

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
May 16, 2019

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

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:05 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Montreuil.

Minutes:

The minutes of May 9, 2019 were not completed in time to allow for review by the Board. The May 9, 2019 Minutes will be considered at the June Board Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

The New Hyde Park Lions Club was granted approval to hold the annual Lions Club Christmas Tree Fundraiser from Friday, November 29th to Wednesday, December 25th. Times of operations will be finalized at a later date.

Landscaper License Renewals: Approved.

G C & Son Landscaping, 138 Henry Street, Hempstead
Ales Landscaping, 23 Virginia Drive, Elmont

Tr. Coppola:

Little League

A meeting was held this week with the Little League President. The League has games to make up and the Board will let them use Nuzzi Field until construction begins at the DPW facility. Supt. Gannon is working to get the water line and bathroom at Nuzzi Field in working order for the League's use. Mayor Montreuil added that he also spoke to League President Grunert to confirm that the League can file a permit to use Nuzzi Field before construction begins at the DPW site.

Auxiliary Police

No one from APO Unit #212 could be here tonight. The Board was unable to attend the annual service awards and promotion ceremony last week because of the scheduled Board Meeting held that evening.

Nassau County Police

The monthly police activity report reflects that there were 11 auto accidents, 10 in the Village; 1 robbery on S. 5th Street and 1st Avenue and an arrest was made; 1 moving violation ticket; and 19 parking tickets. As previously reported and discussed, telephone scams continue and are primarily targeting senior citizens. The latest scam involves a telephone call leaving a 900-call back number. Be aware of calls that seem fishy and caution your children as well.

Fire Department

As previously reported, the annual door to door subscription drive is going on. The department asked all residents to be as generous as possible. There are emergency phone stickers and Tot Finder

stickers available in Village Hall. Residents were advised to write their home address and cross streets on the phone sticker to help relay important information reporting an emergency and instruct children not to hide under a bed or in a closet during a fire.

Tr. Pallisco:

The Spring Newsletter arrived in my mailbox today. Research Assistant Bevers was thanked for producing the 20 page Newsletter. There is a lot of information in this edition and he noted that many people in the audience tonight are reading the newsletter.

Beautification

Park Attendants planted flowers and mulched the gardens in along the Purple Heart Way in preparation of the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony on Saturday, May 25th.

Tree Committee

Supt. Gannon and the DPW team did a great job planting 50 new trees throughout the Village.

On May 16th, a ceremonial tree was planted in Memorial Park to maintain Tree City USA designation.

The Committee welcomes its newest member, Debbie Malhotra.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There were no applications filed. The next scheduled meeting is June 12th.

Architectural Review Board

The next scheduled hearing is Wednesday, June 5th.

Cultural Commission

Long and Lean Adult exercise classes end on May 30th.

Tr. Burger:

LIRR 3rd Track Project

Covert Avenue has been fully closed since April 15th.

Noise blankets and dirt coverings are in place. If something other than this is witnessed, please call the Village so it can be monitored.

The Detour Plan seems to be working well. There have been a lot of signal problems lately. Yesterday, traffic was all backed up on S. 12th Street. It was a disaster and I actually had to travel back to Floral Park, and even Floral Park was a traffic mess. The north side was backed up to Jericho Tpke, and I heard that the south side was almost backed up to Stewart Avenue. This is something that we will address in the MTA meeting tomorrow.

The traffic pattern configuration on Stewart Avenue and Covert Avenue will change as we finally received approval by Nassau County. No response yet from 3TC on when this will be implemented. We are awaiting signage. This is also something that will be addressed in the MTA meeting tomorrow. In the left lane, one barricade will be pushed back so you can make a safer turn onto Stewart Avenue. We made this adjustment, and received approval by Nassau County about two weeks ago, but are now waiting for the approved signage.

Mayor Montreuil added that the MTA Project Executive asked to meet to talk about the Detour Plan. 3TC is getting input from Covert Avenue merchants in Floral Park who are complaining of a decrease in business because of signage in the area that says Covert Avenue Crossing is closed. So there is some interest in changing the signage. The Board is very concerned about this because we are concerned that a change in signage may also alter traffic patterns, which are already bad and could be very worse. Initially, the traffic pattern Detour Plan had traffic routed up 5th Avenue from Covert Avenue. But when Supt. Gannon and I were there on the early morning of the closure, we moved the barricade back to Stewart Avenue and closed it there. The signage is protecting 5th and 6th Avenues from a lot of traffic and diverted it to Stewart Avenue and onto New Hyde Park Road. We are very interested in maintaining this in place to protect the residential streets from undo traffic. We are seeing that South 12th Street is bearing a heavy

