

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
August 20, 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

Absent:

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:01 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, the Board Minutes from July 16, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

American Legion Post 1089 requests the use of Marcus Christ Hall to hold their monthly meetings. The meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 am to Noon, for the months of October, November, December, March, April, May and June.- **Approved by the Village Board**

Carter License Renewal: Approved by the Village Board
AVF Development Corp – 50 2nd Avenue, Garden City Park
Superior Waste Services – 442 Tate Street, Holbrook

Landscaper License Renewals: Approved by the Village Board
Emmanuel Landscaping – 85-21 161 Street, Jamaica
Rivas Landscaping – 19 Sammis Place, Hempstead
Heriberto Landscaping – 9 Clarks Avenue, Port Washington

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Pallisco:

NHP Little League

Practice and games have started. Practice is held Monday through Friday with games taking place on weekends.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The following case was heard at the August 12, 2020 meeting, and presented via zoom:

- 511 6th Avenue - Approval was granted to the applicant requesting to construct a full second story over the existing first story, along with a two story rear addition. The existing attached garage will be demolished and an 86' concrete driveway will be poured in its place. The existing first floor is 3.75' from the side yard to the east where a 5' side yard is required.
- The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held September 9, 2020.

Architectural Review Board

The following cases were heard at the August 5, 2020 meeting, and presented via zoom:

- 433 Jericho Turnpike – Approval was granted with inclusion of suggested changes, for the applicant seeking to open a coin operated laundromat, with a new storefront and interior alterations.
- 1502 Washington Avenue – Approval is pending written confirmation, for the applicant seeking to add a complete second floor dormer. Since the materials were difficult to see over Zoom, the applicant brought in the materials to the ARB Chairman. A change was suggested by the Board, to which the applicant agreed verbally.
- The next Architectural Review Board meeting will be held on September 2, 2020.

Tree Committee

- The committee will be meeting in early September to discuss the variety of trees that the Village will be purchasing.
- There is a list of 50 requests for new trees from the Village residents.
- Trustee Pallisco thanked the Department of Public Works for their hard work in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias. There were 130 locations that required tree cleanup after the storm ended. Tree debris equaled to 175,000 lbs.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, August 19th via telephone conference.
- The next Village Court will be held on September 16th at Village Hall, with 12 cases on the docket, involving property maintenance, working without a permit, violation of special exception, selling ice cream without a permit, illegal use of a single family home and feeding stray cats.
- All remaining building summonses will be addressed at the October 21st Village Court.
- There was no Special Use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting.
- There have been 65 permits in total approved and issued from July 16, 2020 – August 20, 2020.

LIRR

- At this time the New Hyde Park Road construction is on schedule. The plan for reopening is still scheduled for Labor Day weekend. The MTA and 3TC will let us know the exact date soon.
- A major milestone was reached on July 11th, with the push of the bridge into position under the tracks on New Hyde Park Road.
- No overnight work is expected in the upcoming weeks. The residents will be informed if and when that changes.
- Station design renderings have been uploaded to the website. The green roof proposed will be changed to a gray/blue color which will conform to the rest of the station design.
- The construction on S 12th Street will begin once New Hyde Park Road re-opens. Closure of S 12th Street is expected mid to late September.
 - The detour plan is being worked on by 3TC and when released, will be posted on the Village website.
- The Electrical Substation demolition was completed and preliminary construction has started.
 - Work at the Substation is taking place Monday – Friday, during daytime hours. At this time the schedule states that concrete is being poured.
 - Several residents voiced their complaints 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. The Mayor met with the MTA in regards to this issue and was assured that there will be better communication with the Village residents in the future. Residents are encouraged to report any issues they encounter.
 - Comments were submitted by the Village Board on the Electrical Substation design. No formal reply was received from the MTA/3TC on the comments submitted.
- 3rd Avenue will be closed during the daytime hours, between S 8th Street and S 9th Street, for the next month, due to utility work. All residents and business owners in the area were notified.
- A number of punch-list items for Covert Avenue have been closed. From the 29 open items on the list, 14 items have been closed, with the rest being worked on and in hopes of completion by mid-September.
- The landscaping plan has been updated and comments were submitted and accepted by 3TC. 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 11th Street and away from residential homes. The Village Board is looking into making it more aesthetically pleasing.
- The Village Board is working with 3TC on a truck access route for 3rd Avenue. They are aware of the issues with large trucks entering the area by using residential streets. Residents are encouraged to call the hotline if they continue to see the problem.

