

### 4 March 2020

**Zoning Board of Appeals City of Somerville** c/o Dan Bartman

Senior Zoning & Policy Planner Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue Somerville, Massachusetts 02143 Via dbartman@somervillema.gov

RE: **Hawkins-3 ZBA Application Variance Requests** 

### To Members of the ZBA:

On the attached sheet we are submitting the required language to appeal for three variances.

We combined the Building Height and Additional Story variances into one response since they are essentially the same thing in this case.

The other variance is for the Upper Story Setback and it is addressed separately.

Thank You for the consideration

Sincerely,

Peter S Quinn AIA President PQA LLC Hawkins-3 – Responses to Variance Requirement for:

- 1. Additional Story
- 2. Additional Height
- 3. Upper Story Step Back

<u>1 and 2</u> – Regarding the Variance Request for an <u>Additional Story</u> for the building and resulting Additional Height (Two Variances)

a). Special circumstances exist relating to the soil conditions, shape, or topography of a parcel of land or the unusual character of an existing structure but not affecting generally the zoning district in which the land or structure is located;

### Response:

The site has had a long history of industrial uses which now require remediation of much of the site's soils. The cost of this cleanup is significant and must be borne by the Applicant, but doing so provides a significant environmental and social benefit.

Secondly, the site is known to have an exceptionally high ground water level, consistent with its designation of "Lake Street" and the Miller River, which appears from historical mapping to have skirted the edge of the property. High ground water and the lack of natural drainage are impediments to development. The high cost to solve these problems must be borne by the developer, including ballasted structure and membrane waterproofing. The need to provide at least minimal parking and the mandate to provide this in an underground structure drives this issue as well.

These two unique aspects of the site represent the basis for the hardship request.

b). Literal enforcement of the provision of this Ordinance for the district where the subject land or structure is located would involve substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner or appellant due to said special circumstances; and

### Response:

The granting of relief assists in offsetting the extra burden that the applicant must bear to address the unique hardships indicated above.

Additionally, the site slopes approximately four feet from corner to corner. While this quality is not a unique aspect of the site, it has presented a challenge in massing the structure consistent with the request coming from the applicant's neighborhood interaction. As a result, the proposed building generally presents a four-story façade (five is allowed) facing the residential neighborhood across Lake St. This produces a loss of potential building area. With two step backs the building becomes a six-story building as it steps up the slope, with the fifth and sixth floors diminishing in footprint.

The applicant believes that the trade-off of floor area results in a preferred building, whereas a literal interpretation of the code would prove unsatisfactory.

c). Desirable relief could be granted without causing substantial detriment to the public good and without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of a specific district in this Ordinance or the Ordinance in general.

### Response:

The proposed building represents a use consistent with the on-going redevelopment of the neighborhood and the recently approved citywide re-zoning, and does not place an undue burden on the neighborhood or City at large. In fact, the granting of relief would assist in allowing a non-conforming use to be removed and the site to be brought into greater consistency and conformity with the new neighborhood development patterns, namely medium-density residential combined with ground floor retail.

- 3 Regarding the Variance Request for Relief from an Upper Story Step Back Requirement
- a). Special circumstances exist relating to the soil conditions, shape, or topography of a parcel of land or the unusual character of an existing structure but not affecting generally the zoning district in which the land or structure is located;

#### Response:

The site has had a long history of industrial uses which now require remediation of much of the site's soils. The cost of this cleanup is significant and must be borne by the Applicant, but doing so provides a significant environmental and social benefit.

Secondly, the site is known to have an exceptionally high ground water level, consistent with its designation of "Lake Street" and the Miller River, which appears from historical mapping to have skirted the edge of the property. High ground water and the lack of natural drainage are impediments to development. The high cost to solve these problems must be borne by the developer, including ballasted structure and membrane waterproofing. The need to provide at least minimal parking and the mandate to provide this in an underground structure drives this issue as well.

These two unique aspects of the site represent the basis for the hardship request.

b). Literal enforcement of the provision of this Ordinance for the district where the subject land or structure is located would involve substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner or appellant due to said special circumstances; and

### Response:

After discussions with the Planning Staff and hearing neighborhood concerns, the applicant voluntarily imposed a wider building setback along Hawkins St to provide a

public-use sidewalk (on private property). The facade of the building here is set back 8.3 ft, although a 2.0 ft setback is allowed. The façade setback provides an important benefit, namely a wider sidewalk and a relief in the otherwise narrow street section, that a literal interpretation of the code would not require. However, it does significantly reduce floor area (approx. 2,000-SF over four stories).