load of traffic because of the crossing and traffic coming from the south is not going to the train station, but rather using it as a cut through to Jericho Tpke. When work begins on the New Hyde Park Road crossing and after Covert Avenue opens up, there will be a tremendous amount of traffic on Covert Avenue. In discussions with the County Executive this week, the need was reiterated again for a traffic signal at 6th Avenue and Covert Avenue, especially before Covert Avenue reopens. There is no traffic signal between 1st Avenue and Stewart Avenue, and once the Covert Avenue underpass opens, traffic will flow quite quickly. These are some of the concerns the Board has and we will stay on top of and coordinate with the MTA and 3TC. More to come as details develop.

As reported at the last meeting, we requested to the MTA and 3TC to increase the number of rodent traps between Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road. Since then, 17 traps have been laid along Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road, bringing the total to 108 traps along the entire stretch. All residents are asked to place trash in cans and not leave trash outside in plastic bags.

Some utility relocation work continues on New Hyde Park Road. No lane closures are expected while Covert Avenue is closed. If residents see action or lane closures on New Hyde Park Road, call the Village and 3TC hotline. Help be our eyes and ears.

Design plans for S. 12th Street have not been finalized yet. We know this road will be closed and there will be a pedestrian walk way that goes underneath the tracks, similar to the one in Stewart Manor. The walk way has been moved to the east side which is closer to the tracks and the platform. Based on a resident's suggestion, the Village has requested that a bicycle lane be included in the plan. There will also be a handicap ramp.

The Fire Department Commissioner compiled a punch list of outstanding items. Supt. Gannon is working to survey the items. Resident Ed Powers reported that the trench in the street is starting to undermine.

The 30% design of the new electrical substation was expected on April 26th but is now being re-designed. The 60% design is expected on July 2nd. Mayor Montreuil added that this is the most complicated aspect of this mega project. The MTA tried to acquire the property next door but the property was sold to another party. The Board is anxious to see the plans.

The building at 115 New Hyde Park Road has been taken down and the materials are being shipped out for recycling. Supt. Gannon added that ultimately, this will be a surface level parking lot with 100 – 125 parking spaces and a commuter drop off area.

Veterans Affairs

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Saturday, May 25th beginning at 10:00 am. The parade begins at Lakeville Road, travels on Jericho Tpke to Village Hall for a brief ceremony. The parade will continue on New Hyde Park Road to Memorial Park for a longer ceremony. Research Assistant Bevers has helped to coordinate this event. The official program is completed. We ask all residents to attend the parade, support our veterans and honor those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Mayor Montreuil added that it is very important that this community continues the tradition of a Memorial Day Parade. He added that Memorial Day is a very solemn day and is the one day that we as a community honor the 56 young men who left New Hyde Park to defend our Country and never returned. Please make some time to come, line the parade route, and/or attend the ceremony at Village Hall and/or in Memorial Park. Let's not forget these young men who gave their lives for us.

The VFW/American Legion is looking for new members. Residents can contact me or the VFW/American Legion if you are interested or know someone who is interested in joining.

Building Department

Building Court was held on May 15th. There were 14 cases heard on matters ranging from working without permits, to illegal use of single family home, to property maintenance issues.

The next Building Court will be held on Wednesday, June 19th. There are 21 cases on the docket to be heard on matters ranging from illegal use of a single family home to working without permits, etc. Mayor Montreuil asked how many of these cases are specifically for illegal use of a single family home.

Tr. Burger detailed that there were three cases on the May 15th docket and that there are five cases on the May 16th docket. Mayor Montreuil reiterated that in May and June, there are eight cases of alleged illegal apartments that the Village is bringing to or has brought to Court. Mayor Montreuil asked residents to call the Building Department if they suspect an illegal apartment. The Building Department will investigate, build a case, and if enough evidence exists, a summons will be issued and the case brought to Court.

There was a Special Use Hearing held earlier tonight for 105 Lakeville Road.

The Department issued 13 permits from May 9th to May 16th.

Tr. Squicciarino:

Clerk's Office

The following items were received:

- Coin meter collections - \$10,997
- Parking permits collections - \$ 600
- Street openings and permits - \$10,387

As previously reported, NY State has restored \$148,000 in AIM Funding to the Village. This money, which was not included the budget, may be used to purchase muni-meters for LIRR voucher parking.

The Spring Newsletter is being delivered this week. It is also available on our website.

Park and Recreation

The gazebo has been sand blasted and painting will be done tomorrow. Fresh mulch has been put down and some fence repairs done.

