

The SHORE LINE

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Developer Bill Barnett's plan to build a large shopping center at the intersection of Salter Path Road and Pine Knoll Boulevard is dead. The Henderson man, who is a part-time PKS resident, has taken his project back to the drawing board and whether it will return is problematical. This developed after Barnett's plan ran into overwhelming opposition from both the Pretty Committee and the town Planning Board. After the board and the committee had twice heard Barnett present his proposals -- which he had revamped somewhat in the interim, the Planning Board went on record as opposing the project but requested the Town Board of Commissioners to hold a public hearing on the matter.

When informed of the board's action, Barnett told Mayor Ken Haller he would like to have a public hearing. However, Don Brock, the real estate developer who represents the Roosevelts, intervened. Since Barnett's option on the land -- owned by the Roosevelts -- had expired, Brock returned Barnett's deposit money as a signal the deal was off.

"The plan he (Barnett) submitted is out," Haller said. "However, he does hope to come back to Brock with something more acceptable." Haller said a public hearing would not be called at this time since there is now nothing before the Board of Commissioners.

"I don't see us pushing a shopping center of the design Mr. Barnett presented," said Brock when asked if he had given up the idea of having a shopping center at Pine Knoll Shores. "However if someone presented us a plan that would conform with out ideas and the way the people of the town feel about it, we would seriously consider it."

Barnett's plans had envisaged a typical shopping center -- a string of large, flat-roofed, one-story buildings enfolding a big parking lot. He said Rose's, Eckerd's and Byrd's super market chain had expressed an interest in locating stores in the center. Opponents had objected that the plans would involve leveling the sand dune and destruction of most of the trees on the property and the center would bring intolerable traffic jams on Salter Path Road during the tourist season.

During the Planning Board discussions, attorney Ken Kirkman, who represents both the Roosevelts and the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, said he would refrain from giving

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