

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 20, 2023**

**Present:** Mayor Devane  
Deputy Mayor Nijjar  
Trustee Savarese  
Trustee Sheikh  
Oscar Osorio, Village Treasurer  
Binu Pillay, Superintendent of Building  
Igor Sikiric, Superintendent of DPW  
John Nicastro, Code Enforcement  
Patricia Santomauro, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**Absent:** Rainer Burger, Trustee

- Mayor Devane opened the Board Meeting at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mayor Devane wished Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar a Happy Birthday.
- Mayor Devane congratulated Trustee Savarese on his daughter Danielle's engagement to Sean.

**BOARD MINUTES: APPROVED**

June 15, 2023 Board Minutes

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

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

**Parade: APPROVED**

- The New Hyde Park Memorial High School requested to hold their Homecoming Parade on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Assembly would take place in the Lakeville Road parking lot at 10:30 am and the parade will step off at 12:00 pm. The parade will head East on Jericho Turnpike to New Hyde Park Road, North on New Hyde Park Road to Evergreen Avenue, East to Leonard Blvd. and then South on Leonard Blvd. to New Hyde Park Memorial High School.

**Car Wash: APPROVED**

- The New Hyde Park Romanettes has requested to hold a car wash in the Lakeville Road parking lot on Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Rain date: Saturday, August 26, 2023.
- New Hyde Park Junior Fire Department has requested to hold a car wash in the Lakeville Road parking lot on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Rain date: Saturday, September 30, 2023.

**Lower Level of Village Hall: APPROVED**

- The Cub Scout Pack #544 request the use of the lower level of Village Hall on Fridays, from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm on the following dates; 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/03, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/05, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24 and 5/31.

**License renewals:**

**Peddler: APPROVED**

- Pastor Rendla Narayama Das of New Hope Church has requested a peddler permit to reach out to residents regarding the benefits of joining the New Hope Church community between the hours of 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays.

**Landscaping: APPROVED**

- Oliva Landscaping Inc. – 15 West Hitchcock Avenue, Floral Park
- P. Gironda Landscaping Inc. – 1631 Imperial Way, New Hyde Park
- Lawn & Order – 87 Sommerset Avenue, Garden City

**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:**

**23-12 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #22-28**

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

**23-13 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #23-03**

- Upon motion by Trustee Savarese, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to pay the bills was unanimously approved.

**23-14 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS – SPENCER FAIR**

- Upon motion by Trustee Savarese, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to hire new part time laborer was unanimously approved.

**23-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS – THOMAS TORREGROSSA**

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Savarese, the resolution to hire new part time laborer was unanimously approved

**23-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME PARK ATTENDANTS THE PARKS DEPARTMENT**

- Upon motion by Trustee Savarese, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, the resolution to hire new part time Park Attendants was unanimously approved

**23-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL TIME TREASURER**

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Savarese, the resolution to hire a new treasurer was unanimously approved

**23-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMIR CONSTRUCTION – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR HALLWAY**

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to enter into agreement was unanimously approved

**23-19 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMIR CONSTRUCTION – BASEMENT**

- Upon motion by Trustee Sheikh, seconded by Trustee Savarese, the resolution to enter into agreement was unanimously approved

**23-20 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMIR CONSTRUCTION – THEATER**

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Sheikh, the resolution to enter into agreement was unanimously approved

**23-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING**

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Trustee Savarese, the resolution to advertise was unanimously approved

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Savarese:**

**Public Information**

As of today, we have over 1300 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**

The Re-Opening of Memorial Park took place on July 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a great turnout and a great day to reopen the Children’s Playground, Senior Sanctuary and Bocce Ball Courts.

**Little League**

- The NHPLL Girls Juniors and Boys 10U team were unfortunately eliminated in the first round.
- The NHPLL Boys 11U and 12U were both eliminated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Semi-final round at Williamsport.
- The Summer League started mid-July at Nuzzi Field.

**Neighborhood Watch**

- Is ongoing and we are currently looking for 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 [asavarese@vnhp.org](mailto:asavarese@vnhp.org).

