

# Modification to Approved Project City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Case # Property Address <u>Salmon Falls Road</u>					
Type of project: Site Plan; SubdivisionX_; Line Adjustment; Other					
Project name Meadow Court Subdivision					
Date of original Planning Board approval					
Description of modification:The Applicant seeks a modification to the approval to waive					
the impact fee for Map 224, Lot 310 (f/k/a 685 Salmon Falls Road). See Letter to the					
Planning Board filed herewith.					
Name of applicant or agent filling out this form <u>Justin L. Pasay, Esq.</u>					
Mailing Address <u>111 Maplewood Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801</u>					
Phone Number: 603-766-1686 Email Address: jpasay@dtclawyers.com					
Please check box: Applicant  Agent XX					
Signature of person completing form:					
Date: November 10, 2020					
Signature of property owner (if different): see authorization Date:					
Please note: Modifications are reviewed by the Planning Board but no public hearing is held and no notices are required. (In contrast, projects, which are considered to have a potential impact upon abutters, are considered amendments for which notice and a public hearing is required.) There is a \$125.00 fee for a modification. For very simple matters ("administrative modifications") approved by staff, there is no fee.					

Revised 1/7/2019





## Application for Waiver from Regulation

## City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Project name Meadow Court Subdivision					
Case #					
Subdivision: X Lot line revision: Site Plan: Minor Site Plan:					
Section and subsection of the <u>Subdivision Regulations</u> from which the waiver is requested (including identifying number, title, and description of provision):					
Section 6.10 of the Subdivision Regulations (Impact Fees)					
<i>OR</i> - Article, section, and subsection of the <u>Site Plan Regulations</u> from which the waiver is requested (including identifying number, title, and description of provision):					
Reason/justification(s) for waiver request					
see attached					
Name of applicant or agent filling out this form <u>Justin L. Pasay, Esq.</u>					
Applicant? Agent? X Today's date					
Office use below					
Waiver approved: Waiver denied:					
Comments:					
Signature: Date:					

S:\WA-WL\White, Jason\Rochester Subdivision\Impact Fee Waiver\2020 11 04 Subdivision Waiver request.doc



#### CELEBRATING OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR CLIENTS

LIZABETH M. MACDONALD JOHN J. RATIGAN **DENISE A. POULOS** ROBERT M. DEROSIER CHRISTOPHER L. BOLDT SHARON CUDDY SOMERS DOUGLAS M. MANSFIELD KATHERINE B. MILLER CHRISTOPHER T. HILSON HEIDI J. BARRETT-KITCHEN JUSTIN L. PASAY ERIC A. MAHER BRENDAN A. O'DONNELL ELAINA L. HOEPPNER WILLIAM K. WARREN

RETIRED MICHAEL J. DONAHUE CHARLES F. TUCKER ROBERT D. CIANDELLA NICHOLAS R. AESCHLIMAN

10 November 2020

Nel Sylvain, Chairperson City of Rochester Planning Board City Hall Annex 31 Wakefield Street Rochester, NH 03867-1917

Re: 31-Lot Subdivision, Case #224-310-A-B (the "Subdivision")

Dear Chairman Sylvain and Members:

Please find enclosed a Modification to Approved Project ("Modification Request") and corresponding Application for Waiver from Regulation ("Waiver Request") filed on behalf of J&L Terra Holdings, Inc. ("J&L"), owner of the above referenced Subdivision. The property is identified as City Tax Map 224, Lot 310. This filing follows J&L's recent discussions with City Planning Staff regarding application of the City's new Impact Fee Ordinance and requests a full waiver from same pursuant to \$275-27.3(G)(2) of the City's Zoning Ordinance, as explained below.

#### Executive Summary

The Planning Board should grant the Applicant's Modification and Waiver Request pursuant to \$275-27.3(G)(2) because the Subdivision is vested and entitled to the 5-year exemption contained within RSA 674:39, and because the City's recent amendments to its Impact Fees Ordinance and its adoption of an Impact Fee Schedule do not apply to the Subdivision as a matter of law.

> DONAHUE, TUCKER & CIANDELLA, PLLC 16 Acadia Lane, P.O. Box 630, Exeter, NH 03833 111 Maplewood Avenue, Suite D, Portsmouth, NH 03801 Towle House, Unit 2, 164 NH Route 25, Meredith, NH 03253 83 Clinton Street, Concord, NH 03301

#### Relevant Facts and Timeline

The Subdivision was conditionally approved by the Planning Board on 7 May 2018. The Subdivision obtained final approval on 7 May 2019 when the plan was signed and recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The Planning Board's approval is silent on the imposition of impact fees.

General and Subsequent Condition 5 of the Approval, however, states that "[a]ctive and substantial development for this project is defined as 'Construction of the road for phase I and utilities. These improvements must be completed within 24 months of the Planning Board approval date.'"

Well after conditional and final approval of the Subdivision, the City Council amended the Impact Fee Ordinance and adopted an Impact Fee Schedule which it made applicable starting 1 January 2020. The newly enacted Impact Fee Schedule provides that "[t]he City of Rochester impact fees have been listed in the Zoning Ordinance since the 1980's but there was no methodology to collect these fees." See City of Rochester Impact Fee Schedule. The same Impact Fee Schedule depicts the "2020 Planning Board Adopted Fee - Table 1" ("Table 1") which delineates specific impact fees due for various categories of development.

#### Analysis

The City is without authority to assess impact fees against the Subdivision because the Subdivision is vested against the City's recent amendments to the Impact Fee Ordinance and its adoption of an Impact Fee Schedule, pursuant to the express terms of the Approval and RSA 674:39, IV.

