



# GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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[projects@gwrlt.org](mailto:projects@gwrlt.org)

**Office Administrator**

Jane Adams  
[jane.adams@gwrlt.org](mailto:jane.adams@gwrlt.org)

September 14, 2022

Regarding: South Berwick Landing Trail

To the Town Manager and Town Council:

Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) and members from the Great Works Bridge Project are investigating the development of a pedestrian trail along the Salmon Falls River from the Counting House Park to GWRLT property at the confluence of the Salmon Falls River and the Great Works River near the former bridge location on Vine Street. The proposed trail name is the South Berwick Landing Trail.

GWRLT is in the early stages of the trail plan, investigating options for the potential trail layout. GWRLT is asking permission to begin the South Berwick Landing Trail on the southeast corner of the Counting House Park Recreation Area (see attached survey).

The proposed trail would then cross onto the South Berwick Sewer District property, follow south along the river through the Liberty Street Homeowners Association property, onto GWRLT property (see attached sketch).

I have also included a Trail narrative, information regarding funds from the Quimby Foundation, GWRLT MOA with SoBo Central, the Sewer District survey, and the Liberty Street survey.

We are happy to provide any other information to clarify the intent of the trail.

Sincerely,

Jill Crosbie  
Stewardship Director  
Great Works Regional Land Trust

## **The Landing Trail**

*An historic path from the Great Works River to Counting House Park*

September 2022

### **Background: *Discovering a Lost Heritage***

The crossing at the mouth of the Great Works River has a history deeper than the gorge at the outlet of Leigh's Mill Pond. One of the most historic sites in the State of Maine, it was occupied by indigenous people for millennia before Europeans arrived in the early 1600s. Called *Newichawannock*—the place between two rapids—the high knoll above the river's sandy banks was a place of natural abundance, rich in fruit and access to fish.

When English settlers harnessed the tumbling waters in 1634, the river valley became home to the first successful water-powered sawmill in North America, and timber became the lifeblood of the region. For more than two centuries, sawmills on the Great Works River, so named for the huge gang saws erected upriver, cut lumber that helped to build an empire along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean.

### **Bridging Our Past & Future**

Chadbourne's Bridge is the first recorded name of this river crossing, after the timber merchant who built his house and sawmill on what was then an adjacent "peninsula" separating the Great Works and Salmon Falls rivers. Chadbourne's homestead was destroyed in a French and Native raid in 1690, but three hundred years later, in the 1990s, it yielded one of the most important archaeological finds in New England.

In 1955 this river crossing was formalized by the State's construction of the Varney or Vine Street Bridge, which was closed in 2007. In 2016, the Great Works Bridge Project was launched to replace the failing steel-and-concrete structure with a solid-timber, covered bridge, designed to last a century and honor the historic legacy of the site. Founding members of the project discovered this little-known, mainly forested route between Leigh's Mill Pond and the Upper Landing—what is now Counting House Park, the center of village life in South Berwick since the 1800s. No defined path remains today, but as hikers follow the Salmon Falls River upstream they ascend a dramatic esker that provided Wabanaki people an optimal lookout and gathering place for thousands of years.

### **The Path to a New "Urban" Recreational Trail in South Berwick**

In 2021 fundraising for the construction of a new bridge stalled during the pandemic. The organizing committee approached the Quimby Family Foundation and requested they repurpose their previously allocated bridge donation to underwrite the creation of the Landing Trail, dedicated to non-motorized recreation and historic education. Quimby agreed to the proposal, and \$16,842 in bridge funding was transferred to the Great Works Regional Land Trust in June 2022, per a Memorandum of Understanding between the Land Trust, which agreed to supervise the Landing Trail's design and construction, and SoBo Central, fiscal agent for the Great Works Bridge Project.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
between  
**GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST**  
and  
**SoBo CENTRAL**  
regarding  
**SOUTH BERWICK LANDING TRAIL**

**WHEREAS, SoBo CENTRAL**, hereinafter referred to as “**SoBo**,” is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the fiscal agent for the Great Works Bridge project in South Berwick, with a mailing address of 46 Witchtrot Road, South Berwick, Maine 03908.

