## RIVERVIEW PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**Subject:** PAC subdivision approval; Type 2 subdivision with variance

**File number:** 22-0124

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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From: Reviewed by:

Kirk Brewer

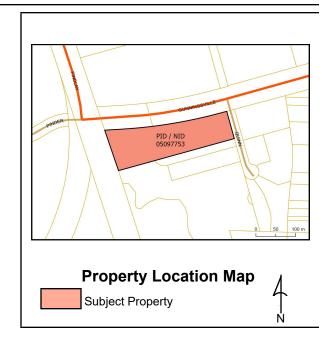
Planner / Urbaniste Planner / Urbaniste

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Applicant/:** Kaitlyn Lacelle, Thrive Properties **Landowner:** Kaitlyn Lacelle, Thrive Properties

## **Proposal:**

PAC approval to create Lot 22-01 on an access other than a public street; and variance request to reduce the frontage of Lot 20-02 from 30m to 19.5m



Lori Bickford

## **SITE INFORMATION**

**Location:** Gunningsville Blvd, Town of Riverview / Ville de Riverview

**PID:** 05097753

**Lot Size:** 2.54 hectares

Current Use: Multi-unit

**Zoning:** SC

**Future Land** 

Use: Commercial

**Surrounding** 

Use & Zoning: Suburban commercial / R3 multi-unit residential / PRI municipal park

Municipal

**Servicing:** Public water, sanitary and storm sewer are available

Access/Egress: Quinn Court

**Municipal Plan Policies** 

**Municipal Plan** 

Ensuring that all modes of transport move safely and efficiently is a major goal of this Plan. The Controlled Access Streets By-law will be used to achieve this goal and access management in general will be promoted throughout the Town to help reduce traffic conflicts and congestion.

**Policy 4.6.9** Council will ensure that the public street system is efficient and safe through the use of the Controlled Access Streets By-law and by implementing access management principles in the Zoning By-law.

## Zoning Bylaw and or Subdivision By-law Regulation

#### **Subdivision By-law:**

Every lot, block and other parcel of land in a subdivision shall abut,

- (a) a street owned by the Crown or the Town of Riverview; or
- (b) in the case of lands owned or to be acquired by the Town of Riverview, public utilities and existing conditions only, such access other than a street mentioned in subsection (a) as may be approved by the Committee as being advisable for the development of land.

"abut" means having access thereto directly.

"restricted access" means an access with a raised triangular island which obstructs left turns and through movements to and from the intersecting street or driveway situated in the proximity of a median strip existing on the street.

## **Zoning By-law:**

SC Zone minimum lot frontage: 30m

## **Controlled Access Streets By-law:**

- 2(1) No person shall construct, use, open or permit the use of any access to any part of a street designated as a controlled access street.
- 3 This by-law shall not apply to
- (d) a restricted access approved by the Director of Engineering and Public Works

## **Internal Consultation & External Consultation**

This proposal was discussed by the Development Review Committee (Planning, Engineering, Clerk/CAO, Parks). The Committee recognized the uniqueness of the situation, and agreed that given the various constraints on three sides of the property, the proposed solution is acceptable to the Town.

Notification of both applications was sent to property owners within 60m of the subject property on February 23.

#### Discussion

The property in question is a corner/through lot with three frontages on Quinn Court, Gunningsville Blvd, and the future (unbuilt) Findlay Blvd extension. The property is approximately 2.5 hectares (6 acres), with 71m of frontage on Quinn Ct and widening to 104m at the western end where it fronts on Findlay extension.

The developer currently has one multi-unit building under construction in the middle of the site, with the long-term goal of building two more buildings. In order to accommodate this, the proposal is to subdivide the property into three lots so that each building will be located on its on own PID. Due to several factors, PAC approvals are required to approve the subdivision plan as proposed in order to allow a lot without public road frontage and to reduce one of the lot frontages from 30m to 19.5m.

The longest frontage (300+ metres) is located along Gunningsville Blvd, which is designated as a controlled access street. Per the subdivision by-law, all new lots must abut a street owned by the Town. The definition of "abut" specifies that the lot must have direct access to the street. The width of the property along Gunningsville is insufficient to provide an access that meets the minimum 200m separation distance from Quinn Ct. and Findlay Blvd. intersections.

