

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

Present: Mayor Montreuil
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino
Trustee Coppola
Trustee Pallisco
Trustee Burger
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Janet Bevers, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent: Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Montreuil. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Zachary Zabatta, a Village resident, high school student, and Eagle Scout candidate who tragically passed away while on vacation in Iceland with his family this week.

Tr. Burger added that the Zabatta family are personal friends. Zachary is a member of Boy Scout Troop #298, a fantastic scout whose paperwork for Eagle Scout designation was submitted on October 11th, prior to the family leaving for vacation. This was a terrible and tragic car accident which claimed the life of Zachary and injured his parents and his two sisters. The family remains in a hospital in Iceland. There will be a special Mass at Holy Spirit Church on Sunday at 9:30 am for the Zabatta family. The family will need a lot of support and assistance to get through their recovery and this horrible tragedy. A “GoFundMe” page has been established for the family and there are plans to create a scholarship fund in his honor.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from October 3, 2019 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

A request was granted for the NHP Republican Club to use Marcus Christ Hall on Monday, October 21st from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Tr. Coppola:

Supt. Gannon and the DPW crew were thanked for promptly removing a tree that had fallen on North 12th Street between Whittier and Lowell.

Auxiliary Police

Commander John Concannon provided a brief report on Unit #212 activity. The unit will patrol the community on Halloween. Three unit cars are out of service and awaiting repair from fleet services. Tr. Coppola thanked all members of Unit #212 for their service to this community. Residents were reminded to lock their car doors, even when parked in the driveway, and to call 911 if you see something unusual. The police prioritize the calls for dispatch. Tr. Squicciarino added that recently there have been a rash of burglaries in North New Hyde Park.

Nassau County Police

On October 7th, POP Officers from the 3rd Precinct held a Scam Prevention workshop for residents at Marcus Christ Hall. Research Assistant Bevers was thanked for organizing and promoting the workshop. Two sessions were held that day at 11:30 am and 7:30 pm. The morning session was well attended. There was a lot of interaction, good questions, and discussion at each session.

Fire Department

October is Fire Prevention month. Tomorrow, the NHP Fire Department will be at the Hillside Grade School. And, on Sunday, October 27th, the public is invited to NHP FD Headquarters from 11:00 – 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, meet the fire personnel, see the equipment, and learn more about fire prevention.

Tr. Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

On October 9th, the following case was heard:

- 41 South 17th Street – an application was granted to construct a full second story addition, to square up the first story below, and to add a second bay to the existing one car garage.

The next hearing is November 13th and there is one case scheduled on the docket:

- 300 1st Avenue – an applicant is seeking approval to close an open garage permit that was issued in December 13, 1972. At that time, there was a minimum required setback of 3 feet from the property lines. The survey shows a setback of 1.7”.

Architectural Review Board

On October 2nd, the applicant for 1208 Jericho Tpke. re-appeared before the Board after the Building Supt. observed changes to the previously approved plans. The Board denied the proposed changes and is requiring a new submission for review.

The next scheduled hearing will be on November 6th and to date, one case is on the docket.

- 1208 Jericho Tpke. – the applicant will re-appear with a new submission for review showing proposed changes. This is a commercial building located next to the Olde Trading Post.

Noise Abatement

TVASNAC continues to meet at the Town of Hempstead on a monthly basis, usually the last Monday of every month. The public is encouraged to attend. PlaneSense4LI has a lot of information on their website regarding air traffic and noise abatement. There is a bill sitting on Governor Cuomo’s desk that will require the Department of Environmental Conservation and Transportation to conduct a study of the environment, noise, and human health impacts caused by air traffic at JFK and LaGuardia Airports.

Beautification

Fall plantings and decorations have been completed in the pocket parks, center lane medians and planters on Jericho Turnpike and Village Hall gardens. For past 2 years, the Village has been purchasing new holiday lights. We have been phasing out the old wreathes with new LED holiday lights. The NHP Chamber and the Lions Club have been major contributors.

Tr. Burger:

Building Department

Village Court was held on October 16th and there were 12 building matters on the docket involving property maintenance, illegal use of a single family home, working without permits, and illegally parked cars.

The next Village Court will be held on November 20th and there are 9 cases on the docket involving illegal use of single family home, working without permits and property maintenance issues.

There were 16 permits issued from October 2nd to October 16th.

