Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment January 12, 2021

File:	A/125/20
Address:	11175 Kennedy Rd – Markham, ON
Applicant:	Buddha Meditation Center
Agent:	N/A
Hearing Date:	January 20, 2020

The following comments are provided on behalf of the West Team. The property is split zoned "Agricultural One (A1) Zone" and "Rural Residential One (RR1) Zone". The applicant is requesting relief from the following requirement under By-law 304-87, as amended, to permit:

a) By-law 304-87, Section 5.5:

an accessory structure to be located a minimum distance of 33.0 m (108.27 ft) from the centre line of Kennedy Road, whereas the By-law permits no part of any building or structure to be within 40.0 m (131.23 ft) from the centre line of any arterial road.

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The 0.82 Ha (2.03 Ac) subject property is located on the east side of Kennedy Road, north of Elgin Mills Road, and south of 19th Avenue. The subject property is developed with one and two-storey buildings for a place of worship use, and accessory uses to the principal use. There is an existing structure located within the front yard area, and parking located in the rear of the subject property which is accessed by a driveway from Kennedy Road as shown in the Site Plan (Appendix "B"). Mature vegetation exists throughout the property.

The subject property is located within the City's Countryside Area, and abuts vacant land to the north, and agricultural land to the east. Permitted, and existing land uses along Kennedy Road between 19th Avenue and Elgin Mills Road East include, and are not limited to:

- low density (rural) residential;
- open space;
- places of worship north of the property along the west side of Kennedy Road; and
- cemeteries north and south of the property, along the east and west sides of Kennedy Road (see Appendices "D" and "E").

Proposal

There is an existing monument located in the front yard of the property. The applicant is proposing to construct an unenclosed accessory structure which would cover the monument ("the proposed development"). The accessory structure has an area of approximately 63.30 m² (681.36 ft²).

Official Plan and Zoning

<u>Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on November 24/17, and updated on April 9/18)</u> The subject property is designated "Countryside", which is generally intended to support farming activities, and protect agricultural, agriculture-related, and compatible nonagriculture related uses. The subject property is also within Site Specific Policy Area 9.8, subject to Policy 9.8.3.j. which permits a place of worship use with a maximum gross floor area of 860.0 m² (9,256.96 ft²).

The City of Markham's Official Plan identifies Kennedy Road as a Region of York Arterial Road which has a planned right of way width of up to 36.0 m (118.11 ft), as identified in Map 12 of the Regional Municipality of York's Official Plan 2019 Office Consolidation.

Zoning By-Law 304-87, as amended by By-law 2014-42

The subject property is split zoned "Agricultural One (A1) Zone" and "Rural Residential One (RR1) Zone" under By-law 304-87, as amended, which permits one single detached dwelling and uses accessory to the primary residential use. Amending By-law 2014-42 permits a place of worship, and accessory uses related to a place of worship, subject to special site provisions that limit size.

The proposed development does not comply with the By-law with respect to the minimum setback requirement from the centre line of Kennedy Road to an accessory building or structure.

Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Not Undertaken

The applicant has confirmed that a ZPR has not been conducted. However the applicant has received comments from the building department through their permit process to confirm the variance required for the proposed development.

COMMENTS

The *Planning Act* states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment ("the Committee"):

- a) The variance must be minor in nature;
- b) The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- c) The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained;
- d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

Reduction in Minimum Setback to Centre Line of Kennedy Road

The applicant is requesting an accessory structure to be located a minimum distance of 33.0 m (108.27 ft) from the centre line of Kennedy Road to the front of the proposed development, whereas the By-law requires a minimum setback of 40.0 m (131.23 ft) from the centre line of Kennedy Road to any part of a building or structure. This is a reduction of approximately 7.0 m (22.97 ft).

