

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 21, 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 following the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed to honor those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mayor Montreuil spoke briefly about the Covid-19 pandemic and how it is affecting the Village of New Hyde Park. As of May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Village has had 277 positive cases. Nassau County has met 5 out of the 7 metrics that are required for reopening. He encouraged the residents to keep following the rules set by the Health Department on social distancing, hand washing, and wearing masks. He is hopeful that if things keep moving forward, we will be able to open soon and our businesses will be able to get back to work. If we stay healthy, others around us will stay healthy.

Mayor Montreuil participated on a Zoom call with the New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, where the various chamber members expressed their worries of the shutdown and the subsequent opening. Most businesses are anxious to open, with safety protocols in place. They have concerns that their business will not be able to bounce back again when everyone starts following the new normal.

The Mayor spoke about a resolution that will be passed during the meeting, allowing restaurants to have outdoor dining. When Nassau County restaurants open up, restaurants will have a 50% restriction on patrons dining inside. Allowing restaurants with parking lots to be able to set up outdoor seating, will relieve some of the restrictions and allow more patrons to frequent the restaurant. The guidelines for outdoor seating will be strictly enforced by the Building Superintendent.

As it was announced during the last Board Meeting, Tax Bills will be mailed out at the end of the month and residents will have the option of paying in two installments. This was done to relieve some of the hardships people are experiencing during the pandemic.

Parks in the Village have been opened. They are to be used only for passive activities. Tennis courts have been opened for singles games only.

Memorial Day observance will be celebrated on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, in front of Village Hall. It will be a small ceremony honoring those who lost their lives while serving in the US Military, including the 56 people from New Hyde Park.

With Spring upon us, there has been more work around the Village. Therefore, it was decided that with the pandemic on the downturn the DPW department will be brought back to full staff.

Village Hall remains closed to the public and employees have been working from home. All business has to be done via mail, internet, or over the phone. The Village Hall is being prepared with safety protocols when the time comes to re-open

Village Courts have been canceled. There is a plan in place to set up Zoom meeting to deal with the huge back-log of cases on the docket.

The Mayor announced that there will be a hard stop at 9 pm because the Village Board must go into Executive Session.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from May 7, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

**Landscaper License Renewals:**

Long Island Building & Maintenance – 1605 Lydia Avenue, Elmont NY, 11003  
Three Seasons Lawn Maintenance & Design – P.O. Box 487, West Hempstead NY, 11552

**Catering License Renewal:**

Milo Associates d/b/a Mister Softee – 158-35 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, Howard Beach

Mayor Montreuil also mentioned that Mr. Softee has been warned and cited for selling ice-cream in the Village without a permit.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Coppola:**

**Census**

Trustee Coppola encouraged everyone to fill out the 2020 Census. The Census can be filled out by mail, online, by phone, and through the Village website, by following the posted link.

The Town of North Hempstead has opened its beaches for the season. Residents can enjoy the beaches for the season and will not be required to pay a fee this year.

**New Hyde Park Fire Department**

- Rescue calls have been greatly reduced.

- At the beginning of April, the majority of calls received by the department were Covid related.
- The fire fighters and EMT's continue to work 24-hour shifts.
- The same protocols are still being followed by the Fire Department when responding to calls. They enter every house assuming there is someone with the virus inside, donning on protective gear and masks.

### **Nassau County Police Department**

- Police report numbers are down for the month of April. There have been only 2 car accidents, no burglaries reported, no criminal mischief.
- There is a new Inspector at the Nassau County Police Department. The Board will send out a letter inviting him to one of the Village Board Meetings (or via Zoom), so he can be introduced to the Village Board and residents.

Trusteed Coppola encouraged everyone to keep following the protocols set by the Health Department: wash hands, wear a mask in public, practice social distancing.

Additionally, he thanked DPW and Village Hall employees for their hard work, whether out on the streets or in their home office.

### **Trustee Pallisco:**

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

All meetings have been canceled at this time.

Trustee Pallisco inquired of Superintendent Gannon whether there was ever a Zoom meeting held for the subdivision of the Holy Spirit parcel. Superintendent Gannon stated that there was not but they were looking into having meetings via Zoom.

#### **Tree Committee**

The Village of New Hyde Park Tree Committee along with the New Hyde Park Ladies Lions Club planted a tree in Memorial Park. The tree was donated by the Ladies Lions and will allow the Village to maintain their status as a Tree City USA.

Seven years ago, during the setup of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Katie's Run, Mike McBride lost the Claddagh ring he received from his wife when he was 19 years old. For the last 7 years, Paul Sokol searched Memorial Park with a metal detector in hopes of finding it. Recently he found the lost ring and returned it to Mike and his wife, who were thrilled to have it back.

