

To the Citizens of Nankin Township

AN OPEN LETTER

Concerning a Rezoning Proposal which may Vitally Affect You as a Citizen and Taxpayer

Next Monday, January 17, at their 7:30 p.m. meeting in the Township Hall, your Nankin Township Board of Trustees will consider a decision which will have a very important bearing on the future of this community. We feel this decision is so important that it should be brought to the attention of everyone in Nankin Township.

The Board will vote on whether or not to create an ordinance rezoning 45 acres of land on Cowan Road, across from Westland Center. A decision to rezone this parcel as requested would affect the entire community because it would be a major departure from the very excellent Master Zoning Plan so recently adopted by the Township Board to assure orderly, well-planned growth of this community.

Citizens will recall that in 1960 the Township Board wisely employed a nationally known firm of planning experts to develop this Master Zoning Plan for the entire Township. After three years of careful, thoughtful study, and after many public hearings, the Master Plan was completed and enacted into law by the Township Board.

Westland Center was planned and built within the framework of that plan. It gave us confidence that the community was dedicated to look ahead to constructive and consistent future development.

Under the Master Plan a large parcel of land North of Cowan Road was zoned for apartment use. The owners of a 45-acre parcel of that land are now asking the Township Board to rezone their land as a regional shopping center. The proposed rezoning has been considered twice by the Township Planning Commission and after full public hearings has twice been voted down as not in the public interest and not consistent with sound community planning.

Many interested citizens believe that rezoning now as requested could be a major step toward breakdown of the Master Plan, and that a policy of spot rezoning could ultimately seriously endanger property values all over the community. Moreover, if commercial and residential developers cannot have confidence in the existing Master Plan, they are very likely to be deterred from undertaking the kind of major growth programs the area so obviously desires.

Because of the controversial nature of this rezoning proposal, we suggest to you and to our Township Board that the rezoning proposal be deferred and submitted for impartial review and study by the experts of the Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission — and that the ultimate decision be based on their recommendations. This, we feel, whatever the final decision, will reinforce your public officials in the action they must finally take.

If, as a taxpaying citizen, you believe that this proposed change from the existing zoning ordinance should have the benefit of such an impartial study, may I suggest that you demonstrate your interest and your concern by calling Supervisor Thomas H. Brown at the Township Hall (PA 1-6000) — or any other trustee known to you — and express your opinion.

We at Westland are proud to be corporate citizens of Nankin Township. We are confident that alert citizens and their public officials will always chart a forward-looking course for the best interests of all the community.

Joseph L. Hudson, Jr.
Board Chairman
WESTLAND CENTER