

## TOWNOFMILFORD,NH OFFICEOFCOMMUNITYDEVELOPMENT

1 UNION SQUARE, MILFORD, NH 03055 TEL: (603)249-0620

WEB: WWW.MILFORD.NH.GOV

Date: February 10, 2020

To: Planning Board

From: Kellie Shamel, Town Planner

Subject: Vita Cooper & Utopia Revocable Trust (applicant/owner) – Review for acceptance and consideration of final approval for a lot line adjustment application between two existing lots. The parcels are located at 148 Colburn Road and 245 Federal Hill Road in the Residence R and Groundwater Protection Districts. Tax Map 53, Lot 67-2 and 67-3.

### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The applicant is before the Board seeking approval of a lot line adjustment to modify the common lot lines of Map 53, Lot 67-2 and 67-3. The parcels are located in the Residential R and Groundwater Protection Districts. Currently, Map 53, Lot 67-2 and Lot 67-3 are developed lots each with a single family residence. The proposal also calls for the relocation of the existing home currently located near the quarry pond. This is because as a result of the lot line adjustment, two homes would be located on one lot which is not permitted. The existing home will be relocated onto the New Lot 67-3 and will access utility services from Federal Hill Road in association with the proposed utilities for existing Lot 68-1.

This will be the first public hearing for the application.

#### **EXISTING USE/CONDITIONS:**

The total area of existing Map 53, Lot 67-2 is 28.3 acres and currently has an existing single family residence. The total area of existing Map 53, Lot 67-3 is 6.506 acres and currently has an existing single family residence. Both parcels will be serviced by private well and septic. Additionally, there is an existing access easement on Lot 68-1 (this lot is also owned by the applicant) which will be used to access new Lot 67-3 from Federal Hill Road.

#### APPLICATION STATUS:

The application is complete and ready to be accepted.

#### NOTICES:

Notices were sent to all property abutters on February 6, 2020.

#### WAIVERS:

Waiver request from the Milford Development Regulations applying only to the larger conforming lot that is only being made larger and more conforming (lot 67-2):

Article V, Section 5.06; Submission for Lot Line Adjustment.

Item K; Delineation of all wetlands and wetlands buffers on parcels. (this waiver is only needed for lot 67-2, because it is the only lot that is being reduced in size. Wetlands and buffers are shown for this lot to assure compliancy).

Article V, Section 5.06; Submission for Lot Line Adjustment

Item L; Delineation of slopes over 25% on parcels. (this waiver is only needed for lot 67-2 and not 67-3. Lot 67-3 is the only lot that is being reduced in size and the plan does show all contours and any steep slopes for lot 67-3 to assure compliancy).

#### **PROPOSAL:**

The intent of the proposal is to depict a lot line adjustment along the common lot lines of lots 67-2 and 67-3. The proposed acreage is as follows:

<u>Lot #</u>	Existing	<b>Proposed</b>
Map 53, Lot 67-2	28.3 acres (1,232,785 SF)	31.83 acres (1,386,777 SF)
Map 53, Lot 67-3	6.506 acres (283,378 SF)	2.97 acres (129,188 SF)

- Lot line adjustment between Map 53, Lot 67-2 and Map 53, Lot 67-3 to remove a 3.535 acre area (labeled Parcel 'A') from Map 53, Lot 67-3 and consolidate it with Map 53, Lot 67-2. This increases the size of the Lot 67-2 to 31.83 acres and decreases Lot 67-3 to 2.97 acres.
- Each of the proposed lots meet the minimum lot size of 2 acres (87,120 SF) or greater, and minimum frontage of 200 linear feet. The plans show the approximate location of the septic service areas and related test pit information required for State septic approval.
- Frontage for each of lots will be provided on Federal Hill Road and Colburn Road. Each lot meets the minimum 200 linear foot frontage requirement for lots in the Residential R zoning district.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS:**

Ambulance: No comments.

Assessing: No comments.

Building Department: No comments

Code Enforcement/ Health: No comments.

Conservation Commission: No comments.

Fire Department: No comments.

Heritage Commission: Comments due by 2/14/2020.

Police Department: No comments.

Public Works: No comments.

