

### Town of Medway **DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

155 Village Street, Medway MA 02053 (508) 533-3291 Matthew Buckley, Chair Rachel Walsh, Vice-Chair Tom Gay, Member Jessica Chabot, Member Dan Connolly, Member Seth Kendall, Member Alex Kevork, Member

APPROVED – September 18, 2017

### **DRC Meeting Minutes: August 21, 2017**

Medway Public Library – 26 High Street

<u>CALL TO ORDER:</u> – With a quorum present, this meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. Buckley at 7:00 p.m.

### **ATTENDEES:**

	07/31/2017	08/07/2017	08/21/2017	
Matthew Buckley	X	X	X	
Rich Di Iulio	-	-	-	
Jessica Chabot	X	X	X	
Tom Gay	ABSENT	X	X	
	WITH			
	NOTICE			
Rachel Walsh	ABSENT	X	ABSENT	
	WITH		WITH	
	NOTICE		NOTICE	
Dan Connolly	X	ABSENT	X	
Seth Kendall	X	X	X	
Alex Kevork	X	X	ABSENT	
			WITH	
			NOTICE	

### Also present:

- Sreelatha Allam, Meeting Recording Secretary,
- Susan Affleck-Childs, Medway Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

### MEETING MINUTES

<u>7-31-2017</u>: A motion was made by Mr. Buckley to approve the minutes from 07-31-2017 meeting as presented, seconded by Mr. Connolly. Mr. Gay abstained.

<u>08-07-2017</u>: A motion was made by Ms. Chabot to approve the minutes from 08-07-2017 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Buckley. Mr. Connolly abstained.

### SIGN DESIGN REVIEW - Medway Industrial Park, 8 Main Street/ Industrial Park Road-

Property owner Ms. Ellen Rosenfeld attended the meeting to discuss this item. Proposal is to install a monument sign on the corner of the Industrial Park Road and Route 109/Main Street. (**See Attached**) Easement for the sign will be requested if this piece of property is sold in the future. Original agreement with the Planning Board involved asking the tenants in the industrial park to bear the expenses for installing this sign. Ms. Rosenfeld had discussions on this with some of the tenants but they did not show any interest in the idea of installing individual business signs onto this monument sign. She met with Ms. Mercandetti, Director of Community and Economic Development to discuss this matter. Chair, Mr. Buckley noted that Medway has two industrial zones and both go by the name "Medway Industrial Park." One is close to I-495. Ms. Rosenfeld agreed to look into the name of the park at that location. Members said Google search for "Medway Industrial Park" referred to 8 Main Street. Mr. Buckley suggested the font size on the proposed sign could be reduced slightly and possibly place the text on two lines. He said the word "Medway" should be moved up and proper separation could be provided. Some minor adjustments including landscaping around the current proposal was discussed. Ms. Rosenfeld agreed to put some mulch and dirt bed around the sign. DRC letter with recommendation will be provided.

## <u>INFORMAL SITE PLAN PRE-APPLICATION DISCUSSUION</u> - Country Cottage Child Care (relocating to 35-37 Summer Street)

Engineer Peter Bemis explained the proposed project to the members. (See Attached.) Also present were Robin and David Beaudreau, owners and Walter Fuller, architect. He described the type and style of doors/windows. The building roof is charcoal, non-architectural standard shingles. There is no chimney to the building. The site is proposed to have a one-way access from Rustic Road. There is one monument sign on the corner of the site. The main/external fence around the yard areas is solid vinyl. Originally it was proposed to be chain link fence. However the internal fencing between the three sub-play areas will be chain link. Ms. Chabot commented the gable on Summer Street was large. Architect agreed to stack the gables to reduce the appearance of size. There was some discussion on changing the column style. Sign is not internally illuminated and there will be lighting from the outside. Mr. Gay indicated that the Planning Board will be looking for downcast lighting and said the Medway Sign Bylaw does not allow internally lit signs (in this zoning district). Snow storage location will also be reviewed carefully by the Planning Board. Mr. Buckley recommended natural wood color for the vinyl fence instead of white. Ms. Chabot asked for a landscaping plan. Members recommended a suitable location for a sign on the building. Applicant clarified that a sign on the building is not being planned at this time due to cost and time constraints. Projected timeline to build the new facility is 14

months. Members explained the importance of having a sign on the building and agreed to review the sign in the future. Applicant asked if the sign template should be similar to the existing signs in the area. Mr. Buckley responded that they have the flexibility to select the style that fits their business. Applicant was encouraged to take the needed guidance from the building inspector on temporary signage. Applicant also agreed to file the application with DRC.

### **SIGN DESIGN REVIEW** - Medway Gardens, 36 Summer Street

Ms. Affleck-Childs noted that the Committee has the site plan for Medway Gardens with location details included. This site has been recently re-furbished. It's their desire to reposition their existing two-sided sign at a new location (as shown on the plan). It's 16 sq. ft. per side. (See **Attached**) It will not be lit on a permanent basis but will be lit at special occasions such as Christmas. The sign complies size wise with the Zoning Bylaw. Mr. Gay said the property has a site plan decision and approved site plan from the Planning Board. Decision includes various conditions and deadlines to include certain work. He said though the sign is grandfathered it still needs to be within the Design Guidelines. Mr. Gay commented that the height of the sign needs to be reduced and should be 8 feet from the ground. It is currently at 9 feet. Applicant has been informed the sign cannot be more than 8 feet from the ground level. Poles will be 4" x 4" posts with vinyl sleeves. The exterior color scheme was briefly discussed. Short term temporary signs (open and closed) to be hung under the main sign were also discussed. It was agreed that the applicant will file the sign permit application with the Building Department soon and that the application will indicate the inclusion of a hanging sign. Members said the size of a hanging sign underneath the main sign cannot exceed 4' x 1' on each side. It will be fabricated and will have similar colors as the big sign. The texture and style of the hanging sign shall be similar to the main sign. DRC letter with recommendations will be sent to the applicant within the 10 business days.

## <u>COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD SIGN</u> - Discussion on the draft Report to The Medway Board of Selectman

Mr. Gay reviewed the draft report (**See Attached**) for the BOS with the members. He noted the intent was to assemble a detailed report about changeable message signs. He briefly went over the draft report. Discussion included:

- Page 4 in the DRAFT, Bullet#4: Word "animation" shall be deleted.
- RECOMMENDATION- Structure and Size in the DRAFT: It was agreed that a bullet will be added explaining the reasons for recommending a 5'x7' LED panel.

There was discussion on presenting the report to the Selectman at their meeting on September 18th. It was agreed the report will be finalized at the September 11<sup>th</sup> DRC meeting. Topic related images will be added to the report. Members will send narrative and images that they want included in the report to Mr. Gay in the next few days. It was agreed that members will attend the September 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectman meeting.

### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- Mr. Buckley talked about the EPFRAC meeting he had attended with Seth Kendall on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 pertaining to the Choate and Oakland Park site plans. He said EPFRAC is reviewing the DRC recommendations and is receptive to Committee's ideas. He briefly went over some of the topics discussed at the meeting.
- Members agreed that recommendations on the type and style of benches will be included in the DRC's comment letter.
- He asked about the status of the commercial messages on Shaw's shopping carts. Ms.
   Affleck-Childs reported that the building inspector visited Shaw's to discuss the issue with them. He was informed that the Shaw's manager was not aware of the bylaw prohibiting such messages. They agreed to remedy the issue.
- Parks Signage-Mr. Buckley encouraged members to come up with signage concepts for Parks in Medway.

