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# Guilderland Board May Consider Recreational Uses of Reservoir

By STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN  
Gazette Reporter

**GUILDERLAND** — The Guilderland Town Board may consider asking the Albany County Health Department to change a rule that prohibits trespassing on the McKownville Reservoir.

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Town officials — including Deputy Supervisor Ruth Lawlor and John Ryan and Pauline Porter of the Town Board — met Jan. 30 with leaders of the McKownville Improvement Association and others to discuss the association's request that the reservoir be used for recreation, including skating.

The town officials, however, expressed concern for increased insurance liability for the town if the association's request was granted.

They also were concerned about increased costs if the town were to become responsible for plowing and supervision, and they said they wanted to consult the other Town Board members before there is a decision to consider the request.

McKownville Improvement Association officials, meanwhile, have indicated the chances for skating this winter on the reservoir seemed good until the meeting. "We met Monday night (Jan. 30), and I never heard such a bulldust as excuses," John Esler said.

The members of the association agreed, he said, to share with the town the responsibility for supervising skating at the reservoir.

Esler also said he had been told there could not be skating on the reservoir until the McKownville Water District was merged with the Westmere Water District.

Mrs. Porter and Ryan said there was no connection between skating on the reservoir and consolidation. A proposal to consolidate the McKownville and Westmere Water Districts was defeated in a referendum last May 3.

"Nobody's against anyone skating on the McKownville Reservoir, once things are resolved," Mrs. Porter said. Even if the town and the residents can resolve the issues, a settlement probably could not come until March, she added.

"As soon as the town takes it over, parents assume the town is supervising it," Ryan said of the reservoir. "People put their trust and confidence in the town and assume that everything is hazard-free. The town has to be prepared for that."

There are rules and regulations to protect the quality of every surface water supply in the state and some subsurface supplies, according to Richard Svenson, director of the division of environmental health services for the Albany County Health Department.

The regulations, compiled in the State Health Law, define the boundaries of the water supplies and what activities are permitted and forbidden at these locations, Svenson said. The rules and regulations for the McKownville water supply

prohibit such activities as ice skating.

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Svenson, who attended the Jan. 30 meeting, said then that Town Board could send a letter to him asking to amend the regulations to permit skating or other activities at the McKownville Reservoir. The Health Department, he said, has no objections to the change.

"It's not being used for drinking water, and it's a source I hope would never be used," Svenson told the Gazette. Ryan expressed the same sentiment.

## Colonie HS Bands Slate Concert

**COLONIE** — The concert and dance bands of Colonie Central High School will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium.

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Featured groups include the Garnet and Gold Bands, the Jazz Ensemble and the Dance Band. Directors participating are Patrick Renzi, Paul C. Aldi and Henry M. Carr.

Selections to be performed include "Zodiac," "Man of La-Mancha," "Rock Encounter," "Cameo, Collage and Portrait," "Panorama for Band," "Marches: Blue and Grey" and "The Wiz."