

May 18, 2021

**To: A&M Project #:** 2889-01

Michelle R. Buck, Town Planner Re: Skyview Estates

Leicester Development and Inspectional Services Preliminary Subdivision

3 Washburn Square

Leicester, Massachusetts 01524

Peer Review
651 Main Street
Map 21/Parcel B5.1

Copy:

Dear Ms. Buck

Please find Allen & Major Associates, Inc. (A&M) responses to the Preliminary Plan Review dated May 6, 2021 as prepared by Quinn Engineering, Inc., in reference to their review of Skyview Estates Preliminary Subdivision to be located at along Main Street in Leicester, Massachusetts

Subdivision Rules and Regulations

1. The existing driveway easement serving #747 Main Street must be labeled. (III.2.b.4)

Response: The existing driveway easement has been labeled on the plans.

2. The Applicant must identify the distance between the proposed roadway and the existing intersection of Main Street and Waite Street jogs with centerline offsets of 125 feet should be avoided. (V.A.1.e)

Response: The distance to the existing intersection has been shown on the plans and is approximately 165'

- 3. A centerline radius would be a better design option than the proposed ±90° turn at Lot 9 and Lot 10. (V.A.1.f) Response: At this specific location, a 90° bend as allowed (V.A.1.g), providing for greater flexibility in the parcel layout. With appropriate signage (Stop), this will also provide traffic calming measures for the development.
- 4. A 50 foot leveling area has not been provided from the sideline of Main Street along Alignment 6 and has not been provided from the sideline of Alignment 6 along Alignment 8. (V.A.3.b)

Response: Currently, a portion of the leveling pad is included in the sag curve geometry, however can be adjusted to provide a full 50 foot level area along Main Street. A level 50 foot area has been provided along Alignment 8 to the side line of Alignment 6.

5. The proposed roadway configuration could be a public safety concern. The Town's subdivision regulations limit dead end roadways to 500 feet. The proposed subdivision consists of approximately 3,500 feet of internal roadways with a single access to Main Street and proposes a roadway length of approximately 730 feet between Main Street and the first internal intersection. Although not specified on plans, it appears that most lots could support multifamily dwellings, potentially resulting in approximately 70 new dwelling units in the development. The primary concern related to the length of dead end roadways is blockage of the road and the subsequent impact on emergency access and public safety.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) publication Recommended Guidelines for Subdivision Streets recommends a maximum dead end length of 700 feet for medium to high density developments. The proposed configuration exceeds both the Town's subdivision regulations and ITE's guidelines.

It is recommended that the Applicant investigate the feasibility of providing a second access into the subdivision from Colonial Drive or from another point along the Main Street frontage in order to eliminate the dead end length issue.

This office defers to the Board on how the dead end length is determined, however regardless of how it is determined, the proposed roadway configuration requires a waiver to exceed the dead end length of 500 feet. This office does not recommend considering a waiver request until all options to avoid a dead end in excess of 500 feet have been explored. (V.A.4)

Response: Due to the unique topography of the site, a secondary access meeting town standards for maximum grade is problematic for a connection to the existing right of way at Colonial Drive without major excavation. Additionally, there is a wetland system which crosses the end of the existing right of way out the subject parcel. A waiver request could be provided for either the maximum length of dead-end or to allow an access greater than 10% grade for emergency vehicles only through Lot 9 out to Colonial Drive.

6. A sight distance evaluation must be provided at the definitive plan stage. The Applicant may want to consider evaluating the intersection sight distance at Main Street during this preliminary stage in order to identify potential sight distance issues. (V.A.6)

Response: Agreed, a sight distance evaluation will be provided during the definitive plan stage.

7. Catch basins must be installed near the corners of intersecting streets. This should be addressed at the definite plan stage. (V.C.4.)

Response: Agreed, a more complete layout of stormwater features will be provide during the definitive plan stage.

