

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 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  
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

**Absent:** Trustee Burger

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:11 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Trustee Coppola.

Mayor Montreuil announced that Tr. Rainer Burger was not in attendance tonight because he is on reserve duty with the Air Force.

Mayor Montreuil also introduced and welcomed Lara Verbanac, a new staff member in the Village Clerk's office.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from October 17, 2019 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

- A request was granted for the Citizens Campaign for the Environment to solicit from November 11, 2019 through Tuesday, December 16, 2019, Monday through Friday, from 4 pm – 7 pm. This approval stipulates that evening solicitation must conclude by 7:00 pm.
- A request was granted for the St. Baldrick's Fundraising event to be held in Marcus Christ Hall on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 4 pm – 7 pm.
- A request was granted for Boy Scout Troop #298 to use Marcus Christ Hall to hold a Court of Honor Ceremony and Holiday party on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 3 pm – 9 pm.

**Tr. Coppola:**

**Auxiliary Police**

Members of APO Unit #212 were thanked for their service and the work they do for this community.

**Nassau County Police**

Residents were reminded the importance of locking car doors, even if parked in the driveway. And residents were advised to call 911 if they see suspicious or unusual activity.

**Fire Department**

Last week, daylight savings time ended. This is a good time to check batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors. New detectors come equipped with a 10-year battery, but older models need to have the batteries replaced more frequently. As the colder weather approaches, heating systems will be activated, so it's important to check that the chimney is clear and working properly. Finally, residents were informed that it can be a fire hazard to park a car on a pile of dry leaves.

**Little League**

The league is not currently in session.

**Tr. Pallisco:**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

The following case heard at the November 13<sup>th</sup> hearing:

- 300 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue – an application to close an open garage permit that was issued on 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’ from both property lines.

**Architectural Review Board**

The following cases were presented at the November 6<sup>th</sup> hearing:

- 1208 Jericho Tpke. – this application was previously approved and permits were issued. However, the Building Supt. asked the applicant to appear again because the construction underway did not correspond to the approved plans. The applicant and the architect presented new design possibilities for the building, a Fire Restoration Office. An agreement was reached with conditions that include submitting a new drawing incorporating the agreed-upon elements. Additionally, the materials must also be submitted to Building Supt. Gannon and Chairman Garvin.
- 812 North 9<sup>th</sup> Place – this application was previously approved. The applicant re-appeared before the Board to propose a change in brick color from Golden Harvest to Colonial Rose. The request was denied because the new color didn’t have sufficient contrast to the existing color. The homeowner was asked to select another color that will create a more pleasing appearance. The new color will be presented to Supt. Gannon and Board Chairman Garvin.

Long and Lean Adult exercise will end on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Newsletter is being printed and should be delivered to residents next week.

**Noise Abatement**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, the Town of North Hempstead will hold an informational meeting to discuss the process involved in the Town and local Villages pursuing legal action against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to alleviate the excessive noise and pollution caused by low flying planes approaching and departing JFK and LaGuardia airports. Mayor Montreuil added that he attended two meetings with Mayors regarding filing legal action against the FAA. There are two Villages that want to participate and our Village attorney has reached out to their attorneys. Mayor Montreuil explained that while the Village of New Hyde Park is impacted dramatically, the lawsuit as it looks right now, doesn’t seem like it will result in a favorable outcome for New Hyde Park or be a good use of our resources or good for our residents. So, the Village has declined to participate and instead will pursue other resources, such as working with our federal officials, to mitigate air traffic over New Hyde Park.

**Trustee Burger:** Absent. In his absence, Mayor Montreuil provided the following report:

**LIRR**

The Covert Avenue underpass has been completed. Trustees Pallisco and Burger walked the site and have compiled a punch list of open items. This punch list has been reviewed with 3TC and the LIRR and are being addressed. The Village Board will continue to monitor and follow up on these items.

A temporary platform is almost completed that brings the station closer to Covert Avenue. The current platform will be deconstructed to make room for the construction of a new 12-car platform from New Hyde Park Road to S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The intensity of activity will now shift to the west once the platform opens. Parking in the temporary lot where the storage facility was located will transfer to Covert Avenue at the site that was being used by 3TC for equipment storage. This lot will be paved and used as temporary parking to support the shift at the train station. Parking and traffic will remain an issue once work on New Hyde Park Road begins in earnest.

In two weeks, Tr. Burger and I will meet with 3TC and the MTA to review the Traffic Abatement Study. There are traffic collection instruments on our roads collecting data.

Last week, a two lane closure began on New Hyde Park Road for utilities work. The same was done on Covert Avenue in preparation of the major construction.

## **Veterans Affairs**

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. This is a very big day in New Hyde Park as we honor our veterans. All residents are asked to come to the front lawn of Village Hall. The ceremony begins at 10:45 am. It is held rain or shine.

