

Neighbour appealing temporary building at Country Day School to OMB

By Bill Rea
 Officials at Country Day School are finding their plans to erect an air-supported structure over a playing field are running into opposition.

Information session coming on Stupp development

King Township planning staff have stated that they now consider the subdivision and rezoning application for the proposed Dawsco (Cyraro) Development Corp. application in Nobleton.

Planners recently reported to Township council that the applications involving the property in the northeast quadrant of the village (sometimes known as the Stupp property) were originally submitted in July 2005, although they were lacking supporting information required by the municipality and other agencies, so the Township didn't start its review.

They added the required material was submitted

supported structure over a playing field are running into opposition. King's Committee of

“very recently.” The developers are planning to hold an open house information session on their proposals Feb. 7, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at Nobleton Community Hall.

According to flyer for the meeting, the development is slated to take up about 41 acres and will include 86 single-detached lots ranging in frontage from 65 to 100 feet. As well, a walking trail is proposed to link public open space with anticipated future trails on the Slokker lands to the north.

Planning Director Stephen Kitchen told councillors there will be a public meeting held at some point for council to gather input on the applications.

Adjustment approved a minor variance for the proposal, but one neighbour is appealing it to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The Township has not yet taken a position on the matter.

The structure approved in the variance is to be temporary; slated to be in place three years. It will be about 50 feet in height, and in addition to covering the field, it is to contain washrooms and an office. The plan is to put it on the school property about 70 feet east of Dufferin Street.

Planners reported the property is within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, as well as in an agricultural policy area of York Region's Official Plan. It's designation in the Township's Official Plan is rural, and has an institutional zoning.

Planners said officials of

the school met with them prior to applying for the variance, and they were told the proposal did not comply with the zoning in terms of location and height.

As well, planners sent a memo to the committee, suggesting conditions if the variance were approved, including that the structure only be allowed for three years after site plan approval.

The planning report explained the department normally does not send reports to the committee, although sometime additional information is seen to be appropriate, and that was the case with the memo.

They explained that the Planning Act spells out the criteria for an adjustment committee approving a minor variance. They include making sure the application meets with the general intent of the Official

Plan, maintains the general intent and purpose of the zoning, is desirable for the appropriate development or use of the site, and that it's minor.

Planners said the committee evidently decided the application met the criteria, but area resident J. Robert Madronich did not agree, as he has filed an appeal with OMB.

“The proposed location is not good planning,” he declared in his appeal form, a copy of which was included in the agenda package at the Jan. 15 council meeting. He added there are ample locations behind the existing buildings, and stated there was discrepancies regarding the size of trees that would screen the structure, and there were no specifics about the noise of light emanating from it.

“This accessory air-supported structure will dominate the landscape and surrounding attractive buildings,” Madronich stated, as he argued the variance is not minor.

There were also letters from other Dufferin Street residents supporting the appeal.

Councillor Jeff Laidlaw also voiced support for the appeal, arguing the variance didn't seem minor to him. “This is fairly major in my books,” he remarked.

Councillor Jane Underhill agreed.

“I do not consider this application to be minor,” she commented, adding the criteria set out in the planning report didn't properly define “minor.”

Planning Director Stephen Kitchen said they were taken directly from the Planning Act.

Underhill also thought this issue should have gone to council instead of the committee, with a site plan, but Mayor Margaret Black pointed out anyone can make application to the committee.

Underhill also charged this won't conform with the moraine plan.

Kitchen also told her that council will be able to comment at the site plan stage, but pointed out issues like height and location would have already been decided by then. While the moraine plan rules would have to be met, as appropriate, Kitchen also said.

Councillor Underhill on appellant's side

Councillor Jane Underhill is coming out against the temporary air-supported structure being planned by the Country Day School, and she's trying to get her colleagues on side.

Underhill put forth a notice of motion Monday night opposing the proposal and supporting the appeal by J. Robert Madronich of the decision of King's Committee of Adjustment to approve the structure to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). She also stated in her motion that Township staff should attend the OMB hearing, slated for March 15 in support of the appeal.

The motion is to be debated by council at it's Feb. 12 meeting.



DANNY MARKS TO PERFORM AT VALENTINE'S DANCE

Toronto's Danny Marks will be bringing his Blues Review to Nobleton Feb. 10 as the Nobleton Schomberg District Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Valentine dinner and dance at the Imperial Ballroom at 13255 Highway 27. The event will begin with cocktails at 7 p.m. followed by dinner at 8. Wine will be included at the table. There will be a cash bar and a seven-course dinner. Tickets are \$65, and are available at California Vanishing screens, Kingsway Windows, Grandview TV, Patty's Florists, The Office, Piety Ridge Primitives and Schomberg IGA. Marks appeared in the area in July when he was one of the featured performers at the annual King Swings at Daniel's of Nobleton.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROCUREMENT

Financial Consulting Services for Canadian Producers

As an interim measure to an upcoming Request for Standing Offers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has issued a Notice of Proposed Procurement (NPP) to recruit financial consultants to support the delivery of the **Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services** and the **Canadian Farm Families Options Program**.

For more information on these programs, visit www.agr.gc.ca/renewal

The NPP provides details on these programs and services which are available in all provinces and territories. The NPP also outlines the qualifications and the selection process for potential consultants.

Interested financial consultants, with a sound knowledge of the agriculture sector should register with the Government of Canada's electronic tendering service, MERX_{tm} and respond to the NPP.

For more information and to register on MERX_{tm}, visit www.merx.com