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Developer loses bid for extension

Forks Twp. planners recommend no extra time for work on tract.

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By **COURTNEY LOMAX**
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FORKS TWP. | Work is not finished on a tract where developers plan to put 182 homes and the township planning commission recommended Thursday that supervisors reject an extension for completion.

This is the second time in four months planners rejected a time extension for the 435-acre property near Richmond and Kuebler roads and Kesslerville and Uhler roads.

Township supervisors will vote on the plans next week.

"It's too little, too late," Planning Commission Chairman Erik Chuss said of the work. "It's a lot of wasted time."

The commission also didn't have plans of completed work to review for the meeting.

The township solicitor and engineer said Bethlehem-based developer KMRD LP had sufficient time to complete appropriate sewer tests since supervisors gave them more than a year to do the work. Supervisors in October gave them until the end of January to finish the tests.

Original plans for the project were submitted to the township more than a year ago.

Planners noted most developers do the sewer testing first to determine where to put lots.

The developers' lawyer John VanLuvanee said the timeframe was too small for the scope of the project.

"It wasn't realistic to finish," VanLuvanee said after the meeting. He said there was "a difference of opinion" about how quickly the developers' started the work.

Less than a third of the work has been completed since it began in December, officials said.

The same group of developers is challenging township zoning laws and proposed building 3,000 homes on the same property in the farmland preservation district.

Township Solicitor Karl Kline said the developers haven't completed the work because they want to put the project on hold until the zoning challenge is complete.

VanLuvanee said it took until November to hire a consultant to oversee the project. Keystone Engineering, the township's engineering firm, performed the test but quit in January when the developers' consultant didn't show up to oversee the project, township Engineer Fred Hay said.

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