LIRR

- The opening of Covert Avenue occurred on Saturday, October 12th. Although there are still punch list items, this was a major milestone. Residents have reported that traffic has eased up a bit on 12th Street. Village officials were present Saturday morning. NHP Fire Department trucks went through the underpass first and

all equipment fit. Mayor Montreuil, Tr. Pallisco, Supt Gannon and I continue to compile a punch list items for 3TC including driveway repairs, grading issues from curb to street, and fence repairs.

- Road stripping was delayed due to the heavy rain this week.
- Discussions continue about turning Wayne Avenue into a one way street (westbound). A survey will be mailed out to residents on Wayne Avenue to get input.
- A stop sign was installed on Covert and 6th Avenue and that seems to be helping. Mayor Montreuil is still working to get Nassau County to install a traffic light in this area but the County first needs to conduct a traffic study. In order to get correct data, the Village will have to bag the stop sign for the length of the study.
- Construction on New Hyde Park Road has been delayed from November 18th into sometime next year. No specific date has been set. This will be discussed further at the next 3TC meeting scheduled for October 23rd.
- Clinch Road is now closed for left hand turns and this has improved traffic flow on New Hyde Park Road.
- Temporary platforms are in place. The Board is waiting to see final design renderings of the platform, to include how long, how many cars it can accommodate, and the time frame it will be utilized.
- The Traffic Detour Plan for New Hyde Park Road was completed in February 2019. Lessons learned from Covert Avenue will be considered and factored into this plan. 12th Street continues to be monitored because this street will get congested again once work begins on New Hyde Park Road. The Board continues to work with 3TC on mitigation efforts such as installing speed bumps, lane modifications on the north end of S. 12 Street, installing traffic signals, and implementing “no thru trucking”.
- A sign is being ordered by the DPW Supt to “Do Not Block” the intersection of New Hyde Park Road and 4th Avenue.
- Residents should continue to contact 3TC Outreach with issues or complaints. Currently, there is a lot of work being done on the temporary platforms, the right of way, and the sound barriers.
- Road repair/repaving on Wayne Avenue and the surrounding roads will not be done until the main construction in this area has been completed.
- The electrical substation is still in conceptual design. Construction is expected to begin in September 2020.

Veterans Affairs

- The Post held its birthday party today. As previously mentioned, new membership is needed. Detailed information was provided in the Summer Newsletter.
- Veteran’s Day Ceremony will be held on November 11th at 11 am at Village Hall to honor all veterans. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.
- A donation box is in the lobby of Village Hall to collect items in need for veterans. Items requested include toiletries, blankets, and new clothing. The collection drive continues through early December.

Tr. Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Office

Revenue Received:

Coin Meters	- \$10,869 (up from previous months)
Insurance Recovery	- \$12,564 (traffic accident at the Olde Trading Post for broken light, meter and tree)
Traffic Court Fines	- \$40,353 (higher than usual)
Voucher Parking	- \$21,840 (higher than previous month)
A, R & B Parking	- \$ 90
Village Taxes	- \$ 5,943
Penalty Interest	- 561
Building Permits	- \$ 8,556

Long and Lean Adult exercise class continues.

Election Day is November 5th at Marcus Christ Hall.

PSE&G mailed out a notice on service upgrades and tree trimming being done in this area.

Upcoming events at the Town of North Hempstead:

- Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Event on Saturday, October 26th at 11 am at Michael J. Tully Dog Park
- A STOP event will be held on October 19 & 20 from 9:00 – 3:00 at North Hempstead Beach Park

Upcoming events at the Town of Hempstead:

- Passport Services, Senior ID, and Child Safety event on Saturday, October 19th from 10 am – 3 pm at the Garden City Library

Library

The Hillside Public Library is seeking Halloween donations to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Items will be accepted through October 20th.

Mayor Montreuil:

DPW

Supt. Gannon is selecting sites to install the new Muni Meters. The Muni Meter system will eventually phase out the current voucher parking program. Delivery of the Muni Meters is expected on November 22nd. Tr. Squicciarino added that the Muni-Meters do not need to be placed on a concrete pad, which will be helpful in case the machines have to be moved to another site.

