CA 363-05 Engh Family Ltd.
Bldg. Permit 54676

MSA-5-1829-4861

Comments 10/11/15/1/28

Comments 6128 los 422



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor



Martin G. Madden

Ren Serey
Executive Director

STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

October 11, 2005

Mr. John Swartz Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning 150 Main Street Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Re:

MDS 95-12 and AP 54676 &54677

Engh Property

Dear Mr. Swartz:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced building and grading permit request. The applicant is requesting a building a grading permit in order to construct a dwelling and accessory barn structure. The property is a designated Resource Conservation Area (RCA) and is currently undeveloped.

In response to our concerns regarding the previous site plan submitted, it appears that the applicant has decreased the size of the proposed dwelling, enabling the proposed limits of disturbance to remain outside of the Habitat Protection Area (HPA). It is my understanding that the building envelope on the site plan is currently characterized as open lawn area and not forested as shown on the site plan. In addition, it is my understanding that all outstanding violations on this property have been, or are in the process of, being satisfactorily mitigated in coordination with County staff. Based on this information, we have no further comments regarding the applicant's request for a building and grading permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 410-260-3482.

Sincerely,

Kerrie L. Gallo

Natural Resource Planner

Kemi Jallo

CA363-05

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor



Martin G. Madden

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Executive Director

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1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

June 28, 2005

Ms. Robin Munnikhuysen Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning 150 Main Street Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Re:

MDS 95-12 and AP 54676 &54677

Engh Property

Dear Ms. Munnikhuysen:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced replatting request and building and grading permit requests. The applicant is requesting to replat a Habitat Protection Area (HPA) in order to construct a dwelling and accessory barn structure. The property is a designated Resource Conservation Area (RCA) and is currently undeveloped.

Based on the information provided, this office opposes the applicant's request to replat the existing HPA on the property. It is my understanding that the property has been identified as containing suitable Forest Interior Dwelling Bird (FIDS) habitat. In general, FIDS have been identified as a species in need of conservation in Maryland, and have therefore been afforded protection within the Critical Area as outlined within the County's Zoning Ordinance and Critical Area Program. The presence of the FIDS HPA on the applicant's property has been determined by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and is implemented as a protection zone within the County's Critical Area. Unless the County, in conjunction with DNR, determines that an error was made in assigning this designation to the applicant's property, we recommend that the County deny the applicant's request to replat the HPA.

In addition, our records indicate that this property was the site of a former Critical Area FIDS clearing violation (reference AP#46273). It is unclear to this date whether the outstanding violation on this property has been mitigated for. The last correspondence this office received regarding this violation is dated August 13, 2004. This correspondence indicates that the County was pursuing the violation and in the process of evaluating the appropriate enforcement actions (see attachment).

Based on this information, we recommend that the County first determine the status of the outstanding FIDS violation on the property. This office does not support the issuance of any building or grading permits where an outstanding violation exists. Should the County determine

Robin Munnikhuysen Engh property June 28, 2005 Page 2

that the outstanding FIDS violation has been rectified, a site plan for the proposed development activities should be required which demonstrates the relationship between the existing HPA on the property and all proposed development activities, and which addresses all necessary mitigation measures for any proposed impacts to the HPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please forward a copy of any revised requests for a building or grading permit which may be received by the County for this property. If you have any questions, please call me at 410-260-3482.

