Executive Committee of Town of Amherst Industrial Development Agency

Proposed Redevelopment of 415 Lawrence Bell Drive <u>Applicant</u>: Amherst Portfolio Equities LLC

June 1, 2023

415 Lawrence Bell Drive:

- <u>Applicant</u>: Amherst Portfolio Equities LLC – Substantial holdings in the Town of Amherst
- <u>Time Equities Inc.</u>: Diverse portfolio of more than 40,000,000 sq. ft. of various property types



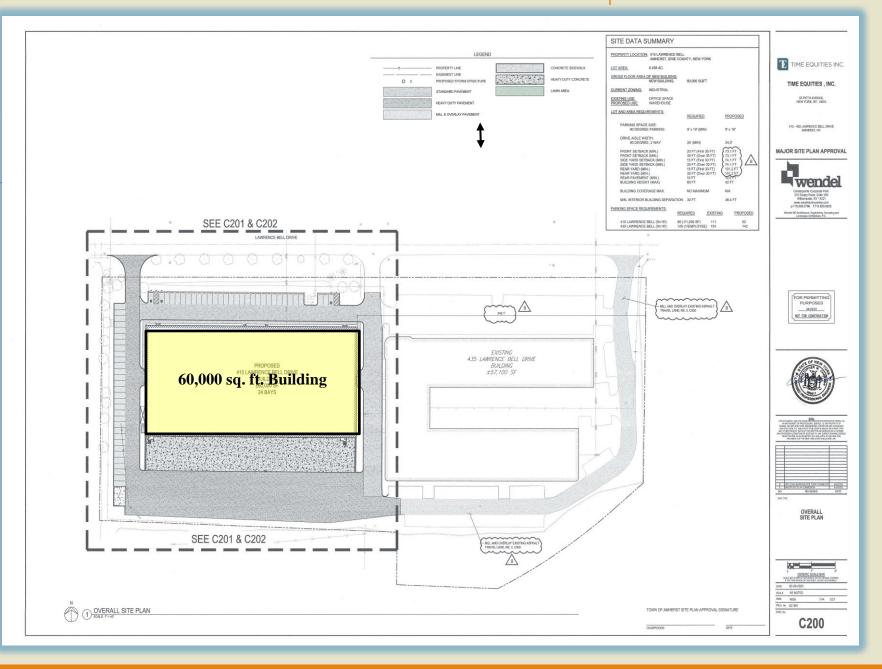
415 Lawrence Bell Drive:

- <u>Zoning Classification</u>: Research Development District ("RD")
- Existing 37,949 sq. ft. building that has largely been vacant since being acquired by the Applicant in 2015
- Includes 20,000 sq. ft. of vacant outdated office space
- Dramatic decrease in demand for office space in the Town of Amherst is well-documented
- Project Site located ¼ mile from NFTA bus stop

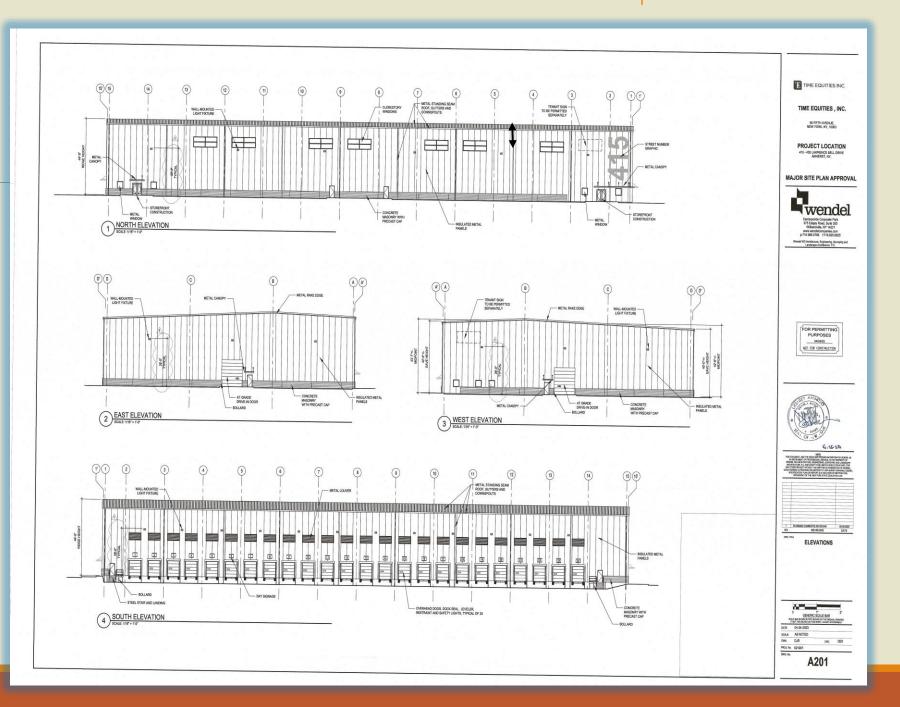


<u>Project Description</u>:

