

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

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

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

**Absent:** Trustee Coppola

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from June 18, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

The Lion's Club of New Hyde Park request the use of the Central Parking Lot for their Christmas Tree Fundraiser, from Friday, November 27, 2020 to Thursday, December 24, 2020. The hours of operation would be Monday through Friday, from 3 PM to 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday, from 9 AM to 8 PM. - **Approved by the Village Board**

**Car Wash Application: Approved by the Village Board for 9/22/20, but subject to change based on Covid-19 statistics during that time period.**

- New Hyde Park Wildcats Soccer Club – Saturday, August 22, 2020 or Secondary date of: September 19, 2020

**Landscaper License Renewals: Approved by the Village Board**

MDR Landscaping – 528 Henry Street, West Hempstead

J&S Landscaping and Construction – 206 Jay Street, Freeport

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

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

**Auxiliary Police**

Mayor Montreuil thanked the Auxiliary Police for their involvement in our community and for the work they do for to keep our residents safe.

### **New Hyde Park Fire Department**

Mayor Montreuil thanked the NHPFD for all their hard work during the height of the Covid-19 crisis and for the great job they have done serving the people of New Hyde Park.

### **Nassau County Police Department**

- In support of the Nassau County Police Department the Village of New Hyde Park placed blue ribbons throughout our community. The ribbons are displayed to show support for all Law Enforcement Officers during this stressful time.
- The Village Board sent out 2 letters of thanks to the NCPD in the last several months, copying the County Executive. One letter of thanks was for the exemplary job and support they offered after the closure of New Hyde Park Road for the LIRR construction project, and more recently, for their professionalism during a protest in front of Village Hall, where they observed the scene from a distance and kept the protesters safe.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct of the Nassau County Police department has great support from our community.

### **NHP Little League**

There are no updates for Little League at this time.

### **Trustee Pallisco:**

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

The following case was heard at the July 8, 2020 meeting, presented via zoom:

- 16 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street - Approval was granted to the applicant requesting to subdivide the existing parcel in order to alter the existing building for use of a banquet hall. The Village code requires a total of 21 parking spaces. The Applicant is providing 6 spaces. This was already approved as Special Use for serving and consumption of food on premises.
- The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held August 12, 2020, with one case on the docket.

#### **Architectural Review Board**

The following cases were heard at the July 9, 2020 meeting, presented via zoom:

- 433 Jericho Turnpike – A decision was table for the applicant seeking to open a coin operated laundromat, with a new storefront and interior alterations. The Board requested changes to the plans.
- The next Architectural Review Board meeting will be held on August 5, 2020, with 2 cases on the docket.

#### **Beautification Committee**

- The center median on Jericho Turnpike has been repaired after it was damaged during the gas line construction by the utility company.
- New sidewalk banners have been placed along Jericho Turnpike.

Boy Scout Troop 298, along with Trustee Pallisco and Trustee Burger, placed blue ribbons on trees along Village streets in support of the Nassau County Police Department.

#### **Cultural Commission**

Trustee Pallisco is working with the Cultural Commission Chairman, Lisa Miranda, who is in the process of planning a Summer Music concert for late August. She is working on securing sponsorship from Maspeth Bank and awaiting on the final date from the band.

The Mayor added, that precautions will have to be taken when the concert takes place due to Covid-19. Spacing will have to be drawn in the grass, designating spaces patrons will be assembling in. Trustee Burger suggested circles or squares be drawn in the grass to separate where people can set up to watch the concert.

The Mayor added that if and when the concert takes place we will have to speak about protocols on how to set up the park to keep our residents safe.

### **Trustee Burger:**

#### **Building Report**

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> via telephone conference and two cases were heard involving placement of building material on the street and illegally parking on the lawn.
- The next Village Court will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- There was no Special Use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting.
- There have been 84 permits in total approved and issued from June 19, 2020 – July 16, 2020.
- Per Tom Gannon, Building Superintendent, the building department work is picking up. The inspectors are going out to sites and meeting with residents outside for safety reasons.

