

5/17/85

Zoning controversy reheated on television

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The Knickerbocker News

GUILDERLAND — Rezoning property may not be a hit with some property owners, but apparently it is with Capitol Cablevision, which has been running repeats of a heated public hearing on a zoning plan.

Although the Town Board hearing that attracted about 100 residents was May 7, viewers had the opportunity to see the hearing at least three times, including the live broadcast.

Several residents who saw the rerun Tuesday and Wednesday nights said they thought the meeting was being shown live.

Supervisor Kevin Moss agreed rezoning is one of the hottest shows in town, one in which most property owners are interested.

He said while the tape of the meeting, at which many residents opposed the rezoning proposals, might have given viewers one impression, he said: "There was nothing radical in what we did."

The Town Board last Saturday rezoned 19 parcels, for the most part from business to residential. The board will begin public hearings June 11 on

proposed rezoning of 100 other parcels. Moss said he is prepared for another heated meeting.

He said while many of property owners who spoke at the hearing were opposed to the proposals, many residents supported it.

He said he cannot sympathize with business people who claim the zone changes devalued their property.

"We're not there to guarantee anyone a profit. We're trying to plan," he said.

While some property owners threatened to sue the town if their properties were rezoned, Moss said he did not expect any to do that, with the possible exception of developer Vincent Wolanin, whose business property on McKown Road was rezoned residential.

Wolanin, who was told by the town Zoning Board Wednesday night his property no longer is properly zoned for his proposed office building, said Thursday his lawyers are "researching the law" to determine whether to appeal the town's actions.

Wolanin is in litigation with the Zoning Board for its denial of his plans to build a shopping center at Johnston Road and Western Avenue.