TO: Michael Wrinn, P&Z Dir & Zoning Board of Appeals Commission April 14, 2020

Subject: 455 Thayer Pond Rd – (Robert Brina, Construction Atty & Monica Brina, Interior Designer)

We are the owners of 451 Thayer Pond Road – on the south side of 455.

Mr & Mrs Brina want to reduce the existing south side setback to 36.4' in lieu of the required 40' for a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor addition roof overhang. Last month's plans showed the existing house & garage in shadow with both **OFF EXISTING FOOTPRINTS.** See photo! This month, the plans do not show the existing house & garage with the proposed overlay. Shadow is gone yet same footage setbacks remain. Ryan & Faulds' 2021 survey shows a 37.8' south side setback at the existing house. The screened-in porch is set in 6" from the house, therefore, the south side setback at the porch is 38.2'. **WE STRONGLY OPPOSE A 36.4' SOUTH SIDE SETBACK.** 

If for any reason, the house, or any part of it, is raised/moved off the existing foundation, we then ask that the required 40' side setback is reinstated from front to back, all 430' long on the south side.

Since footage has changed so many times since their June 2021 plans, we ask for a new A2 survey.

WE OPPOSE THEIR PROPOSED 34' HIGH ROOF LINE - After the March ZBA meeting, we took a close look at neighboring roof lines. We now feel the height of their proposed 34' roof is too high & out of proportion for that 0.99-acre non-conforming lot. What is the height of the roof with the peak? Will there be a new foundation to accommodate the basement windows? With an east side balcony, the roof height takes away ALL privacy for neighbors on ALL sides, especially since 75+ VERY TALL NATIVE TREES were cut down.

WHERE ARE THE FLOOR PLANS FOR THE 2 FINISHED AREAS IN THE BASEMENT? - Most likely the bedroom & bathroom that were above the garage are now in the basement. That's a good thing! However, they should be identified on the plans since there is a septic system on the property.

If the Commission approves their revised plans at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we ask that they are <u>APPROVED</u> <u>WITH CONDITIONS</u>. The conditions to include the issues stated above.

ALL approved plans, permits & conditions must be adhered to by Mr & Mrs Brina & all contractors. Any/all changes must be approved by the town prior to implementation.

We still believe that any & all hardship was & remains their own making. It is the homeowner's responsibility to research before buying. On Oct 23, 2020, Mr & Mrs Brina knew they were buying a 1-acre lot in a 2-acre zone. If they didn't know then, they now know & have known for over a year that it's a non-conforming lot. If they would just comply with all Zoning Rules & Regulations, build what is appropriate for that lot, & respect the adjacent properties, there would be less opposition.

We thank you in advance, for giving serious consideration to our concerns & wishes.

## **Starr and Harvey Herscovitch**

**IN ADDITION -** <u>Although it is not the ZBA's area of concern</u>, we want to go on record that WE OPPOSE leveling the entire lot to meet the 311' elevation at the house & garage. Their fence posts ranging from 7' to 12' high confirms it, as well as Mrs Brina telling me last fall that she is leveling the entire lot. **NOTE: The 455 topographic survey shows a benchmark elevation of 307.99'.** WE ALSO OPPOSE their now "not shown" underground drainage pipes/outlet discharging too close to us & the wetlands regulated area. For sure, both the raising of the grade & the discharge from drainage pipes will cause SUBSTANTIAL flooding/erosion – significant damage to our property and to the properties of adjacent neighbors. Along with our neighbors, we will be contacting the appropriate departments regarding the 455 proposed elevation & drainage.