



Town of Hardwick
Office of Town Manager
P.O. Box 523
Hardwick, Vermont 05843
Phone: (802) 472-6120 • Fax: (802) 472-3793

February 18, 2021

Vermont Agency of Transportation
c/o Jon Kaplan
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Program – Small Scale Grant: Town of Hardwick

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hardwick Select Board is offering our support for the Town of Hardwick's application to the Vermont Agency of Transportation Bicycle & Pedestrian Program – Small Scale Grant. This project will implement much needed sidewalk improvements from the intersection of Church St and Main St continuing to the intersection of Maple St and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, providing service to the Village of Hardwick to residents, visitors and LVRT users.

A recent AARP Sidewalk Assessment (2020), conducted as part of the Hardwick Pedestrian Safety Task Force's efforts, identified significant issues with the existing sidewalk infrastructure from the intersection of Church St and Main St continuing to the intersection of Maple St and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The proposed project moves forward with sidewalk improvements to correct those identified in the AARP Sidewalk Assessment (2020). Furthermore, the proposed project embodies the goal of, and steps forward needed to, becoming a more pedestrian friendly community, as identified in the Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Visit (2016), Municipal Plan (2019), and the AARP Sidewalk Assessment (2020).

With that understanding, we hereby commit up to \$40,860 of in-kind in the form of construction-related costs and some cash match, plus costs related to future upkeep, to the proposed \$81,720 project. We believe these monies will support the ongoing effort by the Town to further a more walkable, safer and equitable community.

Sincerely,

Shaun Fielder

[Hardwick Select Board authorized Town Manager to submit letter of support per motion executed February 18, 2021].

Hardwick Town Manager
Hardwick Town Clerk
Hardwick Public Works Director

Shaun Fielder
Alberta Miller
Tom Fadden

(802) 472-6120
(802) 472-5971
(802) 472-6029

Sunwise Surveying
199 McKinstry Road
Cabot, VT 05647

February 4, 2021

(802) 426-3025

Town of Hardwick
P.O. Box 523
Hardwick, VT 05843

Attn: Shaun Fielder

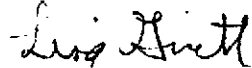
Re: River Street

Dear Shaun,

I am writing you this some material in reference to our research to date of the properties adjoining by "River Street" in East Hardwick, VT. I have attached my report of findings to date and a sketch entitled "River Street" Preliminary record sketch for the Town of Hardwick dated 2/2/2021.

Please review the information and let me know if you would like us to complete any other work on the project. If you have any questions or comments about this information please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Lisa Ginett

A Preliminary Report regarding the research to date of the Hardwick Land Records regarding the status of "River Street", East Hardwick in the Town of Hardwick, Vermont

This report is being made after preliminary research of all of the properties adjoining "River Street" in East Hardwick in the Town of Hardwick, Vermont. River Street is at the South East end of the bridge crossing the Lamoille River at Main Street in East Hardwick and runs to the Southwesterly near the South bank of the River.

Although our research at the time of this report cannot be considered comprehensive, we have found no indication that "River Street" was ever considered a Town Highway. We have not undertaken work that would appear to have been already completed by various other knowledgeable people as to the status of the "River Street". We have not researched the Town Highways and Streets volume or the General Indices looking for a record lay-out for "River Street". I also point out that the plat completed by Wayne Mutrux for Jean E. Timerson (Hardwick Map No. 309A) notes this lack of record lay-out.

The root parcel in the chain of title for the East Hardwick Fire Dept. referred to as the grist mill property, is described in a deed dated January 19, 1872 found in Book 13, Page 187 of the Hardwick Land Records. It is outlined in yellow on the attached Orthophoto sketch entitled "River Street" preliminary record sketch for the Town of Hardwick dated 2/2/2021.

The first parcel conveyed out of the Book 13, Page 187 deed is found in a deed dated August 28, 1884 in Book 16, Page 208 of the Hardwick Land Records, outlined in green on the attached Orthophoto sketch, is a small parcel on the extension of Main Street to the Northwest of the bridge.

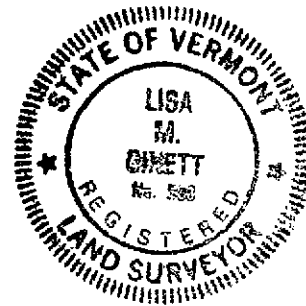
The second parcel conveyed out of the Book 13, Page 187 deed is found in deed dated October 19, 1887 in Book 16, Page 28 of the Hardwick Land Records, also outlined in green on the attached Orthophoto sketch, is a very small parcel that now belong to Barbara Cieslicki. That parcel barely encloses the building and does not include any ownership of land under "River Street". Along with the land, the deed conveys the right to put up steps on the side facing the Hunt store to enter the house. These two parcels were referenced in the East Hardwick Fire Dept. chain of title as conveyances out of the original parcel. There are certainly others not yet reviewed as the root parcel contains several other current properties along Main & Cedar Streets.