### **Concert in the Park**

- Our first concert in the park, featuring the Chicklets, took place on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. The 90-minute concert only ran for about 75 minutes due to rain but it was an awesome show.

### **Chamber of Commerce Report**

- The next Chamber Meeting will take place on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Park Place Restaurant.

### **Tree Replacements**

- Requests for the Fall season are being accepted. Requests should be made through the Village website or App for Fall planting.

## **Department of Public Works: Igor Sikiric, Superintendent**

- Sanitation collection is currently on schedule.
- Waste and Recycling collected in June;
  - 20 tons of construction and demolition debris
  - 39 tons of yard waste
  - 16 tons of newspaper
  - 23 tons of commingled
  - Total tons of municipal solid waste: 412 tons
- Department of Public Works is conducting day to day maintenance of all parking lots, Jericho Tpke, and along the LIRR corridor.
- Jericho Turnpike vegetation maintenance is on ongoing. Flowers and planter boxes are watered on a weekly basis. Weeds and vegetation are managed on a weekly basis as well.
- The street sweeper was down but it is finally repaired and will run on schedule.
- Department of Public Works purchased three (3) new trucks which were supposed to be in by February. Due to supply chain issues, the vehicles are now slated for August or September delivery. One of the current trucks is twenty-one – twenty-two (21-22) years old, another one is twenty (20) years old and another is (5) years old.

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

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

- The last meeting was for Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Since no applications were submitted, the meeting was cancelled.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2023. As of today, no applications have been submitted.

### **Architectural Review Board**

- The last meeting was scheduled on July 5, 2023. Since no applications were submitted, the meeting was cancelled.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2023. As of today, no applications have been submitted.

### **Village Building Court**

- The last Village Court hearing was held on July 19, 2023 with one hundred eighteen (118) cases on the agenda; (63) parking on the lawn, (7) obstructing sidewalk, (32) property maintenance, (4) working without permits, (3) multiple families in single family home, (1) excessive noise, (8) Miscellaneous
- The next Village Court will be held on August 16, 2023 with one hundred fifty-four (154) cases on the agenda.
- There have been 76 permits in total approved and issued between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Oscar Osorio, Village Treasurer

- In June, the Village has collected 4.3 million in taxes
- The last day to pay taxes without penalty was July 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a 5% fee for the first month late and then 1% every month thereafter.

**Code Enforcement** – John Nicastro

- July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup> the Village has issued 806 traffic summonses; mostly expired meters, 4-hour parking and expired inspection.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup> the Village has issued 33 building summonses.

**Trustee Burger** \*Trustee Burger was absent. His report was presented by Patricia Santomauro, Secretary to the Board.

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

**South 12<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian Underpass & Station Platform**

- 3TC is looking at other options to clean up the façade as the current mockup is not acceptable.
- MTA and 3TC have requested to meet with us the week of July 24 to discuss this issue further and we anticipate having more information at our August meeting.

**Paving of Roads**

- All roads are paved except for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
  - The LIRR is working on a grounding issue. The design is in development and is scheduled to be completed the by the end of July with the work to begin in August.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave paving is complete. The stripping will be redone to accommodate local business operations. This re-stripping will be completed after 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Paved.

**Water Basin 21** – this is the area across from the DPW facility, but not Village Property.

- The County permitted 3TC to use the area as an access point to the Hempstead Line Tracks.
- The Basin entrance area has been restored with new fencing and gravel.
- The Village is working with the County to get the rest of the area restored.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Streetscape**

- The monthly meetings on hold for now and the Village is evaluating options.
- The focus is on the South 12<sup>th</sup> Street Parking lot and the surrounding area.
- Once we receive a decent concept that balances out green space, parking etc. – we will share this information at a board meeting to obtain some feedback.

**Landscaping**

- The additional landscaping is still owed by 3TC and will be completed in the Fall planting season.

### **NHP Road**

- The Village is waiting on the County and 3TC to complete installation of the left turn signal (Protected Signal) at New Hyde Park Road and Plaza Avenue. The funding issue was resolved.

