well, you're -- you're 21 welcome to come this Sunday to my basketball 2.2 tournament. MR. CUCCHIARO: We appreciate the 23 invitation. 24 25 Thank you for signing in tonight.

CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Thank you. 1 2 MR. CHOPRA: Thank you. MS. RUBANO: One second. 3 Next I have Kathy Okerson. 4 5 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. You just need 6 to unmute. 7 MS. RUBANO: Go ahead. MR. CUCCHIARO: Do you swear or affirm 8 the testimony you're about to give this board is the 9 10 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? 11 MS. OKERSON: I do. 12 13 KATHY OKERSON, 14 459 Okerson Road, Howell, New Jersey, having 15 been duly sworn, testifies as follows: 16 MR. CUCCHIARO: Please state and spell 17 your name for the record and give us your address. 18 MS. OKERSON: Kathy with a K, Okerson, 19 O-K-E-R-S-O-N, 459 Okerson Road. 20 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. 21 Go ahead, ma'am. 22 MS. OKERSON: You talked about a lot 23 that we can't talk about tonight, but I'm still concerned about the water. 24 25 I'm looking at that plans and how are

```
1
    they going to address all the water that comes off
2
    that proper -- that farm that comes off without
    buildings there.
3
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Mr. Chairman?
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
5
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: The Judge found that
6
7
    the Applicant had satisfied all ordinance
8
    requirements, which would include the stormwater
9
    management.
10
                  So there's been a judicial ruling on
11
    that.
12
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
                                      Okay.
13
                  Thank you.
                  MS. OKERSON: So if I get flooded out
14
15
    I come back to the Board?
16
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Ma'am, we're here to
17
    discuss the application and to do it in a way that
18
    we have been ordered to by the Judge.
19
                  MS. OKERSON: Right.
20
                  But you didn't say anything about the
    water. You said about the traffic.
21
22
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: The Judge said -- the
23
    Judge said that they had complied with everything
24
    and the only thing that we needed to do was to talk
```

25

about design waiver relief.

1 So the Judge has not permitted us to 2 revisit stormwater management. MS. OKERSON: Okay. What are the 3 difference between the two lightings that they're 4 talking about? 5 MR. CUCCHIARO: Well, that -- that the 6 7 applicant can answer. 8 MS. OKERSON: Go ahead. 9 MR. SIMON: Jeromie? 10 MR. LANGE: So it has to do with the evenness of the distribution lighting -- of the 11 12 lighting, excuse me, and the intensity. 13 The IES standards are better for 14 warehousing. They have some higher lighting in 15 areas where it's important and lower where it's not. 16 Whereas, the ordinance standard has a 17 more even requirement. So it's not as task 18 orientated, which would be a more appropriate 19 lighting here. 20 So, basically, we want the best 21 lighting in the truck court, which from, you know, 22 the neighbors' perspective is, you know, behind the building, particularly in this layout, it's very 23 24 much behind the building because we have flipped

