

Walkertown planners urge OK for CVS

Board raises concern about sidewalks

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WALKERTOWN

The town's planning board reviewed the final plan Tuesday for a new CVS pharmacy, a 13,225 square-foot building that would be in the northeast corner of Old Hollow and Reidsville roads.

The planning board unanimously recommended that town council approve the plan. The board said it was concerned with sidewalk placement around the building, which would be near the Walkertown Commons Shopping Center.

"With gas prices the way they are, we may have more people walking than we anticipated," said Albert Slater, a planning-board member.

The original plan for the CVS, first created in 2004, called for sidewalks along Reidsville and Old Hollow roads. Last year, the Walkertown Town Council adopted a sidewalk ordinance requiring sidewalks for major and minor roads within new developments.

The plan for the drugstore considers placement of sidewalks along N.C. 66 and U.S. 158 so that it would comply with the town ordinance.

Petitioners for the property said they are upset because the town did not require the Bojangles restaurant that is being built to place sidewalks all around the restaurant.

Aaron King, a Forsyth County planner who works with Walkertown on zoning issues, said at the February planning-board meeting that sidewalks were not included in the Bojangles' plan because it was submitted to local planners before the town adopted a sidewalks and pedestrian plan, according to minutes of that meeting.

That plan called for sidewalks on several roads and highways in Walkertown. Sidewalks at the Bojangles also were not included because there were no conditions involving sidewalks required by the planners, according to the minutes.

The planning board approved the plan for the CVS pharmacy. However, the council likely will consider issues with the sidewalk at its meeting on July 24.

In other business, the planning board considered changing the town's sign ordinance so that churches in residential districts could have internally-lit signs.

Some board members said they didn't like the idea of changing the sign ordinance for one particular group.

"We're omitting a lot of other residential institutions from getting a sign," said Peggy Leight, a planning-board member.

The council adopted a sign ordinance that is similar to the sign ordinance in Winston-Salem. City officials said that internally-lit signs aren't associated with residential communities and that is part of the reason why they have not been allowed in the past.

Slater said he could see how the lighted signs might be "distracting to nearby homeowners."

After its members discussed the matter further, the planning board recommended that the sign ordinance remain unchanged.

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