

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 2015

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Marcellus Historical Society - the Board approved a motion to approve a contract with North Shore Solutions whereby North Shore Solutions will provide hosting services for the Marcellus Historical Society with 99% uptime for \$200 per year as well as provide a maintenance package for 3 hours for \$90 per year and transfer the existing historical site to its server, as part of the Village contribution to the Society to maintain its historical records and other services.

Increase Refuse Rates – at its June meeting, the Board approved a resolution to increase Village refuse rates from \$41.00 a quarter to \$45.00 per quarter, effective July 1, 2015. This is the first such increase in refuse rates in eight (8) years, and reflects a need to keep pace with rising costs associated with refuse collection.

Coon's Pond – the Highway Department will again, this summer, complete a dredging of the pond, but silt continues to build up and there does not appear to be any end to it.

Highland Ditches – the ditches on Highland Drive appear to be holding back most of the water that we have had this summer. An overflow did occur early in July but none since and we hope that this continues. The Highway Chief has plans to have the County come in and try to remove some of the silt that continues to clog the pipes that carry water under the driveways on the west side of the road.

Striping of crosswalks and parking lots – the Highway Chief also has plans to stripe the Village parking lots and some of the crosswalks on Village streets. It is hoped that the NYSDOT will also stripe the crosswalks on Main and North Streets, since they are State roads, before the school year begins. However, it does not appear that this will be done until 2016.

Code Enforcement – the addition to construction of the Reagan Building on South Street, which has moved ahead well this summer, plans for the renovation of 3-7 North Street have been submitted. This reconstruction should be complete in late fall. There are some buildings in the Village that have received notice from the CEO of need to repair, painting in particular, and this is taking place at present.

Sign Permits – there has also been a rant going on last week about how the Village has made all of the businesses on West Main take down their outdoor advertising signs. I would like to clarify that perception. The Village does have a Code, which sets forth the Sign Control issues in the Village. One part of the Code allows A-frame sandwich signs or similar symbols to be placed in front of a business during business hours. Such signs must be placed so as not to obstruct pedestrians and vision of drivers, and only one such sign shall be permitted per business and during business hours only. Several businesses, including Rebound Physical Therapy and First Cup, have used these signs for years. An application must be completed and filed with the Village Clerk and the fee is determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees. Thus far, the Board has not charged a fee for any such application. The Board will hold a Public Hearing next month, prior to its regular Board meeting, to amend and more fully interpret the Sign Control Chapter of the Village Code. Kurt Fields, Deputy Codes Enforcement Officer, also commented on some misinterpretations of the sign control law, and was in attendance to answer any questions from any interested parties who might have shown up at the meeting.

Creekwalk – we have had a setback with the trail. Because two trees along the proposed trail could be nesting areas for the Northern Long-eared Bat, and because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency has declared this bat to be an endangered species, construction of the Creekwalk trail has been delayed, at least, until the fall of 2015.

Sidewalks – on South Street and some isolated patches on Bradley and First Streets will soon be reconstructed and completed within a few weeks.

Street Repairs – will be made this summer to several streets in the Village, including Hillside Drive and Baker Avenue. If funds become available, some repair to Beach Road might also be done. Several catch basins have already been repaired by the Highway Department. It is expected that Suit-Kote Company will be in the Village next Friday to begin some repaving.

Trees – some tree removals have been or will be done on Orchard, South, and Bradley Street, along with some tree trimming. There is also a need to grind a number of tree stumps from last year's tree removals. About six tree plantings will take place in late summer or early fall.

Scotch Hill Sidewalks – we have just received notice from Community Development that we have yet to reach the required number of income survey responses necessary for us to adequate funding for the sidewalks on Scotch Hill. The Village will reach out once again to see if those who have failed to respond will do so. If Community Development does not receive a response from at least 12 of the 15 residents on Scotch Hill, the Village will be unable to fund the construction of new sidewalk on this street. We might also note that Scotch Hill Road was entirely repaved last week by the County, helping to beautify this important gateway to our Village. With new sidewalk, the area would be even more enhanced, and we urge Scotch Hill residents to complete and file the confidential questionnaire with Onondaga County Community Development.

Phosphorus Removal – we have not heard back from the Regional DEC regarding our letter about the TMDL and phosphorus removal. Attorney Brown will follow up with a phone call this week to the DEC and inquire about the delay.

Planning Board – is currently reviewing the renovations taking place at 3-7 North Street.

Our New Website – is now live and we urge residents to visit the site, <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com>, which is the same link as in the past.

EEE Virus alert in Onondaga County – there was spraying in the Cicero Swamp to combat this threat, and we urge our own residents to be aware of this common threat that occurs every summer and take adequate precautions.