

McKownville Improvement Association
Thursday, February 9, 2006, 7-9pm
Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Avenue

The McKownville Improvement Association will attempt to hold all of its future public meetings on the second Thursday of each month, September through June.

The Town appointed McKownville Zoning Study Committee has been hard at work. Its work so far is focused on the future of property uses along Western Avenue—what do we want McKownville to look like along Western Avenue? While this is important, it is the preamble to the larger question of what we want all of McKownville to be in the future.

Besides the work of the McKownville Zoning Committee why are we discussing this now? Five reasons. There are about 19 business properties along Western Avenue that either are for sale, for rent or being considered for rebuilding. But also all of our major roadways—Western, McKown, Fuller and Schoolhouse—are about to be redone in some significant way. Third, major land uses around McKownville are changing----for example, Crossgates has proposed a new hotel, CESTM is adding 250,000 square feet of new buildings, the Harriman campus is changing its use, and new buildings along Washington Avenue---medical buildings and motels---are being constructed. Then of course there are the yet to be announced plans for the Thruway near McKownville—the often discussed flyover. Then there is the Town of Guilderland Comprehensive Plan issued in 2001 which requires that McKownville undertake its Neighborhood Master Plan. While that process may not begin for a year or more, having a “neighborhood dialogue” will help us when the Master Plan process does get underway.

The February meeting will mostly be devoted to discussing what you want McKownville to become but of course there will be the usual report---on CESTM, the Shabbos House, Starbucks, the Across the Street Pub, the Harriman campus, the City landfill, the McKown Road sidewalk, the Thruway and other concerns such as the burglaries and other topics you consider to be important.

But the most important business of the evening will be you telling us what you want McKownville to become. To make sure that each person gets an opportunity to state what McKownville should become, the meeting will consist of small group discussions. Someone will write down the ideas presented in each group and a comprehensive report will be constructed and submitted to the Town.

Come---speak out---tell us what you want McKownville to be in the future--and bring a neighbor. And if you have news or questions about what is happening in McKownville, contact one of the Board members. The list below contains their names, addresses, phone numbers and email address.

- Officers**
Ed McEwen, Vice President, 5 Norwood Street, 489-3909
Paul Haldeman, Secretary, 3 Country Road, 482-2563
Paul Haldeman, Treasurer, 3 Country Road, 482-2563
- Members of the Board**
Sue Linn, 850 Albany Place, 482-2335
Doug Smith, 482-8081
Alice Torda, 489-3815
Martha Haraus, 489-3855
Laura Whalen, 482-2531
Jim White, 489-3178
Mady Gnack, 438-8180
Steve Berg, 7 Elmwood, 438-6795
Joe Trapano, 438-8870

Comments about this announcement should be made to Don Reeb at 489-3909 or sent to dreeb@albany.edu