

2023

Annual Village Update Letter

The Village Board provides this update letter to residents on the many ongoing projects, as well as some of the issues and challenges facing the Village. Much of the work we do goes unreported by our local press, so we employ our website, Facebook, Village Sign, and this letter, to keep residents informed.

If you have questions or concerns after reading the update, please feel free to reach out to us, or attend a Village Board Meeting on the second Monday of each month. Minutes for Board Meetings are also available on the Village website: www.villageofcoxsackie.com. Coxsackie is on the verge of completing some important projects, and long sought after downtown re-development is beginning. This is an exciting time for our Village.

NY Forward Grant- The Village has been awarded a \$4.5 million NY Forward Grant for downtown revitalization!! Over the coming months, the public will have an opportunity to be a part of the process to evaluate the many proposed projects. Look for more information on our website and Facebook.

Covid-19 – Variants of Covid are still present, so residents should remain vigilant. We continue to take guidance from our State and County Public Health Officials as appropriate.

Wastewater Plant Upgrade – The original sewer plant was constructed in the 1960's, and had several upgrades over the decades, with the last one occurring in the 1980's. This current upgrade was completed during the summer of 2021 for \$17 million dollars, to upgrade the capacity at the wastewater plant, and wastewater collection system. This upgrade should allow the plant to operate for the next 30 years or more.

Wastewater Connection Moratorium – While the new wastewater plant and upgraded collection system work perfectly, the West Coxsackie pump station has continued to have an issue with ground, and/or creek water, entering the pump station, and overwhelming the system. Last year, we received a \$100,000 grant from the DEC to investigate this. Once we determine the problem and resolve it, we will be able to get the moratorium lifted.

New Water Tank – In 2019, we received a \$3 million grant towards construction of a 2-million-gallon water tank to give us enough storage capacity. We purchased a piece of land adjoining the water plant, and expect to construct the tank in 2023.

A long-standing weakness in our water system is the lack of storage capacity. We presently only can store about 450,000 gallons of water, which is very, very, small for a water system of our size. When a water break occurs, it can deplete the present storage capacity very quickly, threatening to run our water system dry, and diminish our firefighting capability.

Riverside Park- The State Parks worked with the Village to design the upgrade to the Riverside Park, and it was officially re-opened in May 2022 with many new features and experiences. Riverside Park is owned by the state but maintained and run by the Village. If you wish to reserve the Gazebo, Pavilion, or a section of the park for an event please visit the Village's website.

Old American Valve Site (Dog Park)- The Village has been actively pursuing this site through the eminent domain process in order to utilize a portion as a Dog Park, which many people have asked for over a number of years. We hope to obtain the property in the first half of 2023 and appoint a committee to design, fundraise and build a dog park.

Empire Riverfront Ventures – After a delay due to code enforcement issues, the Wire Center is now open and has held several events this winter. An open house and concert were held during the annual Christmas by the River. Patrick Henry's is slated to open soon, and the Hotel about mid-year.

Sidewalks – The summer of 2022 saw significant sidewalk work done in-house by our DPW crew. The sidewalk replacement on Sunset Blvd. was completed, as well as some small sections around the Village, and a section at the entrance to the DPW garage. In 2023, we will continue to replace several sections at various locations around the Village.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Committee – LWRP for short. In 2019, the Village received a \$100,000 grant for developing this plan. 9 people were appointed to a committee by the Village Board, and Elan Planning, a trusted and

experienced municipal planning company from Saratoga, was hired. Covid slowed things, but this is in the final stages of development.

McQuade Park Playground/Pavilion – We dedicated the new playground in 2019, and we budget money each year to add some new features. The Pavilion next to the playground was estimated to be 30-40 years old, and simply reached the end of its life, as the supports had rotted away, and it was taken down in early January. We hope to have an announcement this winter about a replacement.

14 South River St. - Many plans have been developed over the last several years for improvements to the park. The restoration of 14 South River St., a historic building originally built as the George H. Scott Firehouse, continues as we apply for grants and accumulate funds. Our plan will be to develop this as a welcome/historical center celebrating the history of the Village and downtown. The building will be available for meetings and events, and an initial design plan includes bathrooms.

Farmers' Market – In a few months, the highly successful Farmers' Market will return for its 11th year under the guidance of market manager Eileen Goble. Each year the market has increased the number of vendors, added restaurants/food trucks providing food each week, along with music, and other entertainment. Volunteer help is always welcome, or if you are interested in being a vendor, please contact the Clerk at Village Hall, by calling 518-731-2718. Look for information on our website and Facebook page.

Owls – New heads of the Owls Committee are Kim & Brett Linden, and they have made a commitment for a full owls return in 2024. Some of the original Owls Committee have retired, and they are looking for people to be involved on the committee. Please reach out to the Village Clerk if you are interested in helping.

Mansion St. Cemetery – The Restoration Committee has done a dramatic job in restoring the cemetery. A new front fence section was installed with funds raised by the Cemetery Committee, as well as Village Funds. Benches have been placed, and stones have been cleaned, to name a few. This work comes at a great expense, so consider a donation, or joining the Restoration Committee. Info is available at the Village Hall, and you can check out several of our famous graves located in the heart of the Village.

Veterans Banners – In 2022, we saw the Veterans Banner Committee place the initial banners on utility poles. This was greatly received by the residents and visitors. The Committee of: Trustee Don Daoust, Suellen Meier, and Lou Martin, have made this happen and deserve our thanks. The project is back for 2023. Please stop by Village Hall for information, or visit the Village's Website or Facebook.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): The Village has received \$265,000 in ARPA funds to be used for projects specified by the grant guidelines. The projects designated this far, is approximately \$25,000 that was spent to purchase a fire gear washer and dryer for the Hose #3 firehouse. This allows for immediate washing of gear, as soon as Firemen return from a fire, to get the toxins off the gear, and protect the \$5,000 investment in each set of gear.

The Village has also committed to a joint project with the Town of Coxsackie to replace the water line at the top of Ely St. in the Village, and extending into the Town, where very small inadequate lines exist now. This area in the past had contributed to 50% of all of the water breaks. Cost projection is \$130,000-\$200,000, and the County has given us \$100,000 in ARPA for this project.

Spencer Blvd Turnaround: The Village DPW, with assistance from the Town, and County, developed a turnaround at the end of Spencer Blvd. This now allows firetrucks, ambulances, oil delivery trucks, and any delivery vehicles to not use residents' driveways to turn around.

Village of Coxsackie,

Mayor & Board of Trustees