The granting of relief assists in offsetting the extra burden that the applicant must bear to address the unique hardships indicated in the first section of this text as well as the loss resulting from the wider sidewalk.

c). Desirable relief could be granted without causing substantial detriment to the public good and without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of a specific district in this Ordinance or the Ordinance in general.

### Response:

The proposed building represents a use consistent with the on-going redevelopment of the neighborhood and the recently approved citywide re-zoning, and does not place an undue burden on the neighborhood or City at large.

The granting of relief would be consistent with the desire to provide needed adjustments to a project in a complex medium-density environment and is a request unique to the circumstances of the site.



### LAKE STREET ELEVATION (LOOKING NORTH)

# MR-5 ZONING DISTRICT - HOUSEHOLD LIVING & CO-WORKING SUMMARY 28 FEB 2020

13.951 LOT SIZE

54,816-GSF TOTAL BUILDING (EXCLUDES PARKING & RAMP)

- 53,087 RES GSF
- 577 COMMUNITY GSF
- 1.152 COMMERCIAL GSF

1 COMMERCIAL SPACE (1,109-NSF)

44 DWELLING UNITS

5 STUDIOS

10 ONE BEDROOM UNITS

28 TWO BEDROOM UNITS

1 THREE BEDROOM UNIT

25 PARKING SPACES (UNDERGROUND)
56 BIKE SPACES IN STORAGE, 5 BIKE SPACES SHORT-TERM EXTERIOR
1 COMMUNITY ROOM (1ST FLOOR)
2 COMMON ROOF DECKS (5TH & 6TH FLOOR)

THE LOT IS LEGACY KNOWN AS 3-7 HAWKINS ST, 3 LAKE ST. ASSESSOR'S MAP 75, BLOCK B, LOT 17

DEMOLITION APPROVAL WAS RECEIVED TO REMOVED ALL EXISTING STRUCTURES FROM SITE

NOTE - THIS APPLICATION IS A RE-APPLICATION

PREVIOUS APPLICATION (11/25/2019) WAS UNDER

UNDER THE NEW CITY-WIDE ZONING BY LAW.

PREVIOUS ZONING BY LAW.

### PREPARED BY:

**ARCHITECT** 

CIVIL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYOR

LANDSCAPE

### PETER QUINN ARCHITECTS LLC

259 ELM ST, STE 301 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 PH (617) 354 3989

# DESIGN CONSULTANTS, INC.

120 MIDDLESEX AVE SOMERVILLE, MA 02145 PH (617) 776 3350

# VERDANT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

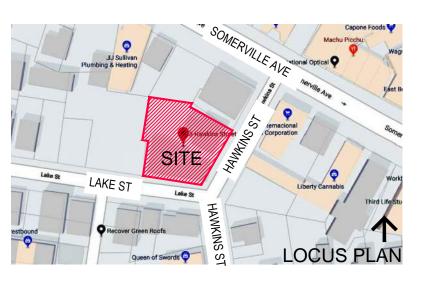
318 HARWARD ST, STE 25 BROOKLINE, MA 02446 PH (617) 735 1180

# REDEVELOPMENT OF 3 HAWKINS ST

### SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

**ZBA APPLICATION** 

LIST (	OF DRAWINGS	ZBA APPL (NEW ZONING) 28 FEB 2020	
GENE	RAL / ZONING		
T1	TITLE SHEET	X	
	EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN	Х	
Z1	ZONING COMPLIANCE (ZONING TABLE)	Х	
Z2	ZONING COMPLIANCE (DIMENSIONAL SITE PLAN)	X	
Z3	ZONING COMPLIANCE (BUILDING COVERAGE)	X	
Z4	ZONING COMPLIANCE (GROSS SQ FOOTAGE)	X	
Z5	ZONING COMPLIANCE (BLDG HEIGHT, FACADE COMPOSITION)	X	
Z6	ZONING COMPLIANCE (GREEN SCORE)	X	
Z7	ZONING COMPLIANCE (MASSING MODEL)	Х	
Z8	ZONING COMPLIANCE (OUTDOOR AMENITY SPACE)	X	
EC1	EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS	X	
GENE	RAL / ZONING		
L1-L6	LANDSCAPE PLANS	X	
ARCH	IITECTURAL		
A0.1-0.6	3D STREET VIEWS	Х	
AS-1	SITE PLAN	X	
A1	BASEMENT PLAN	Х	
A2	FIRST FLOOR PLAN	Х	
A3	SECOND FLOOR PLAN	Х	
A4	0_00.12 1 _00.11 _0.11		
	THIRD FLOOR PLAN	X	
A5		X	
A5 A6	THIRD FLOOR PLAN		
-	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN	Х	
A6	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN FIFTH FLOOR PLAN	X X X	
A6 A7	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN FIFTH FLOOR PLAN SIXTH FLOOR PLAN	X X X X	
A6 A7 A8	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN FIFTH FLOOR PLAN SIXTH FLOOR PLAN LAKE ST ELEVATION	X X X X	
A6 A7 A8 A9	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN FIFTH FLOOR PLAN SIXTH FLOOR PLAN LAKE ST ELEVATION HAWKINS ST ELEVATION REAR ELEVATION PARK ELEVATION	X X X X X X	
A6 A7 A8 A9 A10	THIRD FLOOR PLAN FOURTH FLOOR PLAN FIFTH FLOOR PLAN SIXTH FLOOR PLAN LAKE ST ELEVATION HAWKINS ST ELEVATION REAR ELEVATION	X X X X	





