## NATHANIEL J. HOLT, PE

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June 3, 2020

Town of North Castle Planning Department 17 Bedford Road Armonk, NY 10504 HAND CARRY

Attn: Christopher Carthy, Chairman

RE: Harris Pool

9 Sterling Road North

Dear Chairman Carthy and Members of the Planning Board:

The Board will recall that Mr. Harris is the owner of the property at 9 Sterling Road North and he has made an application to the Planning Board to construct an in-ground pool with a patio. Without minimizing anything that was discussed, the focus was the extend of wetlands/wetland buffers associated with the site and the condition of the existing septic system.

Under the current regulations the 2 acre property is severally constrained by the Zoning Ordinance (especially the Gross Land Coverage section) and the current Wetland Ordinance. For example:

Depending upon which wetland delineation is used (one delineation was conducted when
the adjacent property - n/f Monaco - consisting of an increase in building footprint, inground swimming pool and grading. The other delineation is that which Beth Evans has
determined to be the "new" wetland boundary. Using Ms. Evans' delineation
approximately 60,850 square feet of the 87,120 square foot property is unusable without
a wetland permit (nearly 70% of the total area).

2. Moreover, when the yard setbacks are factored in, the remaining land available for

development is only 7,650 square feet.

3. The design and expense necessary to replace the existing septic system - which encumbers approximately 7,000 square feet of land - is perhaps the most constraining. When the septic system and wetland setbacks are considered the only area in the back yard that does not need a wetland permit is approximately 1,800 square feet in size - the dimensions of which cannot accommodate a bocce ball court.

While it is highly unlikely that this lot would be approved by subdivision under the current Ordinances and Health Department standards, the fact is that it was created based upon the laws that were in effect at the time. Over the past 50 years governing how building lots are created and more recently how they can be redeveloped. For example:

 In the 1960s if a town had a wetland ordinance the definition was not nearly restrictive as the current ones. In most cases the setbacks were 50 feet and the definition of a "wetland" were less restrictive.

• Similarly, in the 1960's the Department of Health only required an area equal to 50% of the system for expansion. It was fairly recent (within the last 30 years or so) where 100%

of the system had to be placed in reserve.

 In addition, the application rates and flow rates associated with the design of a septic system have effectively doubled the size of a system.  Then in the early 2000's the "McMansion" law was enacted - not just in North Castle but in many towns in Westchester. At first, the law was to focus on all of the new developments, but has since morphed into all properties and existing residences.

In closing, the Harris's have recently completed significant renovations to their residence which prior to that saw very little (if any) improvements since it was first constructed. Those improvements received Site Plan Approval from the RPRC. From what this office has been told, that while there was mention of the need for a wetland permit from the RPRC, no wetland permit was ever issued, however a building permit was. Attached is a copy of Sheet L-102 "Layout Plan" prepared by Yost Design in conjunction with the RPRC approval. Note the Limit of Disturbance Line and the area of proposed lawn.

Regardless, the attached Site Plans have provided a proposed Wetland Disturbance Limit Line. Naturally based upon further conversations, the line can be adjusted, removal of invasive species and a planting plan is anticipated based upon feedback from you and the Conservation Board.

To complete the proposed site improvements the Harris's will need the following:

 A Zoning Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for the increase in Gross Land Coverage

Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board

 A Wetland Permit from the Planning Board, based upon comments from the Conservation Board