The following two shows are booked for the summer concert series at Memorial Park:

Wednesday, June 19 th	7:30 pm	John Fogerty Project – sponsored by Maspeth Bank
Thursday, August 15 th	7:00 pm	Cinderella, a theatrical production

Schools

The school budget and library budget vote takes place on Tuesday, May 21st. The school budget remains within the tax cap. Everyone is encouraged to vote.

Congratulations to the NHP Memorial High School Band members who recently performed on Good Morning America.

Library

There are a number of programs and events being held at the Hillside Public Library. On Sunday, May 19th, the Golden Tone Orchestra will perform a free concert.

Sections of the Northern State Parkway to the Meadowbrook Parkway will be paved in the summer. In spring 2020, Hillside Avenue will be paved from the city line to Glen Cove Road.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

The new street sweeper has been delivered and it is expected to be in operation sometime next week. The old sweeper had gone beyond its useful life. For a time, the Village was borrowing a sweeper from Floral Park Village. We are happy that we now have our own equipment. Unfortunately, these machines take a beating, are prone to breaking down, and require high maintenance.

The DPW Superintendent has reviewed the architect's first schematic design of the new DPW garage with his team to see how it fits the operation and to ensure it will provide the proper infrastructure for the crew to deliver the municipal services we all depend upon. The present facility, built the same time the Village was incorporated, has out-lived its useful life. Funding for this project will come from the State. This is state taxes that we all pay that will come back to New Hyde Park. The schematic design, which

will be put on the website, is more attractive and makes more efficient use of the existing footprint. The Board considered utilizing more real estate by encroaching onto Stewart Avenue. But doing so brings us into Floral Park, and to land owned by the County, and would involve dealing with different utilities that have underground services. The Board realized that this is too complicated and too costly so we are moving ahead with the original plans. We will need to encroach upon the ball field at Nuzzi Field in order to maintain operations at DPW. So the Board will include in the grant application a request to obtain funding for rehabilitation of the ball field and park. Village Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann has provided a draft application for the Board to review and send to the State for their input and feedback. The State may have some comments to make and we will address those comments with the assistance of our grant writer. The Board is excited to see this project moving along.

Tr. Squicciarino added that the Village is getting a new DPW facility that will cost millions of dollars, a new park, a new playground, and a new baseball field fully funded by the State. This is due to the hard work and resilience that Mayor Montreuil had in negotiations with the Governor. This is tax dollars that we don't have to spend or charge our residents in order to get a new DPW facility and a new park. The current DPW facility is in very bad shape and poor condition.

Public Information

Mayor Montreuil reported that the Village is organizing Community Day in Memorial Park on Saturday, September 14th. The Board felt it would be irresponsible to close down Jericho Tpk with all the construction going on at the railroad and with all the street closures and traffic diversions taking place. The Board did not want to add to the potential chaos. So, we will take the party to Memorial Park. The Village is delighted to have sponsorship from Northwell Health and to have musical entertainment from His Boy Elroy sponsored by Katie McBride Foundation and New Hyde Park Funeral Home. We will also have merchants and community groups. Let's hope for great weather.

The Special Use Application Hearing held on April 30th for a 4 story apartment building has been suspended. The Board wants to take a broader look at what the community wants to do with the area around 2nd and 3rd Avenue. There are many pressing issues and projects like the LIRR Project and the construction of a new DPW garage, so the Board will soon begin to develop a public input process to talk about what we want to do with 2nd and 3rd Avenues. The Board feels that we have an interesting opportunity to use State money to begin to plan for the future.

As previously reported, the 3rd Track Mainline Project is a design build process, so changes are made as the project goes along. If complications arise with utility lines or technical issues, design changes are made. This is one of the reasons why we insisted that the Village continues to have a seat at the table and have a say in how things evolve. And, this is also the reason why the Village engaged an engineering firm to review all the designs.

RESOLUTIONS:

18-159 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #18-30

**18-160 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN
BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**18-161 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN
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Old Business:

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided.

New Business: There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Michael Morrissey asked when the traffic light on 1st Avenue and Covert Avenue, and S. 12th Street and Jericho Tpke would be adjusted and why is it taking so long. Tr. Burger explained that the issue has to be run through Nassau County and NY State. The Board is looking into a four way blinking red light on Covert Avenue. It's a process that is being addressed every week and we are trying to push the issue. There are concerns with adjusting the light at South 12th Street because of concerns of blocking traffic on Jericho Tpke. Mayor Montreuil added that the issue will be discussed with the MTA Project Executive at the MTA meeting tomorrow.