Sincerely,

Kerrie L. Gallo

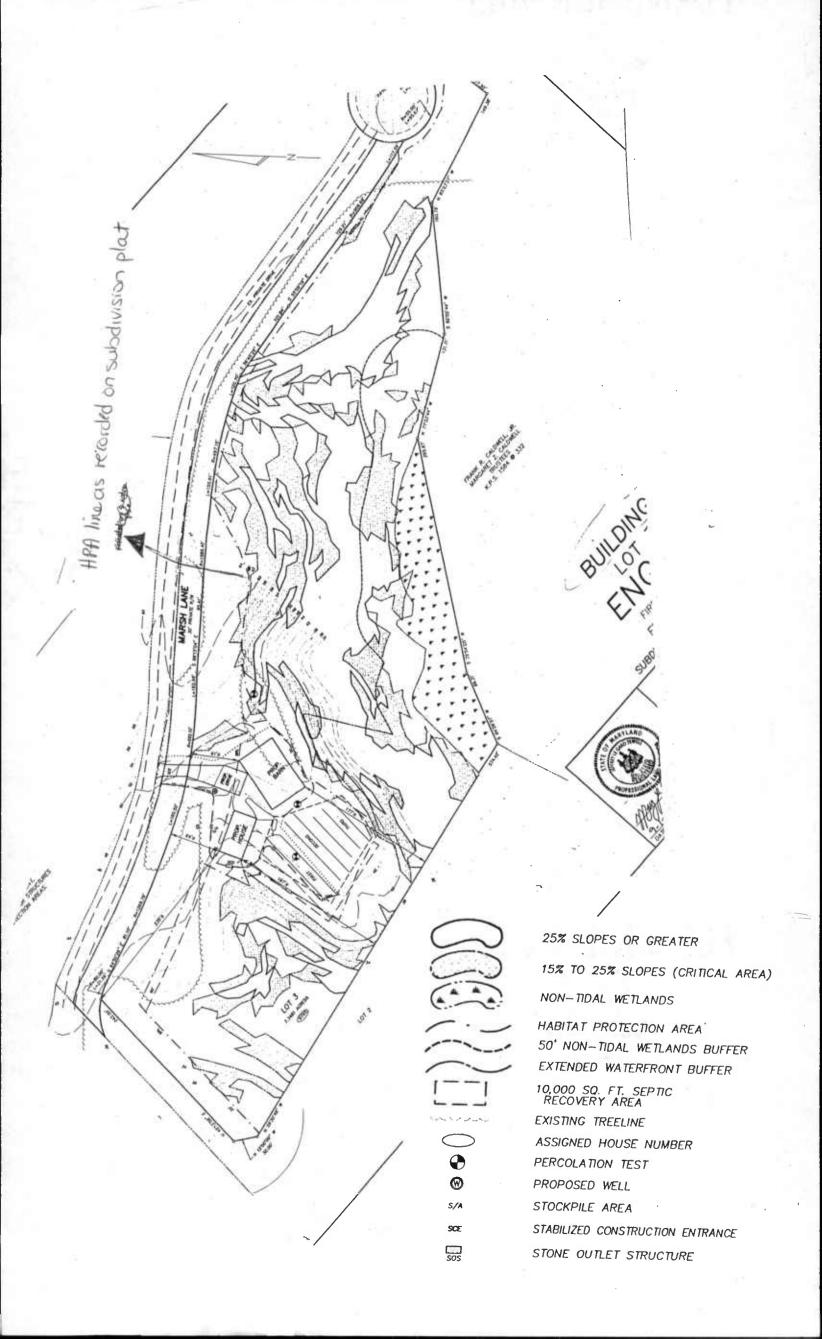
Natural Resource Planner

Moundaller

CA363-05

CC:

Dave Brownlee, Calvert County Katharine McCarthy, DNR



Memorandum

Date: June 30, 2005

To: Aimee Dailey, Critical Area Planner

Calvert Co. DPZ

From: Lori Byrne, Environmental Review Coordinator

DNR-WHS

RE: **Engh Property, Habitat Protection Area**

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that there are no State or Federal records for rare, threatened or endangered species within the boundaries of the project site as delineated. As a result, we have no specific comments or requirements pertaining to protection measures at this time. This statement should not be interpreted however as meaning that rare, threatened or endangered species are not in fact present. If appropriate habitat is available, certain species could be present without documentation because adequate surveys have not been conducted.

Our analysis of the information provided also suggests that the forested area on the project site contains Forest Interior Dwelling Bird habitat. Populations of many Forest Interior Dwelling Bird species (FIDS) are declining in Maryland and throughout the eastern United States. The conservation of this habitat is mandated within the Critical Area and must be addressed by the project plan. Specifically, if FIDS habitat is present, the following guidelines should be incorporated into the project plan:

- 1. Restrict development to nonforested areas.
- 2. If forest loss or disturbance is unavoidable, concentrate or restrict development to the following areas:
 - a. the perimeter of the forest (i.e., within 300 feet of existing forest edge)
 - b. thin strips of upland forest less than 300 feet wide
 - c. small, isolated forests less than 50 acres in size
 - d. portions of the forest with low quality FIDS habitat, (i.e., areas that are already heavily fragmented, relatively young, exhibit low structural diversity, etc.)
- Maximize the amount if forest "interior" (forest area >300 feet from the forest edge) within 3. each forest tract (i.e., minimize the forest edge:area ratio). Circular forest tracts are ideal and square tracts are better than rectangular or long, linear forests.
- 4. Minimize forest isolation. Generally, forests that are adjacent, close to, or connected to other forests provide higher quality FIDS habitat than more isolated forests.
- other forests provide higher quality FIDS naphal man more isolated. State of the "footprint" of houses and to that which is necessary for the RECEIVED 5.
- 6. Minimize the number and length of driveways and roads.

