

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139

617-349-6100

2023 SEP 27 PM 3: 23

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERY CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

BZA Application Form

BZA Number: 182164

General Information

The undersigned hereby petitions the Board of Zoning Appeal for the following:						
Special Permit:	Variance: X	_	Appeal:			
PETITIONER: Meimei Zhao &. Quan	Xiao					
PETITIONER'S ADDRESS: PO Box 8	312777, Wellesley,	MA 02482				
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 21 Mellen St , Cambridge, MA						
TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: THREE-FM	-RES	ZONING DISTRIC	T: Residence C-1 Zone			
REASON FOR PETITION:						
/Change in Use/Occupancy/ /Conversion to Additional Dwelling Units/ /Subdivision/						
DESCRIPTION OF DETERIONED	C DROBOCAL					

DESCRIPTION OF PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL:

To subdivide pre-existing lot merged as a result of common ownership with Lesley college that results in a dimensionally non-conforming lot. Finish some pre-existing unfinished area of the lower level of a 3 Family house, adding new living space and make it a new unit.

SECTIONS OF ZONING ORDINANCE CITED:

Article: 5.000 Section: 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements).

Article: 4,000 Section: 4.31.g (Multifamily dwelling)

Article: 8.000 Section: 8.22.3 (Alteration of a nonconforming structure or of a nonconforming use)

Article: 10.000 Section: 10.30 (Variance).

Article: 5.000 Section: 5.26 (Conversion) & Sec. 5.15 (Subdivision).

> Original Signature(s):

(Petitioner (s) / Owner)

Address:

617-504-2125

PO Box 812777, Wellesley MA 02482

Tel. No.

E-Mail Address:

RichardXiao.RE@Gmail.com

Date: 9/1/23

BZA Application Form

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

Applicant: Location:

Meimei Zhao &. Quan Xiao 21 Mellen St. Cambridge MA

Phone: 617-504-2125 Present Use/Occupancy: THREE-FM-RES

Zone: Residence C-1 Zone

Requested Use/Occupancy: 4 Family Residential

		Existing Conditions	Requested Conditions	Ordinance Requirements	
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA:		5293	No Change	N/A	(max.)
LOT AREA:		4127	No Change	5000	(min.)
RATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO LOT AREA: ²		1.28	No Change	0.75	
LOT AREA OF EACH DWELLING UNIT		1376	1032	1500	3
SIZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	29	No Change	50	
	DEPTH	142.3	No Change	N/A	
SETBACKS IN FEET:	FRONT	20	No Change	4	



DEBORA ALVARES MARCONDES

Notary Public Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Commission Expires March 04, 2027

BZA APPLICATION FORM - OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

To be completed by OWNER, signed before a notary and returned to The Secretary of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

_{I/we} Meimei Zhao and Quan Xiao
Address: PO BOX 812777, Wellesley, MA 02482
State that I/We own the property located at 21 Mellen St. Cambridge, MA 02138,
which is the subject of this zoning application.
The record title of this property is in the name of Meimei Zhao and Quan Xiao
*Pursuant to a deed of duly recorded in the date $\frac{4/26/2022}{}$, Middlesex South
County Registry of Deeds at Book, Page; or
Middlesex Registry District of Land Court, Certificate No. 279135
Book Page <u>Doc. No. 1912326</u> .
HS Ne.
SIGNATURE BY LAND OWNER OR AGENT*
*Written evidence of Agent's standing to represent petitioner may be requested.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of Moyolk
The above-name Thomas and lugar Morpersonally appeared before me,
this 1 of September, 2023, and made oath that the above statement is true.
Jell Mauronde Notary
My commission expires (Notary Seal).
Common Common Common Common Common Massarchies Clisa 4. Security Common Common Massarch 64, 2027

 If ownership is not shown in recorded deed, e.g. if by court order, recent deed, or inheritance, please include documentation.



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BZA Application Form

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR A VARIANCE

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR A VARIANCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND SET FORTH IN COMPLETE DETAIL BY THE APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL 40A, SECTION 10.

