

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139

2021 MAY -3 PM 2: 14

617-349-6100

CAMBAIDSE MASSACHUSETTS

BZA Application Form

BZA Number: 118270

General Information

The undersigned l	nereby petitions t	he Board of Zoning	Appeal for the following	:			
Special Permit: _	X	Variance:	A	ppeal:			
PETITIONER: Elizabeth Halstead and LorraineJones C/O Jessica Snare							
PETITIONER'S ADDRESS: 158 Central Street, Somerville, MA 02145							
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 25 Brewster St , Cambridge, MA							
TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: single family ZONING DISTRICT: Residence A-1 Zone				Residence A-1 Zone			
REASON FOR PE	ETITION:						
/renovation to bas	sement and side o	loor stairs/					
DESCRIPTION O	F PETITIONER'S	PROPOSAL:	_				
To modify and re-	construct existing	bulkhead which wi	I decrease the setback a	and modify the height.			
SECTIONS OF Z	ONING ORDINAL	NCE CITED:					
		able of Dimensional					
Article: 8.000 Section: 8.22.2.D (Non-Conforming Structure). Article: 10.000 Section: 10.40 (Special Permit).							
	2		~				
		Original	Monare	,			
		Signature(s):	(Petii	tioner (s) / Owner)			
			Jessica G	tioner (s) / Owner)			
				(Print Name)			
		Address:					
Date: 4.29	7-21	Tel. No. E-Mail Address:	617-699-4139 jessica@springhilldesig	jn.com			

BZA APPLICATION FORM - OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

To be completed by OWNER, signed before a notary and returned to The Secretary of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

I/WE LORGAINE SONES + ELIZABETH HALSTEAD
I/We LORILAINE SONES + ELIZABETH HALSTEAD (OWNER) Address: 25 BREWSTER STREET CARBLIDGE, 1/A 021
State that I/We own the property located at 25 BrewStr Skeet,
which is the subject of this zoning application.
The record title of this property is in the name of
*Pursuant to a deed of duly recorded in the date, Middlesex South
County Registry of Deeds at Book, Page; or
Middlesex Registry District of Land Court, Certificate No
*Written evidence of Agent's standing to represent petitioner may be requested.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of
The above-name LORGANE TONE HALVEAD personally appeared before me,
this 5^{16} of $4pn$, $20\overline{21}$, and made oath that the above statement is true.
My commission expires
• If ownership is not shown in recorded deed, e.g. if by court order, recent

deed, or inheritance, please include documentation.



Service Service

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BZA Application Form

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT

Please describe in complete detail how you meet each of the following criteria referring to the property and proposed changes or uses which are requested in your application. Attach sheets with additional information for special permits which have additional criteria, e.g.; fast food permits, comprehensive permits, etc., which must be met.

Granting the Special Permit requested for <u>25 Brewster St</u>, <u>Cambridge</u>, <u>MA</u> (location) would not be a detriment to the public interest because:

A) Requirements of the Ordinance can or will be met for the following reasons:

The side entrance landing and stairs and below grade basement stairs mostly occur within the existing bulkhead stairs and side entrance landing and stairs. They are not visible from the street other than a portion of the railings.

B) Traffic generated or patterns of access or egress would not cause congestion hazard, or substantial change in established neighborhood character for the following reasons:

there would be no change

The continued operation of or the development of adjacent uses as permitted in the Zoning

Ordinance would not be adversely affected by the nature of the proposed use for the following reasons:

there would be no change

Nuisance or hazard would not be created to the detriment of the health, safety, and/or welfare of the occupant of the proposed use or the citizens of the City for the following reasons:

there would be no change

For other reasons, the proposed use would not impair the integrity of the district or adjoining district or otherwise derogate from the intent or purpose of this ordinance for the following reasons:

there would be no change

*If you have any questions as to whether you can establish all of the applicable legal requirements, you should consult with an attorney.

BZA Application Form

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

Applicant: Elizabeth Halstead and LorraineJones Present Use/Occupancy: single family

Location: 158 Central Street Zone: Residence A-1 Zone

Phone: 617-699-4139 Requested Use/Occupancy: single family

		Existing Conditions	Requested Conditions	Ordinance Requirements	
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA:	2	2856 NHA	2856 NA	N/A	(max.)
LOT AREA:		4,414	4,414	6000	(min.)
RATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO LOT AREA: ² LOT AREA OF		N/A	N/A	.5	
EACH DWELLING UNIT		4,414	4,414	6000	
SIZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	36.79	36.79	80	
	DEPTH	118.82	118.82	N/A	
SETBACKS IN FEET	FRONT	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	REAR	N/A	N/A	25	
	LEFT SIDE	13.5 to building	9.5 to edge of below grade stair	15	
	RIGHT SIDE	N/A	N/A	15 (sum of 35)	
SIZE OF BUILDING:	HEIGHT	39.4	39.6	35	
	WIDTH	N/A	N/A	N/A	
RATIO OF USABLE OPEN SPACE TO LOT AREA:		N/A	N/A	N/A	
NO. OF DWELLING UNITS:		1	1	1	
NO. OF PARKING SPACES:		2	2	N/A	
NO. OF LOADING AREAS:		N/A	N/A	N/A	
DISTANCE TO NEAREST BLDG. ON SAME LOT		10	10.6	10	

Describe where applicable, other occupancies on the same lot, the size of adjacent buildings on same lot, and type of construction proposed, e.g; wood frame, concrete, brick, steel, etc.

- 1. SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS).
- 2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT 7'-0" IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.
- 3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.

9 Riedesel Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138 June 18, 2021

Secretary
Board of Zoning Appeal
City of Cambridge
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
via email: mpacheco@cambridgema.gov

re: case # BZA-11827025 (25 Brewster Street)

Dear BZA Members.

We live at 9 Riedesel Avenue in Cambridge, diagonally across the intersection from 25 Brewster Street, and therefore are apparently considered abutters to 25 Brewster Street. As of this month, Bob will have lived here fifty years. Today he reviewed with Lorri Jones and Libby Halstead the architectural drawings and plans for their proposed revision of their existing rear stairs at 25 Brewster, which involve swapping the position of an existing kitchen stairway and an existing cellar bulkhead stairway. The existing stairs and bulkhead empty onto their driveway, and both are visible from our front porch, living room windows, and second floor front bedroom windows. The revised stairs and bulkhead will be similarly visible from those parts of our home.

