

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 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, Superintendent DPW & Building Department
Igor Sikiric, Deputy Superintendent DPW
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent: Trustee Coppola

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:02 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, the Board Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Prior to the start of the meeting Mayor Montreuil spoke to the residents regarding issues that have arisen in the Village in the last several days.

- On Nov 19th the Installation of piles and shoring walls at the G-14 Substation produced vibrations that were very disruptive to the residents in the vicinity of the construction zone. This activity took place throughout the day, shaking homes to the point that the Village received a number of calls and emails requesting the activity stop. The Village contacted 3TC and requested the construction stop. On the evening of the 19th Trustee Burger sighted a large crane on South 9th Street by the substation. This crane also blocked the road. This was unscheduled work in which the Village was not notified. In addition per 3TC and MTA, no night work was scheduled for that time period. The Mayor contacted 3TC and asked them to shut down the work. Trustee Burger went on site and spoke to the supervisor in charge, who apologized for the last-minute construction work, and the lack of notification to the Village and residents. Even the outreach team was unaware of the construction at the substation. It is unacceptable for 3TC not to notify those who will be affected before they start construction that produces a lot of vibration. The Village Board will be holding 3TC accountable for that.
- Mayor Montreuil wanted to acknowledge Superintendent Gannon, Deputy Superintendent Sikiric and the whole DPW team for the great job they did with clean up after the most recent storm we experienced. The storm was very strong and damaging. It encompassed only a portion of the Village where the damage to 5th and 6th Avenues was the worst. Many trees were knocked down, telephone poles were snapped, electricity was lost, and several homes were evacuated. Calls started to come in to the NHP Fire Department at about 9 pm and continued for the next few hours. There were no reports of any injuries, however there was property damage. The strength of the storm was measurable to Superstorm Sandy or Isaias but it was concentrated in a small area. The DPW group mobilized immediately and was on the scene for clean-up. They worked with PSEG to restore power. By the end of the 24 hour period debris was cleared away from all the roads. It was a

long day and night for our DPW team and the Mayor and Village Board wanted to thank them for their service.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Peddlers Permit: Approved

Verizon FIOS / Verizon Wireless – 1 Commercial Avenue, Garden City

Catering Permit: Approved

Nicole Fallon Enterprises Inc. Food Truck – 30 Sweenydale Avenue, Bayshore

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

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

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- With Blood Banks running low the NHPFD will be holding a Blood Drive on November 20, 2020 from 2 pm to 9 pm at the Fire Station.

Based on the latest CDC report, travel is discouraged during the Thanksgiving season, and so is spending time with people who are not part of the household.

Trustee Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

- The last meeting of the Zoning Board was held on November 10, 2020, with one case on the docket:
 - 127 N 10th Street – Approval was granted to the applicant seeking to construct a second story addition. The second story addition would bring the floor area to 1978.22 square feet. The maximum permitted floor area is 1800 square feet. The second story addition to the north, leaves a side yard of 3.91 feet where a 5 foot side yard is required.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for December 9, 2020. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

Architectural Review Board

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on November 4, 2020, with one case on the docket:
 - 554 N 6th Street – Approval was granted, pending a landscaping plan, to the homeowner proposing a two story addition with a 1.5 car garage.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on December 2, 2020. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

Cultural Commission

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on the Front Lawn of Village Hall, on December 5, 2020. We will have someone singing Christmas carols after which Santa will make an appearance on the back of the NHPFD truck. Mayor Montreuil added that because of COVID, this year's celebration will be more subdued. It will only take place on the front lawn of Village Hall and will therefore start at dusk.

Boy Scout Troop 298 will be repainting the striping at Lakeville Parking Lot on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Cars won't be able to utilize the parking lot from 9 am to 3 pm.

New Hyde Park Lions Club has collected over \$200 worth of dry and canned goods which they donated to the churches of Holy Spirit and Notre Dame.

The Greater New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce is holding a food drive until December 31, 2020. For more information on what can be donated, please visit their website.

