

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 17, 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, Superintendent DPW & Building Department  
Igor Sikiric, Deputy Superintendent DPW  
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

**Absent:**

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following a Special Use Public Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the hearing.

Before the start of the meeting Mayor Montreuil thanked Superintendent Gannon and Deputy Superintendent Sikiric, along with the DPW department for their quick response and hard work during the snow storm. This was Deputy Superintendent Sikiric's first snow storm which was handled professionally and on time. Even with the storm the DPW department still collected trash per the pickup schedule. A notice was received from the TONH that all trash pickup was suspended for the areas of New Hyde Park that fall outside the Village boundaries. The Mayor also thanked Debbie Malhotra for manning the phones with residential concerns during the storm.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

**License Renewals:**

**Carter: Approved**

Land Source Container Rentals Inc. – 5 North Peters Blvd, Central Islip  
ACA Waste – 40 Eads Street, West Babylon  
Jamaica Ash & Rubbish Removal – 172 School Street, Westbury  
Scherillo & Sons Construction – 7 Pumpkin Avenue, East Northport  
Daniel F. Allen & Co. – 114 Sylvester St, Westbury

**Restaurant: Approved**

Umberto’s Restaurant, 633 Jericho Turnpike  
Wong’s Garden – 1203 Jericho Turnpike  
Subway – 1201 Jericho Turnpike

**Dance Hall: Approved**

Umberto’s Restaurant, 633 Jericho Turnpike

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Coppola:**

**Auxiliary Police**

Trustee Coppola thanked the Auxiliary Police who have been out patrolling and will continue to do so through the holiday season.

**New Hyde Park Fire Department**

Elections were held at the NHP Fire Department. The new Commissioner elected was Robert Teetz and a new 4<sup>th</sup> Deputy Chief elected was Thomas Farina.

**Nassau County Police Department**

- The NCPD is encouraging people not to post their plans on social media for the holiday season, especially if you are planning to be away from the house.
- If you are having packages delivered to the home, have someone retrieve them for you in case you are not at the house. There has been a lot of package thefts.
- Residents are reminded to lock their doors and remove valuables from their cars, including Christmas gifts.
- If residents are traveling for the holidays it would be best to have lights on a timer, as well as asking a neighbor to plow their walkway if it snows. When walkways are not plowed for several days it could signal that the resident is not at home.

**Trustee Pallisco:**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

- The last meeting of the Zoning Board was held on December 9, 2020, with one case on the docket:
  - 1420 Lowell Avenue – Approval was granted to the applicant seeking to maintain a second above grade kitchen under special exception which was being utilized by his mother-in-law and is now being transferred to his daughter.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for January 13, 2021. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

**Architectural Review Board**

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on December 2, 2020, with three cases on the docket.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on January 6, 2021, with four cases on the docket:
  - 48 Lewis Avenue – Applicant is proposing a subdivision to construct two single family homes.
  - 21 N 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Applicant is proposing a subdivision to construct two single family homes.

- 657 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Applicant is seeking to remove a portion of a brick wall and construct a brick chimney, two French doors, new deck, and a new 4ft high fence.
- 402 Brown Place – Applicant is seeking to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition with interior alterations.

It was recently announced that several NYS politicians were involved in changing the law that allows airplanes from flying lower than 3000 feet until they are 15 miles away from JFK airport. Unfortunately New Hyde Park is about 10 miles away from JFK and the change to the law will not help with the airplane noise over our Village.

