

# The McKownville Improvement Association

---

May 21, 1985

## SUMMARY OF 1984 - 85 ACTIVITIES

Following is a report of activities of the McKownville Improvement Association during the 1984 - 85 year.

The annual meeting of the Association was held May 15, 1984 at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn. Fred Abele, unofficial McKownville historian, gave a slide show of our hamlet in the good old days of yesteryear. Bryce Butler, contributing writer for the Altamont Enterprise, now celebrating its centennial year, also talked about the interesting events in the history of the newspaper.

Board members elected for the year were Jim Lane, president; Jim Cameron, vice-president; Steve Witham, Treasurer; Sue Brown, Secretary, and new 3-year trustees Mel Behn, Jill Messner, and Don Reeb. They join carry-over trustees Gus Baglione, John Esler, Alice Torda, Jim Dermody, John Smircich, and Mark Watkins.

A paper drive was held May 19 and 20 and again on October 27 and 28, 1984.

In June 1984 the Association distributed a flyer to all McKownville residents urging them to attend a June 5 Town Board meeting where a proposal to purchase 7 acres of land off of Schoolhouse Road and south of Oak Drive was to be discussed. The Town did vote to purchase the land and did so at a later date. Following the death of Fred B. Abele in January of 1985 a decision was made by the Town to designate the park as the Fred B. Abele Park. Mr. Abele was a past president of the McKownville Improvement Association and a well known local historian. At the present time the land for the park is being developed for park purposes.

In October, 1984 Herman Van Buren, Guilderland Superintendant of Highways, attended a MIA board meeting. He discussed problems associated with street, road, and storm sewer maintenance.

Don Reeb, Association board member, prepared a history of the McKownville Improvement Association and this was printed in the centennial edition of the Altamont Enterprise.

A letter was written in August to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation about heavy siltation of the McKownville reservoir. Irwin King, Regional Director of Region 4, responded that his office would pursue the issue with Pyramid Crossgates in the near future and asked if we could provide specific evidence on the matter. Tom Van Wagenen,

Guilderland Department of Water and Waste Water Management, was asked to provide a profile of the reservoir both before and following construction of Crossgates. In May 1985 a copy of a letter from Supervisor Kevin Moss to Irwin King was received that enclosed a before and after profile of the reservoir. At this time nothing further has been heard from ENCON.

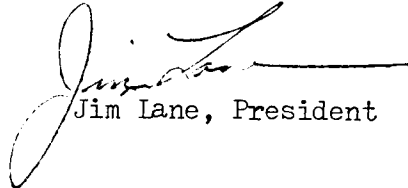
In October, 1984 the Association presented a program for the public. It featured a film "What About the Russians?" and a discussion led by Jim Murphy, coordinator of the Upper Hudson Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

In January 1985 another public meeting was held featuring Dennis Moore, Guilderland Director of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Services. Mr. Moore told of plans the Town has for the new Abele Park and heard suggestions from the audience.

In April 1985 McKown Grove, Inc. proposed a 16,000 square foot two-story office building at 12 McKown Road. Association members attended the April 17 hearing on the matter before the Guilderland Zoning Board of Appeal and spoke against granting a variance to McKown Grove, Inc. A second meeting of the Board of Appeal May 1 also discussed the project and again we opposed approval of construction. Also a letter dated April 23 was addressed to the Director of the Bureau of Natural Resources, Region 4, ENCON pointing out that McKown Grove, Inc. is proposing to move the stream bed of a branch of the Krumkill waterway and that we would like to be notified if a permit hearing is planned.

A flyer was distributed in early May to residents on or adjacent to Western Avenue, McKown Road and Schoolhouse Road telling them of a Town Board meeting May 7 to discuss a proposal to rezone much of the commercial or potential commercial property in McKownville. In general the proposal was to make the zoning more restrictive so as to maintain the residential nature of the community. Several officers of the Association spoke in favor of the rezoning during the meeting. On May 11 the Town Board voted to rezone most of the parcels originally proposed, including the parcel McKown Grove, Inc. was trying to develop. Subsequently the Town Zoning Board of Appeal rejected the request of McKown Grove, Inc., based on the rezoning of the parcel from B-2 to R-15.

The semi-annual paper drive was held May 18 and 19 and the annual meeting was scheduled May 21 at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn with Lewis Welch, vice-president of SUNYA and Lindsay Childs, Guilderland Planning Board scheduled as speakers.

  
Jim Lane, President