



## THE EXPRESS-TIMES

### Forks wants to learn more about grocery

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FORKS TWP. | Supervisors decided to collect more information before approving a zoning change to allow a supermarket at Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road.

The zoning amendment comes before the township's planning commission for comment 7 p.m. May 11 in the municipal building.

Several more steps, including a public hearing, are necessary before supervisors could vote on a zoning change, solicitor Karl Kline said.

SamCar of Pittston, Pa., proposes a roughly 69,000-square-foot supermarket on 10 acres in the southeast corner of the intersection.

Rose Randazzo, an attorney for the developer, has said six tenants have expressed interest in the site. Although she declined to disclose the names, she told supervisors the list does not include Giant, Wegmans or Redner's.

Uncertainty about the tenant was a sticking point for Supervisor C. David Howell, who called for the further review of a zoning change by the planning commission.

"We are at the cusp of a huge venture here and we don't even know the player," he said.

Supervisor Bonnie Nicholas said developers need to be clear about the type of store they are proposing.

"I'm just saying make sure you're going to deliver what you say you're going to deliver," she said. "If you're not going to deliver upscale, just drop the word."

Resident Pete Rossi said people in the township want to see competition between grocery stores.

"I don't care what grocery store goes in," he said. "I think what the people of this township want is a choice."

The employment center district where the project stands forbids supermarkets. The proposed amendment would allow a supermarket with a maximum building floor area of 100,000 square feet. It could include a bakery, pharmacy, bank or restaurant within the store. A grocery store must stand on at least five acres and border an arterial and collector street.

"If you're allowing a grocery store, the quality of the store is pretty difficult, if not impossible, to include in a zoning ordinance," Kline said.

Supervisor John Ackerman argued the tenant is irrelevant to the zoning change issue.

"We need to decide whether we want a grocery store no matter who it is," he said.

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