#### **LIRR**

- At this time the New Hyde Park Road construction is on schedule. The plan for reopening is still scheduled for Labor Day weekend.
- A major milestone was reached on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with the push of the bridge into position under the tracks on New Hyde Park Road.
  - Trustee Burger, Trustee Pallisco, Mayor Montreuil and Superintendent Gannon were there on that day and observed the progress of the bridge being pushed into place.
- Overnight work will be continuing on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, for the excavation and installation of transmission poles. The work scheduled to end on July 17<sup>th</sup> was pushed back due to bad weather, to July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- There have been no changes on the station design renderings as of this date. The Village Board did receive the renderings of the interior of the station house. They will be reviewed by the Board and then posted on the Village website.
- The Electrical Substation demolition was completed, preliminary construction has started and pile driving for the foundation has started.
  - Several residents voiced their complaints and contacted Superintendent Gannon due to the strong vibration felt when the piles were being driven in. The vibration exceeded the threshold on the vibration monitors and a work stoppage was issued. Per the reports of the residents in the area, the work did not stop. The Village board is investigating the incident and has contacted the MTA and 3TC. Per their contract, if work stoppage is issued the contractor is supposed to adjust its methods before continuing work.
  - One residential property fence was removed, the back yard was exposed, and no security fencing was installed. With no fence the property was exposed to the construction site. Superintendent Gannon was able to have 3TC install security fencing for security purposes but a privacy fence will be needed for the residency.
  - The Village Board will be asking for an overall construction schedule of work so that announcements can be made to the residents in the area and to see if any work can be pushed into the fall when less people are utilizing their back yards.
  - Trustee Burger thanked the residents for contacting the Village Board when encountering problems with the construction.

- During the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting comments were given by the Village Board on the Electrical Substation design. The Village Board is waiting on the MTA and 3TC to respond formally to the comments.
- Utility work by the Substation on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is going to take 3 weeks with the road being shut down during the daytime hours. Superintendent Gannon has made sure that local businesses will have access to their property. Additionally, the roadway will be reopened every night when work for the day concludes.
- The work on Plaza Avenue is progressing. Paving and curbing has been completed. Lights and traffic signals have been installed.
- A number of punch-list items for Covert Avenue have been closed. Out of the 29 open items on the list, 14 items have been closed, 14 are being worked on and 1 item is going to be reevaluated.
- The landscaping plan has been updated and comments from 3TC received. The committee is quite pleased with 3TC's responses. With the exception of a few trees which will have to be replanted elsewhere due to underground utilities the landscaping plan is on track for planting to resume in September.
- The high rail access gate has been shifted to S 11<sup>th</sup> Street and away from residential homes. The Village Board is looking into making it more aesthetically pleasing.

### **Water Authority**

- Many residents have been experiencing brown water, due to the usage of fire-hydrants by 3TC. The Water Authority is addressing the issue.
  - 3TC has recently asked for a permit for hydrant usage by the construction site. The permit was denied by the Water Authority due to the warnings and violations issued previously.
  - Mayor Montreuil thanked Trustee Rainer for his persistence in getting answers on the issue of brown water in the neighborhood.
- The work on the new Station 57 will be kicking off in August. The Water Authority and 3TC will be coordinating their work so that there will be no conflicting construction projects.
- Trustee Burger will be resigning from his position on the Water Authority and the position will be taken over by Matthew McCann. He will be sending the transition letter to the appropriate contacts in August.

### **Veterans Affairs**

For the safety of our Veterans there have been no meetings held since the start of Covid-19. The last event held was the Memorial Day ceremony and nothing is planned until the Veteran's Day ceremony.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Trustee Burger for the work he has been doing with Trustee Coppola and the New Hyde Park Fire Department on the variance for the building in in Garden City on the South side of the tracks. Trustee Burger stated that NY State requires alternative routes be provided for a firetruck to enter the area in case of an emergency.

Mayor Montreuil stated that the LIRR project is at its apex at this time. The underpass push was a great milestone in the project. The work on the platforms and station has been accelerated with a finish in site. Communication between 3TC, the Village Board and the residents is very important at this time.

- He encouraged everyone who has not filled out the Community Scorecard to do so before the deadline on July 19<sup>th</sup>. At this time the monetary payment incentive has been suspended due to cash concerns the MTA has during this pandemic. Since New Hyde Park is bearing the brunt of the 10-mile project, filling out the Scorecard is very important. The program was set up to take into account those most effected by the project who can grade 3TC on their work performance.

