

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 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 8:01 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from October 1, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

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.

New Hyde Park Auxiliary

Trustee Coppola thanked Commander Concannon who had an Auxiliary Car parked on S Park Place, to discourage people from using the one way street as a two way.

Nassau County Police Department

Several car break-ins have been reported in the neighborhood ranging from change stolen from inside the vehicle to laptops. Residents were reminded that they need to lock their vehicle doors and to call 911 if they see anyone suspicious lurking around their residence.

Mayor Montreuil added that the NCPD had a flyer created informing residents of ‘porch pirates’ who steal delivered packages off resident porches. The flyer will be posted on the Village website.

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- So far in the year 2020, 701 alarms have been responded to by the NHPFD.
- With winter season approaching, residents are reminded to keep their chimneys and their burners clean to avoid a fire emergency.
- Everyone is encouraged to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If the detectors are 10 years old or more they should be replaced.

Little League

As of Labor Day weekend Little League has ended for the year.

Trustee Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

- The last meeting of the Zoning Board was held on October 14, 2020. With one case on the docket:
 - 510 5th Avenue – Approval was granted to the resident originally requesting to construct a second kitchen to the rear of the home for her mother. Before the start of the meeting the second kitchen was removed from the plans. The plans also show a 20' rear yard setback where 25' is needed.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for November 10, 2020. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

Architectural Review Board

- The Architectural Review Board meeting originally scheduled for October 7, 2020 was canceled, due to no applications being submitted.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 2, 2020. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

Mayor Montreuil added that the Shell Gas Station on the corner of New Hyde Park Road and Jericho Turnpike which was approved by the Architectural Review Board is coming along well.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village building court was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, with 12 cases on the docket.
 - 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 October 1 – October 15, 2020

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 end of October, beginning of November.
 - Installing railroad utilities from Plainfield Avenue to New Hyde Park Road will be completed this week.

- Platform foundation is slated to be installed between October 19 and 22, 2020.
- Platform slabs will be installed from the hi-rail on South 11th Street at the start of November.
- 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.
- Complaints in regard to idling trucks near the construction area have decreased.
- New Hyde Park Road and Plaza Avenue pedestrian walkway is now open.
- Village Board met with Stantec who performed a survey on the commuter lot. Recommendations were made to repaint some of the striping, relocate signs on exit lane, install additional signs on center of exit/entrance, and paint arrows to better direct traffic.
- Construction continues to move forward on both the station house and the platforms. There have been no new updates received from the MTA and 3TC.
- Currently, S 12th Street is slated to close permanently at the rail road crossing on October 24, 2020
 - Vehicular and pedestrian detour maps have been provided and have been uploaded to our website.
 - 3TC continues to do outreach. They will send out notices, place signage, broadcast the closure, and make map updates.
 - Pedestrian passageway will be constructed and is slated to open in the first quarter of 2021. The Village Board is pushing to have it open earlier than scheduled.
- 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.
 - The Village Board is still awaiting an answer on the perimeter and fencing.
 - The substation is expected to be up and running by the third quarter of 2021.
- The Village Board is requesting the overall number of utility poles to be removed. Currently there is a combination of old and new poles. Old pole removal will begin in 2021.
- Truck access for 2nd and 3rd Avenues is still being worked on. The Village Board met with Stantec to review the plan. The current truck access plan can accommodate an 18 wheeler from 45-55 feet, in order for the road to accommodate larger trucks, over 30 parking spots would have to be removed from 3rd Avenue. The Village Board will be meeting with the MTA as soon as possible to address the truck access and parking loss.
- Covert Avenue punch list is still being worked on. As of now there are only 8 items open on the list, from the original 29.

Water Authority

- The Station 57 project has kicked off.
- Over 600 notices went out to the surrounding community and construction has started on October 14, 2020.

Veterans Affairs

- American Legion Post 1089 will hold their next meeting on October 17, 2020 at 10 am at Marcus Christ Hall.
- The plans for the Veterans Day Ceremony are in the works. It will most likely mirror the ceremony that was held for Memorial Day.

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

Mayor Montreuil:

Mayor Montreuil spoke briefly about the request received from the Principal of the New Hyde Park Road School regarding two handicapped parking spots needed on the two roads that run parallel to the school (Belmont Avenue

and Park Avenue). A handicapped student will need to utilize the spots that will allow them to enter the school from the front where there is a readily accessible ramp.

Department of Public Works

- Stump removal is still ongoing. To date 35 tree stumps have been removed. There are still several trees scheduled to be trimmed and stumps to be removed.
- Sidewalk and curb repair is ongoing.
- The Village of New Hyde Park incurred \$260K of expenses during and immediately after the storm Isaias. Because the Mayor declared a state of emergency during the storm, the expenses incurred will be submitted to FEMA to be recouped.
- Residents were reminded that Election Day and Veterans Day trash and recycling pickup is suspended. The sanitation schedule is posted on our Village Website.
- Tree maintenance continues. Taking preventative measures, 25 trees have been trimmed in case we experience another storm.
- The highway group has been repairing potholes. If there is a pothole you would like to report call the DPW department.

