

### **Meeting Agenda, Monday March 16, 2009**

Mike Franchini and Patrick Kennealy are the guest speakers and Fuller Road is the topic.

Ken Runion, the Guilderland Town Supervisor, and Jean Cataldo, Receiver of Taxes for the Town of Guilderland, have a few comments to make.

The next meeting of the Association will be Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>. And the May meeting will be Thursday May 28th. Other items:

- A. The Tree Committee—Sue Brown, Sue Gutbezahl, Ellen Manning, Laura Whalen and Ricardo Lopez Torrijos—have again done a fine job. The orders for the trees are due by March 30 with the trees slated for delivery and planting during the last week of May. A recent NYTimes article indicates that a large tree adds about 1% to the value of single-family house—that means about \$1,700 added to a \$170,000 McKownville home—not bad for a \$60 investment—that figures out to more than a 10% annual rate of return after a 25 year period.. Those trees along the streets of McKownville are very valuable and we must

do more to keep them and to increase their number. The Association has a hard working and very effective tree committee. The Town and the Association need to develop a procedure for protecting our trees and adding to them.

- B. The Jim and Cindy Barber Farm Stand will be returning to McKownville for its fifth 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 thank Passonno for permitting us to use their parking lot once again.
- C. The vacant lots that were part of the Strassburg property—they are on Westlyn Place—are still vacant and the dozens of trees that were on the property are gone---but the storm sewer pipes that were installed because the Town required the developer to install them seem to have reduced some of the flooding problems along that street. If you walk down Ayre Drive and look at the pipe outflow into the Krumkill—it is connected to the storm sewers on Westlyn--you will see, as I did, that even on a non-rainy day there is a sizable and constant stream of storm water flowing from that pipe.
- D. Harriman Research and Technology Park is still in a holding pattern. Their web address is----- [www.harrimancampus.com](http://www.harrimancampus.com)
- E. The big stink continues to be a problem, Bert Schou on Norwood Street sent a wonderful letter to DEC about the stink—it is reprinted in the recent Save the PineBush newsletter, which is available on the web. Download the entire newsletter at [www.savethepinebush.org](http://www.savethepinebush.org) Please call NYSDEC or the County Health department to register your anger about the smell whenever it again appears. No complaints—no action—that is a rule of government. So whenever you smell the landfill, call the County Health Department, Dr. James Crucetti, Commissioner, at 447-7168, and complain. And the plans to build a hotel at Crossgates continues to be a problem—and Save the Pinebush and the Association continue to argue against it.
- F. The University at Albany held its EIS meeting on Tuesday March 10, 2009 in the Hall of Fame Room of the SEFCU Center and there was a very good turnout from McKownville—about 20 projects were outlined but just two of them are funded—the work on the Campus Center and the new Business School building. Among the other projects listed were a parking garage—possibly near the Fuller Road/Washington Avenue intersection, a new dorm near the pond and Tudor Road and a new classroom building near the present Social Science building. More information can be found at <http://www.albany.edu/facilities/dgeis/>
- G. Conversations have been held with Capt. Cox of the Police Department and Pat Slavick, of the Town Board who is on the Safety Committee about two concerns. One is the speed limit on Western Avenue—the Town has recommended that it be reduced and the State has taken it under consideration. Second, Capt. Cox and I have discussed the parking regulations on Parkwood, Glenwood and Norwood streets and while many—but not all—think the present regulations are ridiculous—we cannot find a better

solution than alternate side of the street parking with the changeover time being midnight.

- H. The construction work on Western Avenue near Parkwood is for new pedestrian controlled crosswalk signals.
- I. Question—have others had the problem that I have been having—when turning east from Fuller onto Western how do you know that the cars coming out of McDonalds will be waiting for a through signal?
- J. Hole in Western Avenue--1445 Western Avenue--sidewalk and street from a caved in storm sewer line. I have filed a FOIL request to see the report from the State's contractor who sent a TV camera into the hole. The State DOT claims it is not the State's problem. Well whose problem is it then—Martha and State Harausz who live at 1445 Western?
- K. End of April will be the electronic waste-recycling day once again.
- L. Storm sewers---
- M. Other items- (1) Thruway sound barriers, (2) Western Avenue sidewalks, (3) the McKownville Reservoir and Park, (4) flooding on Western Avenue near Fuller, (5) revision in the zoning regulations, (6) new home being constructed at the end of Mercer, (7) community garden plots seem to be scarce—but I am told that there are available ones in Albany at Westland Hills, and (8) 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.