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CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION

- 7. Roads and driveways should be as narrow and as short as possible; preferably less than 25 and 15 feet, respectively
- 8. Maintain forest canopy closure over roads and driveways.
- 9. Maintain forest habitat up to the edges of roads and driveways; do not create or maintain mowed grassy berms.
- 10. Maintain or create wildlife corridors.
- 11. Do not remove or disturb forest habitat during April-August, the breeding season for most FIDS. This seasonal restriction may be expanded to February-August if certain early nesting FIDS (e.g., Barred Owl) are present.
- 12. Landscape homes with native trees, shrubs and other plants and/or encourage homeowners to do so.
- 13. Encourage homeowners to keep pet cats indoors or, if taken outside, kept on a leash or inside a fenced area.
- 14. In forested areas reserved from development, promote the development of a diverse forest understory by removing livestock from forested areas and controlling white-tailed deer populations. Do not mow the forest understory or remove woody debris and snags.
- 15. Afforestation efforts should target a) riparian or streamside areas that lack woody vegetative buffers, b) forested ripanan areas less than 300 feet wide, and c) gaps or peninsulas of nonforested habitat within or adjacent to existing FIDS habitat.

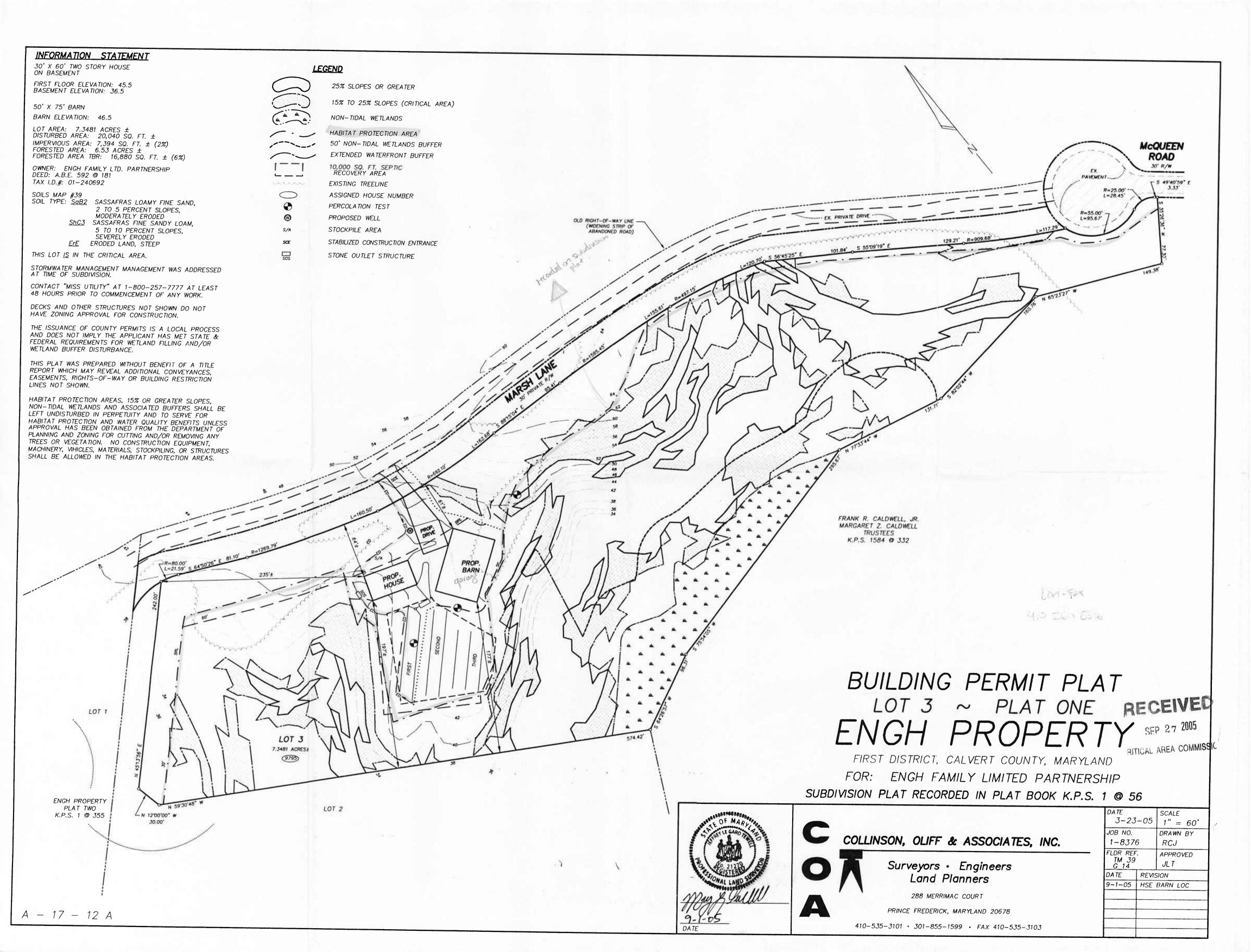
The Critical Area Commission's document "A Guide to the Conservation of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area" provides details on development standards and information about mitigation for projects where impacts to FIDS habitat cannot be totally avoided. Mitigation plantings for impacts to FIDS habitat may be required under the local government's Critical Area Program. The amount of mitigation required is generally based in whether or not the guidelines listed above are followed.

