

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
December 3, 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 8:03 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, the Board Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

No communication at this time.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Coppola:

Auxiliary Police

Thank you to the Auxiliary Police who have been out patrolling and will continue to do so through the holiday season.

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- With Blood Banks running low the NHPFD held two Blood Drives during the month of November.
- Elections will be held in December for the Fire Department Commissioner.

Nassau County Police Department

- With the holidays approaching everyone should stay vigilant and call 911 if they see any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.
- Car theft is up by 22% compared to the same time last year. Many cars stolen are delivery vehicles, which are kept running while packages or food are being dropped off at a residential home. Residents are reminded to lock their doors and remove valuables from their cars.

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, with one case on the docket:
 - 1420 Lowell Avenue – Applicant is seeking approval 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.

Architectural Review Board

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on December 2, 2020, with three cases on the docket:
 - 48 Lewis Avenue – Decision was placed on hold for the applicant seeking to subdivide the property to build a single family home.
 - 127 N 10th Street – Approval with suggested changes was granted to the applicant seeking to construct a second story addition.
 - 1622 Park Avenue – Approval with suggested changes was granted to the applicant seeking to construct a second story rear addition with interior alterations and a rear wood deck.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on January 6, 2021. There are no cases on the docket at this time.

Beautification Committee

Thank you to the DPW department for decorating Jericho Turnpike for the holiday season and stringing the lights for the Christmas tree lighting.

Cultural Commission

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on the Front Lawn of Village Hall, on December 5, 2020. A special guest will sing Christmas carols, after which Santa will make an appearance on the back of the NHPFD truck.

Tree Committee

Trees were delivered and planted by the DPW department during our fall planting season. In total 35 trees were planted in the Village of New Hyde Park with more to come during spring of 2021.

Trustee Burger added his thanks to McNulty Outdoors landscaping company as well as Trustee Pallisco for the nice job they did with the landscaping in the Village.

Trustee Burger:

LIRR

- Work continues to move forward on the 3rd Track Project.
- S 12th Street has been permanently closed as of October 24, 2020. MTA and 3TC announced that the pedestrian underpass should be completed in the summer/fall of 2021. The Village Board is pushing hard for them to open earlier.
 - Installation of the shoring piles and sheet piles was initiated on December 1st, and completed on December 3rd.

- No vibration equipment is going to be used for the time being and no night work has been scheduled as of this time.
- 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.
 - Crosswalk and pedestrian crosswalk visibility has been an issue and is being looked into.
 - Design updates are being addressed for the exit and entry points into the lot to see if changes can be made.
 - 3TC is putting together a New Hyde Park Road punch list for all opened items.
- Construction continues to move forward on both the station house and the platforms. The platform pillars brick facade is being installed. The station house interior and exterior work is ongoing.
- No incidents have been reported at the G-14 substation. Things have been quiet these last two weeks. The construction is moving forward.
 - The Village Board requested a wall be built around the substation area. The design was received this past week and will be reviewed by the Village Board.
- 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.
- 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.
- Demolition to the building at the location has started.
- As of this time all is moving according to schedule.

Veterans Affairs

- American Legion Post 1089 held its first meeting since the start of COVID on October 17, 2020 at Marcus Christ Hall.
- As of two weeks ago the Nassau County regional office canceled all American Legion meetings for the foreseeable future due to the rising cases of COVID.

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 23 permits in total approved and issued from November 18 to December 2, 2020.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk's Report

NYMIR Refund	\$2,703.38
Coin Collection	\$6,691.00
Cablevision Franchise Fee	\$14,014.00
Fios Franchise Fee	\$10,471.58
Court Fines - Traffic	\$30,253.50
Court Fines – Building	\$4,350.00
Munimeter Revenue	\$9,052.55
2020/2021 Taxes Paid	\$14,857.43
Penalties Paid	\$503.03
FEMA Reimbursement Submitted	\$13,000.00

The 2019/20 Village Audit has been completed. Due to the pandemic, this year's audit took longer to complete. Mr. Barrett will present the findings to the Village residents sometime in early 2021.

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.

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 Holiday Toy Drive, partnering with Assemblyman Ed Ra's office. Toys can be dropped off to the Library until December 11, 2020.

The Lakeville Civics association is holding a holiday car parade on December 12th at 3:00 pm. Whoever is participating is asked to decorate their car. The parade will start at Patton Blvd/Lakeville Road, it will travel through New Hyde Park toward Herricks, then to Garden City Park and will end back in New Hyde Park by the old Dairy Barn, where a tree is set up to be lit.

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 during the latest storm. The DPW department invited an arborist to check several trees to see if they are in need of removal. Two trees were removed this past week when the Village experienced high winds making the trees unsafe.

- The last day for yard waste was on Wednesday, December 2nd.
- The Mayor thanked the DPW crew involved in decorating the Village Hall as well as the Christmas Tree on the front lawn.

The Mayor reminded the residents to stay vigilant during the pandemic since the Nassau County Covid-19 infection numbers are growing. In his letter to the residents he stated that complying with guidelines will keep everyone and their families safer. Additionally the letter also informed restaurant owners of the recovery grant they can take advantage of. He encouraged residents to patron local business and restaurants during this difficult time.