Recent amendments to the Controlled Access By-law allow a "restricted access" (right-in, right-out) if there is a concrete median located on the controlled access street that would restrict left turns into and out of the property. Given the presence of a median along Gunningsville Blvd in proximity to the Findlay intersection, this property would be permitted a restricted access in a limited area at the western edge of the property. However, the location of this access would interfere with the location of one of the future proposed buildings as shown on the concept plan submitted as part of PAC's approval of Building "A" in 2021. Further, the Town's Engineering department would prefer for Quinn Ct. to be the only southern access to Gunningsville in this area, and would rather avoid an additional access at this location if possible.

The developer has submitted a tentative subdivision plan proposing three lots: Lot 22-03 meets lot size, frontage width, and public access requirements; Lot 22-02 has access onto Quinn Ct but would require a variance to reduce the frontage from 30m to 19.5m in order to create a flag lot; and Lot 22 -01 would front onto Gunningsville Blvd, but would not satisfy the by-law requirements to have direct access thereto. As such, this lot would only be accessible via Lot 22-02 and would require special approval from PAC.

The proposed lot configuration is designed so that each property meets the minimum lot size and is suitable to accommodate the building sizes and configurations shown on the overall concept plan. While the 71m of road frontage along Quinn Ct. would technically permit two separate lots, each with the minimum required 30m of frontage, this would not allow for the L-shaped building configuration shown on the concept plan.

Approval of the subdivision plan is separate from any building approvals, and does not guarantee the entire property will develop as proposed and shown on the concept plan. However, based on the plans submitted to date, the developer's intention is to occupy as much of the road frontages as possible with building facades in order to minimize the visibility of parking areas, which meets the intent of the municipal plan and zoning provisions. As such, the L-shaped building design requires more than the minimum 30m of frontage (approximately 52m), and reduces the remaining available frontage to 19.5m.

The main concern when prescribing lot size and frontage standards is to ensure that properties can be used for their intended purpose. In this instance, the entire 6 acre property has been designed as an overall concept, not as three independent projects. As such, building configurations, shared accesses and parking areas have been arranged to ensure each lot will be accessible and suitable for the proposed use. Even if the proposed site layout were to change, 19.5m is still a sufficient width to guarantee access to the 2.75 acre middle property. For this reason, staff is of the opinion that the variance to reduce the frontage requirement to 19.5m is reasonable and desirable for the overall development of the property.

The tentative subdivision plan shows the location of the future private right-of-ways to Lot 22-01 and the parking garage entrance on Lot 22-03. It is worth noting that a property owner can not legally grant a right-of-way to them self, and the terms of private right-of-ways are only granted via a registered document, not a subdivision plan. Therefore, Lot 22-01 would technically not be granted an automatic right-of-way with the filing of the plan - it would be created with no direct legal access. As long as all three properties are owned by Thrive, nothing will prohibit access or movement across the three lots over the proposed driving aisles. However, it is important to show the location of the proposed right-of-ways to indicate the intent to grant this legal access if any of the properties are sold

in the future.

The Planning Advisory Committee is granted authority via the Community Planning Act and Subdivision By-law to approve lots that do not abut a public street. However, the by-law directs the Committee to only grant these approvals under certain circumstances, including "existing conditions," but does not offer guidance as to what may be considered an existing condition. Planning staff discussed this proposal at length internally and with Town administration, and all have agreed that this lot's situation is unique due to several factors:

- 1) the original subdivision in 1990 proposed a significantly different street layout and lot fabric, that would have permitted alternative subdivision possibilities;
- 2) the subdivision plan creating Gunningsville Boulevard in 2010 and its designation as a controlled access street left the only true frontage for this lot (~71m) on Quinn Court, thereby limiting its maximum subdivision and development potential;
- 3) there is a future street designated to the south of this property, which is a remnant of the original 1990 plan. However, the Town has no interest in seeing this street develop as it is no longer part of a larger street network. Further, this land is currently being used as a skating oval as part of the Winter Wonderland park, which removes the potential for this future street to provide alternative frontage to the subject property;
- 4) the Zoning By-law permits multiple main buildings on a lot; theoretically the developer could build all three buildings, then apply to subdivide to accommodate an existing condition. However, financial lending institutions often require that each project be built on its own PID, which would complicate the construction of the second and third buildings prior to seeking subdivision approval.

Generally speaking, Planning staff discourages the creation of new lots without public road frontage. This solution may be appropriate under certain situations, but often it creates new problems that need to be addressed in the future. However, staff and Town administration are of the opinion that this situation, given the unique configuration and several constraints, offers no desirable alternatives other than the proposed plan, including reduced lot frontage for Lot 22-02, in order to permit the maximum development potential of the large, commercially-zoned property.

