

McKownville Water And Town Boards Negotiate For Rights To Church Pond

No significant decisions resulted from a meeting last week between the Guilderland Town Board, the McKownville Water Advisory Board and the owners of a pond upstream of the McKownville reservoir. The McKownville water district has expressed a desire to gain control of the pond.

The McKownville Methodist Church which owns most of the property in question was represented by its Board of Trustees at the January 31 meeting. Mr. Harold Lapham is chairman of the church board.

Cadwell Magley who owns some of the land adjoining the pond was represented by his attorney. Also present were another owner, John Leonardi, and his attorney. Mr. Magley, the Town Councilman, is vacationing in Florida. He and Mr. Leonardi use water from the pond for other than drinking purposes.

At the meeting in behalf of the McKownville Water District were

three members of its Water Advisory Board: Fred Abele, J. Francis Purdy and L. A. Swyer.

Guilderland supervisor Carl Walters said he believes the next step should be for him to get authorization from the Town Board for the town's water engineers, J. Kenneth Fraser & Associates to do a survey of the upper reaches of the pond to see if there are any other property owners.

The church board, according to the supervisor, has not formulated any specific terms for transferring the church's rights to the water in the pond.

The water district had hoped to have the right to repair and modify the dam at the pond's outlet before next summer. In Mr. Walters' opinion negotiations could not be completed in time to give the town access to the pond by then. He feels that there are several obstacles to the McKownville district's plan but, eventually, as he sees it, "none of them are insurmountable."