25

Building B, so --

```
1
                  MS. OKERSON: Right, but that doesn't
2
    help me, because you have everything facing the
    farm.
3
                  So which lighting would benefit not
    lighting my house up like a Christmas tree.
5
6
                  MR. LANGE: Neither lighting plan will
7
    light it up like a Christmas tree. These are -- are
8
    both recognized lighting standards that will not be
    offensive light trespass.
9
10
                  These are fully enclosed lighting
11
    fixtures, so you're not going to get the light
12
    trespass you're concerned about.
13
                  MS. OKERSON: So I'm not going to have
14
    it like I have a baseball field lighting up the
15
    house?
16
                  MR. LANGE: No.
                                    That's -- sports
17
    lighting is an entirely different level of lighting,
18
    orders of magnitude higher in all respects,
19
    actually, in intensity, in the height of the
20
    fixtures. So it's entirely different.
21
                  MS. OKERSON: Okay. All right.
22
                  Thank you.
23
                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
                                       Thank you.
24
                  MS. OKERSON: And how do I get off
25
    this?
```

```
1
                  MS. RUBANO: I'll move you.
2
                  MS. OKERSON: Thank you.
                  MS. RUBANO: Next I have AJC.
3
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: We need you to unmute
 4
    yourself.
5
                  Do you swear or affirm the testimony
6
7
    you're about to give this board is the truth, the
    whole truth and nothing but the truth?
8
9
                  MR. CESTERO: I do.
10
    ALBERT J. CESTERO, JR,
11
12
           3 Howell Road, Freehold, New Jersey, having
13
           been duly sworn, testifies as follows:
14
                  MR. CESTERO: My name is Albert J.
15
    Cestero, Jr.
16
                  I live at 3 Howell Road, Freehold, New
17
    Jersey.
18
                  We're in the back yard of this project.
19
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Can you just spell
20
    your last name for us, sir?
                  MR. CESTERO: C-E-S-T-E-R-O.
21
22
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Go ahead.
23
                  MR. CESTERO: My first name is Albert.
24
    We've lived here for 40 years.
25
                  I just wanted to clarify with
```

Mr. Lange, there are two active driveways; 3 Howell Road, which is mine, and 1 Howell Road which is next door to me.

Those are two active driveways at the end of Michael Curtin Lane. We use them every day.

It's hard enough the get out on Howell Road, which is a difficult task, so that's what we use. And they have been active for 40 years.

My -- my other question to you was, I noticed on the plans and in the testimony that there didn't seem to be any kind of improvement on Michael Curtin Lane, even though your project does front it, and there's no accommodation for any kind of sidewalk there.

And in previous testimony there was an issue about a sidewalk on Howell Road and some people questioned it and basically said that they didn't see a need for it because Howell Road really isn't trafficked by pedestrians.

But when the Department of
Transportation reconfigured the intersection at
Route 33, Howell Road, Five Points Road, Okerson
Road, they put in the intersection crosswalks and
curb cuts in anticipation of heavy pedestrian
traffic.

There is heavy pedestrian traffic in the summertime, on bicycles going to the Howell Point swim club from the developments on Five Point Road, and also to the ball fields on Okerson Road.

Lastly, I wanted to bring to your attention, to the Board's attention, recently the railroad that was removed from Okerson Road and Howell Road, they reactivated that. They're laying tracks now.

So there's going to be an active railroad crossing on Okerson Road and an active railroad crossing on Howell Road.

So I just wanted to bring that to your attention, and especially to Mr. Lange about the driveways, there are active driveways. We want -- if this thing is going to go through, and it is appears that it is, because even though the majority of Howell Township doesn't want it, the Board didn't want it two times, I appreciate the board members for denying it in October of '21 and September of '22, and I -- it, kind of -- it's -- it's a bit alarming to me as a Howell Township taxpayer for over 40 years, 46 years in my small business in this township that the vast majority of the township doesn't want it. The Planning Board voted it down

twice. And one Superior Court Judge is able to push it through.

So with that being said, there needs to be on notice as far as the railroad crossings, which I know were not included in your plans because it didn't exist at the time, and the pedestrian traffic.

So I'm asking the project developers to -- if they're going to do something, Michael Curtin Lane right now, we were promised years ago when they did the traffic reconfiguration, that road was supposed to be paved. It was supposed to be taken care of. There was supposed to be signage put up on it. And there's been absolutely nothing done since. It's -- it's a mess.

Right now our grandchildren ride their bicycles on it because there's hardly any traffic there, but that's going to change.

So I am asking the -- the planners to include, if you're going to get this thing down, a wall as high as you can get it, I have no problems with that.