ARCHITECTURE
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PETER QUINN ARCHITECTS LL 259 ELM STREET, SUITE 301 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 PH 617-354-3989



CONSULTANT

3 HAWKINS ST

3 HAWKINS ST. SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

PREPARED FOR

HAWKINS STREET UNION SQ LLC

7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

DRAWING TITLE

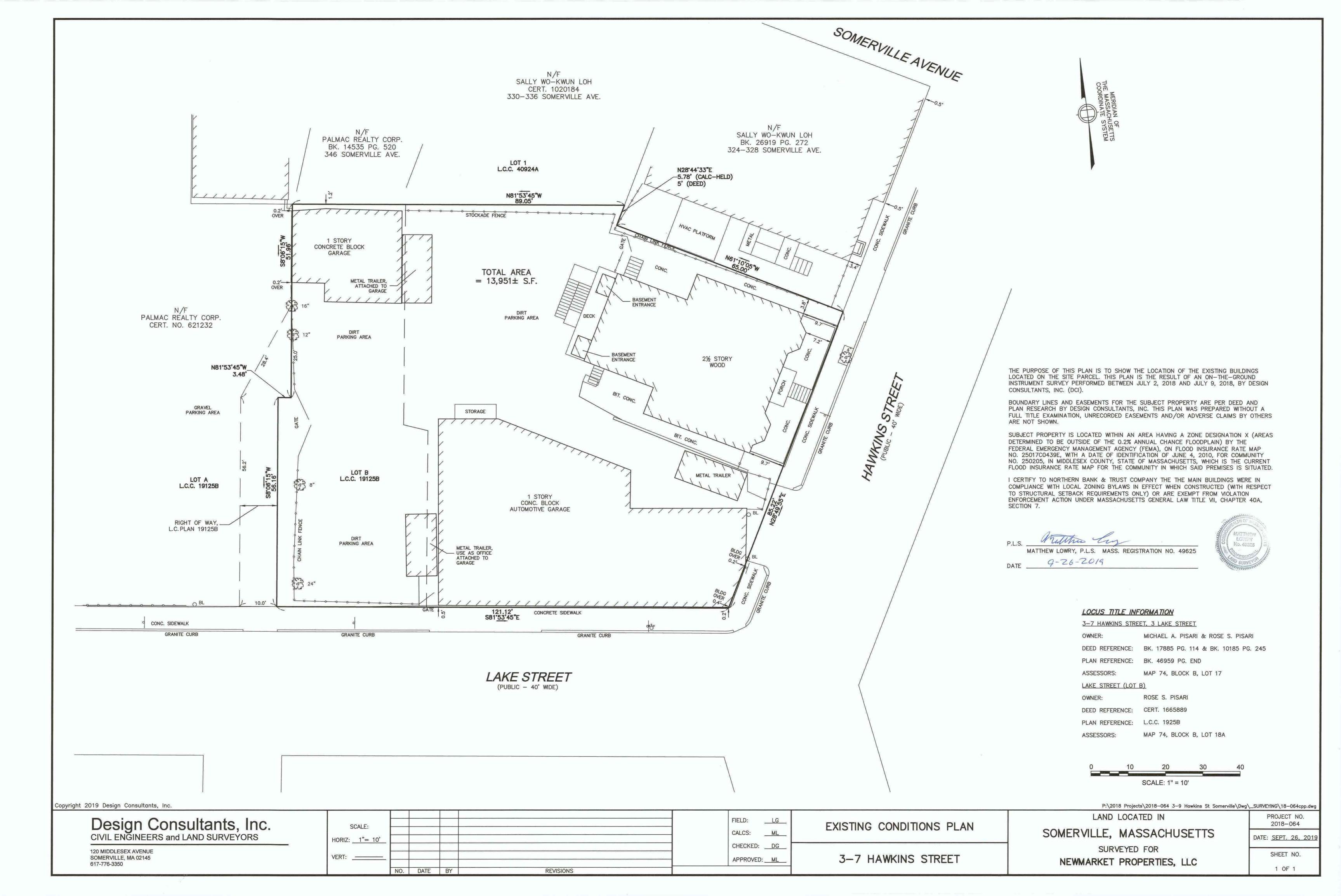
TITLE SHEET

SCALE AS NOTED

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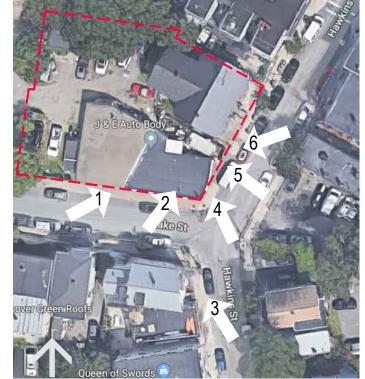
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3 HAWKINS ST

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HAWKINS STREET UNION SQ LLC

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DRAWING TITLE

EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS

SCALE AS NOTED

REVISION	DATE

ZBA APPL 26 FEB 2020

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### NOTE:

1. FAC	CADE BUILD OUT	
1.a.	PRIMARY (HAWKINS ST): BUILD TO: 80.5'	= 89%
	LOT WIDTH: 90.9'	00 /0
1.b.	SECONDARY (LAKE ST): BUILD TO: 105.7'	— = 83%
	LOT WIDTH: 126.8'	- 03 /0

2. NU	MBER OF MAXIMUM PARKING SPACE	
2.a. 2.b.	HOUSEHOLD LIVING: (44) UNITS AT 1 / DU = 44 X 1 = 44 CO-WORKING: 1 / 1,200 SF = 1	45 SPACES MAX

3.	NUMBER OF MINIMUM LONG-TERM BICYCLE SPACE	
3.a.	HOUSEHOLD LIVING: (44) UNITS AT 1 / DU = 44 X 1 = 44	45 ODA OE O MIN
3.b.	CO-WORKING: 1 / 2,000 SF = 1	45 SPACES MIN

4. NUMBER OF MINIMUM SHORT TERM BICYCLE SPACE
4.a. HOUSEHOLD LIVING: (44) UNITS AT 0.1/ DU = 44 X 0.1 = 4.4 - 5 SPACES MIN

5. NUMBER OF REQUIRED ADUs: 5.a. 20% OF TOTAL 44 UNITS = 8.8 3 HAWKINS ST, DIMENSIONAL TABLE - MID RISE 5 (MR5) - GENERAL BUILDING

