Board of Directors Meeting

March 2, 1975 -- 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Melvyn Behn

Mr. Timothy Cohan Mr. John Davis

Mr. James Dermody

Mr. John Esler

Mrs. Margaret McKinley

Mr. Eugene Napierski

Mr. Donald Reeb

Ms. Alice Torda

Mr. Andrew Valenti

1.) after-thoughts of the Open meeting of Wednesday, February 19, 1975 1. Agenda:

2.) representation at the Democratic meeting--Tuesday, March 4, 1975

3.) Discussion on the McKown Grove--Reservoir properties

As a result of the open meeting on February 19, 1975, it became clearly evident that the matter of recreation in McKownville seemed to be an important item of concern. Everyone agreed that recreation concerns, ranging from areas available for recreation to representation on the Recreation Committee of the Guilderland Planning Board were items of priority. Since Tawasentha Park was really too far for area youngsters and teenagers to attend, McKown's Grove seemed to be an ideal location for a major recreation area. [D. Reeb] However, since this is privately owned, the selling price seemed to be prohibitive (approximately \$150,000.) for purchase. [A. Valenti]. The suggestion was made that if federal and/or state funding could be made available (or revenue sharing), perhaps the property could be obtained if it were not sold in the interim. [J. Esler]. The only other possible area seemed to be around the Reservoir. Several suggestions were made regarding this -- that perhaps Syuyvesant Plaza, Inc., or Mr. Swyer (Executive Park) would be willing to help in this respect. Although there is some question in the minds of Guilderland town officials as to the legal title of the reservoir, Mr. Napierski stated that the title should be traced. He also suggested that trees might be planted in the area to provide a park-like appearance. Mr. Esler stated that he has copies of the original deeds for the Reservoir property, and that the title should be protected so that it remains with the McKownville Water District residents. It was generally agreed that this area should be very limited as to types of allowable activities -- that perhaps park benches and trash containers could be put in; however, no fireplaces for cook-outs and the like should be allowed or encouraged. Perhaps a fishing area and an icc-skating area on the reservoir could be maintained. An area of this type would also enable employees in the Stuyvesant Plaza and Executive Park area to use this facility, in addition to area residents and children. The question of swimming in the reservoir was discussed. Although the reservoir would be deep enough for swimming, questions of safety, supervision, and maintenance would have to be considered. It was felt that the Town of Guilderland would not support this activity, either from a monetary or a supervisory state. However, if funds could be made available from an outside source at no expense to the Town, perhaps something was possible. Mr. Reeb, Mr. Valenti, and Mr. Cohan agreed to work on a recreational plan for presentation to the Town Board.

Discussion followed on the possible future use of the McKown Road property--approximately 60 acres presently owned by Mr. Kermani. Discussion ranged from the recent sewer tax assessment controversy on the un-improved Kermani property versus other large developments in the area. Examples stated were: Executive Park, approx. value \$254,000. with \$5,052 tax; Stuyvesant Plaza, approx. \$399,200 with \$4,280. taz, and Mr. Kermani, about 60 acrea (approx. assesed val. \$15,000) with a tax of \$5,261.72. It was quite evident that Mr. Kermani's tax on unimproved property

was quite excessive in relation to those shown. Other considerations discussed for this area were for one-family; PUD-type housing; cluster-housing; or even some type of medical complex. Another consideration was hi-rise luxury apartments--definitely no shopping centers--and possible use for ball fields.

Considerable concern was expressed over the condition of the sidewalks in McKownville. Many sidewalks are in need of repair and in other areas, no sidewalks exist. The question was brought up as to initial installation and maintenance of the sidewalks--whether by the Town of Guilderland or by the State (since Western Avenue, Route 20, is a State Highway and is maintained by the State of New York). The suggestion was made that inquiry be made of Town Hall regarding the matter of the sidewalks and that the area along Western Avenue be improved.

The next item of concern was the use of residential homes on the North side of Western Avenue for commercial purposes. Agreement was that the area should be maintained as "residential" in nature, with no commercial ventures allowed. Home occupations are allowable, provided occupancy by the owner, as required by Zoning Laws, is enforced and the exterior of the buildings is maintained in a residential nature and strict commercialization forbidden. This brought up the long-standing issue of the doctors on Western Avenue (Mastrianni's practice). The fact was stated that recent inquiry of the Town Officials was that the case was to go to the Supreme Court. Reputable authority indicated that this was not a Supreme Court case; if the matter goes to county court, then there is a waiting period of approximately two year since it is not a criminal case. The obvious answer seemed to indicate that Town (Guilderland) officicals simply had no interest in enforcing the law. The feeling was that an "open letter" to the Editor of the Newspaper be written and perhaps Town officials might then be encouraged to take action.

It was concluded that for each zoning violation or issue, representation at Town Board meetings, Zoning Board meetings, and Planning Board meeting was the only recourse available in order to maintain the areas and keep Town officials informed as to the feelings of residents. Along this same thought was the matter of the Domenico property at 7 Fuller Road. Agreement was that a letter be sent to the Zoning Board, informing them of our knowledge of zoning violations of the Special Use permit on this property—namely, the violation of traffic flow, and parking lot improvement.

Mr. Napierski suggested that the McKownville Improvement Association be incorporated as a non-profit organization, which would be beneficial. Unanimous agreement on this --Mr. Napierski agreed to work out details for incorporation.

Other items discussed were:

- a. representation at the Environmental Assessment Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, on the proposed new sewers on the Hunger Kill (Carmen Road area) and the resulting increases in sewer tax on all McKownville residents. Mr. Lininger would be contacted by Mr. Cohan as to his representation at this meeting.
- b. The B-2 zoning on the south-side of Western Avenue--it was thought that many residents were not aware of the B-2 zoning; suggestion was made that a committee canvass the residents and gather facts on awareness; the possibility of up-grading the zoning was also considered. The consensus was to "soft-pedal" discussion of this item in view of it's potential detrimental effect on that neighborhood.

- c. Mr. Napierski mentioned the local Democratic party members would like to have a representative of the McKownville Improvement Association join them at their meeting on Tuesday, March 4, in order that they might be made aware of the feelings of residents and perhaps help residents and the Association in some way with matters of concern. Mr. Esler said some representatives would attend and that if other political parties wished to make a similar offer, we would be glad to cooperate in a like manner. Mr. Cohan was then designated as the representative.
- d. The question of more frequest buses to Tawasentha Park in the summer, particularly in the afternoons and return trips, was expressed.
- e. Insistence of "Green areas and buffer zones" on any future commercial approvals by the Town Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Torda, Secretary

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