### **ACTION ITEMS** - None.

**DRC MEETING SCHEDULE** - Next DRC meeting is scheduled on September 11, 2017.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before this committee, a motion was made by Mr. Buckley to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Chabot. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sreelatha Allam Meeting Secretary

Reviewed and edited by, Susan E. Affleck-Childs Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

# DRC Sign Design Review – Medway Industrial Park Medway Community and Economic Development Office Comments August 17, 2017

**Business:** Ellen Realty Trust for the Medway Industrial Park

**Sign Location Address:** 8 Main Street (owned by Ellen Realty Trust)

**Proposed Sign:** This is a proposal for a free-standing monument sign for the

Medway Industrial Park to be positioned on the northeast corner

of Main Street/Route 109 and Industrial park Road.

**Zoning District:** Business Industrial

	Proposed Sign	Allowed by Bylaw
Sign Surface Area	48" high by 90" wide = 30 sq.	60 sq. ft. for a 2 sided
_	ft. per side x 2 sides = 60 sq. ft.	development sign.
		Sign size is OK.
Sign Height	6'	Maximum 8'
Illumination	No lighting is planned	External
# of signs	One 2 sided development sign	One 2 sided development sign
Setback	15'	Minimum 8'

### **Comments:**

- 1. The sign complies with the Zoning Bylaw requirements for a development sign in the Business Industrial District
- The sign includes just the name of the Industrial Park. It does not include a ladder style list of the various businesses located there (Industrial Park Road, Marc Road, Jayar Road)
- 3. Planting area around the stone base should be landscaped.
- 4. No lighting is planned.

Summary and Comments Prepared by: Susy Affleck-Childs



# Medway Design Review Committee (DRC) Application for Sign Design Review

Building/Development Name: (if applicable): Medway Industrial Park			
Applicable Sign Standard Table (from Medway Zoning Bylaw)   Table # 9			
Applicant Information (Local Medway business establishment where the sign is to be installed) Business Name: Ellen Realty Trust  730 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054  Contact person: Ellen Rosenfeld  508 376 2041			
Business Name: Ellen Realty Trust  730 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054  Ellen Rosenfeld  Contact person: Ellen Rosenfeld  Phone: 508 376 2041 Cell Phone 508 294 2002  Email address: ellen@rosenfeld-law.com  Type of Proposed Signs – For sign definitions, refer to Medway Zoning Bylaw (Section 7.2 Signs Regulation). The Medway Zoning Bylaw is available online at: www.townofmedway.org.  Type of Sign # of Signs Dimensions Dimensions Dimensions Dimensions Dimensions Sign Surface Area  Wall/Façade Sign Free-standing Individual Business Sign Pree-standing Multi-Tenant Development Sign Awning Sign Projecting Sign Directory Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Mailing Address:    Table   Ta			
Ellen Rosenfeld  508 376 2041			
Phone: 508 376 2041			
Phone: 508 376 2041 Cell Phone 508 294 2002  Email address: ellen@rosenfeld-law.com  Type of Proposed Signs – For sign definitions, refer to Medway Zoning Bylaw (Section 7.2 Signs Regulation). The Medway Zoning Bylaw is available online at: www.townofmedway.org.  Type of Sign # of Signs Dimensions Display Dimensions Dimensions Display Dimensions Display Dimensions Display Display Dimensions Display Dis			
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Type of Sign # of Signs Dimensions   Total Square Footage of Sign Surface Area   Sign Height   Type of Illumination (Internal, external or none)    Wall/Façade Sign   Free-standing Individual Business Sign   Free-standing Multi-Tenant Development Sign   1			
Type of Sign    Signs   Dimensions   Footage of Sign Surface Area   Height   Height			
Wall/Façade Sign Free-standing Individual Business Sign Free-standing Multi-Tenant Development Sign Awning Sign Projecting Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Individual Business Sign Free-standing Multi-Tenant Development Sign Awning Sign Projecting Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Free-standing Multi-Tenant Development Sign 1 4' by 8' 32sqft ea side 6' none  Awning Sign Projecting Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Awning Sign Projecting Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Projecting Sign Directory Sign Window Sign Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to sachilds@townofmedway.org			
Window Sign  Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to <a href="mailto:sachilds@townofmedway.org">sachilds@townofmedway.org</a>			
Other Type of Sign (Describe)  Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to <a href="mailto:sachilds@townofmedway.org">sachilds@townofmedway.org</a>			
Attach the following items to this form. pdf format is requested for the application form and all attachments. Please email application and documents to <a href="mailto:sachilds@townofmedway.org">sachilds@townofmedway.org</a>			
attachments. Please email application and documents to <u>sachilds@townofmedway.org</u>			
Manufacturar's applied COLOR drawing with dimensions and DETAILED and reference			
1. Manufacturer's scaled COLOR drawing with dimensions and DETAILED specifications for materials and illumination.			
2. For a wall sign, a scaled image showing the sign's position on the building.			
3. Landscaping Plan and Plot Plan marked with location of the free-standing sign and distances from street/lot lines.			
4. Color photograph(s) of building/location(s) where sign will be installed and existing signs.			
5. Color drawing of corporate logo (if applicable).			

A letter or other descriptive or explanatory information you want to provide to the DRC.

Does this application  Yes	on pertain to a completely new sign?  No (If NO, please include photos/info of the existing sign you are modifying)		
Does this application Yes (If y	on pertain to a replacement panel for an existing sign structure?  ves, please include photos/info of the existing sign)  No		
If the business is lo the development? Yes	cated in a multi-tenant development, is there a Master Sign Plan for  O No Don't Know		
Does your lease req	quire the property owner's approval of your sign?  O No O Not applicable		
Sign Designer/Fabri	icator/Installer Information		
Company Name:	Signarama		
Mailing Address:	458 High Plain Street, Walpole, MA 02081		
Contact person:	Bryan Clayman		
Phone:	508 660 1231 Cell Phone: 781 983 7169		
Email address:	sales@signarama-walpole.com		
Property Owner Info	ormation		
Company Name:	Ellen Rosenfeld, Trustee of the Ellen Really Trust		
Mailing Address:	730 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054		
Contact person:	Ellen Rosenfeld		
Phone:	508 376 2041 . Cell Phone: 508 294 2002		
Email address:	ellen@rosenfeld-law.com		
The busines The DRC gene	designs are reviewed by the Medway Design Review Committee (DRC). s owner and sign designer/fabricator must attend the DRC meeting. erally meets on the first & third Monday night of each month at 7 p.m. at the Medway Library, 26 High ST. agendas are posted at the Town's web page at www.townofmedway.org)		
	Sign Design Review and all supporting information must be submitted anning office by 12 noon on the Wednesday before a DRC meeting.		
Please submit this a	application form and all attachments as follows:		
Email: Fax: Mail:	sachilds@townofmedway.org 508-321-4987 Design Review Committee c/o Medway Planning office 155 Village Street, Medway, MA 02053		
Drop Off: Phone:	Medway Planning office @ Medway Town Hall, 155 Village Street 508-533-3291		
	sign designers should read the Sign Guidelines included in the esign Review Guidelines before developing a sign design.		
http://www.tow	nofmedway.org/design-review-committee/pages/sign-design-review		
Sign designs sho	uld be developed in accordance with the Sign Design Guidelines.		
Date Application Rece	eived by Medway Planning office:		
Reviewed by Medway	Planning Coordinator: DRC Meeting Date:		

Two Sided- 48"x90"x8" Aluminum Constructed Monument Sign 4"x4" Internal Steel Posts- Set in Concrete Footings Duranotic Bronze w/ Beige Text

Non-Illuminated Stone Base 30 Sq Ft Per Side





458 High Plain St. Intersection Rts 1 & 27 Walpole, MA 02081 508-660-1231 signaramawalpole.com sales@signarama-walpole.com



- Proof colors may vary from monitors & actual sign materials.
- A pdf proof is not a correct representation of printer output color.
- Resolution & Color from files provided by customer are the customers responsibility.
- Hard Proofs can be printed to ensure color satisfaction at a cost to be determined.
- Additional design charges may apply if customer does not proceed with all or part of project

PROOF 1	PROOF 2	PROOF 3	PROOF 4	PROOF 5
FREE	FREE	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00

This proof is for conceptual use - actual sizes / colors / proportions may slightly vary.



