

McKownville Improvement Association
Founded 1924

August
2007

The Chabad Center, 320 Fuller Road, is coming back up again for decision, on September 19, 2007 at Town Hall. The current proposal is essentially unchanged—approximately 10,000 square feet of building plus front porch and back deck and 5 parking spaces (plus one handicapped space) and 30 “promised” spaces on the SUNYA campus. The green space is minimal—a few feet around the sides and back, with a 35 foot set back and a 19 foot lawn on part of the south side with a driveway on the north side. The storm water system is the big change. Albany County refused to give permission to use the already over capacity drains on Fuller so the proposal is to construct a “water recharge basin” under the rear of the property to hold all of the drainage coming off the roofs and parking lot etc. The County remarks include “...it will need to be monitored regularly...” to make sure it continues to function. This could be a major problem for neighbors.

You should plan on calling Don Cropsey, 356-1980—ext 5—at Town Hall to give your comments about the proposal. Your comments might well include: (1) the oversize non-residential building in a residential area; (2) the inadequate and uncertain parking spaces; (3) the destruction of a useful residential building; and (4) the high maintenance storm water system. The Hearing file can be reviewed at Town Hall, second floor, building department.

This is an election year. Town Supervisor Ken Runion and Town Council members David Bosworth and Michael Ricard are up for re-election as is Todd Gifford, the highway superintendent who is also the storm water administrator for the Town. You might want to get in touch with each of them. Letters to the editor (Altamont Enterprise, Times Union, Guilderland Spotlight) will help as will letters and emails to the Town officers: Ken Runion’s email address is runionk@townofguilderland.org. He will see that emails are forwarded, if requested. The general telephone number for Town Hall is 356-1980. You might also want to put together a petition with several of your neighbors.

McKownville is a residential community of small lots and small homes. Alternatively the present Chabad Center at 316 Fuller could be expanded—a second storey added—and made more suitable for its users. The proposed 10,000 square foot building with almost no parking and no side lot or backlit buffers will be nearly impossible to reuse if the Chadad Center closes. And synagogues (and churches) do cease operations. The construction of a 10,000 square foot building in a community of small homes with most of the promised parking neither owned nor leased by the Chabad Center and a difficult to maintain storm drainage is not an improvement for the neighborhood.

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Comments about this announcement should be made to Don Reeb at 489-3909 or sent to dreeb@albany.edu