1		of Cape Elizabeth, Maine
2	Minutes	of Zoning Board of Appeals
3		
4 5	May 27, 2003	7 P.M., Town Hall
6	inay 21, 2000	
7		
8	Present: David Backer, Chair	Absent: Steve LaPlante
9	Jay Chatmas	
10	Joseph Guglielmetti	
11	Jack Kennealy Gib Mendelson	
12 13	Michael Tranfaglia	
13	Michael Hamayia	
14 15 16	Also present was Bruce Smith, Code	Enforcement Officer.
17 18 19 20 21	the previous meeting. With no correct to approve the minutes as submitted.	der and asked for comments on the minutes from tions noted, motion was made by Mr. Guglielmetti Motion was seconded by Mr. Mendelson . Kennealy and Mr. Tranfaglia were not present for
22 23 24	OLD BUSINESS	
25 26	None	
20 27 28	NEW BUSINESS	
29 30 31 32 33	Officers 2/04/03 decision to withhol	Cross Hill, LLC of the Code Enforcement d certificate of occupancies for Lots 26 & 27 of of Tax Map U59 until after the second floors are bom(s).
34 35 36	Mr. Backer asked Mr. Smith to confirm and so was withdrawn from the agence	n that the matter had been resolved by agreement la. Mr. Smith confirmed.
30 37 38	Mr. Backer went on to the next order of	of business.
<ul> <li>39</li> <li>40</li> <li>41</li> <li>42</li> </ul>		Charles M. Sexton of the Code Enforcement Iding permit #030521 for a s/f dwelling on Map U01, Lot 60.
43 44	No one came forward to present the s the third agenda item.	econd agenda item and Mr. Backer moved on to
45 46 47 48 49	To hear the application of <b>Brenda Sin</b> a conditional use permit to operate	npson, 8 Susan Road, Tax Map U43, Lot 36 for a home business.

Teresa Simpson of 70 Pike Street, Biddeford, introduced herself as the daughter-in-law
 of the applicant and was speaking as her representative. She stated that she had no
 formal presentation, but was prepared to field questions from the Board.

4

Mr. Backer asked whether Mrs. Simpson was familiar with the location of the business 5 and the road associated with the property. She replied that the road was a cul-de-sac 6 and dead end. She did not work at the business, but her husband was employed there 7 by his parents. In response to other questions, Mrs. Simpson stated that a portion of the 8 basement at the property is dedicated to supplies and roughly 12% of the residence 9 constitutes storage and office equipment for the business. She explained that the 10 business was strictly mail order with no retail sales and that one UPS pick-up/delivery 11 per day served the trade. She considered the vehicular activity on the street minimal 12 during the day. 13 14 Mr. Backer commented that he had visited the property on a prior day and seen a truck 15 parked along the road and pieces of flagpole piled further up on the lawn. Mrs. Simpson 16 explained that the truck is used to install flagpoles and is usually parked in the driveway 17 of the residence. What Mr. Backer had seen were shipping casings for flagpoles which 18 had recently been installed. Mrs. Simpson stated that the debris is not typically seen at 19 20 the property, but had not yet been disposed of. 21 Mr. Backer guestioned the number of sales generated by visits to the property. Mrs. 22 Simpson replied that their customer base is generally commercial and very minimal 23 sales are made on site. 24 25 Mr. Kennealy guestioned the frequency of use of the company truck. Mrs. Simpson 26 replied that the bucket vehicle was a bucket truck and used exclusively for the 27 installation of flagpoles. The frequency of use was only once or twice per month with 28 variations depending on the season. 29 30 Mr. Kennealy addressed the issue of the 2% allowance of increased vehicular activity 31 pursuant to a home business and asked Mrs. Simpson if she could constitute the traffic 32 count on the street. Residential homes would have to generate fifty trips per day in 33 order to support the one UPS visit to the business. He explained that traffic study 34 engineers compute that a residential neighborhood averages10 vehicular 35 trips/day/household. Susan Road has six residential homes and so constitutes 60 trips 36 per day, so would make allowance for a 2% increase for the home business. 37 38 39 Mr. Tranfaglia requested a layout of the business relative to the home square footage and Mr. Guglielmetti asked whether or not the business had plans for expansion. 40 Mrs. Simpson replied that the business has grown in terms of financial volume but with 41 regards to square footage, she could not determine what the applicants might have in 42 mind. 43 44 45 Dr. Chatmas asked what incident had prompted the application for the conditional use permit. Mrs. Simpson explained that the company had received a certified letter from 46 the Code Enforcement Officer citing the absence of a conditional use permit. The action 47

