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Lower Allen Twp. rejects Liberty Forge proposal

by CHRIS A. COUROGEN, Of The Patriot-News
Monday November 24, 2008, 8:59 PM

Lower Allen Township has rejected Liberty Forge Golf Course's request for a change in the township's zoning laws that would have allowed nearly 600 luxury apartments to be built adjacent to the course.

The decision, by a 5-0 vote by the township's commissioners, echoes recommendations from the township and Cumberland County planning commissions and ends over 15 months of discussion and debate on the proposal, which would have allowed 75-foot tall condominium buildings in an area currently zoned for single family homes with a maximum height of 35 feet in exchange for preserving 35 percent of the land as open space. Provisions in the proposal would have awarded bonus housing density if Liberty Forge exceeded the 35 percent open space requirement. Sketch plans showed 582 units on the 77-acre site. Current zoning requires minimum one-acre lots for each home.

Liberty Forge President and CEO Luke A.V. Grumbine left the meeting immediately following the vote and refused to comment. Opponents of the proposal expressed support of the commissioners decision, which they said looks out for the township's residents.

Opponents had questioned Liberty Forge's claims the project would generate \$5 million in tax revenues for the township, Cumberland County and the West Shore School District. They also expressed concern over what they said would be a negative impact on traffic on Lisburn Road and the area's rural nature.

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Tags: Liberty Forge Golf Course, Lower Allen Township

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Posted by ByeByeReed on 11/24/08 at 10:51PM

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