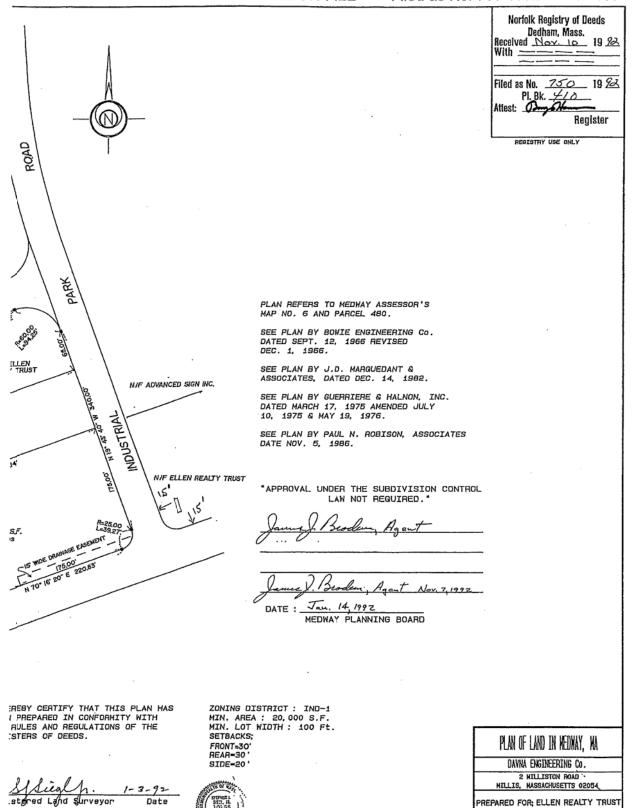
- Client signature ensures all spellings & specifications for signage are correct.
- All errors are your responsibility once final approval is received.
- Additional charges apply if you wish to make changes once artwork has been printed, fabricated and/or installed.

Customer: Milliston Common

Date:

Approved By:

THIS ORIGINAL DESIGN AND ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERE IN ARE THE PROPERTY OF SIGN A RAMA, AND SUBJECT TO RETURN. ANY UNAUTHORIZED USE IN FORBIDDEN.



superceeded by



SCHE 1, BO

2 MILLISTON ROAD, HILLIS, NA

JE 10.



# August 21, 2017 Medway Design Review Committee Meeting

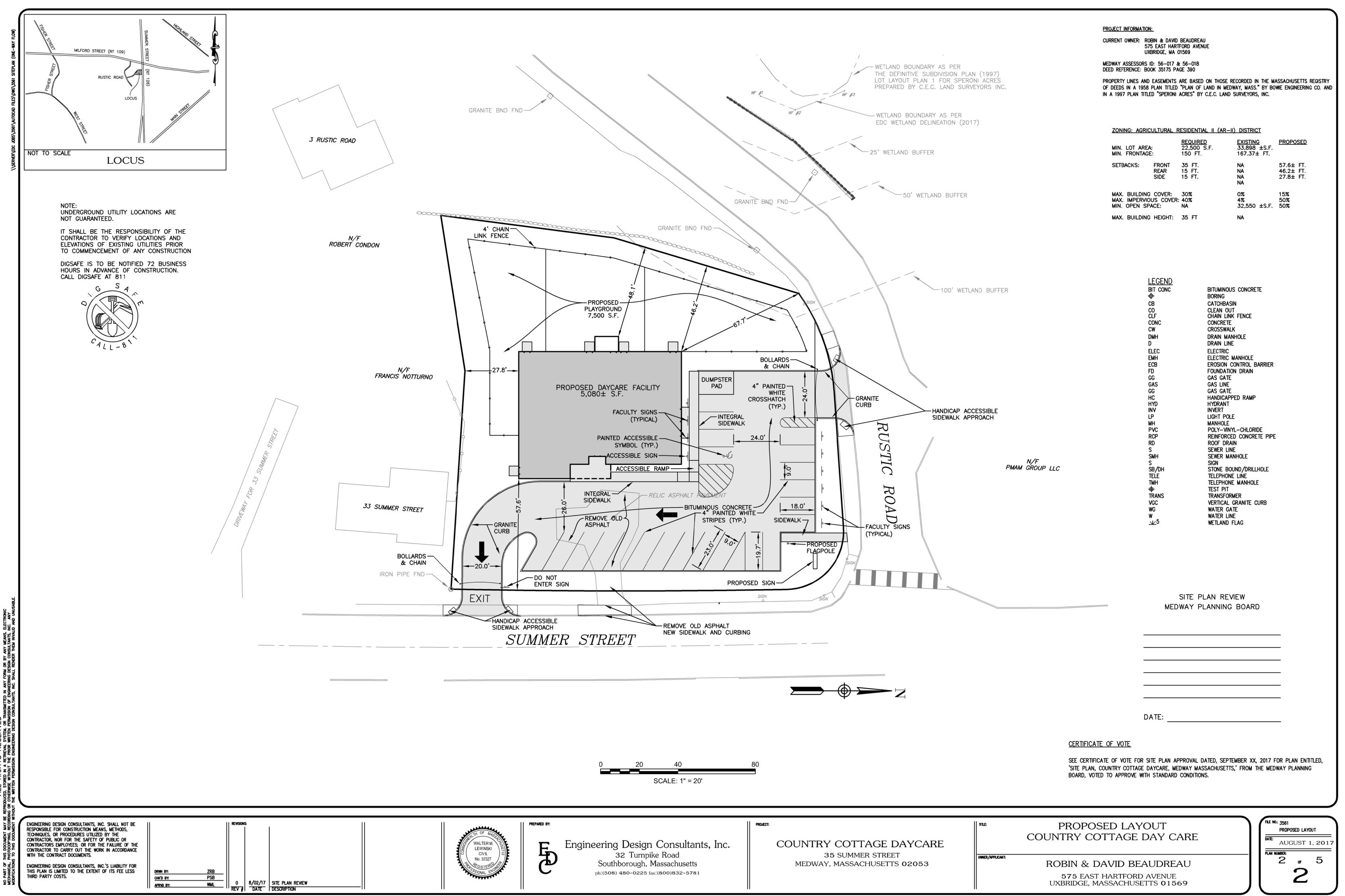
# Country Cottage Children's Center Limited Site Plan – 35/37 Summer Street Informal Pre-application Discussion

This is an informal, pre-application discussion re: the forthcoming site plan application for Country Cottage Children's Center which will be relocating from its current location at 5 Summer Street (near Exelon) to 35/37 Summer Street, immediately south of Rustic Road where they will build a new facility.