A) A literal enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner or appellant for the following reasons:

There is an increased demand for affordable housing in the community. The Petitioner seeks to finish the exsiting lower level space so to accormodate more tenants especially for students looking for affordable apartments near the campus. The lower level is a partially finished ground level walkout full basement space. The space is wasted if not fully utilized and create financial hardship to petitioner especially with the higher inflation on utility, building maintenance cost and recent bank interest rise, more rental income is needed to support the property as well as to keep its rent level low for tenants and offering tenants improved services.

The hardship is owing to the following circumstances relating to the soil conditions, shape or topography of such land or structures and especially affecting such land or structures but not affecting generally the zoning district in which it is located for the following reasons:

The hardship is due to the space constraints in the existing structure. Valuable space is wasted.

C) DESIRABLE RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT EITHER:

Desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good for the following reasons:

There is no detriment to the public good if the relief is granted. The Petitioner only seeks to utilize the lower level's space in the existing structure. The petitioner is not adding any gross floor area nor changing any exterior feature of the building. The petitioner is not constructing or altering the existing stucture in any way. Instead, the petitioner will be meeting a demand for quality and affordable housing by the community. So by granting the relief, the petitioner will be able to help and serve the public good by offering an apartment to more familiy and tenants especially those students and young professionals seeking apartment in the neighborhood. Adding an additional unit can increase the supply, thus providing more options to the renters to chose from. During the process, some existing features of the building will also be brought up to code thus making the place a much safer and better place to live. The gound level location may potentially make the new apartment a handicap accessable rental unit.

2) Desirable relief may be granted without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this Ordinance for the following reasons:

The relief granted will not nullify or substantially degrogating from the intent or pupose of the Ordinance. (1) The petitioner is only seeking to finish and utilize an existing lower level space in order

accomodate more tenants in need of an apartment. The relief granted would further the intent and purpose of the Ordinance because it would increase the supply of affordable apartment to the general public and will allow the petitioner to serve more tenants. (2) There will be no changes on the outside appearance of building, nor on the gross floor area, open space, set back or structure of the building. All work will be done within the walls of the building and only in its existing unfinished lower level spaces. (3) There is no structural change to the exsiting building as well. The petitioner is only seeking to add some new patitional walls. The petitioner will not remove any exsiting load bearing walls or

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any supporting structure of the building. (4) The work only occurs at its lower level and not effect any other units in the building. In fact, the process will bring the entire building up to code, thus making it a safer and better property. (5) The gound level location may potentially make the new added lower level apartment a handicap accessable rental unit which will further benefit a diversified community.

*If you have any questions as to whether you can establish all of the applicable legal requirements, you should consult with an attorney.

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E-Mail Address: RichardXiao.RE@Gmail.com

Date:	

BZA Application Form

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

Applicant: Meimei Zhao &. Quan Xiao
Location: 21 Mellen St., Cambridge, MA

21 Mellen St, Cambridge, MA

Phone: 617-504-2125

Present Use/Occupancy: <u>THREE-FM-RES</u>
Zone: <u>Residence C-1 Zone</u>
Requested Use/Occupancy: 4 Family Residential