by Mr. Smith was prompted by a newspaper article profiling the business. Mrs.Simpson

stated that there is a telephone listing for the business but was unsure whether or not a 1 physical address was also given. She said that much of the sales were referrals from 2 other companies and retail sales were not a consideration. In response to other 3 questions from Dr. Chatmas, Mrs. Simpson replied that her husband Edward is the 4 applicant's son and only employee and drives the bucket truck. He is at the business 5 every day, but the truck is not put into service every day. Operating hours are eight 6 hours per day and no weekends. She confirmed that expansion to an off site area has 7 8 been discussed by the business owners, but within no timeframe at this point. 9 Mr. Backer opened the floor to public comment. 10 11 David Dalessandri, 7 Susan Road, came forward in favor of the application. His home is 12 directly across the street from the applicant and he considers the business a 13 wholesome operation which generates no negative impact on the neighborhood. He has 14 lived in the neighborhood for two years and not witnessed any significant increase of 15 traffic with regard to the Simpson home business. He also supported the fact that 16 customers do not frequent the house. 17 18 Mr. Backer asked if Mr. Dalessandri had some input regarding the vehicular activity 19 within the neighborhood and he considered that the street might average 60-80 trips per 20 day. 21 22 With no one coming forward, Mr. Backer closed the public forum and directed 23 discussion to the Board. 24 25 Mr. Tranfaglia was concerned with the square footage encompassing the business and 26 the current practice of storing materials and equipment on site. Mr. Smith stated that 27 outside storage of materials and equipment at a home business is not allowed in the 28 Ordinance. Board members held a discussion and determined that the truck should in 29 fact be considered equipment since it was a physical assett of the business and had the 30 specialized use of installing flagpoles for the business. 31 32 33 Dr. Chatmas revisited the issue of the traffic count and 2% allowance for a home business. He considered that although the business was well established and had in 34 fact shown no indication of an adverse increase in vehicular activity, the tables sided 35 against its location on a residential, dead end street. He considered the merit of a traffic 36 study. Mr. Smith commented that the Ordinance was in the process of changing with 37 regard to the standard for the 2% allowance, implementing instead a flat 10 trips/day for 38 39 a home business. 40 Mr. Trafaglia cited the problems of attempting to retroactively fit an existing business 41 into the existing Ordinances in order to approve an otherwise acceptable application. He 42 was still concerned with the use of the property and the overall volume of business 43 regards the home. 44 45 Mr. Backer asked regarding storage of flagpoles prior to installation. Mrs. Simpson 46 replied that the poles are typically 30' in length and installed within a week of delivery. 47 Poles are currently held on the lawn prior to installation or under the back deck. 48

