

Walkertown rezoning denied because of traffic congestion

Permission to build an office on Darrow Road is approved

By Erica Franklin

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WALKERTOWN

The town's planning board recently rejected a rezoning request for a business site on Old Hollow Road after some residents contended that the proposed project's entrance would be dangerous for drivers.

The planning board last week voted 5-0 to reject a request by Cecil and Carolyn Anderson who want to build a general-use business on their property. The project could have been a convenience store, a retail store or a church.

"I just don't see how we, in good conscience, can add additional traffic to this road," said Charona Remillard, a planning-board member.

"I go through there daily myself, and it is an absolute nightmare."

During a public hearing, John Wolfe, a Kernersville lawyer, said that the rezoning request was the right approach. Wolfe is the Anderson's attorney.

"We think we have come up with a reasonable plan," he said. "N.C. DOT (the N.C. Department of Transportation) accepted it."

The entrance to the proposed building would be on the curve of Old Hollow Road. At the hearing, some residents indicated that the site would be dangerous for drivers.

"It is a very dangerous curve right there," said Glen Eaton, a resident on Old Hollow Road.

The student population at Cash Elementary School is growing, Eaton said, and that adds more traffic on the road. Janet West, who lives on Robert West Road, said that she and her husband oppose the rezoning because it would cause traffic problems. Robert West Road is off Old Hollow Road.

"Right now, when we try to exit (N.C.) 66 Circle onto (N.C.) 66, there are times in the day where I would sit there for 15 minutes before someone would be gracious enough to let me out," she said.

In other business, the planning board voted 5-0 to approve a rezoning request to build an office on Darrow Road. Norma and Virginia Vaughn of Walkertown, the property's owners, asked for the rezoning.

Dennis Gallimore, the owner of Innovative Home Construction LLC, said he wants to buy the property for his home-based business.

"I presently have an office in my home that is in my bedroom," he said.

He said he wants to have a large office and a conference room.

"What I am wanting to put there would really be a benefit to the town," he said. "I'd offer construction services to anybody who wants additions to their home. Plus, I build new homes and sell new homes."

Gallimore said he might want to have a combination of a construction and a small real-estate business in the building after he opens his construction company. His wife has been studying real estate, and Gallimore has several friends who are real-estate agents.

Some planning-board members that this project probably would not cause traffic delays.

If approved by the town council, Gallimore must complete certain City-County Planning Board requirements for the project.

The town council will consider both projects at its Aug. 25 meeting.

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