

**Action delayed on land-use plan
Consideration put off until May because of changes on Walkertown council**

By Wesley Young
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WALKERTOWN

The Walkertown Area Plan is ready for adoption, but the town council is not ready to pass it yet.

The town council held a public hearing on the plan last Thursday but voted after the hearing to postpone any consideration of the plan until May 25.

The council that will consider the land-use plan is different from the one that set the plan into motion about two years ago. Since the work on the plan began, an election and the death of a longtime council member have changed three of the four members sitting on the council and in charge of considering the plan.

When the public hearing for the plan came up, Council Member Brenda Mabe immediately asked that it be tabled to give the council more time to study it. The motion passed unanimously after the public hearing.

Mabe and Wayne Hester were elected to the council last November. They took the place of Dot Duggins and Wallace Larrimore, who had announced their retirement from the council - although Duggins waged an unsuccessful write-in effort.

Meanwhile, Horace Warner, the council's longest-serving member, died Feb. 21. Last Thursday, the council appointed Ralph Landreth to take Warner's place. That left Sarah Welch as the only veteran from the council in place when work on the land-use plan was started, not counting Mayor Doc Davis.

No opposition to the plan emerged during the public hearing, although members of the Crews family repeated their opposition to including their old family homeplace in any future town plans.

An earlier version of the plan had called for the town to consider putting a town square near the old Thomas A. Crews house. The house stands at the corner of Main Street and Sullivantown Road. The idea for a square at that site was dropped after members of the Crews family objected.

The plan still calls for the town to consider the Crews house for some type of community use should it become available. Family members objected to that wording, said Don Nielson, an attorney speaking for them during the public hearing.

"It is a plan that you are expected to follow through with," Nielsen said. "The Crews were surprised to find their property in the plan. The family has no plans to sell. It hurts their property's status to know that it might have some public use."

Sally Crews Johnson and Nancy Crews Moretz, whose mother still lives in the house, spoke during the public hearing as well. They asked the town to delete any reference to their house in the plan.

In other action, several opponents of a demolition landfill proposed on the border of Stokes and Forsyth counties asked the town council to support their efforts. Several landfill opponents attended the meeting.

The landfill opponents said that Walkertown should be concerned because the landfill would lead to an increase in truck traffic through town. The council has taken no stand on the landfill.

- Wesley Young can be reached at 992-0067 or at wyoung@wsjournal.com

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