# VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK REGULAR MEETING May 25, 2023

**Present**: Mayor Devane

Deputy Mayor Nijjar Trustee Burger – Remote

Trustee Savarese Trustee Sheikh

Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer Binu Pillay, Superintendent of Building Igor Sikiric, Superintendent of DPW Lara Verbanac, Deputy Clerk John Nicastro, Code Enforcement Peter Trentacoste, Village Attorney

Absent: Arthur Savarese, Trustee

Patricia Santomauro, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Mayor Devane opened the Board Meeting at 7:22 pm following a Special Use Public Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the hearing.

#### **BOARD MINUTES: APPROVED**

April 20, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes

# **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

The Police Report for April 2023 was submitted by the Nassau County Police Department.

# Car Wash: APPROVED

East Coast B2008 Soccer Travel League has requested to hold a Car Wash on Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. If need be, a rain date of Saturday, August 19, 2023.

### **License Renewals:**

#### **Landscaping Permit Applications: APPROVED**

Recchia Landscaping – 87 Bay Street, Southampton, NY Jose T. Cabrera Landscaping – 16 Redfern Avenue, Inwood, NY J&S Landscaping – 206 Jay Street, Freeport, NY Linaro Landscaping - 112 Casper Street, Valley Stream

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **Trustee Arthur Savarese**

Parks and Recreation, Little League, Public Information, Dept. of Public Works, Tree Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Watch

# **Trustee Rainer Burger**

Building Department, LIRR, Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Noise Abatement, Water Authorities, Scouts (Troop 298)

#### Trustee Eve Sheikh

Library, Senior Programs, Schools

# Trustee Madhvi Nijjar

Revitalization Committee, Cultural Committee, Board of Assessors, Clerk's Office, Community Development (CDBG), Summer Camp

# **Mayor Christopher Devane**

Auxiliary Police, Fire Department, Nassau County Police, Facilities, LIRR Task Force, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning and ARB Board

# **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### 22-138 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #22-24

• Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to pay the bills was unanimously approved.

# 22-139 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RAYMOND BOZYMOSKI AS ROLL OFF DRIVER TO THE DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

• Upon motion by Trustee Sheikh, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, the resolution to appoint driver was unanimously approved.

# 22-140 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME PARKING METER ATTENDANT FOR THE DEPT. OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

• Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to hire new part time Parking Meter Attendant was unanimously approved.

# 22-141 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART TIME LABORER FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

• Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to hire part time laborer was unanimously approved.

# TRUSTEE REPORTS:

# **Trustee Savarese:**

### **Public Information**

As of today, we have over 1250 Instagram followers. If you have not yet followed us @villageofnhp, please consider it as it provides updates, notices and events throughout the Village as well as MTA/LIRR updates. These are also posted on our website, electronic billboard, and my VNHP app.

# Parks and Recreation

Memorial Park is currently open on a limited basis due to the construction and renovations that are taking place. The small ball field and the Dog Park are currently open for use.

The following projects are currently taking place within the park;

- The Children's playground is a work in progress and should be completed within the next two weeks.
- Remodeling of the bathrooms and construction on the park house is almost complete.
- The resurfacing of both basketball courts along with repainting the lines for both the basketball and pickleball courts will be completed and useable by Memorial Day.

- A new bocce ball court has been installed with new pavers all around the area.
- We are in the process of installing new perimeter fencing around the park.

# Little League

• The NHPLL season is ongoing and there are plans to host an All-Star Saturday in June.

# **Neighborhood Watch**

- Is ongoing and we are currently looking for many more volunteers. We do not have enough volunteers to cover Monday through Sunday. We will work with your schedule.
- If you are interested, please complete an application that can be obtained from Village Hall or email Arthur Savarese <a href="mailto:asavarese@vnhp.org">asavarese@vnhp.org</a>.

