

SUBJECT: SNOW REMOVAL IN TOWN OF
GUILDERLAND-MCKOWNVILLE
NEW YORK

Mr. W. F. Gannon,
5 Elmwood St.
McKownville, N.Y.
March 6, 1940

Mr. W. R. Gordon,
Supt. of County Highways,
County House,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

As a resident and tax payer of the above community for the past nine years, it has been my observation on several occasions in the last few winters to observe the inefficient way the snow removal is handled in this community, and the poor job that is done after the plow has been thru the streets of McKownville.

Example: "This past storm which started Monday night, March 4th and continued thru Tuesday, March 5th, the bulk of which had fallen by mid-afternoon Tuesday.

I came home to my residence on Elmwood Street, Tuesday night about 6:30 P.M. and found this street with about three to four inches of slush for the residents to wade thru.

I was driving my car, and before getting very far into the street, I got stuck. While putting the chains on my car in order to proceed, several of my neighbors who had just gotten off the bus had proceeded to wade thru the slush, and I mean wade, as I had noticed they were wet above their ankles.

I can assure you the comments from these people and myself were not at all complimentary for the unsatisfactory service rendered by our Highway Department, for which we are reasonably entitled to".

After I reached home, I called our Town Supervisor, Mr. Earl Conklin, relating my experience to him in the form of a complaint. I asked him to do something about this deplorable condition, stating that this storm had been in progress all day and no signs of a snow plow in sight.

It seems to me the efficient thing to do is to work with the storm instead of waiting until it is all over, packed down and rutted.

Mr. Conklin assured me he would contact the Superintendent or the men in charge of this work, and would let me know, which he did. He advised me the plow would start out about 4:00 A.M. Tuesday. This would be at least twelve hours after the bulk of the storm had landed, and the Highway Department is just waking up that they have a job to do.

Mr. W. R. Gordon

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McKownville, March 6, 1940

The plow arrived on Elmwood Street about 2:00 P.M. Tuesday or approximately twenty-three hours after the bulk of the storm had landed.

I took particular notice Tuesday night after the plow had completed its cleaning job of the eight or ten streets in the community. I found it was far from a good clean job. Every street was left with at least two inches of slush, and the snow was not pushed back to the curb, so as to allow the proper space for two cars to pass without the hazards involved.

If this is efficiency, and giving the tax payer a break or the kind of service he is entitled to receive, then I think it is high time the local Highway Department House be put in order and made to realize that we do not like their past performance.

If the Highway Department has no better solution to offer to improve this condition, then I recommend the answer to our problem is to station one snow plow at McKownville end of the town instead of keeping this equipment at Altamont or Guilderland.

This would enable the department to send a crew to McKownville to get the equipment in motion here, while the storm is in progress. This crew could then work out of here to meet the other crews working from the other end of the town.

I feel with your cooperation in this matter something can be worked out to our satisfaction, and make us happy about the whole thing.

Please let me have your comments on this, after your investigation.

Yours truly,

W. F. Cannon

WF Cannon:ML

Victor Bassler, Supt. Highways,
R. F. D. #2
Altamont, N. Y.

M. H. Severson, Town Clerk
R. F. D. #2
Altamont, N. Y.

Earl Conklin, Supervisor
14 Norwood St.
McKownville, N. Y.

John Feldman (McKownville Improvement Association)
10 Glenwood St.,
McKownville, N. Y.

John - I would be glad to set in on a meeting with the association in regards to this
W. F. C.