Board of Zoning Appeals Application



BZA Application

REGARDING THE PREMISES AT 241 South Allen Street					
APPLICANT 241South Allen Street H	Holding, LLC/ Eleftheria	Properties, LLC			
ADDRESS P.O Box 8683 PHONE 518-438-2093 (o) 518-441-8115 (c)	CITY	Albany	STATE NY	ZIP 12208	
PHONE 518-438-2093 (o) 518-441-8115 (c)	EMAIL	***************************************		* 37 *	
I, the undersigned APPLICANT , hereby to the best of my knowledge and belie	y state that the in	formation and f	acts set forth in this	s application are true	
APPLICANT SIGNATURE	Those	, Member	DATE4/21	1/14	
		,			
AUTHORIZED AGENT Harris Sanders An	chitects, PC / Danny S	anders, Principal			
AFFILIATION Architect of Record	CITA	Albany	CTATE N	V 715 40040	
ADDRESS 252 Washington Avenue PHONE 518-426-3544 (o) 518-469-1408 (c)	CITY	Albany dsanders@sandersar	STATE N	Y ZIP 12210	
				~	
I, the undersigned APPLICANT , hereby Zoning Appeals of the City of Albany.	y authorize the ag	\sim			
APPLICANT SIGNATURE Com	v 4 Tho	Mr) Mem	ber DATE 4/21	/14	
			,		
PROPERTY OWNER Same As Applicant					
ADDRESS	CITY		STATE	ZIP	
PHONE		10.77-25	-2.553.= -10		
I, the undersigned OWNER , hereby as Zoning Appeals of the City of Albany.	ithorize the appli	cant to bring the	e application herein	before the Board of	
OWNER SIGNATURE	w 1/4/	TON E	Member DATE 4/2	1/14	
REQUEST:	///	// '			
☐ SPECIAL USE PERMIT	☐ PARKING	LOT PERMIT			
☐ USE VARIANCE	☐ INTERPRE				
AREA VARIANCE		RATIVE APPEA	L		
Is the property within (500) feet of a rother recreation area? Yes No Planning Board.		(55)	- 3: 3: 3 150 /l		
Does any State officer, officer or emp interest in the Applicant or this BZA A nature and extent of the affiliation or	pplication? 🗆 Y	es •No If	yes, provide the na		

AREA VARIANCE STANDARDS

Applications for area variances must be based on some extraordinary topographic condition or other physical condition inherent in the parcel (for example: exceptional narrowness, shallowness, shape or area). This condition must prohibit or unreasonably restrict the use of the land and/or building.

- * When considering a request for an area variance, the Board shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighted against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. In making such determination the Board shall also consider:
 - [1] Whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance.
 - [2] Whether the **benefit sought** by the applicant can be **achieved** by some method feasible for the applicant to pursue, **other** than an area variance.
 - [3] Whether the requested area variance is substantial.
 - [4] Whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district.
 - [5] Whether the alleged difficulty was **self-created**, which consideration shall be relevant to the decision of the Board, but shall not necessarily preclude the granting of the area variance.

[1] DESCRIPTION OF CONDITIONS

Describe topographic condition or other physical condition of the property and the manner by which this condition restricts use:

The site is a odd shaped parcel with street frontage on South Allen Street at 390 feet (30 additional feet for access road between 261& 265 S. Allen) and 540 feet along the rear property line (attached site map). Under the current Zoning Ordinance in an R-3A Multifamily Low-Density Residential District (which the subject property is in). The overall land area is 2.2 +/- acres (96,000 sq ft =/-) allows for 48 garden apartments. The topography is best described as "bowled".

