

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 2021

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. The Resolution reads as follows:

WHEAREAS . . .

Is there a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor – All opposed –

**Leaf and Brush Pickup** – a motion was made to approve the fall brush and leaf pickup dates – brush pickup for 2021 will extend from Monday, September 20th to Monday, October 4th and residents may put out leaves from Tuesday, October 12th to Sunday, November 15th. After November 15th, 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 15th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

**Termination of Provisional Appointment of Chief of Police** – NYS Civil Service Law mandates that all provisional appointments, including Police Chief (Type A) be terminated within 60 days following the establishment of an appropriate eligible list. In accordance with Section 65.3, and having received a certification list of those eligible for the title of Police Chief (Type A), a motion was made and approved that this notice constitutes a withdrawal of Civil Service certification for Bernard Podsjedlik, whose provisional employment is terminated as of September 27, 2021.

**Appoint Chief of Police** – having received a certification list of those eligible for the title of Police Chief (Type A) from Onondaga County Civil Service Technical Unit, the Mayor made a motion to appoint Bernard Podsjedlik, whose scoring rank on the Civil Service examination test was No 1, as Chief of Police of the Village of Marcellus Police Department, effective September 27, 2021.

**Meadow Street Changes** – a motion was made to approve additional cost items to the Meadow Street Improvement Project Contract. These items include the re-paving of Second Street at a cost of \$12,340.00 and additional gutter and driveway work as well as more road excavation and stabilization paper at a cost of time and material.

**SEQR – Determination of Non-Significance Resolution – Construction of Footbridge** – a motion was made to approve a Resolution

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus Board (hereinafter referred to as Board) is considering a project to create a safe passage for students crossing Nine Mile Creek and this project involves the construction of a footbridge crossing the creek from school property to the lower mill site, which is owned by the Village and the location of a new interpretive park. This crossing will create an easy and safe manner for students to cross directly from campus to the outdoor classroom at this park, by means of a prefabricated bridge, placed on concrete abutments; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that said Action is classified as an Unlisted Action and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed development is subject to a single agency review and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that it is the most appropriate agency for making the determination of significance and

WHEREAS, the Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7(c) (1) of the SEQR Regulations and

WHEREAS, the Board has completed Part 2 and Part 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board does hereby designate itself as lead agency and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board has reasonably identified the impacts that are expected to result from the proposed Action, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, based upon the information and analysis above and the supporting documentation referenced above, the proposed Action WILL NOT result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby make a Determination of Non-Significance on the proposed development, and the Village Mayor is hereby directed to sign the Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 and issue the Negative Declaration as evidence of the Board's determination.

**Proclamation** – a motion was made 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 17-23, 2021 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** – last year, the Governor said that he would not ban Halloween trick-or-treating amid the coronavirus pandemic. Likewise, the Village Board did not think it could 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 State might provide more guidance in the weeks ahead, but at this point, a motion was made 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 Sunday this year.

**Marijuana Public Information Session with Town of Marcellus** – the public should be aware of some of the points regarding cannabis including:

a. Cities, Towns and Villages may opt out of allowing (a) adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries and/or (b) on-site consumption licenses, only, by adopting a local law subject to a permissive referendum on or before Dec 31, 2021.

b. No opt out can occur after December 31, 2021.

c. Municipalities can issue time, place and restrictions on the operation of dispensaries and/or consumption establishments. These restrictions can pertain to local zoning, location of licensees, hours of operation and adherence to building codes. Neither Dispensaries nor consumption establishments may be located within 500 feet of school grounds or within 200 feet of a house of worship.

At a recent Town of Marcellus Board meeting, it was decided that the Town Board would host an informational session to let the public know the State's Regulations for the selling/vaping of cannabis. A motion was made to join with the Town in promoting a joint session of Village and Town residents and make Village residents aware of the informational nature of this gathering, which will be held at the Fire Station at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Sept 30, 2021.

**Set Dates for Fall Trash Days** – the Town Board has approved the schedule for the Fall Trash Day, as follows: Friday's September 24th and October 1st and Saturday's September 25th and October 2nd, 2021. The times for Friday are 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. The times for Saturday are 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. A motion was made to publicize the trash days

schedule and encourage Village residents to take advantage of this annual opportunity. There is also a handout that provides more information regarding the fall trash days. There is no electronic waste or shred day planned.

**Budget Modifications for August 2021** – a motion was to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds for August 2021.

**Announce Village Meetings for October 2021** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. There are also several other handouts including the Brush and Leaf Pickup dates, the Fall Trash Day schedule, and an update regarding the Green Gateway Park. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Columbus Day, October 11th, BUT 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, Sunday, October 31st.

#### **Updates – Mayor and Board**

**Onondaga County Main Street Revitalization** – as mentioned last month, Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon announced another Onondaga County Main Street Revitalization and Beautification Grant Program. Property owners in the Village completed and submitted 18 applications to the Village Office and said applications were submitted to the County on August 19, 2021. We await the decision of the County as to approval of the applications.