Water Authority

- The last Board Meeting for the Water Authority was held on August 17th.
- Starting in September, Matthew McCann will be taking over for Trustee Burger when he steps down from the Water Authority Board. The Oath of Office has been signed by Mr. McCann, and the resignation letter from Trustee Burger will be submitted before the next Board Meeting.
- All contracts were awarded for the Station 57 project and work on the station will be kicking off in September.

Veterans Affairs

For the safety of our Veterans there have been no meetings held since the start of Covid-19. The next meeting will be held on the third Saturday in October at Marcus Christ Hall. A new treasurer and public relations officer have been appointed.

Village of New Hyde Park Board Members and the Nassau County’s Legislator, Rich Nicoletto honored Boy Scout Troop 298 at an award presentation ceremony at Memorial Park. Troop 298, while on a hike, came to the rescue of an injured hiker, who fell off a ledge and broke his ankle.

Mayor Montreuil added that the Village and Village Board is proud of the courage and skills the Scouts and their Leaders displayed during the rescue.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Report

Verizon Fios	\$10,417.78
Licenses Issued	\$860.00
Court Fines	\$40,207.50
Muni Meter Revenue	\$4,237.45
Prior Years Taxes	\$19,045.95
2020/2021 Taxes Paid	\$80,085.42
Penalties Paid in August	\$7,154.69

Library

The Hillside Library is offering curbside pickup. Books and other media can be checked out on-line by Library Cardholders, with a time being arranged for pickup.

Nassau Schools

The Elementary school district will give the option of having school 5 days a week or having virtual school 5 days, for those who are not comfortable with in person classes. In person classes will be split into two groups, with students attending classes on different sides of the school. There will be a town hall meeting with all the elementary school principals on August 21st.

High School district will have a hybrid program. Students be split into two groups (A/B), they will have both in person classes and virtual classes.

Lakeville Civic Association

They will be holding a multi-family community yard sale. All participants need to register to participate. The community yard sale will be held on August 22nd, from 9 am to 2 pm.

The repaving of Hillside Avenue will be starting in early September, and it is scheduled to be completed by December 2020.

Clinton G. Martin Pool is open every day and free to all Town of North Hempstead residents. Hours of operation have been split into two sections, 10 am to 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm to 6 pm. The hour in between is used to sanitize the pool area and make it safe for patrons.

The Eagle Scouts are holding a car-wash in the parking lot of Notre Dame Church on August 22nd. Residents are encouraged to go out and support their local Eagle Scouts.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

Mayor Montreuil thanked the DPW department for the outstanding work they did during Tropical Storm Isaias.

- The wind in our area was strong and we had a lot of damage caused by downed trees. The first list the Mayor received had 60 tree events listed, which grew to 130 by the time the storm ended. As a comparison, during Superstorm Sandy there were 86 tree events.
- DPW worked around the clock to clear roads blocked by debris allowing residents to leave their homes and for emergency vehicles to gain access to the area. DPW worked with PSEG to restore electrical power to the many households in the Village who were without after the storm. A PSEG government affairs employee, along with Superintendent Tom Gannon and Deputy Superintendent Igor Sikiric went from house to house to help get residential electricity restored and make the area safe.
- The Village engaged outside contractors with heavy equipment to cut down large fallen trees and help get downed trees off the roads.
- There are still trees in the Village that have been compromised and will be removed by DPW, for safety reasons. An arborist was engaged to check trees and see if they can pose risks during future storms.
- The Mayor declared a state of emergency and that will stay in effect until the cleanup is complete. Monies spent for storm cleanup are eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Both Superintendent Tom Gannon and Deputy Superintendent Igor Sikiric thanked the Mayor and Board, as well as the residents and their DPW department, for the help and support in the aftermath of the storm.

PSEG priorities were to work on areas that affected the largest amounts of customers. A number of Village residents had no electricity for several days. The Mayor stated that the Department of Public Works was in constant contact with PSEG to get up to date information to those who were without power.

Harley Davidson submitted the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comments to the Village attorneys. However, since the applicant is in arrears on their special use research fee payment, the Village is unable to take action on the study until that is rectified by the applicant.