We think the visual impact of the proposed changes will be trivial and we have no objections to the proposed revisions.

For the record, the property at 9 Riedesel Avenue is owned 50:50 by two trusts: the Eva J. Neer Marital Deduction Trust for the benefit of Robert M. Neer, and the Robert M. Neer 2020 Family Trust.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Neer, MD, Trustee

EJ Neer Marital Deduction Trust

Robertyheer, Trustee

Aun R. Adridge, Trustee

Ann R. Eldridge, Trustee

Robert M. Neer 2020 Family Trust

From:

Linda Dittmar < lindittmar@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, June 20, 2021 9:46 AM

To:

Pacheco, Maria

Subject:

Case BZA-118270

Re: Case BZA-118270

Location: 25 Brewster Street, Cambridge MA 02138

Pettioner: Elizabeth Halstead and Lorraine Jones--C/o Jessica Snare

Dear Ms. Pacheco,

I am writing as a nearby neighbor (at 31 Brewster St) to support the proposed modification to the existing bulkhead at 25 Brewster Street. The proposed decrease of the bulkhead's setback and modification of its height do not impact in any meaningful way the exterior of the building or access to it. They are perfectly reasonable improvements.

Since this change is also taking place in tandem with conversion of the basement into an apartment-like unit, with it own kitchen etc, I hope this change in access to the reconfigured basement is not seen as permission to have tenants or an air B&B in that space without further city regulation. While the current owners do not plan to put it to such use, there is always the possibility that future owners will feel differently.

Sincerely, Linda Dittmar 35 Breewster Street Cambridge MA 02138 18 June 2021

Board of Zoning Appeal Cambridge MA

Case #BZA-118270

Scheduled hearing date Jun 24, 2021

As the adjoining property owner, we'd like to encourage the Board to approve the enhancement to the bulkhead access to 25 Brewster St.

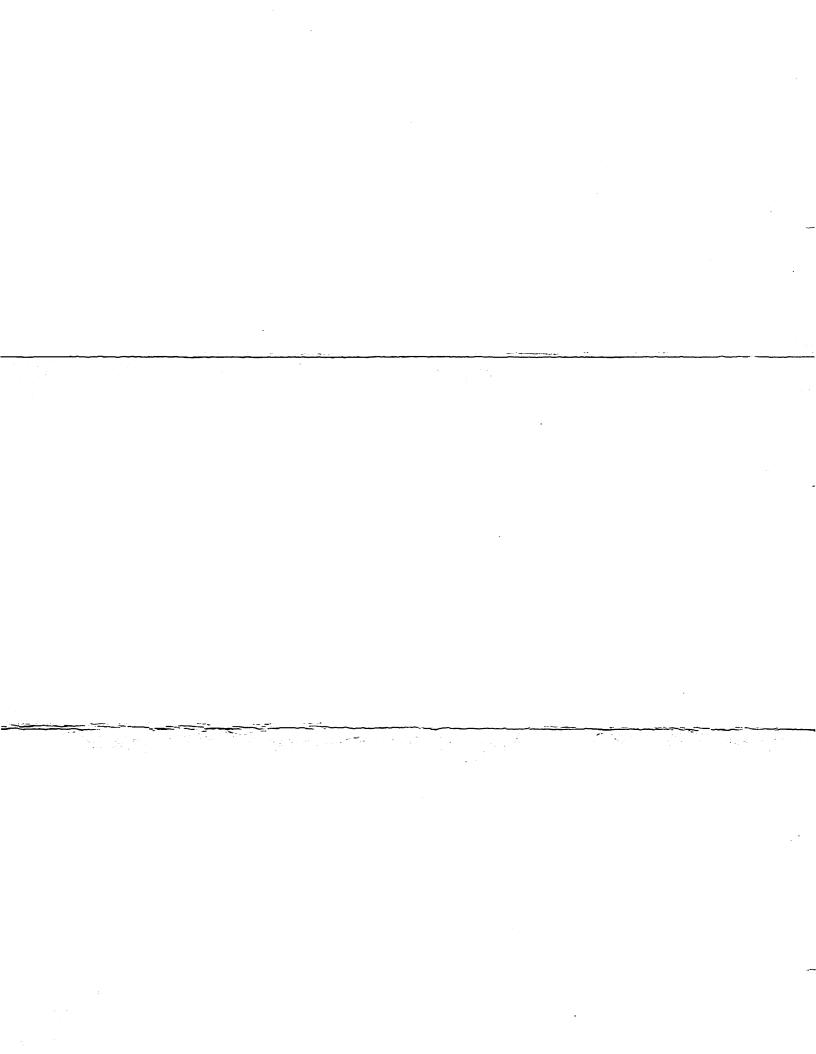
Libby Halstead and Lorri Moore have taken great care to design a new bulkhead stairway access to their basement, and we are supportive of this modification. We hope you will consider their special permit application favorably.

Thank you very much for your support and for all you do for the community.

Best,

Vilbek Klamsk Trust

23 Brewster St Cambridge, MA



Isabel & Trevor Hardy

29 Brewster Street Cambridge MA 02138 617-733-3356 isabelhardy@gmail.com

June 21, 2021

City of Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal 831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge MA 02139

RE: 25 Brewster Street, Petition for Special Permit, Case No: BZA-118270

Dear ZBA Chairperson and Board Members:

As the owners of 29 Brewster Street, which is directly across a shared driveway from 25 Brewster Street, we are the closest and most immediately impacted by the request for a Special Permit.

We have reviewed the plans for the modified and reconstructed bulkhead and new stairway, and met with our neighbors to understand the decreased setback. We have no concerns with the decreased setback and the plans for the stairway. We are, however, concerned about the use of the basement, and a new stairway enabling its use as an accessory apartment. We have spoken to the owners of 25 Brewster Street and they have assured us that the basement will never be rented out as an apartment or separate dwelling unit. But our concern is the future and long term use of the basement as another dwelling unit, which we are opposed to.

The plans our neighbors provided us of the basement work (which is under construction currently) show a bedroom, full bathroom, and kitchenette (attached here). If the Special Permit is granted, and the current or future owners of 25 Brewster Street use the basement and the new access through the modified bulkhead as a rental unit, we would like to understand how the City of Cambridge will enforce the zoning code. Our reading of the zoning code (Section 4.22) is that an accessory apartment is prohibited in our zoning district. While we trust the existing owners will not rent out

their basement, if the City of Cambridge cannot enforce the zoning code in this instance and shut down accessory apartment usage, we have to oppose this Petition for a Special Permit.

