

APP.com

Stafford council approves amendment to Stafford Business Park

By NICHOLAS HUBA • STAFF WRITER • August 17, 2010

STAFFORD — The Township Council approved an amendment to the redevelopment plan for Stafford Business Park that clears the way for solar panels to be installed at the site as well as minor changes to the residential aspect of the project.

After nearly two hours of sometimes heated discussion, the council approved the amendment during its meeting Tuesday night.

"This change will have no impact on the wildlife in the area," said Joe DeDuca, a partner in Walters Group, the developer for the business park.

The solar panel plan calls for the construction of 24,624 solar panels to be set in 1,026 arrays or stands. The Pinelands Commission is in the process of reviewing the project. The plan states the panels will generate six megawatts of power for the residential and commercial aspects of the business park. According to the application, only 1.6 acres will be affected. The business park project includes both residential and business sections.

The minor changes to the residential aspect of the project include small changes to the density of residential development and the locations of porches.

Sal Sorce said the township should reject the plan and allow the space to be saved as open space.

"It belongs to us and should be saved as open space," said Sorce, who has been a vocal critic of the project over the years. "You should refuse this."

The residential aspect calls for 265 detached homes, 100 townhomes and 200 rentals units.

The Walters Group is in charge of developing the 370 acre business park site. As part of the agreement between the developers and the township, Walters was responsible for the closure of the landfill and was then allowed to develop the

area. When completed, the commercial aspect of the property will incorporate 650,000 square feet of retail space. The project also includes a residential aspect.

Steve Miller, a township resident, said he is in favor of the amendment.

"We have to ensure this project is a success," Miller said. "I would have not liked to spend \$20 to \$30 million to cap the landfill. They are allowed to make money."

Theresa Lettman, director of monitoring for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, said that her group is against the solar panel plan.

"The developer made the argument, during the two years it took to develop the memorandum of agreement, that all the land other than the landfill was needed to make the project work financially. The landfill was not needed for this financial equation," Lettman said. "We are against this plan."

Advertisement

The advertisement features the USA TODAY logo at the top left, followed by the word "AutoPilot" in a large, bold, black font. To the right of "AutoPilot" is a blue airplane icon. Below the title, a smartphone displays the app's interface, showing flight information for "USA TODAY Meeting" on "Sep 21, 2009", including a flight from "A6 BNA to IAD Landed" and weather for "Washington (IAD) Partly Cloudy". To the right of the phone, the text reads "The new travel app for iPhone® and iPod touch®". Below this, it says "Presented by: Hampton" with the Hampton logo. At the bottom right, a blue button says "SEE HOW IT WORKS »".

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™