

No station on parkland petition from Lakeview asks

A delegation of seven Lakeview residents presented to council Tuesday a petition signed by people representing 144 households of 180 or so in the subdivision. Their petition entered "strong objections" to the erection of the CNR station or any other building in Lakeview parkland.

George Scott acted as spokesman for the group and discussion on the matter took up a good deal of council's time at different points during the meeting.

Finally council endorsed the petition in principle, on a split vote.

No recommendation

A second part of the same motion failed: in it the mover and seconder, deputy-revee Marks and revee McKenzie proposed council recommend to parks board they consider designating the parkland on Elizabeth Dr. north of the lake as open space parkland.

The possibility council was usurping parks board's responsibilities and the desire for more consideration first, caused this vote to fail. Just the mover and seconder voted in favor of it.

List points

In his presentation to council Mr. Scott listed their reasons - the greenbelt is attractive and the building would detract; it is not architecturally suitable and would dominate the area; there is no parking; a change room there would encourage swimming in a area where there are inherent

dangers; safety and security were concerns - for fire there is no road access; who would maintain the building, and how well; it would contribute to depress real estate values in the subdivision.

Mr. Scott pointed out the group had no intention of criticizing the Lions club or the station itself. "To some there is a place for it, but it is not in Lakeview."

Attending the meeting with Mr. Scott were Tony Wilson, Vic Morris, Fred Bennett, Steve Ormsby, Jim Gibb and Jan Wegman.

Mr. Scott explained about 20 homes had not been contacted. He presented the brief and pages of signatures to the mayor.

All give opinions

After Mayor Len Duby thanked the group for bringing their concern to council this way he polled all councillors, getting the strongest reaction from councillor Norm Elliott.

Mr. Elliott was the one who originally relayed to Council the Lions club request for support in their bid to get the soon-to-be abandoned station and keep it in town.

Wild speculations

Agitated, Mr. Elliott declared his regret the situation has reached such a development. "It's unfortunate that this idea has been crucified more than the Lions club deserve. People made all kinds of wild speculations before the Lions made it clear what they intended. People assumed the building

would be dumped - a detriment. They talked about noise. This was by no means intended, Mr. Elliott stated. Two or three sponsors themselves live not far away.

Had concerns

The Lions as long-time citizens were concerned about recreation and wanted to see more organized development of recreation around the lake like canoeing and rowing and a more involved swimming program.

The plan was by no means intended to produce this tremendous outpouring of feeling.

Parks board and the service club can work this out amicably, Mr. Elliott asserted, and he too had doubt about its positioning. The publicity has been a bad thing, he felt.

Somebody should endorse the position taken by the service club, he continued. "Some of the remarks in the newspaper were a complete and utter assassination of the service club."

Reeve McKenzie said he didn't read such strong feeling into people's reactions, and Mr. Elliott continued to state his feelings later in discussion.

Club distressed

The Lions were extremely distressed they got so little credit, he declared. They intended to renovate completely and supervise. "I think they are being attacked," Mr. Elliott insisted, adding he too feels that location is wrong. "But I defend their project!"

Mr. Scott repeated his group was not attacking the Lions and "there is no harm in publicity." He thought it might have been wise for the Lions to talk to the people and to let the local press know their objectives. "It seemed right and proper for us to express our views at this time," he concluded.

Mayor Duby interjected the CNR, too, felt that publicity is premature.

Councillor Coats, who sees the building every day, agrees it is unique and its looks are maybe its asset. He pointed out zoning allows buildings on recreational land. More places are needed for small meetings. Guelph has a building for bridge and stamp clubs. "It's up to parks board."

Barry Inscow reported no definite decision has been made by parks board; alternatives were considered.

Councillor Masales pointed he had not been contacted and personally had the same feelings as the delegation.

Councillor Chapman agreed he saw problems with the building in this area.

Some discussion hinged on the matter of whether or not a recommendation should be made to parks board, before the resolution was prepared.

Mayor Duby reminded the delegation council has only spelled out their position as being in support of the bid to purchase. "Parks board is a separate entity."

Accept plan fix corner

Improving the corner of highways 25 and 7 on Main St. N. is in the offing. Council Tuesday approved the town project following the recommendations of the town engineer R. V. Anderson.

No additional property is required in the proposal which has been accepted. The improvements to the corner will include islands and markings. Cost of the project is estimated at \$43,000 with just \$2,000 or \$3,000 of the amount not subsidized.

In budget

The improvements will be included in the public works committee budget. It is the first phase in the five year projection of works, and is categorized as a connecting link.

Councillor Masales explained the plan. Mayor Duby recalled there is no hope for an underpass under the railway. Traffic count must be 40,000 to justify the expense, and Acton's count is just 800 vehicles a day.

Green light for building

Approval for further building was given to two groups at council meeting Tuesday.

K. Pain, representing Acton Meadows, explained his current problematical position, anxiously awaiting the registration of phase 2, involving 25 homes. Many are sold already, and the builders should start early in March.

Delay is occurring in the Land Titles Office due to a problem in surveying.

Council approved a by-law authorizing the signing of an agreement with McNamara Corporation, so building permits can be issued.

Mr. Pain came with papers ready so the agreement could

proceed as soon as possible.

Two phases

Mike Brodigan appeared again for Windland Associates and resolutions were passed approving rezoning for the next two phases of Kingham Hill Estates.

Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst pointed out the planner, engineer and solicitor are now all in agreement with the present plans for the subdivision.

To expedite matters, assistant clerk Hugh Patterson and Mr. Brodigan left the meeting to go to the town office to get the corporate seal on the documents right away.

Authority wants more control of land drainage

A brief presented by the Grand River Conservation Authority to an Ontario government select committee suggests that conservation authorities should have wider jurisdiction in controlling land drainage.

The brief, presented to the Ministry of Natural Resources' Select Committee on Land Drainage, was prepared by the authority's water management advisory board.

The current practice in agricultural land drainage is primarily to rid farm lands of excess water during heavy rains and spring run-off periods. While the practice is desirable from the agricultural point of view, says the brief, it sometimes has harmful effects on the water flow in rivers and streams.

In its recommendations to the committee, the Authority suggests the province should be divided into small water management areas of about 50 to 75 square miles. The areas would be set up on the basis of their drainage structure rather than by political boundaries.

Authorities responsible

Conservation Authorities would be responsible for planning and managing the areas and their drainage systems, taking into

consideration not only the agricultural benefits but also the effects on the natural flow of rivers and streams.

In areas where no conservation authority exists, the committee recommends that the Ministry of Natural Resources take on the responsibility.

The brief cites two main reasons for closer co-ordination of drainage activities:

(1)—Excessive or uncontrolled drainage during the spring run-off period contributes to flooding at downstream points on rivers and streams.

(2)—Run-off must be controlled to ensure that enough water is retained in reservoirs which augment the flow of a river during dry spells and help reduce pollution build-up.

Better co-ordination of land drainage activities will result in more efficient water management at reduced cost to provincial government agencies, says the brief.

Battery taken

During the night of Sat. Feb. 24, a battery was reported removed from a vehicle at the Churchill Rd. S. apartments. Acton O.P.P. are investigating.

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