

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – May 2017

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.

Re-levy of Unpaid Sewer and Refuse Charges – the Board approved a motion to have the outstanding utility bills (refuse and sewage) re-levied to the Village of Marcellus property tax bills. The amount being re-levied to the taxes is \$62,899.08. As a point of interest, the amount re-levied in 2016 was \$49,248.41, in 2015 was 47,954.00, in 2014 was \$45,533.15, and in 2013 was \$49,517.33. This also included a motion to re-levy special assessments totaling \$4,000.00 for unpaid vacant dwelling registration fees (from four separate properties), and \$700.00 for unpaid rental dwelling inspection fees to Village of Marcellus property tax bills as well. This also included a motion to re-levy a special assessment for the cost of the demolition of the Crown Mill, in the amount of \$87,733.55.

Driving Policy – because the safety and well being of our employees, as well as that of our residents is very important to the Village, the Board of Trustees desires to protect employees and community members while on the road. A motion was approved to require all employees of the Village who drive Village-owned vehicles to follow the Village of Marcellus Driving Policy, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office

Resident Request – Waive Sewer Penalty Fee – having received a request from a resident to waive the \$15.30 penalty on a utility bill because of unforeseen circumstances, the Board approved a motion to waive the penalty as requested.

Paul Street Project- Environmental Assessment Form/Negative Declaration – having earlier completed Part 1 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form for the Paul Street Sidewalk Project, the Village Attorney led the Board in completing Parts 2 and 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form. Following completion of Parts 2 and 3, It was determined that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and a motion was approved that the Village of Marcellus issue a negative declaration for the Paul Street Sidewalk Project.

Nine Mile Creekwalk Project – Equitable Business Opportunities (EBO) Login Approval – a motion was made and approved to authorized the Mayor to request login approval and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of access to and use of the Internet Government Solutions (IGS) Equitable Business Opportunities (EBO) system as set forth in the System User Agreement provided by the NYSDOT system for contract management. Included with this request is a copy of a resolution dated March 24, 2003, authorizing the Mayor (Fred Eisenberg at the time) to exercise all necessary agreements related to the Nine Mile Creek Walk Project and appointing said person as the Responsible Local Official (RLO).

Storm Water Report – the Board approved a motion to accept the Annual Storm Water Report completed by W-M Engineering and to keep a copy on file in the Village Office as well as on the Village web site. The public was asked if there were any questions on the report and indicated that it would be available fore public inspection at the Village Office if anyone had any questions. The Board thanked W-M Engineering, Bill Reagan and Kurt Field for their completion of this lengthy report at a cost of \$500.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was made and approved to again table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum.

Clean Energy Community – we would like to announce that the Village of Marcellus has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), recognizing its leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy locally. After some outstanding efforts by Village employee Ryan Riefler, with the assistance of fellow employees and MRB Group staff, the Village recently completed four high impact action (Unified Solar Permit, Benchmarking, Clean Fleets, Clean Energy Upgrades) items and have joined the Village of Minoa and Town of DeWitt as designated Clean Energy Communities in CNY. Two \$100,000 grants for small/medium-sized municipalities have been reserved for the Villages of Canastota and Marcellus to implement additional clean energy projects. The Village is delighted not only with this designation but also most appreciative of the tireless efforts of Ryan Riefler and others in securing additional funding. The monies granted would be earmarked for future clean energy projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

NYSDEC Grant - \$16,000 – the Village has also been notified by the Commissioner of the NYSDEC that it has been awarded a rebate of \$16,000 for its infrastructure application relative to the 2016 Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program and the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village parking lot. This grant money will enable the Village to add lighting, cameras and paving to the site. Since this is a 20% match, the Village will accomplish about \$20,000 worth of work for a \$4,000 investment and we again credit and congratulate Ryan Riefler for his continued efforts on behalf of the Village and its residents.

Eagle Scout Project – the Village Board would also like to announce that the Eagle Scout Project of Kyle Denka has moved along very well. We again thank Kyle for his dedication to task as well as Ryan Riefler, who acted as a mentor on the project. The new flower boxes have been constructed and have also been installed by Kyle and his troop. They have been filled again this year, using compost from WWTP, giving a good indication of the value of the compost. Kathy Welsh is again instrumental in the plantings in these boxes using flowers that she has both grown from seed as well as some that she will or has purchased.

WPCP Compost – is available for residents to pick up during normal working hours (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). If any residents cannot pick up compost during normal business hours, please call the Treatment Plant (673-4491) to make an appointment with one of the operators.

SRO Contract – with the Marcellus Central School District has been completed and is in the hands of the Marcellus School Board. Details of the contract, which will provide three (3) Village police officers (SRO) on the Marcellus Central School Campus, are provided in the agreement, and may be subject to slight change before final approval by both parties.

