

Council Briefs

No opposition surfacing to Kingsmill development

The second phase of the Kingsmill development project in the River Drive area of Georgetown appears to have public support.

At a public meeting Monday, at the Halton Hills Civic Centre, residents commented on how the proposed 162 stacked townhouses would create affordable housing and provide necessary construction jobs.

Neighboring resident Tom Politi told Town councillors "the Town is in dire need of affordable housing. Without the type of housing being proposed the young people in Georgetown won't be able to remain."

Georgetown resident John Rinaldi, who told the public meeting he was a bricklayer, said it has been very difficult to get a job for the last six months. If the development will provide work "I support it," he said.

Halton Hills council has already approved the first phase of the Kingsmill development

project which is comprised of 175 conventional townhouses.

Town planning staff will now write a report on the proposed second phase of the development incorporating comments made during the public meeting. The report will then be submitted to Town council for final consideration.

Parade approved

Halton Hills Council approved Monday the Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area be permitted to hold a parade through the downtown core June 15 as part of BIA sponsored Pioneer Days.

Parking space survey

Halton Hills Council decided Monday to spend \$5,000 to hire Hamilton-based Parker Consultants to conduct a realignment survey of parking space in the Back Street Parking Lot in the Georgetown downtown core. The survey is to determine if the



parking lot can be redesigned to incorporate more spaces than currently exists.

Decision deferred

Halton Hills Council decided Monday to defer making a decision on an application to store and repair farm equipment on a property on the Ninth Line north of Steeles Avenue.

Council made its decision after the applicant's representative Dino Mazzorato told council his client wants more time to prove to the Town he plans to live on the property and not flip it.

Town General Committee, which is comprised of Town councillors, recommended last week that the application be denied.

Special garbage collection

The Town's garbage trucks will be out June 10 collecting garden and yard waste as part of the Town special collection yard and garden waste program.

The collection day will cost the Town \$3,263 but the Town is hopeful the province will provide the money through a provincial grant.

If the money is forthcoming, the special collection program will be incorporated into the Town's regular garbage collection system on a permanent basis, according to a staff report.

Housing meeting

The Town's planning staff will hold a public meeting June 19 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. to discuss the Town's Housing Strategy report on what type of housing is needed for Halton Hills. The public meeting will be held at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Delay questioned

Councillors learned Monday Georgetown's McNally Construction, through a letter sent to Mayor Russ Miller, is questioning why their application to build a shopping plaza on Guelph Street has not yet gone to a public meeting.

The concern stems from the fact the project application has been with the Town for over a year, said Mayor Miller.

Town Planner Ian Keith told Council the application has been with staff for such a long time because of the application's complexity. However, Mr. Keith assured Council the public meeting will be held in June.

Council remains irked by criticism

Members of Halton Hills Council remain irked by criticism laid against council by Acton developers Edward Bain and Cheryl Smart over council's treatment of a development proposal for a Church and John Street property in Acton.

Taking up the issue where it was left off a week ago, some Councillors Monday took exception to a letter written by the developers to the province claiming council ran its meeting like a "kangaroo court" when considering the development application last March.

At that time, council rejected the proposal which called for four housing units to be built on the property. Councillors have always maintained the proposal was rejected because the property was too small for the proposed development.

As a result, the developers have submitted a revised application to the Town proposing three executive-style houses be built. As well, they sent a letter to the province, and handed out copies to council members last Monday. In the letter, the developers claim council considered side issues rather than the application itself in rejecting

the original proposal.

As proof, the couple point out in the letter one councillor asked if the property was suitable for a "halfway house."

At Monday's meeting Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette acknowledged he made the comment.

He said he took exception to the comment's inclusion in the letter because the halfway house idea came from a report authored by the developer's architect.

"Perhaps they (the developers) didn't read their own submissions," said Councillor Bonnette.

The Acton councillors also took exception to certain comments in the letter he referred to as "threats" against council.

He was referring to the developers' statement they would ignore the Town's rejection of the original proposal and Ontario Municipal Board approval for the four units if council rejects the revised application.

The OMB is the final arbitrator on development applications.

Councillor Bonnette suggested council defer holding a public meeting on the revised application until September. Since the application is controversial and

neighboring residents are concerned about the development of the property, it's more appropriate to hold the public meeting in September, said Mr. Bonnette.

The councillor was concerned over the fact that if the public meeting is held during the summer, many residents will be unable to attend because they will be on vacation.

Councillor Bonnette was quick to point out council has taken similar action on at least two other applications.

Mayor Russ Miller also indicated a letter from the neighboring residents making the same request had recently been submitted to the Town.

Despite the request, Council elected to have the public meeting in June.

In support of a June public meeting, Coun. Anne Currie said most people take vacations in July and August.

She went on to say the letter should have no bearing on the application. No date for the June public meeting was given.

Similarly, Coun. Joe Hewitt said "we are running a dangerous course if we don't deal with the issue soon."

Special dedication ceremony marks Acton development

A plaque dedication ceremony to mark the start of construction of 36 houses and apartments for families and people with special needs will be held this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at Cook Street in Acton.

Noel Duignan, MPP for Halton North, is scheduled to attend on behalf of Ontario Housing Minister Dave Cooke.

The housing is being developed under the province's Homes Now initiative and is sponsored by Cobblehill Homes Co-operative Inc.

The development will contain 19 one-bedroom, 15 two-bedroom

and two three-bedroom row houses and apartments. Two of these will be designed for disabled residents.

The \$4.9 million capital cost of the development is being met with a mortgage loan from Ontario Housing Corporation which obtains the funds from the Canada Pension Plan.

The total annual operating subsidy for this project is estimated

at more than \$266,000.

It is expected that 25 of the homes will be allocated to low-income people. The remaining 11 will be offered at the average market rent for Halton Hills.

The architect for the project is Wilfrid R. Ussner, the contractor is Elmway Construction and the development consultant is Lantana Non-Profit Homes Corporation.

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