

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – August 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.

Hazard Communication Written Program – the Board approved the Hazard Communication Written Program for employees of the Village. The written program includes specific methods that are used to achieve compliance with the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. In general, each employee in the facility will be apprised of the substance of the HCS, hazardous properties of chemicals they work with, and measures to take to protect themselves from these chemicals. A copy of the Program has been provided to all employees and another is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Close on EFC Financing for Mandated Phosphorus Removal and WWTP Upgrades – the Board authorized the Mayor to close on EFC financing for the mandated phosphorus removal and WWTP upgrades. This will involve getting the funding lined up with our Bond Counsel, Paul Reichel, with the Environmental Facilities Corporation and closing on the loan by September 14, 2017. This closing date will guarantee that the Village will be able to obtain interest free financing for a 30-year loan of \$4,220,100 as well as an EFC grant of \$1,379,900 for a total expenditure of \$5.6 million.

Resignation – the Board accepted the resignation of Ryan Riefler as a full time Waste Water Treatment Plant operator and to accept his request to remain as a part-time operator, at his current hourly salary of \$22.76, while a replacement is being trained

MRB Proposal for Grant Administration of DASNY Funding – through the offices and efforts of Sen. John De Francisco, the Village been awarded a State and Municipal Facilities Program (“SAM”) grant for upgrades to its Waste Water Treatment Facility, in the amount of \$250,000. Because of the complexity of completing the application and the filing of all documentation with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, the Village has enlisted the services of MRB group for grant administration of DASNY funding. The Board approved MRB’s proposal for grant administration of DASNY funding in the amount of \$4,500

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – Is there a motion? – the Board approved a motion to table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Spectrum Communications.

Budget Modifications for July 2017 – budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General Fund and in the Sewer Fund were approved by the Board.

Lower Mill Demolition – combining the demolition expenses with those of legal, engineering, bonding and administrative (mailing, etc.) costs, the amount, billed to the owner of the lower mill, Mr. William Lucchetti, totals approximately \$100,000. If the Village does not receive the payment by October 31, 2017, the Village will take immediate steps to assess these costs against the property at 71 North Street. If the Village tax bill along with the re-levied expenses of the demolition are not paid by October 31, 2017, the Village taxes will be re-levied to the Town and County taxes which will be mailed in January of 2018. If those Town and County taxes are not paid, the County of Onondaga will make the Village whole in April 2018.