Trustee Burger:

LIRR

- Work continues to move forward on the 3rd Track Project.
- Trustee Burger thanked the residents for calling and emailing him in regard to the G-14 Substation construction. There was a lot of vibration felt by the residents in close vicinity of the substation, while the shoring piles were being put in. For now work in the area seems to be completed.
 - Residents were encouraged to request the Vibration Analysis Report for the day of the construction.
 - The Village Board is questioning why 3TC had not notified the Village and the NHP Fire Department of the work that was being done in the area.
 - On S 9th Street a crane was placed into the road, blocking traffic. The crane was subsequently removed.
 - The Village Board requested a wall be built around the substation area. 3TC has a proposal ready but it has not been submitted to the Village Board yet.
- S 12th Street has been permanently closed as of October 24th. Pedestrian and vehicle detour plans have been released and posted on the Village website. MTA and 3TC announced that the pedestrian underpass should be completed in Q3 of 2021. The Village Board is pushing hard for them to open earlier.
 - Pedestrian passageway will be prefabricated and will also have to be pushed into place as did the underpass at New Hyde Park Road as well as Covert Avenue.
- Night work was proposed for the next two weeks from 11pm to 5 am. Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger spoke to 3TC and the work was rescheduled to be done during the day. Work is scheduled to begin on November 30, 2020.
- New Hyde Park Road underpass and Plaza Avenue parking lot safety concerns are being addressed.
 - Crosswalk and pedestrian crosswalk visibility has been an issue and is being looked into.
 - The Village Board is working with Stantec on the exit and entry points into the lot to see if changes can be made.
- Construction continues to move forward on both the station house and the platforms. The support columns and platform overhang are starting to take shape. There are two buildings for mechanical gear being built on both east and west bound sides of the tracks.
- Utility pole installation has been completed. Utilities will be relocated onto the poles in the near future. There will be periodical outages and residents will be notified beforehand. The final utility pole plan is to be sent over to the Village Board by end of December.
- Only a small section of the wall has been constructed on the Garden City side of the tracks. The rest of the wall pieces will be delivered in January or February of 2021.
- Truck access for 2nd and 3rd Avenues is still being worked on. 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 is waiting on MTA and 3TC for an update they have not received.

Water Authority

- The Station 57 project has kicked off.
- PSEG will be working on removing the power from the facility.

Veterans Affairs

- The Veteran’s Day ceremony was held on the front lawn of Village Hall. It was a nice ceremony with many attendees, including several public officials. Trustee Burger thanked the DPW team for the ceremony set up and take down of materials.
- American Legion Post 1089 held its first meeting since the start of COVID on October 17, 2020 at Marcus Christ Hall.
- As of this week the Nassau County regional office canceled all American Legion meeting for the foreseeable future due to the rising amount of cases of COVID.
- The Grand Marshal this year was Sergeant Gunter Harter from the US Army. He is a Purple Heart recipient. He received a purple heart after an explosion severely damaged his right ear and killed a member of his squad. He was only 1 of 4 to return from Vietnam from his unit.

Building Report

- Village building court was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, with 26 cases on the docket.
 - Cases included: property maintenance, working without a permit, illegally parked on lawn, violation of special exception, illegal use of a single family home, working without a permit, illegal second kitchen, harboring undomesticated animals and working on Sunday.
- The next Village building court will be held on December 16, 2020 at Village Hall, with 16 cases on the docket, involving property maintenance, working without a permit, illegal use of a single family home, illegally parked on lawn, power washing vehicles on Sunday morning, and vending truck with no permit.
- There have been 34 permits in total approved and issued from November 4 to November 18, 2020

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Report

Coin Collection	\$4,500.00
Mortgage Tax 1 st Pymt.	\$21,499.41
Court Fines - Traffic	\$48,389.00
Court Fines – Building	\$4,972.00
Munimeter Revenue	\$6,435.50
2020/2021 Taxes Paid	\$13,992.40
Penalties Paid	\$123.25

- Town of North Hempstead taxes are due December 10, 2020
- Village of New Hyde Park Tax balances are due December 31, 2020

Village Parks

Village parks will remain open throughout the year, however facilities have been closed for the winter months.

Library

- Library is now open for browsing by appointment only. To make an appointment go to the library website to sign up or call to make an appointment. There are virtual events offered online for all those who are interested.
- The library is holding a food drive from November 16th to November 30th. Cans and dry food collected will be donated to the Island Harvest.

New Hyde Park Schools

New Hyde Park Memorial High School has been closed for two days for cleaning after someone at the school tested positive for COVID-19. All students will be remote from November 19th to November 20th.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

The Mayor thanked Superintendent Gannon and Deputy Superintendent Sikiric, along with the DPW department for their quick response and hard work in the cleanup after the storm. Deputy Superintendent Sikiric added that there were 15 trees lost during the storm and 7 telephone poles which were snapped.

