

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2020**

This meeting was presented via Zoom Remote Conferencing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm immediately following the Public Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the Public Hearing.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Pallisco, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Annual Organizational Minutes from April 2, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Trustee Pallisco, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from April 2, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Landscaper License: Approved

Lutz Lawn care – PO Box 907, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Coppola:

Little League

All activities have been postponed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There are no new updates on when activities will be resuming.

Auxiliary Police

The Auxiliary Police is out of service at this time. There will be an announcement when they resume their service.

Nassau County Police Department

Due to the high call volume to 911, the 3rd Precinct is encouraging people to utilize 911 only in true emergencies. For minor car accidents, property loss, theft, and the like, residents are encouraged to call the 3rd Precinct at (516)573-6300 to report incidents.

Nassau County Police is also warning people to beware of phone scams during the pandemic. Scammers are targeting the elderly, representing the Board of Health and offering Covid-19 testing. They are asking for social security numbers, credit card numbers, etc. The Board of Health announced that they never ask anyone to provide their social security number.

Fire Department

- The New Hyde Park Fire Department continues to hold a nightly Zoom meeting to review their daily calls, next steps, and updates received from the Board of Health.
- They encourage everyone to keep practicing social distancing.
- The call volume has reduced but the majority of calls that still come into the station are Covid-19 related.
- The fire fighters and EMT's continue to work long hours during this time and are doing a great job.

Major Montreuil thanked the NHP Fire Department and EMT's for doing a great job during this difficult time. They are working long hours to keep the residents of New Hyde Park safe. Jimmy Kane, who runs the Fire Department taskforce informed the Mayor that the call volume is still high but they are working hard to keep up with the calls.

Trustee Pallisco:

Beautification Committee

Trustee Pallisco expressed his thanks to Hale Elifoglu for helping out with the Landscaping Plan. She put in a lot of time and did a great job. He requested that the Mayor and Board appoint her to the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Montreuil agreed with Trustee Pallisco and believes that Hale Elifoglu would be a great asset to the Beautification Committee.

- Upon motion by Trustee Pallisco, seconded by Rich Coppola and the Board unanimously approved Hale Elifoglu to be appointed to the Beautification Committee.

On Monday, April 13th, there was a Zoom meeting with LIRR and 3TC in regards to the Landscaping Plan. There were discussions on tree species to be planted, when planting should begin, and a discussion with 3TC of the possibility of acquiring one of their watering trucks. 3TC announced that most planting will not start until September.

Cultural Commission

Trustee Pallisco spoke to Cultural Commissioner Lisa Miranda in regards to the Summer Concert series. She indicated that she had 2 bands on hold for the Summer Concerts. Depending on how things develop in the next few months it will be decided if and when the concerts will be scheduled this upcoming summer season.

Summer Camp Program

Trustee Pallisco and John Nicastro have done preliminary planning for the Summer Camp that is scheduled to start July 9th, however the start date is on hold as of now. Counselors from last year have reported in and are requesting to be placed on the schedule.

Katie's Run

The run is scheduled for June 14th and has not been officially canceled, but it most likely will be. Mike McBride the organizer of Katie's Run is hoping to reschedule it for later in the year, possibly Mid-September.

Mayor Montreuil added that our Community Day is tentatively scheduled for September and maybe Katie's Run can be done in conjunction with our Village's Community Day.

Zoning Board of Appeals

All meetings have been canceled at this time.
There are no new updates.

Architectural Review Board

All meetings have been canceled at this time.
There are no new updates.

Trustee Burger:

LIRR

The work on the LIRR has been moving forward even with the shut-down. The work was deemed essential by the New York State Governor's Office. As of now there has been no changes in the work schedule and the opening of New Hyde Park Road is still planned for Labor Day weekend.

- Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger still hold a meeting with 3TC and MTA on a weekly basis to review the upcoming and completed work.
- Overnight work started on April 1st and was completed on April 12th. Complaints were received from the local residents because the machinery used was loud and the bright lights used to light up the work area were disruptive. The noise heard was from high rail vacuum trucks that are needed with excavating. The Village Board reached out to 3TC and asked why the work could not be done during the day. 3TC explained that the work had to be done at night because even though there haven't been many commuters during the shut-down, the trains are still running at a normal schedule during the day. Night was the only time when 3TC could complete the work they needed to get done. The Village Board and 3TC apologized for the noise.
- Next overnight work is scheduled for April 27th. There is a possibility that the work is going to be pushed into May. The work is to be done by the station and it should not be as intrusive to the local residents. The Village Board will be suggesting to 3TC to keep the lights at a different angle as to not intrude into people's homes. There is a certain amount of lights required during night work based on OSHA safety standards.
- Residents are encouraged to contact Community Outreach for questions or to express their concerns.
- The Village Board also received complaints in regards to the recent vibrations coming from the work site near Herkomer. The vibration was due to pile driving for the retaining walls. The vibrations have not exceeded the threshold set.
- Trustee Burger encouraged residents to obtain a survey of their house if they have not already done so. If there is damage due to the construction it will be easier to get compensated for their damages.
- The residents will be updated via www.vnhp.org when 3TC releases work schedules so that they are made aware what is going to be happening in and around the construction zone.
- Because of the New York State stay at home mandate traffic has been light. There have been random road closures that were not announced. The Village Board has to be notified by 3TC for any planned road closures. Trustee Burger will be speaking to 3TC in regards to that.
- The punch-list items for Covert Avenue are still open.
 - M&J did not receive the Village Board's punch-list from 3TC until March.
 - Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger are hoping to get feedback from M&J by next week.
- The Covert Avenue underpass graffiti removal left a significant shadow on the wall. 3TC is hoping to have it painted soon, but is waiting for the weather to warm up and dry out.

- The Electrical Substation architectural drawings have been received by the Village Board. The Board would like an alternate fence with a different aesthetic to replace what is on the proposal. 3TC and MTA will be looking into another option. The Mayor and Board suggested several options which include even a solid wall.
- New Station design architectural renderings were received by the Village Board. The Village Board, working with Ken Garvin, came up with station modifications and submitted them to 3TC and MTA. However, the Board was informed that the design will not change but there is room for small modifications suggested. The MTA is looking for uniformity throughout all their stations.
- The Village Board requested that the high rail access be relocated from S 10th Street to S 11th Street. The access gate would be a little further away from residential homes. Additionally, the Board requested that more aesthetically pleasing gates be placed at the access point and MTA and 3TC agreed to look into that.

Water Authority

A Zoom video conference call will be set up for the Water Authority Board Meeting on April 20th. The Water Authority reached out to the Village Board in regards to Station 57 Rehabilitation Project. The Board is looking forward to the design and specs which will be provided by the Water Authority. The Water Authority has been very accommodating and made a modification to their design based on the Village Board’s request of using black metal fencing similar to the 3TC fencing and not a chain link fence they had in their proposal.

Veterans Affairs

There are currently no meetings or events scheduled for Veteran Affairs. Trustee Burger spoke to Commander John McGuire offering help to local veterans during this difficult time. The Memorial Day parade was also discussed, which will most likely have to be canceled. However, the Veterans and Village Board would like to acknowledge Memorial Day with a ceremony. No final decision has been made as of yet.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Because of the stay at home order by the New York State Governor’s Office the Village Clerks Office and Building Department employees were set up to work from home. In the vestibule of the Village Hall there is a drop box for residents to utilize. Employees pick up the contents from the mail drop box several times a week. For any questions or requests residents are encouraged to email the Clerk’s Office, Building Department or Village Court at: nhpclerk@vnhp.org, building@vnhp.org, or court@vnhp.org.

