MCKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting

May 21, 1975

Tom Sawyer Motor Inn - 8 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Harold Crounse, (Zoning Board, Town of Guilderland(

Mr. Esler opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Harold Crounse of the Town Zoning Board. Mr. Crounse spoke of the various re-zoning areas in McKownville and how the Town Board proceeds with rezoning. Several zoning items of concern were presented—the Transcendential Meditation group on Fuller Road which seems to be creating a traffic problem in addition to possible violation (Mr. Crounse indicated that this matter had their attention—the group was served with a violation); they currently possess a Special Use Permit and indications are that the tenents live elsewhere. In addition, the conformance of "church" was not appropriate in the area. An appearance is due before the Zoning Board on May 30 as "Home Occupancy".

The continuing problem of the doctors was also brought up. Questions indicated that the Town has not acted faster on the issue and the doctors seem to want to keep the matter open "until there is some Democratic judge in Albany that will solve it". The violation was brought up before the local justice -- the Town doesn't want to drive the doctors out, but doesn't want the problem either. Is there some other way to solve it? The matter is before the Supreme Court in Albany and it is being pursued as a violation of the local law. Questions from the floor were raised as to "spot zoning" and "strip zoning". Mr. Crounse indicated that a person has a right to the use of his property--whatever that may be. He stated that although McKownville is a residential area, times are changing and pressure is on to change areas. Another item of concern was the multi-occupancy of one-family dwellings by students. Guilderland zoning calls for a "family" as being five unrelated persons. Albany zoning calls for three unrelated. The Town is aware that this is happening--apartments are being built in homes, but in order for legal action to be taken, the Town has to have evidence and without a specific inspection this is difficult to prove.

Mr. Esler thanked Mr. Crounse of a very informative presentation. Mr. Esler spoke of the approval by the Department of Transportation for installation of sidewalks from Hannan's Pharmacy to Fuller Road. A report from the Water Advisory Board, chaired by Fred Abele, was read by J. Esler in Mr. Abele's absence. Mr. Esler sopke of consolidation of water districts and implications of taxes and increased costs to residents. Floridation of water was discussed—Mr. Purdy (who also serves on the Water Advisory Board) explained that there was enough 'natural floridation' in the water without additions to it. Most of those present agreed that the water quality was much improved since the turnover to Westmere. The continuing issue of ownership of the McKownville Reservoir was discussed—(Town of Guilderland vs. residents of McKownville). Mr. Esler acknowledged the very positive response by Stuyvesant Plaza this past winter in the maintenance of the sidewalks on Fuller Road to Providence Street.

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It was recommended that a committee be formed to draw up a "master plan" for McKownville. Mr. Reeb suggested that something in the way of positive proposals—small recreation areas, a tree-planting campaign along Western Avenue, the concern of the land on the south side of Western Avenue (McKown Road—40—50 acres) and the thought that a proposal be given to the Town on intended use, parking lots, cluster housing, low-rise housing, and the like.

A report by the Conservation Committee was given on the facilities plan and sewage treatment; a report on the recent hearing regarding the up-grading of streams (by Margaret McKinley); the questionnaire distributed by the Town on the storm sewers. A suggestion was made that the results of this survey be made known. It was also suggested that the topic of storm sewers be placed on an upcoming agenda of the Town Board for discussion.

A motion by Margaret McKinley, seconded by Bruce Coddingtion, to raise dues from \$1.00 to \$2.00 annually was made and seconded. The purpose of this was to cover increasing cost such as legal expenses for incorporation, etc.

Report by Nomination Committee: John Purdy, Chairman: Mr. Purdy submitted a slate of nominees for election. (While ballots were being distributed and counted, a coffee break and and opportunity for dues collection was held).

Results of the Elections: President: John Esler

Vice Pres. Timothy Cohan Secretary: Alice Torda Treasurer: John Davis

New Directors to Serve through 1978: James Dermody

Peter Balient John Smircich

Mr. Esler thanked everyone for their participation during the past year and expressed hope that everyone would participate in some way again during the coming year. Other items of concern were discussed—the odor emanating from the Animal Hospital (Dr. Becker) with the idea that cremation is taking place; the proposed warehouse on McKown Road by Huckleberry Finn (applicant withdrew application after much opposition); the 'arson' problems (B.C.I. and State Police were investigating—talked with several youths regarding this) It was suggested that persons noticing anything or hearing anything suspicious report incidents to Mr. Bob Leu, the officer in charge of the State Police investigation. Also discussed was the recent upsurge of vandalism in the area.

NEW BUSINESS: It was noted that there were many residents with various areas of expertise in the community. Mr. Esler suggested that greater participation by made by residents. Mr. Tom Blendell offered his assistance in any way, indicating his willingness to help on the McKown Grove area. Mrs. Hooper expressed her willingness to work on anything that would re-activate the Grove-competitive swimming, etc. Mr. Whitcraft suggested that perhaps a community park--something with summer recreation, room for travel-trailers, would be an idea. Another suggestion was to contact the Town Recreation committee and suggest that the Grove be included on the recreational plans. It was mentioned that perhaps more bus transporation to Tawasentha Park be provided. Bob McMorris gave strong support for a park, together with bikeways and trails. Jack Davis spoke of the possibility for a play area in the area of the Niagara-Mohawk easement by Stuyvesant Plaza. Other items discussed were the sidewalks; need for more lights on Fuller Road; the influx of traffic on Western Avenue; the need for a left-hand turn arrow

at Fuller Road (indication was that approval was made by D.O.T.--Steve Whittam will check into this); the planting of decorative shrubs and bushes by the Reservoir, and the like.

The meeting adjourned at 11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Torda, Secretary

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