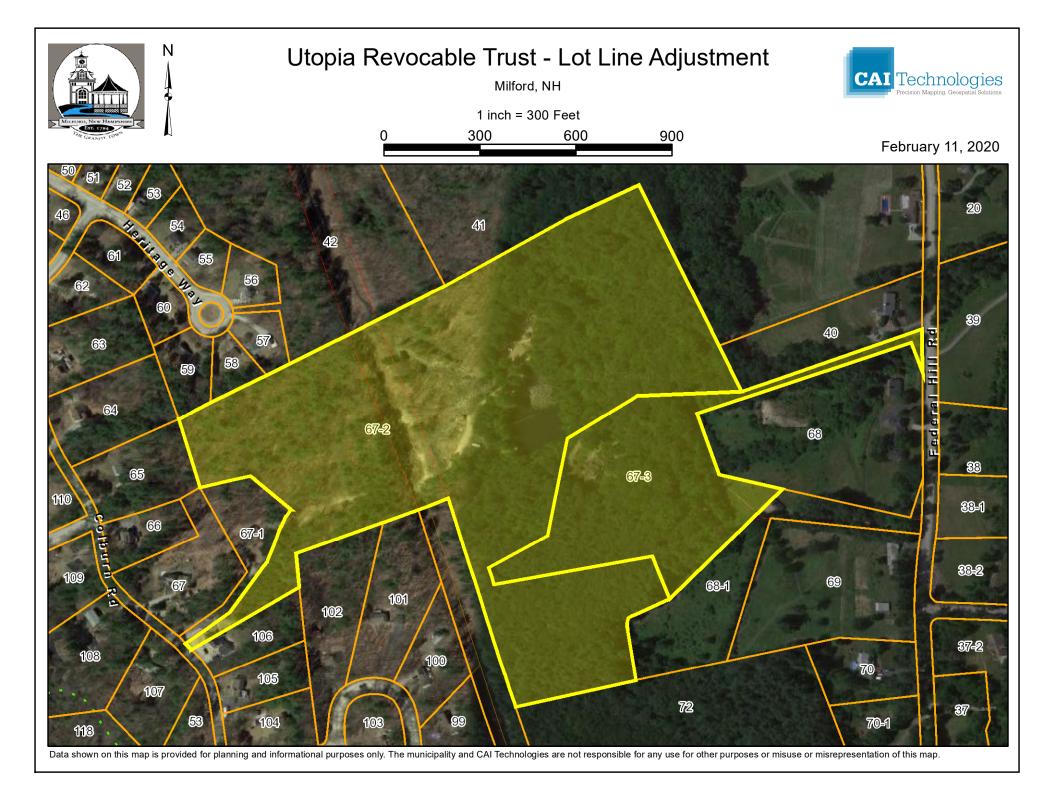
Water/Sewer Utilities: No comments.

#### **Community Development / Planning:**

- 1. General Comment. Please confirm that the proposed driveway meets all local requirements related to site distance.
- Sheet 1, Notes. Please add a note stating "Federal Hill Road is a scenic road. No stonewalls or trees of 15 circumference or larger are to be removed within the Federal Hill Road Right-of-Way without a Planning Board Scenic Road public hearing. Where possible, all existing stonewalls should be retained."
- 3. Lot Line Adjustment Plan. A note shall be added to the plan stating that prior to the signing of the plan, all monumentation shall be set and noted on the plan or a security be provided to the Town to cover the cost of monumentation. Further, please be sure to include all bounds for each of the affected lots. See Milford Development Regulations, Section 6.021 Bounds for more information and specifications.
- 4. Sheet 1, Notes. Please shall add a note(s) detailing waiver requests.
- 5. General Comment. The relocation of the existing house onto new Lot 67-3 (as shown on the plan) must be completed before any permits are issued and prior to plan recordation.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The applicant should be prepared to address the comments raised by the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Consultants, Staff, and public pertaining to the Subdivision Plan. If the Board is satisfied with the information and responses from the applicant and finds the remaining concerns can be addressed with staff, staff would recommend a conditional approval.