The intent of the provision is to provide for adequate space for any future right-of-way widening's. Kennedy Road is a Regional arterial road that is owned and operated by the Regional Municipality of York. Map 12 – Street Network in York Region's Official Plan 2010 indicates a planned street width of up to 36.0 m (118.11 ft). The Regional Municipality of York provides no comments in relation to the proposed development (Appendix "C"). Staff's primary concern is related to any future need to expand the existing Kennedy Road

right-of-way. With consideration to the received comments, staff are satisfied that the approval of this variance would not adversely inhibit any future Kennedy Road right-of-way widening's, and do not object to the variance.

Tree Protection

Urban Forestry staff recommend the installation of tree protection barriers for any trees located within the access and construction zone. Staff recommend that a condition to protect these trees as provided in Appendix "A" be adopted by the Committee in the event of approval.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of January 12, 2021. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

CONCLUSION

Planning staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended*, and are of the opinion that the variance request meets the four tests of the *Planning Act,* and do not object to the requested variance.

The onus is ultimately on the applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the By-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the *Planning Act* required for the granting of minor variances. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

Please see Appendix "A" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

APPENDICES

Appendix "A" – Conditions of Approval Appendix "B" – Plans Appendix "C" – Regional Municipality of York Comments Appendix "D" – Aerial Photograph: Kennedy Road Appendix "E" – Zoning Map: Kennedy Road

PREPARED BY:

Aleks Todorovski, Planner, Zoning and Special Projects

REVIEWED BY:

Stephen Kitagawa, Acting-Development Manager, West District

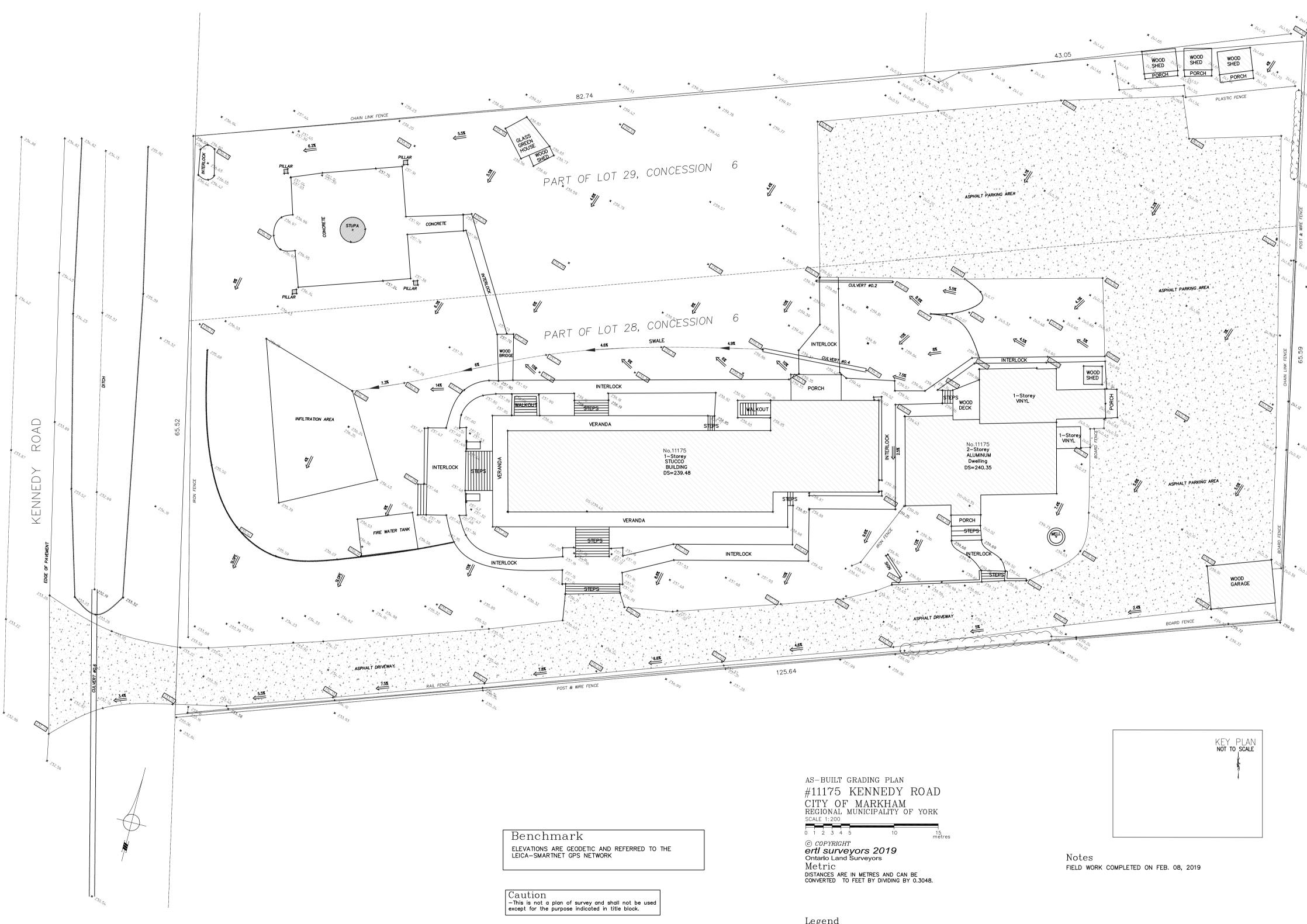
APPENDIX "A" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/125/20

