

McKownville Improvement Association
Public Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Hampton Inn, 1442 Western Avenue

We have a full agenda planned for our March meeting, where we'll be discussing a number of topics directly affecting McKownville residents. Town Supervisor Peter Barber will update us on the situation with the NanoTech parking lot project and its implications for residents at the westerly end of Mercer Street and the surrounding McKownville neighborhood. (See below for further information.) He will also fill us in on the Comprehensive Plan Update and Moratorium, the work of the 250th American Revolution Committee and the work of Tree Preservation Committee, and tell us about several upcoming events.

Also joining us will be Highway Superintendent Bob Haver and Tim Downey, a certified arborist employed by our Department of Parks & Recreation. They will describe the work of the Tree Preservation Committee, which was formed following the adoption of the Town's tree ordinance. The committee is focusing on the preservation and maintenance of street trees in the Town's right-of-way. When a tree must be removed it should be replaced with one that is suitable to the growing conditions in that location. In most cases, trees that are removed will be replaced with native varieties. Other committee members will be on hand to explain our goals and processes. Mr. Haver will also speak about the work of the Highway Department and answer questions from the audience. Additional information about the committee may be found on the Town's website at:

<https://www.townofguilderland.org/515/Tree-Preservation-Committee>.

Other news:

New McKFD firehouse: At the March 26 meeting of the Town Planning Board building plans for the new firehouse will be the subject of a Public Hearing that will take place at Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT: Proposed parking lot north of the houses at the western end of Mercer

Street: On March 5, at a meeting with NY Creates leadership and Town officials, we learned that NY Creates intends to build a parking lot to accommodate 700-750 vehicles adjacent to Parking Lot F on the Albany NanoTech Complex. This news was especially surprising because throughout a continuing dialog with NY Creates over the past several months we were not informed of any imminent development plans. The proposed project will comprise approximately 9 acres of a 25.52 acre parcel. This is disturbing because the parking lot will be very close to homes at the western end of Mercer Street. NY Creates plans to clear-cut the wooded area that now provides a buffer between the residential area and the NanoTech Complex. At the meeting we learned that an environmental assessment has been submitted and it appears that NY Creates hopes that it will be approved quickly enough that the trees can be removed before April 1st. NY Creates made no commitment to leave any sort of visual or sound buffer. They said that stormwater will be handled on their property but did not provide a map indicating the boundaries of the planned development, a site plan, or a design plan indicating how the stormwater is to be handled. Stakes that have been placed on the property identifying the areas to be paved and cleared provide physical evidence of the parameters of the planned development.

Town Supervisor Barber and Planner Ken Kovalchik found the Full Environmental Assessment Form submitted by NY Creates to be deficient, and they have made a detailed list of items that should be addressed before the project is approved. The McKownville Improvement Association will also send a letter detailing our concerns.

All objections must be received by March 17. We are very grateful for all of the support that our Town officials are providing to our neighborhood.

We have updated the residents at the western end of Mercer Street on the situation, and have asked them to report any activity on the property that might indicate that clearing on the site might begin before proper approvals are granted. If you should become aware of such activity we ask that you first contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officials listed below, and then notify officials at Guilderland Town Hall.

NYSDEC Contacts

John Weidman - Acting Region 4 Director for NYSDEC
john.weidman@dec.ny.gov

Trish Gabriel, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator
Division of Environmental Permits, Region 4
trish.gabriel@dec.ny.gov
518-357-2445

Town of Guilderland Contacts

Kenneth Kovalchik, AICP
Town Planner/Stormwater Management Officer
kovalchikk@togny.org
(518) 356-1980, ext 1061

Supervisor Peter Barber
barberp@togny.org
(518) 356-1980, ext.14

In the meantime, should you want to express your concerns about the proposed project to your NYS elected officials, here is their contact information:

Governor Kathy Hochul: (518) 474-474-8390, or <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>
NYS Senator Patricia Fahy: (518) 455-2225, or Fahy@nysenate.gov
NYS Assemblymember Gabriella Romero: (518) 455-4178, or romerog@nyassembly.gov

Subscribing to our email list: If you don't yet subscribe to our email list but would like to receive occasional updates from us, please go to the webpage <https://mckownville.org/MIAaallsubunsub.html> (or use the link to this form on the Meetings page of the website) and submit your request. Be sure also to respond to the confirmation email message; if this does not appear in your inbox soon after making your request, please check your spam/junk folder.

McKownville Improvement Association Officers and Board Members

Ellen Manning, President, 3 Norwood St., 482-3779
Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Rd., 482-6081
Laura Barry, Secretary, 3 Waverly Place, 813-9694

William Kidd, 16 Elmwood St., 438-1151
Angie Parsons, 136 Arcadia Ave., 944-7311
Renee Parsons, 5 Waverly Place, 495-1554
Don Reeb, 5 Norwood St., 489-3909
Debra Trees, 8 Ayre Dr., 489-1519
James White, 8 Brookwood Ave., 459-9176