

Passion got the better of some King residents

I am writing in response to the situation that unfolded during last week's Committee of Adjustment meeting.

An application to build a home in Kettleby, larger than that allowed by the site specific bylaw, was made. I attended because residents organized an on-line and hard copy petition out of concern for the impact that the potentially nearly 4,000-square-foot home may have on the village.

The applicants had every right to make the application. They had every right to be heard with the consideration and respect that each of us expects in our democracy.

While members of the public were making depositions, the applicants, staff and committee members listened quietly and respectfully. Unfortunately, while we should have done the same throughout the more than an hour and a half of discussions, many of us did not.

I was inconsiderate myself and for that I have apologized to the committee members, staff and the applicants.

Yes, we are all passionate about Kettleby. Yes, there are strong arguments on both sides of the issue.

But, no, this does not mean that we should ever allow emotions and passions to take over. This was a good example of citizens gathering to make their views known. It was a very bad example of how 'mob mentality,' emotions and deep passion can get the better of otherwise courteous and respectful citizens.

I hope that this is not the end of the discussions about the 'dream homes' coming to the five lots in Kettleby. I hope and trust that calmer heads will prevail.

King township residents can do much better.

Susan Beharriell