

McKownville Improvement Association 2002

To: Town of Guilderland--
From: McKownville Improvement Association (contact, Don Reeb)
Date: July 15, 2002
Subject: McKownville

Included with this memo is our Proposal for Western Avenue, May 4, 2002. It was developed by 34 members of our planning group in meetings from December through May. It was distributed to McKownville residences in the past few weeks and has been widely accepted. Residents were asked in a follow-up door to door survey to endorse the report and over 200 signatures have been collected and more are expected in the next few weeks. That Western Avenue in McKownville should become more like a street and less like a highway is the conclusion of the Proposal with numerous specific suggestions concerning Western Avenue discussed in the report.

Along with distribution of the Proposal, residents were provided a Needs Survey (copy included) and these are being collected and tabulated. Responses indicate that the development of the pond as a park (a low intensity park) is desired by an overwhelming majority of the residents. Copies are available at <http://www.atmos.albany.edu/mckownville/>

Concerning the pond, evidently, the pond and surrounding Town owned property of eight (8) plus acres, including the former pumping station building, are thought of as community assets by residents. This likely means that sale of any portion of the property is to be avoided. Probably most residents do not know that the shopping center has used portions of the pond property for over 40 years without paying rent and probably most do not know that the exit and portion of the Western Avenue entrance to the plaza is on pond property and more than a hundred of the plaza's parking spaces are on pond property. Thankfully rents are now being collected. Future use of the pumping station building, the pond and the other property need be discussed by the community. This item will be put forth at the next general meeting of the Association, but it is appreciated that it was the initiative of the Town, before we developed the Needs Survey or had its results, to direct the Senior Engineer for the Town, Keith Menia, to complete a study of the reuse of the pond.

Discussion of the future of Western Avenue and the future of the pond and the other results from the survey will likely consume much of the effort of the Association in the coming year. The Association appreciates your leadership and cooperation--our meetings are always open to you--and looks forward to working with each of you on these issues.

Copies to: Supervisor Kenneth Runion; Town Board Members David Bosworth, Patricia Slavick, Michael Ricard, Bruce Sherwin; Police Chief James Murley; Town Planner, Jan Weston; Zoning Administrator Donald Cropsey; Parks Director Dennis Moore; Planning Board chair Stephen Feeney; Zoning Board chair Peter Barber; Economic Development Advisory Council chair Donald Csaposs; Superintendent of Water and Wastewater William West; Superintendent of Highways Todd Gifford; and Pathways Committee co-chair Lindsay Childs.