

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 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 8:02 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from May 21, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Car Wash Application: Approved, but subject to change based on Covid-19 stats during that time period.

- Saturday, September 12th - Boy Scout Troop 298 from (7 am – 4 pm)

Landscaper License Renewals: Approved

Mineola Landscaping Inc – 27 Morningside Drive, Westbury, NY
Paumanok Lawn Tech – 93 East Seaman Avenue, Freeport, NY
Anthony Landscaping – 1032 Adams Street, Uniondale, NY
Gonzales Landscaping – 990 Wilson Blvd, Central Islip, NY
Recchia Landscaping – 87 Bay Street, Southampton, NY
Ponturo Landscaping – 2272 Lafayette Street, Bellmore, NY
Victor Painting and Landscaping – 357 Newport Road, Uniondale, NY

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Coppola:

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- Rescue calls have been greatly reduced.
- The FD and EMT are not working 24 hr. shifts any longer but are back to their regular schedules.
- Meetings are once again held at the Fire House.

- Wellness checks are still performed for all personnel at the fire house.

Trustee Coppola thanked the NHP Fire Department for all the time they put in during this pandemic and the great job they have done serving the people of New Hyde Park.

Nassau County Police Department

- The NCPC is warning residents to lock car doors overnight. There has been reports of car break-ins in and around the neighborhood.
- In addition, they want residents to be aware that they have received many reports of stolen car tires. The incidents usually take place at night. Cars are jacked up with bricks and all 4 tires get taken.
- There is a new Inspector at the Nassau County Police Department. He was originally stationed at Head Quarters and now joined the 3rd Precinct, replacing the retiring inspector.
 - Mayor Montreuil met with the new inspector during the protest at Village Hall. The new inspector was on site to monitor the situation. The NCPD did a wonderful job and the protest stayed peaceful.

NHP Little League

All Little League events have been on hold since March. They are looking into resuming their activities sometime in July but are waiting on new guidelines from Nassau County. Trustee Coppola spoke to LL President Vincent Grunnert and Park Supervisor John Nicastro, in regards to steps that need to be taken, in order to have Little League resume activities in the park.

Community Day

Community Day was canceled for 2020 due to the uncertainty during the Covid-19 pandemic and the aftermath. The Village Board is hopeful that the Street Fair or Community Day will be back in 2021.

Trustee Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

Zoning Board meetings will be resuming via Zoom video conference on July 8th, with two cases on the docket.

Architectural Review Board

Architectural Review Board meetings will be resuming via Zoom video conference on July 9th, with one case on the docket.

Tree Committee

Tree planting will resume in September. Residents who would like trees planted curb side, in front of their home, are encouraged to contact DPW for more information.

The Village of New Hyde Park will be flying the American Flag at half-staff in honor of those lost during this difficult time. The Nassau County Executive's office is also instructing everyone to fly the flag at half-staff for the time being.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, June 17th via telephone conference and three cases were heard involving property maintenance, building material blocking a Village street, and illegally parked vehicle blocking the sidewalk.
- The next Village Court will be held on July 15th with 2 cases on the docket.
- There was no Special Use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting.
- There have been 55 permits in total approved and issued from May 1, 2020 – June 18, 2020.

LIRR

- At this time the New Hyde Park Road construction is ahead of schedule. The plan for reopening is still scheduled for Labor Day weekend.
- Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger did a walkthrough on June 1st to see the progress of the construction.
- The bridge is in place on the South Side of New Hyde Park Road and is scheduled to be pushed into position on July 11th. The NHP Road Bridge is the largest push to date.
 - The rumor that NHP Road will be reopening after the July 11th push is false. New Hyde Park Road will not re-open until Labor Day.
- The current overnight work, scheduled to start on June 15th and ending on July 3rd, has been delayed until June 22nd. There will be excavation and installation of transmission poles which will involve the Vacuum Truck. Because of the noise the truck produces, Community Outreach will be in the neighborhood to notify residents.
- There has been no new updates on the station design. The Village Board owes the MTA a response on the new color of the station roof.
- The Electrical Substation demolition has started. The architectural drawings have been received by the Village Board. Concerns were forwarded to the MTA and need 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 the Village Board concerns were partially addressed, assuring us that the new substation met all federal and state regulations. The MTA has not yet responded to the suggestion of enclosing the exposed transformer and equipment and shielding them from residents view.
- There has been significant work done on Plaza Avenue. The road has been re-aligned and the curbs have been cut. The street is now open.
- A number of punch-list items for Covert Avenue are still open. Not much progress has been made in regards to the punch-list.
- The landscaping plan has been updated by the Beautification Committee and sent over to 3TC. There was a follow-up call on May 27th and 3TC informed the Village Board that they will be accepting several suggestions made by the Beautification Committee.
 - Trustee Burger also thanked Trustee Pallisco, Hale Elifoglu, Bob McNulty, and Diane McCarrick for all their help with the landscaping plan.
- There has not been any update on the high rail access gate from 3TC or the MTA.
- Recently some residents have been experiencing brown water, due to the usage of fire-hydrants by 3TC. 3TC will be addressing the issue with their site supervisors and they will be getting in touch with the Water Authority.