- 50 new trees were delivered to be planted. The trees are not going to grow as tall and impact the wiring above.
- There will be no trash pickup on Thanksgiving Day. The following day will be a double day for trash pickup.
- 5 trees were removed along with the 15 that were knocked down during the storm.
- 36 stumps were excavated or ground down.
- A resolution will be passed tonight to replace Sean Murphy as foreman. Sean has been with the Village for 32 years and will be retiring in January 2021.
- Leaf pickup is still ongoing until the start of December or until there are no more leaves.

There was a special use hearing held on November 5, 2020 for a sandwich shop on Jericho Turnpike. A decision should be passed by the Village Board at the next Board Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-48 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING FOREMAN TO THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

Resident Jan Cunha questioned if there was an investigation to see if there was a microburst or a tornado on the south side of the Village during the storm. Mayor Montreuil stated that he was not sure, but unofficially it seemed like a microburst. It had a narrow band and it was very powerful. Trustee Burger agreed with the Mayor.

Resident Andrew Faglio questioned:

- If there are any updates on the feral cats in the neighborhood. Mayor Montreuil stated that there isn't much to report at this time. Village Clerk-Treasurer Hillman stated that when she placed calls to the Town of Hempstead and the Town of North Hempstead she was referred to the town attorney's office. The Town of Hempstead's program for trap and neuter cats has changed and they now outsource it to a local vet. The amount of cases they take care of seem to be drastically reduced.
- If the tree inspections for the year are complete. He requested previously to have the tree in front of 1406 S Park Place inspected. Deputy Superintendent Sikiric stated that the inspection are ongoing. The tree on S Park Place had been inspected, but since the tree lost its leaves DPW was unable to determine its health. They tree will be watched and re-inspected in the spring.
- Who will be up for re-election in March. Mayor Montreuil stated that there are three Board Members who are up for election: the Mayor and two trustees.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if there has been any updates on the new laundromat which will be opening in the building next to Yesterday's Diner. Deputy Squicciarino confirmed that the operation of the laundromat is supposed to be 24/7. Superintendent Gannon added that by law the Village cannot control business hours of operation. If the 24/7 laundromat becomes a problem the Village will step in.

Resident Art Savarese questioned if there have been any updates on the Miller Brothers property. Mayor Montreuil stated that the final EIS was sent back to Harley Davidson for revision. Once it has been updated it will be reviewed by the Village Board.

Resident Kimberly Huemmer-Kane questioned is there was a way for her to obtain the vibration analysis report for the work that was being done at the Electrical Substation. She spoke to Judy White, requesting the report be released to her. Mayor Montreuil has already made the request of the report.

Additionally Ms. Huemmer-Kane questioned whether a flashing light can be placed on New Hyde Park Road before the underpass informing everyone of an upcoming traffic light. Trustee Burger has made that request, but has received no answer as of yet.

Ms. Huemmer-Kane also questioned what can be done with the grant money of \$5M that was received from the state for the downtown improvement project. Mayor Montreuil stated the money for the development of the industrial zone was not physically received, but any money spent can be claimed against the \$5M grant. As of now no expenses have been incurred or claimed. The Village Board hired Nelson Pope Voorhis as a consultant for the improvement of the industrial zone. The Mayor also thanked Ms. Huemmer-Kane for the video she had sent over of the un-announced construction at the electrical substation.

Resident Sam Kohury questioned whether or not he can get copy of the updated EIS from Harley Davidson or if he will need to fill out a FOIL request. Mayor Montreuil stated that he won't be able to FOIL the EIS until it has been finalized.

Resident Diane Schafer wanted to remind everyone the NYS law states that it is illegal to not feed feral cats, they are considered domestic animals. Because the Town of Hempstead feral cats program had been cut, the cats are reproducing at an alarming rate. She also asked that everyone get involved in requesting that the Town of Hempstead make improvements to the program so that more cats are trapped and neutered. Mayor Montreuil stated that he will look into the law she mentioned as well as what can be done to solve the problem the Village residents seem to be having with cats.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Squicciarino, seconded by Trustee Burger, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

Mayor Montreuil wished everyone safe and happy Thanksgiving, whether they were spending time with their family in person or remote.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board