

PORTAGE  
**DAILY REGISTER**

Columbia County's Daily Newspaper Wednesday, November 1, 2006

weather



High: 43°F  
 Low: 17°F  
 Breezy

LOCAL | SPORTS | FEATURES | OPINION | FEATURES | OBITUARIES | ARCHIVES | CALENDAR | SPEAK UP |  
 READER SERVICES

▶ LOCAL

[email story](#) [print story](#)

## County won't delay ethanol plant

By Ann Marie Ames, Daily Register

Columbia County will not enforce a stay against construction work taking place on the future site of Didion Milling's ethanol plant, although the legal counsel of a grass-roots group requested that the county do so.

In a letter sent late Tuesday to the attorney for the group Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, Columbia County Director of Planning and Zoning John Bluemke disagreed with the group's charge that county ordinance mandates that a stay "shall" be enforced by the county while the matter of Didion's conditional use permit is determined.

Last week the group filed an appeal of the permit granted to Didion on Oct. 3. to operate an ethanol plant in the town of Courtland, just south of the village of Cambria. The location of the proposed plant has been fiercely contested by some village residents, while the addition of the plant in Columbia County has been just as strongly supported by others in the area.

CTD members and village officials hoped that Didion would be forced to stop moving earth on the construction site until the Board of Appeals reviews the case.

But the county's letter of response denied the request, clarifying that the ordinances referenced relate to "any decision of the Director of Planning and Zoning," while the group was appealing a decision made by the county's Planning and Zoning Committee.

The group's attorney also suggested that construction be stopped until Didion has received all proper permits — an allusion to the fact that Didion has applied for an additional conditional use permit to move earth in a shoreland area. According to Bluemke's response, the grading that is taking place is not within the area subject to the additional permit. The county Planning and Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing on the permit Nov. 7.

"We're putting our heads together and deciding what to do next," said CTD spokesman John Mueller. "We will be focusing on the upcoming hearing. Rest assured that we have some alternate plans."

The village has not decided what steps it will take in response to the granted permit or the county's refusal to enforce a stay. Last week village officials denied Didion a permit to use Cabbage Road, a road that divides the town and village. Whether the town or village has regulatory rights to the road has been questioned.

Town Chairman Glen Smits said Tuesday night that this morning at its regular meeting the board will take up an agenda item in regards to Cabbage Road. The resolution was vague, Smits said Tuesday, and could be reworded before it is approved.

▶ OTHER STORIES IN LOCAL

- [Sheriff's race in homestretch](#)
- [Magnum has spent \\$525,000 of his own money in campaign](#)
- [Charges dismissed vs. Endeavor man over money owed to village](#)
- [After 35 years, postal worker says so long](#)
- [Business of the Year nominations due soon](#)

advertisement

▶ MOST VIEWED

- [After 35 years, postal worker says so long](#)
- [Pumpkin bashing hits levee line](#)
- [Police continue to investigate death of teen](#)
- [Sheriff's race in homestretch](#)
- [Charges dismissed vs. Endeavor man over money owed to village](#)
- ['Get her up, keep her up'](#)

▶ WISCNEWS

extras

- [SLIDESHOW: He was one of us](#)
- [Sheriff's Race](#)
- [AUDIO: Interview with Governor Jim Doyle](#)
- [Sportmen's](#)

contact us

- [Reader services](#)
- [Subscribe here](#)
- [Reach staff](#)
- [Newspapers in Education](#)

"I haven't even read it," Smits said, adding that the board meeting had been moved up so that it didn't conflict with Election Day, not in order to rush to a decision about Cabbage Road.

**Showcase**

- **Daily Sudoku Puzzle**

[aames@capitalnewspapers.com](mailto:aames@capitalnewspapers.com)

745-3518

© 2006 Portage Daily Register