1 2	Discussion ensued as to whether to table the application until technical issues could be discussed with the business owners. Mr. Backer was inclined to make a determination		
3 4	on the application pending conditions. He considered that the applicant could either adhere to those conditions or take the business off site. Mr. Smith supported that		
5	directive and felt that the Board could establish a set of conditions amenable to the		
6	business operations.		
7			
8	Dr. Chatmas stated that the would like the Board to consider the following restrictions to		
9	be imposed:		
10	1. The bucket truck not be parked on site.		
11 12	1. The bucket fluck hot be parked on site.		
12 13 14	2. No outside storage of materials or equipment.		
15	3. No retail sales on site.		
16	4. No signage		
17 18	4. No signage		
18 19	Dr. Chatmas felt that the restrictions would satisfy the Ordinance with regard to any		
20	detrimental impact on the character of the neighborhood.		
21			
22	Mr. Backer noted the fact that the application was presented with regard to a mail order		
23	business, and now a determination was made that there also existed a service aspect to		
24	the company. He asked Mrs. Simpson to explain the full scope of the business. She		
25	responded that the majority of their orders are received by mail, fax, or phone and are		
26	primarily for flags, but also they ship 6" and 8" poles. Occasionally a customer will		
27	request installation of a flag pole, but those are 25' and 30' poles. She could not give a		
28	percentage of the business representing flag installation, but stated the amount of		
29	service only comprising about six installations in a year.		
30			
31	Mr. Backer reviewed proposed conditions to impose upon approval. Dr. Chatmas felt		
32	strongly with regard to restricting retail sales and signage. Mr. Mendelson concurred,		
33	citing that walk-up sales could be a viable area of abuse. Mrs. Simpson stated that no		
34	signage has ever existed at the location. Mr. Smith reiterated the fact that outside		
35	storage of materials and equipment are already denied per the Ordinance. He		
36	maintained the decision of the Board that the bucket truck constituted equipment.		
37			
38	Mr. Backer asked the Board to vote on the following standards:		
39			
40	Finding of Facts		
41			
42	The appellant seeks a conditional use permit for a home business, specifically a mail		
43	order business.		
44	Brondo & Wolton Simpson are the surgers of a property of Courses Deed		
45 46	Brenda & Walter Simpson are the owners of a property at 8 Susan Road.		
40 47	The property is located in the Residential A District, Tax Map U43 Lot 36 containing		
48	17,480 sf.		
	4		

1 2		CONCLUSIONS
3 4 5 6 7	1.	The proposed use will not create hazardous traffic conditions when added to existing and foreseeable traffic in its vicinity. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
8 9 10 11	2.	The proposed use will not create unsanitary conditions by reason of sewage disposal, emissions to the air, or other aspects of its design or operation. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
11 12 13 14	3.	The proposed use will not adversely affect the value of adjacent properties. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
15 16 17 18	4.	The proposed site plan and layout are compatible with adjacent property uses and with the Comprehensive Plan. N/A
19 20 21 22 23	5.	The design and external appearance of any proposed building will constitute an attractive and compatible addition to its neighborhood, although it need not have a similar design, appearance or architecture. N/A
24 25 26 27	s t	Motion was made by Mr. Mendelson to approve the application of <b>Brenda Simpson</b> , 8 Susan Road, Tax Map U43, Lot 36 for a conditional use permit to operate a home business, specifically Alan Flag Co., as a mail order business with the following stated conditions:
28 29	-	1. No exterior signage advertising the business.
<ol> <li>30</li> <li>31</li> <li>32</li> </ol>	2	2. Walk-up or drive-up sales are prohibited
33 34	ſ	Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennealy <u>6 in favor and 0 opposed</u> .
35 36	ſ	Mr. Backer returned to the first item on the agenda.
37 38 39 40	(	To hear the administrative appeal of Charles M. Sexton of the Code Enforcement Officers April 11, 2003 denial of building permit #030521 for a s/f dwelling on property at 51 Woodland Road, Tax Map U01, Lot 60.
41 42 43 44 45 46 47	t i 7 f	Charles Sexton introduced himself and referred to a cover letter which was enclosed in the submission packet and summarized the argument for appeal. Mr. Sexton stated that n 1983 he purchased from the Town of Cape Elizabeth a parcel of land containing 79,000 sq/ft and including the old Cottage Farm School. He then obtained an approval from the Planning Board and Zoning Board in 1984 to convert the building into apartments. The Ordinance, at that time, required 5000 sq/ft for each unit and eight units were requested and approved.

