

Meeting Agenda, Wednesday, April 18, 2007, Don Reeb

The Hansen hearing is the first item on the agenda so I might be able to get back before 9pm.

Introduce yourself. Then start by welcoming everyone—then ask each person to introduce him/herself. Make special mention of the elected officials present—Supervisor Ken Runion, Town Council persons Dave Bosworth, Patty Slavick (not expected to be there), Michael Ricard (usually not present) and Paul Pastore—then County legislators Frank Commisso and Mary Lou Connolly and then Town Tax Receiver Jean Cataldo (almost always present).

Cindy Wadach is the guest speaker. She is the Director of Senior Services for the Town. (She did not want a longer introduction).

It is always good to have some questions prepared for the discussion. **S**uggestions are:

Do you see a need to expand transportation services for seniors?

What about a seniors center or community center—other communities have such—what about Guilderland?

Many seniors would like to attend evening **performances** at Tawesentha—does the Town presently provide **transportation** services for such special events?

We have meals on wheels---do we also have a bookmobile for seniors?

Do you use volunteers--can you use more volunteers—doing what?

Some communities have facilities such as a woodworking shop for seniors, ceramics, and learning opportunities such as genealogy research, poetry writing, history discussion groups, foreign language classes, singing and musical instrument instruction classes and so forth —do you see that happening for Guilderland?

Our town library offers book discussion meetings that many seniors might be interested in joining if they could more easily get to them and knew more about them—do you see the Town providing more such services in the near future?

Then the announcements.

- a. The next meeting of the Association will be Wednesday May 16th. Nancy Heinsen will be speaking about storm water regulations.
- b. The Tree Committee—recognize Sue Brown, Sue Gutbezahl, Ellen Manning and Ricardo Lopez Torrijos—the Tree Committee—delivery of the ordered trees will be towards the end of May.

- c. A recent NYTimes article indicates that a large tree adds about 1% to the value of single-family house—that means about \$2,000 added to a \$200,000 home. Those trees along the streets of McKownville are very valuable indeed and we must do more to keep them and to increase their number. The Association has a hard working and very effective tree committee---but National Grid and the Town hacks up our trees and cuts them down too easily. We need to provide a better procedure for protecting our trees and adding to them. Any suggestions?
- d. The Zoning Board hearing on the Hansen property—1434 Western—some people remember it as the Tusang Barhydt property—is being held tonight. It is problematic because the new owner—Kent Hansen paid \$340,00 for the 10,000 square foot building—wants to put three businesses in the building when it had but one for many years. The three businesses are Sparkin Johns, a bathroom remodeling service, Hansen Wood Flooring and Paige Heating and Air Conditioning. Three businesses is an overuse and will cause parking, ingress and egress problems along with those of trash pickups and snow removal. The building has but an 11 foot driveway on the one side—the east side--and no agreement with Germano's garage to use the west side where delivery's normally occur.
- e. The Jim and Cindy Barber Farm Stand will be returning to McKownville for its third year. It will again be located in the McKown Road parking lot of Passonno Paints. It will be open beginning June 30 on MWF from 12 noon until 6pm and on Saturday from 9am until 2pm. Get ready for some fine eating once again—and than Passonno for permitting us to use their parking lot
- f. The request for a special use permit for a home occupation for a veterinarian—Laurie Coger—at 20 Shady Lane was approved but with the stipulation that she could not treat any animals in her home office.
- g. The Strassburg property on McKown Road is still pending—no date for another hearing has yet been scheduled. At the last hearing several problems were raised—possibly the most significant was that of the standing water on the three lots along Westlyn.
- h. Harriman Research and Technology Park notified the Association that their Linkage Study—their transportation plan—was now available for review—at www.cdtcmpo.org and comments should be sent to linkage@cdtcmpo.org before Friday April 27th. The Association plans to send comments. Among other worrisome proposals was one, which would create a through road from near Homestead Avenue and Western to Washington. Increased traffic on Western is not what our community needs—so this and other proposals need to be looked at carefully. **Enclosed**
- i. The big stink. At its February 21 at 7pm at the Polish Community Center and the March 14 meeting at the Village of Colonie Family Recreation Center, the Association made public statements concerning the City landfill, its noxious odors and its likely deleterious public health effects. Frank Commisso, our County legislator from a portion

of McKownville, entered a letter of support and subsequently asked the County Health Department to investigate the health effects of the landfill. The letter from the County Health Department was recently received and stated that the landfill was not a health hazard. The Association has asked to see the health study and plans to ask neighborhood scientists to look at the testing and results. We need to keep up the pressure on the landfill operations—so whenever you smell the landfill, call the County Health Department, Dr. James Crucetti, Commissioner, at 447-7168, and complain. **Enclosed—9 pieces (Fax number and web address is on the top of the Crucetti letter)**

- j. The NanoTech controversy over the parking lot. You were there so you know as much about it as I do. **News item enclosed along with my note.**
- k. Sidewalks. Marty Gnacik especially has led the fight to get sidewalks on the side streets. One suggestion is to form a special taxing district to pay for the sidewalks. The Association is actively studying this proposal.
- l. On Saturday May 19 from 2-5pm at the McKownville Fire House the fire department and the Association will be holding a SPRING FLING—with raffle prizes and lots of things to eat and wonderful friends and neighbors to chat with. It is a great way to show your support for the fire department. I don't know if you noticed how many times the fire siren sounded this week, but the fire department has been very busy keeping us all safe from not only fires but floods as well. We do want to show our support. Do plan to attend.
- m. This Saturday, April 21 in the parking lot at Taft Furniture on Central Avenue you may hand in electronic items that you wish to dispose of (computer monitors, TV's, VCR's, radios, room air conditioners, etc)—from 7am to 1pm—you need a permit which you can get from Rosemary Centi, the Guilderland Town Clerk until 4:30pm on Friday or at the Town transfer station in Guilderland Center on Saturday. You will need your car registration showing you are a Guilderland resident to obtain the permit. **Enclosed. The form indicates lists the items—please get the form back because it is mine and I need to use it on Saturday.)**
- n. The McKownville Fire Department is working with CESTM and the Town, especially Bill West, to improve the appearance of the 1257 Western Avenue site, the location of the infamous “Blue House” across from the fire house. CESTM will be donating sand from its construction site and Laura Whalen and others will be helping to transplant PineBush plants from the CESTM site to the lot. Maybe excess plants will be made available to residents of McKownville. We will keep you posted about this. The timing of all of this is difficult but it is being worked on.
- o. On April 24th the Falconer lecture series at the CESTM building will feature a discussion of “the risks from nano particles in the environment”—this is a topic we need to educate ourselves on because we live where we do—it is free and starts at 8pm

- p. Continuing items—11 of them—count them--(1) Fuller Road, (2) Thruway sound barriers, (3) Western Avenue sidewalks, (4) McKown Road sidewalk, (5) the McKownville Reservoir Park, (6) bus patron shelter on Western at McKown Road (7) Schoolhouse Road, (9) flooding on Western Avenue near Fuller, (10) revision in the zoning regulations, and (11) laying out a new path in the 96 acres of PineBush owned by the State University behind Warren and Mercer streets—these are proceeding—always too slowly—but proceeding.

16 NEWS ITEMS

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