The Village board will be voting on a resolution to modify Covid-19 guidelines if the situation calls for it.

Town of Hempstead delivered 50 boxes of PPE to the Village Hall. Some boxes were distributed to the local schools, the Chamber of Commerce and the Hillside Library.

Trustee Burger added that Gino's Pizzeria thanked the Village for all the help they've received during the pandemic.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-49 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-13

20-50 A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE COVID-19 RETURN TO WORK POLICY

Old Business:

Mayor Montreuil announced that after speaking to the Town Supervisor Don Clavin Jr. about the feral cats in our neighborhood, the person in charge of the program got in touch with Village Clerk Hillmann. Per Village Clerk Hillmann the program was outsourced and is now being performed by Central Vet. Cats are accepted for neutering/spaying at 7 am, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, first come first serve. Only 5 cats a day are accepted. The Town of Hempstead employee promised to speak to Central Vet to see if more times can be made available and better arrangements for the residents of the Town. From September to mid-November 417 cats were neutered/spayed and only 1 cat was from the Village of New Hyde Park. As of now, the Town of Hempstead is happy with the service. If there is more activity after the pandemic is over they will revisit the program. The Mayor added that the old program was managed by the Town Animal Shelter. The Village is looking forward to improvements to the current program.

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 resident to submit questions, complaints, and information. This will be a communication tool and residents will be able to follow the status of their alert/ticket they submitted to completion. The alert/ticket will be assigned to the appropriate persons who will be in charge of resolving the complaint, answering questions, etc.

- Anyone willing to volunteer to test the system can email the Village Clerk.

Mayor Montreuil added that the system will be similar to 311, except it will be utilized via an app.

Public Participation:

Resident Soneya Bonetti questioned the new parking signs which were placed on Albert Street across the street from Memorial Park. The signs state that no parking is allowed after park closes at dusk which can be at 4, 5, 6 pm during the winter months. Parking was allowed till 11 pm in the past. Can something be done on the residential side of the street Mayor Montreuil stated that no new signs were placed in the area of Memorial Park to his knowledge.

Superintendent Gannon stated he will look into where the signs were placed. Additionally he will investigate whether the signs should apply to both sides of the street.

Resident Andrew Faglio questioned:

- If the Mayor received the email and pictures he sent him in regard to the tree on S Park Place that looks unhealthy and should be taken down. Mayor Montreuil stated that he had received and answered Mr. Faglio email.
- Mr. Faglio thanked the Village and Board for looking into making the crosswalk on New Hyde Park Road safer, as well as trying to get the feral cat situation cleared up.
- Who was in charge of keeping the pedestrian staircase clean at the New Hyde Park Road underpass. Mayor Montreuil stated that for now the New Hyde Park underpass is still under the control of 3TC. Once the Construction is complete it will be decided who will take control of the underpass.
- Whether it was a true statement that the Village Board has no power to control the hours of operation of a business within the Village. Mayor Montreuil stated that was a true statement. Sometimes negotiation is possible if the business comes up for Special Use.
- Has there been any updates on the ‘don’t block the box’ at the corner of New Hyde Park Road and South Park Place. Deputy Superintendent Sikiric stated that Nassau County is looking into the matter to determine whether it’s safe to paint the box in that area. He will provide an update when he hears back from Nassau County.

Resident Jay Jani questioned why the trash cans at Memorial Park were relocated near the park attendants building leaving people to throw trash on the street where the cans used to sit. Mayor Montreuil stated that because the park attendant’s season ended and DPW was busy with storm clean up the maintenance of the park has been a bit behind. DPW will be going over to the park for clean up this week. Deputy Superintendent Sikiric added that DPW will be evaluating the placement of the garbage cans to see where they would work best. Some will be placed back outside the gates so that people do not throw trash on to the street.

Resident Paul DiMatina stated that some owners bring dogs to the park without having them leashed. Can the parks be locked to prevent that. Mayor Montreuil stated that no dogs are allowed in any of the Village Parks at any time. Additionally Parks cannot be locked because the parks belong to the Village residents who have a right to use them at all times.

Resident Sam Khoury volunteered to test out the GoGov app. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino thanked him for his help and mentioned that many of the concerns that were discussed during the Board Meeting will be available for submittal through the app when it goes live.

- Mr. Khoury questioned if a sign will be placed for ‘lane shift’ by the underpass at New Hyde Park Road. Trustee Burger stated that no sign was requested at this time. The lanes were restriped with dotted lines. If it becomes necessary to add a sign he will request it from Nassau County.
- The ‘don’t block the box’ at the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street has not been painted yet. Mr. Khoury will be contacting the DOT to request the intersection be returned to its original condition.
- Mr. Khoury also questioned whether or not there has been any updates on the Harley Davidson EIS report. Mayor Montreuil stated that there has been no updates at this time.

Resident Andrew Faglio volunteered to test out the GoGov app.

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 9:09 pm.

Mayor Montreuil wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season whether they are spending time with their family in person or remote. He also reminded everyone that the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on the front lawn of Village Hall on December 5th at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board