Deputy Mayor Squicciarino and Village Clerk Kate Hillmann are currently working on a system called GoGov. It's a 311 system which would improve and better dispatch requests and complaints coming into Village Hall.

Trustee Coppola:

Trustee Coppola stated that there were complaints from some of the residents when the Village decided to remove trees from some of our streets. Healthy trees are not removed, only ones that may pose danger during storms. With this storm we saw how, even healthy trees, can fall victim to strong winds.

New Hyde Park Fire Department

Trustee Coppola thanked the NHPFD for all their hard work during and in the aftermath of tropical storm Isaias. There were a lot of dangerous electrical wires down after the winds died down. They responded immediately and blocked off areas with downed live wires. The higher the wire sits on an electrical pole the more dangerous and stronger it is. Residents are warned not to attempt to move any downed wires when they encounter them.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-05

20-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES

20-19 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Andrew Faglio questioned if:

- On the days where vibrations meters exceeded the thresholds, are there reports available for residents to look at who live near the construction site? Trustee Burger requested that Mr. Faglio email him the list of dates he is referring to and he will look into obtaining the report for those dates.
- The storage building which was torn down absorbed a lot of the noise from the train tracks, will there be any noise barriers installed when the station is complete? Trustee Burger stated that there will be a barrier wall built on both sides of the tracks which will shield the wheels and help with the noise of the wheels on the tracks.
- Will the 'don't block the box' which was removed from the corner of Herkimer Street and Jericho Turnpike be re-painted? Mayor Montreuil stated that it was removed when the street was repaved and it will be re-painted.
- Additionally he questioned if there are plans to place a 'don't block the box' on the corner of New Hyde Park Road and S Park Place. He is concerned that because of the light at Plaza Avenue the traffic will be backing up and blocking the exit from S Park Place. Mayor Montreuil stated that after the re-opening of New Hyde Park Road, the Village will see how traffic flows in that area and will assess the situation at that time.
- When the construction of the pedestrian walkway will start on S 12 Street? Mayor Montreuil stated that the construction is slated to start mid-September and at that time S 12 Street will be closed to through traffic.
- Can something be done about the feral cats in the neighborhood? In the last newsletter Mayor Montreuil announced that feral cats should not be fed. Feeding them only attracts more cats to the neighborhood. The Village inspectors go out and warn people against feeding cats. The towns of North Hempstead and Hempstead have programs where they pick up feral cats, spay and neuter them and then release them back on the streets. However, that does not prevent them from roaming the neighborhood.

Resident Najwa Buatti questioned if anything is being done with the truck issue at 1804 Plaza Avenue. Trucks are using residential streets and ripping down the tree branches. DPW was very helpful when she called. However 18 wheelers constantly use residential streets to get to 1804 Plaza Avenue. Mayor Montreuil stated that large trucks do

not belong on residential streets, they pose a hazard with kids playing on the streets, and they pull down wires and tree branches. The issue was raised with 3TC because some of the original signs posted have been taken down and truck drivers have become more lax and don't follow signs posted. The Mayor and Board are looking into it.

Resident Sam Khoury questioned:

- What Trustee Burger meant when he spoke about liability for the Village when it comes to new road signage? Trustee Burger stated that the MTA and LIRR work with Nassau County to determine and make recommendations on traffic signs and stripping. If the Village goes against the recommendations made by Nassau County, the Village can be liable if something occurs on that road, since recommendations were not followed.
- If Superintendent Tom Gannon ever figured out what was it that destroyed the curb in front of his house? Superintendent Gannon stated that it looks like it was some kind of machinery but he did not figure out what exactly.

Resident Diane Bentivegna wanted to know the status of the survey to be sent out, coming from the development consultant hired to develop the area around the station? Mayor Montreuil stated that the development consultants have not been hired yet and therefore no surveys have been distributed.

Resident Najwa Buatti questioned if there are Village regulations for business noise on the weekends. Reel Sprinklers starts work before 9 am on Sundays, and the loud metal clanging is disturbing the residents. Superintendent Gannon will be paying a call to Reel Sprinklers in regard to this issue.

Resident Lisa O'Donnell wanted to know who she should contact in regard to a large pothole that formed where her driveway meets the street. And who is ultimately responsible for fixing that, the homeowner or Village? Mayor Montreuil stated that DPW will look into that and get back to her.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board