[2] BENEFIT TO APPLICANT Please describe why the proposed project cannot be achieved without an area variance:
The allowable R-3A Zoning District maximum lot coverage is 35%. Which would allow a "footprint" of 33,600 sq ft +/- (35% of 96,000 +/-). Three two-story buildings with a "footprint" of 11,200 sq ft +/- with 16 units per building (8 units per floor) could fit on the site and meet all minimum/maximum requirements, but would be extremely "tight" and in our opinion unsightly.
[3] SUBSTANTIAL Please describe why you feel the proposed project is not substantial in nature:
The Applicant proposes two three-story buildings facing South Allen Street while also taking advantage of the "bowled" topography allowing 32 interior parking spaces per building and 20 surface spaces. The "footprint" of the two buildings would reduce the lot coverage to 23% with each buildings "footprint" of 11,200 sq ft +/- with 24 units per building (8 units per floor). As previously stated the three building two-story concept (with no variance needed), in our opinion, would have an adverse effect on the physical conditions/appearance in the neighborhood.
[4] CHARACTER OF NEIGHBORHOOD Please describe how the proposed use would be compatible with the existing neighborhood and would not negatively impact traffic patterns, general safety, architectural character, property values, and the atmosphere of the area:
In requesting the area variance from the height requirements the Applicant feels with the two three-story buildings proposal, as shown on the submitted site plan, would be compatible with the existing neighborhood, both architecturally and aesthetically, along with maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood and increasing property values. The two building proposal also allows for a more "open" site with plantings and ample green-space along S. Allen Street and the sides of each building.
[5] SELF-CREATED Were you aware of the requirements of the City of Albany Zoning Ordinance at the time of purchase of the property? Yes ■ No □ If you answered no, did you use the services of an attorney? Yes □ No □

617.20 Appendix B Short Environmental Assessment Form

Instructions for Completing

Part 1 - Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 - Project and Sponsor Information				
Construct two three-story garden apartments, 24 units per building- total 48. Maximul	m allowed under current l	R-3A Zoning District		
Name of Action or Project:				
The Eleftheria				
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map):				
241 South Allen Street, Albany, New York 12208				
Brief Description of Proposed Action:				
Construct two three-story garden apartment buildings which would exceed the maxim is less", for a R-3A Zoning District.	um "allowable hight of 35	feet or 2 1/2 stories	whichever	
Name of Applicant or Sponsor:	Telephone: 518-438	2002 (a) #40 444	0445 (a)	
241 South Allen Street Holding, LLC/Eleftheria Properties, LLC	E-Mail:	-2093 (0) 516-441-	6115 (C)	
Address:				
P.O. Box 8683				
City/PO:	State:	Zip Coo	le:	
Albany	New York	12208		
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, l	local law, ordinance,	NO	YES	
administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to	the environmental resoquestion 2.	sources that		
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other governmental Agency?				
If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval:		✓		
3.a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?	2.2 +/- acres	I		
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? .77 +/- acres				
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?	acres			
	i. nercial □Residentia	l (suburban)		
☐ Forest ☐ Agriculture ☐ Aquatic ☐ Other ☐ Parkland	(specify):			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	\checkmark		
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?			V
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural		NO	YES
landscape?			✓
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Al	rea?	NO	YES
If Yes, identify:		√	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?		NO	YES
		√	
b. Are public transportation service(s) available at or near the site of the proposed action?			$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near site of the proposed ac	tion?		V
Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies:		NO	YES
if the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design leadures and technologies:			
		<u> </u>	—
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply?		NO	YES
If No, describe method for providing potable water:			
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities?		NO	YES
If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment:			
12. a. Does the site contain a structure that is listed on either the State or National Register of Historic Places?		NO	YES
b. Is the proposed action located in an archeological sensitive area?		\checkmark	
or is the proposed action rectact in an archeological solishive area:		\checkmark	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contai wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?	n	NO	YES
		<u> </u>	
b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres:		✓	
14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check a Shoreline Forest Agricultural/grasslands Early mid-successi		apply:	
☐ Wetland ☑ Urban ☐ Suburban			
15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed		NO	YES
by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?			
16. Is the project site located in the 100 year flood plain?		NO	YES
		V	
17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes,		NO	YES
a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties?			$ \mathbf{V} $
b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drain	ıs)?		
If Yes, briefly describe:	,	7	
City of Albany storm water/sewer system		-	