# SANDFORD SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING

597 New Boston Road, Bedford, NH 03110 · 603.472.2265 · mail@sandfordsurvey.com · sandfordsurvey.com

January 20, 2020

Town of Milford Community Development 1 Union Square Milford, NH 03055 Attn: Kellie Shamel

TOWN OF MILFORD RECEIVED

Re: Narrative for Utopia Revocable Trust, Lot Line Adjustment.

This Lot Line Adjustment will change the areas of Lot 67-2 and 67-3. Lot 67-2, which is an already developed parcel with a private residence, will increase in size to 31.83 acres. Lot 67-3, which is already developed with a private residence, will decrease in size to 2.97 acres. The intention of the Adjustment is not to facilitate a new house but rather to facilitate a relocation of the existing home on Lot 67-3, moving the structure away from the extreme cliff created by the quarry operation and increase safety for any new owner of Lot 67-3. The quarry pond and associated cliff will now be wholly on Lot 67-2. The relocation of the house onto New Lot 67-3 will access utility services from Federal Hill Road in association with the proposed utilities for existing Lot 68-1.

The existing Quarry area on the parcels was originally for a farm quarry for the Foster Family in approximately the late1800's. The commercial use ran from approximately 1900 to the late 1920's, when the operation ceased to exist. For a more detailed history see the attached email from Vita Cooper.

Sincerely,

Earl Sandford Senior Engineer, Sandford Surveying and Engineering, Inc. P.E., L.L.S., C.W.S. earl@sandfordsurvey.com

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The Quarry started as a 'farm Quarry' for The Foster Farm in the late 1800's. It began commercially operating around the turn of the century and sold to Daniels granite company in 1908 with an "easement along the southern boundary" of the Foster farm (from Federal Hill rd to the quarry parcel)

Along the way it was sold to Souhegan Granite Co.

In the Late 20's the quarry stopped operation and then was taken by Milford for back taxes. The hole filled with water generally 50' deep, and a 50' cliff above the water remains.

Several residential ownerships occurred with the access to quarry being from Colburn Rd...where the granite had left the property from Quarry operations.

The right of way to Federal Hill was not developed probably because it was uphill - considering that the means to move the stone was with animals pulling Trailers.

For a long time Rock Comstock owned the quarry, his home Is modified but still exists on lot 53/67 (144 Colburn Rd)

The quarry was known in town as Comstock Quarry where back in the day, Rock let people swim.

Steve Desmarais who loved the quarry purchased it from Comstock & owned it for several years before I (and my mother Vivian Curtis) purchased it in October 1994.

Vita's History: 1994 Acquired land from Steve Desmarais lots 53/67-1&2 67-1 had septic approval in place at that time. Mom & I named it Utopia because it is The Perfect World for me.

1995 Built Home at 146 Colburn (67-1)

I learned of a Right of way to Federal Hill rd contained in the deed of 53/68. It was at this time looking through the chain of title info I learned about the quarry's history.

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2002 Vita's Marriage To Ken Cooper

TOWN OF MILFORD RECEIVED

2006 Desmarais Construction Began construction of the Big House with access at 148 Colburn. This was a very expensive build: \$2million and the Tax bill of \$21,557/year is crushing me\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ financially.

2010(?) Ken Cooper's LLC purchased 53/68 when it went on the market because of the land's proximity to the Big House. Afterward, the driveway to Federal Hill Rd was built. And the restrictive terms on the access easement were legally abolished.

From the start, in designing the big house, we planned on using the access easement in our abutter's deed as the main access to the Big House. Ken wanted the approach to the house to "not view the garage doors". And the pretty side of the house is from the up hill side. The look of the place was extremely important to Mr Cooper.

The construction used the road frontage on Colburn as address/access.

