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## Controversial plans return in fall

From page 1.

Stouffville's secondary plan, which specifies new lots must match up with existing lots they border.

Tuesday's meeting began at 7 p.m. — discussions about the future of the old town hall lasted until 8:30 — and didn't wrap up until 1:10 a.m. Wednesday. Residents lined up at the microphone, taking turns demanding that Whitchurch-Stouffville council tell developers to stick to the community's traditional 50- and 60-foot lot sizes, reject semi-detached homes and townhouses and pay better attention to roads.

An information meeting — the public meeting was postponed due to the way the meeting was advertised — was held regarding a 329-home subdivision proposed for 56 acres west of the Ninth Line and north of Elm Road, next to St. Mark school and church. The plan, by Madori Ltd., will go to a public hearing on July 23.

"When I look out my window, I see nature," said long-time Elm Road resident Daphne Goldman. "I see a pond; I see deer, raccoons and skunks. When you cement this over, where is the wildlife going to go? You are putting nature in the garbage."

Area resident David Brooker said the Madori plan "doesn't blend in with the existing neighbourhood. These small lots have nothing to do with us," said Mr. Brooker. "I moved up here to get away from this. This is inner city stuff."

O'Brien Avenue resident Mark Lakin pointed out that the Official Plan population projection for 2021 for the town was set at 24,000. Now, it's 44,000. "This is poor planning," Mr. Lakin said.

These plans are not including the needs of young people, said Mary

Catherine Ramsden. "There's no community centre planned," she said. Meanwhile, Frank Daigle accused council of failing to listen to the people. "The people want a different Stouffville," said Mr. Daigle. "Where's the democracy here? You do not share the people's concerns."

A 268-dwelling subdivision, made up of townhouses and single-detached homes, is proposed by Greatland Properties Co. for land located across from the Stouffville Country stretching to the Stouffville Reservoir. A new public elementary school, located north of St. Bridgid Catholic School, is in the plan.

Ward 5 Councillor Harry Bowes joined area residents in slamming the subdivision plan. "I'd like the developer to rip up this plan and start over again," said Councillor Bowes. "There are too many houses in the plan."

Meanwhile, Stouffville residents Frank and Aurora Mauro submitted a plan to build a 269-dwelling subdivision on 47 acres east of the Ninth Line and north of Bramble Crescent and Bayberry Street. This plan calls for single detached dwellings with frontages ranging from 39.4 to 59 feet.

Ward 2 Councillor Mark Carroll has long expressed concerns about residential growth. "Development doesn't pay for itself," said Councillor Carroll. "Markham continues to grow and taxes continue to go up," he said.

Residents also expressed concerns about traffic congestion, children's safety, the lack of recreation facilities especially for teenagers, water quantity and quality and the protection of trees.

The Mauro and Greatland plans were sent back to town staff for further study. Whitchurch-Stouffville council will revisit the plans in the fall, said Mayor Emmerson.

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