

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 2019

Present: Mayor Montreuil
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino
Trustee Coppola
Trustee Pallisco
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department
Janet Bevers, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent: Trustee Burger

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following a Special Use Public Hearing. The Pledge was recited at this hearing.

Mayor Montreuil introduced Elaine Miller and Jana Goldenberg from Plane Sense. They provided an overview of their organization and the efforts taken to date to help mitigate air plane traffic over our community. Ms. Miller provided data to show the high volume of air traffic over New Hyde Park into Runway 22L at J F Kennedy Airport; she spoke about the health problems associated with continued exposure to noise, and explained how a new satellite system called NextGen is enabling planes to fly at lower altitudes, in denser air space, and at more frequent intervals. Ms. Goldenberg spoke about the status of legislation pending in the Senate that seeks to mitigate air traffic density over our communities; and she spoke about a software program called Airnoise.io that makes filing air traffic complaints very fast and easy. Ms. Miller and Ms. Goldenberg urged all residents to file complaints, get involved, and be part of the solution. Mayor Montreuil thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Goldenberg for the informative presentation and thanked them for their hard work and determination over the past several years to alleviate the high volume of air traffic over New Hyde Park.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from May 9, 2019 were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Pallisco, the Board Minutes from May 16, 2019 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Block Party Applications:

Saturday, August 10 (rain date August 11) on South 12th Street between 6th Avenue and Stewart Avenue from 10 am- 11 pm. **Approved.**

Car Wash Application:

Saturday, August 10 from 9 am – 3 pm. NHP Memorial Romanettes. **Approved.**

Landscaper License Renewals: Approved.

Jose Landscaping, 167 Dikeman Street, Hempstead
Jose & Sons Landscaping Service, 94-19 210th Street, Queens Village
A & R Landscaping & Home Improvement, 3121 Roxbury Road, Oceanside

Tr. Coppola:

Little League

The annual boys and girls Williamsport All Star games begin next week at Nuzzi Field.

Fire Department

The Department received approximately 543 calls in the past 6 months. Seven of the calls were rescue related.

The Tin House on S. 12th Street is functioning and delivery of a mini pumper is expected soon. The south side has emergency coverage.

Auxiliary Police

Deputy Inspector John Concannon reported that Unit #212 continues its community patrols and has also covered a number of County and Local details including the North Hempstead Fire Works event, the Memorial Day Parade, the NHP Road Runners event; etc. The Unit will be on duty at Katie's Run Fundraiser on Sunday, June 23rd.

Larcenies and car break-ins continue to occur. Residents were reminded to keep car and house doors and windows locked. If you see something suspicious, call 911. Tr. Coppola added that Deputy Inspector Concannon and his Unit Members are the eyes and ears for the Nassau County Police. They do a great job for this community.

Nassau County Police

Phone scams continue and the elderly are the biggest targets. Residents are urged to be aware and to caution their parents and/or elderly relatives/friends. The Nassau County Clerk also reports a telephone scan that attempts to obtain social security numbers. An incident was recently reported involving a car that approached two children in front of their house. A parent was close by and foiled anything further.

A letter was recently sent to the new Commander of the 3rd Precinct inviting him to attend an upcoming Board Meeting. More details to follow once a date is established.

Tr. Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

The next scheduled meeting is July 10th. The hearing will be cancelled because no applications have been submitted.

Architectural Review Board

The following case was heard on June 5th:

- 402 Brown Place – an application was granted to construct additions to the first and second floor with interior alterations.

The next hearing is scheduled to be held on July 10th. To date, no applications have been submitted.

Cultural Commission

The Katie's Run Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, June 23rd beginning at 9 am. Registration and dinner will be held Friday night, 6 pm at the Elks Club located on Lakeville Road. The run/walk begins the NHP Funeral Home on Lakeville Road and will conclude in Memorial Park. It's a fun time for a great cause. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Tr. Pallisco for bringing Plane Sense to the meeting tonight.

Tr. Squicciarino:

Clerk's Office

Some of the revenue received this month:

- Coin meter collections - \$ 7,089
- Traffic Court Fines - \$ 32,060
- Building Court Fines - \$ 2,500

- Children's Summer Program - \$ 1,250

Park and Recreation

Registration was held yesterday for the children's summer program which begins on July 8th. There is space still available and registrations are still being accepted. The program is free to village residents. Non-residents are charged a program fee.

The first summer concert was held last night but was moved to Marcus Christ Hall due to inclement weather. The John Fogerty Project played to a full house. Maspeth Savings Bank sponsored this show and we appreciate their generosity.

On Wednesday, July 17th Shining Star, a tribute band playing the music of Earth Wind & Fire will perform at 7 pm.

On Thursday, August 15th at 7 pm, there will be a theatrical performance of Cinderella.

The Town of North Hempstead announced the grand opening of a new dog park at Michael Tully Park on June 27th at 10 am.

A Defensive Driving Class will be held at Town Hall on June 26th. There is a \$28 fee to attend and participants are eligible for a 10% discount on car insurance.

