

Last night marked the end of Boone's hottest controversy this year as Board of Adjustment members voted down developer Phil Templeton's proposal 5-3.

Templeton had requested to build a medical office building in an R-1 residential neighborhood on State Farm Road. Boone UDO requires a special use permit for the construction of a medical building less than 10,000 square feet. Residents of the neighborhood, like Paul Welsh, applauded the Board's decision.

"I'm really happy that neighborhoods in Boone are still appreciated and this neighborhood is going to survive just a little bit longer," Welsh said.

The controversy came to a head in March as charges were made by Templeton against Mayor Loretta Clawson. In a [public letter](#)

, Templeton accused Clawson, who lives in the neighborhood in question, of bribing Templeton by saying if he bought her property, she would withdraw her objection to his proposal. Clawson adamantly denied Templeton's claims in a

[response letter](#)

, and is relieved the decision has been made.

"It's been hard with me because there have been personal attacks made towards me, but I think the Board of Adjustments did a fine job tonight with their ruling, so I appreciate it as a neighbor in the Town of Boone," Clawson said.

Phil Templeton's son, Jeff Templeton, did not share her appreciation.

"I can't say that I'm surprised. This has been the attitude of Boone for some time now. It's anti-development. The Board, which is appointed by members of our Town

Board rejects Templeton's Request

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Wednesday, 02 May 2007 04:08

Council, reflects their attitude. They want to see growth in Boone come to a stand still. The problem with that theory is A.S.U. [Appalachian State University] is going to continue to grow. There's going to be a need for medical facilities. There's going to be a need for apartments. There's going to be a need for other commercial uses, but if it can't be developed in the city limits or corporate limits of Boone, then the only option is going to be to move out into the county," Templeton said.

While Templeton said he would consider turning the property into a residential development, deciding what to do with the State Farm property will take time. No decisions will be made in the immediate future, according to Templeton.