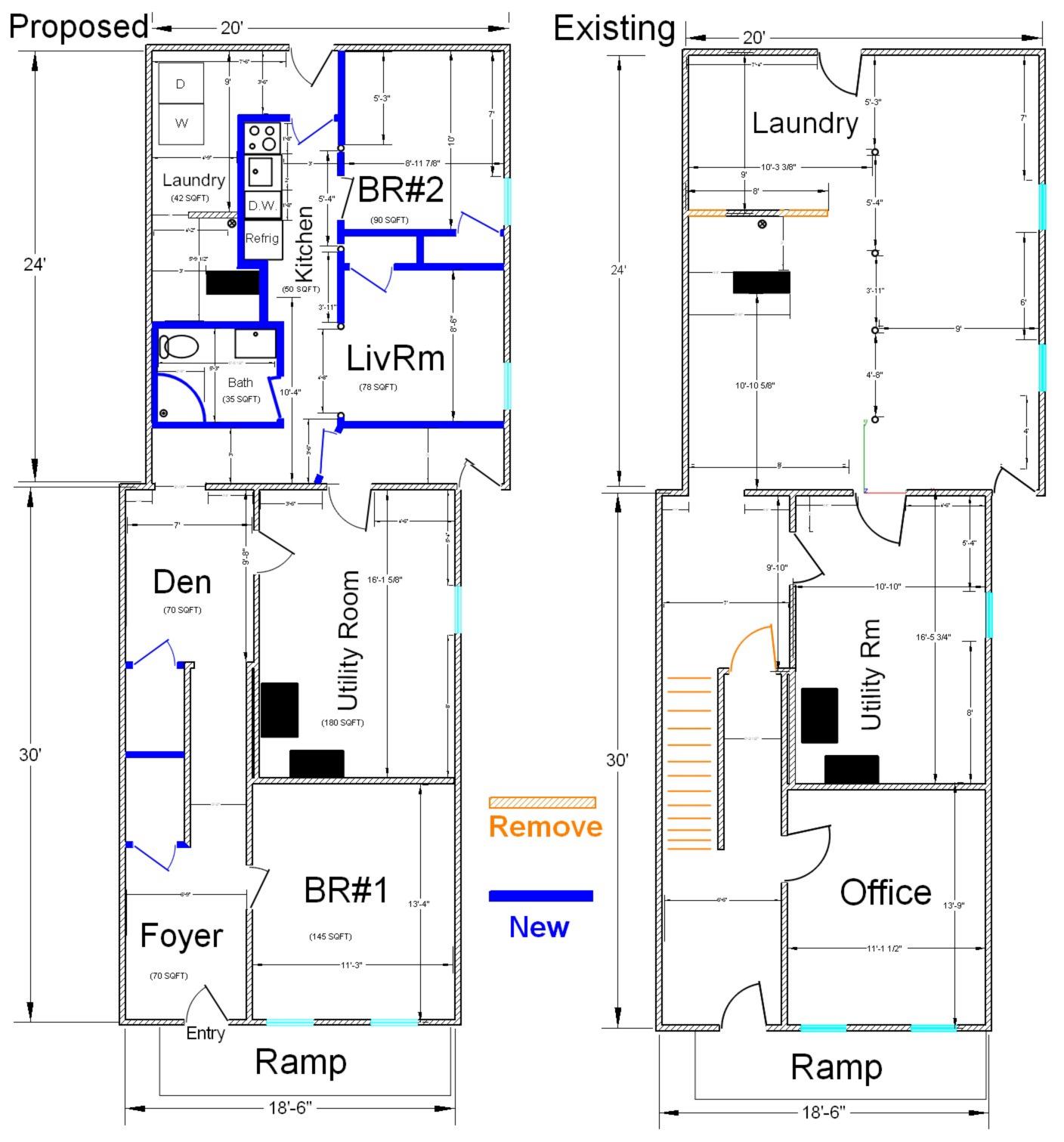
		Existing Conditions	Requested Conditions	Ordinance Requirements	
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA:		5293	No Change	N/A	(max.)
LOT AREA:		4127	No Change	5000	(min.)
RATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO LOT AREA: ²		1.28	No Change	0.75	
LOT AREA OF EACH DWELLING UNIT		1376	1032	1500	
SIZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	29	No Change	50	
	DEPTH	142.3	No Change	N/A	
SETBACKS IN FEET:	FRONT	20	No Change	4	
	REAR	58	No Change	4	
	LEFT SIDE	o (Row house)	No Change	5	
	RIGHT SIDE	5.3	No Change	5	
SIZE OF BUILDING:	HEIGHT	35	No Change	35	
	WIDTH	54	No Change	N/A	
	LENGTH	20	 No Change	N/A	
RATIO OF USABLE OPEN SPACE TO LOT AREA:		59%	No Change	30%	
NO. OF DWELLING UNITS:		3	4	N/A	
NO. OF PARKING SPACES:		1	No Change	N/A	
NO. OF LOADING AREAS:		0	No Change	N/A	
DISTANCE TO NEAREST BLDG. ON SAME LOT		N/A	N/A	N/A	

Describe where applicable, other occupancies on the same lot, the size of adjacent buildings on same lot, and type of construction proposed, e.g; wood frame, concrete, brick, steel, etc.:

Only one building on the lot, no other structure.