We plan to join the virtual hearing on June 24th to discuss these questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isabel & Trevor Hardy

Attachment: Plans for the Basement of 25 Brewster Street as provided by owners of 25 Brewster Street on 6/18/21.

PROVISIONAL FROM HOMEOUNER - DRAWING FILED WINDOW --MANNAY EVTERIOR-THEOR DEN 200 20 SUMP PUMP PIPED TO 25. GARDEN C EXTERIOR a 02 PLANTING 3 STEPP EG 80 SUMP PUMP MODER GYM 3° 0002 CFAWL 6-01 WEST BEDROOM RE RADIANT FLOOR HEAT 28 PCKT. RAPIANT FLOOR HEAT BASEMEN PROPOSED BASEMEN HALSTEAD/JONES ZIS BREWSTER ST. EJECTOP. NEW BEAM I PUMP E.TILE ? RECONNEC FURR OUT WALL 45 HEEDED FOR ELECTRICAL/ FIXET DOOR/BLOCKING 41/1. KADIANT FLOOR HT WATER-TUB WITH JETS EXISTING PANELS NEW STEP SHID LAHDING SPRING HILL DESIGN 21 DARTMOUTH STREET SOMERVILLE MA 02145 MIN, R-20 WALL INSULATION EASEMENT PLAN MAX. U-VALUE FOR WINDOWS : . 30 = NEW WALLS **NEW WINDOWS** FOR WINDOW OF DER ONLY NEW RO = 32" X 18" HIGH ALL WINDOWS $MO = 36 \times 22$ NEW RO = 62" x 20" HIGH B $M.O. = 66 \times 24$ TEMPERED OF NEW RO = 56" x 20" HIGH $M.O. = 60 \times 24$ NEW RO = 32" x 20 $MO. = 36 \times 24$



Thank you, Bza Members

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL

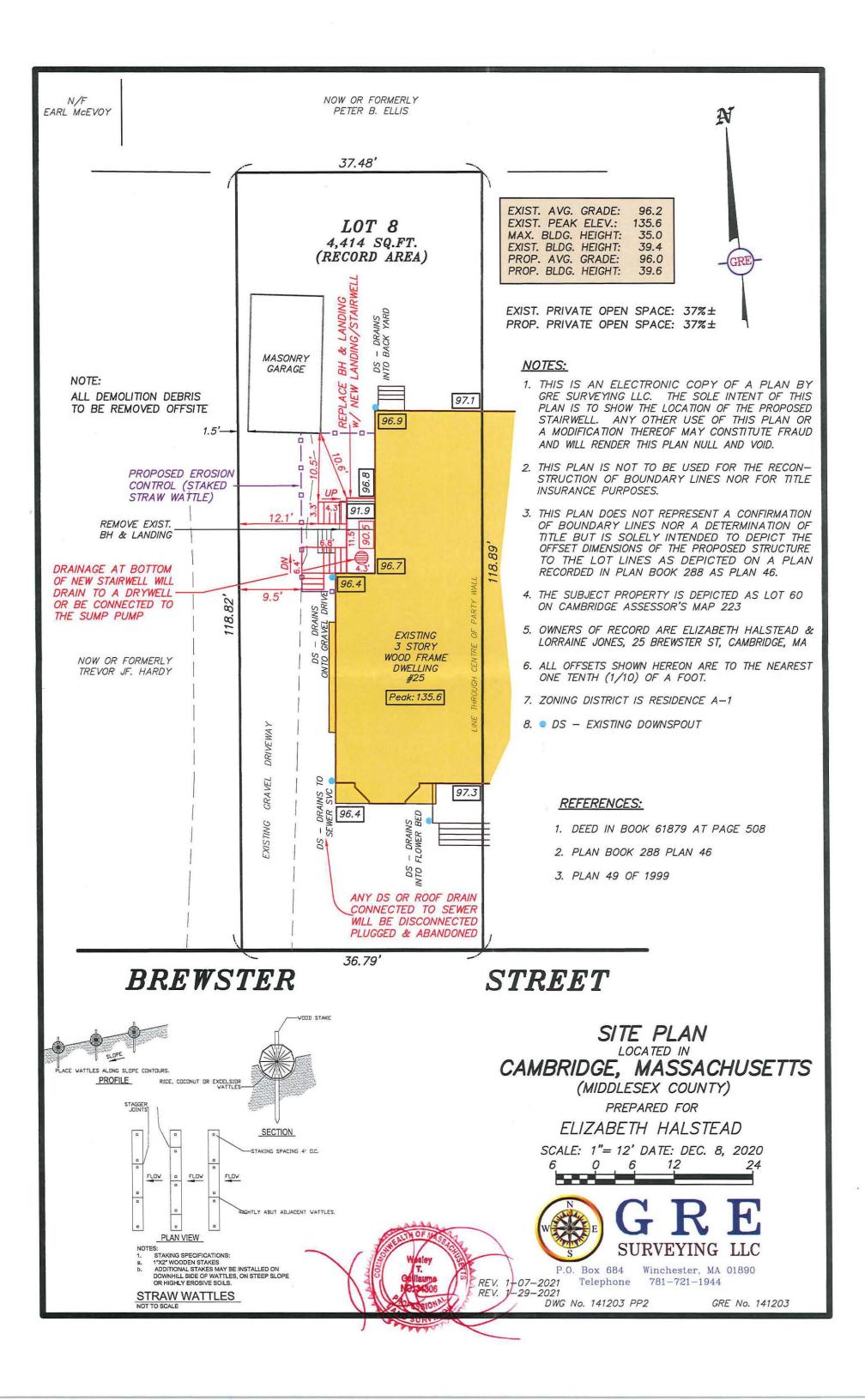
831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA. (617) 349-6100

