Bedford residents, leaders must stand up against rezoning again

Jon Whitman has again asked for rezoning of the property at Lewis Ave. and Sterns Rd. This comes just three months after Judge Costello awarded him the zoning he sued the township for. Judge Costello ruled in Mr. Whitman's favor because he felt the denied rezoning was compatible with the master plan, followed transitional zoning from residential to the high intensity C-3 designation.

It is now obvious that Mr. Whitman has bigger plans. He is asking for the entire property to be zoned to C-3, with barely a buffer to the west and south to protect the residents of Indian Acres and across Sterns Rd.

Mr. Whitman stated in court that he really "doesn't care" what happens in that residential area. He just wants to sell his land.

Judge Costello negated our referendum. This alone should make the people who voted NO furious. We have the right to govern ourselves and our voices should not be silenced.

At 7 p.m. April 27, the Bedford Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding Mr. Whitman's request. If his request is granted, it will surely open the door for a huge retailer to build a supercenter of more than 200,000 square feet, which could include a gas station and any or all of the allowable high intensity businesses included in C-3 zonings.

Until someone can prove otherwise, I still believe that huge retailer is Walmart.

Bedford Township residents should attend the planning commission meeting and write the members of the commission. More than 3,000 of them voted no on the referendum. It was important then and is even more important now for them to speak up.

The members of our planning commission and township board need to stand tall against this rezoning and make it their priority to listen to us. It is their responsibility to serve and protect our rights, to protect our property and to keep us safe.

These are the reasons they were elected.

Judy Frankowski
Temperance