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Subject: McKownville
From: dreeb@albany.edu
Date: Mon, September 29, 2003 12:37 pm
To: tordaa@hotmail.com (more)
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Hi

The Thursday public meeting went well. Attendance was about 30. Sue gave a "trees" report, I did one with Kevin's help on "the pond", Paul did one on "the Kiwanis" and I did another on "the flyover". I failed to ask Jim to do one on "the speed limit" and I did others on "the Blue House" and "the Western Avenue corridor expectations".

Ken Runion, Dave Bosworth and Bruce Sherwin were there as was Mary Lou Connolly.

Jim and Chief Clancy gave a great talk with lots of information about the fire department and how to join. Bill West talked about water and wastewater and gave us lots of support for our interest in the pond and related issues.

The Blue House--it will be condemned if the liens against it cannot be resolved--the condemnation to go forth October 10th.

Jim White put forth a great suggestion--that we need to get an estimate for the pond's improvements, which means we need to get a plan. Since Keith Menia was working on ~~plan~~, maybe we can get a copy of his and then we will figure out how to get it "costed". My idea of the pond is based partly on the Buckingham pond but less so--some benches on the east end and a path all the way around and some stone walls to replace the chain link fences. Keith was concerned about the danger to walkers.

How much protection is needed for the walkers on the path is partly dependent on how close the path is to the edge and how much of the brush surrounding the pond is removed. Right now if you walk around the pond you could not fall in if you wanted to because there is ten or more feet of brush separating the pond from the walking route. The 30 feet or so directly behind the old pump house is an exception to this and I am assuming that you stay outside the fence during your walk.

I think that everyone should try to find the time to get to the pond and walk around it and think about what they want. Please note the beautiful vista just after you start down the "road" that the town maintains on the west side of the pond--the spot is about 20 feet higher than the pond and you can look over the length of the pond and I can easily imagine a bench and a lovely place to sit.

The other great suggestion was from Ken Runion concerning the flyover. He

thought we should get Assemblyman McEneny and Senator Breslin to one of our meetings to discuss what it is that we find objectionable about it. Jim White again made a great suggestion--that we tell the Thruway Authority that a better way would be to make the Thruway untolled from exit 21b or so to 26 or so--like in Buffalo--that way the speed ramps for ~~the~~ faster EZPASS users would be done in those areas and we would not have the heavy air pollution and noise pollution that we now have ~~at~~ less of both that we would have if the speed ramps are constructed. *and*
Jim gave a great suggestion--let us find out!

DePaul

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