Paul Street Sidewalks Project – this project, funded largely through the NYSDOT Multi-Modal Program and the endorsement of NYS Senator John DeFrancisco, calls for the construction of approximately 450 lf of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street (NYS 174) and Austindale Avenue, as well as the cleaning of approximately 200 feet of existing drainage structures and pipes. The new sidewalk will eliminate a gap in the existing Village sidewalk system, by connecting to existing sidewalks at North Street and Austindale Ave. At present, there are no sidewalks along Paul Street. Pedestrians, including Seniors from Nine Mile Landing Apartments and school children are forced to walk along the edge of the active travel way. The proposed sidewalk would provide an accessible route between Austindale Ave and North Street, thereby eliminating the need for walking in the street. Final plans for the project will be completed by May 31st, while bids will be advertised for

three weeks in June, with bid opening on June 21st. It is hoped that the project will be completed this summer, in July or August.

Phosphorus limit at WWTP – is an issue that continues to complicate sewer matters and at the moment, we are still working on how to adequately address the issue. We have scheduled a public hearing or informational meeting for June 26th, our next Board meeting, notifying the public of the necessity of the Village to draw up to \$6,000,000 from a line of credit authorized by the Environmental Facilities Corporation in order to upgrade the Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant. We have spent over \$300,000 on engineering fees to design the upgrades to the plant, and this was paid for following two significant increases in sewer rents. The actual upgrade is mandated by the NYSDEC to remove phosphorus from the plant's effluent but will cause sewer rents to rise dramatically. We also have sent out a letter to residents (sewer users in the Village and Town) to explain what they might be able to do, in order to help the Village address this issue and to invite them to the June 26th meeting at the library.

Benches, banners and flags – have been or will be installed. Many thanks to our Department of Public Works employees for doing this and to our Banner and Flag Committee, headed by Bob Wilson, and our Village Clerk, Dawn O'Hara, for all of their efforts in helping to beautify the Village.

Earth Day Cleanup – in the Village took place on April 27th and the 2nd graders at Heffernan Elementary School were able to spread out across the Village to help in this cleanup. The Village provided gloves and bags for the cleanup and we would like to thank, once again, Nojaims Grocery Store for providing some refreshments for the students. We sincerely thank the students as well as the staff and faculty at KCH for all of their help in making this annual event so successful.

Memorial Day – parade and ceremonies are planned for Monday, May 29th and we urge residents to plan to attend this annual event. The Village Office will be closed on that day.

Olde Home Days – is planned for June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in the Village and Town, and we urge resident participation. The Clerks of the Village and Town of Marcellus, Dawn O'Hara and Sandy Taylor, are being honored this year and they are scheduled to be Grand Marshals for the Parade. We offer our sincere congratulations to these dedicated employees for this distinguished honor.

Sidewalks – new sidewalk is being planned for the north side of Paul Street, from North Street to Austindale Avenue, funding for which is part of a grant secured through the offices of Sen. John DeFrancisco, and for which the residents are most grateful. Also, per the DPW Chief's schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed on South Street, pending budgetary considerations

Street repairs – per the DPW Chief's schedule, repairs have been made to parts of South Street, and will be made on Dunlop Avenue and Wilson Drive, as well as the corner of First and Slocombe, pending budgetary considerations.

Tree Removals – per the DPW Chief's schedule, some trees on South Street need to be removed, pending budgetary considerations – there is not much in the budget for new ones, but we might be able to plant several on side streets.

Village Web Site – Village Clerk Dawn O'Hara regularly updates our website and she has been most accommodating to our Village and its residents. If there are any items that residents might feel should be included on the site, please contact her at the Village Office (673-3112) with your requests.

Creek Walk Project – following the opening of bids on April 12, 2017, a bid was awarded at the Board’s April meeting to complete the remaining work on the construction of the Creekwalk to JL Excavation of Chaumont, New York with a base bid in the amount of \$113,328 and a Alternate Bid #2 in the amount of \$9,502 for a total of \$122,830. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 4, 2017 with all parties involved and the contractor was hopeful that construction could begin soon after Olde Home Days, or in the middle of June, and the project will probably be completed within two weeks. If some residents are not familiar with the project, we urge them to click on the home page of the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on Village News for Creek Walk information.

Announce Village Meetings for June 2017 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. I would make special notification of the Marcellus Olde Home Days, sponsored by both the Village and Town of Marcellus, and scheduled for June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2017. In addition, the Village Office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday and Parade on May 29th and for Independence Day on July 4th. Also, a Village-wide garage sale is planned for Saturday, July 8, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Garage Sale Permits will not be required on that day.