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## Planned Forks industrial park could have 200 jobs lined up

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Developers of an 18-lot industrial park in Forks Township said two companies planning to locate at the site off Kesslersville and Uhler roads will bring in 200 jobs.

Stephen Pany, outlining the final subdivision park plans at the Forks Planning Commission on Thursday night, said the companies will be Weyerhaeuser Lumber Co. and Henningsen Cold Storage Co., a refrigerated warehousing company.

But before they can build the park, the developers said they have had to resolve water control problems and a railroad crossing issue in that area, which is east of Kesslersville Road and south of Uhler Road in the northeastern part of the township.

Pany said the state Department of Environmental Protection wants the developers to follow a guideline of three paved acres for one green acre. He said the DEP has asked the developer look for ways to reduce impervious surfaces.

Pointing out that Kesslersville Road in that area floods in heavy storms, Pany said a swale would control the water and drain the area.

When Pany said Norfolk Southern opposes any more railroad crossings there, Solicitor Karl Kline said he was surprised, particularly with new businesses coming in that would use rail for its services.

The industrial park is on the former Brennan Farms and on some land owned by John Ackerman, a farmer and also township supervisor.

The developer will return to the commission for final recommendations in August.

The commissioners also reviewed the plans for the next phase of the Penn's Ridge planned residential development. These include about 100 homes north of Newlins Mill Road and Bushkill Drive.

Kline said this project will include the bike path down to the Bushkill Creek. When completed, he said, that will enable walkers and bikers to cross over to the Palmer trails.

So far Penn's Ridge has built about 540 homes. The 100 on the new plan are the final ones in the development. Commissioner Chairman Erik Chuss said he recognized that those plans were part of an agreement approved a long time ago, so the planners can have no say in the density, which he called very high.

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