

May 19, 1983

Report on activities of the McKownville Improvement Association during the past year.

As in recent years, the Association officers and board spent much of their efforts towards making McKownville a desirable place to live. Among its efforts during the past year were:

Crossgates. The Association was co-plaintiff in four legal actions attempting to stop the Crossgates Mall. These suits were unsuccessful, and we are left only with a bill for legal costs amounting to \$1046.

Rezoning of O'Hanlon's service station site. During the summer the Association led a drive to rezone the block of Western Avenue between Westlyn Court and Brookwood Ave. from B-1 (business) to R-NB, a less intensive use. The effort failed by a 3-2 vote of the Town Board (Moss, Saircich in favor, Cleary, Crosey and Horan opposed).

50 Fuller Road. In December and January the Association worked to oppose the use of the residence on 50 Fuller Road as an insurance agency, thereby introducing commercial uses into a new area of the hamlet. The Town Zoning Board unanimously denied the necessary variance, and subsequently the Town Board voted unanimously to adjust the zoning boundary between Stuyvesant Plaza and Providence Street so that 50 Fuller Road would become unambiguously residentially zoned.

Polling places. With the encouragement of the Association, the Town decided not to move the polling place for McKownville voters residing north of Western Avenue from the Fire House to the SUNY gym, but instead to create a new voting district for the SUNY students. McKownville residents will continue to vote at the Fire House.

Exit 24. Association board members participated in the public hearing on the Department of Transportation's proposals to rebuild the Thruway-Northway-I-90 interchange, and supported a design which would have the least possible impact on McKownville. Results of these efforts are not known, but the response from DOT was promising.

Parks. The Association board gave its support and encouragement to two recreational proposals in McKownville. One was the expansion of skating facilities at the Reservoir, a development which was frustrated by the unusually warm winter. The other is the proposed park off Schoolhouse Road, to be discussed at tonight's annual meeting.

SUNY athletic facilities. Board members and Town officials met with University officials to obtain information and express local concerns about possible expansions of the SUNY athletic facilities, and, in particular, a proposed new fieldhouse. If built, such a facility could create parking and traffic problems in the hamlet. Plans for such a facility are moving very slowly at present.

Coco's. The Association board was involved in discussions about the parking problem at Coco's, a problem which appears to be satisfactorily resolved.

Among the activities sponsored by the Association during the past year were a paper drive in September, a hamlet-wide newsletter in the fall, a highly successful dinner meeting featuring Supervisor Moss in November, and a paper drive in April.

Among the events and developments which the Association will likely be involved with in the coming year are:

- the park off Schoolhouse Road
- proposed revisions of the Town Zoning Law
- paying off the Crossgates bill
- watching proposals for improved athletic facilities for the State University for their impact on the hamlet
- a Meet the Candidates night in connection with the local elections in November.

Perhaps the most positive development of the past year was the strengthening of a spirit of cooperation, rather than confrontation, between the Association and the Town. The Crossgates issue inevitably created friction between the Association, which was a leader in the efforts against the mall, and the Town, which was unable or unwilling to stop the mall. The remaining issues related to Crossgates are those on which the Town and the Association are in agreement--insuring that Pyramid pays its full share of taxes, and that it lives up to its agreements on highway improvements. It is my hope that in this "post-Crossgates" period, the Town will continue to be responsive, as it has been during the past year, to efforts of the Association to make McKownville the best possible place to live.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Association as president during the past year. May the Association be ever more successful in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Childs