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains.
- 2. That the variances apply only to the subject development, in substantial conformity with the batch stamped plans attached as Appendix "B" to this Staff Report, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Director of Planning and Urban Design or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to his or her satisfaction.
- 3. That prior to the commencement of construction or demolition, tree protection be erected and maintained around trees within 6.0 m (19.69 ft) of the access and construction zone on site, and including any street trees, in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual (2009) as amended, and inspected by City Staff to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation Technician or Director of Operations, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation that this condition has been fulfilled to his or her satisfaction.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

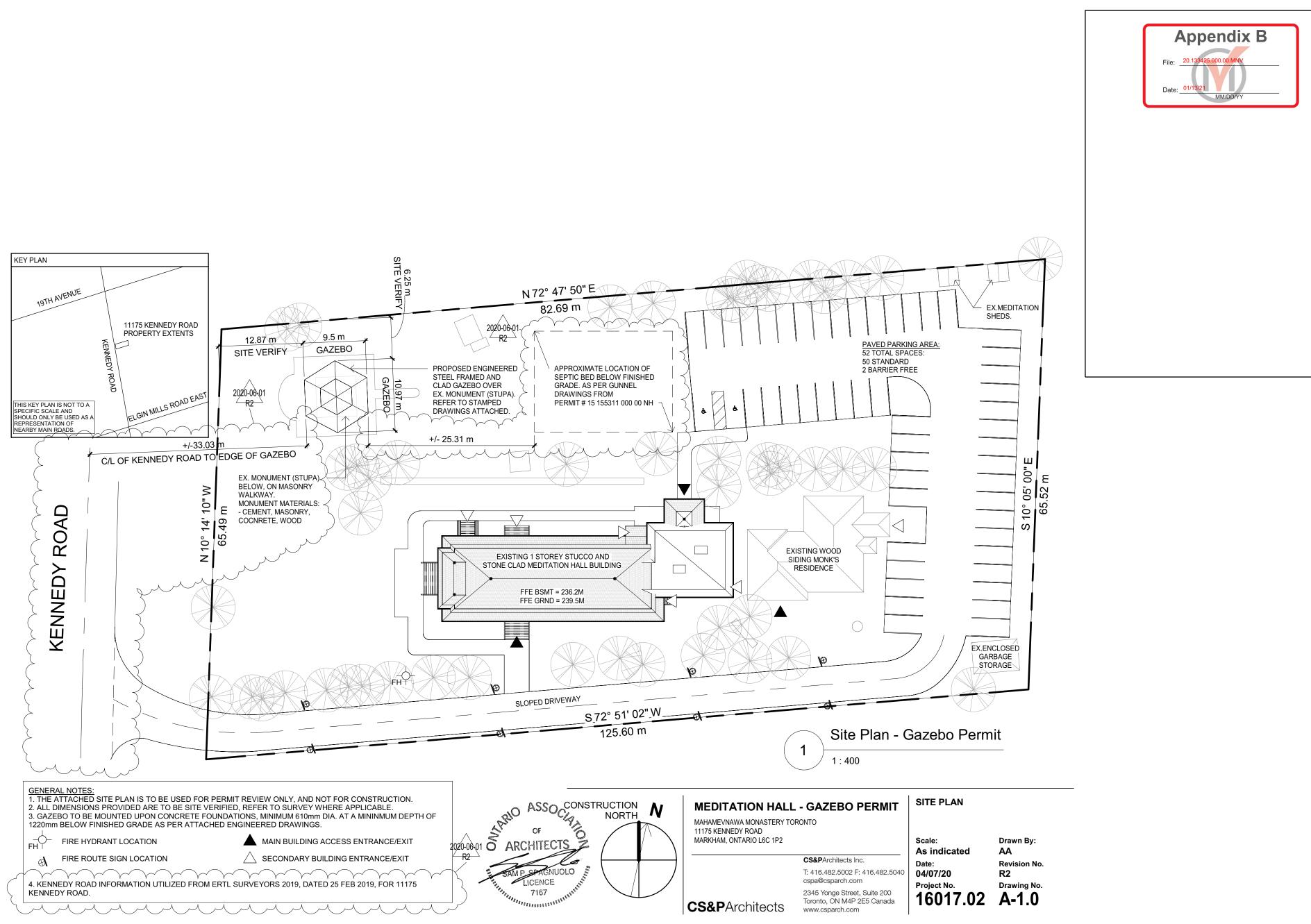
Aleks Todorovski, Planner, Zoning and Special Projects

