

Reeve declares opposition to commercial building Seynuck farm

Overlapping of Planning Board's and Council's roles in planning of new developments in town was stressed at the last meeting of council in regard to the proposed development of the Seynuck property.

Representatives of the Randy Construction Co. presented a revised plan of subdivision for the Seynuck property at a recent committee meeting asking consideration for rezoning of area fronting on Wallace St. for a neighborhood shopping centre. The construction company also suggested part of the farm be designated R2 or R3 so they could consider semi-detached homes in the area.

Mayor Doby said plans were being made to erect at least 100 homes on the Seynuck farm. Reeve Hinton said he was very conscious of the Planning Board's role for this development. "It's a planning board matter and they'll make recommendations to council," he maintained.

"Some directions should come from council so the board doesn't do something detrimental to council's wishes," suggested Councillor Bob Drinkwater.

Councillor Tyler agreed with Mr. Drinkwater's suggestion. "I'd like to see council direct Planning Board retain the beautiful green belt up there," he offered. "With no wood chopping going on, I'd like to see the green belt area retained either on the 5 percent or possibly by purchasing. I'm sure everyone would benefit from it."

"I'm concerned about the commercial aspect," said Mr. Drinkwater.

Reeve Hinton was more emphatic. "I'd object most strenuously to any commercial interests in that area," he stated, specifying he had no personal axe to grind. "A commercial development," asserted the reeve, "would only deteriorate into another little area and it won't do the downtown merchants any good."

The reeve also said he was against changing the zoning in the Seynuck farm area, presently zoned R1. "Developers don't require 50 foot lots - there's little enough space in 60 foot lots. Any reduction in size and the developer makes more dollars per foot."

Mr. Hinton declared himself against diversion of the creek running through the property and felt the plan of subdivision backed in too close to the green belt. Mayor Doby reminded council the town may have the opportunity to have houses worth from \$18,000 to \$20,000 in the Seynuck farm. "Added costs," he predicted, "could raise the prices to \$25,000 and \$26,000. Pressures make developers raise prices and this could have more far reaching effects."

Appoint George Kerr Commission

The Hon. Charles McNaughton, Treasurer of Ontario, announced the appointment of two members to the Pension Commission of Ontario this week, one of whom is George A. Kerr, Q.C., Member for Halton West. Paul A. Kates, an insurance underwriter from Toronto was the second.

These members will fill vacancies created by the resignations of Alfred H. Cowling, the former Member of the Legislature for High Park, and Professor D. C. MacGregor of the Department of Political Economy University of Toronto, who has served as vice-chairman of the commission since its inception.

George Kerr, a resident of Burlington, has served as chairman of various standing committees and member of at least two select committees. This year he was elected chairman of the standing committee on Municipal Law and Legal Bills.

Councillor Drinkwater thought there should be a subdivision by-law drawn up and passed by council - one that would concern all subdivisions.

"That makes sense," agreed Councillor McKenzie. Later on in the meeting council passed a resolution to prepare a subdivision agreement by-law which will outline all services which a property developer would be responsible to supply.

School libraries now called Resource Centres

Communications between Acton Council and the Public School Board, never strong, are again showing weak links on the school building program, recently approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Deputy Reeve F. Oakes and Councillor Drinkwater questioned council's position on building of an addition to the M.Z. Bennett school and a library on the Robert Little education centre at the last meeting of council. "Is the board going ahead with the library?" asked Mr. Drinkwater.

"School board," said Dr. Oakes. "Is fully aware of the position council took. Before they proceed with building the library at the Robert Little they must get firm approval, or try to get it."

Council previously gave firm approval for the M.Z. Bennett addition but yielded only tentative approval for the library at Robert Little.

Mayor Les Doby recalled arguments over building the town's centennial library, when he made the statement if they didn't get the library then, we'd never get it.

Mr. Drinkwater said he would be discussing the matter with the Ontario Mayors' and Reeves Association next month, and several councillors expressed alarm at the legislation. It was pointed out one part of the legislation was welcomed, in that all land separations must now come before the municipality for approval.

Council agreed to study a draft by-law suggested by Milton Five Chief A. E. Clement, which would govern the lighting of open fires in the township.

The Campbellville Police Village trustees urged council to apply to the Attorney-General's department for an estimate on the cost of a village survey. It was reported a public meeting last week had approved the survey for the village, but the trustees wanted to ascertain the costs first.

Members gave the roads superintendent Grant McMillan permission to begin reconstruction work on the Nassagaweya Esplanade Town Line near Milton Heights, although the final approval has yet to be received from the Department of Highways. Receipt of approval is expected any day now, and it would be wise to start the job while the good weather lasts, councillors agreed.

Mr. Goutowski also suggested council should erect white or amber lights over each intersection along the Five Sideroad.

Ratepayer William A. Johnson brought to council's attention the new legislation giving the Minister of Municipal Affairs "dictatorial" rights over local zoning by-laws. He claimed the minister could put a glue factory next to a \$75,000 home now, and there was no appeal. Reeve

Two of the 20 applicants for a roads department employee opening were to be interviewed by the roads committee.

Building Inspector S. W. Savage, informed council that 16 new homes upped the April permit issues to \$298,500 worth, bringing the total this year to \$379,300.

Mrs. Peter Patterson was named caretaker of the township hall at Brookville.

A brief discussion was held on the location of the township dump, when it was noted another fire broke out there last week. Councillors noted there were a lot of new building lots in the vicinity, and wondered if the new homeowners would be complaining about the dump. "The dump was there before they built the houses," said councillor Ross Gordon.

agreed with the reeve about each developer having a new set of rules for guidelines. "We shouldn't have to deviate," he said. "We should have ground rules but they shouldn't be too rigid."

