

NHP Citizens Council – July 26th Meeting Minutes

Welcome Wagon Update

- Clerk Kate Hillman provided a list of all NHP taxpayers on Friday, July 24th; presently extracting information to create a list of new residents; perhaps the list can be fine-tuned and/or confirmed by the Clerk's office
- Further outreach to the Chamber of Commerce for more Business Directories/Shopping Guides – at least 20
- Committee participants are visiting local shops in the Village for menus, brochures, business cards to include in the kit
- Village needs to provide folders with NHP emblem for assembling contents of kit to new residents
- ***** Recommendation***** - create a new tab on the Village website, "New Residents" so that they can be provided the Village's "New Resident Guide" in a highly visible manner.

Feral Cat Committee Update – Kim Huemmer Kane

- Work is well underway with the TNR program; cats/kittens have been located/trapped successfully; efforts are ongoing
- Visits to residents who registered complaints in the area have been effective in providing education about community cats and TNR
- Need both Townships to provide greater access for TNR services
- Call for volunteers to watch traps placed in hot spots; create a list of neighbors who are willing to have the Committee set traps on their private property.
- Call for volunteers to just call the Town of Hempstead to schedule TNR appointments; those interested should contact Kim Huemmer Kane via email at: KIMVNHPFERALCATS@gmail.com
- Feral Cat Committee tab on the NHP Village website must be updated to reflect Kim Huemmer Kane's email address - KIMVNHPFERALCATS@gmail.com
- Feral Cat Committee Wishlist - <https://amzn.to/3eMCq7c>

Citizens Safety Committee update

- Spread the news about Mayor Devane's meeting with village residents on Monday, August 16th, 7PM at Village Hall to explore the creation of the **NHP Neighborhood**

Watch Program. Representatives from the Nassau County Police, the NHP Auxiliary Police, and retired police officers in the community will be present to discuss critical issues along with the formation of a neighborhood watch program in our village. This is our opportunity to work together to keep our neighborhoods peaceful and safe.

- **Request was made to provide virtual access to this meeting**

Aircraft Noise Abatement

- Helicopter noise has been particularly severe in recent weeks;
- The Town-Village Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee – hosted by the Town of Hempstead to discuss issues related to aircraft noise.
 - Meetings are typically held the 4th Monday of each month
 - Town website has information about dates/times of meetings, minutes of meetings, links to register complaints, etc. >
<https://hempsteadny.gov/tvasnac>
 - NHP resident Patricia Keating has volunteered to attend meetings on behalf of the Village of New Hyde Park

New business:

1. Plans **for high-speed rail along** the mainline corridor were announced on July 2nd; Mayor Devane and Trustee Burger expressed interest in exploring the issue and its potential impacts, if any, with NHP residents who have already borne the brunt of rail construction along NHP's mainline.
 - A proposal to build a \$105 billion high-speed rail network that would cross Nassau and Suffolk counties, with a tunnel under the Long Island Sound, has cleared an early hurdle in Congress, as lawmakers this week approved who would oversee the project.
 - The transportation reauthorization bill passed by the House of Representatives on Thursday includes an amendment authored by the Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) calling for the creation of the North Atlantic Rail Interstate Compact. Its purpose, according to the legislation, "shall be to construct, on an accelerated basis" the new rail system stretching from New York City to Boston.
 - Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, who co-chairs its steering committee
 - The proposal calls for the excavation of several rail tunnels in the region, including under the East River to Penn Station, through parts of Queens and Long Island, and from Port Jefferson, across the Long Island Sound, to Bridgeport, Connecticut. Bullet trains would reach speeds of up to 200 mph.

- Residents of NHP Village want to be on the ground level of this initiative since it could potentially impact private residential property as well as our business district.

2. Legislative Updates

- Recommendation to alert residents about legislative proposals via robo-call so that we can respond via outreach to our state representatives in a timely fashion.
- **Albany's proposed law ([S4264A](#)/ [A6967](#)) will increase taxes on gasoline and products to heat our homes;** potentially raises taxes on gasoline (by 55 cents) and home heating oil, natural gas and electricity by 26%. Legislation potentially impacts the middle-class residents, especially those who live on fixed incomes and downtown businesses as they attempt to recover from the pandemic and could potentially cost jobs.
- **Albany's proposed law ([S4547](#); [A4854](#)) "The New York Accessory Homes Enabling Act"** - relaxes the rules that stop homeowners from building what are known as accessory dwelling units or ADUs; apartments over a garage, or a basement unit etc. The bill would direct local governments to pass new local laws allowing ADUs, empowering those municipalities to shape laws to fit local needs for affordable housing. Additionally, it will ensure that local laws don't impose onerous restrictions on homeowners and would create a state financing program to help pay for construction to ensure that financially constrained families could take advantage of this opportunity.
 - **Assemblyman Ed Ra was the only NYS representative who responded to questions about this proposed legislation.** He said, *"I will have to delve deeper, but I'd have a general concern with usurping local zoning powers that is vested with the town or village and the "good cause" eviction provision which essentially gives your tenant a right to the apartment regardless if you decide you'd rather rent to someone else after their lease expires. There's an exemption for if you need the apartment for a close family member which is good but it still is a problem and will likely give the owner many legal hoops to jump through if they want the person out. Could you imagine wanting an elderly relative to move into an accessory apartment and ending up needing to show in court why your guest room in your house isn't sufficient?"*