**WHEREAS, Great Works Regional Land Trust**, hereinafter referred to as “**GWRLT**”, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization with a mailing address of P.O. Box 151, South Berwick, Maine 03908.

**WHEREAS, GWRLT** agrees to be the fiscal agent for the development of the South Berwick Landing Trail, hereinafter referred to as the “**Trail**.”

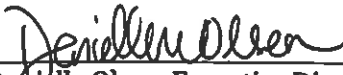
**WHEREAS, GWRLT** agrees to assume leadership responsibility for the development of the **Trail**, in collaboration with adjacent landowners and stakeholders.


**WHEREAS, the Trail’s** purpose will be to provide non-motorized recreational opportunity and historic education of the region for residents and visitors to the town of South Berwick.

**WHEREAS, the proposed Trail** is to be located between the junction of the Great Works River/Salmon Falls River and the Counting House Park, South Berwick, Maine.

**WHEREAS, The Quimby Family Foundation** granted \$20,000 to **SoBo** for the Great Works Bridge project. In December 2021 Hannah Quimby, Executive Director of the Quimby Family Foundation, approved the reassignment of that donation to **GWRLT** for the construction of the proposed **Trail**. The balance of that donation, \$16,842, shall be transferred by **SoBo** to be held in a fund by **GWRLT**. It is understood and agreed that no more than 10% of those funds will be used for **GWRLT** general overhead and staff costs. The remainder would thus be dedicated to the **Trail’s** design and construction.

**NOW THEREFORE, SoBo and GWRLT** agree to the above provisions regarding the **Trail** and the necessary steps for its planning, management, and completion.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Olsen, Executive Director  
Great Works Regional Land Trust

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kara Plank, President  
SoBo Central

Date June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Date 6/22/22



**GREAT WORKS**  
Regional Land Trust

[www.gwrlt.org](http://www.gwrlt.org)

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**Property Steward**

Donovan Spaulding  
[donovan.spaulding@gwrlt.org](mailto:donovan.spaulding@gwrlt.org)

December 1, 2021

Quimby Family Foundation  
Attn: Hannah Quimby  
P.O. Box 148  
Portland, ME 04112

Re: South Berwick Landing Trail

Dear Ms. Quimby,

On behalf of the Great Works Regional Land Trust, I am pleased to offer this letter of support confirming our commitment to a partnership engaging in the South Berwick Landing Trail.

We are dedicated to the conservation of land in the southern Maine, including the community of South Berwick, and we are committed to providing recreation, protecting historical values, and offering opportunities for education.

This collaborative effort would significantly strengthen our connections to the community and further our mission here, and we are excited to help give back to the community, not only through establishing a new recreation opportunity, but also through providing access to meaningful historic sites along the Salmon Falls River and providing an opportunity for community members to learn about Maine's history.

We deeply appreciate your consideration for the South Berwick Landing Trail project and look forward to our partnership in South Berwick.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Olsen, Executive Director

