

## Memo

**To:** Board of Adjustment Chairperson McGinley and Acting Secretary Maccarelli  
Verona Board of Adjustment (BoA)

**From:** Plan Review Committee of the Verona Environmental Commission

**c:** Verona Environmental Commission Chair

**Date:** November 1, 2023

**Re:** **Case # 2023-14**  
58 Durrell Street [Block 1306, Lot 13.02]  
Verona, New Jersey

**Zone:** A-3 (Residential Townhouse)

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The Plan Review Committee of the Verona Environmental Commission (VEC) reviewed the application for 58 Durrell Street in Verona submitted by Theo Silverberg, which we received on October 23, 2023. We understand that the Applicant is seeking to obtain a variance for exceeding total maximum allowable improved lot coverage by 13.5%, proposing 48.5% where 35% is allowed. The Applicant is also proposing a patio that would encroach into the 5-foot side yard setback. The comments below are provided for the Board's consideration:

- 1) The VEC understands that the applicant is proposing to add 3,686 ft<sup>2</sup> of new impervious surface to the existing site's 4,422 ft<sup>2</sup> total improved lot coverage. [§455-17](#) Verona's Minor development portion of the Stormwater Ordinance requires that when more than 400 ft<sup>2</sup> of new coverage is added to a site, that the Applicant shall manage runoff using green infrastructure practices such as pervious paving/paver systems, small scale infiltration or bioretention basins (raingardens) grass swales, etc. as found in Table 5, "Minor Development BMP" of the ordinance.
- 2) Existing and Proposed Improved Lot Coverage is listed as 26.4% and 48.5% on the application, respectively. Scaling off the drawing, we calculated an Existing Improved Lot Coverage of 26.3% based on an Existing "Improved Area" of 4,383 ft<sup>2</sup> (please see attached annotated drawing). Furthermore, we calculated a Proposed Improved Lot Coverage of 48.9% based on a Proposed "Improved Area" of 8,145 ft<sup>2</sup>. We understand that the maximum Improved Lot Coverage for the A-3 Zone is 35%.
- 3) Since site grades generally drop from west to east on the property; could a green infrastructure practice be placed more upgradient from the neighboring property (more to the west side than what is shown on the plan drawing) so that infiltrating water has more opportunity to sink rather than flow laterally beyond the property boundary? Also, has there been any investigation on the depth to seasonal high water table (SHWT) and whether there is sufficient freeboard above it to accept infiltrating stormwater runoff? Plan notes indicate that the contractor is responsible for determining SHWT, whereas that responsibility should be on the design professional.
- 4) The Applicant should provide testimony as to the potential removal of trees in the rear of the yard to make way for the proposed patio or equipment pad, and if any are slated for removal, be required to comply with §493, Article II.

