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Hi all:

Last night's Board meeting discussed the storm water problems in McKownville, mostly. I will return to this later.

Other discussions concerned: (1) 90th anniversary for the fire department on May 17 from noon to 4pm and volunteers are needed as helpers and Marty Paul, Sue, Alice and myself (and of course, Jim) volunteered--more helpers are needed; (2) NNORC--the creation of a supportive community for retired folk (like myself) where NNORC stands for Neighborhood Naturally Retirement Communities; (3) a letter from Ed Swyer/Stuyvesant to Runion asking that the Western Avenue flooding problem be solved; and (4) other issues like the apartment at Hansen's (in process), the present construction at the University campus (electrical stuff and new bleachers for lacrosse) and the disapproval by the State for funding for the new football stadium but approval for construction of a new Business School building and redoing of the campus center, construction of yet another new building for Nano, Mangia (approved), Strausburg (approved), farm stand (will be here July 4th), and the Getty station (new owner but remain a Getty).

Storm water--the discussion concluded, I think (please correct my mistakes, if any): (1) the Town undermaintains the system--in part because the Town does not budget for it anymore than it budgets for maintaining sidewalks; (2) we do not know what a new system would cost--the \$20 million number is without a backup set of calculations; (3) it seems unlikely that McKownville residents would accept a big tax increase for a storm water system unless we can show that the problem is widespread and serious; and (4) much of McKownville may not have storm sewers and may not need them.

The storm water system by its very operation is hidden and residents do not like to talk about problems in their home--therefore, we are uncertain whether we have a big and widespread problem. And much of the solution may be individualistic--construction of a sump with a pump, leveling of a garden area, the designing of a swale emptying into the street, the installation of gutters on the home and drainage away from the home, the installation of a check valve on the sump pump discharge line, etc.

We need more information--and we need to begin collecting data.

I will put together a survey/questionnaire and see what you think and then ask for volunteers to fill out the survey (test it on the 13 of us) and

then a committee to "work" selected streets. This, like the Western Avenue Corridor Study, would presume to use a committee made up of all the Board members and others who volunteer. The idea is not to collect data for all 1,000 homes in McKownville but rather some and then present the data to the Town and ask for their help--in properly maintaining the system and/or building a new system or options yet to be offered.

Finally--there may be a university connection--if their system is malfunctioning, McKownville could be receiving their overflow. Seems unlikely but then people said that about the flooding at Stuyvesant also.

In the past eight years or so we have identified other McKownville problems and have begun to see solutions--for sidewalks, traffic, the pond, Western Avenue flooding, zoning, and so forth. It is now time to turn our attention to storm sewers.

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