

McKownville Improvement Association, Public Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2016—7 pm-9 pm
Hampton Inn, 1442 Western Avenue

Loughlin Street---(Sandidge Way is its new name)—is the major current problem. The Albany County Planning Board disagreed with the rezoning of Loughlin Street that is requested by the investors. The rezoning (if approved by the City's Common Council) will permit the construction of 173 apartment units on the 5-acre site. The County Planning Board noted that its density is extreme in comparison to the single-family homes on Loughlin and on nearby streets in McKownville. The County also noted that more coverage of the 5 acres adds to the groundwater and storm water problems in the McKownville area while the apartment occupants will cause increased traffic congestion on Fuller. The expected build out of SUNYPoly and SUNYAlbany will add to both problems.

Originally, the Loughlin Street site was purchased by Columbia for \$3.5 million with the intention to sell the property to SUNY Poly. That did not happen when an investigation of possible collusion between Columbia and SUNY Poly was launched. Massry recently bought the site for \$4.5 million; Dawn Homes is to be the owner of the apartments. The investors need to over-build the 5-acre site to recoup the excessive price paid for Loughlin Street homes.

The City is revising its zoning law and the County again will review the Loughlin Street zoning proposal. The investor's request for 173 apartments on Loughlin Street has not changed.

Moreover, since the investors intend to apply for a tax abatement, the City taxpayers may suffer a loss with development---increased tax receipts possibly will not offset the increased demand for services (fire, police, ambulance, school, library, parks, storm sewers etc) from the 173 apartments. In addition, McKownville will suffer from increased traffic and storm water problems.

Our guest speaker, Chris Spencer, is the Director of Planning for the City. It should be interesting to hear his viewpoint on the new zoning for Sandidge/Loughlin and the proposed construction of 173 apartments. (Spencer Jones, Dawn Homes Management, will be at the meeting).

Please email Mayor Kathy Sheehan (mayor@albanyny.gov) indicating opposition to the proposed 173 apartments on Loughlin—and ask friends who live in the City to do likewise.

Other News. (1) Gates were erected at the Holt-Harris property entrances. (2) A metal plaque honoring Sue Brown will be installed in McKownville Park (with the help of our Parks Department). (3) The Town Safety Committee is petitioning the State to lower the speed limit on Western, as residents have suggested. And (4) ice cream sundaes will be served before, during and after the meeting.

Officers

Don Reeb, President, 5 Norwood St. 489-3909
Doug Smith, Vice President, 5 McKown Rd. 482-6081
Ellen Manning, Secretary, 3 Norwood St. 482-3779
Martha Haraus, Treasurer, 1445 Western 489-3855

Debra Trees
8 Ayre Drive
489-1519

Bill Meehan
7 Country Rd.
456-4564

Alice Torda
2 Knowles Terrace
489-3613

Members of the Board

Janet Reilly
18 Norwood
446-1766

Laura Barry
3 Waverly
813-9694

Jim White
8 Brookwood
459-9176

Angie Parsons
136 Arcadia
944-7311

Leslie John Craigue
214 Woodscape
446-9344

David Shub
3 Parkwood
860-3768