

Town of Marlborough State of the Town Address 2021

Before I begin this address, I would like to state that saying 2020 was a challenge is an understatement. The year began with the Coronavirus Pandemic – something none of us was prepared for. New York State was locked down, businesses closed, and people were told to stay in their homes. In spite of the fear and confusion, Town employees were willing to adapt and change in order to still meet the needs of the Community. Volunteers stepped forward, including Town Councilman Ed Molinelli, to work with the County's Project Resilience – a program to pay local restaurants to provide cooked meals for our homebound population. #Marlborough Strong became the hashtag that showed what we can do when we all pull together. For all of that, I am very grateful.

I am grateful, too, for the list of accomplishments that this Town Board has worked together to achieve, in spite of the challenge of COVID.

In order to keep down taxes we continued our work to make Marlborough business friendly.

A major improvement was the Rt. 9W Paving Project. Thanks to work done by community planning, we were able to improve the gateway to Marlboro, install new sidewalks, and get a flashing lighted crosswalk for the Marlboro hamlet.

Because of the completion of the Phase II Low Pressure Sewer Line, Chestnut Petroleum opened their long awaited gas station/mini market and showed how smart public/private cooperation can result in positive development.

We were also able to enter into a lease agreement to install a Solar Photovoltaic System at the Town Landfill. Not only does that increase opportunities for clean energy but it will offer taxpayer relief.

We updated our Town Codes and instituted design guidelines to encourage safer and better development. And thanks to the work of Councilman Baker and community members, 6 years of working toward the adoption of a Local Waterfront Development Plan became a reality. This State designation will help us direct new business into the Town and provide additional funds for economic development.

Work began on the combined New York State CFA funded/ Town project to rehabilitate the Southern Pier at the Milton Landing Park. This will allow Milton to become a destination for Hudson River tourism and recreation.

It is amazing how many infrastructure improvements were accomplished! Besides the improvements to the Rt. 9W Corridor, the surveying work was completed to identifying the right of way along Western Ave. to the Marlboro High School.

We made Town capital improvements including upgrading servers & computers to insure capability and safety to viruses.

We repaired the roof on the Milton Sewer Plant and installed a Fire Alarm in our Highway Building.

Our Highway Department worked with a private contractor to improve the road base into Schantz Park. And our Water Department worked with Highway to install a water line to the Town Dog Park in Milton. The cooperation between all the different Departments of the Town of Marlborough is one of the key factors in being able to get work done efficiently. Special thanks for their willingness to go above and beyond.

2020 was the year that so many people stepped up and brought honor to this Community. The Town was able to partner with many volunteer organizations to do good:

- We were able to honor our Veterans, including a special William Partington Community Day celebration.
- We honored the work of Glenn Clarke, for spearheading the rehabilitation of the Milton Train Station, with a commemorative plaque on the building.
- We hosted a ceremony to honor the heroism of our Police and Highway Departments, for their quick action in a fuel truck rollover on Rt. 9W, where they received the New York State Liberty Medal.
- We were able to complete an all volunteer build Inclusive Playground at Cluett Schantz Park.
- We supported the Marlboro-Milton Lions Club as they made and delivered food to our Seniors for the Annual Summer Picnic and Thanksgiving.
- The Town Departments worked with the Girl Scouts to improve the Milton Dog Park.
- Members of the Volunteer Marlboro Nature Trail Committee, Town Departments and Tilcon Industries worked together to give the hamlet of Marlboro its first public trail access to the Hudson River.
- Members of the Community have joined a Town Committee to work with our Police Department to discuss reform issues.
- The Police Department reached out to the Community to collect and distribute Christmas gifts for those in need.
- Our Highway Department spearheaded a Community Drive By Parade for Memorial Day and a Drive By Trick or Treat at Schantz Park.
- And in the beginning of the pandemic, our Police, Highway and Fire Departments brought smiles to the faces of many children by having Birthday Parades.
- We continue to work with the Marlboro School District, our Libraries, Meet Me in Marlborough, Milton Landing, the Milton Train Station, Inc., the Hamlet of Milton Association and many other civic and athletic organizations and non-profits, to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

As we move into the New Year, we are pleased to note that we have finished negotiations and secured new 5 year contracts for our Police and Dispatch, Highway and Water Departments. Even with additional pressures and reduced revenues we were able to complete a budget that still comes under the 2% threshold established by the State. With the beginning of vaccinations, we have hope that we can, slowly, resume a more normal routine. Some of the projects we will move forward for 2021 are:

- Completion of the Milton Train Station Park
- Grading and landscaping of the Sands Ave. portion of the Milton Landing Park
- Completion of the South Pier Restoration at Milton Landing
- Improvements and a safe gated crossing at the Dock Road Railroad Crossing – funded by the State and CSX
- Rehabilitating the old TOMVAC building into the new Skartados Community and Recreation Center
- A de-chlorination system for the Milton Sewer District
- New sidewalks for the Milton Main Street
- A Historical Cultural Resources Survey- funded by a State grant
- Expanded shoulders along Western and Plattekill Avenues from the hamlet of Marlboro to the High School

Because we are always looking to alleviate the burden on our taxpayers, most, if not all of our projects are funded with the help of grant monies we reclaim for our Community.

This past year has tested our mettle. We've learned many lessons and found where we are strong and where we need to focus more work. Through it all, I have been most impressed with people's kindness and willingness to change, especially when it means helping others. I have also learned that, if we all work together, we can accomplish much. My thanks, again, to my fellow Town Board members, our amazing staff, our hard working Departments and all our fellow elected officials for keeping the Town of Marlborough safe and prosperous.

Sincerely,
Al Lanzetta