

McKownville Improvement Association

Meeting held on January 30, 2003 at the Holiday Inn-Western Avenue

The meeting opened with President Don Reeb announcing that the Creighton-Manning Report will be sent shortly, if not already there, to the Town of Guilderland and the Town Board will decide what they wish to do. Our Association would like to have some recommendations as to what we would like.

A summary sheet of the CME Draft report, McKownville Corridor Study was available to those that attended the meeting along with a sheet listing ten Action Committees regarding upgrades for the McKownville area.

A discussion followed about sidewalks and where they should be put: Western Ave. to Schoolhouse Rd., Johnson Rd. to the City Line, sidewalks, curbs, drainage, into Stuyvesant Plaza, Crossgates around all of the buildings. Don felt the southside is very important, as it defines the residential character. John Esler would like them on the southside and Sue Brown favors the northside. John McEneny has given us \$50,000 for this project.

Zoning Ordinance Provisions were discussed regarding moving commercial parking to the rear of the business. Jim White was not in favor of this as it might involve new constructions. Commercial properties come in clumps. One idea is to create Park & ride lots. Previously people were able to leave their cars in Stuyvesant Plaza and take a bus to downtown to work, but that is no longer allowed. Some people have chosen to park on the side streets and take the bus from there, some residents do not like this.

One major concern is crosswalks/lights to cross by. Schoolhouse road has a button to push to get across but is still dangerous. Often difficult to cross near Stuyvesant Plaza, entrance to University and area around Arcadia Ave., etc. Many residents use the "island" to cross. The light at the Firehouse could be activated so people could cross and cars would have to slow down. A light could also be helpful at SUNY/Fuller Road. It is often difficult for students to cross by the Beth Abraham Cemetery area/Shabot House.

Recreation Areas: proposal for a trail from Stuyvesant Plaza that would go back and go the area around Freedom Quad/SUNY/Washington Avenue. Have the area around the pond behind the current Chamber of Commerce Bldg. be able to use to walk, sit and enjoy the area, have some picnic tables, benches

In regards to Bicycle Parking Ordinance - we do not want the bicycle lanes widened and some are currently too wide and often times people use them as turning lanes especially on Western as you turn right onto Fuller Road and also in the area of Possano Paints-McKown Road. In regards to traffic if we were to request to take away the right turn on red near Stuyvesant Plaza people would then cut through the side streets which some do but not welcomed and would not be welcomed by any residents.

A button could be installed to stop temporarily right turn on red but would not necessarily help anyone who would be riding a bicycle in that area.

(Don I don't know what this was about as my notes are vague something to do with Fuller Rd-center lane-larger area not at Burger King-Mercer/Fuller (Shabbot House) light.

We would like to see the speed on Western Avenue reduced to 25/30 currently 40 and most people are going 50+ which has caused many accidents especially entering and exiting the University on Western Avenue.

The bulbout plans are not accurate/redesign "curb extension" would eliminate right hand turn - must be approved by the State as it is a State road.

The meeting then focused on the Action Committees: John Esler spoke on the Pond/Park, Jim White spoke on the speed reduction. He has spoke to Lt. Curtis Cox of Guilderland Police Dept. NYS is the regulating authority, we would have to request and cite our reasons.

We would like to have better bus service and possible more use by students. Also have bus shelters at various locations.

Dave Bosworth and Mike Francini gave short presentations. Steve Feeney who is a grant proposal writer for the Town gave us good news that a grant has been approved for \$735,000 (state & federal) for sidewalk improvements -both sides, bulbout/ medians - he indicated that all of this takes times (then I had CDTA-\$280,000 No. Allen to Fuller 2 intersections, \$1,000 multi-modal funds? possible work to start in 2005 or '06.

Route 20 on State System - there may be a match - DOT has to approve. Sidewalsk are cheaper the more you do per square fot.

Dave Bosworth said the Town and many people involved because of interest. CM study, followed by Town study and our corresponding study all helped. A comprehensive copy of the CM study at Town Hall. He congratulated our Association on our efforts.

A small discussion ensued regarding the new buildings at SUNY i.e., CESTEM, SEMI-TECH.

Those in attendance were asked to considre being on one of the ten Action Committees. Sign-up sheets were made available.

It was announced that there would be free cross country skiing, Sat. 2/1/03 at the Western Turnpike Gold Course for residents.

Jim White asked for any pictures or stories about the early years of McKownville.