- The redevelopment project consists of the demolition of the existing building at 415 Lawrence Bell Drive, construction of a 60,000 square foot warehouse, and associated site improvements.
- Overall Site Plan depicts the proposed new state-of-the art warehouse with 24 bays and 62 parking spaces
- Site Plan Application is pending before the Planning Board and public hearing is scheduled for June 15th.
- Planning Board will issue a SEQRA determination in connection with pending Site
 Plan Application [Part 1 of Full
 EAF filed with IDA Application]



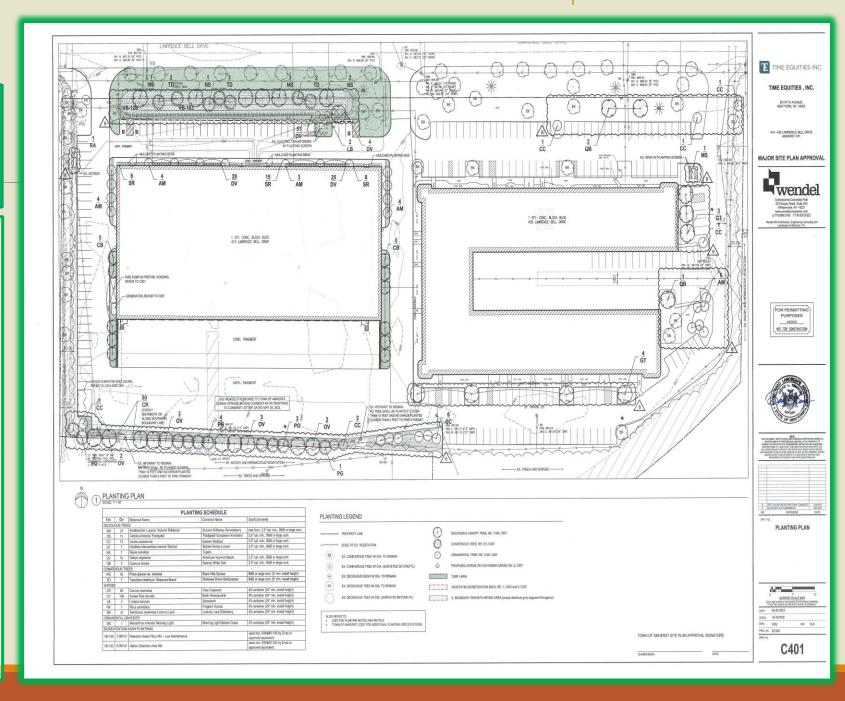
Elevations Plan:



Landscape Plan:

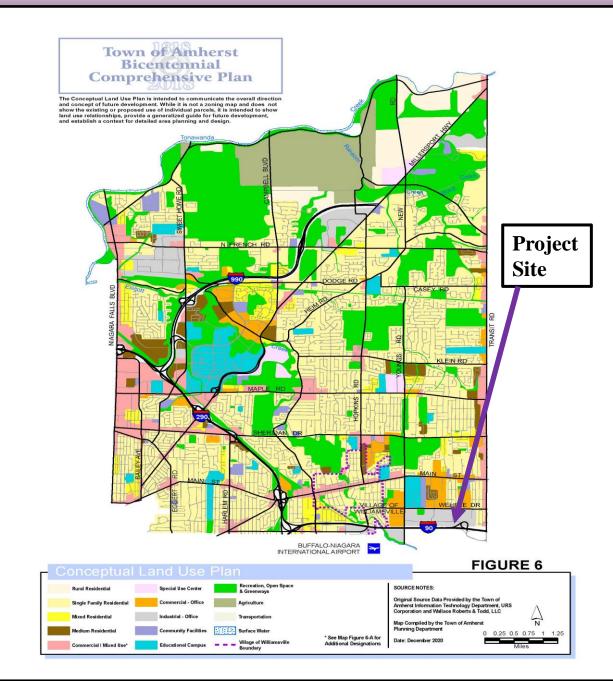
• 91 trees and 220 shrubs

		PLAN	ITING SCHEDULE	
Key	Qty	Botanical Name	Common Name	Size/Comments
DECIDU	OUS TREE	S		
AM	21	Amelanchier x grand. 'Autumn Brilliance'	Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry	tree form, 2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont
CB	13	Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'	'Fastigiata' European Hombeam	2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont.
CC	13	Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont.
GT	7	Gleditsia triancanthos inermis 'Skyline'	Skyline Honey Locust	2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont.
NS	7	Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo	
OV	10	Ostrya virginiana	American Hop-hornbeam	2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont.
QB	3	Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak	2.5" cal. min., B&B or large cont.
CONIFE	ROUS TRE	ES		
PG	10	Picea glauca var. densata	Black Hills Spruce	B&B or large cont. (5' min. install height)
TD	7	Taxodium distichum 'Shawnee Brave'	Shawnee Brave Baldcypress	B&B or large cont. (5' min. install height)
SHRUBS	3	Leasanna ann ann an tharain ann an tha ann an tharain ann an tha an		
CR	80	Comus racemosa	Grey Dogwood	#3 container (24" min. install height)
DV	109	Kodiak Red diervilla	Bush Honeysuckle	#3 container (24" min. install height)
LB	2	Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	#3 container (24" min. install height)
RA	1	Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	#3 container (24" min. install height)
SR	31	Sambucus racemosa 'Lemony Lace'	Lemony Lace Elderberry	#3 container (24" min. install height)
ORNAM	ENTAL GR	ASSSES		
MS	1	Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'	Morning Light Maiden Grass	#3 container (24" min. install height)
BIOREN	TENTION	BASIN PLANTINGS	<u> </u>	
VB-126	3,000 sf	Retention Basin Floor Mix – Low Maintenance		seed mix, ERNMX-126 by Ernst or approved equivalent
VB-183	6,000 sf	Native Detention Area Mix		seed mix, ERNMX-183 by Ernst or approved equivalent



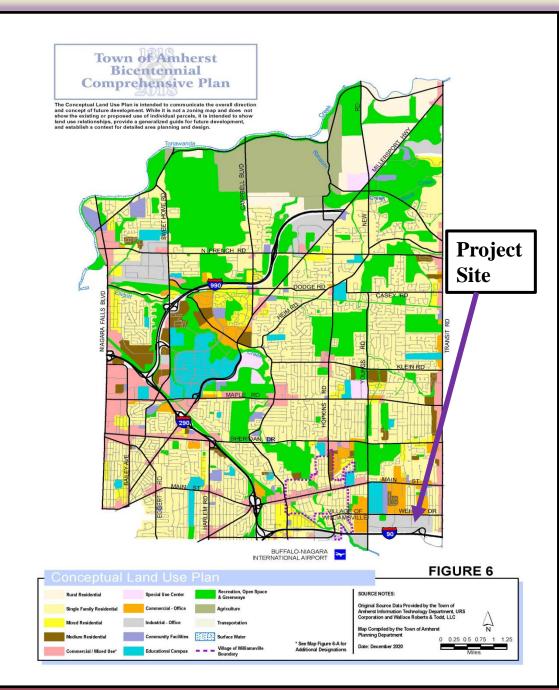
Consistency with the Adopted Comprehensive Plan:

- The Project Site is designated as appropriate for Industrial Office Use per Figure 6 of the Comprehensive Plan
- Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Plan it titled "Plan Concept" and includes the Vision Statement and Key Initiatives to achieve the Vision Statement
- One of the four Key Initiatives is "Revitalization" of older neighborhoods and commercial areas through creative use of investment incentives. The text provides on Page 2-6 of the Comprehensive Plan specifically states that providing tax incentives for reinvestment, revitalization and redevelopment of commercial properties and housing in older areas of the Town is appropriate
- Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Land Use and Development" and the Goal for Land Use and Development as set forth on Page 3-4 is "An interconnected mix of land that includes revitalized older neighborhoods and commercial centers and corridors, quality new developments, vibrant activity centers, agriculture, and green spaces throughout the community."
- Table 2 of Chapter 3 ("*Proposed Land Use*") Industrial Office [1,102 acres or 3.2% of Town of Amherst]



Consistency with the Adopted Comprehensive Plan:

- Policy 3-9 Advance the redevelopment and revitalization of underutilized, obsolete, and vacant properties for economically viable uses: As Amherst matures and market conditions evolve, some developed properties may no longer be economically viable as a result of changing economic conditions, obsolete buildings, or other market characteristics. Sustaining the economic viability and value of the Town's neighborhoods and commercial areas is critical to maintaining the Town's high quality of life and reducing pressure for "greenfield" development.
- Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan is titled "Economic Development" and provides support for the IDA granting incentives for the industrial and warehouse projects.
- Section 5.2 of the Comprehensive Plan sets forth the economic goal of the Town as including creation of a strong tax base and providing development in convenient and accessible locations.
- One of policies as set forth on Page 5-3 of the Comprehensive Plan in implementing the Town's economic goal and policies is as follows: "Target economic development policies, programs, capital expenditures, and incentives to attract and retain higher paying employment and promote desired forms and locations of development and redevelopment."



<u>SEQRA</u>:

- Unlisted Action Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form submitted
- Compliance with current technical standards per the Zoning Code and NYS Building Code
- Developed site
- No protected environmental resources on the Project Site
- Located in an industrial area
- Requesting that the Planning Board issue a Negative Declaration

Eligibility:

- Eligible redevelopment project pursuant to NYS Law and Countywide Eligibility Policy
- Redevelopment project will result in positive fiscal impacts for taxing jurisdictions
- Job growth

Project Challenges:

- Costs for full redevelopment of Project Site including demolition of existing building and new required on-site infrastructure [more expensive than greenfield development]
- Construction cost increases including materials and labor
- Warehouse tenants typically require "shovel ready" sites [anticipated construction schedule of approximately 1 year]