18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that result in the water or other liquids (e.g. retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain purpose and size:	*	f 7	NO O	YES
			$leve{lark}$	Ш
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location o solid waste management facility?	f an active or close	d I	NO	YES
If Yes, describe:				
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe:	` •	ing or	NO	YES
II 103, describe.			◩	Ш
I AFFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AN	D ACCURATE T	O THE BE	ST O	F MY
KNOWLEDGE Applicant/sponsor name: James J. Googas, Member Eleftheria Properties, LLC	Date: 4/21/14			
Signature: James Theyer Member	<u></u>			
questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials su otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer shapeness been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action	noura de guraea dy	the concept	Thave	e my
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer shresponses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action	?"	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer sh	?"	No, or small impact may	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer sh responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action 1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plant.	an or zoning	No, or small impact may	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer sh responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action 1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use place regulations?	an or zoning	No, or small impact may	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer sharesponses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action. 1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use planegulations? 2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land	an or zoning d?	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
 Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing commu Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics to 	an or zoning d? mity? that caused the	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer sharesponses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land 3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing commu. 4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? 5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of training the character of the proposed action the p	an or zoning d? unity? that caused the	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
 Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing commutation. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of transfect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway? Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to increase. 	an or zoning d? unity? that caused the	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer shresponses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land 3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing commundation will be proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? 5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of transfect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway? 6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to in reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities? 7. Will the proposed action impact existing:	an or zoning d? unity? that caused the	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact
 will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing commu will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of transfect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway? will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to in reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities? will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies? 	an or zoning d? unity? that caused the uffic or ncorporate	No, or small impact may occur	Mod to l im	lerate arge pact

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	✓	
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	√	

Part 3 - Determination of significance. The Lead Agency is responsible for the completion of Part 3. For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

	Check this box if you have determined, based on the infor	mation and analysis above, and any supporting documentation,
 	that the proposed action may result in one or more poten	ntially large or significant adverse impacts and an
	environmental impact statement is required.	, , ,
		mation and analysis above, and any supporting documentation,
V	check this box if you have determined, based on the mior	mation and analysis above, and any supporting documentation,
	that the proposed action will not result in any significant a	dverse environmental impacts.
Ι.	well of lite 110 by 101 Del	1/ 1/2./.)
24	115. Allen St Holding, LLC Eletthera Propotice	lk 4/21/14
	115. Allen St Holding, LLC Elethera Proportion	Date
	James J. Googas Member	•
Pri	nt or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency	Title of Responsible Officer
	Tury Hillians	
	Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency	Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)
у	/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	
April 1		

KATHY M. SHEEHAN MAYOR

CITY OF ALBANY DIVISION OF BUILDINGS & REGULATORY COMPLIANCE CITY HALL – ROOM 303 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207 PHONE (518) 434-5165 FAX (518) 434-6015 WWW.ALBANYNY.ORG

April 17, 2014

241 South Allen St. Holding, LLC./Eleftheria Properties, LLC. PO Box 8683
Albany, NY 12208

Re: 241 South Allen Street Application Number: 68965

Dear Sir:

On April 11, 2014, you made an Application for work at the above referenced property involving: Construction of a two 24 unit three story garden apartment buildings at a height of 45+/- feet.

The property is located in an area which is zoned R-3A.

This Application has been examined for compliance with the applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Albany.

That review revealed that the proposed work will not comply with the following provisions of the Zoning Ordinance: 375-67D(2)(H) Yard Requirements. Proposed construction height of 3 stories or 45+/-feet exceeds the maximum building height of 2.5 stories or 35' feet in an R-3A zoning district.

Therefore, your Application of 4/11/14 is hereby **DENIED** pursuant to Sections 375-59 and 375-9(d) of the Zoning Ordinance.