### **Chamber of Commerce Report**

- The Greater New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce was voted the number one Chamber in Nassau County!
- Upcoming events for the Chamber;
  - On Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> the Chamber will be participating in the Village of New Hyde Park Memorial Day Parade.
  - On Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> the Chamber will be participating in the Garden City Park Memorial Day Parade.
  - On Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> the Chamber will be having a membership meeting at Uncle Bacala's Restaurant in Garden City Park.
  - On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> the Chamber will be participating in the New Hyde Park Street Fair.
  - On September 20th the Chamber's annual Golf Outing will be held at Harbor Links Golf Course with dinner to follow.
- In addition, at their last meeting held at Plattdeutsch Park, guest speaker Linda Herman of PSEG was on hand to define the different grants that are being offered to business owners in the community and how to apply for them.

#### **Tree Replacements**

- Requests for the Fall season are being accepted. Requests should be made through the Village website or App for Fall planting.
- \*Trustee Savarese was absent. His report was presented by Lara Verbanac, Deputy Village Clerk.

# Department of Public Works: Igor Sikiric, Superintendent

- There will not be a sanitation collection on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a double day collection on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Waste and Recycling collected in April;
  - 44 tons of construction and demolition debris.
  - 45 tons of yard waste
  - 20 tons of paper
  - 23 tons of commingled
  - 372 tons of municipal waste
  - Total waste: 504 tons
- Department of Public Works is conducting day to day maintenance of all parking lots, Jericho Tpke, and along the LIRR corridor.

- Street sign replacement is on-going. Department of Public Works removed, repaired, replaced 30 street signs this past month.
- Pothole repair is on-going. In the month of April, Department of Public Works repaired approximately fifty (50) potholes. Pothole repair will continue throughout the Spring and Summer.
- Department of Public Works assisted in the Earth Day celebration last month. The area in front of Department of Public Works and Nuzzi field was repaired and prepped for the placement of bushes, plants, and flowers.
- Jericho Turnpike vegetation maintenance is in full swing. Flowers and planter boxes are watered on a weekly basis. Weeds and vegetation are managed on a weekly basis as well
- Baseball field maintenance and grooming is conducted on a weekly basis or as game are scheduled.
- Department of Public Works will be out in the months of June and July conducting tree maintenance. The tree
  contractor will be scheduled in June and July to handle any large tree trims or removals that have been
  requested.
- National Grid will be doing emergency repairs on S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street over the next 2 months. This road was repaired by the Village in October and will be fully repaired at no cost to the village by National Grid when completed.

# **Building Department** - Binu Pillay, Superintendent

# **Zoning Board of Appeals**

- The last meeting was held on May 10, 2023 with one application being heard; 500 1st Avenue is seeking approval to construct a two-story rear addition.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2023. As of today, no applications have been submitted.

#### **Architectural Review Board**

- The last meeting was held on May 3, 2023 where three (3) applications were heard and approved;
  - 414 Lowell Avenue seeking approval to change siding/color on the house.
  - 1525 Lincoln Avenue seeking approval for alterations that propose a raised front porch, a partial 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dormer on one side and interior alterations.
  - 500 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue seeking approval to construct a two-story rear addition, increasing from four (4) apartment complex to eight (8).
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023. One application to be heard; 633 Jericho Turnpike Umberto's seeking approval for installation of new awnings and window treatments as well as an advertisement on the side of the building.

#### **Village Building Court**

- The last Village Court was held on May 17, 2023 with eighty-seven (87) cases on the agenda; 38 parking on the lawn, (22) obstructing sidewalk, (10) property maintenance, (8) working without permits, (3) multiple families in single family home, (2) car without plates, (2) excessive noise, (1) failure to remove 2<sup>nd</sup> kitchen and (1) failure to submit rental registration.
- The next Village Court will be held on with one hundred twenty-two (122) cases on the agenda.
- There have been 51 permits in total approved and issued between April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

# <u>Clerk's Office</u> – Kate Hillmann, Village Clerk

Meters	\$5,419.11
Muni-meters	\$30,152.67
Parking Permits	\$2,100.00
Licenses	\$3,248.00
Building	\$20,759.18
Zoning	\$850.00

