

Hansons

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He said he approved of the townhouses being built but added that the studies are a very important issue that can't be overlooked.

"The 537 (sewer study) is already going on and they should be able to get other studies which were done recently," said Boice.

This goes along with a report submitted last year by a borough Ad Hoc committee which studied the proposal.

Dr. Karen Winters, a former Harveys Lake resident who now lives in Dallas, said that the committee urged the borough council to get all the information it could before making a decision on rezoning.

"We went around and talked to (county planner) Adrian Merolli, to the Department of Transportation, to the school district and others to find out how this would affect the area," said Winters.

"We felt that before any change is made in the zoning the borough should look at all aspects of the proposal," she added.

"He felt, as we do, that the decision should be made on as much information as possible and this includes impact studies," said Winters.

Merolli went as far as to write a letter to the borough stating this opinion. In the letter dated August 8, 1990 Merolli said the borough should "...clearly weigh all positives and negatives of the project and its net effect on all aspects of concern to the borough and its residents before deciding on the rezoning issue."

Winters said the committee urged that the impact information be obtained before rezoning. "Maybe it doesn't have to be some-

thing as formal as a study but the borough needs to have all the information before making this decision," she said.

The information obtained by the Ad Hoc committee showed that the borough's sewage system and the local elementary school where both at full capacity and may not be able to handle a large increase in population.

"These are just some of the areas to be considered," said Winters. "We looked at what we thought was most important; we didn't look at the whole picture."

A zoning advisor to the borough agreed that all the information obtained before the vote on rezoning will be helpful, but he added that there is no law saying the impact studies should come first.

"There is no standard of procedure relative to when the impact studies should be done," said zoning consultant Jack Varaly.

He agreed that last week's public meeting produced good arguments for and against the proposal and added the council should take all these comments into consideration.

"The council has to look at the objections and see if they are only about the environment," said Varaly. "If they are, then the council must see if the issues can be overcome would these residents still object to the proposal."

Many residents and Winters have quoted Merolli as saying the borough will not be able to stop the developer once the zoning is changed.

Varaly believes the borough's zoning ordinance, which took effect at the beginning of the year, sets safeguards on developments.



DISCUSSING THE PLANS - Harveys Lake Solicitor Charles McCormick, left, listens to concerns from residents while councilmen William Wilson and Richard Boice look over plans to rezone 27 acres of land at the former Hanson's Amusement Park. (Post Photo/Rich Johnson)

"The point to remember whenever you talk about the studies is that there is nothing in the state planning code that addresses the issue," said Varaly. "This is totally conditional upon the council and it has the discretion to ask for studies above and beyond what is required. Not all communities are like that."

The council will hear more arguments when the public meeting continues on June 24. Councilman Joseph Sgarlat is looking forward to more input on that night.

"Some people have more information on this than the council,"

said Sgarlat. "This is a very tough decision and the more input, for or against it, the better it will be."

Sgarlat said that this is one of the biggest decisions this council could have. "Either way the council goes this will have a big effect on the community," he said.

Councilman George Gwilliam agreed. "It is a big decision and I hope that more people will turn out to give us their ideas on the matter," he said.

"The concerns we have heard are legitimate and I am sure there are others who want to voice their opinions," added Gwilliam.

Hearing

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ahead with studies to see if the development would be feasible. But many residents feel that the studies should come before the rezoning.

"The lack of environmental impact studies should halt this rezoning," said Dr. Henry J. Zelinski of Pole 295. "Once the rezoning is approved, the project will be unstoppable," he told the borough council at the meeting. "So until all plans are submitted and you get input from government agencies no decision should be made."

Other speakers said that possible problems with roads, sewer, water and school conditions should be considered before rezoning is approved.

However, the architect and attorneys for Hanson said that impact studies will be done after rezoning occurs. "The studies have to come after the rezoning shows that the land use is compatible to that of our project," Attorney Joseph Blazosek told the crowd. "We are showing an interest in development but just because we cannot give answers tonight that doesn't mean they aren't coming."

Shirley Hanson had her say on the matter and told the crowd that this project was better than others that were suggested for the property.

"Listen carefully," she lectured to the crowd. "If you put this

"The lack of environmental impact studies should halt this rezoning."

Dr. Henry J. Zelinski
Pole 295

"Listen carefully; if you put this commercial property in the wrong hands it could destroy the lake."

Shirley Hanson
Property owner

commercial property in the wrong hands it could destroy the lake."

Hanson said that when the commercial property was up for sale she received offers for low income housing, a night club with outdoor concerts, foreign companies wanted to build on the land and a religious organization wanted to set up in the borough.

"I love this lake and we are going in phases looking at the project," she said. "So when you think about its use think about the future."

Back Mountain briefs

Hasay aide will be in Lake Twp.

Representative George C. Hasay will have a field aide from his office at the Lake Twp. Municipal Building on June 13, 1991, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The purpose is to assist the constituents in the 117th Legislative District.

Lady of Victory Church to hold garage sale

Garage Sale will be held at Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake on June 7 and 8 from 10 to 4:30 Friday and 10 to 2:30 Saturday. The sale is being held in the air conditioned Community Room, since donations for the affair were in such abundance Father Gripes' garage proved to be too small! A warm welcome is extended to the public by the Altar and Rosary Society who have taken on this endeavor for the first time.

Loyalville UMC slates ice cream social

An Ice Cream Social will be held at the Loyalville United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 8 from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Serving: wimpies, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, pie, coffee, iced tea, Kool Aid and of course homemade ice cream. The supper is sponsored by The Chestnut Grove Club of the church. The church is located on the Loyalville Road, West off Rte. 118 and East off Rte. 29.

Lake Township recycling set for June 8

Lake Township Recycling will be accepting glass, bimetal cans, aluminum, plastics #1 and #2 on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-noon at the Lake Township Building on Route 29.

Babysitting course offered in Back Mountain

The American Red Cross will be offering a Babysitting Course at the Dallas United Methodist Church, Parsonage and Church Streets, Dallas, on June 8 and 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendance is required at both Saturday sessions to receive certification. A \$5.00 fee will be charged to cover the cost of materials. Interested applicants must be 11 years of age or older. For further information and registration, please call the church office at 675-0122. Class size is limited.

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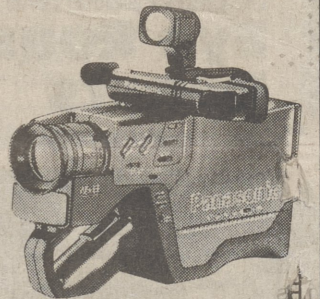
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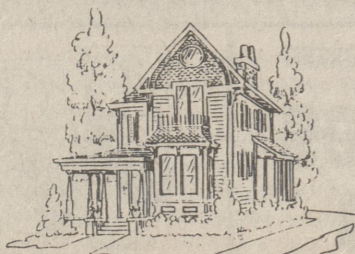
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