
Sewaren Apartments

New Building Approved By Zone Board

By R. Ellis Rakos

WOODBIDGE --- The Zoning Board of Adjustment last night approved an application to build a \$250,000 two-story apartment house at 597 West Avenue in Sewaren. Public hearings on the application were held last month and the board reserved decision until last night.

Bayside Apartments Inc. applied for the special permit necessary to construct the 26-unit building and was represented by Stanley J Mann of Woodbridge during the hearings.

Residents of the area voiced strong opposition on the proposed apartment on the grounds that it would depreciate their properties and would create noise and traffic problems. Petitions carrying 761 names of objectors has been presented.

Mrs. F. J. Adams, mother of the present mayor, was the only area resident who favored the application and sent a letter to the board expressing her feelings.

REALTORS TESTIFY

In presenting his case, Mann called Herman Stern and Samuel Swerdel, local realtors, who testified the apartment would not hurt the area bur would help it. Both said the highest and best use of the property would be the type of construction proposed.

Stern, one of the Bayside stockholders, called it a "higher type apartment" which would server the public welfare. He said there are few, if any, comparable apartments in an area where there is a demand for them.

Mann presented petitions signed by Woodbridge residents who favored the apartment.

According to the secretary's records, the vote was passed with Fred Simonsen as the only member voting against the granting of the permit. Unofficial reports heard after the voting said it was a unanimous vote, but these were disclaimed by board officials.

SECESSIONUIST COMMENTS

"Here is another instance of provocation by Woodbridge Township to the residents of Sewaren and Port Reading," George Polkowski, one of the "Port Warren" secession leaders, said after the meeting.

"The Zoning Board has voted to allow this apartment to be built in Sewaren in direct conflict with the 761 petitioners. Needless to say, we shall seek every available means to combat this unfair, retaliatory blow."

"We intend to improve out City of Port Warren, indeed, this was one of the causes of the secession. After all, who are nore interested in and aware of the housing situation on Sewaren and Port Reading than the residents of themselves."

In other action, the board granted a variance to Anthony Carrea of 247 Middlesex Turnpike to use a vacant building at 270 Middlesex Turnpike for a transmission repair shop. Francis C. Foley of Colonia represented the applicant.

Chairman John Elek said that boards reserved decision on Township Committeeman David Nicola's application for a variance to build a two stores in a residential section in Green Street. The decision will be announced at the July 26 meeting.

Elek also said the Tyson Corporation's public hearing for a variance has been continued to July 28.