### **Rats – 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

- Village notified 5-24 of an issue with Rats along the Hempstead line by 11th Ave.
- The Village reached out to the LIRR; their investigation noted that the rats not coming from tracks but rather possibly from the Water Basin and even a business along Covert Avenue.
- The LIRR will bait traps.
- The Village will reach out to the County, Floral Park and Stewart Manor.

### **Water Authority**

- The well at Station 57 Rehabilitation project including 1.4 Dioxane Removal is operational.
- Well Station 57A is still undergoing testing and has some issues.
- The good news is that the 1.4 dioxane and PFAS are at full removal with the installation of new wellhead treatment for Station 57.

### **Veterans Affairs/American Legion Post 1089**

- There are no summer meetings – the meetings will resume on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Upcoming Events are the Street Fair, Veterans Day and a Pancake Breakfast.
- Post 1089 sponsored New Hyde Park Memorial high School Student **Varun Pillai** for Boy State 2023
  - Post wants to congratulate Varun Pillai who successfully completed Boy State this past June.

### **Troop 298**

- The troop is working on another Eagle Scout Project with Life Scout Eddy Dean. The project is Hero Banners.
- The troop just returned from Onteora Scout Camp.
- And a crew of 7 scouts will head to Northern Tier in August with Trustee Rainer Burger.

### **Noise Abatement**

- A TVASNAC (Town-Village Aircraft Safety Noise Abatement Committee) meeting was held on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The July meeting will take place at Valley Stream Village Hall located at 123 South Central Ave Valley Stream on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- Residents have voiced complaints regarding low flying helicopters, these complaints can be reported as well.
- Residents are urged to file online noise complaints at [www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC](http://www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC). Or for Hempstead residents to call 1-800-225-1071, North Hempstead residents dial 311.

### **Trustee Sheikh:**

Mayor Devane thanked Trustee Sheikh for hanging the wonderful photos in the hallway of Village Hall titled “Scenes from the Village”.

### **Senior Program**

- On June 16<sup>th</sup>, Flowering Plants with Paul was here with a very educational presentation. We learned to not use Miracle Grow powder for our plants but to use the sticks instead. Thank you, Laura Trentacoste, Director of Senior Programs for another great event.
- August 13, 2023 – We will be hosting a Wellness Day. The event will run from 11:00AM – 1:00 PM at Village Hall. A doctor and pharmacist will be here to answer any questions our seniors may have. Please bring along your list of medications.

## **Long and Lean**

- Summer classes will run through Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Library**

- Trustee Sheikh would like to extend a huge thank you to Peter Heckman for posting the Villages events on their website.
- The library has discount tickets available for Splish Splash Water Park. Please use promo code 23Hillside when purchasing your tickets.
- Some upcoming Library events;
  - July 28<sup>th</sup> – Movie Day featuring “I want to Dance with Somebody”.
  - August 2nd – Stay Active and Independent for Life at 10:00 am.
  - August 7<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> – Scavenger hunt for the children.
  - For more information on the many events taking place at the library, please visit [www.hillsideLibrary/info](http://www.hillsideLibrary/info)

## **Deputy Mayor Nijjar**

### **Streetscape**

- Discussions are beginning to take shape and will overlap into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Streetscape plan Trustee Burger spoke about.

### **Cultural Commission**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Multicultural Festival was cancelled due to the poor air quality. Deputy Mayor Nijjar thanked the staff who assisted in speaking with the health department.
  - Unfortunately, we could not postpone as there are too many hands; performers, volunteers to be rearranged.
- Thank you to Maspeth Federal Savings Bank for sponsoring the summer concert on June 21<sup>st</sup> featuring “The Chiclettes”.
- The Back-to-School Movie Night will be held on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- The Street Fair date is no longer September 16, 2023, it will now be on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> as the rain date.

### **Summer Camp**

- Camp started on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will run through August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The hours are 10 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30pm – 4:00 pm. Groups are broken down by age.
- Michael the Camp Director is doing a great job.
- Parents – please do not send children with valuables. The Village is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Please have children wear closed toe shoes and sunblock for safety reasons.

### **Clerk’s Office**

- Taxes were due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a 5% penalty for the first month late and an additional 1% every month thereafter.
- Preparation has begun for the upcoming audit in August. The Village usually passes without issue. The audit is public record and will be available when completed.
- The Village has had a few interns to assist the Clerk’s Office and Building Dept. who are doing a wonderful job. We thank New Hyde Park Memorial High School for always being so forthcoming working with the Village.