8. The Board may require open space. None is currently proposed. (V.E.)

Response: Any proposed open space required would be noted on the plans.

9. Lots 12, 23, 24 and 25 do not meet the minimum frontage requirement. (V.G.)

Response: The plans have been updated to provide the minimum frontage.

General Comments

10. The proposed residential uses are not specifically listed on the plan or in the application materials, however, it appears that the lots are sized to accommodate multi-family uses. A special permit is required for multi-family uses in the Business district. (Zoning Bylaw Table 3.2.02)

Response: A special permit will be requested and filed during the definitive plan stage to memorialize the anticipated uses.

11. The Applicant must clarify if the proposed roadway construction will violate the terms of the existing driveway easement granted to #747 Main Street. If there is no violation, the Applicant must clarify how the existing driveway access to #747 Main Street will be accommodated. Given the proposed impact to the access of #747 Main Street, the existing development on that property should be depicted on the plan.

Response: Continued access will be provided through and updated easement or alternative means agreeable to all parties.

12. This office has had experience with other projects where MA DOT prohibits connection to existing drain systems within the State Highway Layout. The Applicant may want to contact MA DOT to review potential connections into the existing drain system as this may affect the proposed drainage design.

Response: A full stormwater design will be undertaken during the definitive plan stage which will address stormwater as a whole for the project and be in accordance with state and local rules.

13. Roadways should be designed so that low points do not occur near or within intersections as currently proposed in Alignment 7.

Response: Due to the unique topography and restrictive easements on the property, this particular intersection needed to be located along a low point. The proper placement of catch basins in the location of the intersection should overcome the placement of the intersection at a low point.

14. Swales are proposed along the roadways in areas of earthwork cuts. The plans do not depict a means or removing stormwater from most of the swales.

Response: A full stormwater design has not be completed and will be undertaken during the definitive plan stage. The concern regarding stormwater capture within the conceptual swales has been noted and will be addressed.

15. An existing well is depicted on the property. The Applicant must clarify if the existing well is in service and if so, what property does it serve.

Response: Further investigation will be conducted on the existing well and appropriate measures will be taken to abandon it if so warranted.

16. It is unclear if all of the delineated resource areas are jurisdictional under the Wetland Protection Act Regulations. If jurisdictional, the proposed drain pipe installation and stormwater basin construction in the wetland resource areas on Lot 24 should be avoided if possible.

Response: The location of the stormwater basins is conceptual in nature and will be refined during the definitive plan stage. Efforts will be taken to avoid any jurisdictional areas and if impractical, will be permitted through the local conservation commission.

17. The Applicant should be aware that the property is partially located within the Water Resources Protection Overlay District and should be aware of the requirements of that district. Reference to the district does not appear to be noted on the plan.

Response: The plans will be updated to include any restrictions outlined in the Water Resources Protection Overlay District

18. The submitted narrative identifies a 207 foot dead end roadway and a cul-de-sac. Neither of these appear to apply to the proposed roadway layout.

Response: This was a scrivener's error and has been omitted from the narrative.

19. Note 8 on Sheet C-102 should be revised to reflect the 2 foot contour interval provided on the plans.

Response: The note has been updated.

