

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting

Thursday November 18, 2010—7 pm-9 pm

Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue

The November meeting will be the last for this calendar year (it will be March before the Association meets again) thus it is important to attend on the 18th and get your “community spirit” fully charged. And ice cream sundaes will be provided, once again.

Zoning will be the topic for our first speaker, **Mr. Peter Barber**. Mr. Barber is the chairman of Guilderland Zoning Board of Appeals, and also sits on the Zoning Revision Commission, which is submitting recommendations for revisions to various parts of the town’s zoning laws. While these revisions do not change the zoning status of any home or other property, the revisions might impact McKownville in other ways. How will the new proposals affect issues of long standing concern to the Association? A few areas of concern are: 1. enforcement of the grouper law (multiple students or others occupying a home), 2. the mechanism for zoning enforcement, 3. the paving of front lawns for parking, 4. home occupations (people operating businesses in their homes), 5. the addition of apartments to homes or to business properties. Still another issue is the alleys—how should they be zoned?

A major zoning change is the proposed definition of McKownville as a “Hamlet”---what does this means and can it make McKownville a more sustainable community. While a “hamlet” has no power to tax or in other ways function as another layer of government, it does confer a special status to a neighborhood in the zoning laws. The idea was presented by Town Supervisor Ken Runion at an Association Board meeting and seems to be well worth further development, exploration and definition.

The second speaker is **Ross Farrell** from CDTA, which is our well-known bus service. CDTA is undertaking a major project in the next year to restructure its route services within Albany County. The intent is to create a new route system that better aligns its services with demand. CDTA is currently undergoing a public outreach effort to inform residents and riders of the restructuring and to obtain as much input as possible on improvements they would like to see enacted. Part of this process is to meet with as many neighborhood associations as possible to gain a better understanding of needs and concerns. Concerns in McKownville might include; how to make CDTA more accessible to the elderly, could there be provisions for a park and ride facilities along the Western Avenue corridor, how can CDTA reduce the litter problem at their present stops.

The Halloween Party at the McKownville Fire House was October 31 and was a great success—thanks to all who worked so hard once again and to the children who brought their parents. The southern portion of Fuller Road is nearly finished, along with the new and beautiful sidewalks. Finally, members of the Board of the Association met recently with representatives of New York State Department of Transportation, Region 1; there just might be money available to build more sidewalks along Western Avenue in McKownville. This, of course, is very exciting—but money is always a problem and we are not yet at the stage to know for sure that it will happen—but like tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow—it appears to be more likely today that it did six months ago

Send your comments about McKownville to dreeb@albany.edu or donreeb@gmail.com

Officers

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