Library

There are many programs, including reading classes, crafts, etc, being held at the Hillside Public Library this summer.

Tr. Burger: Absent. In his absence, Mayor Montreuil reported the following:

Building Department

There were 20 cases heard at the June 19th Building Court. Many cases involved working without a permit and/or the illegal use of a single family home. The Building Department is acting upon complaints brought forward, investigating the matter, and bringing the homeowner to court.

There are 9 cases on the docket for the July 17th Building Court for matters involving working without a permit, property maintenance, and illegal apartments. Regarding alleged illegal apartments, residents are urged to call the Building Department if an illegal apartment is suspected. It may take some time to build a case, but the matter will be investigated and pursued.

A Special Use Hearing was held earlier tonight for 249 Jericho Turnpike.

LIRR 3rd Track Project

On Monday, the weekly conference call with 3TC was held. Some topics discussed included the horrendous traffic conditions on S. 12th Street. A lot of cars are by passing New Hyde Park Road and travelling on South 12th Street straight to Jericho Tpke, which is becoming more of a problem. These cars are not going to the LIRR station or parking locally. Some mitigation steps considered include placing "Road closed to thru traffic" signage at Stewart Avenue for northbound traffic on S. 12th Street. This has been addressed to Stantec, the engineering firm for 3TC, but it's not an easy solution. Once you plug traffic at one place, it flows elsewhere. If traffic is diverted from S. 12th Street, it will then go to South 11th or South 10th Street. South 12th Street is taking the brunt of the traffic from the closure on Covert Avenue.

The Village has requested traffic (car) counts to get current traffic data to compare it to the traffic analysis data conducted at the beginning of the EIS process and subsequent project. Recently, there was extra concern about westbound traffic on Stewart Avenue, from the Belmont Stakes, a Street Fair on Tulip Avenue, and the opening of the Floral Park Pool. This was monitored closely and a DPW employee was put on stand-by if needed. The Village was prepared, if needed, to close Stewart Avenue other than to local traffic. What was observed was not as horrendous as originally feared. Even residents on Stewart Avenue reported that eastbound traffic on Stewart Avenue seemed to be worse on weekdays during the evening rush hour. We continue to express our frustration with 3TC and this is one of many adverse impacts that we anticipated with the 3rd track project.

The Village has asked for a flashing light at Covert and 1st Avenue. Now that Covert Avenue is closed there is no need for a delayed traffic light, especially now that 1st Avenue is a detour route. We are

pressing 3TC to work with Nassau County DPW to get this done and I have reached out to the County DPW Commissioner as well this week. I have also been asking the County Commissioner for a permanent traffic light to be installed on Covert and 6th Avenue. Once Covert Avenue is re-opened, it will be a busy thoroughfare with very little traffic interruptions. This request has been escalated to the Nassau County Executive. The County has to do a traffic study before putting a traffic signal in.

As previously reported, the tracks from Floral Park to New Hyde Park are being raised approximately 5 feet. There have been reports of rocks being thrown from the tracks from either the machine rail car that tamps the gravel/rocks down under the raised tracks or from a passing LIRR commuter train. Some rocks have been found about 30 feet away from the tracks. The Village complained to 3TC about this situation, asked for resolution, and a 20 to 30 foot netting be placed down. To date, 3TC has put up netting along the decorative fence to help keep the rocks from flying. This is not resolving the issue, but it may help abate the situation.

Overall, construction on Covert Avenue is moving along well. 3TC expects to open Covert Avenue on/about October 9th and then begin work on New Hyde Park Road.

The next monthly Mayor's meeting with 3TC and the LIRR will be held next week.

The Village requested "Do Not Block Box" signage on New Hyde Park Road and 4th Avenue. This has not been done yet. This matter has been accelerated to Nassau County. The Village will continue to press for completion.

Mayor Montreuil invited public participation on issues or questions pertaining to the LIRR Mainline Project.

Resident Diane Bentivegna asked if New Hyde Park Road will be closed during construction. Mayor Montreuil explained that the plan is to keep a by-pass lane in either direction on New Hyde Park Road, shift the grade crossing to the west, and then bend the road back onto New Hyde Park Road at Plaza Avenue. 3TC had discussed a complete closure of New Hyde Park Road. The Village rejected this request because such action would be disastrous for local, truck, and bus traffic; and Covert Avenue would be overwhelmed with traffic. If New Hyde Park Road was completely closed, the closest legal truck route is Nassau Blvd, and that could only happen after construction is completed on the underpass at Nassau Blvd. 3TC claims that when Covert Avenue is finished and reopened, it can handle about 1,000 cars per hour. Before the project started, the Traffic Plan in the EIS reported that there were 500 cars per hour on Covert Avenue. To increase that volume four times over is absolutely insane. Moreover, all that traffic would come to an abrupt stop and create a deadlock situation on Jericho Tpke at Covert Avenue, Lakeville Road, Hillside Blvd, and Cherry Lane. 3TC is studying the situation and will present the Village with a traffic plan. But similar to my previous comments, we are skeptical about their traffic plans until we see what the current car counts are and compare it to the projections in the traffic analysis done prior to the start of the project. We think that closing New Hyde Park Road would be an absolute disaster.