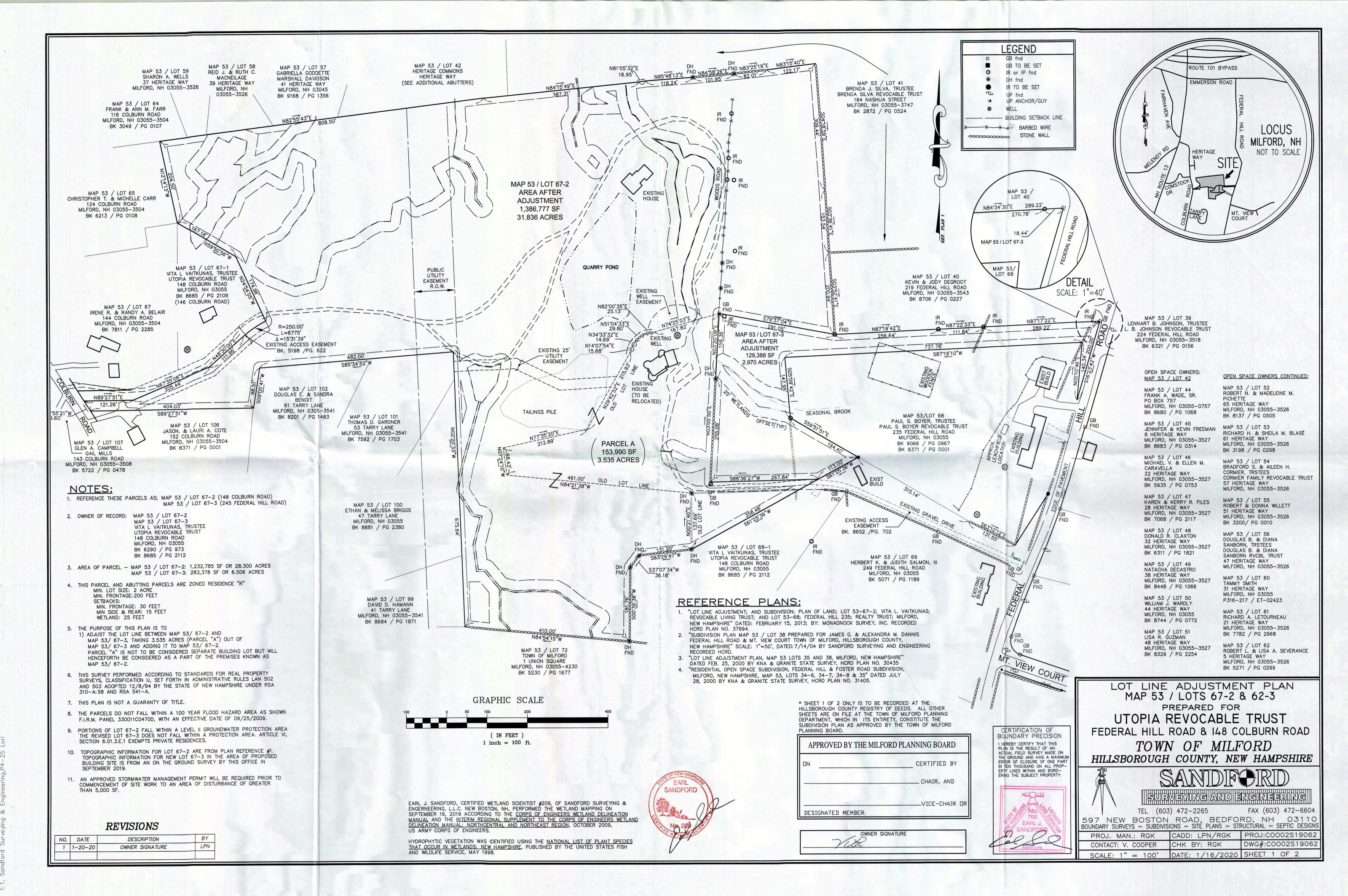
2012 Cooper divorce begins. As a factor of the divorce legalities, I renamed my trust from "Vita L Vaitkunas Revocable Living Trust" to "Utopia Revocable Trust" where it is documented that I use the name Vita Cooper

