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Guilderland panel leery of Burger King proposal

By Stuart Vincent

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After 2½ hours of discussion and debate Wednesday, Guilderland's zoners decided not to let Burger King have it their way.

Burger King representative Stanley Ross presented plans for a 118-seat restaurant on Western Avenue at the intersection with Fuller Road. King's Service Station is currently on the site.

But board members said they needed more information on the impact of the project and continued the hearing until March 3.

The restaurant, 2½ miles east of another Burger King and just down the road from a McDonald's, would have 55 parking spaces and 22 outdoor seats.

More importantly — to both Burger King and the town — it would be located on an already busy intersection across from Stuyvesant Plaza and just east of the Crossgates mall site.

Ross said the location near stores and offices would provide the restaurant with much of its lunch-time business.

But the board questioned whether the intersection could safely handle the additional restaurant traffic.

McKownville resident Lindsay Childs said the proposal would mean cars exiting the restaurant must compete on the same traffic light phase with Fuller Road traffic turning left onto Western Avenue. And east-bound traffic would have to slow up to make a right turn into the restaurant, he said.

"We take the attitude that Crossgates might never get built," Ross told the board when questioned about the mall. "We don't speculate. We need a quick profit based on what is there now."

But board members pointed out the 27,000 cars passing the proposed site each day would rise to about 45,000 with the opening of the mall.

Childs also said Ross had not included traffic figures for morning hours despite the fact many Burger King restaurants serve breakfast.

In the end the board decided it takes two meetings to handle the Burger King request and adjourned the matter until March 3. They instructed Ross to provide them with more detailed information on how the restaurant will effect traffic in the intersection.