Village Clerk’s Office

Aside from the below listed items the Village Clerk’s Report did not have other updates for April:

Court Fines	\$40,507.00
N/C Mortgage Tax	\$25,914.02
Parking Reimbursement	(\$70,640.00)

Nassau County Schools

All Nassau County Schools remain closed until May 15th as per the New York State mandate. Lunches for underprivileged students are available for pickup from 9:30-11 am at the High School. Elementary School pickup is Monday and Thursday. Students get several breakfast and lunches for the following days.

Other announcements:

- School Tax Levy is still due on May 11th. The Town of North Hempstead is waving its fees if using their online service for tax payment.
- All New Hyde Park Village Parks continue to be closed. When re-opened all residents will be notified.
- Northern State Parkway is slated to be repaved in late April from the Queens border to Meadowbrook Parkway.
- The repaving of Hillside Avenue starting at the Queens border to Williston Park is still slated for September.

Census 2020

Most residents have received the request to complete the 2020 Census. Completing it only takes a few minutes and all residents are encouraged to do so. The census information is used by the government to determine seats in Congress, budgets for schools, hospitals, roads, etc.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

Mayor Montreuil thanked DPW for all their hard work during the pandemic.

- The DPW staff is on a reduced schedule with two teams picking up trash on alternate weeks. The reason for the reduced schedule is to protect the employees by not exposing them to constant interaction with residents and with one another.
- The Mayor explained that sanitation and highway are two separate departments, but since sanitation is essential during this difficult time both teams are working together to pick up trash. While one team is working the other is on standby in case of emergency. The high winds on Monday caused several downed trees and the standby team was called in to do cleanup.
- Pickup for bulk waste, appliances, and e-waste has been suspended but with the number of requests coming into DPW a bulk pickup day will be scheduled soon.

Superintendent Gannon added that the standby team that was called in to remove downed trees completed the work by 7 pm. The split of the department into two teams (A and B) is to keep the employees safe and to avoid exhausting the manpower. There is only a limited number of employees and we must be mindful of how we utilize them.

Mayor Montreuil had a call with Congresswoman Rice in regards to the Covid-19 aid package from the government. There was a stimulus bill passed for large communities of 500K residents or more but not for smaller communities. All municipalities large or small have additional expenses during the shutdown. Congresswoman Rice is collecting information on smaller municipalities so that another aid package can be crafted to address everyone's needs.

RESOLUTIONS:

19-125 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-25

19-126 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES

19-127 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020-21 BUDGET

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Diane Bentivegna wanted to thank DPW for the hard work they are doing and hanging in there during this time. Mayor Montreuil also thanked DPW for their hard work and he also thanked the Village Hall employees who have been working from home these last few weeks without complaint. The Mayor encouraged the residents to let the Board know if their needs are not being met.

Ms. Bentivegna also thanked the Board and Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann for making the meetings accessible to as many people as possible.

Trustee Coppola encouraged everyone to support their Village restaurants during this difficult time by ordering food for delivery or pickup. The Mayor added that with everyone having economic difficulties we should all want to keep businesses in New Hyde Park for the future.

Resident Monica Nadasky asked if the Mayor and Board could explain the Master Plan RFP. She was under the impression that the residents would have a chance to add their input on the Master Plan. Mayor Montreuil explained that the RFP was issued to consulting companies in hopes to get the right consultant who can facilitate public engagement for the Master Plan. The RFP is a preliminary step. The Village Board hopes to find the right experts who can do the work while engaging the public.

Trustee Burger added that narrowing down potential consultants will take time. If the Covid-19 situation is not resolved by the time the Village Board is ready to move forward there will be virtual collaboration with any potential consultants involved. Additionally, a lot of research will have to be done and it will take quite a while for the Master Plan to be put together. The Mayor added that by the time a decision is made about who the consultant will be the lockdown will probably be over. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino added that information will be posted and everyone will be updated with the Master Plan information.

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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board