Mr. Sexton explained that the parcel square footage would have sufficed up to fifteen 1 units, but he had decided that a better application would be to convert the building to 2 eight units utilizing only 40,000 sq/ft, and save the remainder of the parcel for a single 3 family lot. That was the proposal he claims went before the Boards, however, his files 4 are incomplete and cannot produce the documentation to support the approval of a 5 single family lot. Mr. Smith had also searched the Town records from that time to glean 6 any facts. Statements from the archives recognize a square footage of 40,000 sg/ft+ but 7 make no reference to the entire parcel of 79,000 sq/ft. Mr. Sexton stated that after the 8 1984 approval, the apartments were outfitted, but then a fire destroyed the building. He 9 came back to the Planning Board for approval to construct a new building, but basically 10 presented the same application. A survey was done in 1884 after the approval and 11 depicts the single lot laid out in conjunction to the apartment units. The plan was never 12 registered with the single lot sectioned out, Mr. Sexton explained, because he did not 13 then want to incur the tax burden of two lots. Now Mr. Sexton would like to separate the 14 lots, make a small adjustment to the boundary lines, and sell off the single family lot. 15 Mr. Sexton applied for a building permit for a foundation in order to establish the single 16 family lot, but the permit was denied by the Code Enforcement Officer because the 17 square footage does not comply with the current Ordinance. Mr. Sexton maintains that 18 the subdivision of the lots was his intent all along and was presented as such when he 19 went for Planning Board approval in 1984. He contends that the approval in 1984 was 20 inclusive of that intent and the division of the parcel should be sanctioned. He stated 21 again that, unfortunately, there is no documentation available that can support the 22 approval of the single lot. 23

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Mr. Backer commended Mr. Sexton on the amount of material he was able to compile for his submission given the time elapsed since the ruling in 1984.

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Mr. Smith presented the reasons for the permit denial which prompted Mr. Sexton's 28 appeal. He stated that the primary problem in the matter was that no site plan has been 29 found originating from the Planning Board approval and therefore no documentation to 30 support the case for a separate single lot being inclusive of that approval. A site plan 31 would have been a requirement of the Planning Board approval. Mr. Smith had gone 32 back through the Town records for the Planning Board and Zoning Board and pieced 33 together information regarding Mr. Sexton's parcel. The lot description entered on the 34 original Zoning Board application for the eight apartments referenced Map U01 Lot 60 35 and not a portion thereof. The square footage noted on the application was 69,000 plus 36 sq/ft and not guite the full 79,000 square feet which was determined on a later survey. 37 Mr. Smith read from the minutes taken from the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in 38 1984 where Mr. Sexton was asked of his plans for developing the lot beyond the eight 39 units. Mr. Sexton responded that he might consider additional units in the basement of 40 the building. Mr. Smith found no reference of a separate lot to be carved out of the 41 parcel. Mr. Smith interpreted the connotations of 40,000sg/ft plus with regard to the 42 application, to indicate that there was sufficient area within the entire parcel to satisfy 43 the ordinance requirements at that time. 44 45

46 Mr. Sexton made the argument that the map and lot number assigned on the application

47 was correct with respect to the assessor's map and location of the parcel. He

48 maintained that the "40,000 sq/ft plus" entered as the size of the parcel was to ascertain

that there was sufficient land to support the eight unit project. A later entry on the 1 application notes 69,000 sq/ft as the size of the parcel, but Mr. Sexton did not think it 2 should be interpreted that the application meant to involve the surplus of land beyond 3 40.000 sq/ft necessary for approval. 4 5

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Mr. Sexton was surprised with his response quoted from the minutes regarding a lack of further plans for the parcel. Mr. Smith felt that any reference or plan for a separate lot to be carved from the parcel would have raised comment or questions from the Board. He

could find no evidence that the separate lot was ever presented. 9

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11 Mr. Backer was inclined to believe that the intent of the Board in 1984 was to approve the eight unit apartment project given the fact that the parcel contained sufficient land to 12 satisfy the required 5000 sq/ft /unit. He didn't think that the surplus of 39,000 sq/ft was 13 of consequence and constituted a conforming lot size for the RC District. Mr. Smith 14 argued that the current ordinance requires five acres for a multi-family use. He had 15 consulted with Town Attorney Mike Hill. Mr. Hill agreed with the findings and advised 16 that for the lack of a site plan, the Board would have to prove original intent with regard 17 to the Zoning and Planning Board approvals in 1984. With no documentation to support 18 that a single family lot was ever established on the master plan, Mr. Smith stated that he 19 could not now recognize a separate parcel. He added that a lot could not be arbitrarily 20 taken from a surplus of land. The boundaries would have to be established by a 21 recorded deed or shown on an approved subdivision plan and meet zoning 22 requirements at the time it is created. 23