Interest on Accounts	\$8,052.07
Sales Tax	\$27,059.00
Court Fines – Traffic	\$92,335.00
Court Fines – Building	\$1,450.00

- The 2023 Village Taxes were mailed out today, May 25<sup>th</sup> and are payable June 1<sup>st</sup> and due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. There is 5% penalty for the first month late and a 1% penalty each month thereafter. If you would like to pay your bill online there is a check fee of \$1.50 and a 2.75% fee for credit card charges.
- There will be a box outside Village Hall as a convenience for those that cannot make it during business hours.

# **<u>Code Enforcement</u>** – **John Nicastro**

- There was no court in April due to the Judge having an illness.
- On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Village had 101cases to process.
- As of today, we are scheduled for June 21stwith 96 cases to process.
- There have been fifty (50) Notice of Violations issued from May 1<sup>st</sup> to date.
- We are in the process of hiring and training a new weekend Code Enforcement person.
- The majority of the fines issued are for parking on the lawn, then property maintenance and illegal apartments.

# **Trustee Burger**

# Long Island Railroad (LIRR) 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project

#### **G-14 Electrical Substation**

• There is still some sidewalk work to be done. Trustee Burger spoke with 3TC earlier in the day and that sidewalk will be completed in three (3) weeks. The delay was due to supply chain issues.

# South 12th Pedestrian Underpass & Station Platform

• 3TC is looking into options to clean up the façade. The current mock up is not acceptable and the Village is looking to meet with them mid-June.

# **Paving of Roads**

- All majority of the roads have been paved with the exception of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue due to ongoing LIRR work.
- LIRR states the work in this area will be done by August and paving will begin. Striping on both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues will be done when it is complete.
- The striping on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will be completed according to the revised plan to accommodate the local businesses in the area.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Streetscape

- The Village is holding meetings with WSP. The last meeting was on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Once the Village receives a decent plan that balances out green space, parking and a functional area, the Board will share this plan with the residents to obtain feedback. We anticipate being ready to show a plan at the next Board meeting.

# Water Basin 21 (Area Across from DPW – Not Village Property)

• The County permitted 3TC to use the area as an access point work on the Hempstead Line.

• The Board is currently working with the County to get the area restored.

# **NHP Road**

- Left turn signal (Protected Signal) at New Hyde Park Road and Plaza Avenue.
  - Installation is at a standstill due to a funding dispute between the County and MTA.
  - Trustee Burger is looking to bring both parties together for a meeting in June to look at several
    options.
  - The Village is looking to have a report for the residents by July.

#### **Rodents**

- The Village has had reports of rodents, specifically rats in the area of the LIRR. They will be coming in to access the area and set traps.
- The Village will also reach out to Stewart Manor to request the restaurants in the area to properly dispose of foods.
- The Village also requests the residents do their best to keep lids on garbage cans to help try and mitigate the issue.

#### Water Authority

- The well at Station 57 Rehabilitation project including 1.4 Dioxane Removal is operational.
- Water testing went well, met state requirements.
- Well Station 57A still has some issues.

### Veterans Affairs/American Legion Post 1089

- The last meeting was held on May 6th. The next Meeting will be on June 10, 202.
  - We encourage anyone that would like to join to come on down on June 10<sup>th</sup>- 10 am at Village Hall.
- On May 20<sup>th</sup> we had a very successful event at with the Vet Dogs.
  - Trustee Rainer wishes to thank Diane Bentivegna, Joanne and Troop 298 for all their hard work. We were able to raise almost \$2,500.00 in donations and supplies.
  - Mayor Devane and Trustee Burger are looking into making this an annual event. Next year it will be held at the Dog Park.
- Memorial Day
  - The Memorial Day Tribute Parade will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023. We will assemble at 9:30 am on Hillside Blvd. The parade will step off sharply at 10:00 am.
  - There will be a small ceremony at Village Hall and then a larger ceremony at Memorial Park.
  - Vietnam Vet Monsignor Charles Fink will be a guest speaker as well as leading us in prayer.
- American Legion Post 1089 will be sponsoring NHP Memorial Student Varun Pillai for Boy State 2023.
  - Boy State will be held at SUNY Morrisville from June 25<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Troop 298