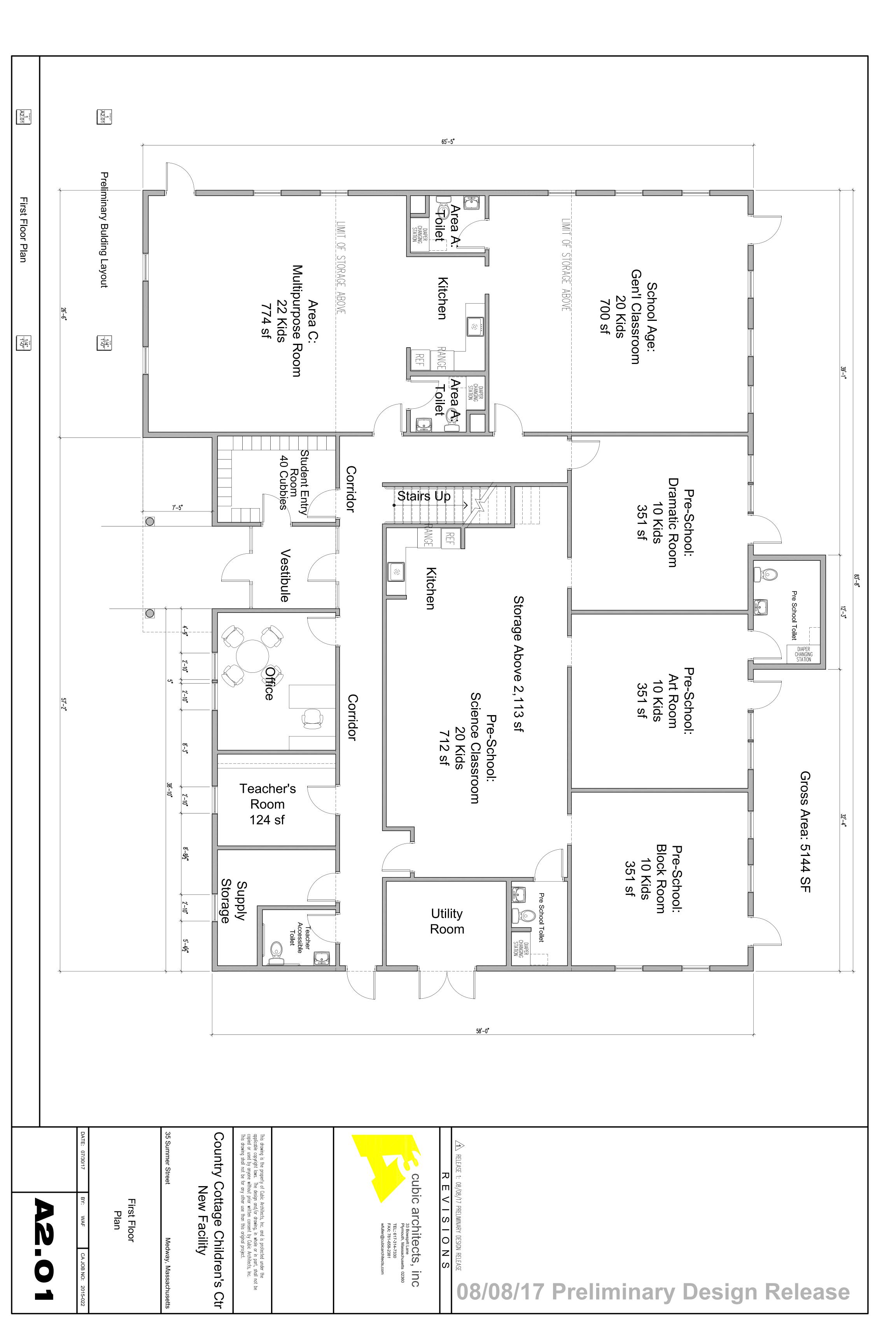
Please keep in mind that a child care center is an "exempt" use under the Massachusetts Zoning Act. So that means the Planning and Economic Development Board's review of this project is limited to "reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures and determining yard sizes, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements."

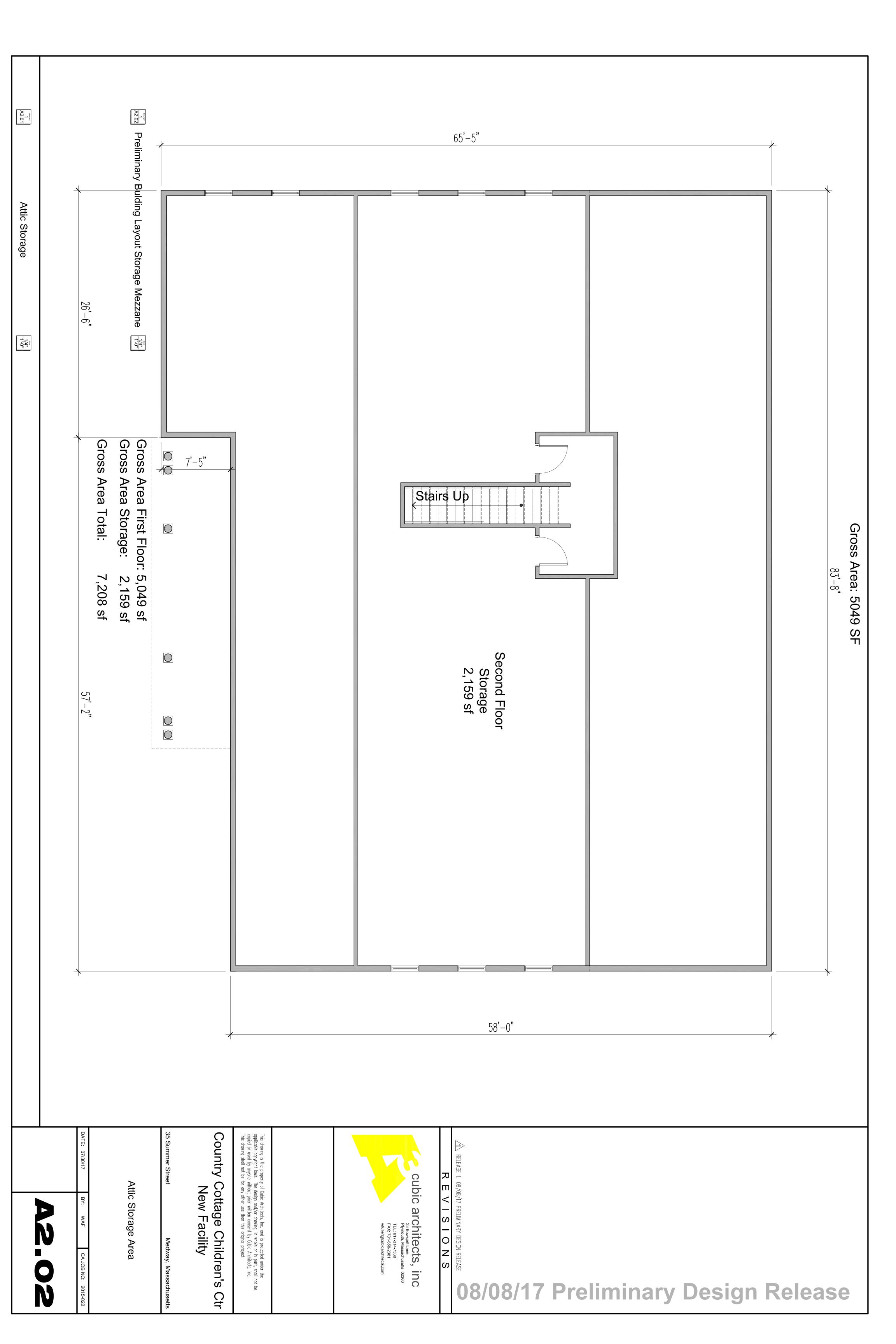
The following documents are provided for your review:

