

2025

## 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](http://www.villageofcoxsackie.com).

**NY Forward Grant Projects-** Updates on the approved \$4.5 million NY Forward Grant are below:

**14 South River St. – Welcome Center/Museum/Bathrooms** -The restoration of 14 South River St., a historic building originally built as the George H. Scott Firehouse, continues. Architectural design is done, but we are waiting on the State before any progress to move forward. Our plan will be to develop this as a welcome/historical center on the first floor, and a museum celebrating the history of the Village and downtown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The building will be available for meetings and events, and the design plan includes bathrooms on the back.

**Downtown Cell Service-** State Telephone Company is well engaged with AT&T and Verizon to place small cell sites in the downtown to improve service, expected in 2025.

**Infrastructure – Roads/Sidewalks-** Plans will be developed to improve sidewalks, walkability, and traffic flow in the downtown area.

**Dolan Block-** Architects are working with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on historic preservation, and work continues on energy efficiency, and the layout and design of the interior and exterior decking.

**5-7 Mansion St.-** Plans for apartments are complete and approved by the Planning Board, and construction is anticipated this spring.

**DPW Garage Site – Develop Mixed Use/Mixed-Income-** The Village is engaged with Kearney Development to sell the existing DPW Garage site, and the property is to be developed into apartments.

**The American House (1 Reed St.)-** Kitchen addition plans have been drawn up, and work should commence this summer.

**McQuade Park Pavilion** – Thanks to Sen. Michelle Hinchey’s \$102,000 grant for a new steel pavilion, which is open.

**Champlain-Hudson Power Express-** This is an underground power line that will run from Hydro Quebec express to NYC. It is following the CSX tracks, and has come through the Village near the tracks, and by Firemen’s Park. We will get some annual tax revenue from this project with no noise or visual impact. As a gesture of good will for going through the Village, they are able to make donations to the community, and the Village received \$50,000 towards the dog park at the old American Valve site.

**Occupancy Tax-** The Village, through Sen. Hinchey and Assemblyman Tague, is awaiting State legislature approval of an occupancy tax of 4% nightly on each hotel room and Short-Term Rental within the Village. While the Village has experienced some significant growth in the downtown area, and it **does** benefit from property tax, it **does NOT get any sales tax money**. Greene County is one of seven counties in NYS that does not share sales tax.

**Dog Park (Old American Valve Site)-** Last year, the Village obtained a 6-acre parcel of the old American Valve Company Site through eminent domain, with the intended purpose of a Dog Park. Many people over a number of years have asked for a dog park, and we have received petitions as well. A basic design was done, and the base layer was laid down last fall, with fencing to be installed in the spring. Fundraising will be needed to add a canopy for shade, benches, and features for the dogs.

**New Water Tanks** – In 2019, we received a \$3 million grant towards construction of (two) – 1-million-gallon water tanks, to give us enough storage capacity. We purchased a piece of land adjoining the water plant, and expect to start construction in 2025. 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 Wi-Fi**- The Village has signed a contract using ARPA money to install Wi-Fi to cover all of Riverside Park in the spring of 2025. This will enable us to have cameras installed, after the Wi-Fi is installed, with additional grant money that we already have.

**Farmers' Market** – In a few months, the highly successful Farmers' Market will return for its 13<sup>th</sup> year! While market manager Eileen Goble has retired, new market manager Nicole Schmitt is ready to go. Each year the market has increased the number of vendors, adding 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, (518) 731-2718. Look for information on our website, the Village of Coxsackie Facebook page, or the Coxsackie Farmers Market Facebook page.

**Owls** – The Owls return in 2025 with a 5 Owl raffle. Please watch our website, the Village of Coxsackie Facebook page, or the What A Hoot Facebook page for details.

**Veterans Banners & Field of Flags** – The Committee of Trustee Don Daoust, Suellen Meier, Lou Martin, Bob Desrosiers, Kaaren Kiernan, and Bill Steele, have made this happen and deserve our thanks. The project is back for 2025. A Field of Flags will happen again this year on the lawn of 91 Mansion St. (the Old School). For information on both visit the Village's website, the Village of Coxsackie Facebook page, or the Coxsackie Hometown Heroes Banner Program Facebook page.

**Upper Ely St. Water Line Replacement:** Last summer, the Village & Town completed a joint water line replacement at the top of Ely St. in the Village, and extending into the Town, where very small, inadequate, private water lines existed. This area in the past contributed to about 40% of all water breaks.

**UMH / Mountain View Estates** – They are working through their Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), and annexation of a piece of property in the Town, into the Village. Then, the project goes to the Planning Board. Please watch the Village's website and Facebook page for updates and information.

**Comprehensive Plan Update-** The Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2008, and it is suggested that it be updated every 10-15 years. So, now is the time. The Village, Town of Coxsackie, and Greene County IDA have agreed to fund equal amounts, and partner on plan updates for the Village and Town, that will start this year. This plan will also be useful in seeking grants to improve the West Coxsackie corridor.

**Sewer Line Projects-** The Village has received 3 separate grants. A \$2.9 million BIL Grant, a \$1.5 million WIIA Grant, and a \$1.5 million Enhanced WIIA Grant. Nearly all of the \$5,966,806 cost to do the project of the final separations of combined sanitary, and storm sewers, at various locations around the Village. This project should happen in 2025.

**New DPW Garage (Old American Valve Site):** The Village will locate a new DPW Garage off Cato St., on the current site of the brush/leaves pile, and utilize part of the Old American Valve Site. Basic design layout has been completed. No anticipated construction date at this time.

Village of Coxsackie,

Mayor & Board of Trustees