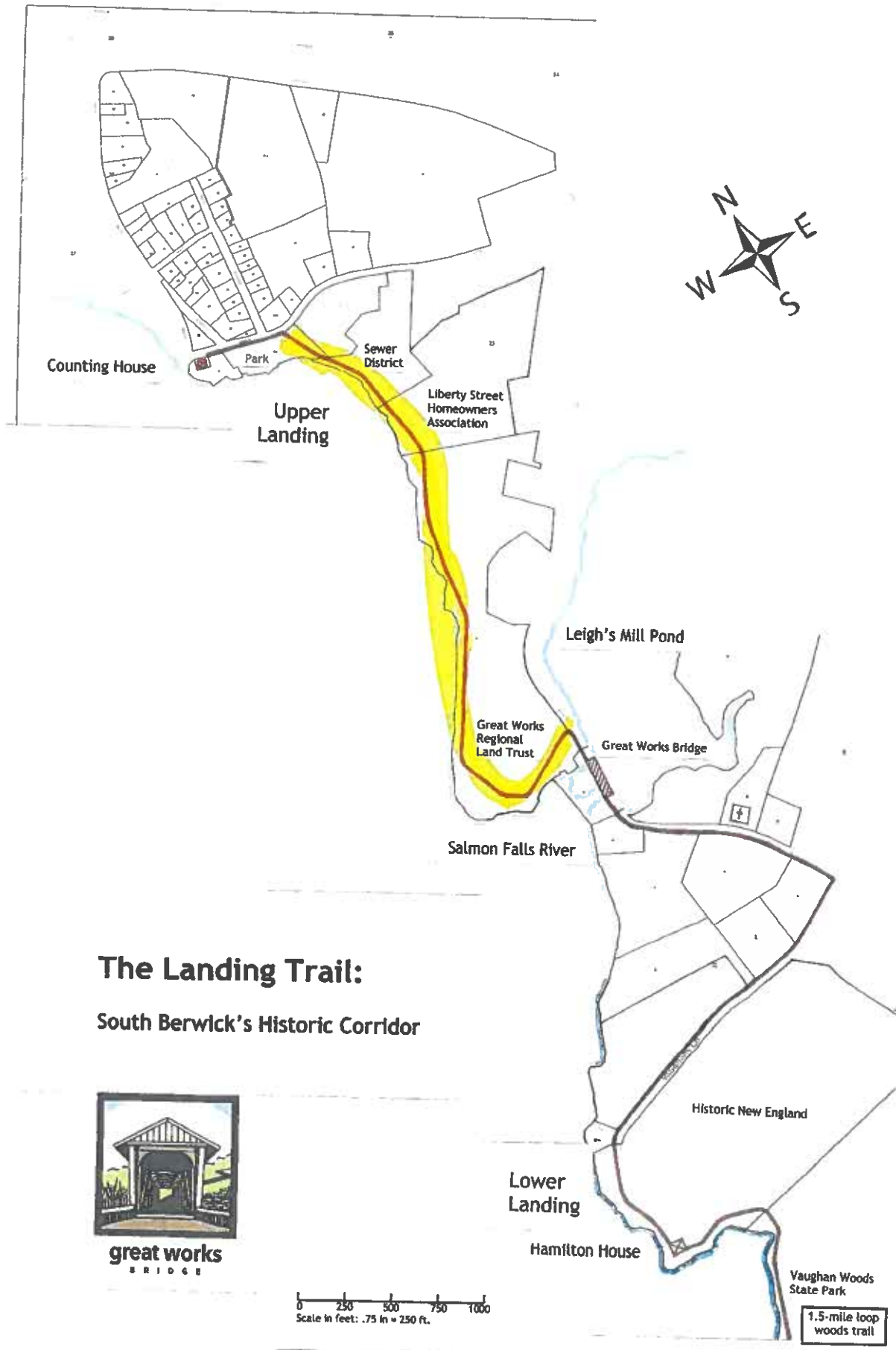
207-646-3604

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 151, South Berwick, ME 03908

Office: Beach Plum Farm, 610 Main Street, Ogunquit, ME 03907

[info@gwrlt.org](mailto:info@gwrlt.org)

*Providing conservation options to landowners and communities in the Berwicks, Eliot, Ogunquit & Wells since 1986.*



**The Landing Trail:**  
 South Berwick's Historic Corridor



0 250 500 750 1000  
 Scale in feet: .75 in = 250 ft.

1.5-mile loop woods trail

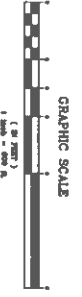
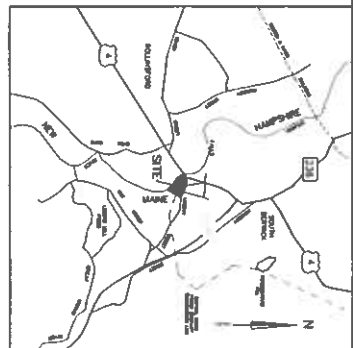


- LEGEND**
- EXISTING WATER GATE
  - EXISTING CATCH BASIN
  - UTILITY POLE
  - OVERHEAD UTILITIES
  - TREE SYMBOL
  - SPURVEY
  - FLOWING OBSERVATION, THIS VALUE REPORT NOT TO EXCEED 15°F



