

# Throop stops permits at housing development

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**THROOP** - Frustrated borough officials say they're ready to play hardball with the developer of Schoolside Estates over unaddressed concerns ranging from drainage to recreation.

"You have normal problems in a development, but this is far beyond normal problems," said Councilman Jim Barnick, who supported a motion to stop issuing building permits for the site until developer Mark Kozik rectifies several ongoing issues.

"Every day we wait for that man up there, and we're getting nothing done," Mr. Barnick said Monday.

Council voted unanimously to stop granting permits and give Mr. Kozik 45 days to contract support services - garbage pickup and plowing - that the borough has provided as a courtesy up to this point, said Thomas Lukasewicz, council president.

Officials will decide within those 45 days whether the borough will continue to provide those services, he said.

"We've got to put the ball in his court now," he said.

Drainage issues topped a laundry list of concerns voiced by residents at a meeting in June, and have plagued the development for years, said Holly Angerson, one of the first residents to move onto the site.

Her front yard is too saturated to grow a tree on - four attempts have failed - and the woods behind peoples' homes are no better.

"It's literally a swamp," Ms. Angerson said. "It's like quicksand."

The developer has also failed to follow through on agreements to plant trees and erect a playground in the development, she said.

"We just can't have what we want to have," she said.

Efforts to reach Mr. Kozik's attorney, Greg Pascale, were unsuccessful Monday.

In other business, council is looking to have a borough-owned trailer located near the Marjol battery site tested for possible lead contamination.

If the trailer is contaminated, borough officials said they want it destroyed and placed in the containment cap.

Maureen Essenthier, EPA environmental engineer, said she would discuss the issue with members of council.

She also said most of the contaminated material from the site is in the containment area. The process of capping the material is expected to begin in October, she said. Layers of soil, grass, concrete and plastic will be put down

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