- 1. SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS).
- 2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT 7'-0" IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.
- 3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.

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ABL

REGISTERED LAND SURVEYORS P.O. Box 70702

Quinsigamond Village Station WORCESTER, MA 01607 508-752-8050 (PHONE) 508-752-8004 (FAX)

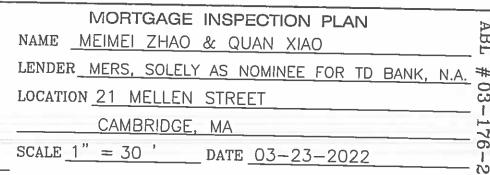
A Division of H. S. & T. Group, Inc.

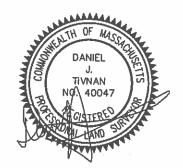
REGISTRY MIDDLESEX SOUTH

BASED UPON DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED, REQUIRED MEASURE—
MENTS WERE MADE OF THE FRONTAGE AND BUILDING(5) SHOWN
ON THIS MORTCAGE INSPECTION PLAN. IN DUR JUDGEMENT ALL
VISIBLE EASEMENTS ARE SHOWN AND THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS
OF ZONING REQUIREMENTS RECARDING STRUCTURES TO PROPERTY
LINE OFFSETS (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN DRAWING BELOW).
NOTE: NOT DEFINED ARE ABOVEGROUND POOLS, DRIVEWAYS,
OR SHEDS WITH NO FOUNDATIONS. THIS IS A MORTGAGE
INSPECTION PLAN; NOT AN INSTRUMENT SURVEY. DO NOT USE TO
ERECT FENCES, OTHER BOUNDARY STRUCTURES, OR TO PLANT
SHRUBS. LOCATION OF THE STRUCTURE(S) SHOWN HEREON IS EITHER
IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL ZONING FOR PROPERTY LINE OFFSET
REQUIREMENTS, OR IS EXEMPT FROM VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT
ACTION UNDER MASS. GL. TITLE VI. CHAP. 40A, SEC. 7, UNILESS
OTHERWISE NOTED. THIS CERTIFICATION IS NON-TRANSFERABLE.
THE ABOVE CERTIFICATIONS ARE MADE WITH THE PROVISION THAT
THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS ACCURATE AND THAT THE MEASURE—
MENTS USED ARE ACCURATELY LOCATED IN RELATION TO THE
PROPERTY LINES.

CERTIFY TO:

MERS, SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR TO BANK, N.A. **MEIMEI ZHAO & QUAN XIAO**





DEED BOOK/PAGE #551998

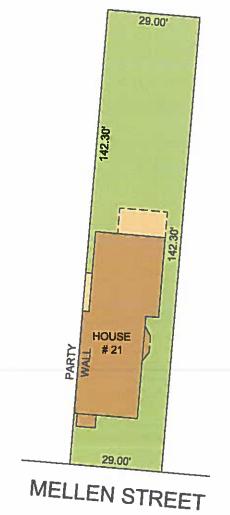
PLAN BOOK/PLAN #21483-A

WE CERTIFY THAT THE BUILDING(S) ARE NOT WITHIN THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA. SEE FEMA MAP:

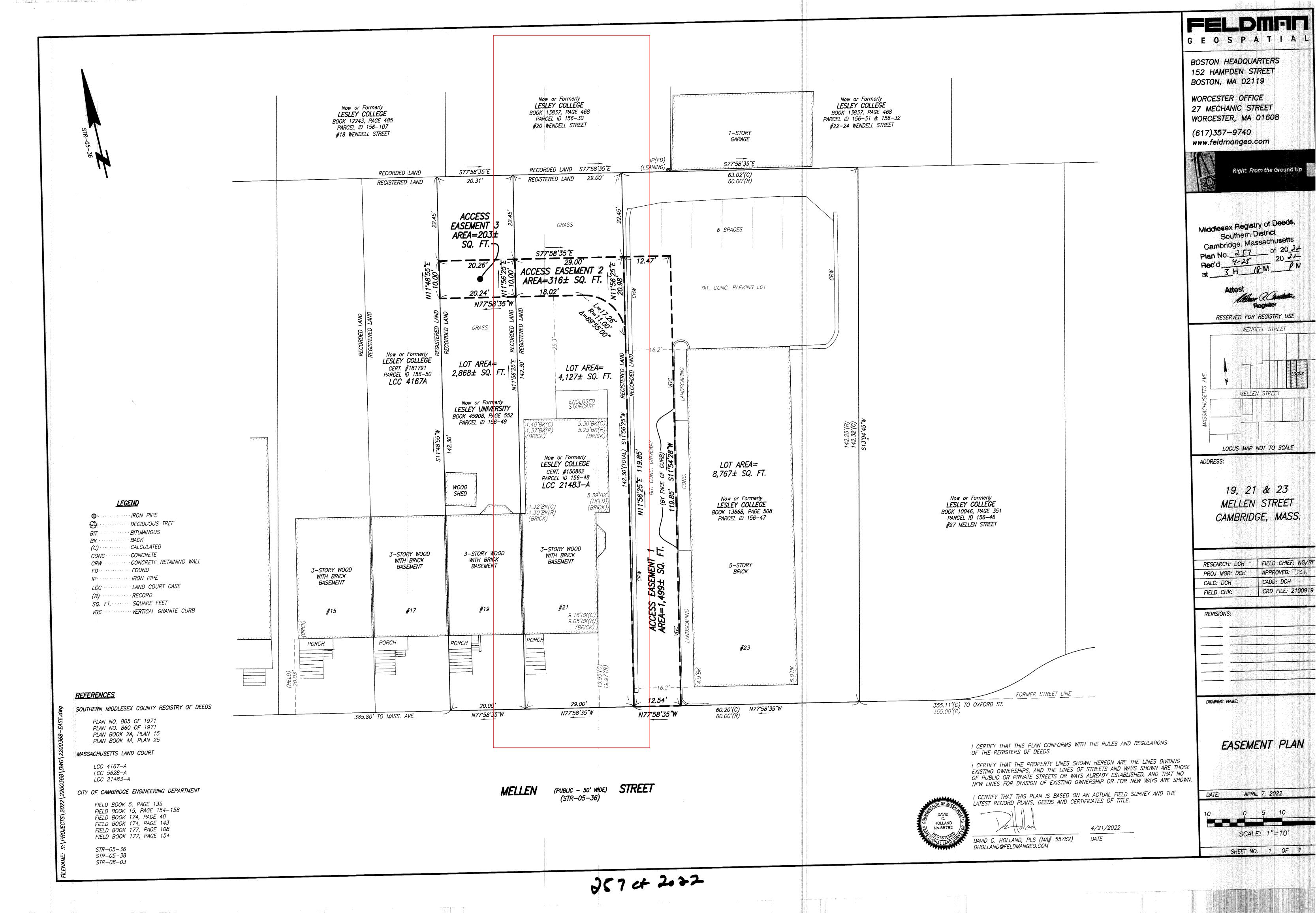
438E

ото 06-04-10

FLOOD HAZARD ZONE HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY SCALE AND IS NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE. UNTIL DEFINITIVE PLANS ARE ISSUED BY FEMA AND/OR A VERTICAL CONTROL SURVEY IS PERFORMED, PRECISE ELEVATIONS CANNOT BE DETERMINED.