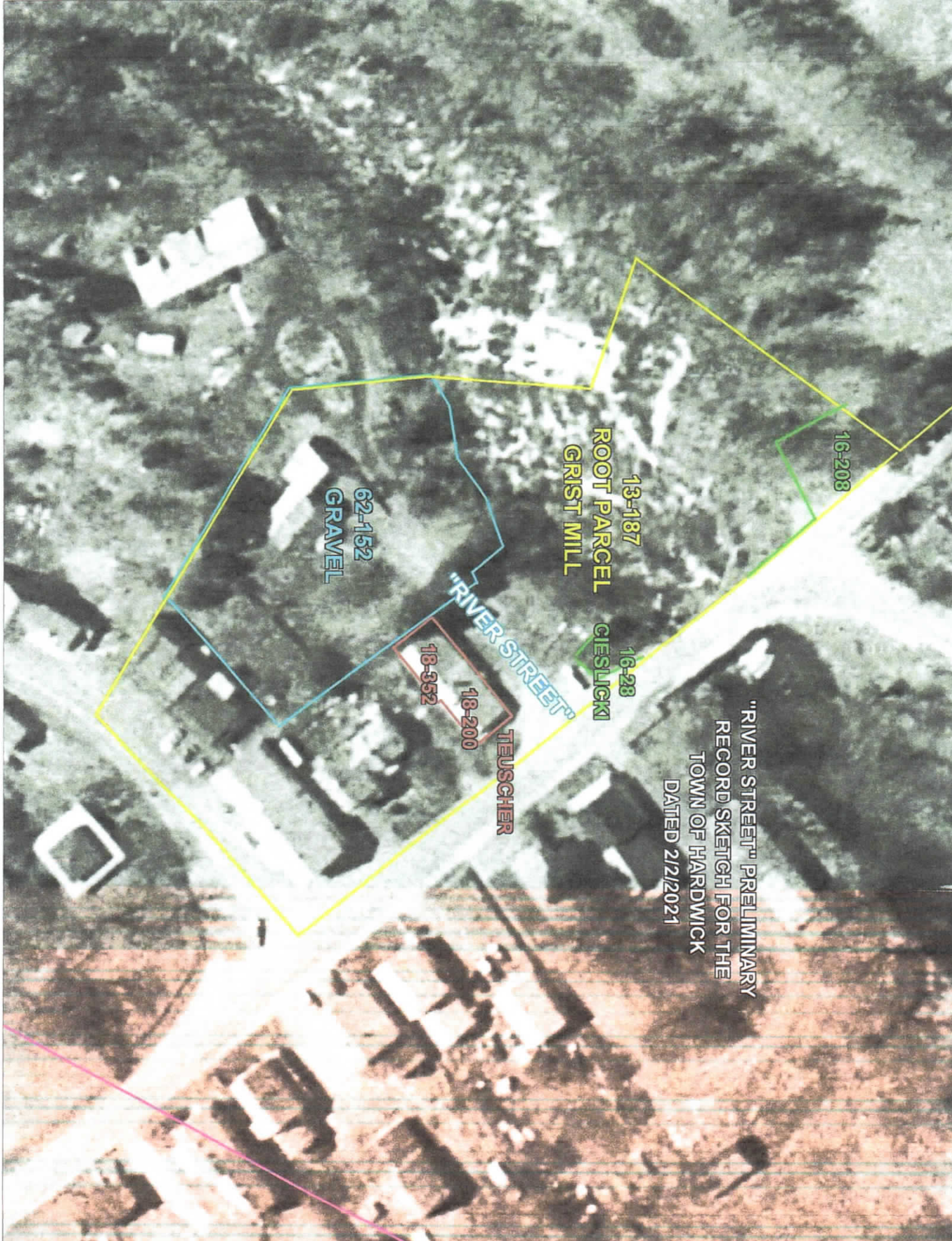
The property belonging to Stella & Norman Gravel as described in a deed dated March 3, 2002 found in Book 111, Page 152 of the Hardwick Land Records adjoins the East Hardwick Fire Dept. land to the Southwest. When the land was conveyed to the Gravels by Harold & Marjorie Rich in a deed dated November 6, 1978 found in Book 62, Page 152 of the Hardwick Land Records, outlined in turquoise on the attached Orthophoto sketch, the Riches retained a right-of-way through the property which would indicate that they thought they had those rights. This would have been "River Street". It seems unlikely that those rights would have been deeded if the road were thought of as a Town Highway.

There are various Right-of-Ways discussed in the deeds, many relating to dam rights and other water rights. It is beyond the scope of our research to date to untangle and delineate the various rights and their current owners. It might be helpful and prudent to complete the research to find the original parcel descriptions to other owners included in the original Book 13, Page 187 property as those parcels might also have rights to the use of "River Street" though these other parcels also have frontage on Town Highways being Main Street or Cedar Street.

With the amount of research completed to date, I am unable to say what other parcels might have been conveyed from the root parcel but it would seem that in the area of scrutiny we understand the record boundaries of the parcels. In my opinion, the land under "River Street" belongs to the East Hardwick Fire Department. Whether or not the Fire Dept. property or any other properties have a deeded easement to use "River Street", the East Hardwick Fire Dept. owns the land under the roadway.

Lisa M. Grett
2/4/2021





62-152
GRAVEL

"RIVER STREET"

13-187
ROOT PARCEL
CRIST MILL

16-28
GIESLICKI

16-208

18-352
18-200
TEUSCHER

"RIVER STREET" PRELIMINARY
RECORD SKETCH FOR THE
TOWN OF HARDWICK
DATED 2/2/2021