

Attorney asks for open minds

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"I really don't want a hotel in my backyard," resident Glen Wescott said. "I really don't think it's good for the people here. It doesn't fit in the town plan."

Several of those who spoke shared that sentiment. Another common complaint mentioned was traffic concerns.

Meadow Drive resident Lynn Vanderhoff said she believes traffic has become an issue in that area ever since Tim Hortons was built nearby, on Boston State Road near Route 219. She is concerned about the type of issues that could arise by adding houses, apartments and a hotel in the vicinity.

She said out of concern for the safety of her grand-

children and her neighbors' children, she does not let them play in the front yard.

"We keep them in the backyard, because the front isn't safe," Vanderhoff said. She said she has loved living in Boston, and is afraid that her "country home" could turn into a "country nightmare."

She said over the last 50 years, some member of her family has lived in that home and with traffic having increased with Tim Hortons on the corner, she stressed that additional increased traffic poses a safety threat.

"We already have a death trap at the end of our street," Vanderhoff said.

Shortly after she spoke, a chant of "just say no" came from the crowd for a moment.

Another Meadow Drive resident, Carl Otis, was criti-

cal of the two missing board members, questioning how they will know his concerns if they are not in attendance.

Roger Weiss, another resident who lives on Meadow, said no matter where you live in the town, residents will feel the impact if the board approves the rezoning.

"This literally affects everyone in the Town of Boston," Weiss said.

According to Weiss, the town's planning board recommended against rezoning it, and he believes the town board should follow suit.

After residents were done voicing their opinions, Hopkins asked residents to be open-minded to the proposed project. He said he believes a project of some kind will likely come to fruition at some point in the future.

Boston residents voice concerns about project near 219

By Christopher Gordon

HAMBURG SUN CORRESPONDENT

An overflow of Town of Boston residents caused a July 5 public hearing on a proposed rezoning of property on Boston State Road near Route 219 to be moved to the downstairs meeting room at Boston Town Hall. And the majority of residents who spoke let the board know they are not in favor of rezoning the property.

Being proposed is a mixed-use project that would include 20 cluster homes that back up to residents along Meadow Drive. Additionally, the plan would include 96 apartments, three commercial buildings, parking lots and, in the future, a hotel.

The applicant is Roy Emerling through the company Quaker Estates, Ltd.

The property Emerling is seeking to rezone sits on about 36 acres of land. He hopes to have just over 28 acres rezoned, including eight acres of land proposed as C-2 for the commercial property and hotel, and the remaining 20 to R-3 for the homes and apartments.

When the hearing was set to begin, Town Councilman Jason Keding, who was reading the resolution, got out of his seat and moved toward the middle of the room in an attempt to allow all residents to hear him. There were several residents in the hallway because of the lack of room in the courtroom.

"Can everyone hear me?" Keding asked loudly. Several shouted "no."

At that point, Town Supervisor Martin A. Ballowe decided to move the hearing downstairs. He said although he was expecting a large crowd, he was not anticipating the number of people who came. Ballowe, along with Keding, Town Councilman Zach Munger and other town officials, moved downstairs. Councilmen Jeffrey A. Genzel and Jay P. Boardway were not present during the meeting.

Town Attorney Michael Kolbiolka opened the hearing by telling the crowd that this is the largest proposed project he has ever seen for the Town of Boston, but cautioned this is one of several steps in the process before it could ever become a reality.

"It's the biggest proposal Boston has ever had," Kolbiolka said.

Sean W. Hopkins of the law firm Hopkins, Sorgi and Romanowski, which represents Emerling, said discussions on this project have been in the works for a while. He added the project plan has gone through changes from what was originally proposed over a year ago.

"We lowered the number of hotels from three to one," Hopkins said.

For almost one hour and 45 minutes, many residents got up and spoke, and all but one were against the plan.



Bertha Call, as they visit a backyard garden at 33 Sherwood Ave. that features a model train Garden Walk on Saturday.

Karen Gioia/Special to The Sun.

school principal leaving, t with two key vacancies

School Board president Janet M. Plarr joined other members of the board of education in wishing the two men well in their endeavors. She joked that they are moving to an even "snowier region of Western New York." Plarr also knows the board has some difficult decisions ahead and noted that the board is already making plans to look at its options in a search for a new superintendent.

The board is going to meet with (Erie 1oces Superintendent) Lynn Fusco, according Plarr. She added that the meeting, which will be held in an executive session, is scheduled to take place July 18.

Plarr said during that meeting they are expected to explore and discuss options for a permanent superintendent. She also expects that e of the first parts of the process will be to me an interim superintendent. Candidates

for the interim post should also be discussed during the meeting with Fusco.

Plarr, who has been on the school board for more than 20 years, said there is not a set procedure that the board follows when it comes to finding a new superintendent.

"We've done it different ways each time," she said.

But she did say that it is normal to hire an interim superintendent because the search process for the permanent replacement normally takes an average of between three and six months to complete. She cautioned that during the last search three years ago, it took even longer.

"The last time we went through a process, we had an interim for a whole school year,"

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