

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – October 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.

Election Notice – the Board approved a motion to publish a legal notice that the office of Village Trustee is to be filled at the General Village Election to be held on March 15, 2016, the term for which office is four years. The Board also announced a reminder that polling places in Marcellus changed three years ago. In 2012, the Board of Elections redrew the Town of Marcellus election district lines to create two districts entirely within the Village. Those 2 districts (ED3 and ED4) will vote at the high school auditorium. Residents living outside the Village will vote at the Fire House. All residents were notified by mail by the Board of Elections, but some may not realize the change is now permanent. Election Day is November 3, 2015 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote.

Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement and Resolution – the Board approved a Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement and Resolution, the details of which are on file in the Village Office, whereby the property owners at 7 Reed Parkway and the Village agree to share the cost of repairing a pipeline in the rear of the property, a precedent having been set by a Village Board decision in May 1969 to repair the same pipeline following a petition by then property owners Lyndon Bishop and Charles Barry.

Masters Dump Site – the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding reached between William and Sandra Masters, of Masters Pleasant View Farm, LLC, and the Town and Village of Marcellus, whereby the Masters will permit the Town and Village continued access to the current dump site located on the Masters property, and the Town and Village each agree to name the Masters as Additional Insured's on the Town and Village liability insurance policies to afford the Masters additional protection for the Town's and Village's operations.

Reminder – Closing of First Street for Halloween – between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Saturday.

Overnight Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2015, there is no parking allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2016.

Appointments to Planning Board – at a Special Meeting held on October 9, 2015, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Planning Board Member and Chair, Dan Kwasnowski. Dan accepted a new position that will require him to be out of town during the week and he feels that he could no longer provide the appropriate amount of time necessary to adequately perform the duties of a Planning Board member. The Board would also commend Dan for his many years of service to our community. His expertise will be sorely missed. At that meeting, the Board also appointed Timothy Manahan, a current member of the Planning Board, to the position of Chair of the Planning Board, effective October 21, 2015, and appointed Gabriel Lutwin, of 25 Highland Drive, Marcellus to complete the unexpired term of Dan Kwasnowski, until 3/31/16, as a member of the Village Planning Board.

Transfer of Bank Deposits from KeyBank to Solvay Bank – at its August Meeting, the Board of Trustees, because the Village became subject to a collateral surcharge or fee amounting to over \$550 every month, adopted a resolution transferring its funds from KeyBank to Solvay Bank and designating Solvay Bank as the official bank for the deposit of all Village monies. While we expected the transfer to be completed by the end of September, it has taken more time for federal reviewers to complete the process. We are now hopeful that the beginning of November will witness the final transfer.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 12th and if any residents have missed the deadline, they are welcome to utilize the Village composting site behind the Village Hall. Leaf pickup extends from October 13th to November 8th. With weather permitting, the Highway Department may continue leaf pickup beyond the November 8th deadline, since many trees have not yet dropped their leaves. Please remember to keep leaves in the Village right of way, between the sidewalk and the road, and out of the street where they sometimes end up clogging the catch basins.

Compost Project – continues to be very successful and please remember that composting continues all year round even though the demand obviously lulls through the fall and winter. Some residents might want to secure compost this fall, since it can be stored outside, without cover, through the fall and winter for its intended use next spring.

Scotch Hill Sidewalk Project – we would thank Onondaga County Community Development for having awarded a Grant of \$47,000 for the sidewalk project on Scotch Hill. The sidewalk reconstruction project was awarded to Nu-Crete Inc., and the project is underway at this time. We would like to thank Scotch Hill and Village residents for their patience and understanding during the project, as well as apologize for any inconvenience that the work may cause. We would again like to thank several residents on Scotch Hill for their assistance in helping us to secure funding for this most worthwhile project, helping to beautify this important gateway to our Village.

The Planning Board – met last week to discuss several items including a Negative SEQR Declaration for a porch project at ½ Orange Street and several property violations that the Code Enforcement Officer is examining.

Tree Stumps and Plantings – while there will be no tree removals in the Village this year, several tree stumps have been removed, and new trees have been planted in various locations throughout the Village in recent days.

School's Open – we continue residents to please watch for school children walking and remember that there are pedestrian crossings on Main Street, as well as 20 mph speed limits in school zones and a 25 mph speed limit on First Street, a route that is heavily traveled by schoolchildren. Please slow down. Tickets will be issued for speeders.

Police Commendation – we recently received a thank you message from a Village resident, complimenting Village Police Sergeant, Bob Pitman, on the fine work that he did on her behalf with regard to an unlicensed solicitor. The Chief continues to encourage residents to call the Police Department if they have any concerns about solicitors or contractors they may employ. The Police Department would be happy to do background checks so as to alleviate these concerns.

Call 911 – Chief Wicks again reminds residents, especially at a time of year when mischief makers are more active, that it is essential that they report incidents of crime or vandalism in their neighborhoods by calling 911. Sometimes, residents are not making these calls because they feel that an issue might not warrant it. Some

might be calling the Police Department and will often listen to an answering machine because the officer is out on patrol. Residents must call 911. If you are still not satisfied, please contact the Village Office during business hours, at 673-3112, and express your concern. Residents should also be aware of the fact that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Creekwalk – we continue to have a setback with the trail. Because several 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, and perhaps until next year.

Increase in Refuse and Sewer Rates – residents will notice an increase in refuse rates with this month's billing and an increase in sewer rates in January's billing, both approved at previous Board meetings – refuse from \$41 to \$45 per quarter, and sewer from \$51.91 to \$63 per quarter

Veterans' Day – commemoration will take place at 11 a.m. on November 11th, at the Village Point, and we ask residents to take time out and offer thanks to all veterans for the service they have and will continue to provide us.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal – we received some welcome support from our Congressman, John Katko, in the form of a letter to the EPA and a subsequent return letter to the Village from the EPA, expressing interest in some of the concerns that we have expressed about this unfunded mandate. We wrote a letter to the DEC in June, asking for a response to the concerns raised by the EPA and last week, we heard back. There appears to be no change in the attitude or willingness of the DEC to alleviate our concern, other than lip service.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals approximately \$22,000.00 from 19 property owners, a figure similar to that in 2014. Unpaid taxes can continue to be paid to the Village until October 30, 2015, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

Sidewalks – on South Street and selected sections on First Street and Bradley Street will hopefully be completed before the end of the construction season. A very busy summer has caused contractor delay for many weeks and we are discussing some budgetary considerations before finalizing sidewalk construction.

Village Meetings for November 2015 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that the Village Office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day and in addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Day holidays, and that the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 3rd, in the Village, at the Point.