

Meeting Agenda, Wednesday, May 16, 2007, Don Reeb

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 Comisso and Mary Lou Connolly and then Town Tax Receiver Jean Cataldo (almost always present).

Nancy Heinzen is the first guest speaker and she will introduce our other guest speaker. Nancy is the Storm Water Coordinator for the County. Everyone knows that McKownville has storm water problems—many old storm sewers and a very high ground water table. I think that an old friend of mine said that he was told by his father—if you move to McKownville you will have storm water in your basement. His father was correct. But we still love McKownville and we will get the storm water under control. Nancy Heinzen.

Then the announcements. Paul ~~Haldeman~~ and the Treasurers report. Laura Whalen about the PineBush.

The next meeting of the Association will be in September.

The McKownville Fire Department and the Association are sponsoring the Spring Fling this Saturday at the fire house in the afternoon. I hope all can come—join in the raffle—have a hot dog and some ice cream—enjoy the children playing on the “bouncy/bounce” and chat with your neighbors—take some pictures. McKownville is our community—enjoy it.

The Schoolhouse Road meeting convened by our County legislator, Mary Lou Connolly Bartolotta at the Russell Road firehouse on Thursday May 10, 2007 had a very large turnout—4 informational points—(1) the sidewalk will be on the Abele Park side of Schoolhouse from Western to the city line on Russell—about where the Krumkill crosses under Russell Road—(2) a roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Krumkill and Schoolhouse—(3) the Russell Road Krumkill intersection which is presently a “Y” intersection will become a “T” intersection—and (4) some leveling of the roads will occur but no straightening a storm sewer basins will be added along with curbing..

The University at Albany Department of Planning had an undergraduate class studying Western Avenue from Fuller to Tudor this semester. I attended three of the classes. The drawings which they made are available and I will pass them around. They are quite attractive. Their suggestions focused on increasing the University presence along Western, apartments and retail stores that would appeal to students and faculty. The class was supposed to be their ideas, not what the people in McKownville might want. They worked very hard and produced something that was attractive and meaningful to them. As drawings, I think we can all appreciate the technology wizardry they show.

Nothing new about the Strassburg property. The Hansen 1424 Western property—the former Tusang Barhydt property--was approved by the Town as the location for two businesses—

Sparkling Johns and Hansen Flooring. About 12 conditions were placed on Hansen, the new owner—including no heavy trucks to be used and improvements required on the appearance of the building.

Nano—you read about SEMATECH—450 jobs to be added to their presently 250 jobs at the site. This Saturday the Association and Nano are cooperating on saving some of the native plants on the 1.5 acre site that will be used for a parking lot. The University and Nano have 79.6 acres on the present site and about half that across the street on the northwest corner of Washington and Fuller. The use of these sites impacts McKownville and we are concerned---more paved parking lots is not what we are looking for.

The big stink. The Association is very much concerned about the possible health affects of the City land fill—it not only stinks but it may be dangerous. The County Health department sent me some published results from other land fill sites—we are still seeking testing of the Albany land fill gases and ground water leaks.

Harriman Research and Technology Park notified the Association that their Linkage Study—their transportation plan—was now available for review—at www.cdtempo.org and comments should be sent to linkage@cdtempo.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.

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.

Accomplishments of the Association since 2000.

1. Western Avenue Corridor Study. Zoning Study of Western Avenue.
2. Across the Street Pub expansion defeated. 1257 “Blue House” on Western torn down and land leased to fire department.
3. Annual Halloween parties with the fire department reactivated.
4. Spring Fling parties with the fire house reactivated.
5. Tree committee formed and active selling and planting trees.
6. Survey completed on sidewalk desires.
7. Survey completed on future needs of McKownville.
8. Funding obtained for sidewalk along McKown, and sidewalk along Western from Schoolhouse to City line on the south side and from Knowles to City line on the north side. Rebuilding of Schoolhouse Road. Rebuilding of Fuller Road.
9. New bus patron shelters installed at Providence and at McKown Road.
10. “Don’t block the Side Roads” signs installed along Fuller. Snow plowing along Western on the north side and Fuller on the west side.

11. Funding for the McKownville Park reservoir obtained.
12. Funding for removal of the flooding problem on Western obtained.
13. "Don't drive on the shoulders" signs along Western on the south side installed.
14. Lighting district extended along Providence.
15. Carriageway behind Norwood/Waverly cleared of brush.
16. Concessions won from Stuyvesant concerning lighting and plantings near Providence when L'Ecole site is reused. Got a new sidewalk installed by Sty along Fuller.
17. Concessions won from University to stop the construction of an "emeritus faculty-student" building on Western at 1257.
18. Re-facing of old Capital Lodge motel and its new birth as "Days Inn" was accomplished.
19. Stopped the construction of a Starbucks across from the University entrance and its relocation to the old Taco Pronto site next to the fire house.
20. Got the development of a farm stand operated by Jim and Cindy Barber, first located in Stuyvesant and now behind Passonno's on McKown Road.
21. The painting and reuse of the old pump house near Stuyvesant and its reuse as a Town record storage site was done.
22. Former Tusang-Barhydt property, 1424 Western, curtailed intensity of reuse as a site for Sprkil Johns and Hansen flooring
23. Former Hannon's drugstore site concessions on reuse as tanning business.
24. Got ticket issued to Domenico buildings on the corner of Western and Fuller for piling snow on the sidewalks.
25. Got various abandoned cars hauled away, Western near Norwood, Dillenbeck near Short, etc.
26. Got information out to neighbors about a burglar and it led to his capture as he was breaking into another home, this one on McKown Road.
27. Got representatives from Town government, County government, Harriman site, Nano site, Stuyvesant Plaza, library, schhol board, University at Albany, and Save the PineBush to make presentations at the general monthly meetings.
28. Got sound barriers approved by the Thruway for near McKown Road.
29. Got sidewalks cleared of overgorwht along the north side of Western from Knowles to Fuller.
30. Got new sidewalks from businesses along Western—1450, "99", Holiday Inn, Passonno, Starbucks, Days Inn.
31. Got new pedestrian cross walk lights at Fuller, McKown, and University entrance.
32. Sign post on McKown Road for Abele Park erected and path improved.
33. Portion of storm sewers in McKownville cleaned—Glenwod/Parkwood and Glenwood/Norwood
34. New storm sewer on Providence constructed.
35. Reached out to Laughlin Street residents and included them in the Association.

Presentation to John Esler.