

Council Briefs

Residents oppose townhouse

Halton Hills General committee was presented Monday, during a public meeting, with a petition signed by 15 Acton residents who oppose a four unit townhouse development on a piece of property at Church and John Streets in Acton.

The residents claimed the housing development, if approved, would clash with the existing style of housing in the area, create too much traffic, and devalue the prices of their houses. "The houses in the area are detached and semi-detached and we want it to remain that way," said Ernie Waller, one of the resident opposing the development application.

Before the development can go ahead, the town must first amend the area zoning bylaw. No decision will be made until town staff write a report on the proposal that will incorporate comments made by the residents during the public meeting. Once staff has evaluated the application, it will make a recommendation and then put it before council to be considered for approval.

The developer behind the project pointed out during the public meeting that a similar townhouse project exists at Park Savenue and Mill Street in Acton and that development has enhanced the neighborhood.

No opposition

None of the residents living in the south end of Georgetown expressed opposition Monday during a public meeting to the town's proposal to rezone the area bounded by Rosefield Drive, Roydon Place, Wilson Court and Hall Road as open space.

Some residents appearing at the public meeting wondered if the town planned to develop the area into a full-fledged recreational park. The town has no plans except to leave the area empty as it is now, responded the town's director of Recreation and Parks, Tom Shepard.

Decision deferred

After hearing concerns raised by two Acton residents over a development proposal to establish a one-storey commercial plaza with two above floors comprised of apartments on Queen Street East, town councillors recommended deferring making a decision during Monday's General Committee meeting.

The town General Committee is comprised of the town councillors.

Residents argued the people living in the apartments would be able to see into the backyards of the houses that back onto the proposed building. The neighboring residents would have no privacy, they stated. The residents also raised concerns over such issues as increased parking, the availability of parking and the possible devaluing of neighboring properties.

The residents suggested they would be more supportive of the application if the apartments were replaced with office spaces.

Councillors agreed this may be a preferable option and directed staff to consult with the developers about this possibility.

The developer's representative, John Ionidis, told the committee the developer would consider office spaces but suggested it may be difficult because the creation of more parking spaces would be required.

Staff will bring the application before General Committee once again in two weeks.

Noisy trains

The town's General Committee recommended Monday that anti-train whistle bylaws be implemented for the railway crossings at Trafalgar Road and Maple Avenue, and at

Thompson Road and RR2, Georgetown.

Residents living in the area of each of the railway crossings requested the bylaws be passed.

The committee recommendation will go before council this Monday for final approval.

Fire alarm fees increase

Halton Hills fire department wants to raise the fee to monitor fire alarm systems from \$200 to \$375 to hook up the monitor system and \$150 to \$300 every

year to monitor the service for residential customers. This fee would jump from \$150 to \$400 for commercial and industrial customers.

The town's Fire Chief, Bill Cunningham, justified the increase Monday during a General Committee meeting. The old fees didn't reflect the fees other fire departments were charging their customers.

General Committee recommended the fee increase be accepted. The recommendation will go before council for final approval this Monday.

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