

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Devane
Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar
Trustee Rainer Burger
Trustee Arthur Savarese
Trustee Eve Sheikh
Maria Cerda, Village Clerk
Oscar Osorio, Village Treasurer
Binu Pillay, Superintendent of Building
Igor Sikiric, Superintendent of DPW
Arlene Drucker, Village Assistant Treasurer
Peter S. Trentacoste, Attorney to the Board of Trustees
Benjamin Truncale, Jr., Attorney to the Board of Trustees
Laura Daly, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Mayor Devane opened the Board Meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A Special Use Hearing immediately followed.

Special Presentation:

Trustee Burger introduced his nephew, Life Scout Michael Domingo, who gave a formal presentation on the MEMORIAL PARK - HERO'S MEMORIAL WALL - a Troop 298 Eagle Project. Michael gave a description of the Wall, which will have the names of 57 Members of various Armed forces branches, who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in various Wars. Michael researched each of the names listed on the "War Memorial Rock" and confirmed the Heroes' casualties. A wall will be erected in Memorial Park and Michael was able to get the bricks donated as well as the labor to construct the wall. Michael will be looking for donations to fund the name plates.

Update on the Development of 300 South 12th Street:

The Mayor announced the new development plans of 300 South 12th Street. He explained the process/evolution of different designs and usages for the property as well as the history of the Grant beginning in 2018, when the Village was awarded a \$5 million Transit Oriented Development grant exclusively for 2nd and 3rd avenues. This was an effort to beautify and mitigate the area that was impacted for years by the Third Track Project. The grant was executed in September 2021 and had a 3-year expiration date. The Village contracted WSP USA Inc. to design plans for 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

The first plan included making 3rd Avenue between South 11th and South 12th streets a pedestrian only area. This was estimated at \$1 million (and the rest of the funds would have to be returned). We then discussed using the South 12th street parking lot for much needed Village greenspace. A portion of the Parking lot would need to be reconfigured this purpose, and then we would need to replace the parking spots for our commuters. Since the lot at 300 South 12th street had not started construction on their proposed storage facility, the Village approached the State about our idea of utilizing these grant funds for greenspace.

Initially, the State said “No” to our plan. The Board then spoke with the Governor's regional representative, Stevens Martinez. New York State Senator Liz Krueger was also instrumental in supporting our plan with the Governor. While speaking with the Administration Officials, we were simultaneously pursuing negotiations with the lot owner. Our entire Village team worked tirelessly in negotiations with both the lot owner and the State and ultimately were able to secure approval from the State and a signed contract with the lot owner. This enables us to add additional greenspace and a wonderful new park for our residents.

The Mayor then handed the presentation over to Ari from WSP, who is a Village Resident, to review the 300 South 12th St. Planning concept and design and requested that plans be posted on the VNHP website.

BOARD MINUTES: APPROVED

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2024 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

The Police Report for February 2024 was submitted by the Nassau County Police Department.

Car Wash Application - Approved:

New Hyde Park Road School PTA -6th Grade Committee requests holding a car wash on Saturday, June 1, 2024, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Little League Parade Request - Approved:

New Hyde Park Little League requests holding a Parade on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from noon to 1 PM.

License / Permits New / Renewal:

Landscaping Renewals - All Approved:

Aviles Landscaping - 162 Haig Rd., Valley Stream
JP Landscaping - 29 Lincoln Blvd., Hempstead
Community Landscaping - 35 Elk St. Apt 8H, Hempstead
Julio Lawn Care - 18 Bedford Ave., Elmont
J. Rubio Landscaping - 2431 Salisbury Rd., Westbury
Four Seasons Landscaping - 45 Marcus Ave., Garden City Park
Gonzalez Landscape - 990 Wilson Blvd., Central Islip
Lutz Lawn Care – P.O. Box 907, New Hyde Park
Anthony Landscaping Inc. - 1032 Adams St., Uniondale

Used Car Owner/Operator Renewal - Approved:

Auto PHD Diagnostic and Repair Inc. - 167 Lakeville Rd., New Hyde Park

RESOLUTIONS:

23-105 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #23-19

- Upon motion by Tr. Burger, seconded by Tr. Savarese, the resolution authorizing Abstract No. 23-19 was unanimously approved.