Resident Bentivegna asked why there was no assistance by the MTA Police on June 6th when the LIRR gates were down at New Hyde Park Road and S. 12th Street from 3:30 – 6:30 pm and a very dangerous issue surfaced. Residents were not informed by 3TC or the LIRR of the problem, there were accidents, and children on bikes that didn't know where to go. There was no one there to aid residents and drivers. Mayor Montreuil agreed that although this was not a planned outage, it was an outage and created a very unfortunate, frustrating, and dangerous situation. Mayor Montreuil added that this was addressed, and will continue to be addressed with the MTA Project Director, Nassau County Police, and the MTA Police.

A resident asked the status of a traffic light at South 12th Street and Jericho Tpke. Mayor Montreuil explained that a request was made to the Nassau County DPW and to New York State and the Village is actively monitoring this situation. The traffic analysis plan in the EIS reported that the traffic lights would

be synchronized and timed-out. The resident added that cars are not adhering to the Stop Signs on 5th Avenue, 6th Avenue, and New Hyde Park Road.

Resident Bentivegna asked what residents can do to help get a greater police presence in the community. Mayor Montreuil urged residents to call 911, report the traffic problems, and attend Village Board Meetings and share observations and concerns.

A resident asked if the MOU and the Articles of Incorporation were available to review. Mayor Montreuil explained that the MOU is on the Village website. Village Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann will check the Village archive files for a copy of the Articles of Incorporation. Village Attorney Truncale also suggested calling the Secretary of State to obtain a copy of this document.

Resident Sam Khoury complained that drivers are not adhering to the Stop Sign on S. 8th Street and 2nd Avenue. This is a dangerous intersection and he asked for greater police presence. Mayor Montreuil explained that last month, the 3rd Precinct Inspector was asked to participate in an upcoming Board Meeting. In light of the issues being raised tonight, Tr. Coppola was asked will reach out to the Inspector again. Residents were advised to call 911 and the 3TC Community Outreach Hotline to raise awareness and create a record of these issues. Mayor Montreuil will also send a letter detailing these issues to Mark Roche, MTA Project Executive, and copy the Nassau County Police, MTA Police, and the NYSDOT.

Resident Michael Morrissey complained about concrete and fluids being dumped down the drains along South 5th Street; claims he sees only one rodent trap along the tracks; and asked why the MTA Police are not assisting and regulating traffic at South 12th Street and Jericho Tpke.

Resident Bess Giordano suggested a right on red at Jericho and S. 12th Street might help move traffic. Mayor Montreuil explained that visibility is limited to see on-coming traffic. The Village removed some parking meters on S. 12th Street to create space for a turn lane, but then cars still get stuck at the traffic light at Ingraham Lane.

A resident on S. 12th Street complained that the long line of traffic often blocks access to her driveway.

Resident Monica Nadasky suggested that the Auxiliary Police strategically park their unit cars on blocks where drivers are blowing through stop signs and violating traffic ordinances.

Mayor Montreuil added that the public will be notified of the date when the 3rd Precinct Commander will attend a Board Meeting, so they can address their concerns directly to him.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 18-08 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #18-32 AND #19-02**
- 19-09 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**
- 19-10 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISBURSEMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES IN PARKS DEPT. AND DPW**
- 19-11 A RESOLUTION FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR SIROS KHANALI, 106 LAKEVILLE ROAD**
- 19-12 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF (8) EIGHT PARKEON MINI METERS**

New Business:

Tr. Coppola reported that last week, the Village Board held a plaque dedication in Don Barbieri's honor with a reception for the Barbieri family. It was a special evening and Tr. Coppola thanked Janet Bevers and all those involved in organizing this event. Mayor Montreuil added that it was a special and sentimental evening.

Old Business:

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided.

Public Participation:

Resident Mr. Duhl complained about parking issues on Park Avenue and noise from the Ole Trading Post.

Resident Robert Feminella complained that the Inn at New Hyde Park is taking up available street parking for their guests. Resident Diane Bentivegna added that a party bus for the Inn has been parking on the streets and that trucks are unloading goods from the side streets instead of inside the Inn property.

Resident Bess Giordano suggested that a process be implemented for residents to contact Code Enforcement on nights, weekends, or after work hours. Mayor Montreuil agreed to discuss this further with Supt. Gannon.

Resident Sam Khoury asked for an update on Harley Davidson. Mayor Montreuil explained that the Village and its expert consultants are reviewing revisions submitted by Harley Davidson. July 19th is the deadline to respond. Once a final document is in place, a public hearing will be scheduled.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Tr. Squicciarino, seconded by Tr. Pallisco, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bevers

Research Assistant to the Board