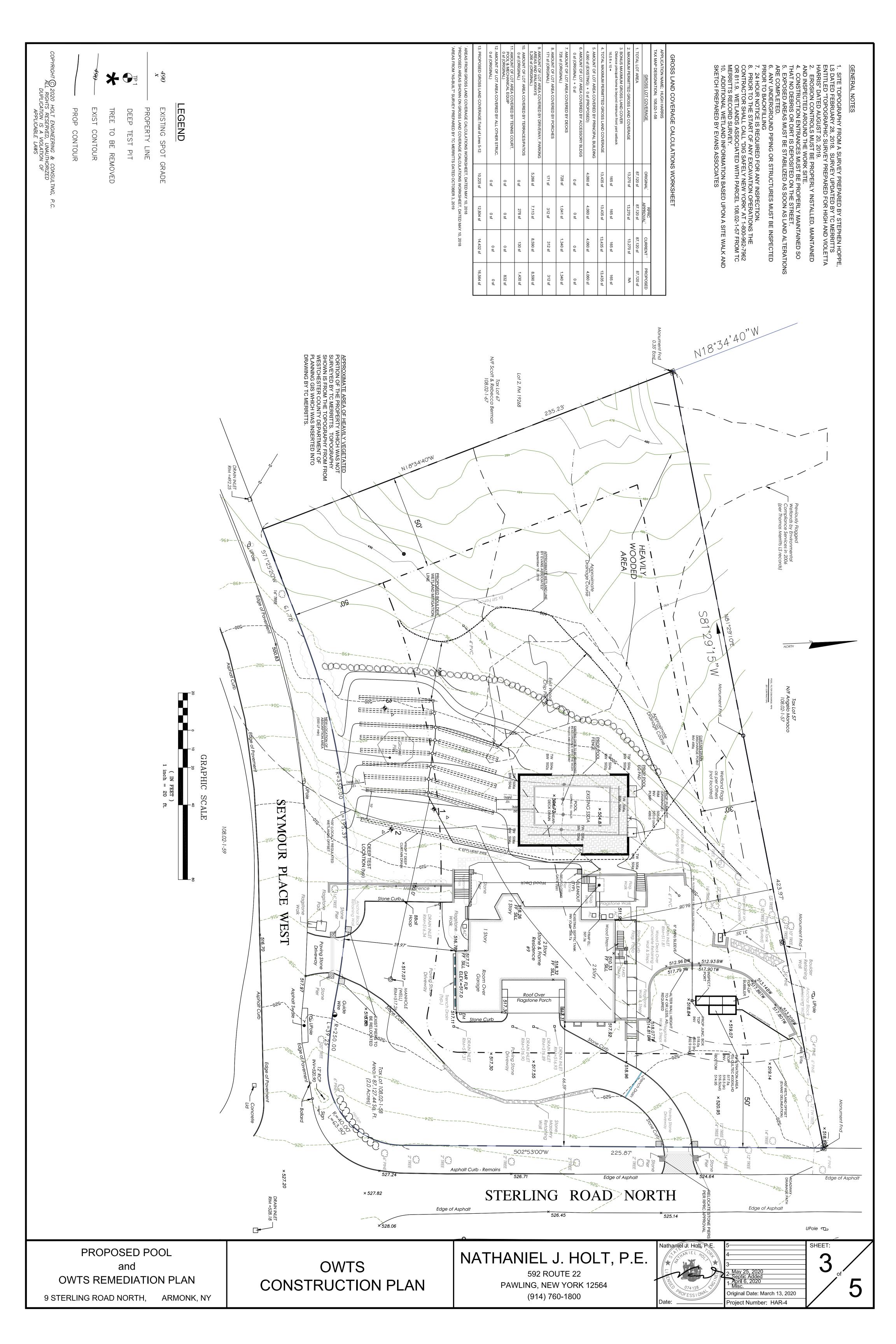
Before we make our application to the Zoning Board of Appeals, we would like to discuss the application with you in further detail and to address as many of your concerns as possible. Kindly place us on the next available agenda so that we can continue with this dialogue.

Very truly yours

Nathaniel J. Holt, P.E.

Encl

cc: H. Harris







PLANTING PLAN

DATE: MAY 3, 2018
DRAWN BY: ZJS
JOB NO: 040518
SCALE: | " = 20'
FILENAME: 2018\_0614 Harris

HARRIS RESIDENCE

9 STERLING ROAD NORTH ARMONK, NY 10504

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