	ITEM	ALLOWED/ REQUIRED	PROPOSED	COMPLIANCE
	BUILDING TYPE		GENERAL BLDG	
	LOT AREA (SF)	>= 5,500	13,951	COMPLIES
<u>-</u>	LOT WIDTH (FT)	30 min	85.22	COMPLIES
LOT	LOT COVERAGE (%)	90 max	83	COMPLIES
	GREEN SCORE	0.2 min	0.25	COMPLIES
	OPEN SPACE (%)	15 min	21	COMPLIES
	FRONT (PRIMARY) SETBACK (FT)	2 min, 15 max	8.3	COMPLIES
SETBACKS	FRONT (SECONDARY) SETBACK (FT)	2 min, 15 max	5.2	COMPLIES
ETB,	SIDE YARD "A" SETBACK (ABUTTING AN R-ROW) (FT)	0	8.6	COMPLIES
	SIDE YARD "B" SETBACK (ABUTTING NON-NR) (FT)	0	8.3	COMPLIES
	BUILDING WIDTH (FT)	200 max	99.5	COMPLIES
	FACADE BUILD OUT (PRIMARY) (%)	80 min	89 <sup>1a</sup>	COMPLIES
	FACADE BUILD OUT (SECONDARY) (%)	65 min	83 <sup>1b</sup>	COMPLIES
SNIC	FLOOR PLATE (SF)	20,000 max	10,137	COMPLIES
BUILDING	GROUND STORY HEIGHT (FT)	14 min	14	COMPLIES
	UPPER STORY HEIGHT STORY HEIGHT (FT)	10 min	11	COMPLIES
	NUMBER OF STORIES	3 min, 5 max	6	REQUIRES RELIEF
	STEP-BACK, 5TH STORY (FT)	10 min	10	COMPLIES
	BUILDING HEIGHT (FT)	66 max	70.1	REQUIRES RELIEF
	ROOF TYPE	FLAT	FLAT	COMPLIES
ш	GROUND STORY FENESTRATION (%) - PRIMARY - SECONDARY	70 min 15 min, 50 max	70 (Hawkins) 45 (Lake)	COMPLIES COMPLIES
FACADE	UPPER STORY FENESTRATION (%) - PRIMARY - SECONDARY	15 min, 50 max 15 min, 50 max	37 (Hawkins) 46 (Lake)	COMPLIES COMPLIES