APPENDIX "B" PLANS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/125/20

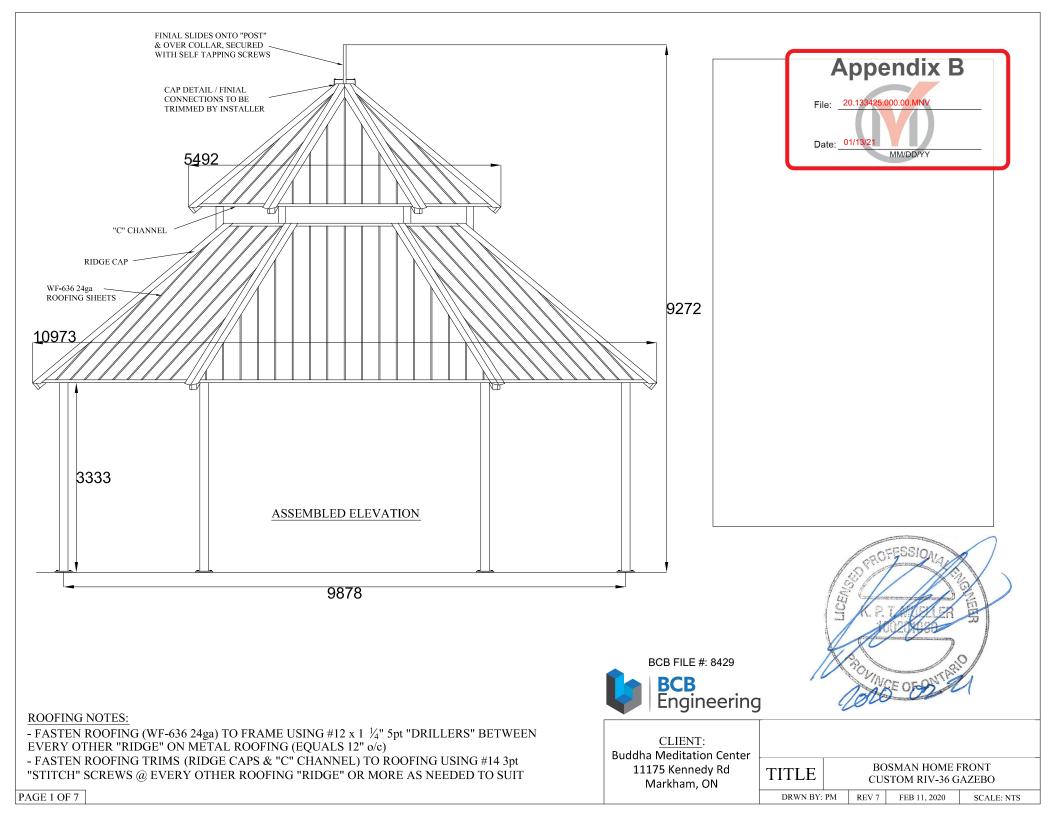