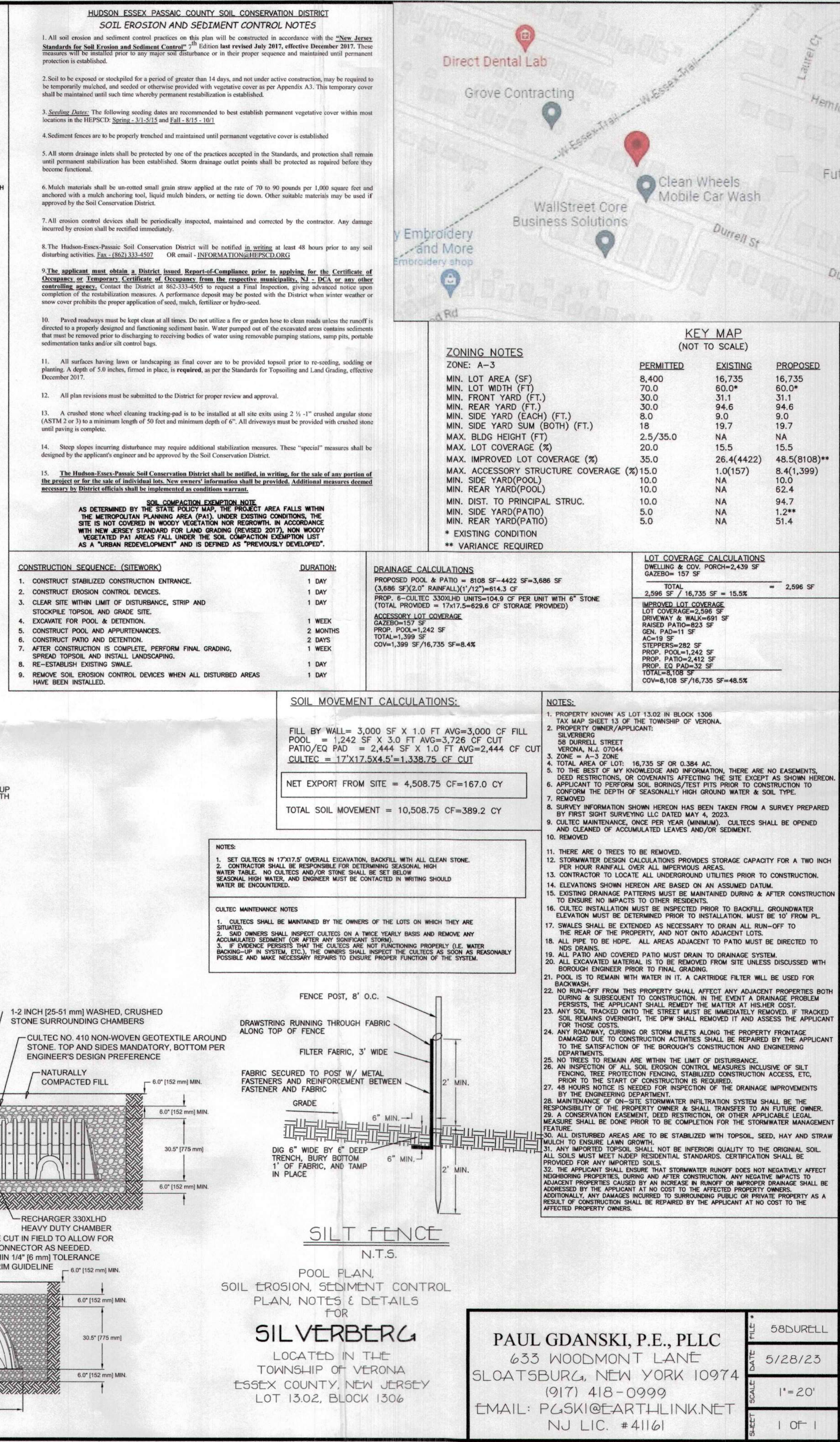
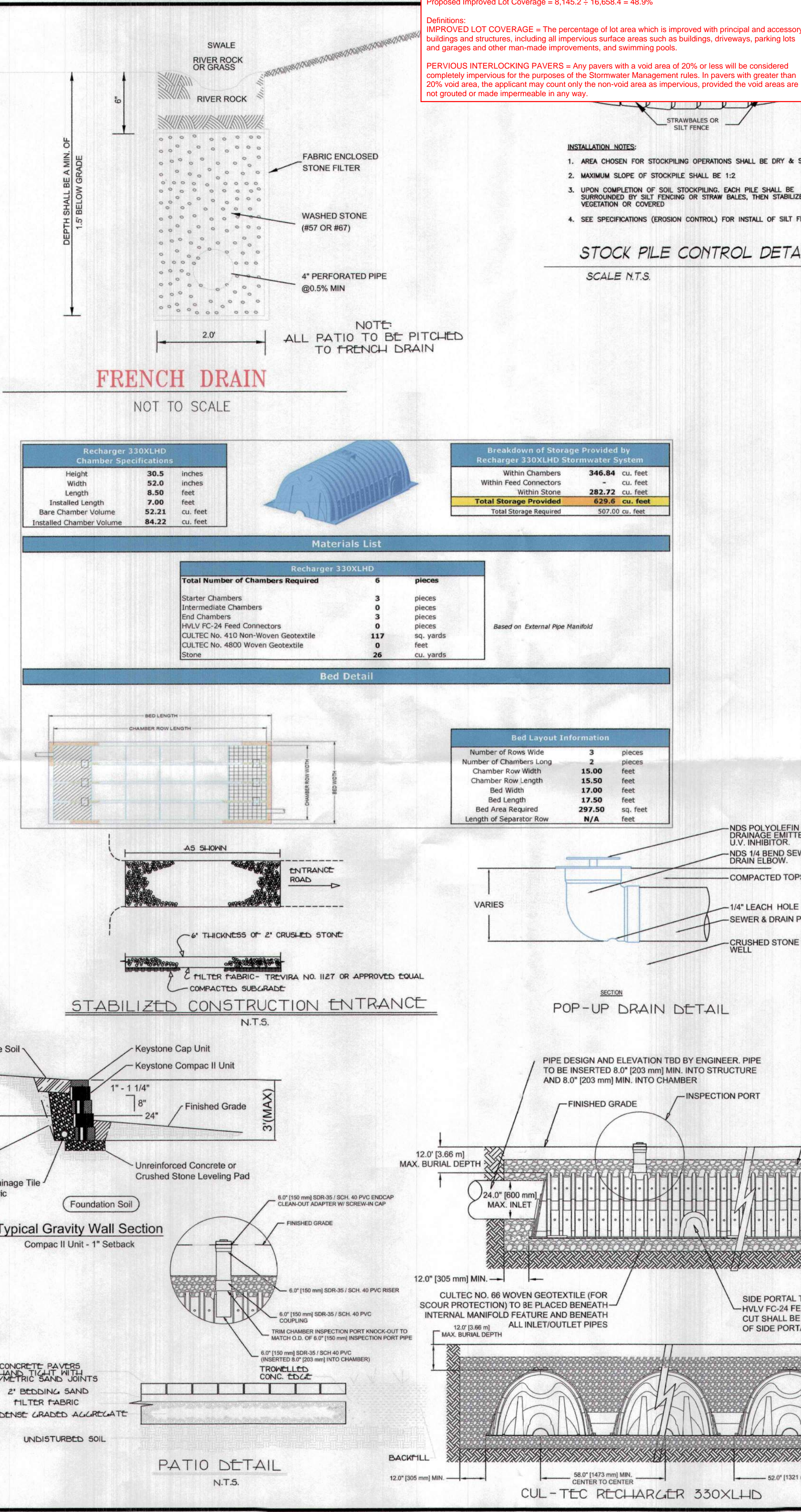
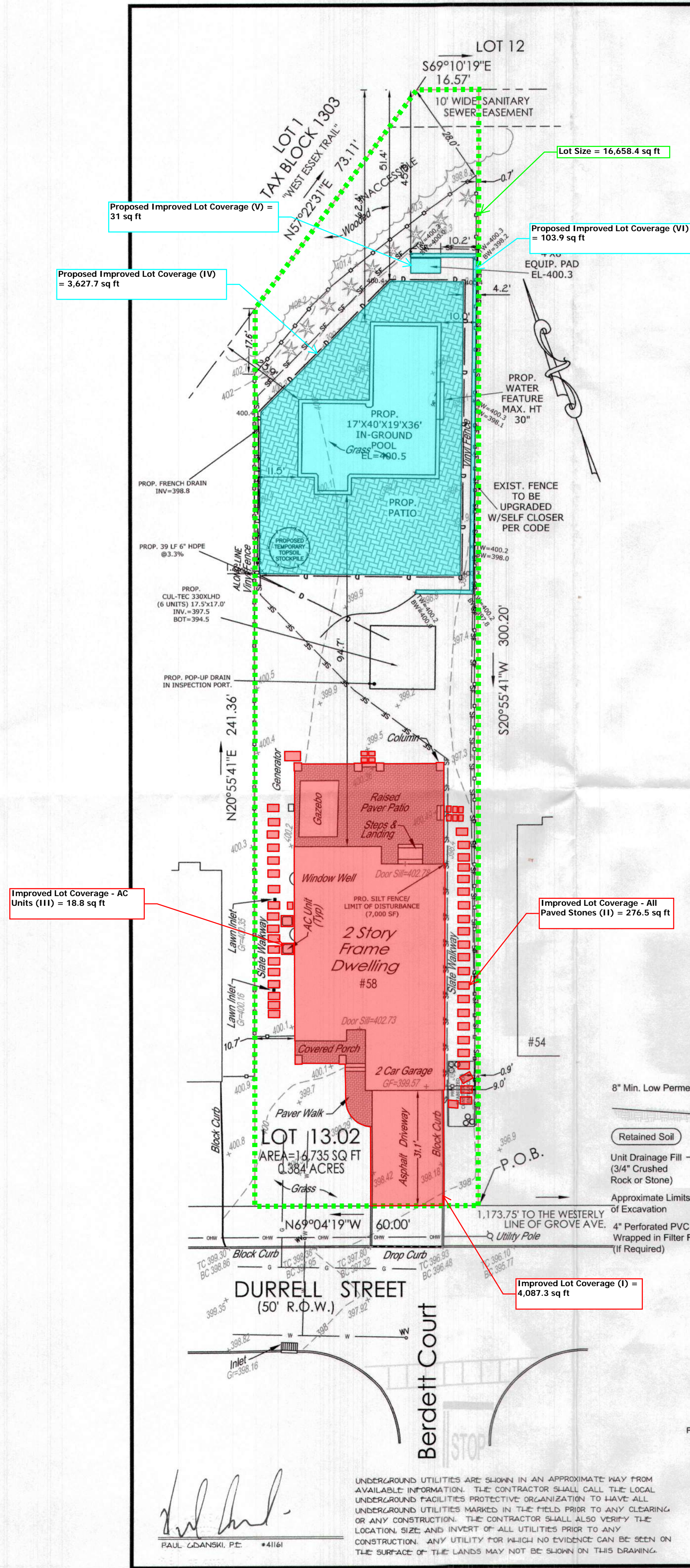
- 5) We recommend that downspout pipes on the home be disconnected from storm drains and redirected to flow away from the home, over the property's remaining permeable areas, gardens, and lawns.
- 6) In addition, please see attached the Low Impact Planning and Construction Checklist. This suggested list was compiled by the VEC based on best available practices.