	BLANK WALL (FT)	20 max	18.5	COMPLIES
	GROUND STORY ENTRANCE SPACING (FT)	30 max	22	COMPLIES
NCY	COMMERCIAL SPACE DEPTH (FT)	30 min	36	COMPLIES
USE & OCCUPANCY	GROSS FLOOR AREA PER DU (LOT AREA >5,500SF)	1,125 / DU	54,816 / 44 DU = 1,245	COMPLIES
	OUTDOOR AMENITY SPACE	1 / DU OR COMMON	SEE SHEET Z-8	COMPLIES
	NO. OF PARKING	45 max <sup>2</sup>	25	COMPLIES
	NO. OF LONG-TERM BIKE PARKING	45 min <sup>3</sup>	56	COMPLIES
	NO. OF SHORT-TERM BIKE PARKING	5 min ⁴	5	COMPLIES
ADUs	4 OR MORE UNITS	8.8	9	COMPLIES

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE & PENDING PLOT PLAN VERIFICATION. SEE DIMENSIONAL SITE PLAN.

PETER QUINN ARCHI TECTS

PETER QUINN ARCHITECTS LLC 259 ELM STREET, SUITE 301 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 PH 617-354-3989

PLANNING

SEAL TERED ARCHITECTURE OF THE SEAL OF THE

CONSULTANT

3 HAWKINS ST

3 HAWKINS ST. SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

PREPARED FOR

HAWKINS STREET UNION SQ LLC

7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

DRAWING TITLE

ZONING COMPLIANCE (DIMENSIONAL TABLE)

SCALE AS NOTED

REVISION DATE

ZBA APPL 28 FEB 2020

 ZBA APPL
 28 FEB 2020

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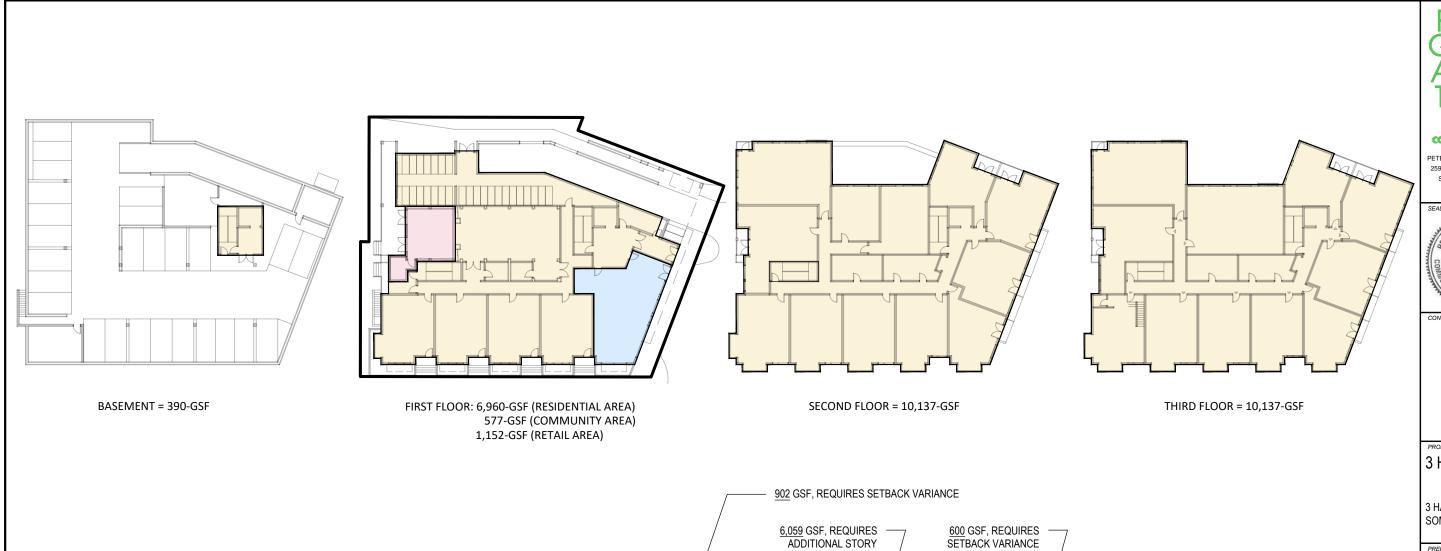
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**Z-1** 