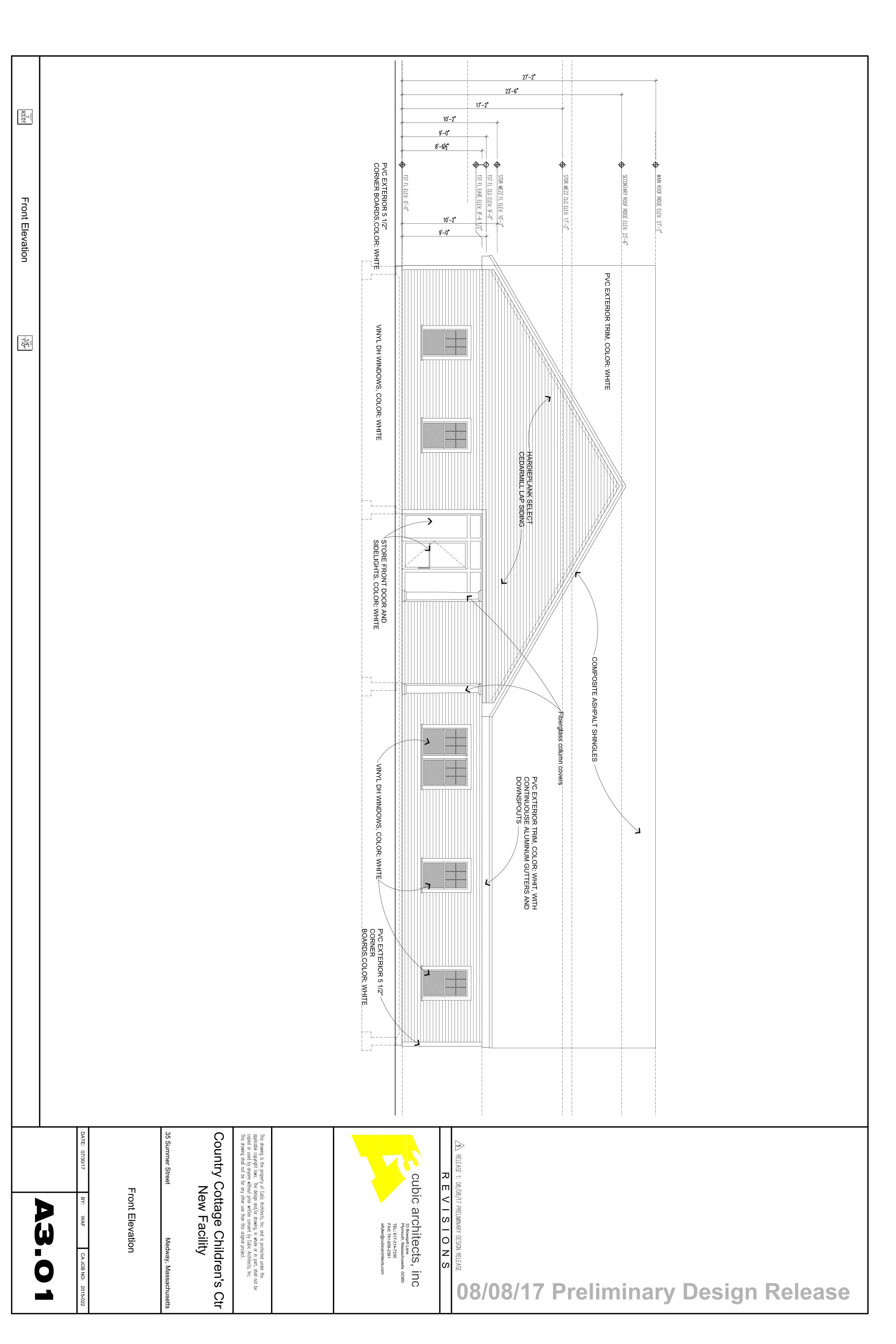
- Site plan dated August 1, 2017 by Engineering Design Consultants, Southborough, MA
- Collection of building floor plans and elevations by Cubic Architects, Plymouth, MA