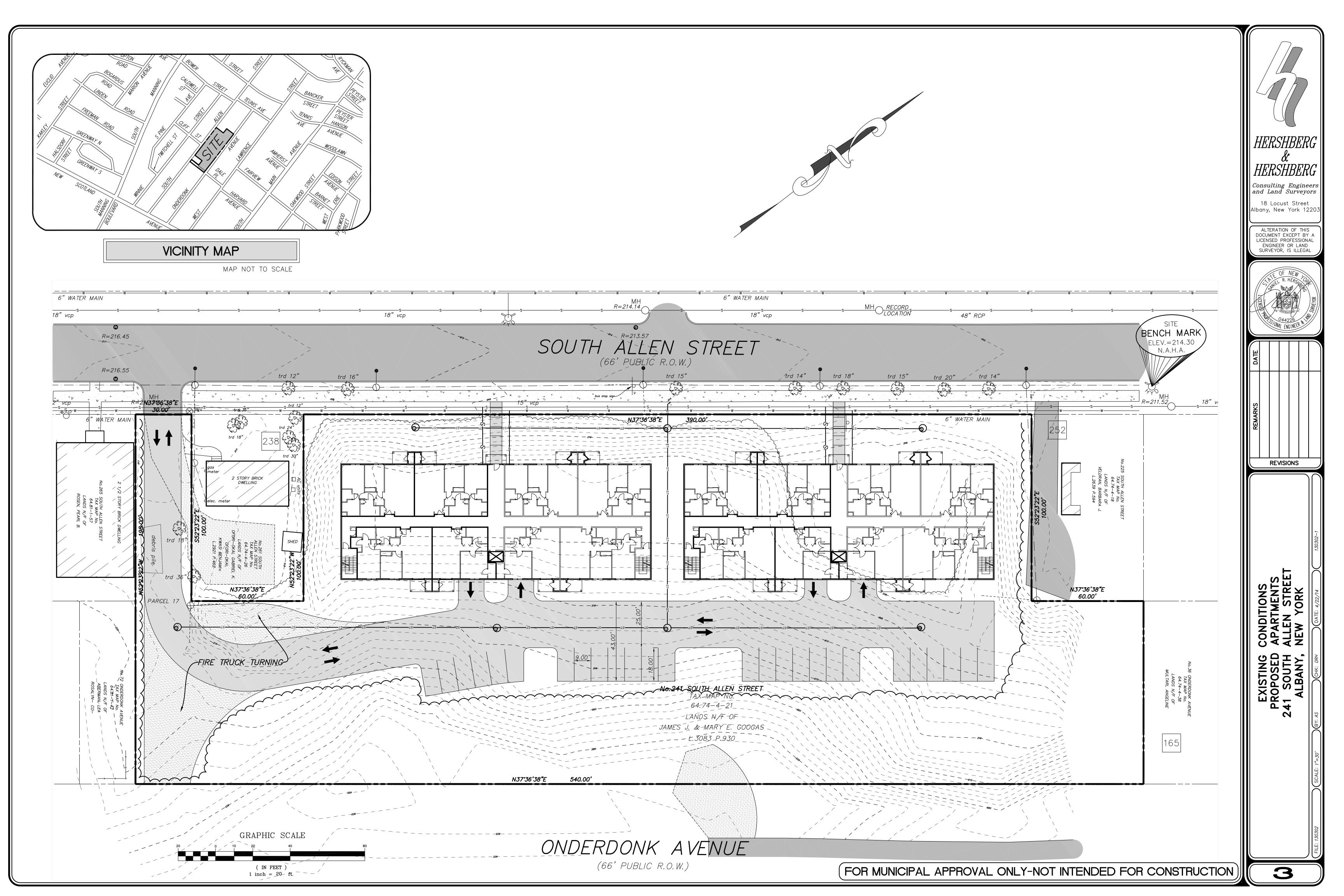
These objections may be addressed by filing revised plans reflecting conditions which comply with the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. In the alternative, this Denial may be appealed to the Board of Zoning Appeals on forms available from the Office of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. This appeal must be filed completely with the Office of Planning and Neighborhood development within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. Should this cause of Denial be resolved by successful Appeal, a full set of construction documents prepared by a NYS licensed architect or engineer may be required to be submitted to this office prior to a Building Permit being issued.