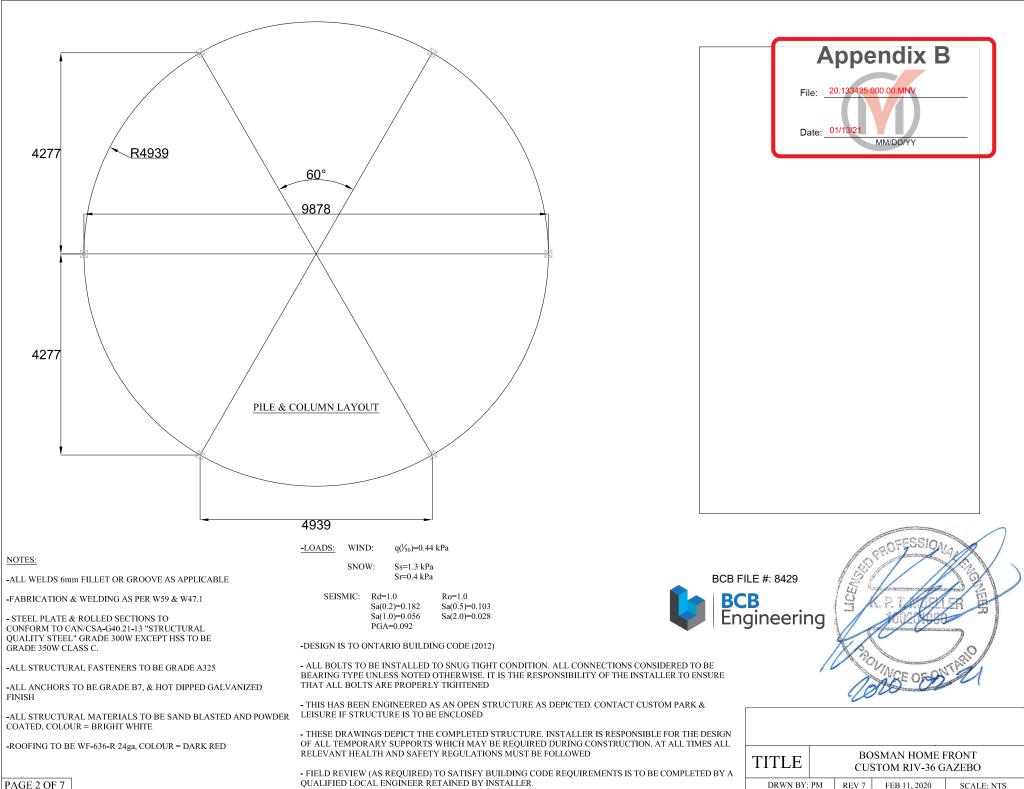
Legend xxx.xx DENOTES AS-BUILT ELEVATION xxx.xx DENOTES GRADIENT CALCULATION ELEVATION DS DENOTES DOOR SILL ELEVATION