I don't know whether or not it's going to have to be set back off of Michael Curtin Lane or not, being that there are active driveways, but --

```
and a sidewalk. And also if you're going to mill
1
2
    Okerson Road, to please take care of Michael Curtin
    Lane, if this is going through, and it appears that
 3
    it is.
                  Thank you for your time.
 5
 6
                   MS. CESTERO: And there's no sign on
7
    Michael Curtain --
8
                   MR. CUCCHIARO:
                                   Thank you.
9
                   MR. CESTERO: Yes.
10
                  It's not their problem.
                   MS. CESTERO: I have one more
11
12
    question.
13
                   MR. CESTERO: Oh, wait a minute.
                                                      Му
    wife wants to talk.
14
15
                   MS. CESTERO: About the maintenance of
    the wall.
16
17
                   MR. CESTERO: Go ahead.
18
                   MS. CESTERO: You can do it.
19
                   MR. CESTERO: My wife is asking me --
20
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Ma'am, just before you
21
    start, I need to swear you in also.
2.2
                   MS. CESTERO: Oh, okay.
23
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Do you swear or affirm
24
    the testimony you're about to give this board is the
25
    truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
```

67 1 MS. CESTERO: Yes. 2 JACQUELINE CESTERO, 3 3 Howell Road, Freehold, New Jersey, having 4 been duly sworn, testifies as follows: 5 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. If you could 6 7 just state your name. 8 MS. CESTERO: Yes. Jacqueline 9 Cestero. 10 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. Go ahead, ma'am. 11 12 MS. CESTERO: I just have a question 13 about maintenance of the wall. 14 Who is going to be -- are they going to 15 be taking care of that wall? 16 MR. CUCCHIARO: Yeah, that -- that 17 would be --18 MS. CESTERO: Okay. 19 MR. CUCCHIARO: -- the property owner's 20 responsibility to maintain the wall. 21 MS. CESTERO: The property owner? 22 Okay, the people that are putting it up. 23 And the lighting, I know Mrs. Okerson brought up the lighting, and I was a bit confused 24 25 about that.

```
1
                  Given that we're, I'm going to just,
2
    off the top of my head, 250 feet from the wall or
    not even that --
3
                  MR. CESTERO: Fifty feet, if that.
 4
                  MS. CESTERO: -- 50 feet from the
5
6
    wall, so maybe 250 feet from the building and the
7
    lighting.
8
                  I -- I hope the Board decides in favor
    of residents that live nearby, as it is our lighting
9
10
    here with all the other industrial areas around.
                  I mean, when we moved here it wasn't
11
12
    like that. Now it's -- it's -- we can't see the sky
13
    at night because it's flooded.
14
                   MR. CESTERO: They've been -- they've
15
    been -- the buildings in the area have been putting
16
    up LED lights and they're right in our face.
17
                  And, actually, if you try to pull out
18
    our driveway onto Howell Road at night --
19
                  MS. CESTERO: At night.
20
                   MR. CESTERO: -- if one of -- the
21
    lights across the way in the Sakers Industrial Park,
22
    it blinds you.
23
                  So I am just asking you --
24
                  MS. CESTERO: To consider us.
25
                  MR. CESTERO: -- to consider us.
```

```
1
    We've been here a very long time.
                  And also consider the addition of two
2
    railroad crossings, one on Howell Road and one on
3
    Okerson Road, which will absolutely be impacted by
5
    this project with all the traffic, so ....
                                    If you don't mind,
                   MR. TANNENHAUS:
6
7
    Mr. Chairman, I would like to address that one.
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
8
                                       Sure.
9
                   MR. TANNENHAUS: Ms. Neumann?
10
                   MR. CESTERO: Pardon?
                   MS. CESTERO: No, he's saying
11
    Ms. Neumann.
12
13
                   MR. CESTERO:
                                Oh.
14
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Can you come back in
15
    for a second, please?
16
                   MR. CESTERO: There she is.
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Ms. Neumann, our
17
18
    lighting ordinance requires lights to be installed
19
    in such a manner that they do not provide any type
20
    of glare, especially off of their property.
                  Is that a fair statement?
21
2.2
                   MS. NEUMANN: Correct.
23
                  They cannot have spillage.
24
                   MR. TANNENHAUS: And if we have -- we
25
    have buildings that have replaced lighting that now
```

