

Hi David

March 24, 2007

Concerning the future of the Association---let me tell you what I think.

I hope you will like it.

The Association has accomplished some very difficult tasks. It has gotten commitments concerning the pond/reservoir/Western Avenue flooding; another for a sidewalk along McKown; another for improvements for Fuller Road; another for improvements for Schoolhouse Road; another for sidewalks along Western Avenue; another for sound barriers along the Thruway; another for bus patron waiting kiosks; and another for pedestrian improved walk lights. A small amount of the actual reconstruction has been done, the walk lights at Fuller and Western, for example. But I have no doubt that the remainder will be done within the next three to four years.

Secondly, the Association got rid of the "Blue House" completed a zoning study of Western Avenue and got some other important improvements. The Western Avenue sidewalks are now cleared of mud. The "Don't Block the Side Roads" signs along Fuller have been installed. The street lighting district was expanded along Providence. The Western Avenue Corridor study was completed. The Thruway flyover was stopped. And, most importantly, two very important principles were accepted by Town Hall—no widening of Western Avenue and no expansion of non-residential businesses along Western (the Across the Street Pub fight and the Starbucks fight as well as the McKownville Zoning study).

Thirdly, there are some very expensive projects that are needed. But they are so expensive, in my view, that they can be ignored unless Town Hall gives a clear signal that they are willing to spend the money to do them. One is sidewalks for the 39 side streets in McKownville that want sidewalks—maybe a third of the side streets. The other is reconstruction of the storm sewers for all of McKownville. (Laura and Marty think that McKownville residents would willingly vote for a special tax for these improvements but

I cannot imagine this. Neither is in crisis and without a crisis I do not see any way to get McKownville taxpayer support).

Then there is the repaving of Western Avenue with all the improvements discussed in the corridor study---architecturally attractive streetlights, wider verge's along the sidewalks etc. This will happen when USDOT, NYDOT and the Town decide for it to happen. But the Association probably can do very little to influence the timing of this project. But it will happen in the next decade or so.

Then there are two projects that might be done. A Guilderland community center for all of Guilderland but located in the building that is now the Christ Lutheran Church. And a revised master plan for McKownville. Both have been spoken of enthusiastically by Town Hall leaders. We need await decisions by Town Hall whether these are going to go ahead but neither one can be expected within the next few years, would be my guess.

With all of this behind us or committed, in 2008 and beyond much of the Association should be about encouraging more street-social activities. That means fewer general meetings----maybe four a year----and encouraging street garage sales, street parties, Fire Department Halloween parties, Tree sales, and the like. Things that are more social and less political---things that each of the 13 members of the Association Board can do independently and less that is the responsibility of the president.

There will always be the Harriman, SUNY, Stuyvesant, DOT, Thruway, Northway, Crossgates issues but these are not likely to be crisis in the near future. That is, the president's chore is to keep these in view but they probably will not require much in the way of action---I hope. Then there are the zoning/SUP issues that will require attention from time to time. And there is the very important "Meet the Candidates Night" and the inviting in of special guests, like the School Board president and the chair of Harriman and representatives of SUNY and CESTM for those four or so meetings a year.

So that is how I see my next year as president---and how future presidents might well see their role. More watching than action. More social than political.

Finally, I am most grateful that I have been able to talk with Ken Runion, Dave Bosworth Frank Commisso, Mary Lou Connolly and Jack McEneny on a regular basis, as well as persons from SUNY, CESTM and Harriman. Sometimes this involves nothing more than telling them about upcoming meetings—or sending them emails about upcoming meetings—but I have no doubt that these contacts are important to the Association's future.

The president is a lobbyist. In the future, that chore might be shared with one of the other officers or Board members, but it must be done by someone.

I hope that this makes the operation of the Association become more manageable. That is my intention for the next year. To make the Association's management less than an onerous chore.

We will see what happens.