

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 2020

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 (315-673-3112) or email the Village Office (clerk@villageofmarcellus.com).

Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program – a motion was made to approve a Resolution Supporting Participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program, pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Storm Water Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), a copy of which is on file in the Village office for public inspection. The one-year Agreement to participate will cost the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by the Village Board.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – a motion was made to approve the fall brush and leaf pickup dates – brush pickup for 2020 will extend from Monday, September 21st to Monday, October 5th and residents may put out leaves from Tuesday, October 13th to Sunday, November 16th. After November 16th, leaf pickup will end, and residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting. Only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 16th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

Election Results – as newly elected Trustees, Jack Murphy and Tim Manahan thanked the voters of the Village for our election to the Village Board. While Tim's election completes a two-year vacancy to which he had been appointed back on October 28, 2019 and will serve until 2022, Jack will serve a four-year term, until 2024. They intend to continue to maintain the Village infrastructure, stabilize the tax rate as well as address any concerns that our fellow residents may have. Tim and Jack and the Mayor would also thank outgoing Trustee Sally Tallman, who chose not to run for re-election. Her steady advice and dedicated service was exceptional during her almost nine-year tenure on the Village Board. A motion was made and approved to accept the results of the September 15, 2020 Village election and to have the Village Clerk duly enter those results in the Village records.

Proclamation – Sara N. Tallman – a motion was offered by Trustee Timothy P. Manahan, who moved its adoption, seconded by Mayor John P. Curtin, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sara N. Tallman during her 25 years of service as a Village Trustee and as a Member and Chair of the Village of Marcellus Zoning Board of Appeals and,

WHEREAS, the leadership of Sara N. Tallman is evident in the many accomplishments that have occurred in the Village of Marcellus during her tenure and,

WHEREAS, the guidance and advice of Sara N. Tallman, during the terms of three Village Mayors and seven Village Administrations, will continue to be evident in many of the projects that have been and will continue to be realized in the Village of Marcellus and,

WHEREAS, the contributions of Sara N. Tallman to this community, both as a public servant and as a person, should not go unrecognized in the Village of Marcellus,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus commends Sara N. Tallman for the tireless service she extended to her community and to mankind.

Proclamation – Friends of the Library – a motion was offered by Trustee John J. Murphy, who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee Timothy P. Manahan, to wit:

WHEREAS, Friends of the Marcellus Free Library raise money that enables our Library to move from good to great – providing the resources for additional programming, much needed equipment, support for children’s summer reading, and special events throughout the year and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights on an on-going basis the fact that our Library is the cornerstone of the community providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of other from ages past to the present, and,

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our Library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages including access to print and electronic materials along with expert assistance in research, readers’ advisory, and children’s services, and WHEREAS, the Friends’ gift of their time and commitment to the Library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that John P. Curtin, Mayor of the Village of Marcellus proclaims October 18-24, 2020 as Friends of Libraries week in Marcellus, NY and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our Library and community so much better.

Closing of First Street for Halloween – recently Governor Cuomo said that he would not ban Halloween trick-or-treating amid coronavirus. Likewise, the Village Board does not think it can ban trick or treating in the Village. It is certainly up to the parents as to whether or not they want to allow their kids to go trick or treating. What the Board has to do is make sure that the Village and First Street in particular, is safe for the kids. To that end, the Village Board will authorize the Police to close off the street to automobile traffic and assign officers to patrol the neighborhood to ensure that. The Board’s thinking is that even if it did not block off the street, the “Halloweeners” and their parents would still congregate on First Street and that would present a very dangerous situation for all concerned. It might be a good idea for those residents who do not want to be exposed to potential hazards, to turn of the lights and retreat to a back room or go out for the night. There are some residents who do that as a general rule every Halloween. The Governor will probably provide more guidance in the weeks ahead, but at this point, a motion was made and approved to again close First Street between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Saturday this year.

