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Subject: Minutes of September 8, 2005 McKownville Meeting

From: dreeb@albany.edu

Date: Fri, September 16, 2005 9:22 pm

To: dreeb@albany.edu

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To: McKownville Residents

From: McKownville Improvement Association, Don Reeb, president, 489-3909

Subject: September 8, 2005 meeting

Date: September 16, 2005

The first highlight of the meeting was the guest appearance of the Farm Market operators-Cindy and Jim Barber-and their discussion of what to expect for next year. Generally more of the same is what the Barber's promised. They are trying to find more vendors and more workers to have more hours of operation and more days for the market and more different kinds of products.. Whether that can be done depends-but they are trying. They asked for ideas from the audience-and the audience cooperated.

The audience was very supportive of the farm market and thanked them for the quality of the produce (and the prices) and the days of operation. (Since that meeting I was called by an organic farmer in Westerlo that wanted to participate-but as Jim Barber explained at the meeting, many of the smaller farmers cannot afford the insurance and/or to hire workers to run a stand). The market will stay open this year until the farm has nothing more to sell and will open earlier in the Spring, they hope.

Don Csaposs took the lectern and spoke about the McKown Road sidewalk. Don explained that all is ready except the owners of the medical office building on McKown Road have not given their permission for use of their land. As Don explained, this is doubly troubling. Some twenty years ago when the medical office was rebuilt a stipulation by the Town was that the owner, Wolanin, construct a sidewalk in front of his property at his own expense. It was not constructed. The building was sold and the new owners have not done it either. Anyway-we might yet get the sidewalk this year. The bus patron shelter for the corner of McKown Road and Western is ready to be installed when the sidewalk is poured.

An Association authored petition was circulated at the meeting. It was addressed to the Thruway Authority concerning the neighborhood's opposition to the Western Avenue flyover. It was signed by those present and was mailed to the Authority this week. It asks that the Authority definitely rule out the construction of the Western Avenue flyover.

Mayor Jennings recent announcement, that the City was applying for permission to use the Albany Landfill on Washington Avenue Extension for many more years than previously promised, was also discussed. A letter from the Association was prepared to be sent to the Mayor complaining about his decision. Many people at the meeting again complained about the noxious odors coming from the landfill. The letter has been sent.

A meeting between the Association's Board and Jan Weston, the Town Planner, discussed and approved a proposal to convene a rezonng study group, for a portion of McKownville's Western Avenue. Town Supervisor Ken Runion indicated that this will be an agenda item for the Town Board September 20, 2005 meeting.

The Tree Committee made their report—and once again Sue Brown and her group did a great job. Please consider planting one or more trees—many of our wonderful homes could use another tree in front, including many of the older homes along or near Western Avenue, where the loss of trees is most noticeable. The types of trees available are a linden, an oak, a gingko, a service berry, a tree lilac and a flowering pear—around \$70 each—the Association is prepared to help buyers plant each purchased tree—call Sue Brown at 482-2355 by September 30 to place your order—the trees will be delivered in mid October.

Other topics were discussed-like the Meet the Candidates night on Thursday October 13-Western Avenue improvements-the Shabbos House-Across the Street Pub (the Zoning Board hearing on this was the previous night and the Board questioned the adequacy of the Pub's parking)-Taco Pronto-and Starbucks-were discussed. The Shabbos House received the most attention-Rabbi Rubin took the lectern and described what the Shabbos House was and its plans.

Mark your calendar-the next meeting is Thursday October 13-(not October 6 as previously announced)---Meet the Candidates. This is a long tradition in McKownville and is always very informative.

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