RSA 674:39 provides that every subdivision approved by the Planning Board and properly recorded at the Registry of Deeds "shall be exempt from all subsequent changes in . . . impact fee ordinances . . . for a period of 5 years after the date of approval" as long as "active and substantial development or building" has begun on the site. RSA 674:39, I (Emphasis added).

As noted above, the Approval and the recorded plan define "active and substantial development" for his project as construction of the road for phase I and all utilities." See General and Subsequent Condition 5 and Note #17 on the enclosed plans.

Phase I is complete because the road serving Phase I is paved and utilities are in¹. Street signs have been erected, swales have been loamed and grass is growing. The applicant is currently building three houses in Phase I. The Applicant has also completed approximately 60% of the infrastructure for Phase II to include road work up to the base layer, tree cutting and all drainage ponds. Water and sewer utilities are being installed currently. As a result of this status, the Subdivision has achieved active and substantial development under the terms of the Approval.

The City's amendments to the Impact Fee Ordinance and its adoption of the new Impact Fee Schedule and Table 1 occurred after conditional and final approval of the Subdivision in this case and are therefore "subsequent changes" to the City's Impact Fee regulations as contemplated by RSA 674:39, I. Because the Subdivision is vested from subsequent changes to the underlying regulations pursuant to RSA 674:39, the Subdivision is entitled to the 5-year protection against subsequent changes in the City's Impact Fee Ordinance afforded to it. The Planning Board should grant the Applicant's Modification and Waiver Requests on this basis alone.

Beyond this, the Applicant also meets the criteria within \$275-27.3(G)(2) which states that:

A person may request a full or partial waiver of impact fees for construction within a subdivision or site plan approved by the Planning Board prior to the effective date of this section. Prior to granting such a waiver, the Planning board must find that the proposed construction is entitled to the five-year exemption provided by RSA 674:39, pursuant to that statute...

As noted above, the Subdivision in this case is entitled to the five-year exemption provided by RSA 674:39 because active and substantial development, as defined by the express language of the Approval, has occurred.

Approval of the Applicant's Modification and Waiver Requests is also appropriate on this basis and pursuant to basic notions of equity and fairness.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\tiny $1$}}$  See photos attached showing completed improvements.

### Conclusion

Please let us know if you have any comments or questions with regard to this request.

Very truly yours, DONAHUE, TUCKER & CIANDELLA, PLLC

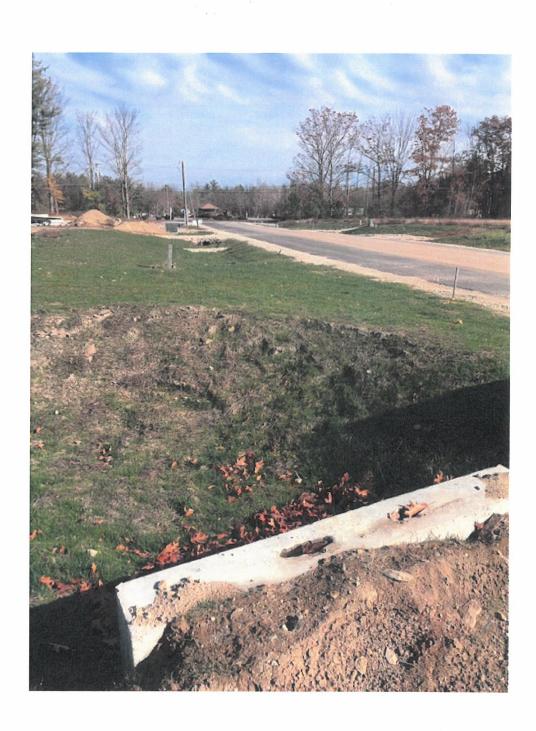


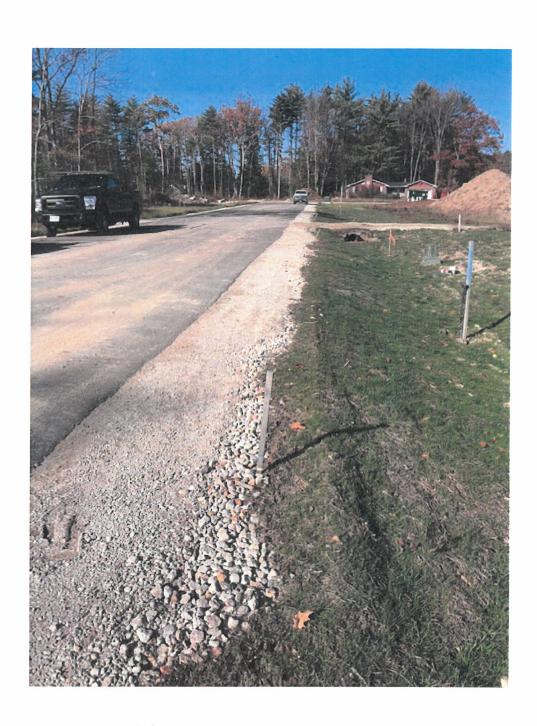
Justin L. Pasay, Esq. JLP/sac Enclosures

cc: J&L Terra Holdings, Inc.

S:\WA-WL\White, Jason\Rochester Subdivision\Impact Fee Waiver\2020 11 04 Modification and Waiver Ltr.docx









#### LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

I, Jason White, President of J&L Terra Holdings, Inc. owner of property depicted on Tax Map 224, Lot 310, do hereby authorize Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella, PLLC, to execute any land use applications to the City of Rochester and to take any action necessary for the application and permitting process, including but not limited to, attendance and presentation at public hearings, of the said property.

Dated: 11/5/20

J&L TERRA HOLDINGS, INC.

Jason White, President

S:\WA-W1\WHITE, JASON\ROCHESTER SUBDIVISION\IMPACT FEE WAIVER\LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION.DOCX