**Trustee Burger:**

**Building Report**

- The last Village building court was scheduled for December 16, 2020, but was canceled due to Covid-19 concerns.
- The next Village building court will be held on January 20, 2021 via telephone conference, with 16 cases on the docket, involving property maintenance, violation of special exception, working without a permit, illegal use of a single family home, power washing vehicles on Sunday morning, legalize and maintain a finished cellar, and vending truck with no permit.
- There have been 17 permits in total approved and issued from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**LIRR**

- Work continues to move forward on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project.
- Work continues on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Installation of the shoring piles and sheet piles was initiated on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and completed on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. No vibration equipment is going to be used for the time being and no night work has been scheduled as of this time.
  - MTA and 3TC announced that the pedestrian underpass should be completed in the fall of 2021.
  - Pedestrian passageway will be prefabricated and will be pushed into place as was the underpass at New Hyde Park Road as well as Covert Avenue.
- There is no night work scheduled for December.
- There are no track outages scheduled for December.
- New Hyde Park Road underpass and Plaza Avenue parking lot safety concerns are being addressed.
  - Pedestrian crosswalk visibility has been an issue and is being looked into.
  - A flashing crosswalk sign was suggested by a resident and a request has been sent to the County.
  - There is a broken fence on the north side which is creating a blind side for the pedestrians in the crosswalk. The Village Board has requested it be removed.
  - Design updates are being addressed for the exit and entry points into the lot to see if changes can be made.
  - A resident requested a ‘don’t block the box’ be placed on South Park Place and New Hyde Park Road so residents can exit the street now that the underpass is open. The request is being submitted to the county.
- Construction continues to move forward on both the station house and the platforms. The 10 car platforms are scheduled to open in Q1 of 2021 with the full 12 car platform opening after the completion of construction at S 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
- No incidents have been reported at the G-14 substation. The construction is moving forward with work being done Monday to Friday during daytime hours.

- Perimeter wall proposal has been submitted to the Village Board and approved. The wall will be more aesthetically pleasing than the original fence which was proposed.
- The construction at the substation is scheduled to wrap up in Q3 of 2021.
- Truck access for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues is still a problem. 3TC and MTA have not been able to make changes to the truck access route due to lack of space in the area. The Village Board requested the Village contractor evaluate the area to see if any changes can be made to allow larger trucks to turn onto 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. The Village Board has considered allowing 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to remain a two way road, however if that was to happen parking spaces would be lost.

**Water Authority**

- The Station 57 project has kicked off and construction has started.
- Demolition to the building at the location is continuing. One complaint was received in regard to the jackhammering at the site. Per the Water Authority jackhammers have to be used as opposed to larger equipment to allow for precise removal of materials. There is risk of underground damage in using large construction equipment.
- Trees removed at the site will be replaced once the construction is complete.

**Veterans Affairs**

- American Legion Post 1089 canceled all its meeting for the year due to Covid-19 concerns. There will be an announcement when the meetings commence.

Mayor Montreuil added that the issue on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the G-14 substation has been resolved. Since then no vibration hammering equipment has been used at the site. The Village Board was alerted of the problem when a resident reported that 3TC informed them the vibration hammering equipment was to be used. Superintendent Gannon was on site and when vibrations seemed to reach the threshold he asked that the construction be stopped. Executives who came to the site determined that the vibration threshold had not been exceeded. No vibration equipment is schedule to be used for the rest of the year.

Trustee Burger announced that 3TC will also be working on the Denton Avenue underpass. Once the construction has been completed Denton Avenue underpass will become one way north bound.

**Trustee Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk's Report**

Coin Collection	\$7,690.00
Licenses Issued	\$2,705.00
Munimeter Revenue	\$4,646.25
Parking Permits	\$3,930.00
2020/2021 Taxes Paid	\$35,925.46
Penalties Paid	\$503.03
Building Fees	\$13,623.46

FEMA Reimbursement has been submitted. Town of North Hempstead will be replenishing \$9,000 to the Village which was not covered under FEMA.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber is hosting a Holiday Food drive until December 20, 2020. The details on where food can be dropped off is on the Village website.

Two new buttons were added to the Village website. One is for our new app GoGov which will be demonstrated at the end of the Board Meeting and the other is a Tree Planting Request button.

Because of the housing market spiking on Long Island and an imbalance being created for property values, Nassau Executive Laura Curran proposed that property values will remain the same as last year. Any resident has a right to grieve their taxes if they don't agree with the assessment.

