Planners to size up giant rezoning reques

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County planners will take a second shot next week at coming up with a recommendation to rezone 2,858 parcels in the Keowee Key/Stamp Creek area.

Planning Commission members do not have a cut-and-dried decision on their hands when they meet Monday night.

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Keller McCall, brother of Oconee County Councilman Wayne McCall, points Friday to the commercial property they want left off a petition to rezone 2,858 parcels in the Keowee Key/Stamp Creek area.

PLANNERS: 'Leave us out of this zoning overlay stuff'

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County Planner Aaron Gadsby told commissioners at their meeting two weeks ago that some property owners want to be left out of the petition.

The Commission must send a recommendation back to Oconee County Council for the petition to move forward.

At the Commission meeting July 19, brothers Keller and Wayne McCall told commissioners that they prevailed in a lawsuit filed against them that protects their rights to operate their commercial diving business located on Highway 130. Wayne McCall is a County Council member.

"We ask you leave us out of this zoning overlay stuff," Keller McCall said.

Keller McCall read from a court-recorded document that describes the nature of the waterfront commercial business.

"This business is in operation all hours of the day and night depending on the needs of the customers," he said. "These operations generate noise, nighttime lighting, activities on the land and surrounding waters of the lake, including unwanted diving, construction, repairs and operations, which may be considered a nuisance in the surrounding area."

IF YOU GO

What: Oconee County Planning Commission Meeting
When: 6 p.m. Monday
Where: County Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla

Wayne McCall said anybody that bought land in the area was warned to read the court document.

"It says read this before you sign anything," Wayne McCall said.

Another family that has used more than 300 acres of their land for timber has also indicated that they want their property to remain Control Free.

The Keowee Key/Stamp Creek petition presented by Gary Owens would rezone 99 percent of the 2,858 parcels into Lake Residential District.

Commission Chairman Ryan Honea indicated this week that he might make a statement addressing The Journal's weeklong series on the handling of the North Cane Creek and North Fairview rezoning petitions in light of emails obtained from the county through a Freedom of Information Act request.

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