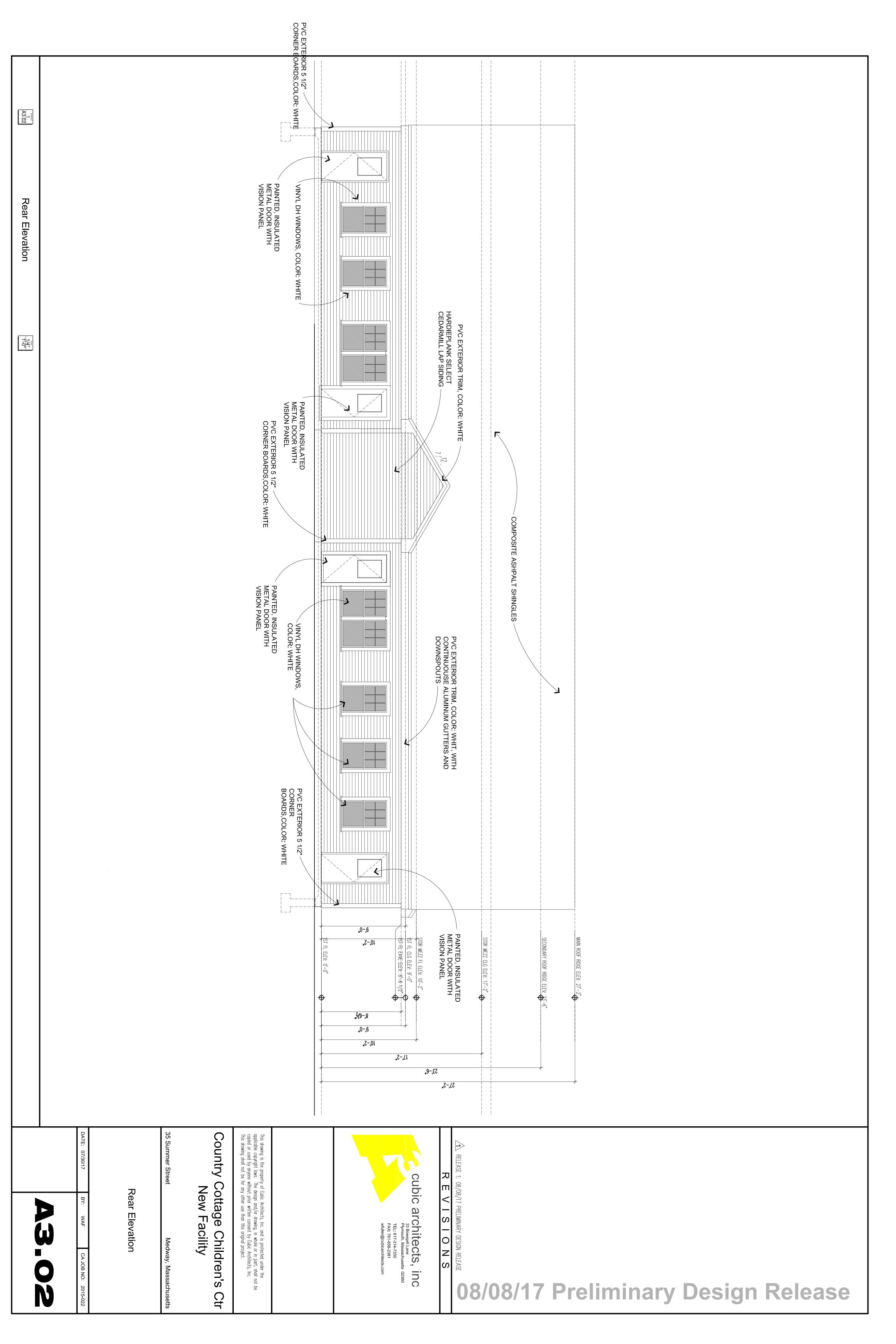


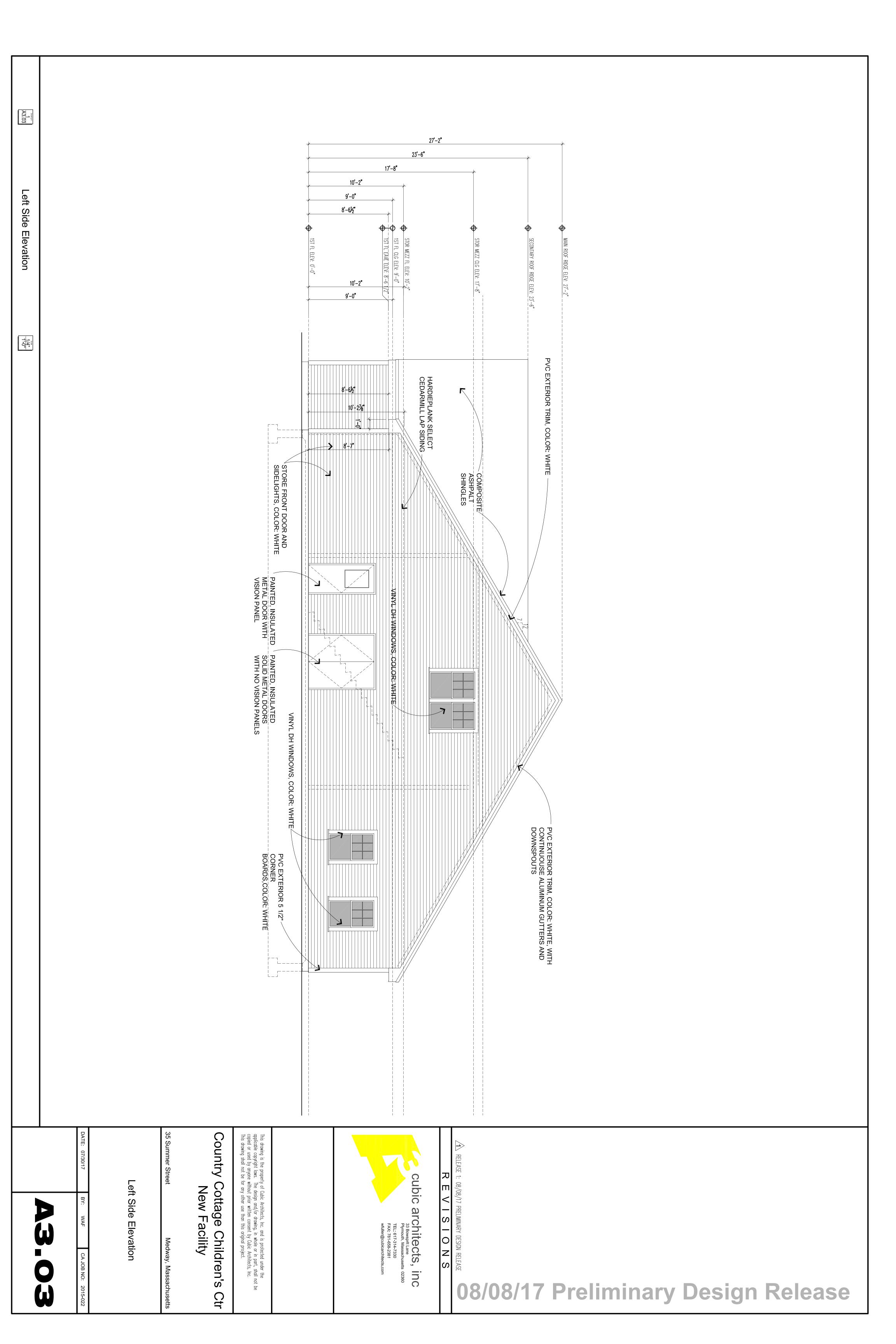
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