**Proposed Tree**  
 Located Near  
 Building Footprint  
 This Tree Should  
 Be Retained

**Proposed Tree**  
 Located Near  
 Building Footprint  
 This Tree Should  
 Be Retained



NO.	REVISIONS	DATE
1	MADE FOR CONSTRUCTION	1/14/10

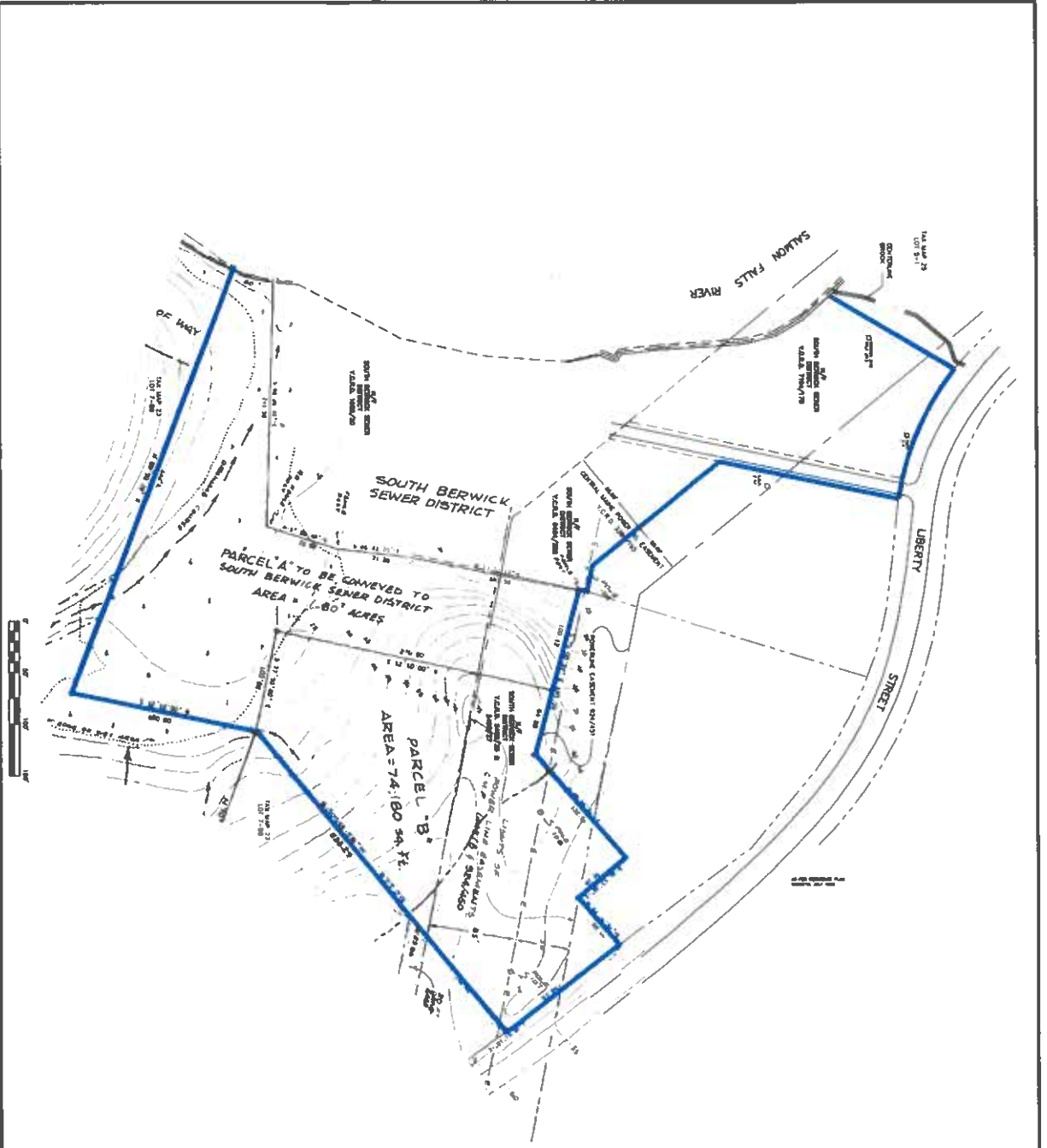
**COUNTING HOUSE PARK  
RECREATION PLAN**