RESOLUTIONS:

19-47 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-11

19-48 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES

Old Business:

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided.
- Harley Davidson Application – At the last work session, the Board and our consultants reviewed the latest Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submitted by the applicant. A public hearing on the DEIS will be held on November 21, 2019, at 7:30 pm to hear comments about the DEIS from the public. The DEIS is available on the Village website and a paper copy is available for viewing at the Village Clerk's Office. See if it addresses concerns you may have about the application. If it does not, come to the public hearing and address your concerns. The public comment period will remain open until December 2nd. After comments are presented at the public hearing, the applicant will have to address those comments and submit responses to the Village Board. This will be an on-going process for a while. Residents were advised to review the DEIS and if it doesn't answer your questions or concerns, come to the public hearing. .

Public Participation:

Resident Rosemary Hudson reported that the litter baskets on north and south side of Jericho Tpke. are a disgrace. The people living in the apartments above are dumping all their household trash into the litter baskets. Also, some receptacles are missing tops and some are missing the actual basket. Mayor Montreuil commented that this has been a problem for some time and has been a challenge to resolve. Ms. Hudson also commented that there are light poles and trees missing in the Village.

Resident Bess Giordano reported that the new 4-way Stop Sign on Covert and 6th Avenue is working well to calm traffic. She suggested installing a sign prior to 6th Avenue to caution drivers of the new Stop Sign ahead.

Ms. Giordano commented that she remains suspicious of prior MTA/LIRR assurances that there will be no additional freight trains traveling on the Mainline.

A resident complained about the inability to access New Hyde Park Road from the side streets in and around the Road School. She asked the Board to be pro-active in fixing the problem now, before construction begins on New Hyde Park Road. There are a lot of kids coming in and out of the school. The speeding traffic, the blocked intersections, and the congestion is becoming a safety issue, especially between 4 pm and 7 pm.

Resident Diane Bentivegna asked if the property owner has applied for or is already receiving tax abatements or a tax incentive from the Nassau County IDA for the proposed development. Mayor Montreuil suggested that she ask this question at the public hearing. The Village is not in a position of knowing if the owner or applicant has filed for a tax incentive at the County IDA or a tax certiorari.

A new resident on Lewis Avenue complained about excessive airplane noise and traffic. Tr. Pallisco suggested that she go to PlaneSense4LI website for more information, and he urged her to call Gov. Cuomo's office and ask him to sign new legislation that would require an environmental study be done on the dangers of air traffic noise and pollution at our local airports. Mayor Montreuil added that construction on Runway 13 is going on through November. So, this area is bearing a little more air traffic than normal.

Mr. & Mrs. Shah, 107 Covert Avenue, complained about 3 unsightly black barrels placed in front of their home and his sidewalk has become much smaller. Tr. Burger commented that the barrels are required for safety purposes, is something being discussed with 3TC further. The Shah's also reported that 3TC has not repaired their driveway and has not responded to their repeated calls/e-mails. The Shah's asked if they should hire a contractor to fix the driveway or wait for 3TC to do the repairs. Mayor Montreuil suggested they discuss and document with 3TC before doing anything.

A resident reported seeing drivers speeding and making U-turns on Covert Avenue in front of the tunnel.

A resident reported the difficulty in crossing Covert Avenue by foot because of limited visibility of on-coming traffic. Mayor Montreuil commented that pedestrians need to cross at 1st Avenue. On the south side, pedestrians have to walk to 6th Avenue to cross. But this situation will improve once 2nd and 3rd Avenue is open. The Board is also considering putting a cross walk at Covert and 6th Avenue.

A resident reported that visibility is limited as you travel through the underpass and that tree limbs are blocking visibility to the traffic signs.

Resident Sam Khoury asked if 3TC will receive the quarterly bonus incentive even though punch list items remain. Mayor Montreuil explained that since 3TC met the deadline to open Covert Avenue, they will receive the bonus incentive. The Mayor urged residents to complete the Community Scorecard.

A resident asked if the parking lot on New Hyde Park Road will eventually be available to residents. Mayor Montreuil explained that the MTA wants to use it for a commuter lot, but the Village is trying to negotiate for the land so it can be used for resident parking. In the meantime, the Village is seeking ways to find more resident parking spaces. The Board is working with World Courier on a possible land swap so the Village can use their lot on the north side for resident parking. At the next MTA/LIRR meeting, Mayor Montreuil will discuss having the LIRR pave the empty lot at 120 Covert Avenue so the Village can use it for resident parking.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Burger, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bevers

Research Assistant to the Board