Resident Patricia Keating asked if there is anything residents can do to help get the traffic light adjusted at S. 12th Street and Jericho Tpke. Tr. Burger explained that since this is a state road, the request has to go to the State and the process may take longer. Supt. Gannon added that this issue is brought up at every meeting but the County and State have their protocols to follow. Mayor Montreuil reported that there are 2,200 backlogged requests in Nassau County Traffic Department for various traffic control devices. The Village will continue to escalate the urgency of these requests. The request to adjust the traffic signal at Covert and First Avenues should be an easy fix because there is no traffic on Covert Avenue at this time. Traffic on South 12th Street heading to Jericho Tpke is also extremely annoying because when you make the right hand turn, you get stuck at Ingraham Lane. This is very disconcerting.

Ms. Keating asked if there was some way to use this experience to help plan for the impact once New Hyde Park Road is under construction. Tr. Burger explained that there is only so much that can be planned ahead. If you look at the Detour Plan that you see today, it is nothing like the plan that was originally proposed. A lot of modifications were made to the original plan with 3TC. We are making adjustments as we go, just like on Stewart and Covert Avenues. We actually provided a lot of input. We live here and we know the traffic patterns. The back up on S. 12th Street caused by the traffic light at Ingraham Lane was not originally realized, so this is an adjustment that will be made.

Mayor Montreuil added that the Village removed some parking spaces at S. 12th Street and Jericho Tpke to help create a turn lane and allow more lines of traffic to stack up on S. 12 Street.

Resident Ed Powers reported that the right lane on 2nd Avenue and S. 12th Street by the flower box and fire hydrant needs to be cleared because you can't turn. Mayor Montreuil stated that the Village is trying to get use of the World Courier parking lot at S. 12th Street. The Village needs more parking spaces on the north side of the tracks and the Village can offer World Courier space on the south side, closer to where the World Courier facility is located. Tr. Burger added that double parkers and commuter pickups at S. 12th Street and the railroad makes the traffic situation even worse along 2nd Avenue.

Resident Thomas Puleo, 122 S. 11th Street suggested that the Board set provisions to the overlay district law to detail what the Village wants, and what it doesn't want, so we don't waste everyone's time and upset the community when considering applications that don't fit in the Village. Mayor Montreuil replied that the Board wants to have broad based sessions to get all these good ideas on this topic and incorporate those ideas into the code.

Resident Bess Giordano, 500 6th Avenue, asked where the materials are going to be placed once brought into the work site. Mayor Montreuil explained that the trucks will travel down 5th and 6th Avenue, Premier Blvd, and some of the other streets, unload the materials onto the right of way, and then the trucks in the right of way will take the material to the build point. The Mayor explained that Floral Park worked out an entry point to the tracks in one of their ball parks within right of way, so Floral Park is allowing the MTA to use the ball field to park their trucks on and to unload, etc. There is only a certain linear distance the railroad can transport the materials as they build the wall down the line. So, the MTA needs multiple entry points along the way. Mayor Montreuil explained that the MTA has estimated there will be 30 trucks a

day travelling into and then out of the Village each day – a total of 60 trucks a day, which breaks down to a truck every 12 minutes travelling a Village road. On dead-end streets, the truck will have to back up to exit. Mayor Montreuil added that at the last Mayor's meeting with the MTA, those in charge of building the wall said that they were pleasantly surprised that they didn't need as many truck deliveries to construct the wall at the first location as originally thought. So the Board hopes that this will be the case here in the Village.

Mayor Montreuil remarked that since the wall construction hasn't begun yet, the Village has not seen a soil sample from the right of way. The Board has been asking for a soil sample, but it hasn't been taken yet at the right of way because construction hasn't begun there. Tr. Burger added that there is a 6 month requirement by DEC that when you take the soil sample, construction must begin within a 6 month window or the soil test must be re-taken.

Mayor Montreuil reported that there will be substantial track outages as work is done. There will be no mainline service from Floral Park to Hicksville on the following weekends: June 22; June 29; September 7; and September 14. We will post this info on the Village website.

Ms. Giordano inquired about the lifting of the tracks. Tr. Burger explained that the tracks will be gradually raised approximately 18 inches, beginning in Floral Park, which will result in the tracks raised 5 feet at Covert Avenue.

