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Citizens Band Together to Challenge Development That Threatens Historic Community and Ithan Creek

Tuesday, February 6th, residents of Radnor Township met to organize a challenge to the development project proposed for a vacant lot located at the intersection of Route 320 and Conestoga Road. The meeting, held at the Radnor Friends Meeting hall was well attended with representatives from throughout Radnor as well as organizations with a variety of diverse interests including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Radnor Friends Meeting, New Gulph Children's Center, the Radnor Historical Society, the Radnor Conservancy, and the Conestoga Swim Club.

The topic of discussion was a twenty unit condo building which is being proposed for construction by O'Neill properties. In order to gain needed Township approvals the developer, O'Neill requires 4 variances including variances from the parcel's use designation, riparian buffer, front setback and floodplain requirements.

"What O'Neill wants to do here will harm all of Radnor – it could set a precedent whereby a single developer basically change the zoning of an area using the variance process; it threatens downstream communities and Ithan Creek with increased flooding, erosion and pollution; it will dump more traffic in an already jammed section of town; and it will totally change the character of the historic village of Ithan" said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, convening member of the newly formed Coalition and steering committee member.

"We talked about the many ways this project would harm our Radnor Township community including issues of flooding, erosion, and the loss of historical roots important to Radnor " said Craig Long with Radnor Friends Meeting, steering committee member of the Coalition and meeting host.

Jim Riley, steering committee member of the Coalition and Board member of the Conestoga Swim Club located downstream asks "Do we really want to create a new use classification in Radnor Township – R20? (20 homes per acre)." Currently R6 is the greatest level of residential density allowed by Township zoning (6 unites per acre).

"Zoning was created to protect our community from harmful projects and to ensure that the vision of the Comprehensive Plan, a community created document, is honored. Allowing this developer to so undermine our zoning code poses a threat to all of Radnor" emphasizes Leif Skoogfors, steering committee member of the coalition.

Folks interested in joining the Coalition should contact the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Those interested in the topic can look forward to a new web site – www.saveithan.org.

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