

McKownville Improvement Association
Action Committees
January 30, 2003

There are 10 Action Committees. Please print your name, address, telephone, and email address and indicate--by use of the number--which of the committees you would like to help out on.

The work of the committees is mostly in gathering information and then working with the Town to make sure that the improvement that is being planned solves the problems--for example, the Pond and Park at Stuyvesant Action Committee, #1 -- that the planning for the pond and park is reasonable by which is meant that the benches and picnic areas are well chosen, the area is safe, paths are walkable, trees and bushes and other plants are well managed, signs are adequate, area is generally usable and safe for children and the elderly, and so forth. It is important that each improvement be as well planned as possible--we do not want to waste money and we may not get another chance to do it right for a very long time.

1. Pond and Park at Stuyvesant--John Esler, chair
2. Western Avenue improvements--Don Reeb, chair
3. McKown Road and other sidewalks and trails--Doug Smith and Marty Gnacik, chairs
4. Mercer Street Vest Pocket Park--David Knight, chair
5. Tree planting program--Sue Brown, chair
6. Speed limit reduction--Jim White, chair
7. Securing more street lights-
8. Western Avenue CME final report--Don Reeb, chair
9. Flooding--Martha Haraus, chair
10. Bus shelters and crosswalks--Alice Torda, chair

Action Committees

1.29.03

These are only some preliminary suggestions. More and better ideas about what needs to be done will develop as you get to work as a committee.

We will hold meetings to get reports on what you have found and what actions you are planning to do. Help is always available from the Association officers by email, telephone, etc.

The ten.

1. Pond and Park at Stuyvesant –John Esler, chair

Meet with Town Water Department concerning plans

Get maps of boundaries of Stuyvesant/Town owned property, size of pond

Get information—assessed value, taxes paid, date purchased, date sold, price sold for, present agreements on use with Stuyvesant, regulations governing use, water runoff from Stuyvesant and from Crossgates, pipes into an out of the pond, use of pumping station building,

2. Western Avenue improvements--Don Reeb, chair

3. McKown Road and other sidewalks and trails –Doug Smith and Marty Gnacik, chairs

Get list of all streets and where sidewalks are in McKownville

Talk with the Pathways Committee about their plans, funding

Talk with neighbors about sidewalks, costs of improvement, cost of sidewalk district, sources of funding other than local assessments, plans on how to protect trees if sidewalks installed

Ask whether curbs would be a suitable alternative to sidewalks

Are there other alternatives to sidewalks, such as alley/trails

Concerning trails, get a copy of CME report recommendations

Talk with the University about its plans

4. Mercer Street Vest Pocket Park–David Knight, chair

Get a map of all Town owned parcels in the Mercer Street vicinity—we need to be sure that the site being selected is the best one. What about along the path instead of using Tracy lot?

Find other vest pocket parks and get sketches of their layout

Talk to neighbors near Tracy Providence and Mercer about what they want

Get information about its costs

Get information about its impact—on noise—on neighbors—on pedestrians—on nearby trails

5. Tree planting program–Sue Brown, chair

Get the plans on tree planting from Albany city and other nearby cities

Talk with Parks Department, Dennis Moore about Town's plans
Is the Town going to pay half--three quarters--or all?"
Is the Town going to plant trees in both the sidewalk strip and the front yard, like Albany does
How does a homeowner get to participate
When will it start, who will contact homeowners
What kinds of trees

6. Speed limit reduction--Jim White, chair

Talk with Chief Murley, find out how it can be done
Discuss the possibility for getting Fuller Road included in 30MPH
Will we need petitions
What about letters to the State assemblyman, senator, county legislative representative

7. Securing more street lights

Take an inventory of where all the street lights are in McKownville and how much they cost
Talk with neighbors about streetlights, what they want
Find out from Town how to get streetlights installed (or taken out if there are some that neighbors do not want)
Town said would need signatures, how many, from the entire street or the majority of the street, from each household or each person, petition or secret ballot, Town Board public meeting

8. Western Avenue CME final report--Don Reeb, chair

9. Flooding--Martha Harauscz, chair

Need an inventory of where all the catch basins are and which ones need significant improvement
Discussion with Highway Department, Water Department engineer(?) about the "design" of better basins
For troubled wet areas, do better storm basins make the wet basement problems better or worse
Can some of the basins be improved without having to wait for the sidewalk improvement
Do the alleys provide access to the storm sewers--that is will these improvements do something to our alleys
Where do the storm sewers drain--into the Krum Kill?

10. Bus shelters and crosswalks--Alice Torda, chair

What alternative designs are available for bus shelters, who is supposed to pay for them
What will be the exact location of each
Who will maintain them
Who will shovel out the snow
Will they be in the sidewalk path