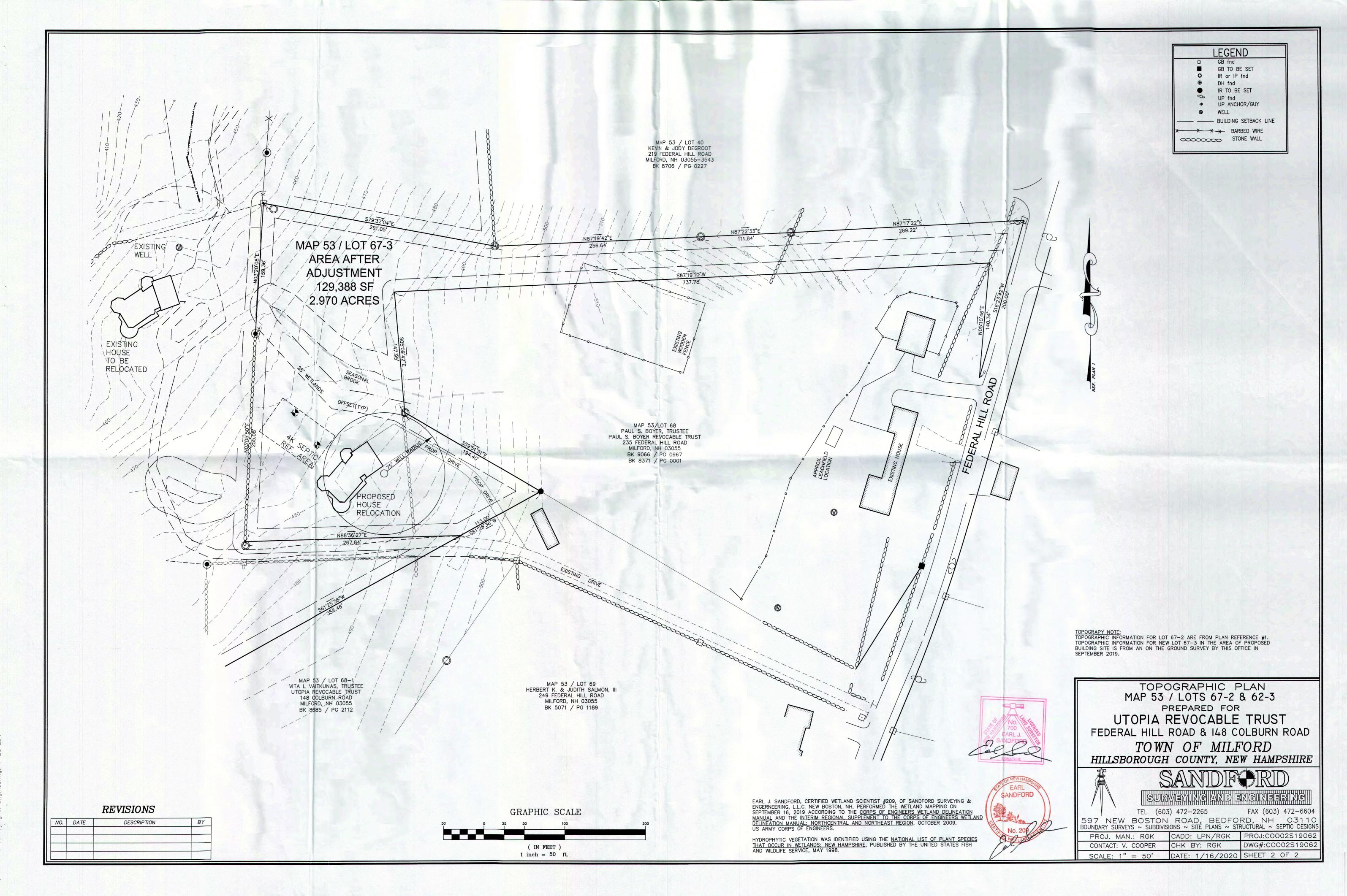
2013 Subdivision Lot line adjustment to separate the Big House from the Quarry parcel (as a condition of the divorce) This created a new lot 53/67-3 (address 245 Federal Hill Rd) for the Big House with road frontage on Federal Hill Rd and an easement across 53/68-1. And it added parcel A to 67-2, parcel B to 67-3 and the lot 53/68-1 (247 FHRd) into Vita's chain of title.

2016 construction began for a smaller, affordable home on the quarry which was always in the plan of the 2013 subdivision. That Home was completed 9/2018 is on lot 67-2 with address 148 Colburn Rd.

Having Strangers/Tenants in the Big House made me realize that the proximity to the cliff with new owners of the home is untenable. Trespassing happened even after tenants were told not to at the lease signing. The Quarry's cliff presents a dangerous scenario for new owners. And an unacceptable liability for Vita, which creates the need for the lot line adjustment and moving the house before it Sells.

Vita





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