MC 7.15.4 OCO 900 ACA mark and Considerable Considerable



GROSS FLOOR AREA \*

FLOOR	RES GSF	COMMUNITY GSF	RETAIL GSF
BASEMENT	390		
1ST FL	6,960	577	1,152
2ND FL	10,137		
3RD FL	10,137		
4TH FL	10,137		
5TH FL	8,667		
6TH FL	6,659		
TOTAL	53,087	577	1,152
GFA	54,816		

VARIANCE

SIXTH FLOOR = 6,659-GSF

FLOOR	RES GSF	COMMUNITY GSF	RETAIL GSF
BASEMENT	390		
1ST FL	6,960	577	1,152
2ND FL	10,137		
3RD FL	10,137		
4TH FL	10,137		
5TH FL	8,667		
6TH FL	6,659		
TOTAL	53,087	577	1,152
GFA	54,816		

\* PER ZONING BY-LAW DEFINITION



FIFTH FLOOR = 8,667-GSF



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3 HAWKINS ST

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7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

DRAWING TITLE

ZONING COMPLIANCE (GROS SQ FOOTAGE)

SCALE AS NOTED

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FOURTH FLOOR = 10,137-GSF

DWGS\Hawkins-3\02 Schematic Design\Hawkins 3 - Elevations.dwg, A8, 2/24/2020 5:03:50 PM

DDWGS\Hawkins-3\02 Schematic Design\Hawkins 3 - Elevations.dwg, A9, 2/24/2020 5:03:56 PM



ADDWGS\Hawkins-3\02 Schematic Design\Hawkins 3 - Elevations.dwg, A10, 2/24/2020 5:04:01 PM

A-10



# PROPOSED MASSING (WITH ADDITION 6-STORY AND SETBACK NON-COMPLIANT)

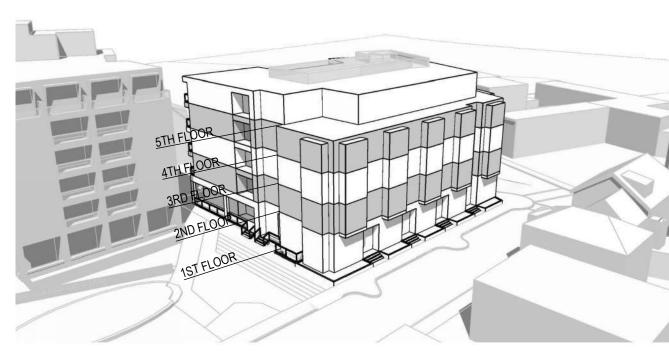




**AERIAL VIEW FROM WEST** 

**AERIAL VIEW FROM EAST** 

# PERMITTED MASSING (10' SETBACK 5-STORY)



**AERIAL VIEW FROM WEST** 



**AERIAL VIEW FROM EAST** 

PETER QUINN ARCHI TECTS ARCHITECTURE

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3 HAWKINS ST

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7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

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ZONING COMPLIANCE (MASSING MODEL)

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REVISION DATE

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**Z-7** 

PETER QUINN ARCHITECTS LLC 259 ELM STREET, SUITE 301 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 PH 617-354-3989



3 HAWKINS ST

3 HAWKINS ST. SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

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7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

AERIAL VIEW FROM WEST

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26 FEB 2020



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STREET VIEW @ HAWKINS ST CORNER

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HAWKINS STREET UNION SQ LLC

7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

STREET VIEW @ HAWKINS ST

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3 HAWKINS ST

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HAWKINS STREET UNION SQ LLC

7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

STREET VIEW @ SOMERVILLE

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PETER QUINN ARCHITECTS LLC 259 ELM STREET, SUITE 301 SOMERVILLE, MA 02144 PH 617-354-3989

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3 HAWKINS ST

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7 MORRISON RD WEST WAKEFIELD, MA 01880