[STD/JP]  
VEC\_2023-11-01 Comments 58 Durrell St.docx



Areas (scaled per plan)  
Lot size 16,658.4 sq ft  
Existing "Improved Area" = 4,087.3 (I) + 276.5 (II) + 18.8 (III) = 4,382.6 sq ft  
Existing Improved Lot Coverage = 4,382.6 ÷ 16,658.4 = 26.3%  
Proposed "Improved Area" = 4,382.6 + 3,627.7 (IV) + 31 (V) + 103.9 (VI) = 8,145.2 sq ft  
Proposed Improved Lot Coverage = 8,145.2 ÷ 16,658.4 = 48.9%

Definitions:  
IMPROVED LOT COVERAGE = The percentage of lot area which is improved with principal and accessory buildings and structures, including all impervious surface areas such as buildings, driveways, parking lots and garages and other man-made improvements, and swimming pools.  
PERVIOUS INTERLOCKING PAVERS = Any pavers with a void area of 20% or less will be considered completely impervious for the purposes of the Stormwater Management rules. In pavers with greater than 20% void area, the applicant may count only the non-void area as impervious, provided the void areas are not grouted or made impervious in any way.





## Low Impact Checklist: Construction

This suggested list has been compiled by the Verona Environmental Commission based on best available practices. This is not a requirement of the uniform construction code. It is intended to be beneficial to all residents considering renovations and new construction. The purposes of this list are to 1) assist those planning construction projects to do so in a manner that causes the least disruption to the environment; 2) establish a healthy setting for those occupying the new or renovated space; and 3) reduce waste and save resources. Implementing environmentally friendly practices can be economical when considered at pre-construction stages and are often beneficial in the long term.

### General Construction

- ☐ Recycle and/or salvage non-hazardous construction and demolition debris
- ☐ Use renewable building material and products
- ☐ Incorporate renewable energy (i.e. geothermal, solar)
- ☐ Use local products (i.e. local and sustainable woods)
- ☐ Use local construction products and companies
- ☐ Conserve energy and reduce electricity use as much as possible

### Grounds & Landscaping

- ☐ Create a sedimentation control plan to prevent sediment from moving off site.
- ☐ Use native plantings (Native plants are adapted to thrive in local conditions)
- ☐ Use captured rainwater or recycled grey water for irrigation
- ☐ Provide bicycle parking to help reduce overcrowded streets and CO2 emissions.

### Storm Water Management

- ☐ Avoid runoff to other properties by installing an underground cistern or rain garden. This will keep water on your own property and out of the sewer system.
- ☐ Limit impervious surfaces – use an open grid pavement system (at least 50% pervious)
- ☐ Promote infiltration that captures and treats storm water runoff from rainfall
- ☐ Use a water retention system (i.e. rain barrel) to collect rainwater for non-potable uses

### Lighting

- ☐ Choose LED lights (the most environmentally-efficient option)
- ☐ Purchase renewable electricity, either directly from your power supplier, from an independent clean power generator, or through renewable energy certificates.
- ☐ Use skylights or solo tubes for natural daytime lighting. Use sensor controls in commercial or industrial settings and solar lighting outdoors.

