

- Three parts-- (1) REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS;
(2) NEXT-TO-DO LIST;
(3) THE WORK LOAD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Since September 2001, the accomplishments of the Association are more than 30

University proposal to construct a building on the site of the Blue house, prevented
McKownville Corridor Study, completed,
Blue house, razed
Tree committee formed
Sidewalk in front of 99 restaurant, constructed
Sidewalk in front of 1450, to be built
McKown road sidewalk, to be built
Fuller Road signs "do not block the side roads," installed
Abele Park sign on McKown Road, installed
Lighting district extended on Providence Street, approved and in process
Fuller Road sidewalks and improvements, approved
Schoolhouse Road sidewalks and improvements, approved
Western Avenue sidewalks and improvements, approved
Bus patron shelter at McKown Road, approved
McKown Road and Norwood Street intersection to be redesigned, approved and in process
Fuller Road and Western pedestrian crossing signals, completed
McKown Road pedestrian crossing signals, approved and in process
Left hand turning lane for Burger King, installed
University entrance and Western Avenue pedestrian crossing signals, approved and in process
McKownville Western Avenue Zoning Study Committee appointed, report in process
Storm sewers cleaned in the carriageway between Glenwood and Parkwood, completed
Storm sewers constructed on Providence Street, completed
Farmer's Market established at Stuyvesant, 2005
Carriageway behind Waverly and Norwood streets made passable, completed
Zoning cases in which the Association had some positive impact
Strip mall proposed near Best Western
L'Ecole
Across the Street Pub
Signage at 99 Restaurant

Tanning store

Still in process—Shabbos and Starbucks

Next to-do list?

Stop the Western Avenue flyover

Develop the McKownville Master Plan

Solve the flooding (from the pond overflow) of Western Avenue

Get the Town to provide a town-wide Community Center located in McKownville

Make the pond area a useable park

Get a better use for the Germano's site

Get a better use for the Capitallodge site

Get the path improved from Providence to Nanotech/Washington Avenue Extension

Get a path to Rensselaer lake

Get a path developed along the Krum Kill from the pond to Gaskill/Wood streets

Help the fire department get a new and larger building

Get a better storm water system installed throughout McKownville

Get the hill near the entrance to the Northway planted with more attractive bushes and trees

The work load of the Association needs to be understood more clearly.

Internal operations

Monthly meetings—getting the room, constructing the agenda and inviting a guest speaker (if any), typing the announcements, getting the 740 flyers printed and sorted into 13 piles and distributed, and running the meeting

Representing the Association at Town Hall meetings—usually the Town Board(1st and 3rd Tuesdays), Zoning Board (1st and 3rd Wednesdays), and Planning Board (2nd and 4th Wednesdays) meetings. This often requires prior trips to Town Hall to read the applications, study the folders and prepare the oral presentation which also involves studying the zoning ordinance and talking with Jan Weston and Don Cropsey about the application

Maintaining files of information about McKownville, its history, the zoning cases and other issues

Calling and running the monthly Board meetings

Appealing for donations and operating the treasury

Finding a way to keep the Association going—finding good people willing to serve on the Board and serve as Officers

Creating an agenda for the Association—from the tree committee to special events with the fire department to choosing what the Association should do next—this requires an understanding of what is possible, what the history of McKownville is and what is feasible. And all of this is influenced by what other persons and groups think and believe and have money to support.

External groups and persons whose agendas must be considered include the following.

One set is the area political officers who control much that happens in McKownville. Senator Breslin, Assemblyman McEneny, Ken Runion, Frank Commisso, Mary Lou Bartolotta, Dave Bosworth, Paul Pastore, Patty Slavick, and Mike Ricard. There is also the Town Hall staff, such as Don Csaposs, Don Cropsey and Jan Weston, among many others. Conversations, letters and meetings with these persons/groups is an essential part of the process.

The powerful organizations on the borders of McKownville—the University at Albany, Nanotech, and the Harriman campus—is another set of groups

A third set is the local private groups—Stuyvesant Plaza, the McKownville Methodist Church, the Christ Lutheran Church and the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce

And finally, the agenda of the Association must be explained through newsmen at the Altamont Enterprise, the Guilderland Spotlight, the Albany Times Union and the Schenectady Gazette

The Association Board and Officers have worked well together and shared the work load—from development of “surveys” to giving public statements to going to Town Hall meetings to serving on the Corridor Study Committee to meeting with President Hitchcock and President Hall to serving on the Zoning Study Committee to booking the meeting room at the motel to preparing the agenda for the February and March meetings to securing the firehouse for our board meeting to serving as Treasurer to meeting with the Thruway staff to organizing the tree committee and numerous other essential activities.

Much of the heaviest work of the Association is probably behind us. The Improvement Association has earned its reputation for standing together and standing for something—(1) public improvements in our neighborhood which we intend to keep residential—(2) our major highways will not become wider—(3) our commercial properties will not expand. By working together we have accomplished much. We should all be very proud.

Concerning future development the McKownville Improvement Association believes that:

1. Not one more inch of property should be taken to widen any road in McKownville
2. Not one more residential parcel should be turned into a commercial property use and, if at all possible, sites presently zoned commercial should be turned into residential sites.
3. Every effort should be made to improve the appearance of commercial properties along Western Avenue,

especially the Capitol Lodge and nearby parcels and the Germano's/Winnair parcels.