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Mr. Kennealy noted that the original total square footage was entered on the application 25 as 69,000 sg/ft, which would have left 29,000 sg/ft for consideration as a separate 26 single lot. Mr. Sexton responded that the full measure of the parcel was not calculated 27 until a year later when a survey was done. He maintained that his intent was the same 28 despite the discrepancy in numbers. Mr. Smith argued that regardless of the size of the 29 proposed lot, no mention exists in the archival documents of a single lot being set aside 30 from the required 40,000 sq/ft for the eight apartment units. 31 32

Mr. Sexton had submitted a survey plan depicting a separate lot laid out adjacent to the 33 apartment complex, however, the plan was dated after the approval. Mr. Backer, 34 nonetheless, felt it strong evidence that the separate lot was conceived at the time of 35 the original approval. 36

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Dr. Chatmas referenced the recent building permit submitted by Mr. Sexton and denied 38 by the Code Enforcement Officer and, the subsequent application submitted for an

39 appeal of Mr. Smith's decision. He noted that the permit was submitted with regard to a 40

single family lot on the parcel designated as Map U01 and Lot 60. He asked Mr. Sexton 41

how he could rectify the fact that he was adding a structure to a lot which already 42

contained a structure and then consider that parcel separated when it has the same 43

designation. Dr. Chatmas had the opinion that the lot would need to be separated and 44

recorded in order to establish itself before a building permit would be applied for a 45

dwelling on that lot. He maintained that the lot by the current ordinances would be 46

considered non-conforming and supported the denial issued by Mr. Smith. 47

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Mr. Smith pointed out that the question the Board needed to establish was whether or 1 not Mr. Sexton acquired in 1984 an approval for a separate single lot on the square 2 footage of the parcel in excess of the 40,000 plus square feet required for the eight 3 apartment units. He maintains that the lot was never established. 4 5 Dr. Chatmas explained that Mr. Sexton was in error in allowing too much time to elapse 6 before acting on a separation of the lot. The laws had changed with regard to the 7 standards required in the Ordinance and the Zoning Board did not have the authority to 8 override those standards. Mr. Smith replied that he had the authority to determine 9 whether or not a lot could be divided into two. By the current Ordinance, Mr. Sexton's lot 10 did not have the required square footage to carve off a separate single family lot. 11 12 Mr. Backer read from the Ordinance with regard to the Zoning Board ruling on a non-13 conforming lot. The Ordinance stated that the Zoning Board did not have the authority to 14 make a non-conforming lot more non-conforming. 15 16 17 Mr. Sexton asked if the Board couldn't simply make a decision on whether or not the original approval in 1984 established a separate lot. Mr. Smith agreed that if the Board 18 did make that determination, the single lot could still be separated out today regardless 19 of the change in the Ordinance. He explained that his argument stems from the fact that 20 no documentation is available to support any approval of that separate lot. He felt that 21 the Board was obligated to determine whether or not the 1984 Planning Board approval 22 granted Mr. Sexton a lot on the surplus of land beyond the 40,000 sg/ft required for the 23 apartment units. 24 25 Mr. Tranfaglia had the opinion that because of the considerable surplus of land beyond 26 the required 40,000 sg/ft for the apartments, it was a logical assumption that a separate 27 lot would have been planned. 28 29 Mr. Mendelson asked Mr. Smith the minimum square footage requirement for a lot by 30 the standards in 1984. He replied 20,000 sq/ft. 31 32 Dr. Chatmas revisited the response documented in the Zoning Board Minutes in 1984 33 when Mr. Sexton stated that he had no plans for further development aside from 34 additional units in the schoolhouse basement. He was inclined to think the reply unusual 35 given an intent to create a separate lot. Mr. Smith commented that the numbers would 36 not work to support a separate lot if Mr. Sexton, in fact, had plans to add more 37 apartment units and thereby commit further square footage from the total lot. 38 39 Mr. Backer interrupted the proceedings to advise the last applicant, Michael Duddy, item 40 3 on the agenda, that the Board would not be able to hear his application that evening 41 and so would carry the item to the next meeting. 42 43 Board members looked through archival documents and dated submissions to try and 44 glean any information which might make a case for a separate lot. Old subdivision maps 45 did not help to mete out any boundaries between the lots. 46 47

