

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
October 1, 2020**

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

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

Absent: Deputy Mayor Squicciarino

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:03 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from September 17, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

The Republican Club requested the use of Marcus Christ Hall to hold a meeting, on Monday, October 19, 2020 between 7-9 pm. The Hall is available.

- Approved by the Village Board

Used Car Permit Application: Tabled

Auto PHD Diagnostics and Repair Inc. – 167 Lakeville Road (NEW)

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Montreuil announced that Trustee Burger would be presenting his Trustee report at the start of the meeting. Public questions will be taken for Trustee Burger's report only. The rest of the Trustee reports will be presented afterward with public participation to follow.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village building court was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, with 12 cases on the docket. This was the first building court held in person since the start of the pandemic.

- Cases included: property maintenance, selling ice cream without a permit, use of a single family home, working without a permit, and feeding stray cats.
- The next Village building court will be held on October 21, 2020 at Village Hall, with 26 cases on the docket, involving property maintenance, working without a permit, violation of special exception, illegal use of a single family home, illegally parked on lawn, illegal second kitchen, and harboring undomesticated animals.
- There was no special use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting.
- There have been 23 permits in total approved and issued from September 17 – October 1, 2020

DPW

- National Grid work continues. Superintendent Gannon will have a walkthrough with National Grid looking at the streets that have to be opened up for utility work.
- Trustee Burger thanked Deputy Superintendent Sikiric and the DPW department for the continuation of the tree cleanup after the storm we had, as well as the removal of the Optimum cable that was posing a hazard on Plaza Avenue.

LIRR

- Work continues to move forward on the 3rd Track Project.
- There has been a lot of night work our residents have had to deal with along the right of way as well as on Covert Avenue.
 - Work is supposed to run through October.
 - There have been relocations of power lines so that poles can be removed. MTA noted that there are several things being worked on in parallel to reduce the overall schedule and the project can be wrapped up earlier.
 - There have been complaints received from the residents and the Village Board is addressing them with the MTA. The Board has requested some of the work be done during the day, especially work on Covert Avenue.
 - Additionally there have been reports that the construction teams are not following COVID protocols.
- There will be no LIRR service this upcoming weekend and for several weekends in October.
- Mayor Montreuil added that there are supposed to be 5 more weekends of night work so switches can be installed. 3TC is taking advantage of the night work to do other non-scheduled work. Additional complaints have been reported of idling trucks lining the streets near the construction area.
- Since the reopening of New Hyde Park Road on August 24, 2020, some of the safety issues that the Village Board was concerned about are being worked on.
 - The South Bound lane re-alignment request was submitted to Nassau County and the restriping of lanes has been approved.
 - Crosswalk and pedestrian visibility is still a concern.
 - The Village Board invited Stantec to look over the left turning lane into the commuter lot.
 - Pedestrian bridge across New Hyde Park Road is going to be opening soon.
- Construction continues to move forward on both the station house and the platforms. Work is being done on both the interior and exterior of the station house.
- Currently, S 12th Street is slated to close for construction in late October.
 - 3TC is currently working on signage, detour plans, communication and coordination with the MTA.
- The foundation work on the electrical substation has been completed, as well as the utility work on 3rd avenue. Transformer pads and the installation of the grounding grid are in process.
 - Work continues Monday-Friday, during the daytime hours.

- When pilings were being removed, many residents reported off the charts vibrations. 3TC is looking into alternative methods to remove the last of the pilings and will notify the Village Board before starting work.
- There has been no new updates on the landscaping plan since the last board meeting on September 17, 2020.
- There has been no new updates on the high rail access gate on S 11th Street since the last Board Meeting on September 17, 2020.
- Foundation work for the wall construction continues. Panels are being manufactured and expected to be delivered and installed in Jan/Feb of 2021.
- 3TC and the MTA is still working on the truck access for 3rd Avenue. Current design can accommodate an 18 wheeler from 45-55 feet.

Water Authority

- All contracts were awarded for the Station 57 project and work on the station will be kicking off in October.
- Mr. Matthew McCann took over the responsibilities previously held by Trustee Burger with the Water Authority. Mr. McCann will be attending the next Board Meeting and will be reporting any updates to Trustee Burger.

Veterans Affairs

- American Legion Post 1089 will hold their next meeting on October 17, 2020 at 10 am at Marcus Christ Hall.

LIRR Public Participation

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane questioned:

- Whether the large poles being installed will hold any PSEG electric wires. The residents were made to believe that it was only going to be LIRR electric wiring. The LIRR website states that there will be electric outages to resident homes. Mayor Montreuil stated that the large poles are to hold 64K volts of electricity for the LIRR. Trustee Burger added that there might be some instances where PSEG wiring will interfere with the removal of poles so it might require an outage. He will be checking with 3TC and the MTA to confirm.
- Ms. Huemmer-Kane thanked Superintendent Tom Gannon for his help with vibration problems near the G4 Substation construction area. The MTA and 3TC promised the residents that no vibration equipment was to be used during the construction of the substation. Mayor Montreuil stated that vibration equipment was not to be used during the installation process, however it seems as if it was used for the removal of walls at the substation. Trustee Burger added that he will be going over to the site to see how much more work there is to be done. He will also be checking in with 3TC and the MTA to find out why the vibrating equipment was used.
- Whether S 12th Street will become a dead end or it will become a T intersection. Trustee Burger stated that it will become a T intersection.

Resident Sam Khoury thanked the Village Board for working on putting in the guidelines for the shifting lanes in the newly opened underpass. He suggested that maybe signs are needed to inform people of the lane shift.