## **Tr. Squicciarino:**

### **Village Clerk's Office**

The New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce and the NHP Lions Club each donated \$1,000 for the purchase of 10 new LED holiday lights. Tr. Pallisco added that 10 large snowflakes were recently purchased.

The Village also received \$42,672 from the 3TC for loss of parking revenue.

A new telephone answering service is in place to handle calls placed after the office closes. The calls are logged in and sent to a Trustee or a Village official so it can be prioritized and responded to accordingly.

Residential Rehabilitation funding is available. This program is administered by the office of Community Development and funding is available to low income homeowners for items such as new windows, siding, doors, heating systems, etc. If you're interested, please contact Village Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

The November campaign is underway: Shop Local, Shop New Hyde Park. Please support your local merchants.

### **Water Authority**

A recent article in Newsday reported that the Long Island Water Authority is considering purchasing water from New York City. This is not true, nor is it feasible, and the Water Authority has no intention of buying city water. There have been changes in state regulations. Our water is clean and meets the current standards. But the standards are changing and the Water Authority will have to implement a process to clean our water to meet the new guidelines. Mayor Montreuil asked if the Water Authority is still doing remediation on cleaning the water. Tr. Squicciarino explained that the clean-up cost will be significant and the Water Authority is not sure how the cleanup will be done. Residents were advised that additional information is available on the Water Authority website.

### **Library**

Upcoming programs:

A Thanksgiving Puff Pastry cooking demonstration on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

A Nassau County Property Tax Exemption workshop for senior citizens on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 – 3 pm.

## **Mayor Montreuil:**

### **DPW**

Supt. Gannon has been working with National Grid on the street opening process and subsequent road repair. When National Grid obtains a street opening permit, it is responsible to repair the street back to its original state. This is one reason why our roads are so patchy and uneven. Supt. Gannon implemented a new program which will benefit the Village. In addition to a street opening fee, a rate will be applied for the cost of reconstruction. The Village will repair the road and will remain in control of the final product. Curb to curb paving will be done so we get an even surface. Road repair is underway on Hillside Blvd between Brill and Bryant, and S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street between Jericho and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mayor Montreuil added that the Village cannot afford to do any more road improvement projects because it must pay down its bonds first. This new program is a great opportunity for the Village to repair some roads without incurring the expense.

3TC will repave Wayne Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, curb to curb.

Supt. Gannon added that under the original agreement with 3TC, any roads that sustain damage must be restored to conditions before the work began.

This past Tuesday was Election Day and there was no sanitation pick up. This information was not posted on the website but it was included in the Village Newsletter. Veterans Day is a federal holiday and Village offices are closed. There is no sanitation pick up on Monday, November 11th but a double day on Tuesday.

Supt. Gannon reported that leaf pick up is underway. Salt has been ordered and equipment is ready for the snow season.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**19- 49 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-12**

**19- 50 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES (REVENUE)**

**19- 51 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES (EXPENSE)**

**19- 52 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MILENA'S GARDEN SERVICE**

**19- 53 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A SEXUAL HARRASMENT POLICY**

**19- 54 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE A SPECIAL USE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 AT 7:30 PM**

Mayor Montreuil reported that prior to the Board Meeting tonight, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss participating in a lawsuit on behalf of the Village to recover costs incurred due to the opioid crisis. The attorneys make a compelling case. Since many Villages are participating, the Village Board feels it should also participate. The law firm will work on a contingency basis and will receive 25% of any proceeds the Village receives. It is estimated that the Village could receive \$750,000 - \$1.2 million.

**19- 55 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH TATE GROSSMAN KELLY & IACCARINO, LLP**

**New Business:**

There was none.

**Old Business:**

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided.

**Public Participation:**

Resident and Director of Environmental Control Kurt Langjahr asked that Mayor Montreuil participate in a letter writing campaign to our local Congresswoman and Senators regarding the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. Mr. Langjahr also suggested that helicopters be banned from flying over New Hyde Park and require that helicopters be required to fly one mile off shore of Long Island.

Resident Bess Giordano referenced an assurance made by the LIRR at the public meeting held at the Road School that residents will have a 10-year window to file compensation claims for house damages due to the LIRR construction. Ms. Giordano asked that a written document be given to residents to substantiate this arrangement. Ms. Giordano added that her house was shaking during the piling work and that cold air is now coming through her windows and door. Mayor Montreuil agreed with her suggestion.

Ms. Giordano also reported that there are 4 -5 inch opening on every 3<sup>rd</sup> panel of the new wall along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ms. Giordano claims that a worker told her that the panel openings protect the wall from flood or freeze damage. Mayor Montreuil stated that he is conferencing with 3TC on Friday to discuss the Landscape Plan and he will raise this item for discussion.