Mr. Sexton explained that after the 1984 approval was granted, the project went forward 1 and just prior to opening, the apartment building burned. He then returned to the 2 Planning Board with drawings for a new apartment complex. A landscape plan was 3 presented from that meeting but no site plan. Mr. Sexton also presented a letter written 4 from that time to his mortgage lender referencing two lots within the parcel. 5 6 Mr. Backer stated that the survey and letter to the mortgage lender both represented 7 proof that Mr. Sexton's intent was to separate the lots and both support the fact that he 8 felt justified in doing so. He recognized the problem as how to impute those intentions 9 from the approval granted by the Boards. 10 11 Dr. Chatmas agreed with Mr. Backer that Mr. Sexton's intent to separate the lots 12 seemed valid. He was concerned, however, with the absence of documentation to 13 substantiate separation of the parcel. In order to grandfather the non-conforming lot, 14 Dr. Chatmas wanted to be certain that the situation first existed. Mr. Mendelson agreed 15 and also felt at a loss, given the lack of documentation, to ascertain what the Planning 16 Board and Zoning Board intended in their 1984 approval. 17 18 Mr. Smith stressed the fact that a basic consideration when processing a building permit 19 is the information entered with regard to lot size. Both applications submitted by 20 Mr. Sexton stated the lot size as 69,000 sg/ft. He explained that any code officer or 21 Board working in conjunction with a project would advise the applicant to follow up on 22 the terms and conditions relative to the approval. He maintains that if a separate lot was 23 inclusive of the initial approval then some manner of documentation should exist to 24 support that fact. He could find no reference in any of the available material to sanctify 25 the existence of a separate lot. 26 27 Mr. Backer requested, barring any further argument, a motion from the Board drafted so 28 that an affirmative vote would support the applicant's appeal. He presented the following 29 motion for the Board to consider: 30 31 Motion to reverse the denial of the Code Enforcement Officer of Permit #030521, 32 based on a finding that the records of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning 33 Board with their decisions dated January 24, 1984 and February 14, 1984, 34 respectively, combined with the actions of the applicant, Charles M. Sexton, in 35 the months and years following the decisions of the Zoning Board and Planning 36 Board, support a finding that neither Board required that the entire square 37 footage of tax map U01. Lot 60, be devoted to the eight unit apartment complex at 38 51 Woodland Road; but rather, that no more than 40,000 sg/ft be devoted to the 39 apartment building. 40 41 Mr. Kennealy put forth the motion as presented and Mr. Mendelson seconded the 42 motion 3 in favor and 3 opposed. 43 44 45 Without a majority vote, the motion failed and the appeal was denied. 46 Mr. Mendelson addressed Mr. Sexton in stating, for the record, that he did not disallow 47 what Mr.Sexton believed pursuant to the separate lot. 48

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## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Backer referenced a copy of a decision from Town Attorney, Mike Hill, regarding the case of Prentice vs. the Town of Cape Elizabeth as decided by the Superior Court. Mr. Baker announced that he would be relinquishing his position of Zoning Board Chair to assume a seat on the town council. With that, he tendered his resignation and turned proceedings over to Mr. Kennealy as Board Secretary, in order to elect a new chair. Mr. Kennealy offered his appreciation to Mr. Backer as well as his best wishes. His sentiments were echoed by Board members. Mr. Kennealy then asked for nominations from Board members for the position of Chair. Mr. Mendelson made a motion to nominate Dr. Chatmas as Zoning Board Chair. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kennealy 6 in favor and 0 opposed. Dr. Chatmas made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Tranfaglia 6 in favor and 0 opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:55PM Respectfully submitted, Barbara H. Lamson, Minutes Secretary 

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