## **Public Notice**

Notification was mailed to property owners within 60m of the subject property on February 23, 2022.

## **Legal Authority**

## **Community Planning Act (2017)**

- 75(1) For greater certainty and without limiting subsection 74(1), a subdivision by-law may
- (c) provide that every lot, block and other parcel of land in a subdivision abuts
- (i) a street owned by the Crown or the local government, as the case may be, or
- (ii) an access, other than to a street referred to in subparagraph (i), approved by the advisory committee or regional service commission as being advisable for the development of land,

and

**55**(1) Subject to the terms and conditions it considers fit, the advisory committee or regional service commission may permit...

(b) a reasonable variance from the requirements referred to in paragraph 53(2)(a) of a zoning by-law if it is of the opinion that the variance is desirable for the development of a parcel of land or a building or structure and is in keeping with the general intent of the by-law and any plan under this Act affecting the development

#### Recommendation

#### Motion 1

Staff recommends that the Riverview Planning Advisory Committee APPROVE the creation of Lot 22-01 on an access other than a public street as shown on the "Findlay Park Subdivision Plan" dated March 1, 2022, to accommodate several existing conditions including controlled access streets to the west and north, limited street frontage to the east, and Town-owned lands to the south, subject to the following condition:

1) that the proposed right-of-ways to benefit Lot 22-01 be shown on the final subdivision plan.