Existing Survey Vector File to be used for Reference Only DWG: **V1.2**

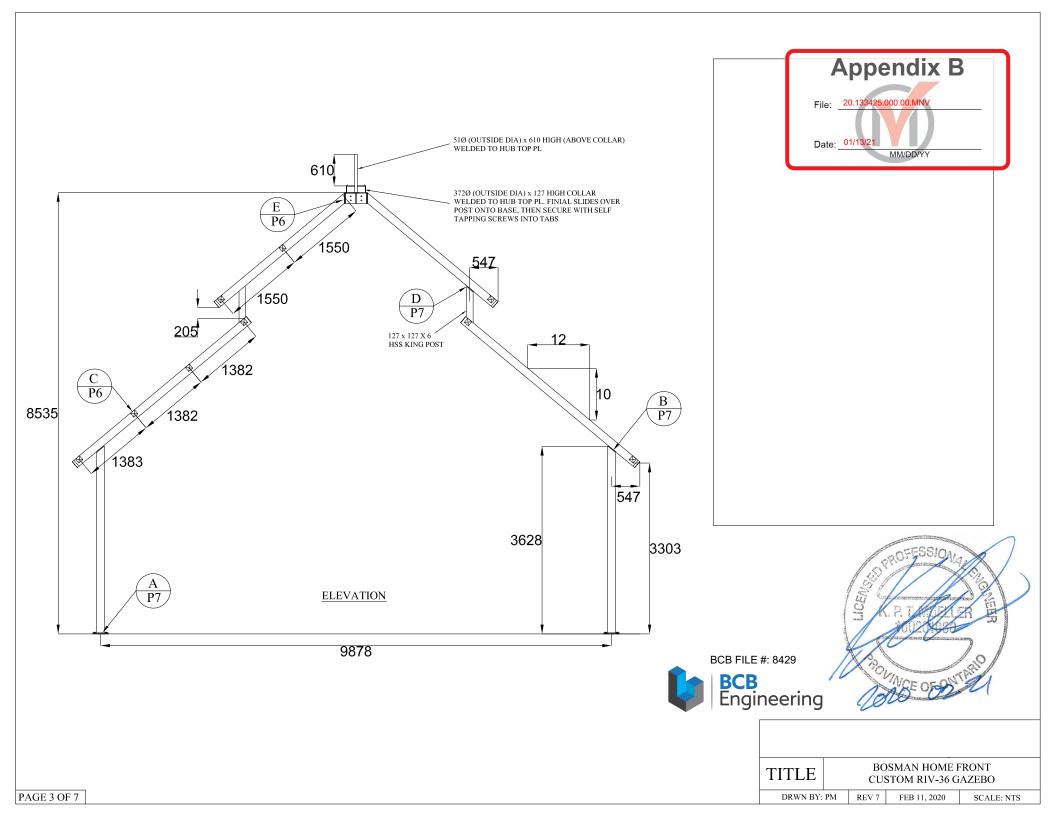


