

# Too many houses: Board turns down Mountainview plan

A visit to the site of a proposed 110-unit housing development on the northwest corner of Mountainview Road and River Drive by members of the town's subsidiary planning board failed to impress the board members enough to give their approval to the year-old proposal.

"This is nothing but billy goat land," said Councillor Ern Hyde as he strolled across a small section of the steeply banked property. "One leg will be shorter than the other if we keep this up much longer."

But to the chief architect of the scheme, Jack Klein, the contours of the land which he agreed, "are pretty wild" offered the developers a chance to come up with a "unique townhouse scheme which will preserve a beautiful wooded area while still providing needed housing for Georgetown."

The development of the area is being proposed by Tom Belman who, with Mr. Klein, took the planning board members on a tour of the site last Tuesday evening.

Councillor Hyde had requested the on-site inspection to show the other members of the board some of the steeper portions of the land which he claimed are totally unusable for development.

The councillors, prior to their short tour, were shown a model of the proposed development by Mr. Klein and photographs of tiered homes of the type planned to be built on the widely varying heights of the property. In one particular instance the homes to compensate for the sharp fall in land were built three on top of each other.

Also on hand for the tour were Ron Burnett, assistant town planner, Doug Collison, the town's recreation director, and Dick Austin, town engineer.

The planning board first inspected the southeast corner of the property and then drove to John Street where they saw the top portion of the heavily wooded land.

"Preservation of the natural woodlot," Mr. Klein emphasized throughout the tour, "is one of our major goals in developing this property." A heavily wooded section which runs through the centre of the property would be preserved completely he said, in hopes of developing it as a town administered "active park."

Although the problems of the steep drop of the land and the dangerous intersection at Mountainview and River Drive were noted during the inspection by board members it eventually was the number of homes that are planned for the development that caused the board to flatly refuse the scheme, despite the fact that the planning department had recommended that it be approved.



**A HELPING HAND FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT.** On site inspections can be a strenuous business as Councillor Mike Armstrong found out last week. What the designer called "wild contours" were actually high hills that had to be climbed by the planning board, other town officials and representatives from the company that had hoped to construct a subdivision in the area to the northwest of the Mountainview Drive and River Road intersection. Ron Burnett lends a needed hand to help Councillor Armstrong up the steep side of the "countour."

plan during an on site inspection of the area. It was all to no avail as the subsidiary planning board later turned thumbs down on the project.



**ALL IN VAIN.** Jack Klein, chief planner for the new subdivision which had been planned for the Mountainview Road and River Drive area, explains to town councillors Ern Hyde, and Ric Morrow some of the features of the

plan during an on site inspection of the area. It was all to no avail as the subsidiary planning board later turned thumbs down on the project.

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