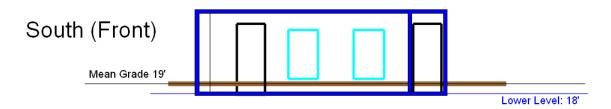


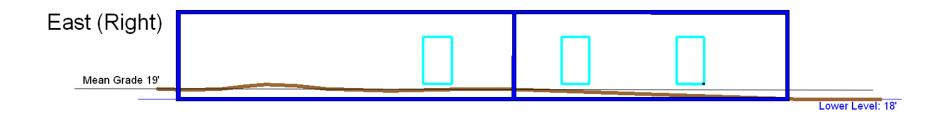


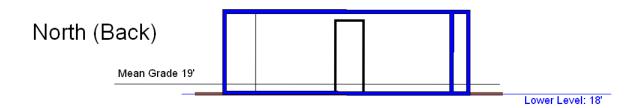
21 Mellen St, GIS Data



Elevation







































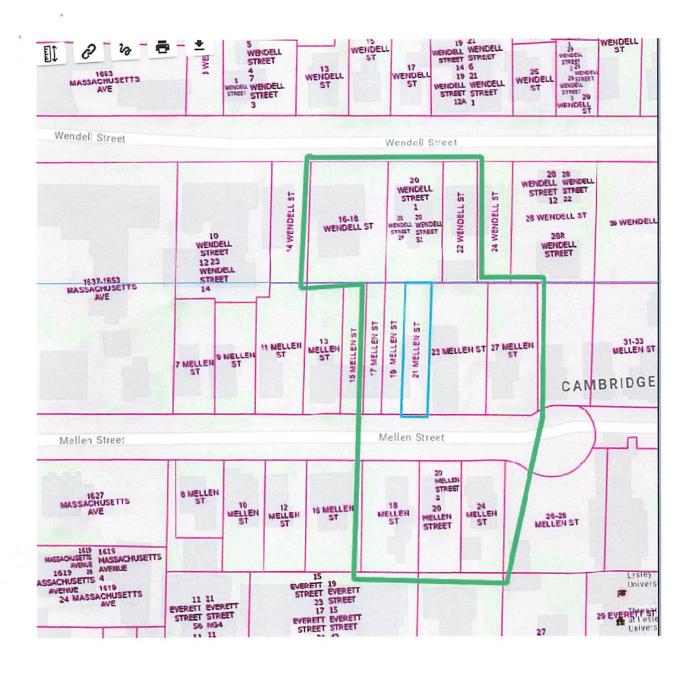












Abutters 21 Mellen

			Land Area
# .	Street	Owner Info	sqft 👵
17	Mellen St	Mellen Properties Llc	2,845
19	Mellen St	Mellen Properties Llc	2,845
23	Mellen St	Lesley College	8,579
27	Mellen St	Lesley College	7,801
18	Mellen St	Harvard College	7,084
20	Mellen St	Harvard College	5,310
24	Mellen St	Lesley College	5,270
16-18	Wendell St	Lesley College	10,407
20	Wendell St	Lesley College	7,499
22	Wendell St	Lesley College	4,725

From Owner of:

17 Mellen St

19 Mellen St



Re: Yard Work- 17 19 21 mellen st Cambrige

1 message

Liva Rong <inttax@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 9:52 PM

To: Richard Xiao <richardxiao.re@gmail.com>

Cc: Meimei Zhao <mmzhao@gmail.com>, Luca Dell'Anese <lucadellanese@hotmail.com>

Sure, you will have our support for your project, of course.

Best Liya

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 24, 2022, at 9:41 PM, Richard Xiao <richardxiao.re@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Liya,

I was there today at Mellen St and saw that you are going to start your driveway project soon. I will be traveling out of town this weekend till next Thursday for a vacation, so could you please let me know the estimated time frame of your project, so I can let my tenants know. During my travel my cell phone may not have signals, but I will check emails from time to time in case you need to reach me.

Also, I am about to apply to the city to finish my basement and convert the lower level area into a new apartment. The city would like to hear from the neighbors about their opinions. I wish I could have your support. If you have any concerns, please let me know.

Thank you very much!

Richard 617-504-2125

On Thu, Jun 16, 2022 at 10:02 AM Liya Rong <inttax@gmail.com> wrote: Got it , Richard !

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2022, at 7:32 AM, Richard Xiao <richardxiao.re@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you Liya,

Nice to meet you and Brian yesterday.

