



February 2022 Newsletter

COVID

As quickly as the number of active cases in Dutchess County rose from Thanksgiving to a high of 8500 on 1/8/2022, we've since seen a dramatic, 95% reduction to our current level of <400 (which was last seen in August of 2021). This, along with the corresponding reduction in COVID-related hospitalizations, has led to the recent relaxation of mask mandates in NYS (except for schools). The Village continues to receive limited allotments of free test kits and masks from Dutchess County. Any Village resident in need of such should contact the office to check for availability and to arrange for pickup.

Winter Weather

It seems like we say this every year, but this has been an extraordinary winter of weather. To-date there have been 15 events which have mainly required salting (& re-salting) instead of plowing. The intermingling of cold & warm weather has caused melting and refreezing into ice which has made driving and walking particularly hazardous. Our highway crew has had to work weekdays and weekends from evening through the next afternoon numerous days to keep the roads and walks safe - their dedication is much appreciated! If you see an unsafe condition, please call the office so we can promptly address it.

Capital Improvement Projects

Retaining wall: In order to fix the ~800' of wall holding up parts of Front Street and Harts Village Road, the Board of Trustees accepted the \$240K bid from Con-Tech Construction Technology in Carmel, NY. The total cost will include an additional \$31K for Delaware Engineering to provide project oversight. Funding will come from our allotment of \$144K from the American Rescue Plan

and a bond for the remaining \$127K (a request-for-quote is now being prepared to go out to local banks). This expense is beyond the \$23K spent to-date to test the wall integrity, document the status, and put together the bid requirements.

Sidewalks: our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) submission was made to Dutchess County in December, and we have received some follow-up questions to which we have responded. We expect to hear their decision within a few months.

Wastewater treatment facility grant: Our 2nd request for a grant from NYS's Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) was rejected. This was to cover majority payment of the cost of the engineering report which would describe what improvements are needed at our Wastewater Treatment Facility, as a first step to upgrading this outdated sewer system. We are in discussions with Delaware Engineering to develop a plan to proceed ASAP.

2022–2023 Budget Kickoff

We have issued the scheduled reviews of each category of our budget, starting with Water & Sewer on 2/23/2022, followed by Fire/EMS & Highway on 3/2/2022. All reviews will be held in open public meetings at the firehouse at 6PM. Reviews will be completed and consolidated by the end of March with a public hearing of the final budget planned for mid-April.

New Police Officer

At last week's Board of Trustees meeting, we approved hiring a 6th part-time officer to the Millbrook Police Department. While most of our part-time officers have day jobs elsewhere, this officer works the night shift in NYC and is available most days. He will therefore be able to cover when Officer-in-Charge Witt is away on vacation, holiday, personal business, or sickness.

Ambulance Coverage

Since 6/2019, the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington have had a 24/7 paid ambulance service contract with Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) in addition to our volunteer workforce. Our fire department & ambulance services participate in the county-wide mutual aid program such that they will respond to

calls from outside Town of Washington, if needed. Since about mid-2021 we've noticed a significant increase in the proportion of mutual aid EMS calls made by our workforce vs. the number of calls we've needed. This has coincided with a reduction in volunteers in our neighboring towns. At the end of January, we (myself, G. Ciferri, T. Bownas, V. Contino) met with the Union Vale Supervisor and Fire Commissioner (B. Maas, J. Welsh) as well as the head of DC Emergency Response (D. Smith) to show the data, identify our concern, and ask for their help to address this. UV has recently increased their paid EMS (they use Empress which just bought out Emstar) to 7x12 hours/week but we asked that they get to 24/7 paid service ASAP. We will continue to share our results with adjoining towns monthly.

CPRC Open House

On 2/25/2022 from 3PM until 7PM at the firehouse, there will be an open house hosted by Town of Washington's Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) in which an independent consulting firm will solicit public input/ideas on future hospitality uses within the Town. More details can be found on the [Town of Washington website](#). This is part of the Comprehensive Plan update process leading to a town-wide survey which will be distributed in the Spring of 2022.

Bennett College

Work to convert the Bennett College property to a [public park](#) is continuing with the demo of the existing buildings. Late last year, Dutchess County approved a resolution to convert the 32-acre Bennett College property to "green space" for \$1.5M which means that the [Millbrook Community Partnership](#) (MCP) LLC will continue to hold deed to the property with a commitment to not develop it for commercial use and to make the resulting park available for everyone (not just Village or Town residents). The LLC will continue to pay property taxes (which total \$7430/year to the Village) until their tax-exempt status is approved (TBD).

Meet the Staff

Kelly Aluisio



Police Officer

845-677-8200 option 6

kaluisio@villageofmillbrookny.com

"Hi, I'm "Officer Kelly" Aluisio from the Village Police Department. I was hired in July 2018, after going through the police academy at the age of 40. I credit the Village with giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming a police officer. It has been a pleasure working with my neighbors and friends over the past few years. Thank you all for your continued support as we all work together to keep our Village safe!"

Village Board Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Millbrook Firehouse

20 Front Street, Millbrook, NY

FEB

23

6:00 PM

NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

6:00 pm

Budget Meeting – Water & Sewer

MAR

2

6:00 PM

BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

6:00 pm

Budget Meeting – Fire Department & Highway

MAR

9

6:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

6:00 pm

Regular Business Meeting

Visit our [meeting docs page](#) for [agendas](#) and documents relating to the upcoming meetings.

If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me
Mayor Tim Collopy villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com or 845-677-3939
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