Village Audit

The Auditors have completed the previous year audit. Despite the impact from COVID the year ended with a surplus of \$300K. The surplus is due to the late payments received for the LIRR expenses. Expenses were incurred and revenue was lost because of the lack of LIRR usage during the pandemic. The Auditors will be invited to give a formal presentation in the next few months.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-28 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-10

20-29 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES

20-30 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Paul DeMattina questioned if the traffic lights on Covert Avenue and Jericho Turnpike as well as Jericho Turnpike and New Hyde Park road will be adjusted accordingly with the closure of S 12 Street.

- The light on Jericho Turnpike and Covert Avenue only allows 2-3 cars to pass the intersection.

Mayor Montreuil stated that traffic studies were done for each one of the closures during the construction project. The Village board will speak to DOT if there are problem areas that need to be addressed. Trustee Burger added that if only 2-3 cars are able to make the light at Jericho Turnpike and Covert Avenue it is because there is a backup on Jericho Turnpike. The light is substantially longer at that intersection.

Additionally Mr. DeMattina questioned if it was wise to hold off the opening of the pedestrian underpass until the construction on S 12 Street is complete. People will have to walk a long way to get to the other side. Mayor Montreuil stated that the Village originally questioned 3TC if a temporary walkway over the tracks can be built until the underpass opens. Since the area is a construction zone it would be unsafe for the temporary overpass to be built. Trustee Burger added that for the underground passageway to be built S 12th Street must be closed. Digging out the street while still open would pose a safety hazard. Since the platforms have been temporarily moved to Covert Avenue, most train passengers have been utilizing the pedestrian underpass on Covert Avenue. When the new platforms reopen S 12th Street pedestrian walkway will be available to passengers.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if the Village will plant trees along streets regardless of whether the residents request them or not. Superintendent Gannon stated that trees will be planted even if there is no request from the resident. Mayor Montreuil added that any bare areas in the Village will get trees planted. The Beautification Committee did a great job with the landscaping plan. Most of the tree planting will take place next spring. Trustee Pallisco added that on 2nd and 3rd Avenues the sidewalks will be cut out so that trees can be planted.

Additionally Ms. Bentivegna asked if the safety issue will be addressed at the intersection of Covert Avenue and 2nd Avenue. Drivers on Covert Avenue cannot see oncoming traffic along 2nd Avenue because of the underpass wall. Mayor Montreuil stated that there is a stop sign on Covert Avenue and 2nd Avenue, however he agrees that it is a hazard because the wall from the underpass juts out into the road and impacts driver's sight. Trustee Burger added that the Village considered placing a mirror at the intersection but since the sun reflecting on the mirror can become a hazard it will not place mirrors at the intersection.

Resident Sam Khoury stated that he posted the flyer from LIRR informing residents of the closure of S 12th Street on nextdoor.com. Additionally he suggested the island between the exit and entrance into the new parking lot on Plaza Avenue be changed, but for that to happen the road would have to be shifted. Trustee Burger stated that any road changes have to go through the county. When the Village Board suggested they round out the island they received a lot of pushback from the MTA.

Mr. Khoury stated that he will be emailing the DOT regarding the painted 'don't block the box' at the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street which was removed by National Grid during utility work and was never repainted. Superintendent Gannon stated that he has tried himself to get them to paint the sign with no luck.

Mr. Khoury also questioned if during Halloween and in the days preceding, there will be Nassau County Police patrols or Auxiliary patrols in the neighborhood. Mayor Montreuil stated that since the Village does not have any say, Trustee Coppola will be contacting the NCPD and the Auxiliary Police. Trustee Coppola added that the NCPD is on top of it and is aware of the kind of things that happen around that holiday.

Ms. Bentivegna questioned if any proposals have been submitted for the development within the overlay district and the status on the hiring of the consultant for the project. Mayor Montreuil stated that the Village Board has narrowed it down to two consulting firms and will keep everyone updated as things develop.

Mayor Montreuil announced that he was at a recent meeting with Thomas DiNapoli the New York State Comptroller, who shared sobering GDP numbers for the fourth quarter of 2020 for Long Island. Long Island's numbers are down 38% due mostly to the long shutdown. Most income in the State of New York comes from NYS Income Tax revenue. The MTA is also in dire straits and is asking the government for \$10 Billion for operating expenses. The Mayor is not sure if there is going to be any impact on the LIRR project because of this. They are estimating that business will not return to pre-COVID until at least 2022. And the same applies to Airlines.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Ms. Bentivegna for sending over the Long Island Regional Planning Board's recommendation for land use.

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 8.51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board