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Zoning Hearing Board approves restaurant plans



The Amity Township Zoning Hearing Board has given the green light for a family restaurant-style Italian pizzeria near the intersection of Old Swede and Old Airport roads in Douglassville.

The site is a quarter-mile north of the township building.

Paolo Brutto of Sinking Spring, whose family owns other restaurants, applied to construct a 6,200-square-foot building with 32 parking spaces and seating for up to 90 customers.

Antonio Grande of Wyomissing, Brutto's nephew, spoke for Brutto on Monday night. Grande said plans call for incorporating the existing Focht's Mower Shop into the new structure, and for expanding the parking lot north to create a driveway access onto Old Airport Road.

Brutto's attorney, Frederick L. Reigle of Reading, said Amity's zoning ordinance requires the board to grant a special exception for what is a change from one nonconforming use to another.

Board member Neil A. Pestcoe said he is very concerned that speeding traffic along Old Swede Road, which is Route 662, could endanger customers leaving the site. He said he hoped the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation would permit a second access/exit driveway onto Old Airport Road for turning safety.

"Those tractor-trailers are really moving," Pestcoe said.

Zoner Alfred Greenawalt said the restaurant would fit perfectly into the growing rural-village zoning district, which includes a Boyer's Market, a church and many homes.

"It should improve the neighborhood and property values," testified Clarence J. Levan, project manager with design engineers Van Cleef Associates of Wyomissing.

Grande noted the site has a well and public sewers and said there are no plans for outdoor seating.

Zoning board Solicitor Jack R. Sommer said the zoning ordinance requires that Brutto obtain permits and begin the project within a year.

- By Valdis I. Lacis

A red sidebar titled "TOWN SQUARE" with a tree icon. It lists three items: "David M. Hyres Pest Control", "Premier Immediate Medical Care LI", and "Universal Concrete Products Corp".

- David M. Hyres Pest Control
- Premier Immediate Medical Care LI
- Universal Concrete Products Corp