PROPOSED FOR  
 SOUTH BRANCH, MARYLAND

SUN  
 CONSULTANTS  
 1400 W. GREEN ST.  
 ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403  
 TEL: 410-291-1000  
 FAX: 410-291-1001  
 WWW.SUNCONSULTANTS.COM

DESIGNED BY: [Name] DATE: [Date]  
 CHECKED BY: [Name] DATE: [Date]  
 IN CHARGE: [Name] DATE: [Date]

SCALE: 1" = 20'  
 SHEET 1 OF 1



- NOTES:**
1. THIS PLAN IS A COMPONENT OF PLAN REFERENCES 1-1-4 AND IS NOT A STANDALONE PLAN.
  2. DIMENSIONS INDICATED ARE FROM REFERENCE PLAN #4 ONLY.
- PLAN REFERENCES:**
1. PLAN OF LAND TO BE CONVEYED FROM SALMON FALLS RIVER TO THE SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT BY LIBERTY STREET CONVEYANCE, DATED 09-12-2004, PLAN FROM CIVIL CONSULTANTS FELS PROJECT NUMBER 07-02501
  2. PLAN OF PORTION OF LAND OF JAMES W. WALLER 28 LIBERTY STREET, SOUTH BERWICK, YORK COUNTY, MAINE, OF CIVIL CONSULTANTS FELS PROJECT NUMBER 07-02500
  3. PLAN OF LAND TAKEN BY CONDUIT DRAIN BY SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT FROM JAMES W. WALLER LIBERTY STREET 27/28, PLAN NUMBER 07-02500, YORK COUNTY, MAINE, OF CIVIL CONSULTANTS FELS PROJECT NUMBER 07-02500
  4. SUBSEQUENT PLAN OF LIBERTY STREET SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE FOR RECONSTRUCT HOLDING PERMITS BY ANDERSON AND ASSOCIATES, INC., YORK COUNTY, MAINE, PLAN NUMBER 07-02500, OF CIVIL CONSULTANTS FELS PROJECT NUMBER 07-02500

DIRECTOR: JAMES W. WALLER, CIVIL CONSULTANTS FELS PROJECT NUMBER 07-02500

		<p><b>SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT</b>  <b>TAX MAP 25 LOT 1 &amp; 2</b>  <b>LIBERTY STREET</b>  <b>SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE</b></p> <p>PREPARED FOR:  <b>SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT</b></p> <p>MAP ADDRESS:</p>		<p>NO. 1</p>		<p>REVISIONS</p>		<p>INT. DATE</p>	
<p>PROJECT NAME: <b>SK1</b></p>		<p>DATE TO BE SHOWN: 02-29-2011</p>		<p>SCALE: 1"=40'</p>		<p>SHEET NO.: 1</p>		<p>TOTAL SHEETS: 1</p>	

CONDITIONS OF OFFER:

1. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from the appropriate State and Federal agencies.
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12. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from the appropriate State and Federal agencies.
13. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from the appropriate State and Federal agencies.

FILE NO: 4744  
 PLAN NO: 733881100

TOTAL AREA OF PARCEL: 21.590 ACRES  
 (TO "TIE" LINE)  
 TO SEWER DISTRICT: 3.50' ACRES  
 TOTAL AREA OF PROJECT: 18.09' ACRES



CERTIFICATION  
 This survey conforms to the  
 rules and regulations of the  
 State Board of Registration for Land  
 Surveyors and Engineers for a Category  
 "A" Survey.

SUBDIVISION PLAN of  
 LIBERTY STREET  
 SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE  
 for  
 SEACOAST HOUSING FOUNDATION  
 July 1, 1990 - Scale 1 in. = 60 ft.  
 ANDERSON ASSOCIATES  
 REGISTERED LAND SURVEYORS  
 ROUTE ONE YORK, MAINE



Bartholomew A. Allen  
 Surveyor

Approved by the Planning Board of  
 SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]

LOCATION MAP  
 Lot 23  
 Zone R-1  
 Village Residential  
 & Shoreland