### **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.

### **Mayor Devane**

#### **Katie's Run**

- This was a fantastic event on June 25<sup>th</sup> and our Village was honored to collaborate with the foundation in honor of the beautiful Katie McBride. We look forward to next year.

#### **Summer Concert**

- As previously indicated, the Chiclettes performance on June 21<sup>st</sup> was outstanding.

#### **Community Center**

- The Village is looking at many projects in terms of infrastructure, the Community Center next door and the Dept. of Public Works facility, which we are able to do without an architect thanks to Binu. Binu wears so many hats and the Board thanks him for always being there.

#### **Street Fair**

- Mayor Devane stated that earlier in the year when choosing the Street Fair date, the Village was aware that the date coincided with Rosh Hashanah but understood the observation began at sundown on Saturday. The Village Street Fair for the past 26 years, with the exception of 2020 due to Covid, has always been the third Saturday in September. Mayor Devane mentioned other events taking place without issue on Long Island the weekend of Rosh Hashanah;
  - 9/16 - Amityville Kiwanis Craft & Antiques Fair
  - 9/16 - Selden Community Craft Fair
  - 9/16 - 9/17 Long Island Family Food Festival in Copiague
  - 9/16 - The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Festival in West Sayville
  - 9/16 – Setauket Craft Fair
  - 9/17 – The Williston Park Street Fair
- Mayor Devane continued that since its inception two years ago, this Board is the most inclusive Administration this Village has ever encountered. This Village Board celebrates with a St. Patrick's Day Parade, a Columbus Day Parade, a Diwali celebration and a yearly Multicultural Festival. In addition, you are looking at the most integrated Village Board in Village history of New Hyde Park; Deputy Mayor Nijjar is Indian American and Trustee Eve Sheikh is Muslim American. They are not in these positions because they are Indian or Muslim, they are in these positions because they are outstanding candidates with outstanding families. That is the way we do things around here.
- Mayor Devane suggested that we take a negative situation and make it a positive one. The Village will host a Hannukah event this year and asked for a chairperson for the event. Let's make it happen.
- Donald Panetta, who is a Great Neck Library Board member, not a New Hyde Park resident, not a Village business called our secretary an antisemite. Mr. Panetta is a member of the Great Neck Library Board, instead of coming and having a calm, rational conversation he chose to write letters to Newsday and the Herald Courier. Despicable behavior.
- Mayor Devane was approached by long time members of the community as well as longtime participants in the Street Fair that they would not be able to participate this year due to it being Rosh Hashannah. They did not ask Mayor Devane to change the date for them, just that they were disappointed they could not participate



this year. A calm, rational conversation that resulted in changing the date of the Street Fair. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Street Fair will now be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 and we will have an amazing day.

### **Memorial Park**

- On July 8<sup>th</sup> we opened the children's playground, bocce ball courts and the senior sanctuary. The success of this was due in large part to two individuals; Binu Pillay, Supt. of Buildings and Igor Sikiric, Supt. Dept. of Public Works. Dept. of Public works excavated the playground and removed a large portion of soil to start the process which saved the Village close to \$20,000.
- Mayor Devane and John Nicastro put up additional signs by the playground which are age-appropriate manufacturer recommendations. The reason for this is we already have cracks in the swings because older kids are standing on the swings. Please follow the rules.
- Come out and enjoy the park but the rules are in place for a reason.

### **Park IDs for Memorial Park**

- The Village has someone in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday to fulfill requests and so far, it is going very well.
- You can apply online and even have the ID's dropped in your mailbox.

### **Driveways**

- Seventeen (17) driveway evaluations are completed. Sixteen (16) out of seventeen (17) summonses have been dismissed due to modifying their situation. This is not about money. It is about safety.

### **Miller Bros. Property**

- There is currently no plan before this Board at this time.
- The property owner has one more public outreach meeting planned.
- The Board will discuss once a plan is put forward.

**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 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Patricia Santomaura*

Secretary to the Board