Very truly yours

Vincent DiBiase

Deputy Chief Inspector

cc: Planning Office





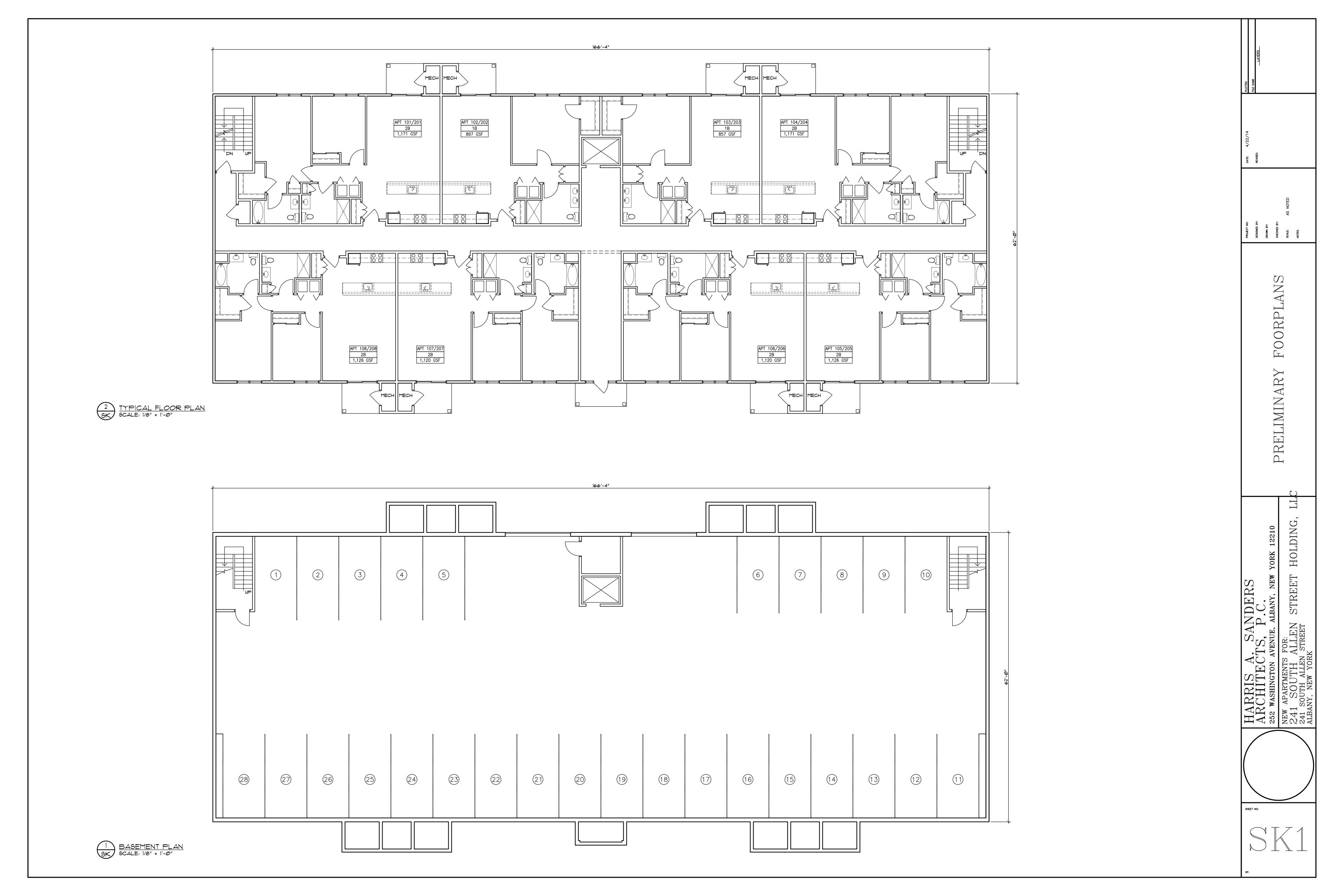


EAST ELEVATION SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

UEST ELEVATION SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ATIONS ELEV PRELIMINARY

HOLDING, HARRIS A. SANDERS
ARCHITECTS, P.C.
252 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALBANY, NEW
NEW APARTMENTS FOR:
241 SOUTH ALLEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK STREET



June 8, 2014

Department of Development & Planning Attn: Board of Zoning Appeals 200 Henry Johnson Blvd Albany, NY 12210

To the Board of Zoning Appeals:

I am writing these comments with regards to Case 5-14, 4187 to be discussed at the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on June 11, 2014. This is the proposed apartment development project on 241 South Allen Street by applicant 241 South Allen Street Holdings, LLC.

I have concerns about answers submitted on the Board of Zoning Appeals application.

Question 13 raises questions.

13a: Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? The answer was submitted as No.

There is an adjoining wetland to the north of the proposed action (which also contains a wetland), identified by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2005. The Army Corps has not been asked to make a jurisdictional determination by any owners of these properties. At the bottom of the hill below this wetland, there is water discharging onto Teunis Avenue on a daily basis. If this water comes from that wetland, this raises questions about the water management functions performed by the wetland for the waters that flow through it.