Thank you for allowing my contractor to put ladder in your backyard during exterior repair. It is an old house and needs lots of work. Currently they tentatively will do the repair on this Sat 6/18 after 9AM but still depend on their schedule. They may be in your yard for a couple of hours. I told my contractor not to start until after 9AM so it does not disturb tenants' weekend morning.

There is a 1.3-1.4 ft space from my foundation wall to the property line. After you install your new fence and move the current deck posts to your side of the property line, I will grade the ground, and reroute the downspout at the corner all the way back and drain it to my lawn, so to keep rain water away from both of our foundation walls. Currently there is a low spot right at the corner, and it will trap water there. And thank you for informing your tenants not to attach anything on the wall and siding of my building. Regarding those existing bolts/brackets that are currently locking your deck onto my wall, I trust Brian can solve this issue and still keep your deck safe.

As to the green box of the irrigation control system in the back, I am not sure if that is part of Lesley's easement and if Lesley is still using it? or it is still actively supplied with water. Beside the driveway easement, Lesley also has a conduit easement paragraph related to their wires, cables and pipes buried

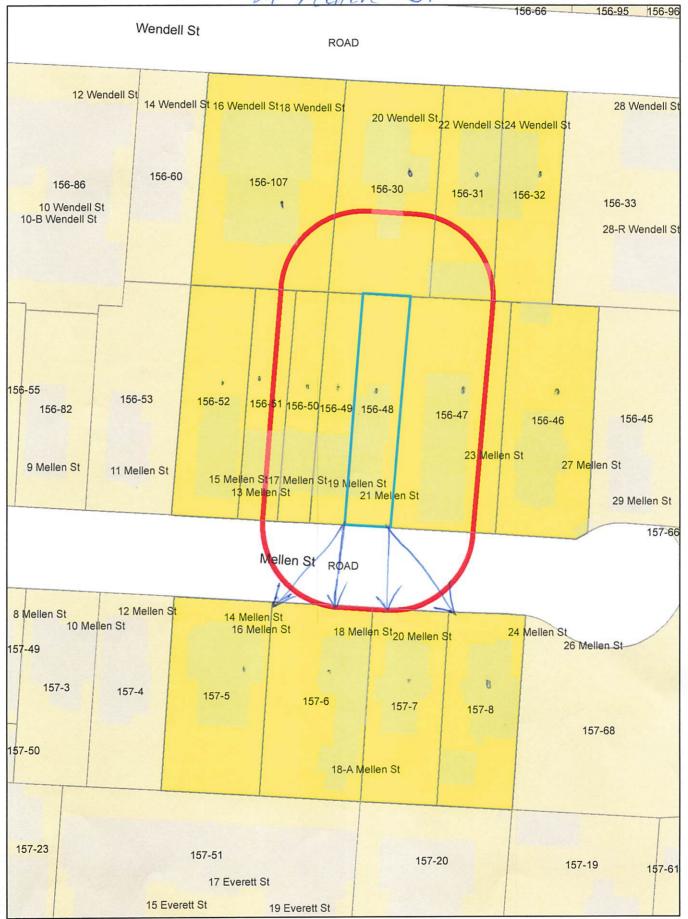
From Owner of:

- 23 Mellen St
- 27 Mellen St
- 24 Mellen St
- 16-18 Wendell St
- 20 Wendell St
- 22 Wendell St

