



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Government Administration And Elections Committee
Public Hearing
March 23, 2009

**HB 6695 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS
OF STATE LAND.**

Chairmen Slossberg and Spallone, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hetherington and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I would like to begin by thanking you for including a parcel of land in Ridgefield in this year's conveyance bill.

Section 6 of HB 6695 contains the language for this conveyance known as 424 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7) Ridgefield. The parcel in question is 2.146 +/- acres and is under the Department of Environment and not the Connecticut Department of Transportation as the current language indicates.

The said property was purchased by the State of Connecticut in 1959. The original purpose of this and other properties in the area was to create a flood control containment area that was never implemented.

In 2004, the occupant of the property (since it's acquisition in 1959, Walpole Woodworkers) relocated their commercial fence and outbuilding operation and the property became vacant. The buildings were functionally obsolete and the state DEP commenced with their demolition and site clean-up.

In 2006, I initiated a study of the property by the Town of Ridgefield to see if it was suitable and viable for recreational purposes.

After reviewing the town's recreational facility needs, and a review of this parcel, it was determined that it would meet a growing need for athletic fields (particularly in this part of Ridgefield) and was the proper size and configuration for a little league or multi-purpose athletic field. It is the perfect size to accommodate a field and necessary parking. The topography and drainage appear to be perfect.

In November 2007 I met with DEP Commissioner McCarthy who was enthusiastic about putting this property to a positive use furthering the 'No Child Left Inside' initiative of Governor Rell and Commissioner McCarthy.

We met again in May, 2008 and the agency remained supportive of giving the Town of Ridgefield use of the property for recreational purposes. It appears the best way to accomplish this is to convey it to the Town of Ridgefield.

I have attached maps, a survey and other supporting documentation.

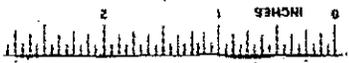
It would be the intent of the Town of Ridgefield to use this property as an athletic field and they are in agreement that their use would be restricted for recreational purposes. They have tentatively identified private funding sources to install bleachers, sod, etc for a little league field.

In addition, parking would be available for use by those who use the Norwalk River Watershed Study area which is located nearby. This area has long been used by local school children and others as part of their study of rivers and watershed areas.

This conveyance is supported by the Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, and by the Board of Selectmen and Parks and Recreation Commission.

I thank you for inclusion of this parcel and can assure you that the property will be enjoyed by children for many years to come if this conveyance occurs.

Language change: Conveyance is from Department of the Environment and not Department of Transportation. Size of parcel is 2.146 +/- acres.