23-106 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS – JAMES POWERS

- Upon motion by Tr. Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Burger, the resolution authorizing the hiring of New Part Time Laborer, James Powers, was unanimously approved.

23-107 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO SUBMIT THE 50th YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) BUDGET REQUEST APPLICATION

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Sheikh, the resolution authorizing the Clerk to submit the 50th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget Request Application, was unanimously approved.

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

Trustee Art Savarese

Social Media

- Follow the Village on the Village Instagram account for Updates, Important Notices & Events. (@villageofnhp).
- You should also visit the Village website and download the MY VNHP app on your phone to stay connected with your village.
- Also check out the E Board for updates and notices

New Hyde Park Little League

- Registration for the 2024 season is open online for boy's baseball & girl's softball. To register, go to: <https://www.newhydeparklittleleague.com/>

- Mark your calendars, the NHPLL parade will be Saturday April 13th

Memorial Park

- Park hours are now 8 am till dusk every day. The park will be open most days unless there is inclement weather.
- Construction on the Big Field started this past Tuesday to covert the field to a turf field. The work is being done by LandTex.
- Park IDs for the 2024 season are currently being renewed. If you need a new Park ID visit our website for more information.
 - You can print the application or pick one up from village hall
 - Bring proof of driver's license, utility bill, birth certificates (for your children), dog information including vaccine information for your dog.
 - Clear Photos for each family member and your dog (if needed).
 - Once we have all of this information, we will process the application, print out the cards and notify the residents when it's available for pick up at village hall.
- We are interviewing for additional Park Attendants for the season. If anyone is interested, please send me an email or come to Village Hall and fill out an application My email address is: asavarese@vnhp.org
- Mark your calendar: Thursday June 27th, we will be hosting a Concert in the Park starting at 7 pm. More details to follow in the next month. We are also looking to have Food Trucks before the start of the concert.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: Neighborhood Watch

- Neighborhood Watch program is ongoing and we are looking for more volunteers to patrol the Village streets during the week. If you are interested, please send me an email at asavarese@vnhp.org and then go to Village Hall to fill out an application.

Other Items

- Greater NHP Chamber of Commerce Networking Meeting is tonight. If you would like to join the Chamber or need additional information you can visit the Greater NHP Chamber website. <https://www.nhpchamber.org/>
- If you would like a tree planted in the Fall, please go to the Village website or the app and make your request.
- Igor will fill us in on the rest of the DPW report and the exciting news on the DPW facility.

Department of Public Works: Igor Sikiric, Superintendent

Waste and Recycling collected in February 2024

- 391 Tons of waste and recycling consisting of:
 - 329 tons of MSW
 - 13 tons of newspaper
 - 19 tons of commingled recyclables
 - 23 tons of yard waste
 - 7 tons of construction debris
- There will be no double days scheduled between March 21 and the next Board Meeting April 18, 2024.
- Bulk waste and E-waste pickups can only be scheduled by calling Village Hall. Bulk Waste is collected every Monday and Friday. E-waste is collected on Wednesdays.
- There is a write-up in the Winter Newsletter, on our website, and a notification went out on the MyVNHP App that details proper handling procedures for all recyclables.

Village of New Hyde Park

Regular Meeting March 21, 2024

- Cardboard must be flattened and bundled. No full boxes or boxes with Styrofoam inside will be accepted.

Operations

- Installation and repair of new signs and poles due to aging and damage is on-going. In the month of February there were approximately 10 signs that were repaired, replaced, or relocated.
- Street sweeper operations were limited in February, due to freezing temperatures. Street sweeping will continue into the Winter months, weather permitting.
- **DPW**
 - Approximately 20 pothole repairs were performed in the month. Road repair operations are limited in the Winter months. Only large potholes will be repaired until the weather gets warmer.
- **Routine Tree Maintenance**
 - Requests and tree preventative maintenance procedures are on-going and will continue as needed. DPW conducted 5 tree trims and 1 tree removal in February. There were 2 trees that fell on February 29th due to high winds. DPW responded and safely removed the fallen trees. Tree trim and removals will continue, weather permitting over the next month. If you have any requests, you can call Village Hall or use the MyVNHP App.
 - During the month of February, DPW received and staff responded to approximately 25 service requests that were received via the MyVNHP App or phone calls to Village Hall. Requests included tree trim/removals, streetlight repairs, road repairs, routine maintenance requests, and requests for a new recycling pail, etc. The majority of calls this month were regarding streetlight repairs.
- **Village Property Incidents**
 - There were 2 snow/ice events in February that required plowing and/or salt treatment of village roads. To date, we have had 4 snow/ice events that required the use of 150 tons of salt.
 - The Village recently met with PSEG regarding a large underground circuit installation. The new transmission conduit will impact Lowell Ave between Lakeville Road and Cherry Lane. The work is scheduled to begin in June. PSEG will notify all residents in the area that will be affected by the work.
 - DPW recently received one of the much-anticipated new garbage trucks. This truck is replacing a 2003 Mack. Our other new garbage truck is scheduled to arrive this Summer and the new roll-off truck is currently scheduled for the Fall.