Water Authority

The work on the new Station 57 is progressing. Renderings have been received by the Village Board and will be placed on our website.

The Mayor questioned Trustee Burger if he is still planning to resign from the Water Authority Board. Trustee Burger confirmed that he will be sending in his resignation in July.

Veterans Affairs

For the safety of our Veterans there has been no meetings held since the start of Covid-19. The Memorial Day ceremony was held in front of Village Hall. Trustee Burger wanted to thank all those who attended the ceremony even though it was a rainy day. He also thanked Superintendent Gannon and DPW for their help in preparation of the event and support during the ceremony.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk's Report

Telephone Lightpath	\$7,183.99
Gas National Grid	\$45,853.81
Court Fines	\$11,696.50
Muni Meter Revenue	\$1,882.20
2020/21 Taxes Paid	\$936,154.22
Deferred Payments for Dec. 2020	(\$7,706.80)
Building Permits	\$6,988.80

Village Parks

The Village Parks have opened for passive activities. Tennis courts are now open. Playgrounds are scheduled to open Saturday, June 20th. All basketball courts remain closed. Park Attendants have extra masks available for those who need them. Trustee Squicciarino thanked John Nicastro and the Park Attendants for getting the parks ready for usage.

Nassau Schools

The New Hyde Park-Garden City Park school district budget was passed. It was reported that a record number of ballots were received for 2021 budget year. Now they will be moving on to wrap up the school year.

Repaving of the Meadowbrook Parkway has started. At this time exit and entrance ramps are being repaved.

Library

The Hillside Library has been closed since March. There is no scheduled re-opening as of now.

Mayor Montreuil:

DPW

Superintendent Gannon announced that tree planting will be resuming in the fall since spring planting was put on hold due to the pandemic. The DPW department is back to its old schedule and all trash pick-up services have resumed.

Mayor Montreuil thanked DPW for their hard work and the sacrifices they have made during this pandemic. He also thanked the residents for their understanding in regards to bulk pickup when DPW was running at 50%.

DPW is split into two group, sanitation and highway. During the height of the pandemic they were both utilized for trash pickup for the safety of the Village employees and Village residents.

Village Hall remains closed to the public. A reopening plan has been created and will be utilized once the building opens to the public in phase 3. All visitors will need appointments to enter Village Hall and protocols will have to be followed once they enter the building.

Restaurants on Jericho Turnpike are taking advantage of the resolution that was passed regarding outdoor dining. Umberto's Restaurant and Yesterday's Diner have set up tents in their parking lots and are serving customers. Additionally, the Village Board has approached other food establishments located on Jericho Turnpike to ask if they are interested in obtaining a permit to place tables on the sidewalk. Since Jericho Turnpike is a state road the Village Board has no jurisdiction in that capacity, but was willing to contact the proper individuals. The restaurants that were approached have declined, claiming Jericho Turnpike is too noisy.

Mayor Montreuil announced that Laura Curran is calling on the Governor's office to have malls in Nassau County reopened. She is greatly concerned about the lasting economic effects keeping malls closed, will have on the businesses within. She will speak to that at the Greater New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce meeting next week. The meeting will be held online and all are free to join.

The Mayor spoke about the state promised funding for rebuilding our DPW facility. The NYS Governor's office has requested infrastructure funding from the federal government to cover loss during the pandemic. The Mayor and Board followed suit and requested funding from the Governor's office for our DPW facility.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-03 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-2

20-04 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN ACCOUNT CODES

Mayor Montreuil announced the retirement of two of our longtime Village employees, Dawn Doherty and Barbara Pipa. Dawn has worked for the Village for 27 years and held multiple positions, her latest being the Court Clerk to the Village Justice. Barbara has worked for the Village for 34 years and has worked for the Justice Court for most of her career, her latest position being a Part-time Court Clerk. It was bittersweet to see them go but the Village Board and Village employees wish them the best in their new endeavors.

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Before moving to public participation Deputy Mayor Donna Squicciarino wished everyone out there a Happy Father's Day and a Happy Grandfather's Day.

Public Participation:

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned:

- Why residents were not informed that drilling and excavation on the North side of Covert Avenue was going to be done? Mayor Montreuil stated that he can't speak on the excavation and drilling on the North side. With the construction in full force work is being done in various spots simultaneously. Trustee Burger added that

during the weekly meeting with 3TC nothing was mentioned in regards to the drilling on Covert Avenue. He will be checking in with them for more information.

- Additionally, she was curious about the status of the punch-list, since it doesn't seem as if much is getting accomplished when it comes to Covert Avenue.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Trustee Burger for keeping close track of the punch list. He is vigilant about adding new items to the list that pertain to Covert Avenue and trying to work with 3TC to clear them. About six weeks ago the Village Board, 3TC and EJ Electric met to look over the punch-list items. They combined the lists and are working off that list to clear it up. Trustee Burger added that he was frustrated in trying to close out the items on the punch-list. Some are simple patch jobs that could have been taken care of long ago. 3TC and EJ Electric are slow in closing out items and they have asked the Village's DPW department to work on several items, for which they will reimburse the Village. Superintendent Tom Gannon provided them with estimates for work which can be handled by DPW.