Resident Michael Morrissey commented that the parking lot on New Hyde Park Road is about 5 times the size of the Covert Avenue lot. He asked how the excess cars will be accommodated when the New Hyde Park Road lot is closed. Also, Mr. Morrissey asked when construction at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues will be completed. Mayor Montreuil explained that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will open in mid-November. Mayor Montreuil explained that although he is waiting to hear back on the car count in the two lots, his understanding is that New Hyde Park Road lots accommodates 40 cars. It is expected that Covert Avenue will accommodate the same number of cars.

A resident on Plaza Avenue reported a high volume of truck traffic on South 16<sup>th</sup>, South 17<sup>th</sup>, and especially on South 18<sup>th</sup> Streets now that trucks cannot make the left onto Plaza Avenue from New Hyde Park Road. She reported that 3TC stated at a recent PTA meeting that Plaza Avenue will become a one-way street and the no-left turn will remain after the construction is complete. Mayor Montreuil stated that that information did not sound correct as Plaza Avenue is a truck route. This will be researched further and reported back. Mayor Montreuil mentioned that the plan is to install a light at that intersection after all work has been completed. The resident expressed concern that if Plaza Avenue becomes a one way street, trucks will use residential streets to access Plaza Avenue. Supt. Gannon added that he has spoken to businesses on Plaza Avenue and asked them to consolidate deliveries to lessen truck traffic.

Resident Diane Bentivegna asked about the status of funding for the new DPW facility. Mayor Montreuil explained that Senator Kaplan is working on obtaining the grant money.

Ms. Bentivegna asked if it is permissible for residents to rent out their driveway. Mayor Montreuil explained that it is not prohibited under Village code, but he plans to discuss this issue further with the Village Board. Tr. Pallisco added that he received information about a new on-line parking service called Boxcar Parking Solution, similar to an Airbnb model, that partners with schools, churches, gas stations, etc. to help its customers find available parking spaces. Mayor Montreuil indicated that more research needs to be done on this service as it doesn't seem to be of benefit to the Village.

Resident Sam Khoury reported that his efforts to get NYS DOT to install a "Don't Block the Box" at Herkomer Street and Jericho Tpke. have been successful. Mayor Montreuil added that he has not heard back from the NYS DOT about the status of signage at New Hyde Park Road and Herkomer and at Plaza Avenue.

Mr. Khoury reported that the sidewalk by the railroad tracks on the west side of New Hyde Park Road blends into the Road, and it's hard to see where the street ends and where the sidewalk begins.

Mr. Khoury commented on a recent Patch.com article regarding 1,4-dioxane and other contaminants in our water. Tr. Squicciarino explained that water quality reports are available on the Western Water Authority website. Also, updated information can be obtained by attending the Water Authority public meetings. The next public meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

A resident requested a "do not block the box" grid be installed on New Hyde Park Road and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Resident Peter Kuczinski reported that cars are speeding northbound on Millers Lane in an attempt to make a left hand turn onto Jericho Tpke. Mr. Kuczinski suggested that a "no left hand turn" onto Jericho Tpke would help alleviate this problem.

Resident Rosemary Hudson commented that residents on North 11<sup>th</sup> Street have a hard time getting off the block because of all the heavy traffic on the block.

A resident asked for an updated on the height of the new utility poles. Mayor Montreuil explained that his attempts to get the LIRR to bury the utility lines underground were unsuccessful. The LIRR citing a prohibitive cost of \$150 million. There are 87 utility poles that exist today, all different heights and a mess of wires. 43 utility poles will be

taken down and 44 new poles will be installed. Once completed, this will result in a cleaner and more organized arrangement than what exists today.

Resident Mr. Dul, North 12<sup>th</sup> Street, asked if calling the new code enforcement phone number will result in immediate action. Supt. Gannon explained that the Village implemented two new telephone processes. Residents should use the code enforcement number to report parking issues during regular work hours. After hours and on weekends/holidays, residents can call Village Hall and leave a message with the answering service. Those calls will be directed to Village officials for prioritizing and response. Supt. Gannon added that this information is reported in the Fall Newsletter.

Mr. Dul asked for an update on the parking survey for his block. Mayor Montreuil explained that the parking survey will be re-done. Mayor Montreuil asked Mr. Dul to work with him on creating an outline of parking options to be included in the new survey.

A resident on Covert Avenue reported that commuters are parking on the small stretch of street close to the rail road tracks. She commented that signs regarding the 4 hour parking guideline would help this situation. Supt. Gannon said that he would send the code officer to this site.

A resident on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street has parking code signage, but there are no signs on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Dul requested that 4-hour parking signs be posted along the railroad tracks. Mayor Montreuil explained that signage exists at all major entrances into the Village. Additionally, the Village is hiring another code officer. He asked Mr. Dul and all residents to report the problem spots and the code officer will be sent there.

Resident Bess Giordano asked for more information on the new code office number. Tr. Squicciarino explained that an announcement will appear in the Fall Newsletter. The code office number will be manned by a Village employee during regular business hours. After hours and on weekends, the calls are flipped to an answering service. Messages will be taken and directed to a Village official to be prioritized and responded.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bevers

Research Assistant to the Board