

Plans Zoning Law Action

By ELLE PANKIN

Guilderland—Town officials have decided to offer residents a chance to amend the local zoning law to make medical professional sites in McKownville legal, Town Supervisor Carl Walters announced Tuesday night.

Walters told those attending the town board meeting that a "barrage of over 100 letters from residents" opposed to evicting a physician, a dental surgeon and a chiropractor from town practices caused the board to hold an informal meeting of officials, professionals and residents in the McKownville area.

THE SUPERVISOR said the three factions decided "the only way to resolve the issue" was to amend the law to "allow doctors, dentists, and surgeons to operate in all zones."

Current zoning law forbids professional practice in a residential area unless the practitioner lives on the site of his practice.

A hearing will be held on the amendment at the next town board meeting July 10 at 8:30 p.m. and a vote will also be scheduled, Walters said. If the amendment is not approved, Walters said, the professionals then will exist in violation of the law as non-conforming uses.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, the board heard four representatives from the Spawn Road Home Owners Association who presented petitions containing over 80 signatures expressing opposition to town widening of Spawn Road, off Route 146.

The project, which is expected to take about eight feet from both sides of the tree-lined rural street also was designed by town engineers to offer water and storm drainage facilities to the road.

Several residents on the street had complained about drainage problems in their cellars. Many others object to the project because the removal of about 45 trees which, they claim, will spoil the beauty of the street.

WALTERS, WHO said the town has already spent about 5,000 in engineering plans and preparation of quit claim deeds to gain the necessary

footage, said the town was not going to push residents into something they didn't want, but he warned them if they decided not to accept the project:

"I do not want any more complaints on drainage problems. . . . If you don't want it, then don't call me at 2 a.m. when your washing machine is under water."

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