Appoint Deputy Mayor – this appointment does not require Board approval, and is the prerogative of the Mayor. Accordingly, Mayor Curtin appointed Trustee Timothy P. Manahan to serve as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Marcellus, effective this date. In my absence or inability to serve, the Deputy Mayor is vested with all of the powers of the Mayor and the appointment will remain in effect until the next Annual Meeting in April 2021.

Budget Modifications for August 2020 – a motion was made to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds for August 2020.

Announce Village Meetings for October 2020 – 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 Columbus Day, October 12th, BUT that there will be NO delay in trash pickup that week. The

brush and leaf pickup dates are also listed on the handout, and there is another reminder that First Street will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, October 31st.

Updates – Mayor and Board

Creekwalk – three years later, and Fred’s Trail continues to have a number of walkers and the Village has received a number of compliments. 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. Trustee Manahan also notes that the trail is very properly maintained by our DPW, trimming overhanging tree branches and cutting vegetation that would otherwise impede those who use the trail. On behalf of the Board, he would like to thank our DPW for a job well done.

Green Gateway Project – is one that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway entrance to our Village – at the site of the former woolen mill on North Street. Printed copies of a project summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News. While the coronavirus has recently interrupted and delayed our plans for the Village and the students at MCS to continue working on the site, it is hoped that conditions will soon improve so that the project will begin anew in the months ahead.

2020 Census – Everyone Counts! – we encourage residents to visit our website and recent news for information on the 2020 Census, particularly “what you need to know” about the census, how this once-a-decade population count affects you and your government, as well as any concerns you may have about your responses to the 2020 Census.

New Businesses in the Village – a new business has opened on the site of the former florist shop at 1 North Street, called Field’s Antique Maps and Frames, a business that specializes in original, local, regional, United States and World Mid 19th Century Maps. We encourage residents to patronize this newest business in the Village. In addition, another business is expected to open in November on the site of the North Street Diner called Dusty’s Diner, and we anxiously await this new business opening in the Village

Street Repairs – pending budgetary considerations, some fiber micro paving on Reed Parkway and Maple Street will be considered. We are not sure, however, if CHIPS money will be available this year because of State and Local budget deficits.

Sidewalks – it is hoped that some reconstruction of sidewalk on the south side of East Main Street and several other smaller areas of the Village will take place. Budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other sidewalk repairs in this year’s budget.

Trees – some tree removals and plantings are planned, per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, and pending budgetary considerations on First Street, Paul Street and in back of the Village DPW barn.

Parking – as we approach the winter months, we remind residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

School In Session – 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 has begun 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 – 20 mph

Household and Hazardous Waste – Do not pour hazardous waste or grease down the drain. Household hazardous waste products (such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides) dumped down the drain are most often not removed by the wastewater treatment process. Harmful chemicals from these wastes end up in rivers, creeks, and lakes where they can eventually enter the natural food chain. Additionally, pouring hazardous waste down the drain can endanger the health of municipal workers, disrupt the treatment process, and accumulate pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Residential users can rid their homes of dangerous chemicals lurking around by dropping off such waste at four locations in the County, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, WITH AN APPOINTMENT. Appointments must be made (315-453-2866) five days in advance of your drop-off date. We also remind residents to cover garbage cans since those uncovered often attract crows and other pests. Washing out garbage cans and recyclable bins every so often, also helps promote a healthier environment.

Fall Trash Days – for Town and Village of Marcellus residents will take place on Fridays, September 25th and October 2nd (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and on Saturdays, September 26th and October 3rd (8 am. to Noon). This includes E-Waste electronic recycling but NO Community Shred Day. A permit, available by purchase from the Town Hall, is required for this service. Please check the Village and Town websites for more detailed information.