- The Troop held a car wash on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> in the Lakeville Road Parking which was one of the most successful car washes we have had in a long time. Trustee Burger would like to thank the residents for their support.
- Troop 298 is working on two (2) Eagle Project moving forward at Memorial Park. One (1) is for additional exercise stations. This will take place weekend of June 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup>. The second (2) is Memorial Flags to honor our war dead from New Hyde Park. This is still in the planning stages.

#### **Noise Abatement**

 TVASNAC (Town-Village Aircraft Safety Noise Abatement Committee) meeting was held on May 22, 2023.

- Trustee Burger would like to thank our appointed representative, Richard Pollisco for attending along with a few residents.
- There has been an increase in 22L, one of the runways. Flights went from 45,000 flights to 57,000 flights onto that runway.
- The noise monitors in the area read 62 decibels and the threshold is 65 decibels. It is still noisy and we are working to mitigate moving the aircraft away.
- Another issue has been low flying helicopters. They should be only running along the main corridor of the LIRR which we know is not happening.
- Residents are urged to file online noise complaints at <a href="www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC">www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC</a>. Or for Hempstead residents to call at 1-800-225-1071, North Hempstead residents dial 311.

# **Trustee Sheikh:**

Trustee Sheikh wished to thank the Cultural Commission for the wonderful Earth Day Event. It was a great turnout.

#### **Senior Program**

- On May 5<sup>th</sup> the program held a Mother's Day Tea which was outstanding. Laura did a tremendous job putting it all together.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup> we had Therapy Dogs, Luna and Cole that were so cute. They got so much attention, they didn't want to leave. We will certainly host this event again.
- Some upcoming Senior events include; Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> Art Workshop. We are excited the Road School students will be joining us. This will make the seniors very happy. On Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> Indoor Flowering Plants.
- Long and Lean will have a six-week session of classes in the park, weather permitting. These classes will be at 10:00 am on Fridays and will run from June 16<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>. If you know any seniors that would like to join the class, please have them call Village Hall.

#### Schools

- Trustee Sheikh and Deputy Mayor Nijjar attended the Road School PTA meeting on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>
- The principal wanted us to let anyone know if they have a child turning five (5) years old and would like to register them, please do so ASAP. Enrollment is extremely low. Not only at Road School but districtwide.
- The last PTA meeting of the year will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Vet Dogs event was a great event. Thank you, Rainer, for putting it together.

Trustee Sheikh would like to thank Brandon Duffy for interviewing me and the great article on my becoming the new Village Trustee.

Last but not least, Trustee Sheikh is looking forward to our Memorial Day Parade this Saturday honoring the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Please join us.

#### **Library**

- Trustee Sheikh attended the Library Board meeting on May 8th. It was wonderful to meet with the Board and
  discuss events within the Village. A huge thank you to Peter Heckman for posting the Villages events on their
  website.
- Some upcoming Library events;
  - June 9<sup>th</sup> Paint Night at 7:00 pm

- June 10<sup>th</sup> Board Game Day at 11:00 am
- June 11<sup>th</sup> Bingo at 12:30 pm
- For more information on the many events taking place at the library, please visit <a href="https://www.hillsidelibrary/info">www.hillsidelibrary/info</a>

# <u>Deputy Mayor Nijjar</u>

# **Residential Rehab**

- The Village has a program called Residential Rehab which is money allocated to people looking to repair their homes
- The Village was allotted \$75k funds and there is currently \$52K left. Please contact Village Hall for assistance in applying.

