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Lawsuit blocking market dropped

Forks official expects Weis groundbreaking in near future.

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By **JD MALONE**
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FORKS TWP. | The group Residents Who Care scrapped an appeal this week that halted the development of a Weis Markets store at Uhler Road and Sullivan Trail.

Residents Who Care attorney Gary Asteak said the group's leader, Scott Gingold, told him to pull the plug.

"He said, 'Enough is enough,'" Asteak said.

The group appealed to the Commonwealth Court a ruling by Northampton County Judge F.P. Kimberly McFadden that upheld the board of supervisor's decision to tweak a zoning ordinance to allow a grocery store at the proposed location.

According to township Solicitor Karl Kline, the appeal, filed in late March, could have pushed the development out another year.

The withdrawal came just days after Kline said that Weis Markets attorney James Preston hoped to force Gingold to post a bond of several hundred thousand dollars.

Kline said the bond would have covered Weis' losses due to delay if the appeal turned out to be spurious.

Preston was not available for comment Thursday.

David Howell, chairman of the board of supervisors, said the board felt vindicated in its decision to grant Weis permission to build.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see groundbreaking in the very near future," Howell said.

Weis plans a 77,000-square-foot store and gas pumps at Uhler Road and Sullivan Trail north of the Merchants Bank building.

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