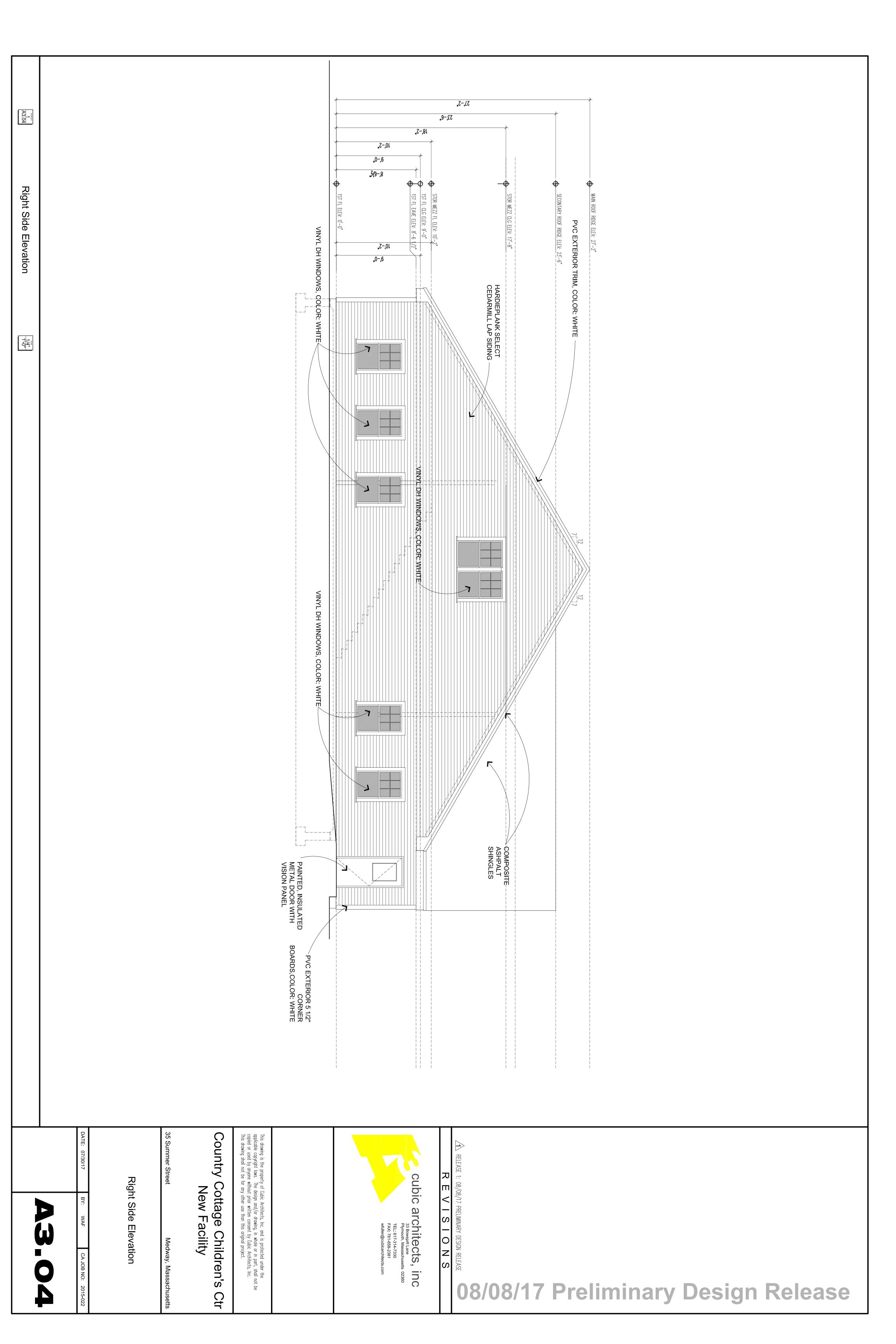












# DRC Sign Design Review – Medway Industrial Park Medway Community and Economic Development Office Comments August 18, 2017

**Business:** Medway Garden Center

Owner: Joe Avellino

**Sign Location Address:** 34 Summer Street

**Proposed Sign:** This is a proposal for a free-standing monument sign for Medway

Gardens to be positioned north of the property's driveway off of

Summer Street.

**Zoning District:** Commercial V.

	Proposed Sign	Allowed by Bylaw	
Sign Surface Area	2' high by 8' wide = 16 sq. ft.	40 sq. ft. for a 2 sided, free-standing	
	per side x 2 sides = 32 sq. ft.	sign for an individual business.	
		Sign size is OK.	
Sign Height	9'	Maximum 8'	
Illumination	No lighting is planned	External	
# of signs	One 2 sided development sign	Two 2 sided development signs	
Setback	10'	Minimum 8'	

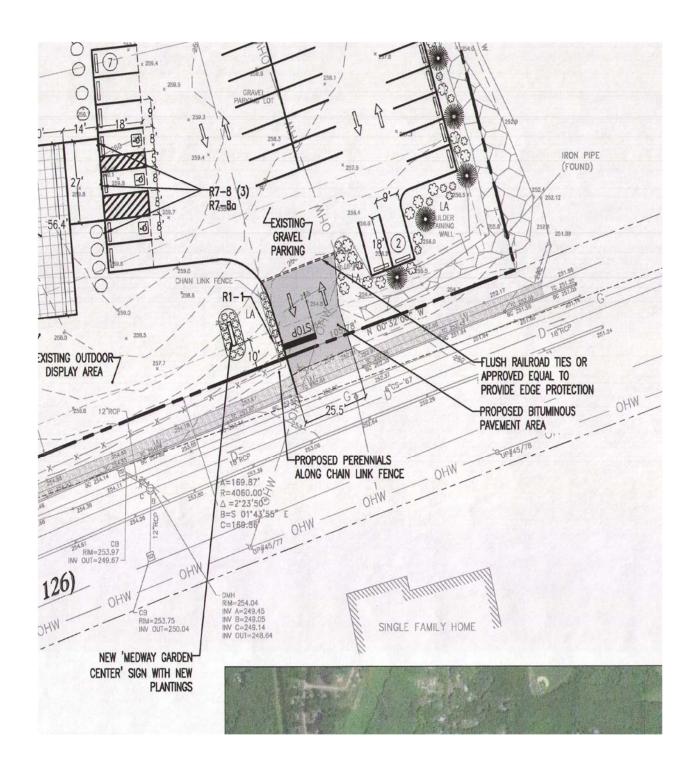
#### **Comments:**

- 1. This is not a new sign. They have refurbished their long-standing sign and given it a fresh appearance.
- 2. The sign size and setback complies with the Zoning Bylaw requirements for a free-standing monument sign in the Commercial V business district.
- 3. The stone planter base has already been constructed using a versa-lok type product. Too bad it wasn't done to have a fieldstone appearance.
- 4. The overall height of the sign is too tall. It is proposed at 9'. The bylaw allows a maximum of 8'. The sign will need to be set lower into the planter or a couple of courses of the stone planter will need to be removed. Joe Avellino has been informed.
- 5. The area within the stone planter should be landscaped. Ask Joe Avellino what he plans to do. This should probably be just flowers due to the sign height issue.
- 6. No permanent lighting is planned for this sign. They may decorate it with little lights during the December holiday season.

**Summary and Comments Prepared by:** Susy Affleck-Childs









### Report to The Medway Board of Selectman

Changeable Message – LED Message Board Signs

August 21st, 2017

### Medway Design Review Committee

Matthew Buckley, Chairman
Jessica Chabot
Dan Connolly
Thomas Gay, MP&ED Representative
Seth Kendall
Alex Kevork
Rachel Walsh

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In January 2016, the Medway Board of Selectmen (MBOS) approached the Medway Design Review Committee (MDRC) expressing an interest in locating and installing an Electronic Messaging Board within the town. More specifically, in the vicinity of Choate Park and in conjunction with the Route 109 Redesign/Rebuild Project. The DRC initiated the necessary research required to not only understand the technology but to cover all the needed information needed to make informed recommendations.

While the selection and installation of this type of sign, replacing the old "black letter" sign that sat in the front of the park for many years, may seem simple, there were many areas of concern that needed to be addressed. These concerns included but were not limited to:

- Location... both requested and options
- Validity under the Sign Bylaw
- Design Guidelines
- Structure/Size
- Resolution/Brightness/Color
- Administration of Content

Each of the various items above required extensive research and discussion to ensure that each was properly addressed. Everything from proper location (both site specific and within the town), to the proper product to satisfy the need (including technology and attractive installation), to providing guidance for a new kind of sign not allowed under the current sign bylaw had to be resolved. Several other topics, including how to limit to "municipal use" (and what that really means) as well as how to incorporate a constantly evolving technology into existing guidelines also had to be resolved.

With this report, the DRC feels that all the issues can be adequately addressed and, by following the recommendations included later in this report, can support installation at Choate Park as well as two or three other locations in town.

### DISCUSSION

Prior to demolition of the "black letter" sign in the triangle at Choate Park, the town had only the sign in front of the park and in front of the Police Station as concrete and expected places for residents to receive notification of public events. Any other notifications had to be handled with temporary banners and/or portable, monochrome low-res, message boards. With the 109 Project now underway the options are even more limited. There was/is also the challenge of managing those various approaches, prioritizing what messages to post and satisfying a need for multiple messages/notifications at any given time. The BOS had determined that application of technology in the form of changeable message signage might provide the best way forward and employed the DRC to research/recommend the best way to realize both improvement and attractive application.

In initial discussion, there were many concerns that the technology approach was not consistent with what Medway is all about as well as the precedent of introducing the allowance of the technology. In other words, if the town can do it why can't it be used in all zoning districts by commercial, industrial and other landowners. That being stated, the applicability of the technology to the "problem" was soon realized to be beneficial and work began on the various moving parts requiring resolution.