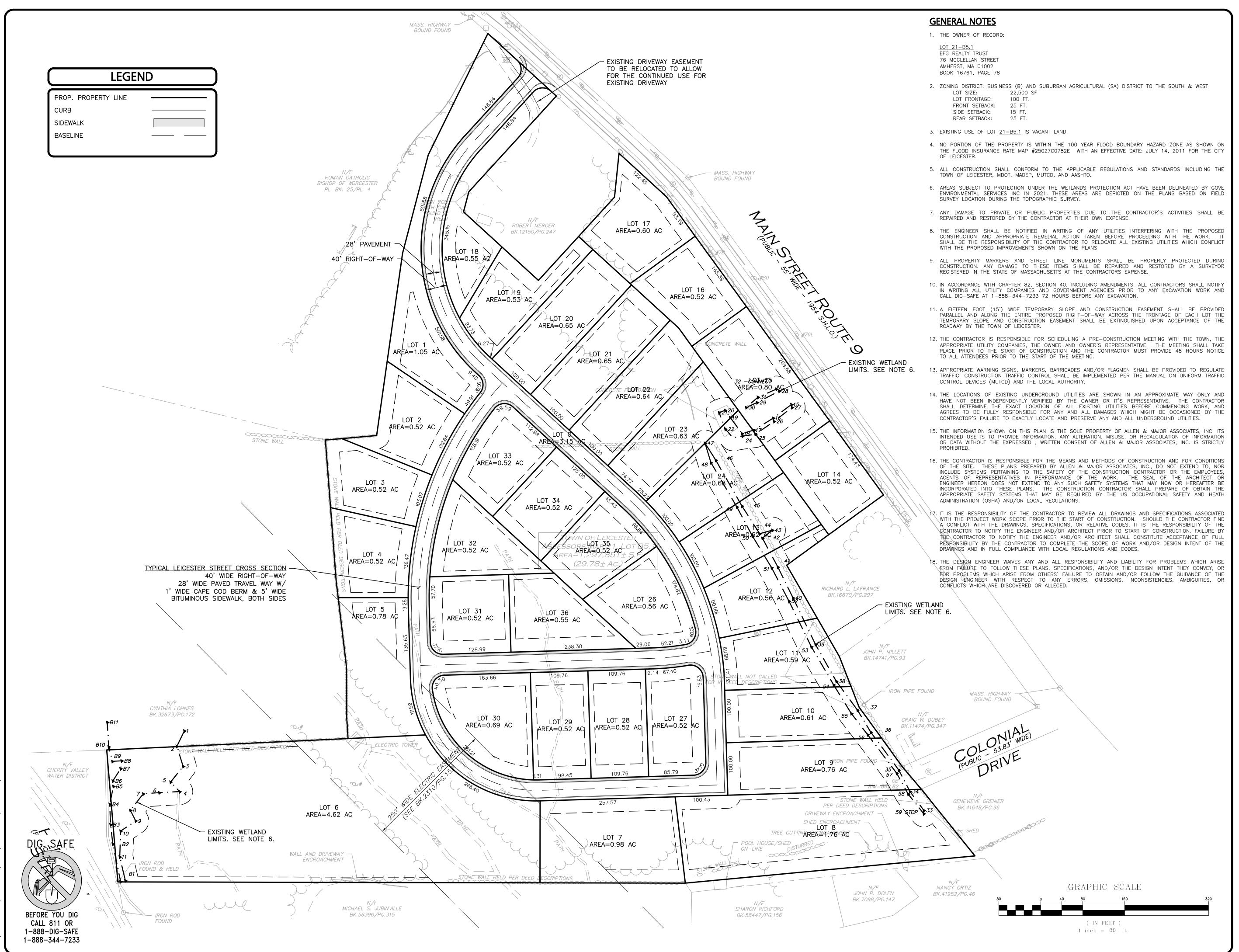
We thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation regarding this project and look forward to meeting to discuss the plans.