#### **Revitalization Committee**

• We will be holding a meeting in the near future to organize a plan to coincide with the Streetscaping plan.

### Audit

- The Clerk's Office is right now preparing for audit.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> starts our new fiscal year so we are preparing for end of year and the audit will take place in July. The office is doing a great job in getting everything ready.

#### Grants

- We are currently waiting on reimbursement for the Handicap ramp and the Village anticipates to receive it soon.
- We will be submitting a grant for the Senior Program.

# **Cultural Commission**

- Deputy Mayor Nijjar is very proud of the events we are doing. We have one (1) calendar event each month.
- Our next event will be this Saturday, our Memorial Day Parade will be on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. We are honored to be a part of this event. Please make every effort to attend and show we are thankful.
- This year's Multicultural Festival will be on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. The High School always goes above and beyond to assist with this event and we are excited for this year's collaboration. We represent seven (7) continents. We are asking our community to come and celebrate.

# **Mayor Devane**

Mayor Devane thanked everyone for coming out. It is great to see all these faces and Mayor Devane asks the group to come out to the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> to honor the heroes who gave their lives for this country. We just refurbished the rock out front; these heroes should be honored for sacrificing their lives for our great country. Just as you came out tonight, Mayor Devane looks forward to seeing you all there on Saturday.

#### Vet Dogs

On Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> the Village held an event for Vet Dogs. We heard a very touching speech by one of our veterans on what his dog means to him. How he has introverted and now when he goes out with his dog, people come up to him and socialize with him and the impact that dog has made. We will continue to have Vet Dog events.

### **Memorial Day Parade**

• Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> we will assemble on Hillside Blvd. at 9:30 am and step off at 10:00 am. We will travel East on Jericho Turnpike to Village Hall where there will be a short ceremony. We will then continue north on New Hyde Park Road, left onto Lincoln Avenue. Due to the extensive construction going on at the park, we will not enter the park. We will have the ceremony at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Central Blvd. Mayor Devane would urge everyone to come.

#### **Memorial Park**

- At the conclusion of the renovations, we will have spent approximately one (1) million dollars.
- The Department of Public Works has saved the Village fifteen (15) thousand dollars on the renovations by excavating the area and another fifteen (15) thousand dollars by leveling the area. We do everything we can to mitigate costs.
- The perimeter fence will be installed by the end of next week, June 1<sup>st</sup> or June 2<sup>nd</sup> there whereabouts.
- The playground installation has been delayed due to the installers missing a few parts. Once they receive those parts which will be early next week, it should take approximately two (2) days to install and then followed by turf.
- Basketball courts/pickleball courts have been resurfaced. The pickleball court is now a regulation size court.
- The tennis court had a new crack that is going to be resolved as well.
- The bathrooms are almost complete in addition to a new roof. A small overhang with a table and chairs on the south side of the park house.
- New electricity has been run to the back end of the park.
- WIFI will be installed.
- Currently opening is the dog park, tennis courts and basketball courts.
- There will be a new entrance, a section dedicated tour seniors with four (4) pieces of equipment.
- A new perimeter fence for the playground.
- A picnic area for picnics.

### **Marcus Christ Hall**

- In early January our community center was demolished. The reason it was demolished in early January is because the person who did the work was a former resident of our Village, a phenomenal person, and he demolished it for free.
- The Village fully expects to have a brand-new Community Center in the calendar year of 2024.
- In addition, the legal costs of bidding out big projects is costly. Our Village attorneys are doing this work probono.

# **Department of Public Works**

- The Village has \$5.1 million for a Department of Public Works facility through grants.
- We have been able to obtain a design that works within the \$5.1 million dollars budget.
- When we work on the Department of Public Works facility, Nuzzi field will be destroyed.
- Trustee Art Savarese is already working on a plan to retore the field to its original glory.

# **Best Buddies**

• The special education community at New Hyde Park Memorial High school, Best Buddies, is very near and dear to my heart. Please join me in cheering them on in their basketball finals game on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Wheatley High School at 4:00 pm.