- (b) The Premises abut a public way.
- 44. TENANTS/OCCUPANTS; ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF THE LEASE. The Buyer shall accept the Premises subject to the Standard Form Lease Agreement, dated May 26, 2021, a copy of which is attached hereto in Exhibit A (the "Lease"). At the time of Closing, the Seller shall assign and Buyer shall assume all obligations under Lease effective as of the Closing Date.
- 45. KEYS; MANUALS; WARRANTIES. Seller will provide Buyer with all keys, manuals, warranties (if any, and if assignable at no cost to Seller) and other information in Seller's possession and control regarding the systems, fixtures, equipment and appliances used in connection with the Premises at the time of the Closing. It is understood that Seller will provide manuals, warranties and any other documentation as a courtesy and an accommodation to Buyer, and that the existence and/or delivery of such materials are not conditions of the Closing.
- 46. POST-CLOSING ADJUSTMENTS. In the event any adjustment or apportionment made pursuant to this Agreement is, within sixty (60) days subsequent to the Closing, found to be erroneous, then either Party hereto who is entitled to additional monies shall invoice (along with reasonably detailed back-up data) the other Party for such additional amounts as may be owing, and such amounts shall be paid, with good funds, within ten (10) days from the date of the invoice unless the adjustment is disputed in good faith by the other Party. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the Closing and delivery of the deed hereunder for sixty (60) days.
- 47. BUSINESS DAY. For purposes of this Agreement, "business day" means any day on which business is generally transacted by banks in the Boston, Massachusetts metropolitan area. If any deadline or date for performance or providing notice contained herein (including, without limitation, any contingencies or extensions of the time for performance under this Agreement), falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, as the case may be, such deadline or other date shall be automatically extended to the immediately following business day.
- 48. SEVERABILITY. If any one or more of the provisions hereof shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.
- 49. NO OFFER OR BINDING CONTRACT. The Parties hereto agree that the submission of an unexecuted copy or counterpart of this Agreement by one party to another is not intended by either party to be, or be deemed to be, a legally binding contract or an offer to enter into a legally binding contract. The Parties shall be legally bound pursuant to the terms of this Agreement only if and when the Parties have been able to negotiate all of the terms and provisions of this Agreement in a manner acceptable to each of the Parties in their respective sole discretion, and both Seller and Buyer have fully executed and delivered this Agreement.
- 50. EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS. Seller agrees to sign only those usual and customary affidavits required by Buyer's closing attorney or title insurance company, including IRS reporting affidavits, mechanic's lien and title insurance affidavits, provided however that Seller shall not be required to sign a so-called "survey" affidavit, nor make any representations or warranties not set forth in this Agreement, or incur additional liability on account thereof.
- BUYER AND SELLER MUTUAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. Buyer acknowledges having been informed that the Property is located in close proximity to Lesley's Doble Campus; Lesley is in the process of implementing a new Campus Plan (see website: https://lesley.edu/about/lesley-campus-plan) which will entail capital investments and improvements to its facilities, and potential changes in the use of certain facilities at certain facilities in and around the Doble Campus; and Buyer agrees not to oppose such plans provided that such plan does not materially, negatively impact the marketability of the Property or materially, negatively interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the Premises by its Buyer or tenants. Seller acknowledges having been informed that the Buyer of the Premises intends (at some time in the future) to finish the basement of the existing building to add more living area or potentially another unit in the lower level to provide additional rental housing in the neighborhood; and Seller agrees not to unreasonably oppose these plans provided that all such work is done within the boundary of the existing building walls and foundation footprint, and further does not materially, negatively change the outside appearance of the building, and further that Buyer performs all work with building permits and any and all applicable municipal approvals.

[Signatures appear on the next page.]

21 Mellen St



21 Mellen St.

156-46-47-30-31-32-107 / 157-8 LESLEY COLLEGE 29 EVERETT STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

156-50 MELLEN PROPERTIES LLC 99 WESTCLIFF RD WESTON, MA 02493

156-51 BOKIL HEMANT CIMENSER AYLIN 15 MELLEN ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 157-5-6-7
PRESIDENT & FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE
C/O HARVARD REAL ESTATE INC.
HOLYOKE CENTER - ROOM #1000
1350 MASS AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138-3895

156-49 MELLEN STREET REALTY LLC 99 WESTCLIFF RD WESTON, MA 02493

ZHAO, MEIMEI & QUAN XIAO 21 MELLEN STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 156-48 ZHAO, MEIMEI & QUAN XIAO P.O. BOX 812777 WELLESLEY, MA 02482

156-52 11-13 MELLEN STREET LLC 10 SCOTCH PINE CIR WELLESLEY, MA 02481