The 2019/20 Village Audit has been completed. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino will be speaking with one of the partners to review the findings. In January the audit findings will be presented at a Board Meeting.

A big thanks to the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and the DPW crew for working tirelessly during the snowstorm in clearing the Village roads.

### **Mayor Montreuil:**

#### **Department of Public Works**

- November was a busy month with 50 new trees being planted, three major holidays with two double day trash pickup, and a wind storm with trees down that had to be cleared up.
- DPW has a new foreman Keith Feldman, after the retirement of Sean Murphy. The Mayor thanked Sean for his many years of serving the Village and its residents.
- On December 25<sup>th</sup> garbage for South side will be postponed for the next day, Saturday.

Deputy Superintendent Sikiric added that there were 35-40 stumps removed in the month of November, and repairs were completed to the sidewalks and curbs that were damaged in the last storm.

#### **Community Development**

- The Vietnamese sandwich shop was approved after the Special Use hearing held on November 5, 2020.
- In the new year the Village Board will be setting up a kickoff meeting with the consultants who were hired for the development of the master plan.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**20-59 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-15**

**20-60 A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LGS-1 RECORD RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS**

**20-61 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL TIME SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDING**

Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger participated in the Lakeville Estates Civics Association's Holiday Parade. The participants were quite extensive including Senator Kaplan, County Executive Curran, Assemblyman Ra, Presiding Officer Nicoletto, TONH Clerk Wink, NHP Fire Department, GCP Fire Department, and off course Santa Clause. The parade started in Lake Success, and made its way through the New Hyde Park area. The Mayor thanked Bill Cuttone for setting up the car parade.

Deputy Superintendent Sikiric and Trustee Burger got in touch with the County for verification that they would be the ones who will be in charge of cleaning out and salting the underpasses on New Hyde Park Road and Covert Avenue during all snow storms.

**Old Business:**

In regard to the Harley Davidson, there has been no updates on the final EIS. Once the final EIS is submitted the Village Board will provide an update.

**New Business:**

Deputy Mayor Squicciarino informed the residents that the Village of New Hyde Park will be launching a new app called myvnhp, which will allow for residents to submit questions, complaints, and information. At the end of the meeting Village Clerk Hillmann will have a demonstration on how the app works.

**Public Participation:**

Resident Sam Khoury thanked the DPW department for working hard on the snow removal.

- Questioned Trustee Burger if the sign and pole in the new parking lot on Plaza Avenue will be moved. The sign is not visible when making a left turn into the lot. Trustee Burger will be checking the original plans to see if it was placed correctly.
- Questioned when the final EIS is submitted by Harley Davidson, the clock starts ticking on the final decision from the Village Board. Mayor Montreuil agreed that once the final EIS is with the Village Board there is a set time period for a final decision.

Resident Kim Huemmer-Kane questioned if there is any money left in 2017 \$2.7 Million slush fund received for the LIRR project. Mayor Montreuil stated that the fund still has about \$2 Million left.

Ms. Huemmer-Kane also questioned the resolution which was passed for a new Superintendent and whether or not they will be paid hourly, per the resolution. Mayor Montreuil stated that the Superintendent position is a salary position.

**Go Gov Demo**

Mayor Montreuil introduced the new app that will be launched by the Village of New Hyde Park called MyVnhp. The app will serve like the 311 system that will accept requests, complaints, issues, which will be then funneled through the app to the appropriate persons. The app will allow residents to take pictures and submit them. The app will allow everyone to monitor their submission and see what has been done in regard to their request.

Village Clerk Hillmann demonstrated how the app worked and the different features which can be utilized by the residents.

Village Beta tester Mr. Kohury was impressed how advanced the app was and the features available. He suggested there be a place where common laws of the Village, in regard to parking, snow removal, leaf pickup, etc, be placed and easily located.

Trustee Burger added that the Resident Guide all new residents receive includes common laws. Superintendent Gannon suggested that the Resident Guide be given to local real-estate agents so they can be handed out to potential new residents of the Village.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:16 pm.

Mayor Montreuil wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board