
Tuesday, January 23, 2001

City Council may OK 100 new homes

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HAVERHILL -- If City Council decides a Lowell developer has a solid court case against the city, 100 more homes may be built off Newton Road.

After council rejected a 115-home plan from developer K. William Krikorian last winter, he filed a suit against Haverhill in land court. In September, while the case was working through the legal system, Mr. Krikorian filed a new plan -- a proposal for 100 homes including 10 affordable units, two of which are handicapped accessible. Councilors decided that plan was too similar to the previous one to warrant reconsideration.

Council will review a proposal to accept the 100-home plan tonight at 7 in City Hall Room 202.

Mr. Krikorian's original plan -- a luxury development for people over 55 -- was proposed off Newton Road, near Amesbury Road, Lovers Lane and Lois Street. The homes would have had an average price of \$289,000 and be located on about 45 acres surrounded by about 50 acres of open land donated to the city.

After council rejected that plan, Mr. Krikorian came back with a proposal that addressed some councilors' requests, including the affordable and handicapped-accessible units.

Councilor James J. Fiorentini, who voted against reconsidering Mr. Krikorian's plans in September, said he will wait to hear whether the developer has a strong case before deciding whether to agree to the legal settlement.

"I want to talk to our solicitor," Mr. Fiorentini said. "To me the issue has always been that something will go in. There's no question about that. I want to preserve open space, but realistically you can't stop" construction, he said.



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