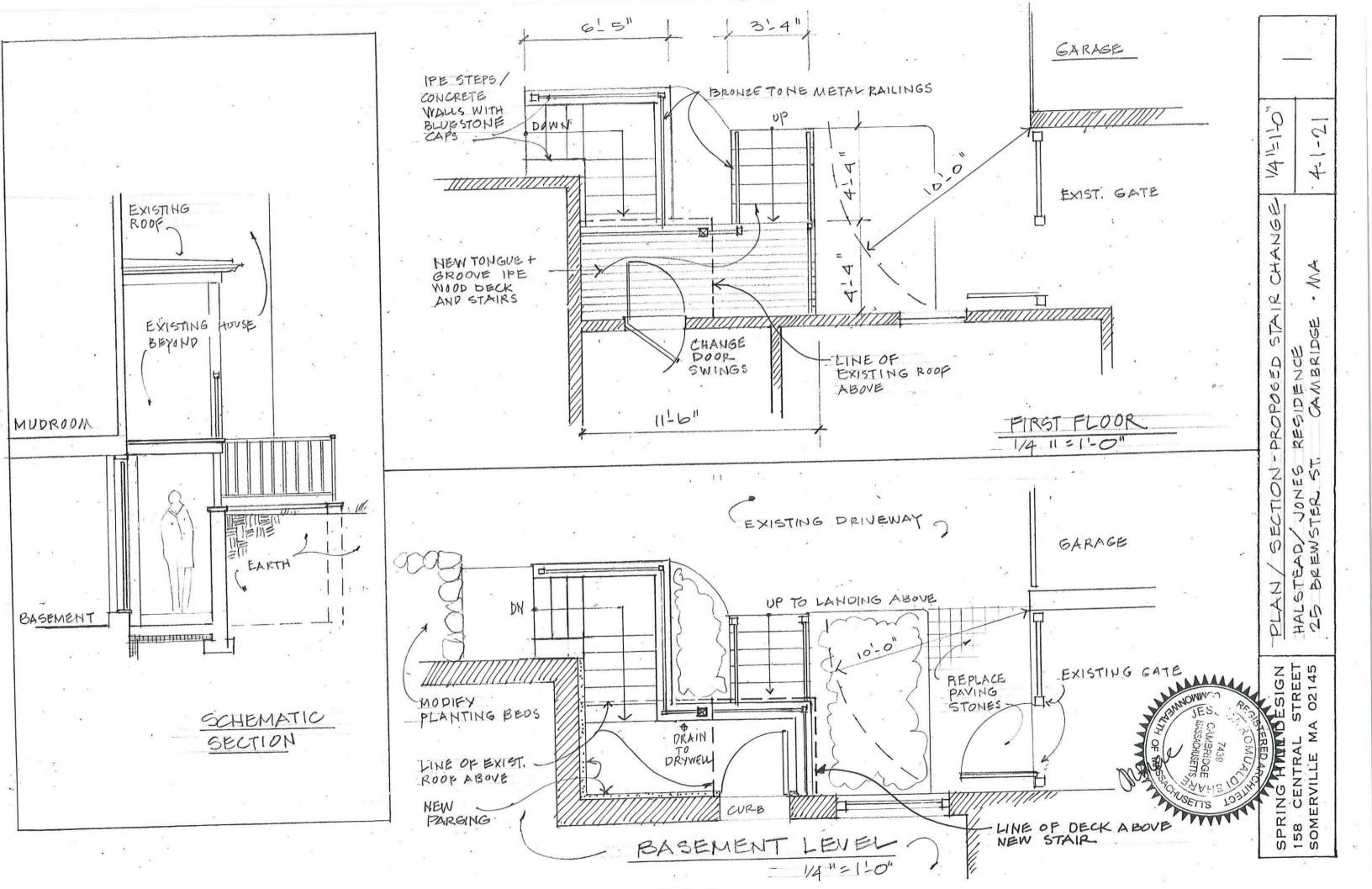
BZA

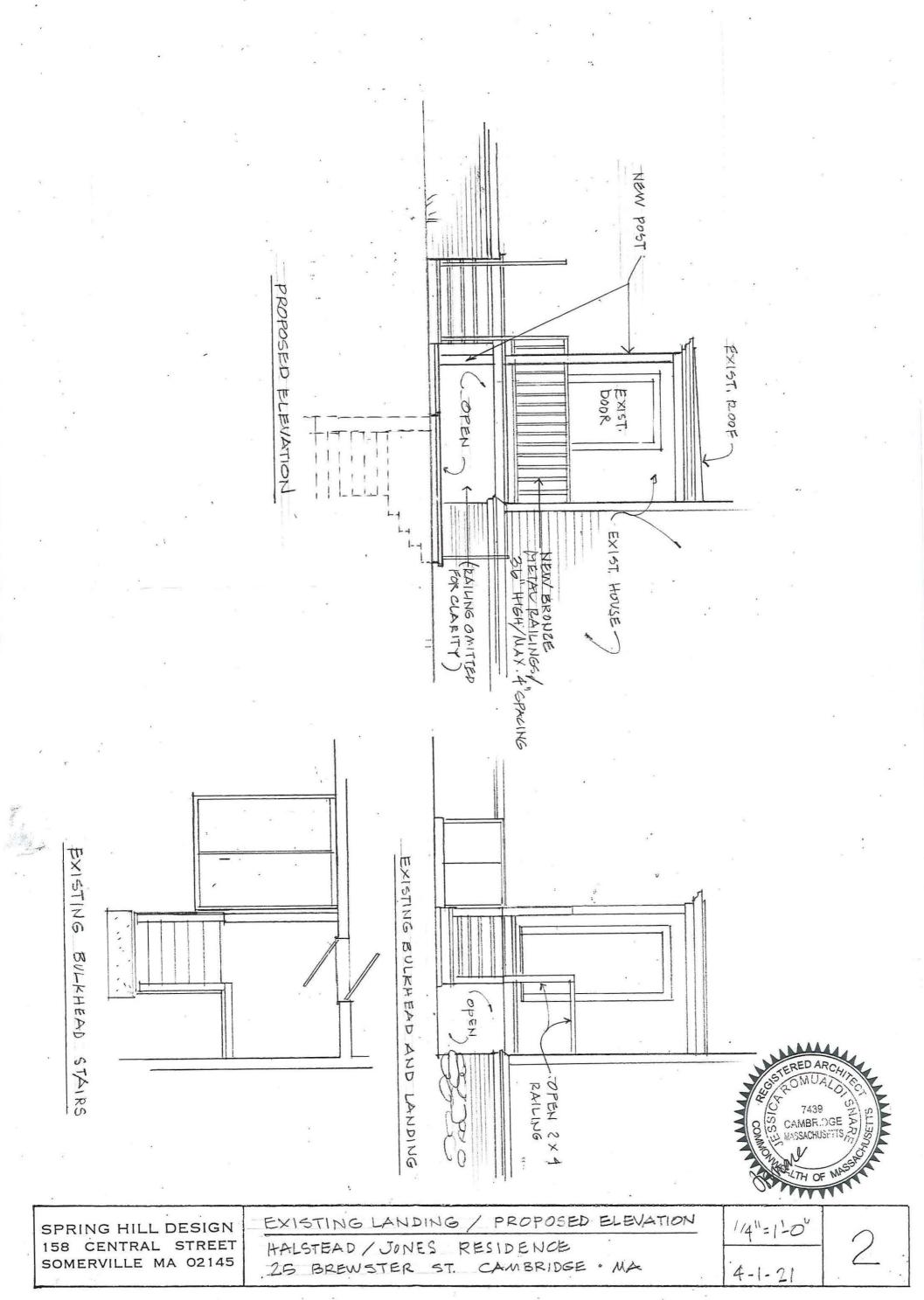
POSTING NOTICE - PICK UP SHEET

The undersigned picked up the notice board for the Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing.

Name:	Jessi La Snere (Print)	Date:	6-4-21
Address:	25 Brewster St		•
Case No	BCA-118270		
Hearing D	Date: 6/24/21		











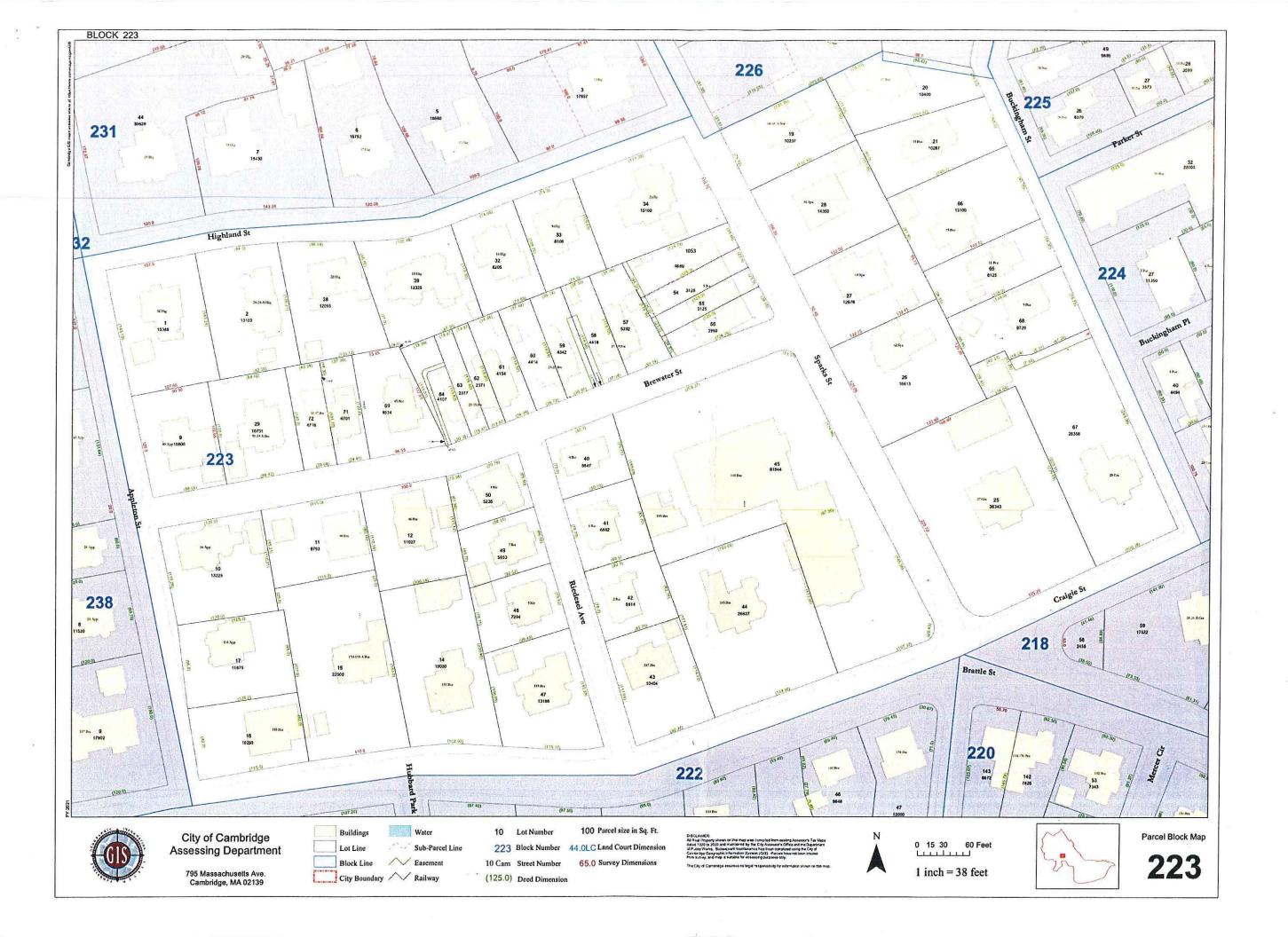


EXISTING CONDITION PHOTOS
25 BREWSTER STREET



EXISTING CONDITION PHOTOS

25 BREWSTER STREET



25 Brewster St 11 Highland St Highland St 231-5 231-6 2 Highland St ROAD 223-34 8 Highland St 16 Highland S 223-33 18 Highland St 223-32 223-1053 223-39 223-54 223-38 223-57 223-55 223-58 223-59 0 19 Brewster St 17 Brewster St 223-60 223-61 25 Brewster St 223-62 223-63 223-64 ewster St 31 Brewster St²⁹ Brewster St 223-69 33 Brewster St 35 Brewster St 45 Brewster St 223-71 55 Brewster St ROAD 9 Riedesel Ave Riedesel Ave 6 Riedesel Ave 223-40 223-45 0 46 Brewster S 223-50 223-12 223-41 223-11 4 Riedesel Ave 7 Riedesel Ave 223-49 223-42 25 Brewster Xt.