### **Trustee Burger:**

#### **LIRR**

There has been a lot of progress done on the LIRR. The formation of the under-grade crossing is becoming visible.

Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger still hold meetings with 3TC and MTA on a weekly basis to review the upcoming and completed work.

- There has been a lot of overnight work at the LIRR. The current overnight work is scheduled to end on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and then new work will be starting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Per the 3TC schedule the night work is scheduled to be completed by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

- New Station design architectural renderings were received by the Village Board and posted onto the Village website. Although not exactly what the Village Board was looking for, the renderings are an improvement to the original. The Village Board is working with 3TC and MTA on the station roofing. It was suggested that the green roof be replaced with a different color which will conform with the rest of the station design.
- The Electrical Substation architectural drawings have been received by the Village Board. Concerns forwarded to the MTA to be addressed, included the height of 2 masks and exposure of the equipment, the aesthetics of the substation fencing, and some safety concerns. During the latest meeting over Zoom, 3TC and the MTA assured the Village board that the new substation meets all federal and state regulations. The height of some of the equipment is driven by those regulations including the 2 masks. 3TC and MTA will be looking into fencing options.
- The station house will be renovated inside and out. The construction has already started and should be completed in the Fall.
- Because of the stay at home mandate, traffic has been light. Plaza Avenue was closed and should re-open on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The curb work on Plaza has started. There have also been many reports of wrong way traffic on S. Park Place because of the Plaza Avenue closing. Signs will be placed to re-direct traffic.
- A number of punch-list items for Covert Avenue are still open. The Village Board is working with 3TC and M&J to clear the list. Some items will be addressed by the Village, for which 3TC will be refunding the Village.
- The landscaping plan has been updated by the Beautification Committee and sent over to 3TC. There will be a follow-up on the landscaping plan on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Soil samples were collected along the right-of-way. The Village Board is awaiting the report from 3TC. Once reviewed it will be posted on the Village website.

**Water Authority**

The Water Authority presented the plan for the new Station 57 building to the Village Board. The new building will be replacing the old buildings currently on site. The new building is very aesthetically pleasing, resembling a typical house. Once the copy of the presentation is received it will be placed on the website.

**Veterans Affairs**

For the safety of our Veterans and the public the Memorial Day Parade has been canceled and, in its stead, there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony held honoring those lost serving in the US military. The Ceremony will start at 10 am on May 23 in front of Village Hall. It will be a small affair, and following the reading of the names lost while in service and laying of the wreaths, the procession will proceed to Memorial Park to lay wreaths.

**Trustee Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk’s Report**

State Aid Capita – NYS OSC	\$148,904.00
Verizon Fios	\$10,723.55
Muni-meter Revenue	\$1,593.55

**Village Taxes**

Tax bills will be sent out end of May. Residents will have the option to pay their taxes in one lump sum or two installments, one due by July 1<sup>st</sup> and the other December 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be instructions included in the envelope.

The Clerk’s Office is working and preparing for the changes that will be needed once the shutdown is lifted and the office opens up again to the public. Plexi-glass has been installed at Village Hall counter.

### **Village Parks**

The Village of New Hyde Park parks have opened. Both parks have been cleaned and can be used for passive activities only. All basketball courts and playgrounds remain closed. The tennis courts will open this weekend for singles games only.

### **Nassau Schools**

All Nassau County Schools remain closed for the rest of the year, per the New York State mandate. School budget will be voted on via absentee ballots that have to be returned by 5 pm on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Elementary school districts have their information online. Sewanhaka School District will be holding a remote budget hearing on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm.

The Town of North Hempstead will start showing drive-in movies on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, in several of their parks, including Clinton G. Martin in New Hyde Park. The movies will be shown on Saturday and Sunday nights alternating between several of the parks. Anyone who wants to come and watch will have to register for the viewing in advance. There is no fee for the drive in.

### **Mayor Montreuil:**

Residents are encouraged to go to vnhp.org and fill out the 3TC Community Score Card for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2020. The ratings that are gathered from the Community Score Card determine whether or not 3TC will receive the \$250K bonus for their work on the LIRR construction project.

The Mayor announced that the Village of New Hyde Park presented the New Hyde Park Fire Department with a check for \$141,000 from the LIRR Community Benefit Fund. The money was used by the Fire Department to purchase new equipment for outfitting an additional ambulance needed to support the south side of the Village during the LIRR construction. The newly outfitted ambulance has been used during the Covid-19 crisis to help those in need. The Mayor thanked the NHP Fire Department for the outstanding job they do protecting us.