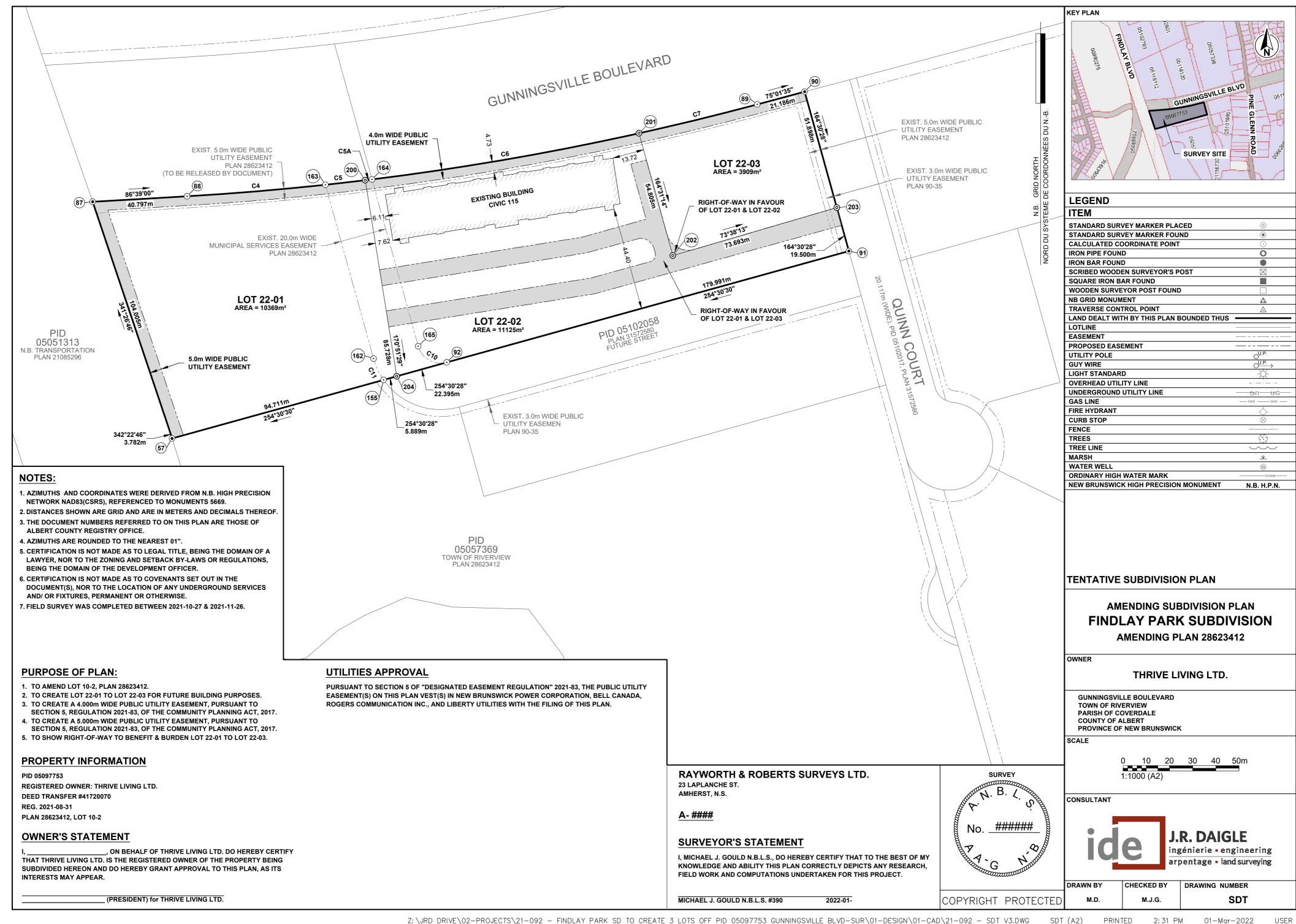
#### **Motion 2**

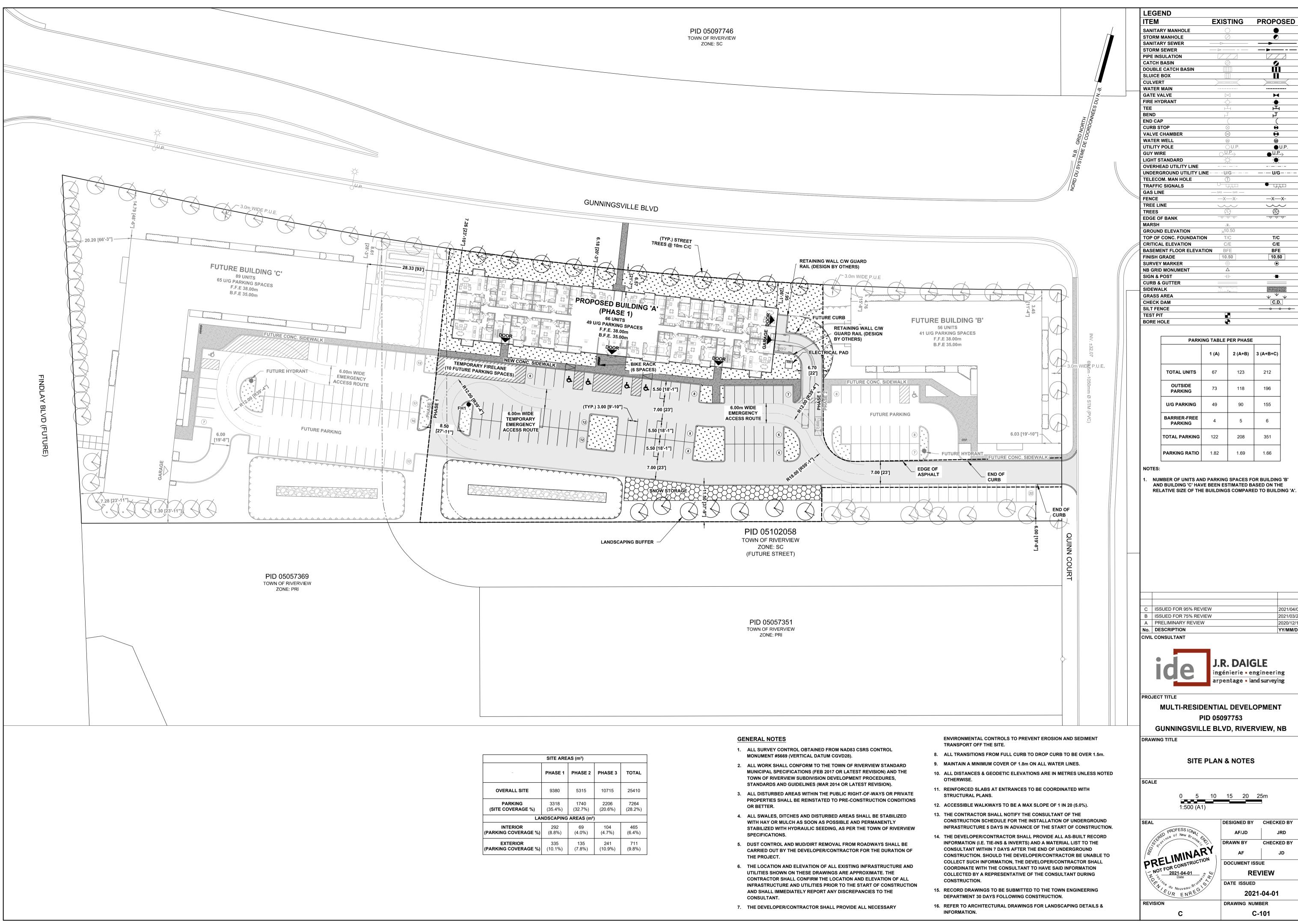
Staff recommends that the Riverview Planning Advisory Committee APPROVE the variance request to reduce the minimum lot frontage for proposed Lot 22-02 as shown on the "Findlay Park Subdivision Plan" dated March 1, 2022 because it will not compromise the future development of the lot and will allow building configurations that meet the urban design goals of the Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law