Building Department - Binu Pillay, Superintendent

ZBA

- The last scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board and Appeals was held March 13; however since no applications were submitted prior to the deadline, the hearing was cancelled.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 10th with 1 case to be heard for the construction of a new home.

ARB

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on Feb 28 with 3 cases heard (which ranged from 2 2nd floor additions and one rear addition in which all were approved).
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th with 3 cases to be heard which comprise of a rear 2 story addition, new 2nd floor addition and rear extension and new single-family home on an existing lot.

Planning Board

- The last meeting of the Planning Board was scheduled for Feb 28th; however, no applications were submitted and the meeting was cancelled.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th and as of this time we have no applications submitted.

VILLAGE COURT

- The last Village Court was held yesterday, March 20th with 17 cases, which comprise of 5 Property Maintenance, 1 Working without permits, and 11 various infractions.
- The next village court will be held on April 17th, with 9 cases. The 9 cases are comprised of 2 Property Maintenance – Litter Not Being Cleaned Up and 7 various infractions.

RENTAL REGISTRATION

- Rental registration is in process and inspections are being conducted accordingly.

SPECIAL USE

- There are 2 Special Use application heard tonight, 231 Jericho Turnpike for a Deli selling freshly prepared and pre-packaged food. Also 1510 Jericho which is seeking to renovate existing building to be used as a MRI and physical therapy office.
- During the period from 2/15 to today, the building department issued 53 permits: 18 building permits, 15 plumbing permits, 5 - Dumpster/POD, 4- Roof, 3-Sidewalk/Driveway, 1- Fence, 6- Street Opening/Road Closure, and 1- Demolition
- There were also 11 - Certificates of Approval, 14 - Certificates of Completion, 1- Certificate of Occupancy, 1- Certificate of Existing Use, 1 – Special Use, 1- Special Exceptions, 4 Closed Expired Permits

Trustee Rainer Burger:

Long Island Railroad (LIRR) 3rd Track Project

South 12th Pedestrian Underpass & Station Platform

- MTA will be applying a new application to the cement façade to clean up the blemishes etc.
- No update from the MTA other than we expect the work to happen in the Spring/Summer.

Paving of Roads

- No update on the repaving and striping of 2nd and 3rd Ave. other than MTA is looking to complete this spring.
- The Village is not happy with the patch work that was completed between South 11th and the Station House – the Village has voiced its displeasure to the MTA and 3TC; we are still waiting for response

LIRR Track Work

- MTA/LIRR noted that additional Signal work will still occur but this is currently not planned to take place till the 2nd or 3rd Quarter of this year. The Board will keep everyone posted when the work is scheduled.

Water Authority

- Station 57 - little update since as last month. The Water Authority is ordering up a new reactor for Well 57A to get it to 100% capacity (operating at 73%). Additional work will be performed in late 2024 early 2025.
- Rehabilitation work will begin at Station 44 in Elmont with 4 wells; also, about to start installation of wellhead treatment for emerging contaminants at 2 wells at Station 40 (HQ) in New Hyde Park.

NOISE ABATEMENT

- The last meeting for TVASNC on Feb 26 was cancelled due to lack of participation
- The next meeting for TVASNC will be Monday March 25th at 7:00p at the Hempstead Town Hall
- Residents are urged to file online noise complaints at www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC; or for Hempstead residents to call 1-800-225-1071, North Hempstead residents dial 311.