provides a glare, that's a -- not a regulation 1 2 issue -- a code enforcement, that is a code enforcement issue that should be brought to the 3 town. Is that a fair statement? 4 5 MS. NEUMANN: Yes. MR. TANNENHAUS: Okay. 6 7 That would be my recommendation. MS. NEUMANN: 8 Thank you. And this applicant is 9 MR. TANNENHAUS: 10 going to have to comply with that as well. 11 MS. CESTERO: Okay. 12 I had just one more thing to add about 13 Michael Curtin Lane. There's no signage at all and 14 there never has been. 15 We did go to a council meeting years 16 ago and they said it would be taken care of, it 17 never was. 18 MR. CESTERO: We pushed the issue. 19 MS. CESTERO: The road is -- the road 20 is never plowed. Never. I have never seen it 21 plowed. We plow it ourselves. 2.2 MR. CESTERO: Yeah. 23 MS. CESTERO: And there's no 24 maintenance as far as it's starting to crumble.

MR. CESTERO: Right.

```
1
                  MS. CESTERO: So if a truck comes in
2
    off of Okerson Road and maybe has a missed turn or
    it needs to turn around, I'm thinking they're going
3
    to turn around on Michael Curtin Lane.
4
                  As it stands, there's very poor
5
    drainage there. If there's a --
6
7
                  MR. CESTERO: It floods.
                  MS. CESTERO: -- big event, it floods
8
9
    when we have a heavy rain.
10
                  MR. CESTERO: Yes. Yeah.
11
                  MS. CESTERO: But also, the condition
12
    of the road, I don't know if it will withstand a
13
    tractor trailer.
14
                  MR. CESTERO: Yeah, it won't.
15
                  MS. CESTERO: It's already crumbling --
16
                  MR. CESTERO: Right.
17
                  MS. CESTERO: -- on the sides.
18
                  MR. CESTERO: Right.
19
                  MS. CESTERO: So do I bring that up to
20
    the Council again about maintenance of that road, or
    is that --
21
22
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: That would be the
23
    proper body, yes.
24
                  MS. CESTERO: Okay.
25
                  MR. CESTERO:
                                 Okay.
```

```
Thank you.
1
2
                  MS. CESTERO: All right.
3
                  Thank you.
                   COUNCILMAN GASIOR: Mr. Chairman, I
 4
    have a question for the Cesteros.
5
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT:
6
                                      Sure.
7
                   COUNCILMAN GASIOR: This Michael
    Curtin Lane, is this directly behind your house?
8
9
                  I am looking on a map right now and it
10
    doesn't even list it as a regular road.
11
                  MS. CESTERO: I -- I think...
12
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Why don't we have
13
    Laura -- Laura, are you able to weigh in on what
14
    the...
15
                  MS. NEUMANN: Yes.
16
                  I mean, it's a lane -- so it's not a
17
    wide roadway, it's classified as a lane.
18
                  MR. CESTERO: What it is, it's the
19
    remnant of the old Okerson Road.
20
                  MS. CESTERO: No, so it was a road.
21
                  MR. CESTERO: It was a road, and when
22
    DOT reconfigured Okerson Road, what they did was
23
    they left the portion of Okerson Road that went past
24
    our back -- our frontage on our back road here, and
```

-- which intersected at the intersection which is

named Five Points Road because there were five roads intersecting there.

It was Five Points Road, Route 33 East, Route 33 West, Howell Road and Okerson Road.

So it's the remnant of a town road that, when it was reconfigured, the township said that they were going to name it Michael Curtin Lane after the first soldier that was killed, I believe, in Iraq in one of the wars from New Jersey. It was Michael Curtin from Howell Township.

But they never did that, and I never pushed the issue.

