

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – December 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).

Public Hearing – Local Law #3 of 2021 – To opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus.

Call the Meeting to Order – a motion to open the public hearing. The Village Clerk read the Public Notice to those in attendance:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus, 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY 13108 on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm prevailing time, at the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY 13108 to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus. All interested parties will have the opportunity to be heard at the scheduled hearing. Copies of supporting documents are on file at the office of the Village Clerk.

Comments on Local Law #3 of 2021 – opting out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus – the Mayor -

a. The legalization of adult-use cannabis is an enormous policy shift affecting many facets of society. This is a complex issue that requires legal expertise and much consideration from community members. The regulatory framework outlined in the MRTA will take time to develop and will require input from communities and stakeholders throughout the State of New York.

b. On September 30, 2021, elected officials from the Town and Village of Marcellus met for an information session at the Marcellus Fire Department. This session, while not a Public Hearing, was well advertised, was open to the public and the information regarding the MRTA offered by a representative from the law firm of Costello, Cooney, & Fearon was very well presented. This presentation was followed by a very informative question and answer session with the public in attendance, as well as with elected representatives of the Town and Village of Marcellus. Following that session, there were a number of matters that the Village Board considered in order to make its decision.

c. The implementing regulations have not even been written by the State of New York. If the Village opts out now, it can always opt-in later when we see what the regulations will be. If we opt in we can never opt-out! To opt-in is to sign a contract without knowing its terms and conditions! We should wait to see the State rules and regulations and how they are implemented before making a final decision on dispensaries and on-site consumption. Many other important State decisions including a social equity plan and a comprehensive study are not due until 2023 and 2024. What is the rush? We do not want to tie the hands of future boards.

d. Projected sales tax revenue and/or benefits to the local communities from marijuana sales are highly speculative. Taxes go into a State Fund administered through State and County decision points and processes yet to be determined with many deductions from total sales taxes before distribution of taxes to local governments.

e. Costs to communities are yet to be determined. Direct and other costs of administering and executing the program have not been assessed. These impact, among others, Social and Economic Equity, Public Health and Safety, Schools, Law Enforcement, Drug Rehabilitation, Social Services, etc.

f. For these reasons, and others, the Village Board has decided to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus, subject to permissive referendum.

g. Copies of a quick reference guide regarding NYS's MRTA are available for residents in the Village Office.

Adjourn the Public Hearing and Open the Regular Meeting

Vote on Local Law #3 of 2021 – To opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus – a motion was made to approve Local Law #3 of 2021, whereby the Village of Marcellus has decided to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus, subject to permissive referendum.

Annual Maintenance Permit with Onondaga County DOT – a motion was made to table the DPW Superintendent (and/or his designee) to complete and sign the appropriate forms in order to acquire the annual maintenance permit with the Onondaga County DOT. Is there a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor – All opposed?

Marcellus Veterinary Hospital Contract – a motion was made to table the agreement between the Village of Marcellus and Marcellus Veterinary Hospital whereby Marcellus Veterinary Hospital will establish a shelter to house dogs picked up by the Village Dog Control Officer, said contract to include the hospital fees for housing, vaccinating, and caring for stray dogs. Is there a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor – All opposed –

Village Improvement Plan – a motion was made to continue the Village Infrastructure Program, an agreement whereby the County provides financial assistance to the Village for the construction and maintenance of public improvements, and to complete the Application for Financial Assistance provided to the Village by the County of Onondaga and to submit such application by January 1, 2022.

2022 Village Election Resolution – In the Matter of the 2022 Village Election in the Village of Marcellus, New York, a motion was made to propose a resolution abolishing Village Resolution Day and identifying polling places and hours, to wit:

Whereas, New York Election Law §15-104(1)(a) provides that the general village election shall be held on the third Tuesday in March, and;

Whereas, the offices to be filled at the village election and the term thereof is as follows:

Office	Term
Mayor	Four (4) years
Trustee	Four (4)

Whereas, New York Election Law §15-104(3)(b) provides that the Board of Trustees of a village shall, at least sixty days before any village election, adopt a resolution which shall state the polling place in each election district and the hours during which the polls shall be open, which shall include at least the hours from noon to nine o'clock in the evening, and;

Whereas, New York Election Law §15-110(1) provides that the village shall constitute a single election district for village elections, and;

Whereas, New York Election Law §15-118(1) provides that a village which has adopted a resolution providing that there shall not be any registration day for village elections pursuant to subdivision three of this section, only those persons registered to vote with the board of elections shall be eligible to vote in the 2022 general election in the Village of Marcellus;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus, as follows:

1) That the general election for the Village of Marcellus shall be held at the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus, NY 13108, and;

2) That the election will take place on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, and;

3) That the polls will open at 12 o'clock noon and close at 9:00 pm.