Resident Paul DeMattina wanted to know if the Village of New Hyde Park raised any objection to the 100 foot poles that are being installed by the LIRR. Additionally he wanted to know if they were in the original plans. Trustee Burger stated that in fact, objections were raised several times by the Village of New Hyde Park. Mayor Montreuil tried to get other communities who would be affected to get involved. He even went so far as the Governor's office,

but unfortunately our objections were shot down. The poles were in the original plans. Since there will be less poles, there will also be less wiring hanging from the poles. The Mayor added that the MTA and 3TC will be letting the Village Board know as work progresses, which poles will be eliminated and which will be replaced with the larger 100 foot poles. Since other comminutes are asking the same questions, Mayor Montreuil and the Village Board are hoping that an answer will be received by mid-October.

With no other questions regarding the LIRR construction, the meeting returned to Trustee Reports.

Trustee Coppola:

Encouraged everyone to stay vigilant and continue to wash hands, wear masks and stay socially distant whenever possible during the pandemic. Covert Avenue School reported several COVID cases recently.

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- The New Hyde Park Fire Department wanted to make everyone aware that most hand sanitizers being used these days are comprised of 70% alcohol which has a low flash point. With winter season approaching and candles being used more often, they cautioned everyone to watch out for hand burns. The alcohol based sanitizers flash up quickly.
- There was a large fire on Covert Avenue, in Floral Park that destroyed several business and damaged many more. 20 separate Fire Departments worked together to extinguish the fire. The timing of the fire was unfortunate, the businesses involved were just getting back on their feet because of the pandemic.

New Hyde Park Auxiliary

Trustee Coppola spoke to Commander Concannon about parking an Auxiliary Car on S Park Place, to discourage people from using the one way street as a two way.

Nassau County Police Department

Residents were reminded that they need to lock their vehicle doors and to call the police if they see anyone suspicious lurking around their residence. There have been thefts ranging from change found in the vehicle, to computer theft, and house keys being taken from inside the vehicle.

Mayor Montreuil added that the New Hyde Park Fire Department held a 9/11 ceremony honoring all those lost during the attacks. Additionally he encouraged the residents to visit the memorial wall in the back of the NHPFD. The wall commemorates the 9/11 tragedy, listing those who we lost from our community.

Trustee Pallisco:

By now all residents should have received the latest Village Newsletter. Trustee Pallisco thanked Lara Verbanac for her redesign of the quarterly Newsletters.

Beatification Committee

Our landscaping contractor began planting mums and cabbage plants in the center mediums, pocket parks, bump outs and in front of Village Hall.

Tree Committee

The Village of New Hyde Park submitted for a 2020 Urban Community Forestry Grant which unfortunately was not selected for funding this year. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation received 152 proposals

and only awarded 30 grants. The Tree Committee will work with the grant writer to explore if anything different could have been done with the submittal.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- The last meeting of the Zoning Board was scheduled for September 9, 2020. Since no applications were submitted the meeting was canceled.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for October 14, 2020 with one case on the docket.
 - 510 5th Avenue – the resident is requesting to construct a second kitchen to the rear of the home for her mother. The plans now show a 20’ rear yard setback where 25’ is needed.

Architectural Review Board

- The Architectural Review Board meeting originally scheduled for September 2, 2020 was canceled, due to no applications being submitted.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 7, 2020. As of now there are no cases on the docket.

Noise Abatement Committee

There is a new FAA Noise Representative, Vada Simmons. The link to her contact information will be placed on the Village Website. On September 24, 2020, twenty-seven House Representatives, including Congresswoman Rice sent a letter to the FAA about inadequate reports on aircraft mitigations efforts. The letter stated that they failed to address the impact of noise on our community. They asked that the FAA reevaluate the metrics for the day/night average sound levels.

New Hyde Park Lions Club

For the first time in 40 years the NHP Lions Club has canceled their Annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Central Lot. Because of COVID members are not comfortable working the tree lot.

Trustee Squicciarino: Absent. No report was provided in her absence.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

Deputy Superintendent Sikiric stated that tree removal is still ongoing. Work is being done by either the DPW department or an outside contractor. Additionally, several pot holes have recently been filled.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-28 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-08

20-29 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

20-30 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME PARKING METER ATTENDENT FOR DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS CODE ENFORCEMENT

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Vivian Vitale is questioning why is it that the no parking sign at the end of 7th Avenue where the road dead-ends was placed, when other streets with the same exact setup do not have it. Superintendent Tom Gannon stated that the sign was placed because a resident requested the sign. The area was measured and it was determined that a sign is needed. Upon residential requests the Village proceeds by looking into the matter and placing signs where it's deemed necessary.

Ms. Vitale also questioned if the 10 feet no parking sign can be changed to 7 feet, giving her the extra three feet to fit one of her cars on the street without blocking the driveway. Superintendent Gannon stated that the sign reads 10 feet because the typical length of a car was taken into consideration.

Resident Diane Schafer wanted an update from the Village Board in regard to the 'trap and release' program once available in the Town of Hempstead. Village Clerk Hillmann stated that both the Town of Hempstead and the Town of North Hempstead were contacted about their programs. She will be putting in a request with the Town Attorney's offices to get copies of the reports listing the number of cats neutered as well as the areas where they were trapped. Additionally she did get confirmation that the program the Town of Hempstead use to have is now outsourced to a local Veterinary Clinic.

Resident Sam Khoury questioned if the Board of Trustees is aware of kids egging houses in the neighborhood. He wanted to know if the POP officers from NCPD have been engaged. Trustee Coppola stated that he and the Nassau County Police are aware of the problem.

Mr. Khoury also questioned if a date has been set for the Harley Davidson hearing. Mayor Montreuil stated that the date has not been set at this time.

Mr. Khoury wanted to know if National Grid can be contacted to paint the 'don't block the box' at the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street. Superintendent Gannon stated that he will be speaking to them about it.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Mayor Montreuil, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board