Creekwalk – despite repeated setbacks, the Village Creek Walk is finally complete, 15 years after the initial plans proposed by former Mayor Fred Eisenberg. While the Village Board, at one time, considered abandoning the project, a decision was reached to go ahead with the project, even though it was not as complete as originally envisioned. Delays continued to mount, but the Village and Town of Marcellus negotiated and signed an Inter-municipal Agreement in late September 2016 and the construction that took place in the month of October was truly remarkable. The Village Board has been most grateful, not only to its own D.P.W. employees, but also to the Town of Marcellus Supervisor and Board Members, the Town Highway Superintendent and the town highway department for all of the help that had been extended. This not only helped to reduce the cost of constructing the trail but it also served as another excellent example of inter-municipal cooperation between the Town and the Village. This spirit of cooperation has always been evident, but it has often been unrecognized. On behalf of the Village of Marcellus and its residents, the Board of Trustees continue to convey its great appreciation and gratitude to its Village employees as well as the Town and its employees for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration created by the creek walk project between our two municipalities. The final construction phase, which required a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work, sidewalk reconstruction and pavement striping, was competitively bid in the spring of 2017. At its regular Board Meeting in April, the Trustees awarded the bid for the final phase of the creek walk project to JL Excavation of Chaumont, NY. Soon after the Olde Home Days celebration in early June 2017, the contractor began final construction of the creek walk project. Over the next four weeks, JL Excavation Co. conducted a most satisfactory task, hauling in blocks of limestone for the retaining wall, and beginning the excavation that was needed to install them along the creek side. In laying out the trail to its required width, massive amounts of vegetation, tree stumps, rocks and boulders were removed, soil was exposed, construction fabric laid, and followed by gravel stone, which was compacted. The new retaining wall was then tied into the existing wall as the trail was again excavated to a width of ten feet around the McClurg Building to the bridge on East Main Street. The next phase called for the entire length of the trail around and behind the McClurg Building to be covered with asphalt, compacted and rolled and connected to the stone dust trail that had been earlier completed. In addition, because some of the McClurg parking lot had been disturbed during construction of the trail, the contractor completely restored those areas. It might also be noted that the McClurg Company employees were most cooperative during this phase of the construction and also touted quite highly the professional manner with which JL Excavation Company conducted its operations. The project also called for some sidewalk restoration on the south side of the Main Street bridge, including new warning pads and striping, as the trail crossed the highway at Station Lane to Limerick Street, and then west along the north side of the bridge to Orange Street, using existing Village sidewalks, and following trail signs that had been earlier installed, to Maple Street and its terminus at the Marcellus Free Library. The installation of wooden railing posts on the creek side and wooden bollards on the parking lot side now clearly define the project, along with the installation of wire mesh on the wooden railings, and reflectors on the wooden bollards, providing a safety factor for walkers on the creek side and vehicles on the parking lot side, as well as an appealing addition to an already well-designed trail. Throughout this final phase of construction, as in its initial phase, the Village D.P.W. employees were very much involved and their dedication to task was truly outstanding. The department actively assisted the contractor in providing needed labor and equipment and also installed all of the ground mounted sign panels that identified the trail route. The department was also very busy adding some finishing touches to the trail, including the installation of attractive wooden fencing at two critical places along the trail – at its southern terminus from the Park to the Village, and at the point where the stone dust meets the asphalt, the site of a potential historic overlook, showing the ruins of Baker’s Dam. The Village crew also provided top soil and turf establishment for lawns, and installed 45 evergreen shrubs to again define the trail, separating it from private property as well as providing an attractive screening device for a nature walk. When all is said and done, it will be the Village D.P.W. that will provide maintenance and upkeep for the trail and the Village Police Department, which will patrol it. To them, a great deal of gratitude is extended. To both commemorate and dedicate the completed trail, a community-wide celebration is planned for September 16,

2017 in back of the McClurg Building parking lot, from 1 pm to 3:30 pm, complete with live music, free ice cream and food for sale. We urge the community to park in the Village or at the Marcellus Library or Marcellus Park and walk the trail to the McClurg Building and join us as we dedicate the trail, about 2:30 pm, to the memory of the one who started it all, whose vision has now been realized – Mayor Fred Eisenberg. If some residents are not familiar with the now-completed project, we urge them to click on the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on News, then Village News, then Creek Walk News.

Striping of Crosswalks – we would note that the NYS has recently completed its striping of crosswalks on North Street (Rte. 174), prior to the start of school. Also, please note that a pedestrian crosswalk has been installed on the east side of the Main Street Bridge, This not only helps to provide pedestrian safety for the creek walk, from Station Lane to Limerick Street, and has also helped to slow down traffic entering the Village from East Hill. The Village has also received a request for a crosswalk on West Main Street, from the Methodist Church driveway to the Grange Parking Lot. Because this is a County road (Rt. 41), this request was forwarded to the Onondaga County DOT Commissioner for review. That review was completed and the Commissioner noted in a letter to the Mayor that The review was completed and the Commissioner noted in a letter to the Mayor that because the crosswalk would be mid-block, connecting two driveways, and not at an intersection with appropriate pedestrian accommodations, the location would not be acceptable nor provide adequate safety for pedestrians.

Code Enforcement and Officer – building inspections, pools and decks, and several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including some buildings on North Street.