Water Line and Sewer Line Protection - owning a home has its challenges and dealing with emergency repairs is definitely one of them. Not knowing who to call or how much the repair will cost can

be overwhelming and frustrating. American Water Resources, LLC (AWR) is a company that offers Emergency Repair Service Plans that protect the property owner from expensive repairs that are not typically covered by basic homeowners insurance, a local utility or a municipality. As your home ages, so does the exterior water service line that brings fresh water to your house and to the drainage system that removes sewage from your house to the Village sewer main in the street. If these lines fail, repair or replacement can be expensive and most basic homeowners insurance doesn't cover repairs to the water and sewer lines on your property. American Water Resources, LLC (AWR) offers an exterior Water Service Line coverage as well as an exterior sewer line repair plan. If you are interested, we urge you to contact American Water Resources, LLC (AWR) at 1-855-390-4570. You can also visit getstarted.awrusa.co /AMAC for more information.

Striping of Crosswalks – on Village streets (by the Village) has taken place, along with parking spots on Main Street. Road striping on Main Street (by the County) has taken place, but that on North Street (by the State) has not.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$12,350, from 14 property owners, a figure significantly less than previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2020, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

WWTP Upgrades – upgrades to the treatment plant have been completed and on September 21, 2020, we hosted an Open House at the plant, and invited a number of individuals to tour our modern-day facility, as well as take that opportunity to thank so many that have helped the Village prepare for its operation well into the 21st century. This includes our engineering firm, MRB, and in particular, Jim Oberst and Aaron Bissell and Matt M. McKenna, our contractors, Blue Heron, Myriad Electric, S & G plumbing, King & King Mechanical, and especially our operators, Greg, John, Mallory, and Jim. In addition we also wanted to thank those behind the scenes who helped us secure the funding so necessary to begin and complete this major capital project – New York Rural Water and its President, John O’Connell, our Congressman, John Katko, our County Legislator, Julie Abbott Kenan and our Albany connection, former State Senator John DeFrancisco. While it has been a year of construction, there was little inconvenience or interruption in the plant’s operation. There have been several change orders to the project, the costs for which have been absorbed by the contingency portion of the budget – which is still rather healthy. Funding for the project will continue to come from sewer rate increases, and while the rates are hefty, they are essential to help

maintain our plant well into the 21st century. We recognize and thank Marcellus Town Supervisor, Karen Pollard, and her Board, and MCS Superintendent Michelle Brantner and her Board for their acknowledgment of this need to raise rates and for the confidence they have extended towards those of us in the Village who are responsible for the plant's operation and maintenance by signing long-term agreements with the Village. Finally, we would especially thank our operators, Greg, John, Mallory, and Jim, as well as several others, like Don MacLachlan and Joe Durand who labored unnoticed and without compensation, providing advice and help whenever the Village called. I am probably leaving out some who also deserve recognition, and apologize for any omissions in these remarks.

Thank You To Our Employees – the Village would like to thank all who participated in the work they did on the flower boxes this year, particularly Village employees Kathy Welsh and Mallory Reedy, whose attention to their care all summer was exceptional and enabled all in the community to enjoy their beauty. In addition, we call your attention to the green space on the corner of Scotch Hill and North Street. Village treatment plant employees continue to address landscaping there and provide another advertisement of the benefits that natural fertilizer can bring. Compost is mixed in with the plantings in the flowerbeds and broadcasted over the lawn area – showcasing the use of compost to the residents of Marcellus.

Planning Board – did not meet in September since there were no issues requiring that it meet.

Storm Water Management Program - Participation in the Storm Water Management Program offered by the CNY Regional Planning Board costs the Village \$3,600 each year. The one-year Agreement to participate costs the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by our Village Board. There are 31 municipalities participating, including the Town of Clay with over 58,000 people and the Village of Marcellus with under 2,000 people. Yet, all 31 municipalities pay the same \$3,600. That amounts to about \$8 for every resident of Marcellus and 18 cents for every resident of the Town of Clay. We have protested this seemingly unfair agreement in the past, and we will continue to object to the fee in the future, but we are, at present, somewhat obligated.