

Concerned residents consider appeal to OMB

Continued from page 1

The applicant and site owner, Credit River Ridge Developers, began the application process for the Williamsburg Creditview Seniors Living complex in 2014, and very quickly ran into resistance from some area residents and town planners on a number of fronts.

Residents first voiced their concerns at a town hall meeting held in late September 2015. The grievances against the proposed project include the height and esthetic of the large structure compared to other dwellings, traffic and parking, sun and shade restrictions, privacy and the environment.

The developer has spent the intervening time working with town planners in an attempt to address some of those concerns. Ultimately, town planners decided Credit River Ridge Developers had done enough and recommended council allow the required zoning and planning amendments.

The existing property, once the site of three detached homes, was

partially zoned low density and medium density. Those zoning categories only allowed for a maximum three to four-storey structure and therefore needed to be changed to allow for the proposed structure. It also required an amendment to the town's official plan.

All but one of the resident delegations threatened to take action with the OMB if the project was allowed to proceed. On the flip side, some councillors expressed concerns over the likelihood the developer would do the same should the application be denied.

I think this is what we refer to in political circles as a no-win decision here, said Councillor Bryan Lewis, one of only two councillors to vote nay.

While several members of council expressed sympathy toward the residents objections, they were almost universally weary of voting against staff recommendations and a trip to the OMB.

I would like the public to know

that I have heard their concerns, said councillor Jane Fogal. Having said that, these issues that have been raised have been addressed in the staff report. We didn't just take what the proponents said on face value, she said.

Fogal added she didn't think the town had a case for refusal, and could only remember two instances where council went against its own staff reports at the OMB losing both times.

Mayor Rick Bonnette also said he was sensitive to resident concerns but agreed with Fogal's assessment. He also strongly supported the need for more seniors housing in Georgetown.

That argument didn't satisfy councillor Moya Johnson, who voted no on the recommendation.

We are under no obligation to support our planning department on every file. We most often do, but there are times when the recommendation does not agree or fit in with council's vision. That's why we're here, said Johnson. If we



Area residents are unhappy after council agreed to rezone a property at the corner of Mountainview Rd. and John St. to make way for a six-storey seniors residence.

Photo by Graeme Frisque

voted in favour of everything they said, then really we don't need a council to decide planning matters.

Support from only two councillors and sympathy from others was cold comfort for concerned residents

We are obviously very disappointed, said Mary Broderick, who lives next door to the proposed development. She and

husband Patrick Horigan were among the delegates who gave presentations to council on Monday.

The mayor and council, with the exception of two councillors, did not support the neighbourhood community and their concerns and needs, said Broderick, who added they and others are considering taking their case to the OMB.

AUTOPRO

HASSELL AUTOMOTIVE

SALES & SERVICE

45 Mountainview Road North, Georgetown, Ontario

905.877.7958

e-mail: hassellsauto@bellnet.ca • www.hassellautomotive.com

33 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Merry Christmas to all of our awesome customers and the rest of Georgetown who have yet to find, what we feel is the number 1 all around auto sales and repair shop in town with the best licensed technicians. We constantly up-date diagnostic equipment and maintain the highest level of integrity. There isn't anything we can't do. Our one year free warranty on purchased vehicles over \$5,000 is unmatched by any other dealer!

I have dedicated 33 years to a business I believe in, by hiring only the best and those with both skill and heart who best reflect my own ideals.

I'm incredibly proud of my staff and equally thrilled to have met so many special people.

Dave

Merry Christmas