# Village Rules

- Village rules should be enforced no matter what your last name is or who it is you know.
- 99% of this Village does a phenomenal job parking overnight.
- Neighborhood watch reported a problem on S.10<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The Mayor had a discussion with Code Enforcement that they should:
  - Talk to homeowner.
  - If not resolved, give them a summons.
  - Nothing has changed after four (4) weeks.
- The issue the Village has is that if you block the entire sidewalk.
- If you are not blocking the entire sidewalk, you do not have an issue with the Village New Hyde Park.
- Many residents do not use their garage for parking.

If we do not enforce the code and have lax rules, we abdicate our responsibilities of the Board/Village Trustees. If you are having an issue with your parking situation, contact Binu Pillay, Building Superintendent. He and the Mayor will come out to review your property with you. But this Board will not allow parking in the street. It is a safety issue, illegal renters, the fire department emergency vehicles and catalytic converter thefts.

Write your address down, lets have a conversation about resolving the issue. The Mayor asks that residents meet him half way.

# New Hyde Park Bocce Club

#### **Present Overview:**

The New Hyde Park Bocce Club is comprised of mainly New Hyde Park Village residents and taxpayers. As a Club, we have abided by the New Hyde Park Village Park Policy since its inception in 2022 – the same year the first bocce court was installed. It is important to note that while the taxpayers of New Hyde Park paid for the materials for what are now two courts, the actual labor and construction of both courts was accomplished as a result of a partnership between the New Hyde Park Bocce Club and the contractor, Micron Home Improvements, Inc. – at no cost to village residents – a donation worth several thousands of dollars – our contribution to the public-private partnership between Village taxpayers and the Club. Collectively as New Hyde Park taxpayers, we are all public stakeholders in village property, and we all are equally entitled to use the courts and all equipment in our parks according to the Village's Park policy.

# To date, the New Hyde Park Bocce Club has donated free of charge to Village taxpayers:

- All maintenance equipment (a rake, groomer, and roller approx. \$600) to care for the public bocce courts; the equipment is stored at New Hyde Park Memorial Park; during the season, the courts are groomed four times a week by Club members for the benefit of all residents --- at no cost to village taxpayers.
- All landscaping (i.e., plants) that border the courts are purchased and planted by the Bocce Club at no cost to village taxpayers.
- Additional clay surface material (\$200) is purchased mid-season by the Club to maintain the integrity of the courts throughout the season at no cost to village taxpayers.
- umbrellas for the two tables that are used by all visitors in the park at no cost to village taxpayers.
- two bocce score boards used by all visitors at no cost to village taxpayers.
- bocce ball kits (stored in the park building) for use by all residents and families at no cost to village taxpayers.
- In fact, while in attendance, members of the Club have not only maintained the bocce courts, but they also have maintained (i.e., watered, weeded, cleaned up litter) the area around the courts as well as the area around the US Armed Forces Memorial monument. During our visits, we have been proactive eyes and ears while in the park which has added to the security of the park for everyone, especially our kids.

- Back in 2021, the New Hyde Park Bocce Club was asked to contribute to the renovation of the park and enthusiastically donated \$1300 to cover the cost of one flagpole for the new U.S. Armed Forces Memorial.
- It is safe to say that no other group of stakeholders who use the park has demonstrated this level of commitment to our community, in general, and to our park, in particular.

Village taxpayer and Bocce Club representative, Vinny Crimeni, could not attend tonight's meeting; he is in Toronto with his family. As a lifelong homeowner and taxpayer in the Village and member representative of the New Hyde Park Bocce Club, I am providing an overview of the Club's 2023 season --- as a courtesy. I am happy to report that the new season promises to embrace the Club's tradition of contributing generously to our community with opportunities that are not afforded by any other group or organization that uses the park – past and present. Again, these opportunities are all free of charge to the public. As noted in the New Hyde Park Newsletter, since the introduction of the new Bocce court at New Hyde Park Memorial Park, there has been broad and enthusiastic engagement in the sport by other New Hyde Park taxpayers. Generally, Club members used the courts on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at various times of the day – for approximately 1 to 3 hours depending on the weather conditions. Again, we adhered to New Hyde Park Village's Park policy when we do so. All other park visitors are welcome to use the courts as well.