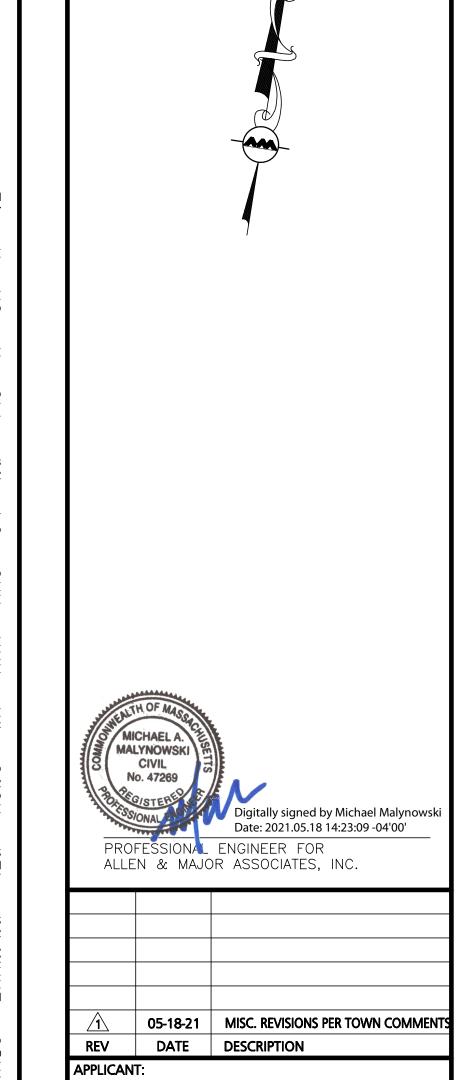
Very Truly Yours,

**ALLEN & MAJOR ASSOCIATES, INC.** 

Michael Malynowski, PE Senior Project Manager

Michael Malynawshi





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PROJECT:

SKYVIEW ESTATES
RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION
MAIN STREET
LEICESTER, MA

 PROJECT NO.
 2889-01
 DATE:
 04-20-21

 SCALE:
 1" = 80'
 DWG. : C-2889-01\_Layout & Materials

 DESIGNED BY:
 SM
 CHECKED BY:
 MAM



civil engineering • land surveying
environmental consulting • landscape architectur
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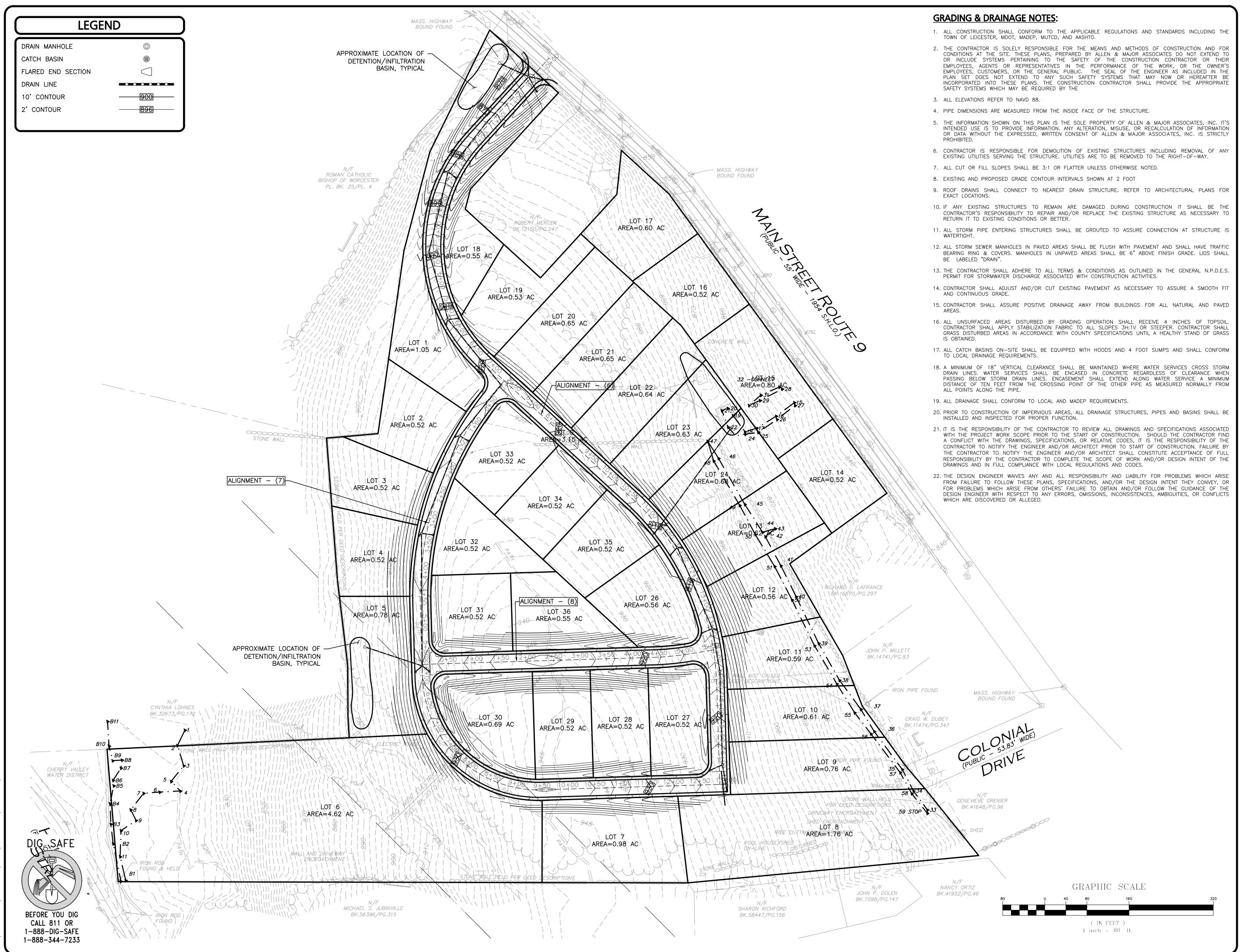
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SHEET No.