223-33 SAGER, ANTHONY P., TR. OF ANTHONY P. SAGER 2007 REV. TRUST 8 HIGHLAND ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

223-60 HALSTEAD, ELIZABETH & LORRAINE JONES 25 BREWSTER ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

223-50
ELDRIDGE ANN
TRS THE ROBERT M NEER 2020 FAMILY TR
9 RIEDESEL AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

223-40 GOFF, LOUISE M. LAURENS M. GOFF 6 RIEDESEL AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 223-39 MCEVOY, EARL & VICTORIA McEVOY 18 HIGHLAND ST. CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138-2210

223-32 ELLIS, PETER B. & CYNTHIA H. TRS THE HIGHLAND ST NOM TRUST 16 HIGHLAND ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

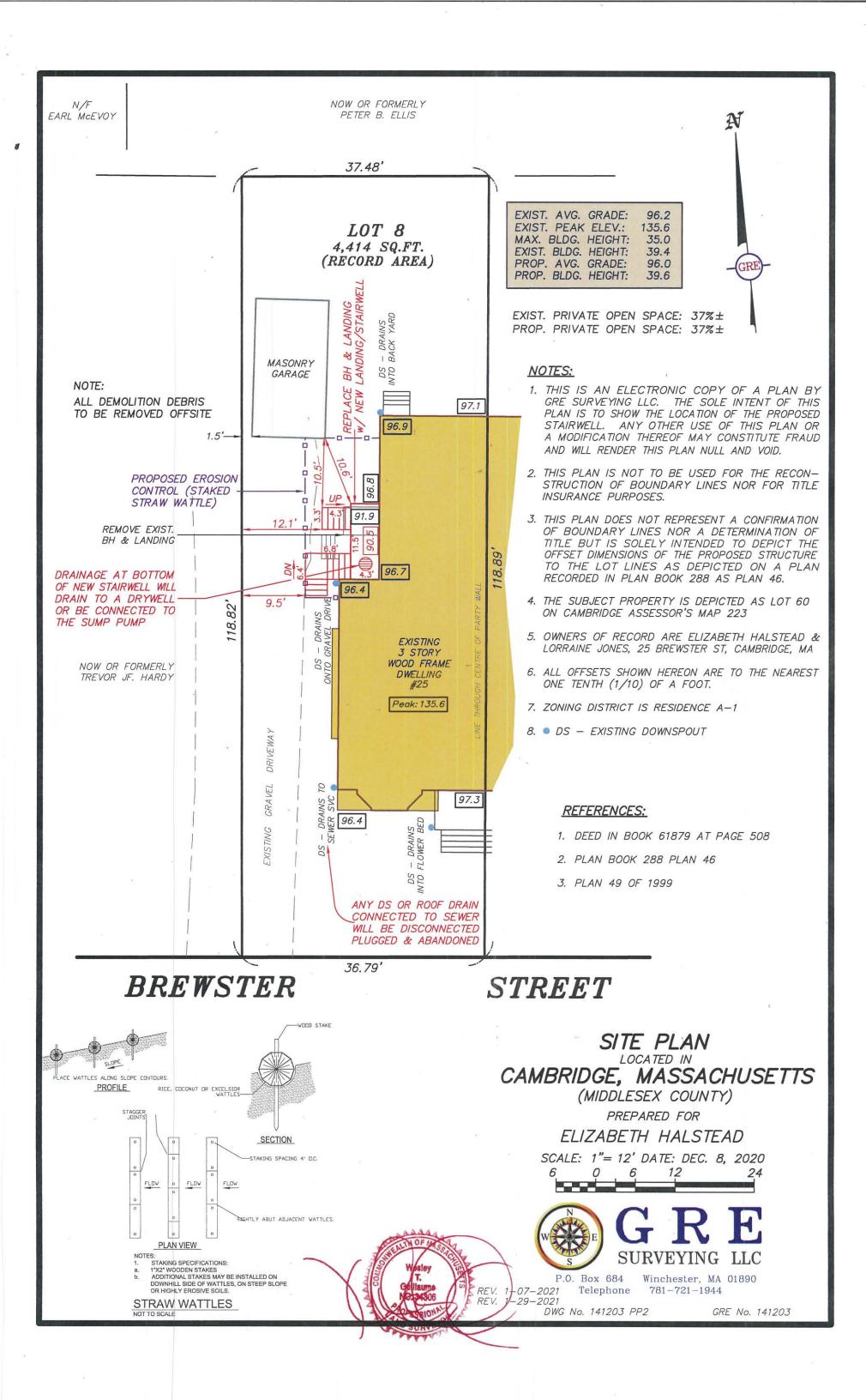
223-61 HARDY, TREVOR JF. ISABEL WK HARDY 29 BREWSTER ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