4) That there is no registration day for the Village of Marcellus as the Village opted out of registration day by resolution on January 25, 1993;

5) That applications for absentee ballots to be mailed must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Office located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, New York, by March 8, 2022;

6) That personal applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Office located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, New York, by March 14, 2022;

7) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Authorize Mayor to Sign Health Insurance Contracts – most employees have elected to switch to an alternate plan, Gold 1, offered by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The cost for all Excellus plans offered has risen this year. However, the Gold 1 premium is slightly less than that of Gold 5, the existing plan. Overall, the cost to the Village has increased about 7.5% for major medical and 3% for dental beginning January 2022. A motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign the Health Insurance Contracts with Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2022. The Mayor has already signed a copy of the one document that Excellus does require to be updated annually. The Village will cover 90% of the cost of a full time employee's benefits, while the employee will pay 10% of said cost. Copies of the new contracts and coverage are available for inspection in the Village Office.

Update Schedule D – Health and Dental Benefits Plan – a motion was made to amend Schedule D, Health and Dental Benefits for employees of the Village of Marcellus, to wit: “. . . part time employees will contribute 100% to health and dental costs EXCEPT part time employees with 30+ years of continuous service will contribute 25% of single health and single dental costs.” The actual costs for

health and dental coverage will be outlined on a newly developed Schedule D form and will be available for public inspection in the Village Office when this plan goes into effect on January 1, 2022

Employee Health Insurance Opt-out – a motion was made to approve a health insurance opt-out for full time Village employees who are covered under another health care program. This opt-out, the details of which are on file in the Village Office, would grant a buy-out incentive for the employee who chooses to opt-out, and would also provide a financial benefit for the Village, whose annual premium on behalf of the employee, would be eliminated.

Christmas and New Year's Holiday – a motion was made to allow Village Employees to close the Village Offices at Noon on Thursday, December 23, 2021 and at Noon on Thursday, December 30, 2021 so that our employees receive time off from work. If the DPW Employees are called in to plow, they will be able to take off another half-day off from work, at the discretion of the DPW Superintendent. These will not be considered as holidays.

Village Meetings for January 2022 – we would make note the list of those meetings scheduled for the remainder of December and for January 2022, which is provided for those so interested – please note also that the Village Offices will be closed on Friday, December 24th, and Friday, December 31st for the Christmas and New Years Holiday. Because these holidays fall on a Friday, there will be NO DELAY in trash collection each of those weeks. The Village will also be closed on January 17, 2022 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There are also several handouts that are provided – on Water, Grease in the Waste Waters and other items of concern

Updates – Mayor

No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2021, 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, 2022. 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.

Snow Plowing – as in the past, we would like to alert independent snow plow operators that it is illegal to plow or shovel snow or ice during snow removal operations upon a village sidewalk or other public way. While most of the independent snow plow operators in the Village comply as much as possible with the law, there are some who need to be reminded that if a driveway is being plowed, that snow CAN NOT be plowed into the street. NOR can the snow be plowed out of a driveway, across the street and into the village right-of-way across from the plowed driveway. Some drivers have claimed that they have no place to put the snow. That, however, is not an excuse to put the snow into the street, nor across the street when plowing. The Village is not responsible for snow that accumulates on a resident's property and the Village is not responsible for removing snow that has been plowed onto the Village right-of-way. We ask that independent snowplow drivers take this into consideration when they are plowing residential properties in the village. No snow should be plowed onto a village street or sidewalk, and any that has been, accidentally, must be removed before finishing the job.

Composting – continues to move along and we would like to thank our operators as they prepare more compost for pickup in the spring.

2022 Main Street Grant Program - the Village Board is pleased to announce that the Village was awarded almost \$500,000 for the 2022 Main Street Grant Program. There are 18 projects included in the Village Center and it is sure to make a significant impact on the community. These projects will have to follow all normal application and permitting requirements, and some may be referred to the Planning Board as the process unfolds. The Village is most grateful to County Executive Ryan McMahon and the Office of Community Development as well as the Onondaga County Legislature for providing funds to help revitalize and beautify many parts of the Village of Marcellus, as they did last year when 14 Village properties were awarded almost \$300,000 under the County Main Street Façade Grant program.