## Foundation & Basement

- ☐ Use environmentally friendly foundation sealants (rather than black tar)
- ☐ Prevent sump pump water from flowing into the sewer system

## Roofing

- ☐ Use light color roofing materials to limit heat absorption created by darker roofs
- ☐ Use roofing material with a solar reflectance index (SRI) equal to or greater than 78 for low roofs and 29 for steep-sloped roofs
- ☐ Install tile or metal roofs
- ☐ Consider installing a vegetated roof

## Heating & Cooling

- ☐ Use 2 x 6 studs instead of 2 x 4 to increase amount of insulation
- ☐ Install programmable thermostats that adjust temperatures throughout the day
- ☐ Use occupant sensing and/or remote control thermostat technologies
- ☐ Install heat pumps to transfer energy heat and cold Use high-efficiency boilers/furnaces
- ☐ Use attic fans to regulate heating and cooling

## Windows

- ☐ Choose ultraviolet window protection to protect against sun damage
- ☐ Install triple pane windows or windows with Argon or Kryton gas between panes

## Products

- ☐ Choose products with low VOCs (VOCs are found in adhesives, interior paints, cabinets, etc)
- ☐ Avoid products that contain hazardous chemicals such as formaldehyde and cyanide
- ☐ Choose ENERGY STAR® appliances
- ☐ Install dual flush toilets Install low flow shower heads
- ☐ Avoid garbage disposals and make provisions for composting

Verona Environmental Commission

## Low Impact Checklist: Planning

This suggested list has been compiled by the Verona Environmental Commission based on best available practices. This list is intended to assist individuals involved in planning and building projects in Verona Township towards submitting low impact plans. The goal of a low impact plan is not only to increase cost savings and add value to your project but to make environmentally responsible choices and eliminate project delays in early stages of the planning process.

### General Construction & Design

- ☐ Provide occupants with connection to outdoor space through increased natural light and views
- ☐ Orient buildings facing southwest to maximize potential solar installation
- ☐ Use orientation and design to maximize passive solar heat/cooling
- ☐ Use proper planning to prevent damage to surrounding properties and public spaces
- ☐ Minimize disturbance to soils and vegetation
- ☐ Recycle and/or salvage non-hazardous construction and demolition debris
- ☐ Use renewable building materials and products
- ☐ Use local and sustainable woods
- ☐ Incorporate renewable energy and reduce energy use

### Grounds & Landscaping

- ☐ Create a sedimentation control plan Limit altering steep slope areas
- ☐ Encourage landscaping that requires limited moving, trimming, and watering
- ☐ Create landscapes that limit the need for lawn chemicals and maintenance
- ☐ Position evergreens to the north to shield wind/ Position deciduous trees to the south to cool buildings
- ☐ Use native plantings (Native plans are adapted to thrive in local conditions)
- ☐ Place parking spaces in shaded areas
- ☐ Place bicycle parking racks in secure areas near entrances
- ☐ Use paving materials with an SRI value >29. This will reflect, not absorb solar heat.

### Storm Water Management

- ☐ Limit impervious surfaces – use an open grid pavement system (at least 50% pervious)
- ☐ Reduce impervious cover to promote infiltration that captures and treats storm water
- ☐ Use a water retention system (i.e. rain barrel) to collect rainwater or recycled gray water for non-potable uses

## Foundation & Basement

- ☐ Use alternative practices (rather than black tar) for foundation sealants
- ☐ Encourage aeration and ventilation
- ☐ Draw sunlight into basement areas through access windows

## Roofing

- ☐ Use light color roofing materials to limit heat absorbed by dark colored roofs
- ☐ Use roofing material with a solar reflectance index (SRI) equal to or greater than 78 for low roofs and 29 for steep sloped roofs
- ☐ Consider Tile or Metal roofs
- ☐ Construct roofs that can support solar installations

## Lighting

- ☐ Use solar lighting outdoors
- ☐ Use skylights or solo tubes for natural daytime lighting
- ☐ Use motion sensor lighting where applicable
- ☐ Choose energy-efficient light bulbs

## Products

- ☐ Avoid products that contain hazardous chemicals such as formaldehyde and cyanide
- ☐ Use local products (i.e. local and sustainable woods)
- ☐ Use local construction equipment and companies when possible

For more information and resources please see:

The Native Plant Society of New Jersey - <http://www.npsnj.org>

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions - <http://www.anjec.org>

US Green Building Council NJ Chapter - <http://usgbc.org>

New Jersey Green Building Manual - <http://greenmanual.rutgers.edu>

The New Jersey Department of Transportation Master Plan - <http://njbikepedplan.com>

Rutgers Center for Green Building - <http://greenbuilding.rutgers.edu>

The Verona Environmental Commission - <http://www.veronaec.org>