The National Grid work on Jericho Turnpike has slowed down. The Village Board was not happy with the condition that Jericho Turnpike was left in after the work was completed. A letter was sent to National Grid addressing the damages to the sidewalks, center medians, and patches in the road. National Grid responded promptly informing the Mayor that the work was completed on May 11<sup>th</sup>. They replaced 3,000ft of gas main and replaced 23 gas service lines, to support the businesses along Jericho Turnpike. They will be returning to do restoration, which will involve more nightwork, from Sunday night to Thursday night, 10 pm to 6 am. They will first repair the sub-base of all the patches they excavated and then they will follow up with resurfacing the road. According to the DOT permit they hold, they are required to resurface Jericho Turnpike curb to curb, from Lakeville Road to N 12<sup>th</sup> Street. They will also be addressing the damage to the center median and the sidewalks. Restoration will start the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> and will continue for several weeks. Night work should end by the middle of June.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**19-135 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-28**

**19-136 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART TIME COURT CLERK FOR**

## **THE VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT**

### **19-137 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OUTDOOR DINING**

- Per the Village Board # 2 was amended with at addition of the phrase ‘except for the purpose of needing the restroom’.

### **19-138 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS TO BE USED FOR WORKING REMOTELY**

#### **New Business:**

There was none.

#### **Old Business:**

There was none.

#### **Public Participation:**

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if the RFP submission deadline on May 15<sup>th</sup> produced any potential candidates for the Master Plan. The Mayor informed everyone that he RFP submissions will be reviewed shortly by the Village Board.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane wanted to know about the development of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. Since there are businesses there currently, what will the plan be for them when the development starts. Mayor Montreuil stated that the reason for the RFP is to get a firm who will help the Village put a plan together for development of that area. The firm would also reach out to the community for input. Part of that outreach would be to talk to the businesses and see what their wants and needs are. There isn't a pre prescribed plan for the area. People who are closest to the re-development area will be instrumental when suggestions and opinions are being gathered.

Resident Anne Stevenson questioned if the drawings for the LIRR station and platforms were updated by 3TC and the MTA based on requests from the Board. Trustee Burger stated that the comments the Village Board originally provided were not all incorporated into the new station designs. For example, it was requested that the roof of the platform station be changed to a more hipped roof. The MTA stated that they want all their stations to conform so therefore they cannot make that change. The Village Board also requested the roof color be changed on the station house which the MTA agreed on, and will be changing it to match the color of the station platform roof.

Resident Najwa Buatti questioned why the residents from New Hyde Park Road to Hoffman Road were not informed that Plaza Avenue was going to be closed for construction, and why her street is now designated as a truck route. Mayor Montreuil explained that 3TC did not inform the Village Board in advance that they would be shutting down Plaza Avenue. Plaza Avenue was designated as the key road for truck traffic in hopes to avoid truckers using road like S 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Hoffman Road. Since the closure there has been reports of trucks traveling down residential streets. Letters from the Village Board were sent to 3TC and the MTA. A response was received stating that the road was closed due to flooding. Afterwards, the Village Board learned that Plaza Avenue was closed because construction vehicles using it were coming dangerously close to the excavated area. With 3TC concerned of a possible cave-in, it was decided that closing the road to all traffic would be safest. The Village Board, while understanding, was concerned and protested the decision made by 3TC without notice to the Village and its residents. The Mayor added that Plaza Avenue is due to be re-opened the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, with truck traffic resuming. The Village has also received reports that there have been tree branches and wires knocked down on S 18<sup>th</sup> Street due to truck traffic.

The people most impacted should have a say when it comes to the construction area. The Mayor encouraged the resident to fill out the 3TC Community Score Card available online. When this all started the Village Board made it a point that people who are most impacted by the construction would have a say on how well 3TC performed.

Trustee Burger added that dates for the reopening of Plaza Avenue have been changing but they have informed the Village that the road should be open to drivers and truckers by June 5<sup>th</sup>. He also added that there have been several random street closings near the construction area which were not communicated to the Village Board in advance. Street closing must be announced by 3TC due to safety issues. For example, if there is an emergency call where the Fire Department or Police Department has to respond and a street is closed without notice, it could turn into a life or death situation.

The Mayor added that 3TC has been increasing the pace of the construction.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane asked if there have been any other alternative proposals submitted to the Village Board in regards to the property on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, where the building was proposed. The Mayor stated that no alternative proposals were received by the owner.

Mayor Montreuil wished everyone to stay safe, and thanked them for doing a great job protecting themselves and other by following the standards outlined by the Health Organization. This is a dreadful situation we have to deal with and everyone's actions speak to their character. He ended the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

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 9.01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board