**Trustee Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk’s Report**

N/C Sales Tax – May 2020	\$26,985.00
Sale of Equipment	\$8,250.00
Court Fines	\$25,191.00
Muni Meter Revenue	\$1,384.00
2020/21 Taxes Paid	\$388,714.39
Taxes paid to date	\$3,846,000.00

- Nassau County General Tax due date has been extended from August 10<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> to help alleviate some financial burdens.
- Tax Grievance day has been extended to September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Library**

The Hillside Library is offering curbside pickup. An appointment is needed to utilize curbside pickup. Virtual programs are starting to be offered online.

**Town of North Hempstead**

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the TONH is offering an internet safety class event via zoom, called ‘Technology for the Terrified’. They request all interested to call and register.

**Village Parks**

New Hyde Park Little League has started its practice in our parks. There have been no games scheduled as of yet but they should be within the next two weeks.

**Nassau Schools**

Nothing official has been released in regards to the fall school semester. The school board is looking into having a portion of the curriculum to be virtual.

**Mayor Montreuil:**

**Department of Public Works**

A new Deputy Superintendent will be hired for the Department of Public Works. Superintendent Tom Gannon took over the combined roll of Superintendent for Building and DPW several years ago. Now, with the increasing work load in regards to the 3TC and the LIRR project, the hiring of the Deputy Superintendent position will alleviate some of the work load the Superintendent is responsible for. Igor Sikiric has a long career in public service, most recently with the MTA. He has previously worked for the Town of North Hempstead and the NYS Department of Environmental Controls. Mr. Sikiric and Superintendent Gannon have met several times to plan out the job transition between the two rolls.

Superintendent Gannon reported that sanitation has been heavier than usual because residents have been spending more time at home since the start of the pandemic. Tree trimming and removal has started in the Village. If you have an issue with a tree in front of your property please contact the DPW department. As of this time no one has gotten

sick with the virus at Village Hall or DPW. The relief DPW summer hires have started working for the season and are working out well.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- 20-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-03**
- 20-7 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS**
- 20-8 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPT. OF THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SALVAGE EQUIPMENT**
- 20-9 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT (Certilman)**
- 20-10 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT (Forchelli Degan Terrana LLP)**
- 20-11 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT (Koeppel Martone Leistman LLC)**
- 20-12 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT (Meyer Suozzi English Klein PC)**
- 20-13 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF A WESTERN WATER AUTHORITY LIASION**

Mayor Montreuil thanked Trustee Burger for his service and representation of the Village at the Water Authority. He is confident that Matt McCann will be a great addition to our Village Family and will continue the work started by Trustee Burger. Everyone is entitled to have access to clean water and the Village residents will have someone representing their interests.

- 20-14 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL TIME DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
The Mayor also welcomed the new Deputy Superintendent to the Village Family. The Village employees are looking forward to working with him.
- 20-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALARY INCREASE**

The Mayor also expressed his appreciation to Kate Hillmann, Village Clerk and Treasurer, for her leadership, working with the staff to transition them to work remotely, and equipping Village Hall for when it reopened.

**New Business:**  
There was none.

**Old Business:**  
There was none.

**Public Participation:**

Mayor Montreuil introduced Leslie Mesnick from 3TC, Project Management Office who joined the call to update and answer questions the Village Residents may have in regards to the LIRR construction. The Mayor stated that he is appreciative of her being at the Board Meeting and he congratulated her team on a successful bridge installation. Leslie thanked Superintendent Gannon for all his support since the start of the project, as well as Trustee Burger. She was happy to answer any questions asked and if there was a topic she was not familiar with she informed everyone that she would investigate, talk to the right individuals at 3TC and then report back.

Ms. Mesnick thanked the residents for reaching out to the hotline whenever they encounter difficulties with the project. The hotline has built in redundancies and several individuals are informed when calls are received. She reminded everyone that the time to fill out the Community Scorecard is still open and residents are encouraged to take advantage of that.

She agreed with the Mayor that the bridge push was a great feat of engineering and it went without a hitch. She appreciates the resident's patience during the construction project.