Compost Project – compost continues to be available for residents and 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. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

Sidewalks – per the D.P.W. Chief's recommendations, repairs have or will be made to selected areas on South Street and other streets pending budgetary concerns.

Street repairs – acting upon the D.P.W. chief's recommendations, asphalt repairs to Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue will be completed in early September, as well as selected portions at the corner of First and Slocombe and Meadow Street and parts of the Village parking lot. Budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget.

Trees – some tree removals and stump removals have been done on South, Maple and Orange Streets, and another on Chrisler Street, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been finalized.

School begins – in two weeks, and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT will begin operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$130,000, from 39 property owners, a figure significantly larger than last year because of demolition costs associated with the lower Crown Mill and one property owner. The demolition costs alone totals over \$93,500

in unpaid taxes from this one property owner. Residents may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2017, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

V.I.P. Monies – infrastructure grant payments received by the Village of Marcellus from Onondaga County, as part of the Village Infrastructure Improvement Project have totaled \$180,450 this year, with no increase, as was the case last year. While this represents about half of what the Village used to be provided, until the County took the sales tax revenue from the Villages back in 2010, half is better than nothing.

Paul Street Project sidewalks – at its June meeting, the Board awarded the bid for completion of the sidewalk project on Paul Street to Salt Springs Paving Corporation at a cost of \$35,800.00. It was expected that the contractor would begin the project soon after, and that it would be completed in a matter of a few weeks. The project will include the construction of 450 feet of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street (NYS 174) and Austindale Ave. Minor drainage improvements such as cleaning existing drainage pipes and replacement of catch basin grates are also included. The new sidewalk would eliminate a gap in the existing Village sidewalk system by connecting to existing sidewalks at North Street and Austindale Ave. Pedestrians, including Seniors who live at Nine Mile Landing and school children now have no choice but to walk on the pavement of the roadway. We are still waiting for the contractor to begin sidewalk construction and expect it will be completed within the next several weeks.

Highland Flooding – after some severe rains this summer, the Board is and has been very aware of the potential for more flooding in the Highland Drive and areas below. To an effort to deal with this issue, the Board has enlisted the services of MRB Group to work on a plan that mitigate the problem. MRB Group has been in contact with local FEMA agencies, the Syracuse–Onondaga County Planning Agency and the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services for projects and plans that would reduce or eliminate long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). We are hopeful that funding might become available so as to address what has been an on-going concern for decades for those living on Highland Drive as well as those affected properties lying below.

Clean Energy Community – as was mentioned at an earlier Board meeting, 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 has 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 monies granted have been earmarked for clean energy projects this fall, which will include a retrofitting of existing Village lights, including the historic lights on Main, North and South Streets as well as the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED lighting retrofits have or will occur in the Village Hall, the Village garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant. 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.

NYSDEC Grant - \$16,000 – also mentioned at an earlier meeting, the Village was 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 has not only enabled the Village to install an EV charging station in the lot, but also to add lighting, cameras and asphalt 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.

Planning Board – met in mid August to discuss and approve the site plan review as well as approve the Onondaga County Planning Board review of the new parking lot for the Marcellus Free Library.

Announce Village Meetings for September 2017 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Labor Day, September 4th, and that there will be a one-day delay in trash pickup that week. To both commemorate and dedicate the completed creek walk trail, a community-wide celebration is planned for September 16, 2017 in back of the McClurg Building parking lot, from 1 pm to 3:30 pm, complete with live music, free ice cream and food for sale. We urge the community to park in the Village or at the Marcellus Library or Marcellus Park and walk the trail to the McClurg Building and join us as we dedicate the trail, about 2:30 pm, to the memory of the one who started it all, whose vision has now been realized – Mayor Fred Eisenberg. We also note that the Fall Trash Days are scheduled for the last two weekends in September, from 8 am to 3 pm each day. The Town Board has not yet officially approved this schedule, and when approved, will be posted on the Village and Town websites.