Further discussion about the proposed by-law was interrupted when Clerk J. McGeechie said there was a document on file for a subdivision agreement which the planner had been already paid for.

"Well, I feel the school board should be made aware they only got tentative approval for this one," said the deputy reeve. Councillor McKenzie enlarged on the role the library would play at the Robert Little school where he is principal. No longer will they be called libraries. The new name is "Resource Centre". Along with the new name goes a new concept and a new program.

Mr. McKenzie reported on a seminar at Brookville which the entire staff of his school attended. "They're going to unlock the grade system and promote students two and three times a year. A resource centre is necessary to carry this out."

Mayor Doby pointed out council was more concerned with the financial picture. He had two allies in the reeve and the deputy who had some questions about financing before and after the county school boards take over. Uproar of the discussion was the clerk-administrator's promise to send school board a letter clarifying where the two bodies sit with reference to the new Resource Centre.

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BARBARA McNABB's dress making ability is admired by two visitors from Ghana who visited the Robert Little school last Wednesday afternoon as part of their study of the Canadian educational system. Joseph Kpaipo-Allotey

and Vigilance Duodo were accompanied by area superintendent W. L. McNeil, Principal G. W. McKenzie looks on. They like Canada very much and find their reception here cordial. They go to Alberta next. (Staff Photo)

Foreign students to spend weekend with Acton hosts

This weekend 25 foreign students and several wives and children will be guests in Acton homes, in a novel project sponsored by the United Church Women. The students will be coming from three universities, McMaster in Hamilton, University of Guelph and the University of Toronto, under the auspices of two organizations, the International Students' Council and Foreign Relations for Overseas Students.

The assistant director of I.S.C. and his wife will be among the

11 coming from Toronto. A couple and their child and three students are expected from the University of Guelph and eight, including one child, from McMaster.

They come from India, Pakistan, Malaysia and other countries. They will experience home life in Acton with the hope of learning more about Canada while they are here studying.

They will arrive Saturday noon, have lunch with host families, and then tour Micro Plastics, Beardmore and Co. and the Robert Little school. They'll have dinner and spend the evening with their hosts.

Sunday morning they will go to the United church - if not to

worship, then just to observe. Coffee and a light lunch will be served after church and they'll be driven back to their campuses.

This is the first time this type of project has been held in Acton. Looking after various aspects of arrangements are Mrs. T. Shields, Mrs. C.L. Rogvaldson, Mrs. Hugh Patterson and Mrs. A. Long.

There was short meeting after church Sunday to brief the hosts on a few details they might have considered. From the names sent from the universities, it's impossible to tell the nationalities of the visitors. Some will be vegetarians; some will likely eat chicken, but not beef or pork. They might - or might not - be Christians.

The answers to these questions will be part of the exchange of knowledge and understanding that will result from the visit - for both the foreign students and the Acton families.

100 cottages unsatisfactory

More than 100 cottages at two lakes owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority have been found in unsatisfactory condition. The figure may be higher when cottage inspections have been completed at Belwood and Conestogo lakes, which between them have about 675 cottages on land leased from the authority.

The inspections signalled a start to a new policy aimed at upgrading cottage areas, improving existing facilities for use by the general public and formulating long-range plans to open up more shoreline for general public use.

Owners of cottages classed as below acceptable standards will be asked to carry out repairs and renovations or remove the cottage, said G. M. Coutts, authority general manager.

The authority office has been deluged by telephone calls and letters since cottage owners were notified of the new policy.

"A great deal of public money has been spent on the dams that create these two lakes and we feel we should gradually provide more public access to the facilities," said Authority chairman James S. Bauer of Waterloo. "We want to clean up some undesirable conditions that have grown up around the lakes, but at the same time we want to be fair and equitable to all."

Mr. Bauer said that in addition to cottages that are below standard, there are several instances where flush toilet systems are emptying directly into the lake. "We can't allow things like this to go on," he said.

A notice from Halton Region Conservation Authority announced the township's share of the \$600,000 Scotch Block dam and reservoir project in Equeusing would be \$2,381, payable over a 12 year period with an average annual payment of just over \$200. The Authority will meet with councillors to explain the project, also this year's \$1.45 per capita levy to all supporting municipalities.

Members discussed the possibility of closing the Fifth Line road allowance north of Five Sideroad, where an adjacent landowner has reported problems with hikers and construction crews. Neighboring owners are to be contacted to see how closing the road would affect them.

The clerk reported the floors in the township hall at Brookville had been refinished, and plans were made to recover the stage area with plywood and tile. Council also authorized improvements to a planter along the front of the administration building.

Euchre winners are announced

Winners at the last euchre at Crewson's Corners were, ladies' high, N. Kvanitz; ladies' low, Augusta Strickland; men's high, John Dewar, men's low, V. Shaw. Lone hands, Mas Fountain.

The door prize was won by Bea Anderson.

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Reeve against mall for off-street parking

A mall for the main business section in Acton? Councillor Ted Tyler's suggestion, never discussed fully at council level, may be microscopically examined by committee, with a recommendation to council for or against soon.

Meanwhile Reeve Hinton, patting Mr. Tyler on the back for his enterprise in presenting a brief regarding downtown problems, came out flatly against the idea of a mall. "I can't support it," he said.

Long an advocate of off-street parking the reeve said he had done everything possible to get more such parking facilities and charged council has direct responsibility for providing it.

Mayor Doby took issue with Mr. Hinton's statement. "He was instrumental in cutting down the mill rate so much, so he's pretty well hamstringed any regular program," the mayor charged.

"He's big chief speaks with forked tongue, I think," the mayor concluded.

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