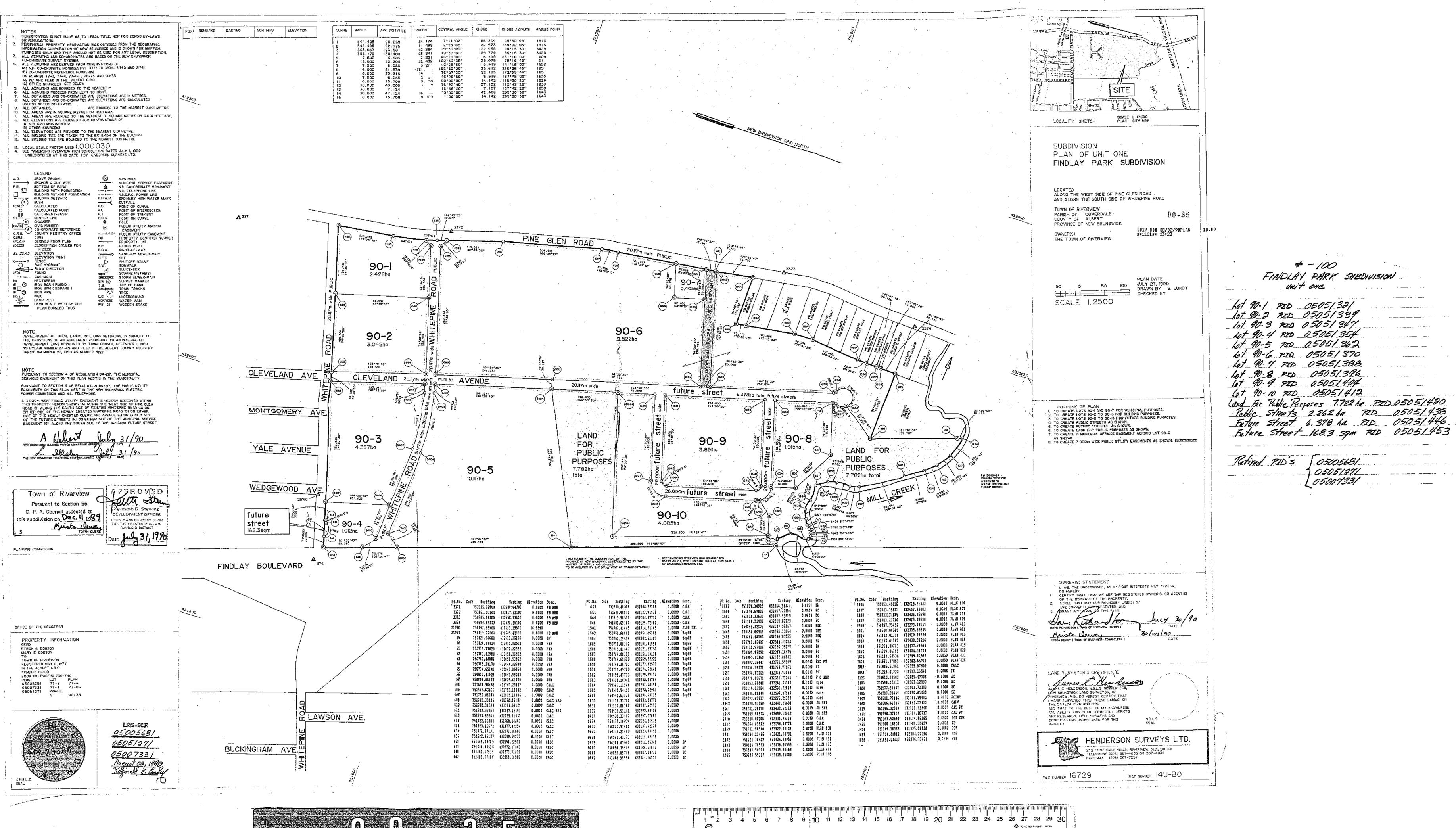
# Gunningsville Blvd (PID/NID 05097753) Riverview

Date: 3/16/2021









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