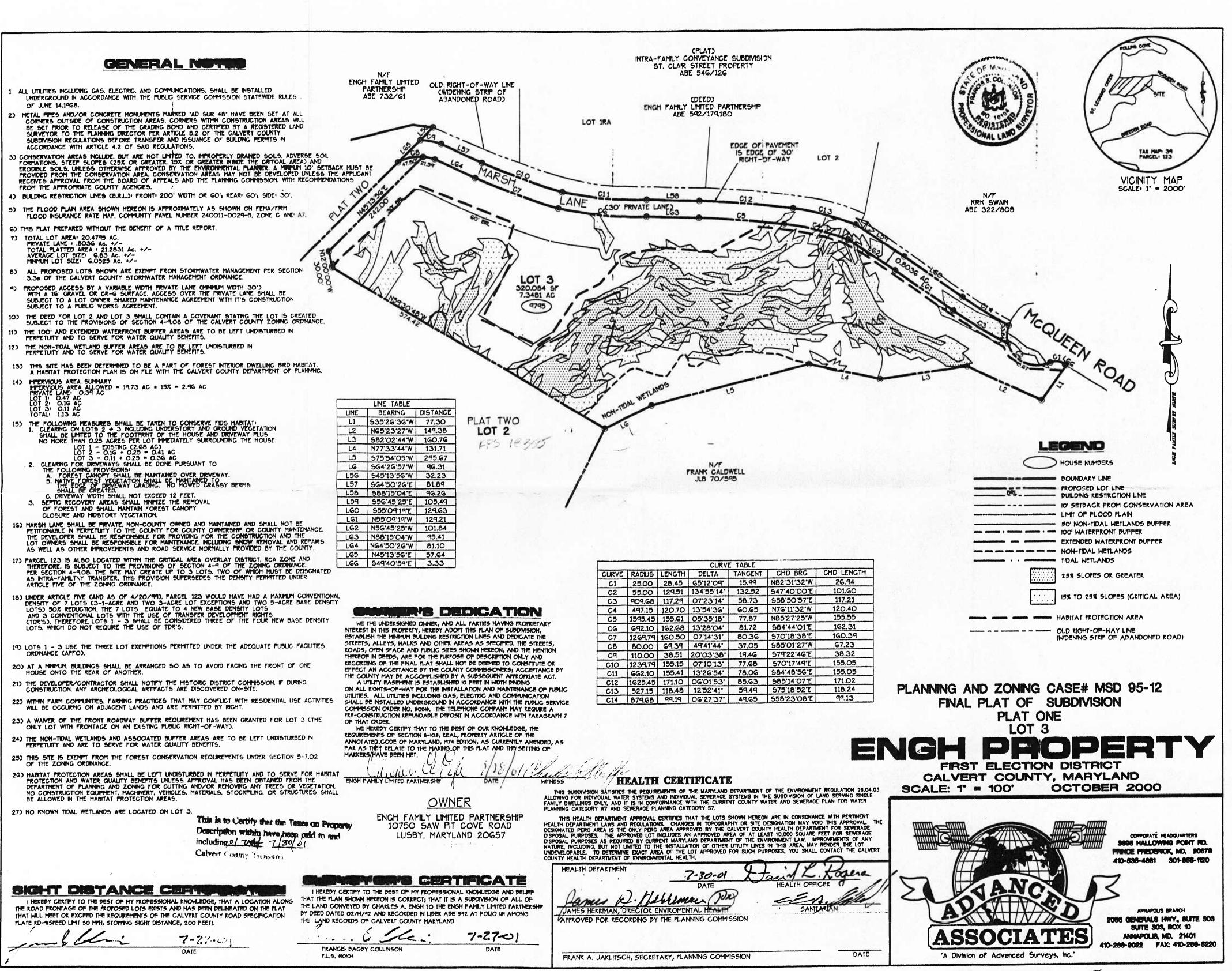
While we understand that there are proposed impacts to the steep slopes and other sensitive environmental features on this property, we do not typically comment on such plans unless there are RT&E species known for the area. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at (410) 260-8573.

ER# 2005.1161.ct

Cc: K. McCarthy, WHS

R. Esslinger, CAC





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