If you recall back in 2021, I wrote a detailed email to the New Hyde Park Village Board about the power of intergenerational programs for residents and taxpayers. In that spirit, during two discussions with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Club pledged to offer the community a monthly clinic throughout the summer months to teach bocce to residents of all ages and abilities who wish to learn the sport and enjoy the spirit of community afforded by such participation.

Along with our weekly use of the courts and pending approval of a New Hyde Park permit, the following initiatives will be implemented for the New Hyde Park Bocce Club's 2023 season – again, observing all park policies and offered free of charge to future participants. During each clinic, water will be provided, and light snacks will be made available.

- July 2023: "Seniors Week" open to all New Hyde Park seniors during the third week of July
  - o Teach the sport's basic principles.
  - o Practice low-impact skills and strategies for the game.
  - Extend a warm invitation to all seniors to join us for Club activities and remind them that the courts are there for their personal enjoyment on their own, too.
- August 2023: "Mother-Daughter Week" an intergenerational experience open to girls and women of all ages during the third week of August
  - o Teach the sport's basic principles.
  - o Practice beginning/intermediate skills and strategies of the game.
  - Extend a warm invitation to all participants to join us for Club activities and remind them that the courts are there for their personal enjoyment on their own, as well.
  - Explore potential for creating New Hyde Park Village's first Women's Bocce League.
- **September 2023: "Student Week"** an intergenerational experience open to students of all abilities, Grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> during the third week of September.
  - O Club representatives have already reached out to (1) Ms. Lisa Bocchino (New Hyde Park Memorial High School) to engage students in the "Best Buddies" program, (2) Mr. Pat McGuire, Director of the New Hyde Park Physical Ed. Department, and (3) Dr. Faccio, principal of New Hyde Park Memorial to begin the process of engaging student interest in the sport.

- We would like to explore the creation of a Junior New Hyde Park Bocce league a growing trend in schools and communities across the country in coordination with the staff at New Hyde Park Memorial High School.
- o Upon completion of the Clinic, T-shirts will be given to every student-participant.

#### **General Guidance**

- New Hyde Park Bocce Club representatives for the 2023 season:
  - 1. Vinny Crimeni (vcrimeni@aol.com)
  - 2. Diane Bentivegna (diane.bentivegna@gmail.com)
- Tournaments with neighboring bocce clubs/organizations (involving various age-levels, ability levels, etc.) are generally an exceptional way to build community spirit and pride; specific tournament dates will be announced pending approval of the New Hyde Park Village permit. All New Hyde Park taxpayers are welcome to cheer us on and join the fun.
- As always, we extend an open invitation to all village taxpayers to enjoy the sport of bocce, as private citizens on their own time, as members of the New Hyde Park Bocce Club or as participants in any of the free clinics we are offering this season.
- All events, clinics will be sponsored/hosted by the New Hyde Park Bocce Club and held at New Hyde Park Memorial Park. Bottled water will be provided and light snacks will be made available to all participants at no cost to village taxpayers.
- o The Club will advertise each clinic at the start of each designated month.
- o All clinics will be capped at 10 (new) participants; first come/first serve via sign-up email.
- o All students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- o Future clinic opportunities will be made available based on engagement.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the New Hyde Park Bocce Club on May 25, 2023,

New Hyde Park Bocce Club Representative and Village taxpayer, Vinny Crimeni New Hyde Park Bocce Club Representative and Village taxpayer, Diane Bentivegna

**Old Business:** no old business

New Business: no new business

There being no further business, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting went into executive session at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

# Lara Verbanac

Deputy Village Clerk