They were supposed to put signage up on the road. And they were supposed to maintain the road. And they've never maintained it.

So what I am asking you is if you're building a project on that road, you're already talking about milling Okerson Road, which is a whole lot longer than Michael Curtin Lane, and you are going to have frontage on Michael Curtin Lane, if you put a sidewalk on Michael Curtin Lane in the front, so at least it looks presentable from our standpoint and -- and it's safe. Because there is foot traffic there.

MS. NEUMANN: Mr. Chairman, let's just

```
ask the Applicant: Are you willing to pave the
1
2
    portion of Michael Curtin Lane and provide sidewalk
    as was requested by the resident?
3
                  MR. LANGE: No on paving. Yes on the
 4
    sidewalk.
5
                  MS. CESTERO: The township is --
6
7
                  MR. CESTERO: Yeah, we could just go
    after the township for the paving of the road then.
8
9
    I get that.
10
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Perfect.
                   COUNCILMAN GASIOR: Mr. Cestero, I
11
12
    have a meeting with the town manager tomorrow, I'm
13
    going to ask about this and get back to you.
14
                  MR. CESTERO:
                                Okay.
15
                  I appreciate it.
16
                  Thank you, Mr. Gasior.
                  COUNCILMAN GASIOR: You're welcome.
17
18
                  That's it for me.
19
                  CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. Thank you.
20
                  MS. RUBANO: I have a phone-in caller.
21
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: If you can just tell
22
    them how to unmute themselves on the phone again.
23
                  Oh, they did it.
24
                  THE COURT REPORTER: I'm the Court
25
    Reporter here for Mr. Simon. I'm sorry.
```

MS. RUBANO: Oh, okay. 1 2 MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay. 3 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. Is there anybody else from the public? 4 5 MS. RUBANO: I have no one else with their hand up right now. 6 7 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. So then I 8 am going to close the public portion. 9 MR. CUCCHIARO: So, Mr. Chairman, 10 again -- well, actually, let me -- let me turn it over to Mr. Simon if he has any closing remarks and 11 then I'll address the Board. 12 13 CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Okay. 14 MR. SIMON: Right, thank you. 15 We really appreciate, certainly, the 16 Board agreeing to hear us and entering into the 17 settlement agreement with us, certainly subject to a 18 public hearing which is what we're conducting under 19 the Whispering Woods case, where the applicant has 20 the opportunity to present the settlement, which it 21 has, through the testimony of Mr. Lange and 22 Ms. Cofone, as well as hearing from members of the public and, obviously, any questions of the Board. 23 24 And I will say, parenthetically, that

in my over 30 years practicing, that this is the

first time I have seen an applicant go forward with
a settlement plan not once, but twice, in a good

faith attempt to go above and beyond the Applicant's

- 4 legal obligations under the ordinance and the MLUL
- 5 in response to some requests from the Board,

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24

- 6 including a sound attenuation wall, and, obviously,
- 7 changing the orientation of one of the buildings.
  - We believe that the Applicant has continued to pursue this application, including the settlement, in good faith.
- We are proud of the plan as -
  certainly as revised, and we ask you to act

  favorably upon the application that is before you

  pursuant to a Whispering Woods hearing.
  - MR. CUCCHIARO: So, Mr. Chairman, essentially, what the board has in front of it was the presentation of the settlement plan.
  - If the Board is amenable to the plan, then there would be a motion to either grant preliminary and final site plan approval, subject to the conditions, or preliminary site plan approval subject to the conditions.
  - Mr. Simon, I just want to run through a couple of the conditions that are not the boiler-plate conditions to make sure that we're both

```
1
    on the same page.
2
                   MR. SIMON:
                               Sure.
                  And I may ask Mr. Lange to chime in to
3
    the extent necessary.
4
5
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay.
                  There's going to be sidewalk on Michael
6
7
    Curtin Lane.
8
                  The property owner will have the
9
    responsibility of maintaining the sound wall.
10
                  There is going to be a condition
    confirming that there's not going to light spillage
11
12
    onto the adjoining properties.
13
                  And subject, if the Board grants you
    the waiver relief, that you would be going with the
14
15
    alternative -- I'm sorry, the IED?
16
                  MR. SIMON:
                               IES.
17
                   MR. LANGE:
                               IES.
18
                   MR. CUCCHIARO: IES lighting
19
    requirements.
20
                  And then the standard requirements,
21
    obtaining all outside agency approvals,
22
    certification that taxes are paid to date.
                   Is there anything -- and also
23
24
    compliance with any of the technical comments in the
```