Ms. Giordano commented that truck deliveries to the Palazzolo business on Lakeville Road used to block an entire lane of traffic. Ms. Giordano expressed concern that this pattern doesn't continue with the potential new business at this site. Mayor Montreuil explained that the Palazzolo business is gone and the Board will consider traffic issues with this new application.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer, 306 S. 9th Street stated her opposition to Local Law 195.3.2 and explained that the overlay district borders her property. She asked if the re-zoning includes residential properties as well as commercial property. Mayor Montreuil explained that the overlay district as written anticipates mixed use. Ms. Huemmer asked why she didn't receive a registered letter about the public hearing regarding the overlay district. Village Attorney Truncale explained that there is no mailing requirement for a public hearing on a local law. Once an applicant seeks to develop a property, then notice would have to be given as part of the radius requirement. Ms. Huemmer stated she feels that this notification process is unfair to residents. She also stated that no one is going to drive down 2nd and 3rd avenue to find a business. No one will see it.

Resident Robert Femminella, 128 S. 4th Street commented that there are three large buildings that go a block long, so its residents along this area who would be the most inconvenienced with the new overlay district code. This new overlay district code means that all the buildings in the overlay district could all be mixed-used buildings. Yet, none of the residents were informed. This is a problem in my area, and especially for new residents who don't have a clue to what's going on. This is a problem. Mayor Montreuil replied that there will be a public engagement process to vet this issue and detail what New Hyde Park really wants. But the Board had an opportunity to secure funding from the state for the potential of developing projects like this.

Mr. Femminella asked why the industrial properties along 2nd and 3rd Avenue can't just fix up their properties. He stated that they are business owners and part of the community. He asked if homeowners have to abide by the Village rules, why don't industrial owners? Mayor Montreuil explained that industrial owners must abide by Village code and if not, the Village pursues the owners for property maintenance violations.

A resident suggested that the Board come up with a Council of Community members to help marketing and publication information. To date, he said he felt that information and messaging has not been done appropriately. Develop a partnership with the community and define the process and market it across the community. Mayor Montreuil explained that this is precisely what the Board plans to do. There are a lot of parallel work projects going on so the Board is trying to concentrate on these things first. This is a very important strategic issue for New Hyde Park and the future of New Hyde Park. It involves and needs public engagement because we are New Hyde Park. The five Board members are New Hyde Park residents; we are your neighbors; and we all have the same sentiment and love of New Hyde Park. The Board has seen other communities getting a lot of money from the state, and we want to get state money and then figure out how best to use it and what to do with it as a community. Tr. Burger added that we need the community's involvement to help develop a master plan.

Resident Diane Bentivegna asked if the Board will accept any more applications for this area and she asked the Board to repeal the law. Mayor Montreuil indicated that the Board will not accept any more applications.

Mr. Powers commented that the language in the overlay district code is too broad and lacks detail. He asked the Board to repeal Section 195.3.2. Mayor Montreuil explained that the code was written broadly in order to set the path to get the government funding. He added that nothing is off the table but that there are implications that might put our funding at risk.

Ms. Bentivegna stated that if the Board repeals Section 195.3.2, it would show a good faith effort. She added the community wants to partner with the Board.

Village Attorney Truncale explained that the current law is 100% discretionary on the part of the Board. So if an application comes forward, the Board does not have to hear an application or approve it. The Board wanted to procure funding for public amenities in association with a revitalization project, tie it into the 3rd Track Project scheme, and develop a logical way to use the industrial zone. The Board was trying to work with the state, show we have a plan in place and where we can use the money. The Board has heard the public and has suspended the application and are committed to working with the public. Village Attorney Truncale added that he is working to get clarification on the impact to state funding if the law is repealed; the Board has suspended this application; and the Board is not accepting any other applications. Mayor Montreuil added that the overlay code was not intended to be the end all. But the turnover of the 7th Senate seat was an issue for the Board and added a heightened urgency to maintain the revenue stream.

Ms. Bentivegna asked the Board for its commitment to hold this law in abeyance, and if a change arises, to reach out to residents in a way we all agree. Mayor Montreuil agreed that information will be provided on the website, a robo call, etc. Tr. Squicciarino stated that the Village Clerk is researching a way to expand SWIFT911 to include e-mail or text notifications. A resident suggested collecting resident e-mail addresses via the annual tax bill.

Mr. Femminella asked if the state funding could be used for street lights instead of development of the overlay district.

Mayor Montreuil reported that Jack Martins recently organized a meeting to discuss Energy Performance Contract, which are projects that basically pay for itself. This limits the amount of debt a Village will incur.

Mr. Femminella expressed concern about the pesticides the railroad is using in the traps being set along the tracks. He asked that information be obtained and disseminated before it's used. Mayor Montreuil stated that he will add this topic to the MTA meeting agenda tomorrow.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Pallisco, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bevers

Research Assistant to the Board