C-101

PROPOSED SUBDIVISION

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1" = 80' DWG. : C-2889-01\_Grading & Drainag

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ALLEN & MAJOR

ASSOCIATES, INC.

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WOBURN MA 01801

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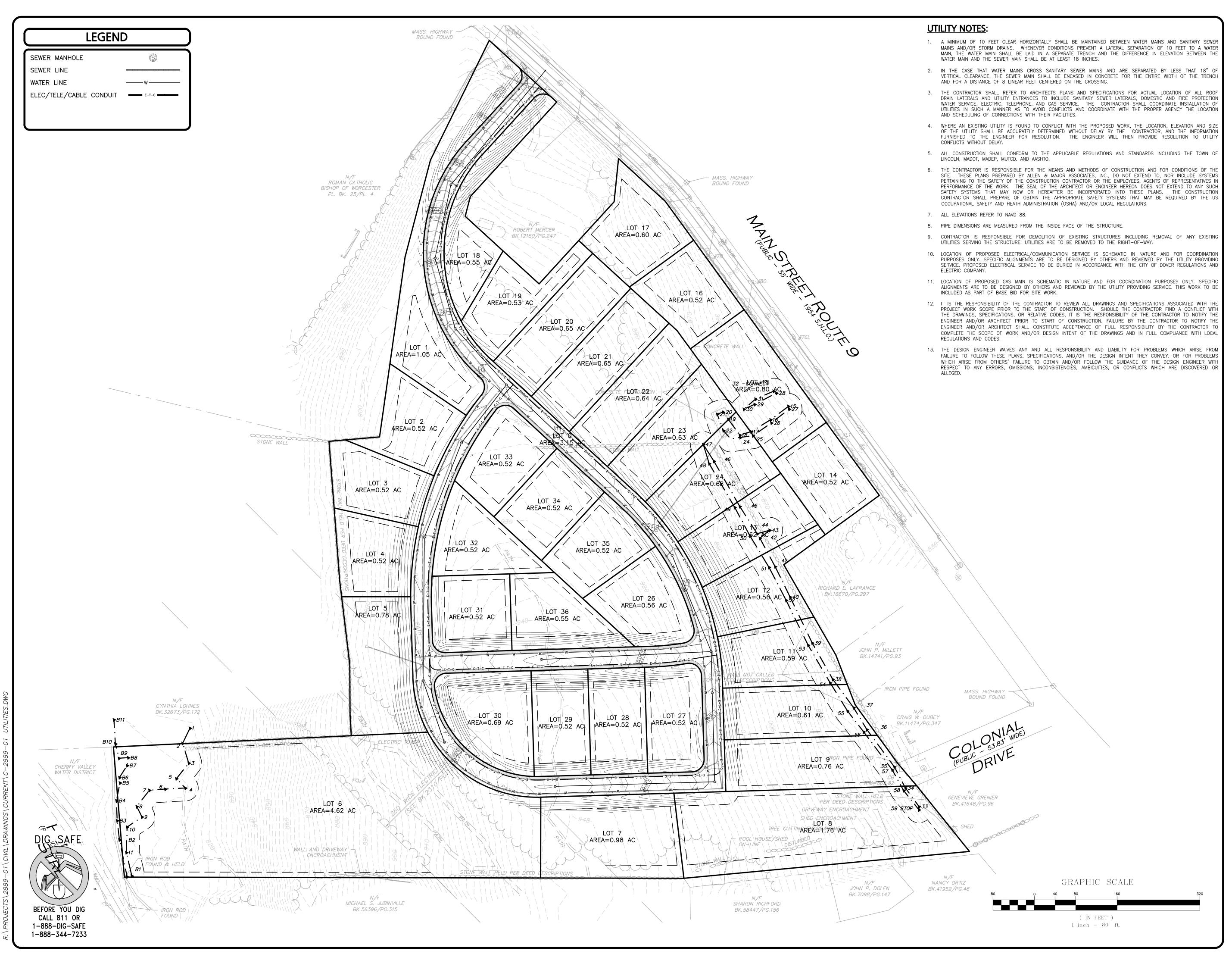
