

## **Minutes--Public Meeting-- McKownville Improvement Association--June 24, 2004**

For those who could not be at the meeting here is a summary.

Election--all 7 candidates were re-elected unanimously--Steve Berg, Joe Trapasso, Marty Gnacik for three year terms as Board members and Don Reeb, Bill Meehan, David Knight and Paul Haldeman as the four officers for one year terms to the same positions as they held this year.

Board Members Marty Gnacik and Doug Smith presented the results of the Sidewalk Survey--nearly 90 responses--those resident with sidewalks wanted them maintained in good quality while those without sidewalks did not want sidewalks, with the exception of McKown Road--also respondents want sidewalks on both sides of Western.

Treasurers report--we have received about \$500 in donations in response to our recent plea so we have enough--about \$600--to go for another year. Thank you very much.

Board member Laura Whalen described the proposal she submitted on behalf of the Town and the Association for the Kodak American Greenways Grant for improving the pond. Early August is the expected reply date. The \$2500 grant if received would used to study the design of the park to be built around the pond--paths, benches and so forth. The recent grant received by the Town's Pathways Committee--Lindsay Childs, chair--possibly permits the pond and Stuyvesant to be connected to the Pinebush and Rensselaer Lake(Five Mile Water Works) on Fuller and Washington Avenue Extension, permitting bikers and walkers from McKownville to access a very large park area indeed.

Board member Sue Brown reported that the Tree Committee will hold another Street Tree Plus sale in August and that notices will be sent forth, A somewhat larger selection of trees will be available for this sale--six different types were available at the Spring sale when 13 trees were sold. Sue, the committee chair, emphasized that the Committee wants to encourage residents to plant trees anywhere on their property, of course keeping in mind the suitability of specific trees selected for sites near the street where electric lines may pass nearby.

Our featured speaker was Supervisor Ken Runion. He announced that Assemblyman McEneny is working to get the pond drainage improved to alleviate recurrent flooding. This is great news. Supervisor Runion also told that a revaluation of property values would take place soon, and that while property values have increased significantly, the Town residents can expect that the Town tax rate would be lowered such that most would not be paying more Town taxes. The Town would also be working with the school district so that school taxes would be similarly adjusted.

Questions focused on the earlier reports on sidewalks, the pond, slated improvements and other community concerns.

Mr. Runion said that the Town has about \$143,000 in the Pathways budget, that bids on

reconstruction and/or construction of sidewalks were going to be secured and that paths and sidewalks would be constructed. The question about NY Department of Transportation requirement that sidewalks NOT be built unless they connect to another sidewalk has made it more difficult to get sidewalks constructed but the Town has been able to work with property owners on the problem of sidewalks. The "shabat" house on Fuller, the rumor about its reconstruction, came up. Evidently it is on hold by the Zoning Board; comments about its disrepair were made. A property near Woodscape—corner of Monroe and Norfolk—was cited as being in severe disrepair. Mr. Runion said that someone would look into it. Mr. Runion reported on the work by the Town on preserving the rural character of portions of the Town, that a moratorium would affect on the western portions of the Town and that a public meeting on "Rural Guilderland" would be held on Thursday June 29 in the Altamont Village Hall to discuss the concept and the plans and he hoped that many would attend. Mr. Runion also spoke about the pond, the problem of flooding because of Crossgates storm runoff.

David Reid from the McKownville Methodist Church shared some preliminary sketches of the plans for the additions to the church—new landscaping, new construction at the rear and possibly lighting of the older church at night—all of which looked very attractive.

(Don Reeb's offers this note, to bring us all up to date. Several plans for improvements in McKownville are underway. (1) The County—County Legislator Frank Comisso was present—had previously announced that Fuller Road would be improved. Sidewalks, traffic lights, etc are in the plans but the starting date is not yet known. (2) The Western Avenue Improvements—sidewalks, curbs, drainage, lighting and traffic lights are on schedule to begin in 2006. (3) The CDTA money for bus passenger stations along the south side of Western—I am checking on the status of this. (4) Assemblyman McEneny money for sidewalks along McKown Road—I am checking on this. (5) No change to report on the Thruway plans and designs for the reconstruction of Exit 24 and the flyover. (6) No change to report on the LeEcole property—still vacant).

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