

LOCAL

Recycling company loses another round

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SOUTHAMPTON — A local recycling company sustained yet another defeat, but the owner has vowed to fight on.

After another nearly four-hour meeting, the Zoning Board delivered a blow to Allied Recycling late Thursday.

In two motions, the board declared that the business was “not substantially similar” to the previous use of the property, forcing the owner to seek a variance to continue recycling operations at the site on

SOUTHAMPTON

New Road.

The decision didn’t sit well with Thomas Gabrysiak, president of family owned business.

“This board and the residents in this town’s only intention is to shut us down,” Gabrysiak said. “They’ve made it quite clear that they want to destroy my business. I think that’s been clear to everybody.”

The latest decision came



Video online

just two weeks after the board decided that Allied Recycling failed to show its operations were essentially the same as the former Last Chance Auto Salvage.

For months, the company has sought approval to put in a truck scale and make improvements to a building. The board denied Allied Recycling’s application last September, but found itself hearing the

matter again after the company appealed the decision in Superior Court in Burlington County.

In April, Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder vacated the board’s decision to deny the company’s expansion plans and sent the matter back to the municipality.

Bookbinder ruled that there was insufficient information as to the intended change in the property from an auto salvage yard to a recycling center. Furthermore, the board did not

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determine the quality and intensity of the historic use.

On Thursday, Allied Recycling brought in several professionals and other experts to testify in an attempt to make its case that an auto salvage yard and a recycling center are essentially the same.

"This use does not become a different use because it's processing slightly different materials," said James Miller, a Moorestown planner who testified for Allied. "It has to adapt to the waste stream that is contemporary. If you process cars in 1982, they wouldn't have as much plastic and computerization. And the uses have to adapt to the fact that products are evolving and changing."

Miller and several other representatives for Allied indicated that market shifts led to businesses such as this one to change.

"At the end of the day, the process is still the same," Miller said. "It's a junkyard. People bring in items that are no longer useful. They're stored on the property, processed, and broken down to constituent parts. And eventually, those constituent parts are sold to other entities that utilize or maybe recycle them or reprocess them for other purposes."

The board didn't buy that argument, nor did some neighbors who have spoke out about how the former junkyard has turned into a busy recycling center and are concerned about increased truck traffic, noise, lights, and the potential for pollution of area wells.

Resident Kathy Wishart said after the meeting that she believes Gabrysiak just doesn't get it.

"I think he's misreading us," Wishart said. "We just want the quality of life we had before. We don't want to shut him down. We want it to be as it was."

She and others believe that will not happen if the Zoning Board doesn't prohibit his operation.

"Before, it was an auto salvage yard that was very quiet and we were able to co-exist," Wishart said. "What's going on now doesn't make that possible."

Township Planner Thomas Scangarello urged everyone to try to reach a compromise.

"Not everybody is going to be happy, but not everybody is going to be unhappy," he said.

The board will continue Allied's application hearing on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building on Retreat Road.

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