

COUNCIL: Resident opposes added height

More condos on western horizon

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Stouffville is growing up.

A seven-storey, 139-unit condominium building will be constructed at 25 Baker Hill Blvd. Council approved the proposal Tuesday afternoon.

Council also approved a requested amendment by Belcomo Investments, Belcomo Properties to build above the town's maximum height of 20 metres. The proposed building will be 21.2 metres tall.

"I have great problems with developers who dictate what they want instead of comply," resident Dave Probert told councillors.

"If the town has a bylaw on height restrictions, then it should be kept. No one comes before council to ask for an extra three feet," the longtime council watchdog said.

Perhaps the bylaw is outdated in light of intensification requirements, noted Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

"You can't intensify unless you go up," he said

Between requirements put in place by the Places to Grow Act and York Region's official plan, Whitchurch-Stouffville has an intensification target of 1,400 new residential units within the built boundary by 2031.

'You can't intensify unless you go up.'

The residential building will be constructed just south of the Baker Hill Boulevard condo building and north of 5402 Main St., a two-storey plaza housing the Stakeout Restaurant, The Source and other retailers.

The proposal also contained plans to renovate the plaza, which consists of adding another storey onto it.

Belcomo also owns the plaza.

Cosmetic work will also be done to the current structure.

"The building at this location is aging and the town would benefit from its facade being updated and renovated," according to the staff report.

Guard, video surveillance at meetings

A security guard is now posted outside of the Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers during meetings.

"It's very disheartening," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson at the start of Tuesday afternoon's meeting.

"We have never yet had an issue but because of what's been happening lately, we've

brought in security. ... It's too bad," he said.

Mr. Emmerson promised more security measures last month, mentioning threats made to town staff and verbal tirades by residents that have taken place in the chambers on Sandford Drive - one of which was directed at a reporter during an April meeting.

Council chambers are also under surveillance via closed circuit video, according to noticed posted inside the room.

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