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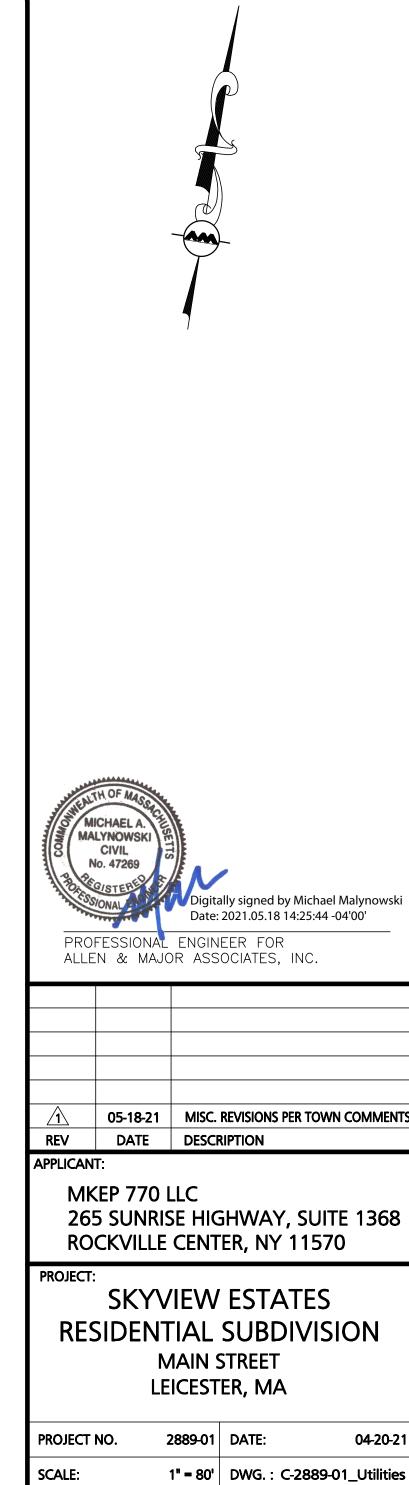
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SCALE:

**DESIGNED BY:** 





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DESIGNED BY: SM

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LAN C-103

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