

Board turns down man

Site in Walkertown will not be rezoned for a restaurant

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WALKERTOWN

The town council denied a rezoning request last week from a Walkertown resident who wants to convert a house into an office for his company.

The council voted 3-1 Aug. 23 to deny the rezoning for Dennis Gallimore. Council member Brenda Mabe asked the council to deny Gallimore's request. Council member Sarah Welch voted against the motion.

Gallimore bought a house at 2841 Darrow Road in 2005 with plans to turn it into an office for his construction company, Innovative Construction.

However, when he started remodeling the house, he found that it had a lot of problems that made it costly to remodel.

Gallimore said he wanted to tear down the house and build a small restaurant without a drive-through on the property. He said that it would sell such foods as hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream.

"We want to run it as a family," he said.

The property, which is zoned for such businesses as offices, is not zoned for a restaurant.

Aaron King, a planner for the town, told council members that the area plan for Walkertown calls for offices, not restaurants.

If the council decided to rezone the property, it could lead to other rezoning requests that would not be part of the town's development plan.

The Walkertown Planning Board voted unanimously at its Aug. 7 meeting to recommend to the council that it reject Gallimore's request.

Gallimore told council members that he believed from an earlier planning-board meeting that if he addressed some concerns that the planning board had, the council would approve his rezoning request.

Stewart Scott, a surveyor who revised the site plan for Gallimore, also spoke in favor of his rezoning request and agreed that Gallimore had addressed the planning board's concerns.

The property south of Gallimore's property is zoned residential, and north is zoned for commercial uses.

In other business, the council unanimously approved two voluntary-annexation petitions. The council annexed 1644 Old Hollow Road into the town.

The owners of 1931 Clover Trail requested to have their property annexed into the town. The council approved that request as well.

The council scheduled a public hearing for its Sept. 27 meeting on annexing about 40 acres on Rocky Branch Road into the town.

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