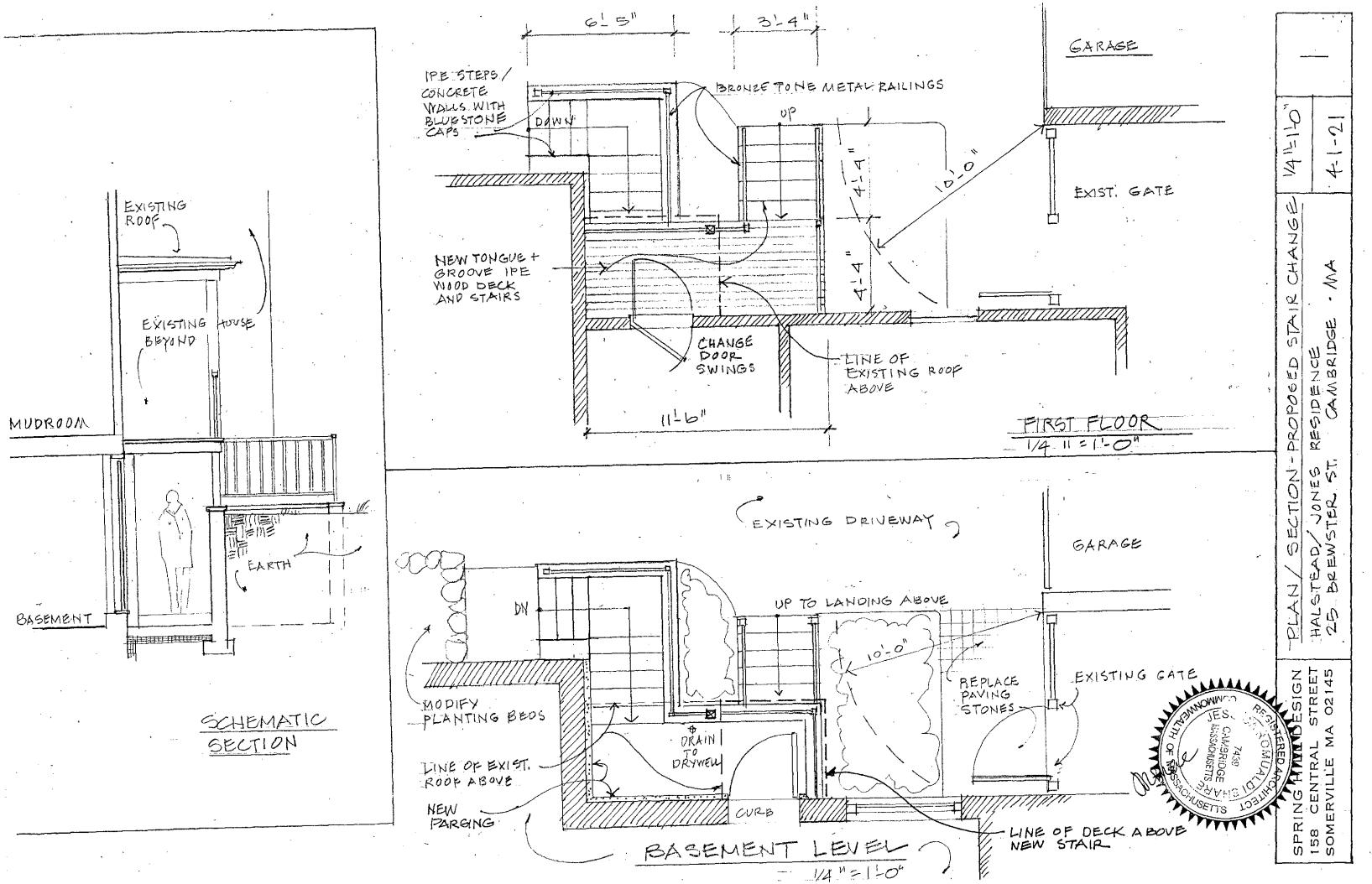
223-58 CORRSIN, DAVID 19 BREWSTER ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 JESSICA SNARE
158 CENTRAL STREET
SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

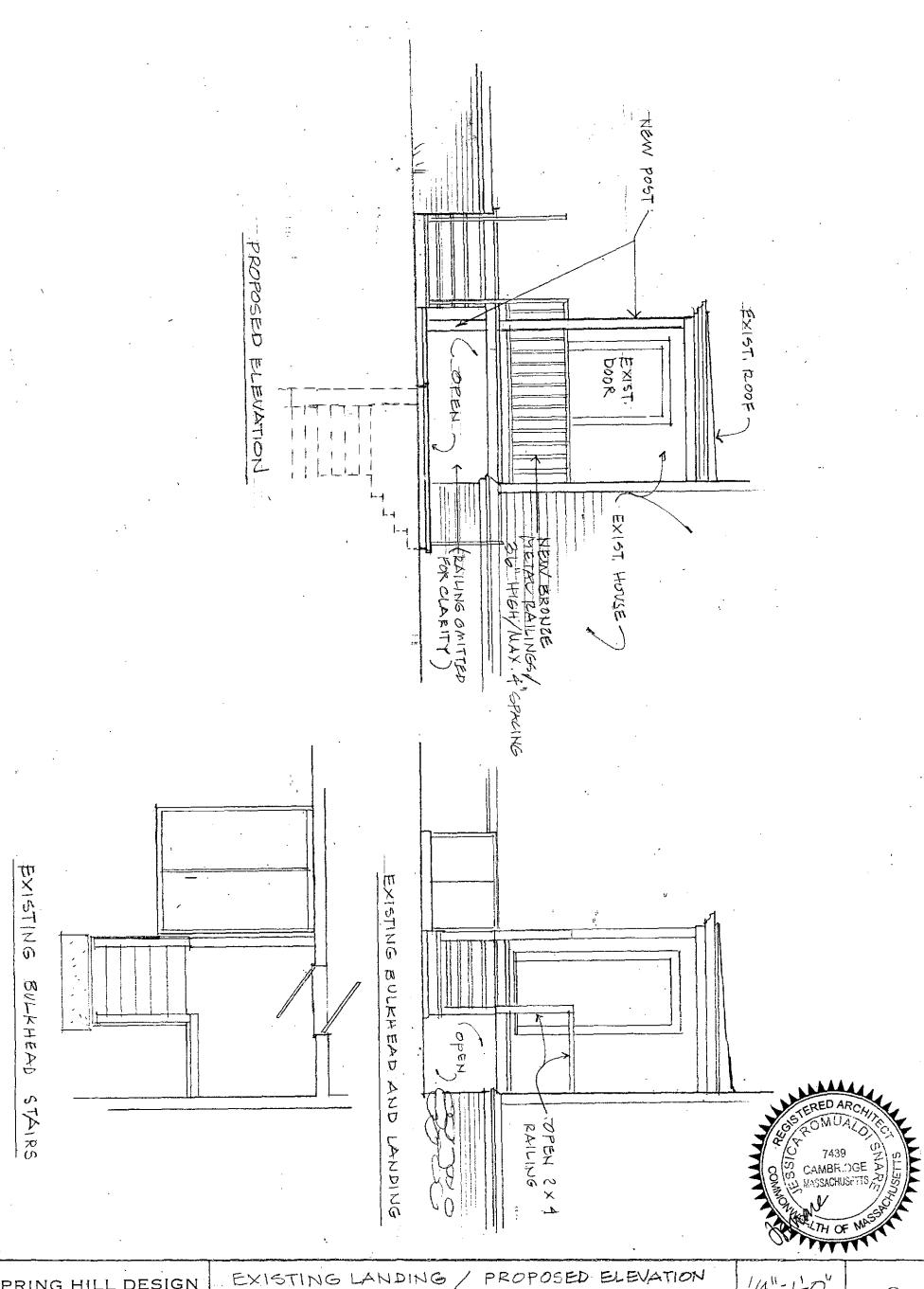
223-59 LEE, VIVIAN & BENEDICT KINGSBURY TRS VILBEK KLAMSK TR 23 BREWSTER ST

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

223-62 DITTMAR, LINDA & JEREMIAH EDWARD DITTMAR TRSTS OF THE LINDA DITTMAR REVOC TRT OF 2016 31 BREWSTER ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138







