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Judge postpones hearing on project in North Laurel

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A Howard County Circuit judge has delayed until March hearing arguments by opponents of a planned Columbia-style development in North Laurel to allow county officials more time to notify residents interested in the case.

Judge Diane O. Leasure scheduled the new hearing for 9: 30 a.m. March 26.

The Southern Howard Land Use Committee, an organization of a dozen community groups, requested a judicial review of the county Zoning Board's decision in June approving a 1,200-home mixed-use development to be built by Rouse Co. on about 500 acres.

Greg Fries, chairman of the committee, said the partial transcripts will focus on whether a mistake was made during the county's last comprehensive rezoning.

That could save opponents about \$5,000, Fries said, in their fight against the development, which would straddle Interstate 95, Gorman Road and Route 216.

At a hearing yesterday, Leasure essentially granted a committee request to delay arguing motions, giving county officials more time to mail notices.

County and Rouse Co. attorneys agreed to the delay.

"It will give any additional parties a chance to participate," Deputy County Solicitor Paul Johnson said.

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