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Recreation need cited at meeting

McKOWNVILLE—A need for recreation development was foremost in the minds of members of the McKownville Improvement Association at a meeting Wednesday night in Christ Lutheran Church.

The group also expressed concern about the community being "strangled" in a traffic grid that sends an increasing amount of traffic into Western Avenue.

Guilderland Town Planner Matthew Delaney addressed the gathering and offered no immediate solutions to the traffic problem since highway construction plans have been "dumped or shelved" by the State Department of Transportation.

Prior to giving a lengthy talk on the town's master plan and how it relates to the McKownville area, Delaney refuted the studies findings of three graduate students at Albany State are for the association in regard to housing, traffic and recreation.

He described some suggestions as "exercises in futility," particular a suggestion by one student to construct a parallel road to Western Avenue that would accommodate local traffic.

Delaney also refuted findings that he said smacked of "spot zoning" and "income segregated" neighborhoods. He told the membership that the town was studying the needs for recreation facilities in McKownville and other areas of the town.

Association president John Esler and several members suggested that the reservoir that once supplied the McKownville Water District be developed as a recreation area.

Esler suggested that the town "clean up the shores" of the reservoir.

Tim Cohan, vice president, said that Western Avenue is a "definite barrier to the community." Delaney suggested the use of public and semi-public facilities for some recreational use.

Cohen said that some facilities at the university were being used by residents in the area, particularly the ice skating rink and tennis courts.