**Village Parking Improvements** – last month, bids were received and opened for reconstruction of parking in front of 2-6 East Main Street from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. The bid submitted by Hanson Aggregates was awarded the contract in the amount of \$136,917.00 and a pre-construction meeting was held September 2, 2021 in the Village Office, with work expected to begin at the end of the month. Businesses have been notified of the construction schedule, which is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks, with little interruption.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Trees** – as mentioned last month, monies have been set aside from the budget to complete some highway resurfacing, the repair of light poles and to share in the cost of brush and tree removal and street sweeping with the Town of Marcellus. The DPW budget also calls for installing two speed limit signs on Main Street, along with sidewalk repair in several locations in the Village, the repainting of crosswalks, some tree removals, assisting MCS students in the development of the Green Gateway Project and implementing a changeover from head-in to parallel parking on the south side of East Main Street.

**Creekwalk** – four 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 health crisis interrupted plans during the previous school year, the project has continued with student and Village and Town employees and many others involved in a variety of projects. These projects include the building of an outdoor classroom space that not only blends in with the park but provides a relaxed outdoor learning area for students to enjoy nature, the development and installing of historical plaques for an educational walk through the site, in cooperation with the NYSDEC and the US Fish and Wildlife Agency the placing of two sets of creek vanes and two toe-wood structures to restore the creek to a more natural flow and create improve fishing areas. Other activities include the establishment of fishing access sites in compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, and the use of reclaimed asphalt millings rather than standard asphalt or gravel for parking at the site. To restore a more natural ecosystem an arboretum is planned that would involve planting a multiple species of trees that would best suit the natural environment, and to design and construct a bridge to span the creek from school property to the Village site. The Green Gateway Project is a constant work in progress and it is expected it will continue as students return this fall.

**New Business in the Village** – We had expected an early summer opening of new businesses in the Village at #2 and #4 E. Main Street. Details, however, are still being planned for a Nano Brewery and an ice cream and deli shop on these sites. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

**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 24th and October 1st (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and on Saturdays, September 25th and October 2nd (8 am. to Noon). There is no E-Waste electronic recycling and 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.

**Meadow Street** – this major project, to provide storm water drainage and road improvements to the Meadow Street area, is now virtually complete. Mapping and design have been completed and both NYSEG and OCWA have replaced gas mains and installed new hydrants and replaced the water main prior to repair of the sanitary sewer line, with cured-in-place relining, and improvements to roadside swales and road re-paving. Improvements have also extended north onto Second Street. Hanson Aggregates NY LLC was awarded the contract in the amount of \$374,796.00, and the Board feels that the work performed by the contractor was excellent. It has been a summer of much inconvenience for the residents, but we expect that the disruption will have been worth it.

**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 \$43,021, from 14 property owners, a figure significantly more than previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2021, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

**WWTP News** – between Aug 18 and 19, over seven inches of rain fell on Marcellus. HOWEVER, thanks to our Village Residents by previously disconnecting their sump pumps and with the new upgrades at our Wastewater Treatment Plant we successfully handled the increase of flows. We peaked at 2MGD (million gallons per day) for about 12 hours. And yet we were still considerably under our permitted average monthly flow. It could have been a different story without the cooperation of our residents. THANK YOU! The Village has separate systems to convey wastewater and stormwater. Catch basins collect stormwater from rainfall and snow melt from streets, yards and parking lots and then discharge into Nine Mile Creek. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from toilets, sinks, washing machines, etc. and transport it to our wastewater treatment facility where it is treated. Rainwater and groundwater are considered clean water and do not need to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility. Make sure your sump pump is properly installed. When downspouts and sump pumps are connected to the Village sewer system, their flow is taking up space needed to carry sewage to our treatment plant. These incorrect and illegal connections can cause sewage to back up into your basement as well as water pollution and higher taxes. Reminder: Compost is still available for pickup. Please call the Treatment Plant at 315-673-4491

to make an appointment with one of the operators. We encourage Village residents to take advantage of this opportunity and visit the plant to obtain free compost. Normal hours are between 8am-3pm.

**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 Zabinski, 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.

**Baltimore Ridge Development** – has moved along quite nicely, and as of this date, all permits have been issued, and development of the site has begun with the construction of an entrance road, the clearing of a number of trees, and the building of the required storm water detention pond. In addition, sight distance conditions on South Street Road, as required by Onondaga County DOT, have been met and the installation of utilities (water, sewer, cable, telephone, electric and gas) forthcoming.

**Marcellus Chamber of Commerce** – it has been over a decade since Marcellus has had an operating Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to the efforts of businessman, Chad Clark, an attempt is being made to re-establish the Chamber, starting with a get-together at the Marcellus Free library to share ideas, thoughts and see what sort of interest the business community has in making this happen. The Chamber of Commerce only functions with local support and involvement and the Village Board enthusiastically supports this effort.