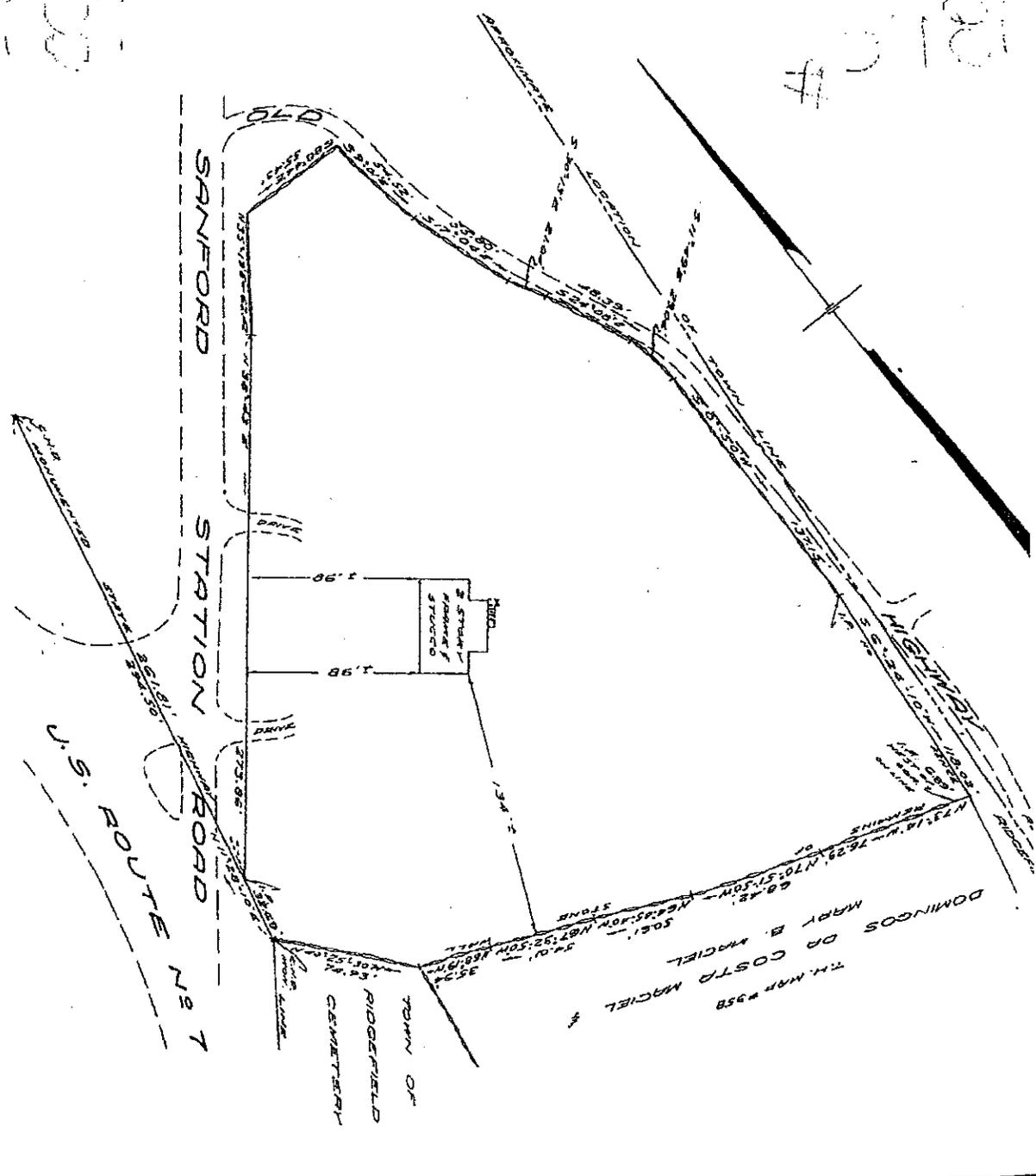
REFERENCE IS HEREBY
MADE TO MAP # 958

WALPOLE WOODWORKERS INC.

MAP

PREPARED FOR
RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT
AREA = 2.146 ACRES

GEORGE W. HENNING LAND SURVEYOR



2181

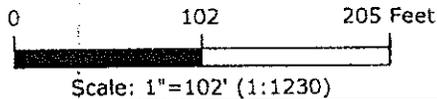


* Buildings have been removed
by state.

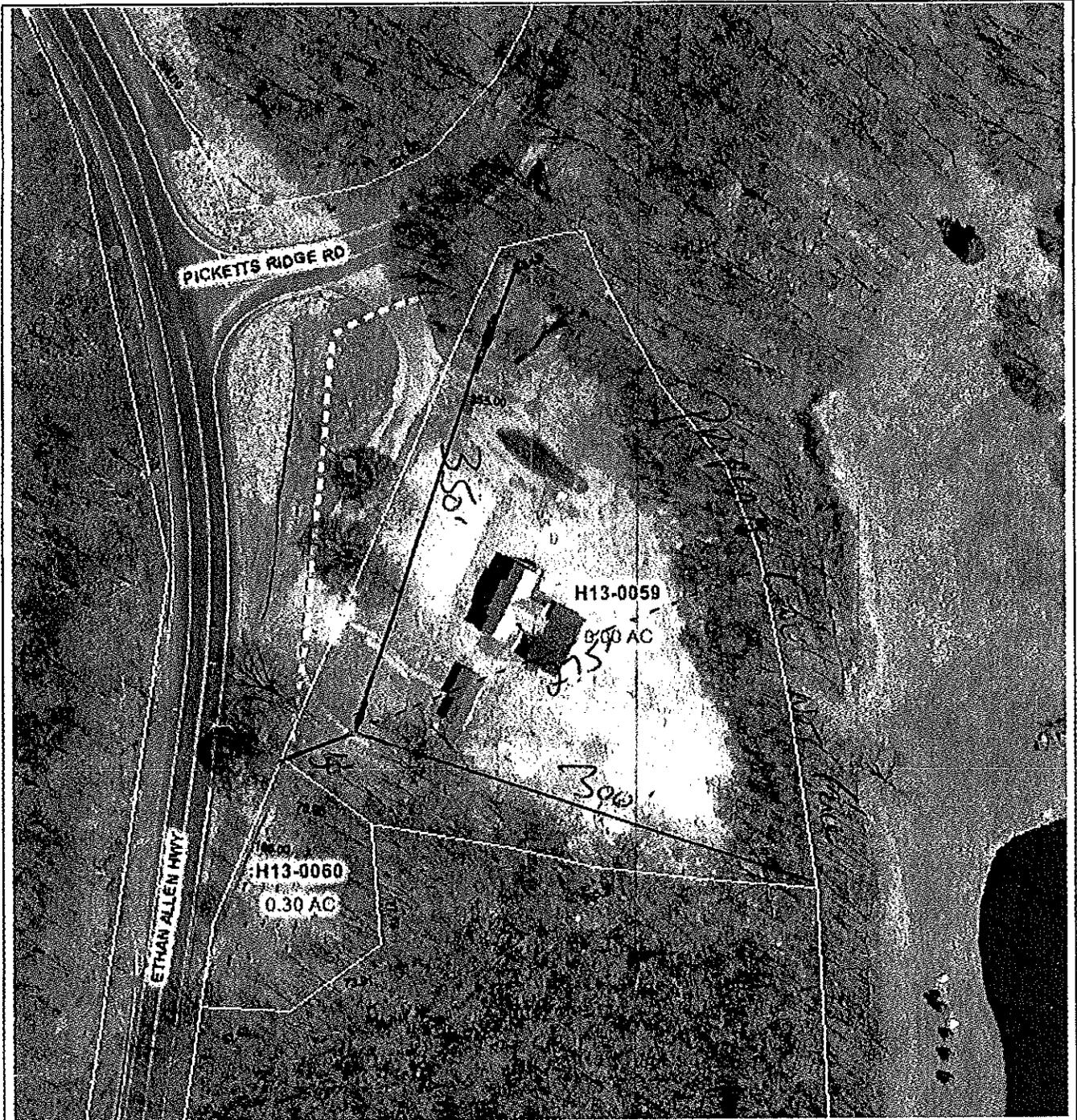
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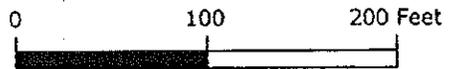
Interactive Map



Date:
3/04/09



Interactive Map



Scale: 1"=100' (1:1200)



Date:
5/06/08

Parcel ID: H12-0003
Owner: ~~ROONEY~~
Parcel Address: ~~600 ETHAN ALLEN HWY~~