- She was concerned about the serious safety issue at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Covert Avenue when it comes to cars and pedestrians. Mayor Montreuil added that there were temporary stop signs placed at 2nd, 3rd and Covert Avenues but they didn't stand up well in the wind. Since there was a fatal accident in that location a few years ago the Village Board is concerned with driver and pedestrian safety. Superintendent Gannon ordered breakaway surface-mount brackets which will be installed in a couple of weeks.
- Additionally, the street along 2nd Avenue are littered with debris from the construction. The debris is dangerous to cars and pedestrians. She wanted to know when this will be resolved by 3TC. Trustee Burger will be speaking with 3TC to clean up the area around 2nd and 3rd avenue and bring in the street sweeper to get the debris off the street.

Resident Sam Khoury thanked the Village Board on how they handled the situation during the pandemic and thanked them for broadcasting the Board Meeting via Zoom. He also thanked Trustee Burger for addressing the brown water with the Water Authority. Mr. Khoury questioned if:

- The platform waiting areas will be heated once completed? Trustee Burger will double check the renderings but he believes that they will not be.
- Is there a Plaza Avenue closing and opening schedule? Mayor Montreuil stated that Plaza Avenue will be closing several times before the construction is completed. He will look into obtaining a schedule. Trustee Burger added he believes Plaza Avenue will be closing again in August.
- The 'don't block the box' sign was removed when National Grid was doing the construction on the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street. Superintendent Gannon stated that National Grid, per their contract, has to leave every street the way they found it. Superintendent Gannon and Trustee Pallisco will meet with National Grid to talk about the repaving of Jericho Turnpike and the replacement of all street markings.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane wanted to know why tractor trailers are allowed to use side streets to get to the 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue businesses. Since those streets were not made for large trucks, wires have been knocked down and trucks are having a hard time making turns. She understands that businesses need deliveries but the area is not made for large vehicles and 3TC should have made alternate plans when shutting down New Hyde Park Road.

Superintendent Gannon stated that large tractor trailers are having a difficult time turning onto 2nd Avenue from Covert Avenue and their only other option is using 12th Street as a means to get to the businesses for delivery. He is unsure how the situation could be remedied at this point. An option is to make truck restrictions so that only smaller vehicles can enter the area. The Mayor added this is a situation which will be closely looked into by the Village Board. Trustee Burger added that he will check with 3TC to see if there is an alternate plan when it comes to large tractor trailers on 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

Resident Hale Elifoglu questioned what should be done by the residents of Miller Lane when construction is being done on one end of the street and utility work on the other. During the night hours, the residents are essentially blocked in. What would happen if there was an emergency? Mayor Montreuil was not aware of this issue. National Grid and 3TC should be coordinating their work and should never be working on a single street blocking in residents and preventing them from being able to leave. The Mayor will bring up the issue with both 3TC and National Grid.

Additionally, Ms. Elifoglu questioned whether now, that the Village of Garden City residents are aware of the installation of the large utility poles (and are publicizing it to the news outlets), the Village of New Hyde Park will follow suit?

Mayor Montreuil stated that the Village Board and the Village Attorneys are keeping close watch on the situation. He believes that since it is very late in the game not much can be done about the poles, but if there is an opportunity to revisit it, the Village Board will do so. The Mayor stated that the Village of New Hyde Park raised concerns about the high utility poles long ago with the LIRR and the Governor's office. The Village Board demanded that utilities be buried instead of being strung up. After some negotiation the LIRR concluded that it would cost \$150 Million to bury them and it would add 18 months to the project. The New York Governor's office denied the Village Board's request. The LIRR did promise that the poles will be reduced by 50%. Trustee Burger added that the local Villages have been aware of the problem for quite some time. The Village of New Hyde Park addressed it in August of 2018 and then again in August of 2019. Additionally, the Village Board's concerns were sent to the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County but received no support in the matter.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if Village Board representatives have already reached out to business or property owners along the overlay district, to explore the possibility of purchases of property. The Mayor stated that during the information gathering portion of the project, was when that issue would be addressed, in order for the master plan to be developed. No businesses have been approached at this time.

Resident Sam Khoury wanted to know if there would be a viewing area set up on July 11th to see the tunneling push through on New Hyde Park Road and if the parking lot on Plaza Avenue can be used. Mayor Montreuil is not sure what 3TC's plans are for the push. If at all similar to the Covert Avenue push, residents were allowed to stand on the side road and watch. He is not sure if standing in the parking lot will allow anyone to see down into the tunnel. The Mayor will check with 3TC. Trustee Burger stated that the push will be more visible on the South side of the tracks. The 8-Million-pound Bridge is already there to be pushed into place. The Mayor shared a picture of the bridge that will be pushed under the tracks. The bridge will be pushed 20 inches at a time, with measurements taken between each push.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9.13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board