Veterans Affairs/American Legion Post 1089

- Post 1089 conducted their 1st meeting after the Winter on March 16th, 2024.
 - Covered Events and Activities that occurred over the Winter.
 - Upcoming Events will include the Little League Parade and Memorial Day Parade
 - Memorial Day Planning meeting will be scheduled next week with Village.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for April 13th along with Little League Parade.
 - Legion was also Briefed on a new Project at Memorial Park by our War Memorial.

Scouting

- Eagle Scout Project – Life Scout Michael Domingo - Memorial Wall to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Freedom. Wall will have 57 Plaques with the Name, Rank, Service and Dates of Death of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Marcus Christ

- Contracts Awarded to RMB and MJG Architect and Kick-off meeting was held in January. We have had a follow-up meeting on the design and layout. The contractor has also completed utilities mark-outs and soil borings.
- Looking to complete the Bid Package and go out for bid 3rd Qtr. 2024.
- Presented Layout and Renderings.
- Budget: Estimated approximate \$2.5 Mil. Currently have \$1.1M; a Bond Remainder

Trustee Eve Sheikh:

Senior Programs

- On March 1st we had Therapy dog Liya come and spend time with our Seniors and the amazing Student Council Representatives from NHP Road school also came to visit. It was beautiful to watch all the love given by Liya! Just the excitement on everyone face was just priceless! The Students and Seniors made a cute craft together too, it was a fun event!
- Tomorrow March 22nd at 11am is a Wreath making event for our Seniors. It should be very cool to watch and make!
- I am excited to announce our upcoming April Senior events!!
 - On April 12th, at 11am, Chef Rob returns! He will be showing a Spring Cooking Demo! I'm sure he is going to share some more amazing new tips for all of us! Cannot wait!!
 - On April 19th, at 11am, our Big Magic Show for the Seniors will take place!! It will be so much FUN to watch all the tricks and some cool real magic!

Registration is required for all the Senior Programs- please email Seniorprograms@vnhp.org

Hillside Library

- The library is offering discounted Long Island Aquarium tickets. These tickets are available only while supplies last. The tickets do not have an expiration date and can be used throughout the year.
 - Discounted Tickets will be sold for \$27.00 each and a maximum of four tickets per family can be purchased. Payments accepted via cash or check; please make check out to "Hillside Public Library".
- Some of the upcoming Library events are:
 - March 27th, from 6pm-7:30pm, a hand painted SpringTime Sun catcher event
 - April 1st and April 4th, from 10:15am to 12:45pm, a free AARP Tax Assistance program
 - April 7th, they are celebrating National Library Week! April book shower and tea with Barbara Sheridan from 12:30pm to 3pm

More information about other interesting events can be found on the library’s website which is hillsidelibrary.info

New Hyde Park Road School

- Students were Spotlited at the March Board Meeting! In honor of Music in Our Schools Month, the district honored the 16 students who were selected for the All-County Music Festival at the board of education meeting on March 11th. Congratulations to all of them!

NHP Memorial High School

- I also want to share an event that took place at NHP Memorial High School. On March 12th, actor, Joseph Gannascolli, from the hit show The Sopranos, came to visit the High School to speak to the High School Seniors regarding places his career has taken him! As the kids prepare themselves for the future, it was awesome for him to visit the school and do that! The story was also shared on News12!

Village Clerk Maria Cerda:

Revenue Report thru February 2024

Meters	\$3,624.00
Muni-meters	\$30,177.38
Parking Permits	\$450.00
Licenses	\$9,020.00
Building	\$22,059.29
Zoning	\$300.00
Interest on Accts	\$10,093.93
Registrar	\$0.00

Revenue Report thru February 2024

Traffic Court Fines	\$53,080.00
Building Court Fines	\$0.00

Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar

- The Village Events:
 - St. Patrick’s Day – it was an honor to work with the Fire Department who worked smoothly throughout the Parade. Thank You were extended the Grand Marshall, Tony Jackson; to Cheryl for

all the tedious work that went into coordinating all the Parade activities; our local Schools, the Cultural Committee and all the volunteers that came out to help with activities.