13b: Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? The answer was submitted as No.

This is incorrect. The Army Corps of Engineers has identified an isolated wetland on the premises of 241 South Allen Street. Mr. Googas (aka 241 South Allen Street Holdings, LLC) showed me the map of the wetland and claimed that the Army Corps will submit a letter to the City of Albany confirming this. Perhaps the Corps had not completed its study at the time when the BZA application was submitted.

Building directly on top of a wetland raises serious environmental and water management issues for the surrounding neighborhood. I raised some of these issues in my letter to the Albany Planning Board on May 11, 2014.

The existence of the wetland to the north of the proposed project, in addition to the wetland on 241 South Allen Street, leads me to wonder about question 17a: Will storm water discharge flow to adjacent properties? The answer was submitted as No.

The two wetlands are currently joined by a channel that runs behind the former South Allen Street Playground. With the channel removed, would there be problems with storm water discharge from the north wetland?

Is there any connection between the wetland on 241 South Allen Street and water management functions in the surrounding neighborhood, which struggles with a high water table?

I believe that these issues raise important questions about the environmental impact of the proposed development project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Cohen

Paura Cohen

Concerns Regarding the Application for Variance Regarding 241 S. Allen St., Albany NY

Respectfully submitted by:

Commander Matt McCann, US Navy Civil Engineer Corps, and Mrs. Kerri McCann 482 West Lawrence St. Albany NY 12208

- -On page 1 of the application, the applicant indicates there is no park or other recreation area within 500 feet of the property. Until very recently, a park with playground equipment was located on the property, which was vigorously used by community children during the summer months. It is not clear to me, as a community homeowner, what happened to that park or why the applicant indicates proximity to this park.
- -In section [1] DESCRIPTION OF CONDITIONS on the Area Variance, the applicant lists the topography as "bowled." Bowled indicates a bowl-shaped depression. However, the actual topography is more accurately described as a valley with clearly defined steep-sloped sides leading to a continuously wet stream at the valley floor.
- -In item 6 on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates that the proposed action is "consistent with the predominant character of the existing build or natural landscape." The proposed site is a green field site with no previous development, so it is clearly not consistent with the existing natural landscape.
- -In item 8a on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates no substantial increase in traffic above present levels as a result of the proposed action. I would be interested to know if the applicant has conducted a traffic analysis to substantiate his claim of not substantial increase as a result of a 48-unit apartment complex on a green field site in a residential neighborhood.
- -In item 13a on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates the site of the proposed action does not contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by federal, state or local agency. Does the applicant have documentation to substantiate his claim? Given the clear continuous presence of water at the bottom of the valley-shaped property, it appears that this land is a waterbody that would be regulated by some level of government.
- -In item 13b on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates that the proposed action would not physically alter or encroach into any existing wetland or waterbody. This claim appears to be completely contrary to the actual conditions on the site.
- -In item 16 on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates that the site is not located within the 100 year flood plain. Is there documentation to substantiate this claim? Given the continuous presence of water on the site and the valley-shaped site plan which represents the sole catch basic for a significant area of surrounding land, it seems likely that the site is located within the 100 year flood plain.

-In item 18 on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 1, the applicant indicates the proposed action would not require the impoundment of water. The applicant has verbally indicated to neighbors as well as publically at a recent planning board meeting, that there would, in fact, be construction of water impoundment facilities.

-In item 9 on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 2, the applicant indicates no or small impact to natural resources. Given the valley topography of the site, the continuous presence of water and the fact that this catch basin occupies the lowest elevation in near proximity, it seems impossible that the construction would have no impact on the groundwater flow or the waterbody present on the site. Does the applicant have documentation to demonstrate that the proposed action would have no impact on the natural resources of this green field site?

-In item 10 on form 617.20 Appendix B Part 2, the applicant indicates no increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems as a result of the proposed action. Given the valley geography, continuous presence of water, low-lying attitude, it seems apparent that there is a significant potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems, particularly when considering that the proposed action will eliminate some or all of the catch basin provided by the natural geography for the surrounding properties. Does the applicant have documentation to substantiate the lack of potential for these problems?