The technology itself was the first major topic of discussion. At the same time, potential locations were examined because location can have a direct impact on the technology to be employed. After the careful researching of potential vendors, the DRC enlisted the help of Watchfire Signs, one of the pre-eminent vendors of Electronic Message Signs. In October 2016 the DRC met with Watchfire Signs Northeast Sales Director Ben Barr discussing various options for Electronic Message Center/LED Signs such as background and LED light colors. He presented the members with an LED Sign buyer's guide and a demonstration of the technology. The discussion focused on sign resolution and millimeters (distance between the clusters of LEDs) and how that applies to location. Pictures of Watchfire signs displayed throughout the nation were also presented to the committee.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Barr the following points and considerations of an LED sign:

- Signs featuring double sided LEDs generally range in price from \$25,000 to upward of \$100,000.
- Mr. Barr can provide a list of companies that can design the sign encasement which Medway could send out for multiple bids.
- Sign for Needham was thought to be in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. They opted for a 19mm sign because their viewing distance was from approximately 80 feet.
- Cost significantly increases as resolution increases/mm decreases.

- Things to consider when designing a sign and choosing resolution is speed of traffic and viewing distance between the sign and the targeted audience.
- Brightness can be adjusted and locked. It can also be programed to adjust for daytime
  and nighttime viewing as well as temperature and weather. If for example it was
  overcast but still during the day, the sensor would detect the difference in light adjust
  brightness. The sign can be programmed to turn on and off at predetermined times.
- Sign messages can be composed with various sizes of fonts and clipart or animation.
   Watchfire to supply some clipart and offer 15 fonts. Some special fonts such as ones with round corners and anti- aliased fonts use more LEDs.
- Medway would be able build its own templates selecting how many lines and words per page, but a good rule of thumb is no more than 7 words per page including animation or clipart.
- Recommend having someone (gatekeeper of sorts) to approve messages and animation prior to programing it into the sign.
- Wireless broadband programing of sign for \$100 per month is included for 5 years with price of sign. Software in laptop has options to program signs from multiple places.
   Watchfire can offer hands-on software training.
- Program is PC based now but expect to move to cloud/web based and MAC compatible by the end of the year.
- Energy consumption depends of size of sign and amount of LEDs. For example, a 3' x 7' sign with 12-19 mm resolution averages \$1 per day. 10mm consumes approximately 20-30% more. Max draw 14amps (Mr. Barr to provide more detailed electric consumption).
- Need to consider how often signs should change page, how many words per page and color contrast. Most animation uses 12mm because of higher resolution. 16-19mm is fine for words and basic displays.
- Cell phones and texting while driving is more dangerous than viewing LED signs (Mr. Barr to provide Texas A&M sign board study about safety).
- 5yr warranty covers repairs/replacement barring acts of GOD and incidents of vandalism. They guarantee that they will have parts available for 10 years. Not something foreign competitors can guarantee.
- Most clients will purchase an insurance policy for their signs (Mr. Barr can provide a list of vendors that can offer it).
- There was a general concern for evolving technology. Mr. Barr stated 12mm has been
  out for about 4 years and while Watchfire is working on a 6mm right now he stills
  believes the 12mm will remain the optimum product for some time to come. Watchfire

- builds their signs so they can be removed from the surrounding case and have the LED panels upgraded to new technology if client so desires.
- LED signs would be changed more often than traditional signs with hand changed letters. LED signs can handle multiple messages at once with pages changing every few seconds which could provide more information to the community.

Equipped with knowledge of the technology, general location became the next major area of debate. Several potential sites were identified along with pros and cons of those locations. DRC ultimately identified three primary locations for the placement LED signs and determined that Choate Park, based on its position near the geographic center of town and midway point on Route 109, would be the best place. The other locations, also based on geography, cross town routes, areas where people might be accustomed to look for information and good site lines with minimum impact to residential areas include the Medway Police Station on Village Street (replacing the current letter sign) and the Medway Middle School on Holliston Street (where a letter sign once stood before being destroyed in a car accident). All agreed that how many signs to purchase would be discussed at a later time and would largely be dependent on price. It was also agreed that the casing/structure of the sign would be important to the success of the installation and would need to be high end to keep with the aesthetics of Medway.

Over the last several months more specific information was discussed in detail. The problem of the sign bylaw was one that needed to be resolved and will require careful positioning. It is felt that there are parts of the bylaw, while not specifically providing for the technology (in fact not allowing it) can be used to move forward. The Town can move forward by properly applying for a sign permit, limiting its messaging to community outreach/outreach/events and using good judgement for operation as described in the recommendations.

Over the course of the project, there was significant discussion about the history, current and future policy on community message board signs in town. The process whereby town residents can reserve the existing sign for a period of one week was examined. While changeable copy signs are not allowed under zoning bylaw, the town until recently had two so some precedence exists. DRC is happy to participate in the design process and will weigh in on the appearance of these signs. The Town is anticipating improving the aesthetics and readability of the message on the sign with a software package that controls the display on the sign. There was much discussion on the legality of regulating content on these signs. There was also related discussion on updating the DRC's Design Guidelines to address municipal projects.

When all is said and done the DRC is happy to offer several recommendations in the next section.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### Structure and Size

- 1) Structure
  - a) The Recommendation is an <u>indigenous stone appearance for the base/enclosure of the sign and</u> black metal mountings or attachments for the actual sign board
  - b) Care should be taken to appropriately brand the sign to make it recognizable as a town sign
- 2) Size
  - a) The LED panels are available in configurations equal to 1'x1'. Based on several examples the DRC viewed, we are recommending a minimum 3' high sign maximum 4' high sign and minimum 5' wide maximum 7' wide sign.

#### Resolution, Brightness, and Color

- 1) Resolution
  - a) The current technology allows for a max resolution of 10mm. The DRC is recommending a minimum resolution for any message board signs be 12mm, but that we would ideally get the highest resolution possible at the time of purchase as the higher resolution is exponentially better (at this writing 10mm) to accommodate pedestrians. The nearer you are to the sign the better the resolution is needed.
  - b) In the case of multiple locations higher resolution for <u>Choate Park (10mm)</u> and lower for <u>Village</u> Street and Holliston Street (12mm) would be ideal.
  - c) The Vendor indicated that the price as it relates to the resolution is rapidly diminishing and higher resolutions are becoming more available
- 2) Brightness
  - a) The programmability of the LED sign allows for different levels of brightness and can be programed to change brightness depending on the day/time. The DRC recommends that a brightness program be strictly adhered to and that in the evening the sign be automatically set to the lowest brightness setting available. Any sign purchased should be dimmable to a min of 350 NIT's.
- 3) Color

### Location(s)

- 1) The DRC has discussed potential locations. The <u>preferred location is Choate Park</u> as this is the most heavily traveled path in Medway.
- 2) <u>Additional locations</u> that are viewed as viable <u>are the Middle School and the Police Station.</u> Public safety was considered when choosing these locations.

### Content

1) The administration of content is the most important consideration for the sign. The recommendation is that message board be <u>used for town messages/notifications and municipal events only.</u>

Note: Background materials, specifications, notes, site plans and pictures used in developing these recommendations are available as part of the public record or from T.Gay, Clerk – MP&EDB