board's reports -- Board professionals' reports,

```
1
    rather, that --
                  MR. LANGE: Mr. Cucchiaro, I did -- as
2
    I testified to, I did address a few of Laura's
3
    comments, so just consistent with that testimony.
 4
5
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Well, is there
    something in the report that you're not doing, I
6
7
    guess, let me ask it that way?
8
                   MS. NEUMANN: The only thing he's not
9
    going to do is to -- as stipulated.
10
                  So the areas of Howell Road that are
    going to be milled, he's not going to provide the
11
12
    cross-sections and the profile.
13
                  And the AOC No. 1, that will be
14
    completed when site work commences on the site.
15
                  Previously we had noted prior to
16
    construction. It will be once site work commences.
17
                  MR. SIMON: Correct.
18
                  Upon site work commencing, yeah.
19
                  MR. CUCCHIARO: Okay.
20
                  Then with that, Mr. Chairman, if the
    Board wants to make a motion.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: I will entertain a
23
    motion.
                   MR. TANNENHAUS: I'll make a motion to
24
25
    approve the application for preliminary and final
```

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79
    site plan with all the stipulations discussed.
1
2
                  MR. SEAMAN: Second.
 3
                   MS. RUBANO: I have a motion and a
    second.
 4
                  Mr. Cristiano?
 5
                  MR. CRISTIANO: Yes.
 6
 7
                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Greenfield?
                  MR. GREENFIELD: Yes.
8
9
                  MS. RUBANO: Mr. Seaman?
10
                   MR. SEAMAN: Yes.
11
                   MS. RUBANO: Ms. Talente?
12
    (No response.)
13
                   MS. RUBANO: Ms. Talente, you're
    muted?
14
15
                   MS. TALENTE: Yes.
16
                   MS. RUBANO: Thank you.
17
                  Mr. Tannenhaus?
18
                   MR. TANNENHAUS: Yes.
                   MS. RUBANO: Councilman Gasior?
19
                   COUNCILMAN GASIOR: Yes.
20
21
                   MS. RUBANO: Mr. Kyle?
22
                   MR. KYLE: Yes.
                   MS. RUBANO: Mr. Mercer?
23
24
                   MR. MERCER: Yes.
25
                   MS. RUBANO: And, Chairman Boisvert?
```

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1	CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Yes.
2	MS. RUBANO: Motion carries.
3	MR. SIMON: We thank the Board very
4	much.
5	CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Thank you.
6	MR. SIMON: Thank you for listening to
7	our presentation.
8	CHAIRMAN BOISVERT: Have a good night.
9	
10	(Whereupon, this matter is concluded at
11	8:22 p.m.)
12	
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# <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

I, LAURA A. CARUCCI, C.C.R., R.P.R., a Notary
Public of the State of New Jersey, Notary ID.
#50094914, Certified Court Reporter of the State of
New Jersey, and a Registered Professional Reporter,
hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim
record of the testimony provided under oath before
any Court, referee, board, commission or other body
created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey

Administrative Code.

20 \_\_\_\_\_\_

LAURA A. CARUCCI, C.C.R., R.P.R.
License #XI02050

Notary Public of New Jersey #50094914
Notary Expiration Date December 3, 2023

25 | Dated: <u>February 28, 2023</u>

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