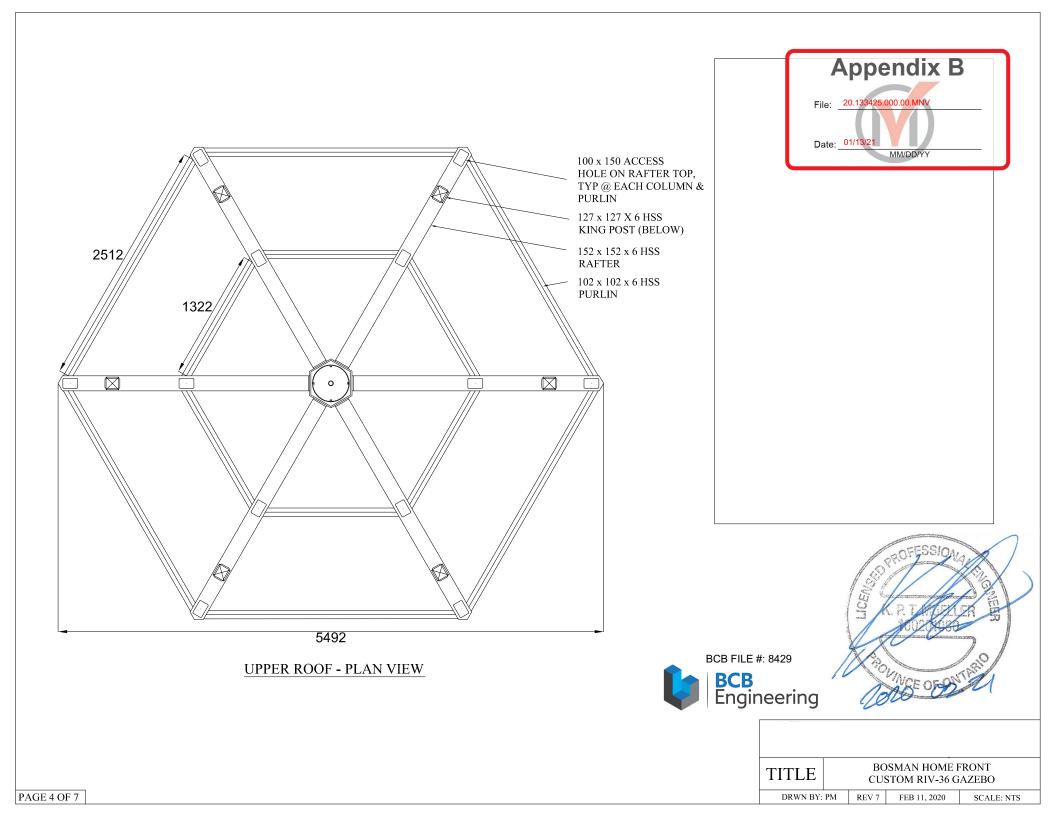
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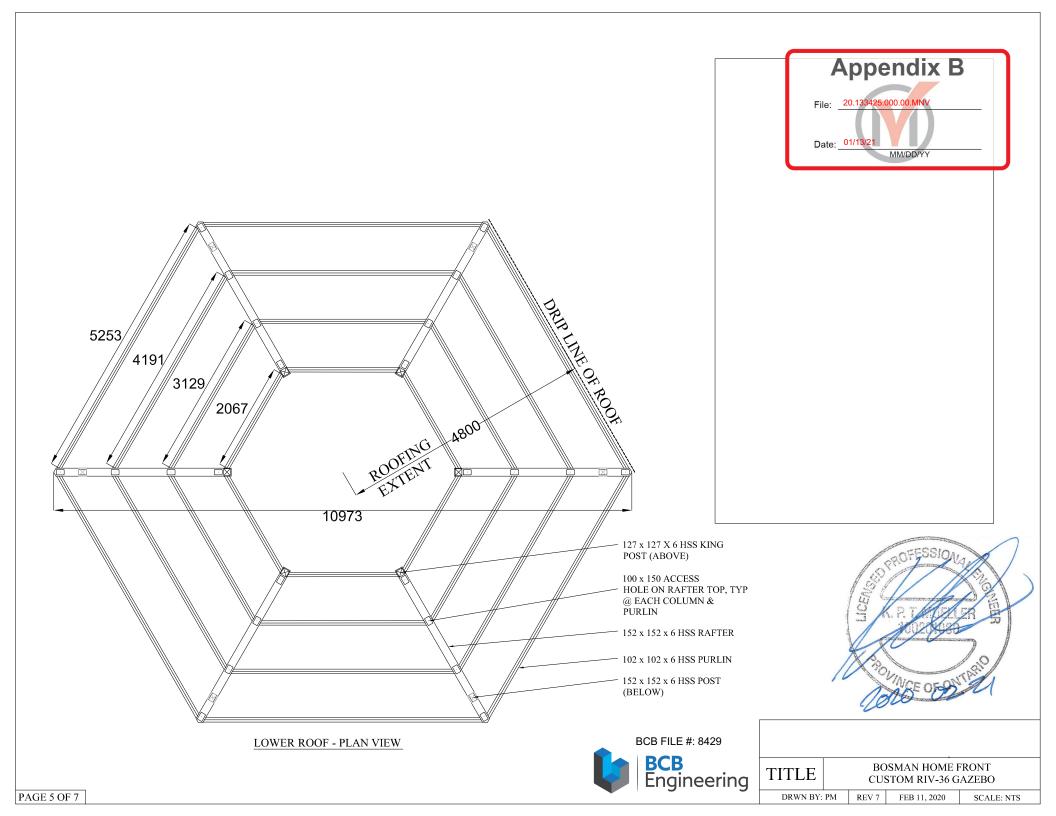