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VIEW ACROSS 346 SOMERVILLE AVE PARK

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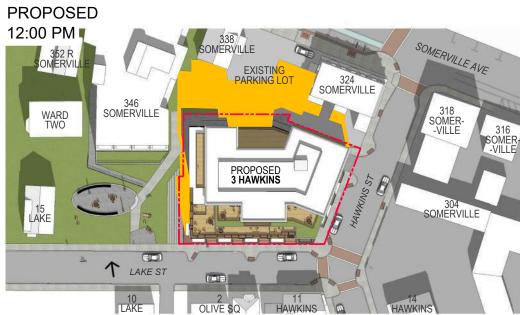
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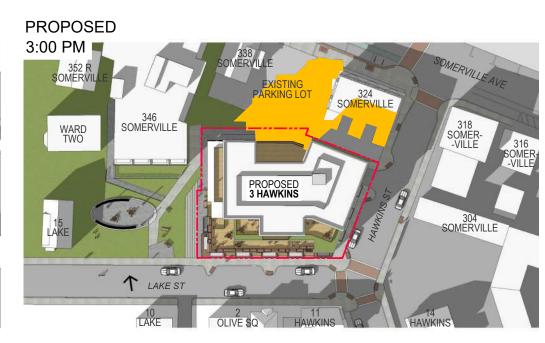
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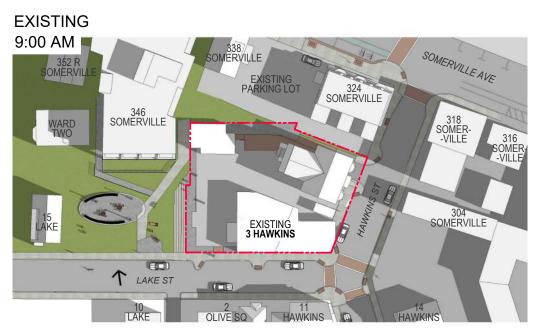
## 3 HAWKINS ST - SHADOW STUDY

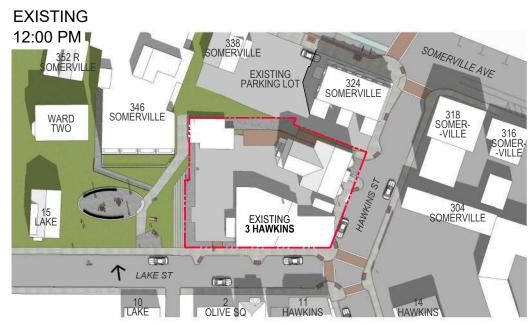
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