Mayor Montreuil questioned if 3TC has any updates on the truck route to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. The Village Board is concerned with the trouble large trucks have when turning off of Covert Avenue onto 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. Ms. Mesnick did not have any updates on the truck route. She is aware that 3TC traffic engineers are looking into various options for the area. Trustee Burger added that there is a possibility to widen the intersections if two poles and a curb cut is removed, allowing tractor trailers to make wider turns.

Resident Sam Khoury questioned if:

- There have been any updates on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue closure sign? Trustee Burger stated that there has been no update at this time.
- He questioned the incline of northbound New Hyde Park Road from the underpass to the light on Plaza Avenue. Will there be a warning for people entering the underpass and coming up on traffic at the red light Ms. Mesnick stated that she will look into what kind of permanent signage is intended for that area.
- National Grid repaved Jericho Turnpike but did not repaint the 'don't block the box' from the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street. Mayor Montreuil stated that National Grid will repaint all markings lost during the repaving. The Village Board will send them a reminder.

Resident Diane Bentivegna wanted to welcome the new Deputy Superintendent Igor Sikiric to the Village Family. She also thanked Superintendent Tom Gannon for the great work he has been doing for the community.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane stated that the vibrations from the substation constructions, on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, have been dangerously high. She had pictures falling off the walls. All her neighbors are nervous about the damages being caused to their homes. She stated that the vibration meters have been above limit, and there has been no work stoppage by 3TC. Mayor Montreuil stated that Trustee Burger has already contacted 3TC and the MTA and is looking into the event. Ms. Mesnick added that vibrations were reported by several residents, the meters did show an exceedance in vibrations and work did cease at that time. 3TC will have to come up with an alternative method to continue the work. Village of New Hyde Park Attorney, Peter Trentacoste, stated that his understanding was that the work will cease based upon the readings gathered on that day. The data will be analyzed and the next steps will have to be planned out before work resumes.

Ms. Huemmer-Kane added that the work did not stop until 5 PM that day, and the vibrations started early that morning. The Mayor clarified that the vibration meters are there for the purpose of informing 3TC and MTA of the strength of the vibration, if they exceed certain levels there is a work stoppage. If the meters are not recording correctly or no work stoppage measures are taken when levels exceed acceptable amounts of vibrations, it is not a good fail safe and will have to be looked into. Ms. Mesnick added that she will be looking at the reports for the date in question to see what the levels were and when the work stoppage was issued.

Ms. Huemmer-Kane questioned what the new Deputy Superintendent's job function was when he worked for the MTA. Mayor Montreuil stated that Mr. Sikiric was an Assistant Chief Operations Officer and was responsible for all waste streams the MTA produces.

Resident Anne Stevenson questioned if the Village Board hired consultants to help develop a plan for the station area, including surveying the residents of the Village. The Mayor informed the residents that several RFP's have been submitted. The Village Board is still reviewing and evaluating the bids. Until a bid is chosen, no consultants will be hired to survey the area or the residents. He stated that the RPF process is quite long.

Trustee Burger announced that joining this Board Meeting are two Boy Scouts working on their Communications Badges, Aaron and Andrew Canese.

Resident Hale Elifoglu questioned what will be placed on the poles that are being installed on Millers Lane? Will a camera be going up on the pole? Additionally she contacted Judy White who is going to research it.

Mayor Montreuil is not aware of any camera installations anywhere in the construction zone. Ms. Mesnick confirmed that no cameras will be installed on the poles on Millers Lane by 3TC or the LIRR. The poles are for the utility usage by the LIRR and PSEG. Trustee Burger added that there are state regulations for what can be placed on utility poles.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if the poles will be utilized for cell phone towers. Additionally she questioned if the Village will pass an ordinance to protect the area residents from cell phone towers being installed. Village Attorney Peter Trentacoste stated that the Village of New Hyde Park already has cell phone tower installation regulations and any new applicants would have to follow the law. Cell phone towers are federally regulated.

Resident Sam Khoury questioned if there has been any updates on the Harley Davidson dealership? Mayor Montreuil stated that there has been no updates at this time. It's currently in the hands of the applicant in regards to the Environmental Impact Statement.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if there has been any updates on the S 12<sup>th</sup> Street property development. Mayor Montreuil stated that at this time there are no updates.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Pallisco, seconded by Trustee Burger, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board