PAGE 2 OF 7



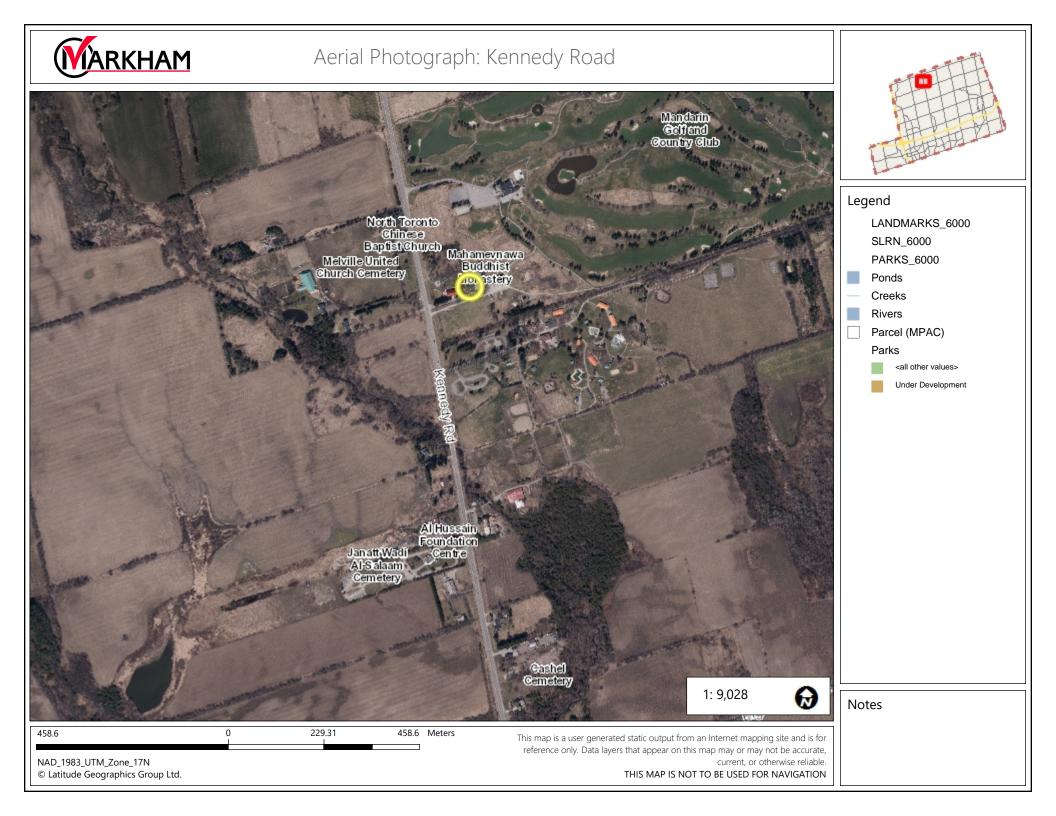




APPENDIX "C" REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK COMMENTS

Department	Reviewer	Email	Status	Reviewer Comments
	York Region Reviewer		Accepted	The Regional Municipality of York has completed its review of Minor Variance application MVAR.20.M.0434 (20.133425.000.00.MNV) and has no comments.

APPENDIX "D" AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH: KENNEDY ROAD



APPENDIX "E" ZONING MAP: KENNEDY ROAD