- Our next event is Earth Day on Sunday, April 14th at 11:00 AM. We are going to congregate at Village Hall and clean up Jericho Tpke. We are looking for Volunteers to help. The event will end at Memorial Park where we will be planting a tree in the Children's playground.
- We are introducing a first time Mother's Day Parade honoring our moms. It will take place on Saturday, May 11th at 10 AM. March with your mom, grandmother or a motherly figure in your life. It is starting at Lakeville Road to Jericho Tpke, and ends at Village Hall with a celebration.
- Memorial Day Parade will take place on Saturday May 25th at 10 AM. We will meet at Hillside Blvd. and have 2 ceremonies, one at Village Hall and another at Memorial Park. We will hopefully be unveiling the Heros Memorial Wall in Memorial Park.
- Tax Grievance Filings were closed in February 20th.
- Audit report was excellent and on-line.
- Preliminary/Tentative 2024-2025 Budget is up on the on-line. It should be adopted on or before May 1st. If you have any questions, attend the Budget meeting that will be held before we adopt the Budget.
- The Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant was awarded \$18,805 on March 4th and we have 180 days to spend it. It will be used for audio and video improvements in the courtroom.
- Records Management Grant was applied for March 11th. It will be used to scan and shred records and eliminate paper. The goal is to go "Go Paperless".
- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be submitted and used for Senior Programs, Village Hall ADA Compliance & Repairs and Residential Rehabilitation. The Residential Rehabilitation funds are to be used for residents in the Village that have low income and their houses need upkeep, ie windows, roofing.
- This Administration is trying to obtain as much money as we can get from Grants so we don't have to use tax payers' money. Even with all the projects that we have, we are not increasing taxes but rather trying to tap into all the available Grants.

Mayor Christopher Devane

- A review of the February 2024 police report was given; 5 auto accidents; 32 total aided cases (other than auto); no robbery; no residential burglaries; no commercial robberies; 1 car was stolen; 0 criminal mischief charge; 11 moving violations; and 12 parking violations.
- The St. Patrick's Day Parade hit it out of the Park. Tony Jackson was thanked and recognized for his participation. It didn't rain. He thanked the Fire Department for hosting, and recognized the Chiefs, Commissioner, the member and the Juniors. Jr. Fire Department for participation, DPW and Neal Brogen for being the Emcee. He also thanked Cheryl, Arlene, Binu, Maria and Oscar for their help.
- The Mayor thanked DPW for the great job they did during the two abbreviated snows storms.
- The Mayor resurfaced an issue from the February 15th Board Meeting regarding the shortage of Sanitation Department workers' due to the low starting salary. The Mayor addressed Igor Sikiric, Superintendent of the DPW, who announced that he was able to rework the Budget, and an offer of \$18.00 an hour was presented to the Sanitation Department Union and we are waiting for their response.
- The Village Hall is getting the bathroom installed in the basement. The tile is white and it looks fantastic. Go take a look at it.
- In the month of we are going to start working on the molding around Village Hall. This takes us into June and July when we are going to repaint and repoint Village Hall. This work needs to get it done before we start Marcus Christ Hall.
- DPW- we're in the process of bids coming back for the construction.

- Memorial Park - the new turf is in the process of being installed. It is a collaboration with Little League and they are chipping in \$100,000 for the turf. We're going to have the picnic area painted and we will have the Memorial done by Memorial Day Parade.
- The Mayor explained that Michael Domingo will be reaching out to residents and will be asking them to consider contributing a Plaque for one of the Hero's that gave their life.
- The second Zach Zabatta Memorial golf outing is taking place to honor Zach's Legacy and will benefit the Schools of Mary's Zach Zabatta's Scholarship fund. The outing will take place on April 29, 2024 at the Garden City Country Club.
- Audit reports are out and we came back with an Excellent Financial Condition rating over the last year and our new budget will not be increasing taxes. We are going to stay on top of the spending and hopefully come in within budget.
- Thanks to the Community for donating their labor and time to make Memorial Park happen; this is the way that Communities interact and come together to get things done.
- Over the next year we will be doing construction on a 98-year-old DPW facility; doing construction on a 75-year-old community center; and building a brand new park in our community. If anyone has any ideas or would like to donate their time, please let us know.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM and a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Burger, and unanimously approved, to go to an Executive Session. The Executive Session ended at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Laura Dafy

Secretary to the Board