New Business in the Village – a Nano Brewery has opened up on a limited weekend basis at #4 East Main Street and an ice cream and deli shop is expected to open soon at #2 East Main. We welcome these new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

A friendly reminder what not to flush from your Village Operators: The two biggest causes of sewer clogs are “flushable” wipes and fats, oils and grease (FOG). Unlike toilet paper, wet wipes remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and block pipes. When a product is labeled “flushable” it generally means that it will clear your toilet bowl. It doesn't mean it will definitely clear your pipes or break down in the sewer system or at your wastewater treatment plant. Truly flushable items are ones that break into small pieces quickly, are not buoyant, and only contain materials, which will readily degrade in a range of natural environments (like paper, not plastic). Grease cools as it travels through pipes. Over time, the accumulation of grease builds up and can block an entire pipe. Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the pipes, they only shred it into smaller pieces. Commercial

additives including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass it down the line and cause problems away from the source. The results of a grease-blocked sewer pipe can be sewage overflows in your home, expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the property owner, and possible contact with disease-causing organisms. It can also add to the cost of operating and maintaining your sewers and the wastewater treatment plant. Flushing wipes, grease, or other non-disposable items can impact you and your neighbor's sewer system. Thank you for considering the impact these items may have on your sanitary sewer system before you flush!

Planning Board – members of the Planning Board and Village Board met on October 20, 2021 and again on November 11, 2021 to discuss a proposed development of 8 Paul Street, currently an old lumberyard. Representatives from the Christopher Community presented their concept for a senior housing project at the site on Paul Street and also toured the site with Board members. A Planning Board meeting including a Public Hearing was also held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at the Marcellus Free Library at which time representatives from Christopher Community presented updated plans for the project, as well as listened to any comments that residents of the community expressed. The minutes of that meeting and public comment can be found on the Village website.

Christmas Tree Lighting – on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend special thanks to our DPW crew and our office staff who were able to install, decorate and then light the Community Christmas Tree at the Point on December 3, 2021, a tradition, that goes back to 1916. Special thanks also to our Police Department for their efforts in helping to coordinate events, and to members of the Chamber of Commerce for their great support in helping this event to be one of the most successful and well-attended in recent memory.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 4th and if any residents have missed the deadline, they are welcome to utilize the Village composting site behind the Village Hall. Leaf pickup extended from October 12th to November 15th. After November 16th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting – please note that 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. Please remember to keep leaves in the Village right of way, between the sidewalk and the road, and out of the street where they might end up clogging the catch basins and lead to flooding. With snowstorms that may occur, any leaves that are still in the Village right-of-way, between the sidewalk and the road, will remain there until the snow melts and the DPW has an opportunity to remove them. That might not be until the spring of 2022. Residents are welcome to bag their leaves and bring bags to the compost site at the rear of the Village Hall.

Police Warning – residents should be aware of the fact that some thieves have been active in the Village and Town, following FedEx and other vehicles delivering and leaving packages unattended at various locations and then stealing such packages – so called “porch pirates.” The Marcellus Police have received reports of cars broken into overnight in the Flower Lane area and also on Reed Street. Make sure your cars are locked and that personal items, especially credit cards, cellphones and KEYS are not left in vehicles. If your car has been broken into, or if you have any information regarding these break-ins, please contact the Police Department at 315-673-2079. Chief Podseidlík urges residents to be vigilant about such activity and to notify the police if they have suspicions. The Chief reminds everyone, once again - Lock your houses and cars. The average time it takes for a thief to get inside a vehicle and get out is about 20 seconds. In less than a minute, items may be gone and it isn't until you get into your vehicle that you notice items are gone. This has been going on in other nearby communities as well. Please call the police if you have suspicions or want to report a robbery. After 2 a.m., the Marcellus Police are not on duty and the only responder would be a single Sheriff's car, whose patrol extends from Onondaga Hill to Skaneateles.

Christmas Trees – will be picked up by the Village Highway Department after the first of the year, probably beginning on January 3, 2022. Residents should place trees in the Village right of way between the sidewalk and the street.

Other DPW Work – in recent weeks, the DPW has been very diligent in picking up leaves, long beyond the cut-off period. We have received some very nice compliments from residents for their efforts and we appreciate the response. With the coming of the winter snows, some of the memorial benches and pedestrian signs have been removed until spring by the department. The Department employees have also put up and will decorate the Village Christmas Tree at the Point, ready for lighting just after Thanksgiving. The new Christmas decorations have been put up as well. The Board would like to thank members of the DPW for all of their efforts as we prepare for the winter months, knowing how especially dedicated they are with the removal of snow and ice.

Olde Home Days, 2022 (June 3, June 4 and 5) – tentatively, and depending on the pandemic, the first meeting of the 2022 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at the Village Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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, the Village and the students at MCS continue working on the site and it is hoped that conditions will soon improve so that the project will begin anew in the months ahead.

Baltimore Ridge Development – continues to move along quite well, 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, are being met and the installation of utilities (water, sewer, cable, telephone, electric and gas) forthcoming. A target of early December has been set for asphalt installation.

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.

Creekwalk – we might note that the trail is not open nor is it plowed during the winter season. For those interested, please check the Village Website for an update, some photos as well as a video of Fred's Trail – <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>.

Other – on behalf of the Village Board, I would extend a very Merry Christmas and wish all our Village residents the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything for the New Year.