SPRING HILL DESIGN 158 CENTRAL STREET SOMERVILLE MA 02145 EXISTING LANDING / PROPOSED ELEVATION
HALSTEAD / JONES RESIDENCE
25 BREWSTER ST. CAMBRIDGE . MA

4-1-21

2





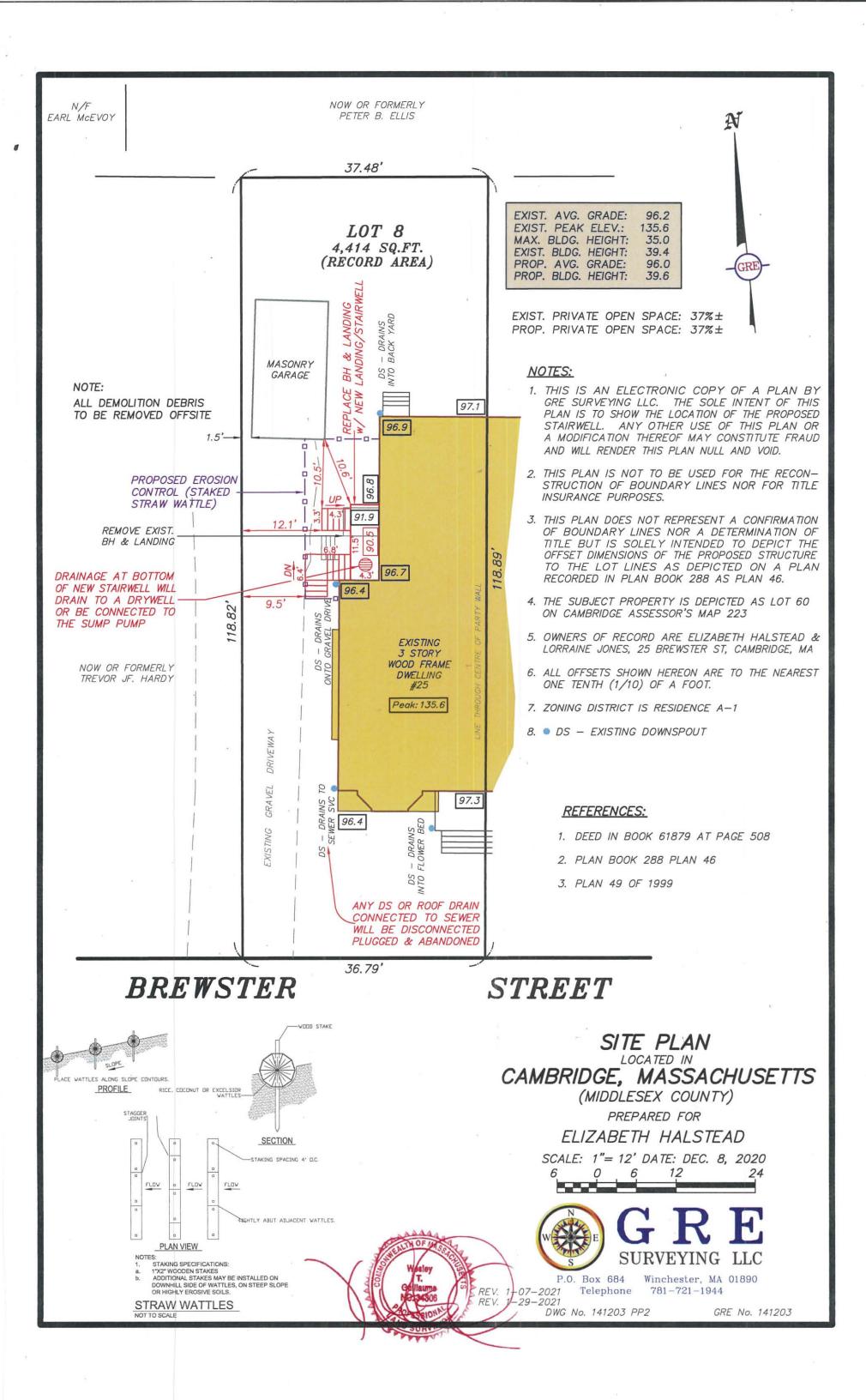


VIEW OF EXISTING SIDE PORCH - POST ON BULKHEAD DOOR ->









From: Kristina Dakos <kristinadakos@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:53 PM

To: Pacheco, Maria

Subject: Halstead - Jones bulkhead project on Brewster Street

Dear Board of Zoning Appeal,

I am a neighbor of Lorri Jones and Libby Halstead on Brewster Street in Cambridge.

I fully support their proposed bulkhead project. The project was explained to me when I visited the site and I agree that it will be an improvement. Moreover, I think it will not cause unpleasant views from the sidewalk or any other negative concern to me as a neighbor.

I encourage the Board to grant the Special Permit.

Best regards,

Kristina Dakos 17 Brewster Street Cambridge, MA 02138

From:

Marjorie R. Williams <marjorie@marjorierwilliams.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:32 PM

To:

Pacheco, Maria

Subject:

Case # BZA-11827025

This note is for the Board of Zoning Appeal regarding Case # BZA-118270 (Scheduled hearing date June 24, 2021)

We're writing in regard to our neighbors' Libby Halstead and Lorri Moore's application for a permit to modify their basement bulkhead stairs. We are totally supportive of their plans. Lorri and Libby have been fantastic neighbors. We have every confidence that they intend to create a tasteful modification that's considerate of their neighbors and consistent with the style of our neighborhood. They are outstanding stewards of the neighborhood. We wish to lend our complete support to their application and hope that you will decide upon their request favorably. If we can be of further assistance, feel free to let us know. Thank you.

Marjorie Williams & Michael Tushman 2 Riedesel Avenue Cambridge

From:

Marsh Carter <c3aeromnc@usa.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 5:14 AM

To:

Pacheco, Maria

Subject:

Case Number BZA-118270 for 25 BREWSTER STREET for June 24 Hearing

Board of Zoning Appeal Cambridge MA

As a neighbor on the adjoining street, Riedesel Avenue, and two houses away from 25 Brewster Street, I ask the Board to approve the enhancement to the hatchway/bulkhead access to 25 Brewster St.

We did a similar modification to our house some years ago and it has greatly improved the access, the value of the house as well as added a safety feature in case of fire.

I encourage the Board to continue to help preserve these wonderful old houses that are the heart and soul of Cambridge.

Respectfully,

Marshall N. Carter 4 Riedesel Avenue