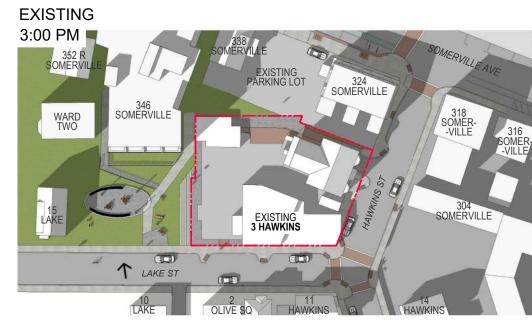




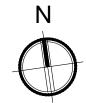








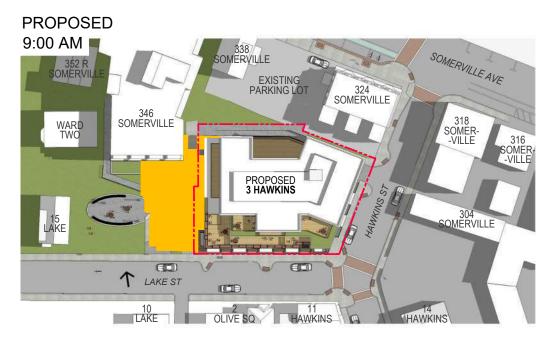
ADDITIONAL SHADOW

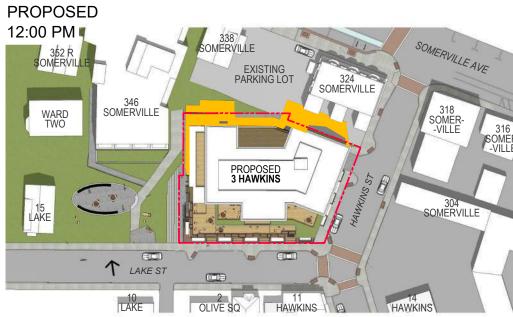


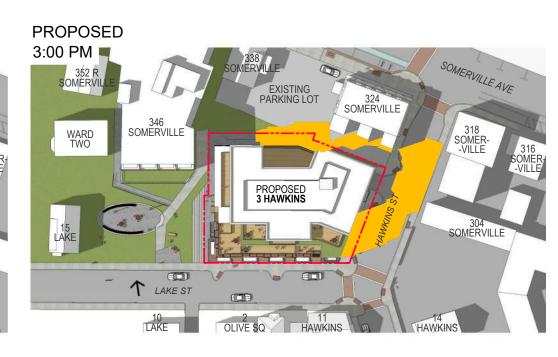


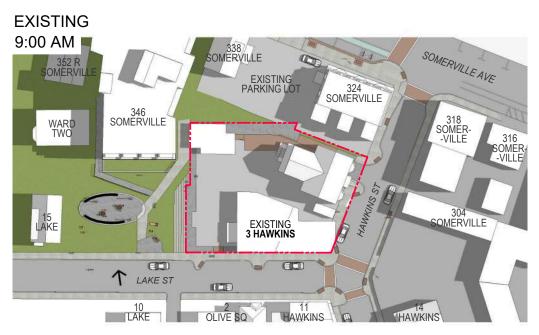
## 3 HAWKINS ST - SHADOW STUDY

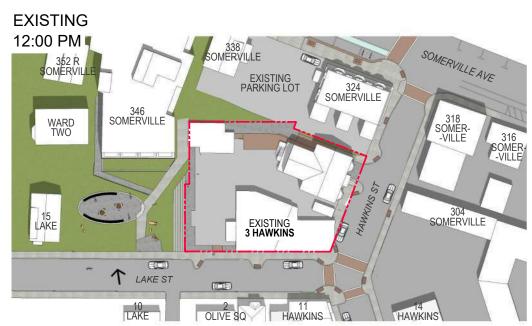
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

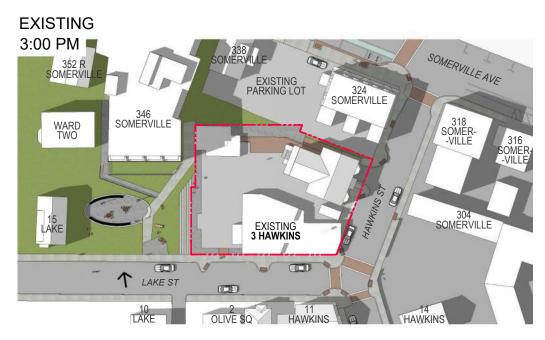




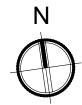








ADDITIONAL SHADOW

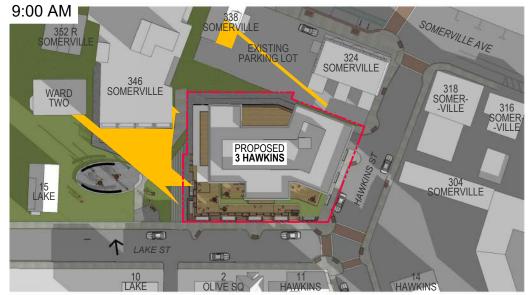


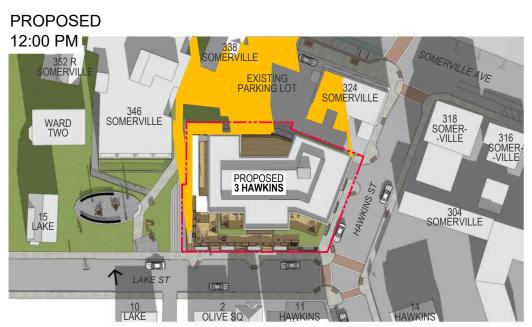


## 3 HAWKINS ST - SHADOW STUDY

SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

### PROPOSED

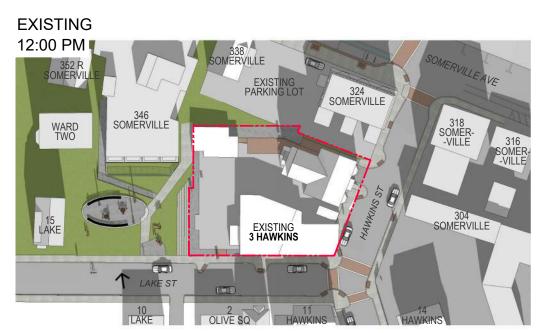






### **EXISTING**





### **EXISTING**



ADDITIONAL SHADOW



