

Bove has plans to bring another development downtown

By JOE LOTEPLIO Oct 18, 2007

PLATTSBURGH — Burlington developer Rick Bove is planning another project for downtown Plattsburgh.

Bove, in partnership with local chiropractors Drs. Joseph and Carolyn Clauss, is proposing a full-service grocery store with apartment units on top at the corner of Margaret and Cornelia streets.

“Downtown doesn’t have a grocery store, and I think it would be a great benefit to people,” Bove said. “Especially for the elderly.”

The plan calls for a store, with a deli, to encompass much of the 23,000-acre tract of land that covers two parcels.

Bove said he is negotiating with two national grocery chains that are interested in the project, which will be called Keystone Place.

Parking for about 20 cars would be included for the store, and underground parking will be built for the apartments.

“We would anticipate a lot of walkups for this store,” Bove said.

He will be holding a public-informational meeting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Great Adirondack Soup Company on Oak Street.

Bove gained attention last year when he proposed a workforce-housing project for the corner of Margaret and Court streets.

Many downtown business owners objected to the plan, citing concerns about parking, the lack of green space for children and whether it was low-income housing.

The Common Council approved the plan, just barely, as then-Mayor Jack Stewart voted in favor to break a 3-3 tie.

A group of merchants sued the city for not properly following procedure in allowing Bove’s project to go forward, but the court ruled in favor of the city.

Bove is expected to apply for the needed federal tax credits for the project by next February.

Incidentally, Bove is part of the Bove family that owns a long-popular Italian restaurant

of that name in Burlington.

An episode of “Throwdown with Bobby Flay,” a nationally known television food expert, was recently filmed at the restaurant.

“It was exhausting, but we are really excited about that show,” Bove said.

Plattsburgh resident Lauren Vilbert, a student at the University of Vermont, was one of the people asked to taste the food during the show.