

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
April 18, 2019

Present: Mayor Montreuil
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino
Trustee Coppola
Trustee Burger
Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Janet Bevers, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent: Trustee Pallisco

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:30 pm following a Public Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the Public Hearing.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Tr. Burger, and seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Annual Organization Meeting were unanimously approved.

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COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Car Wash Application: Approved.

NHP Road School 6th Grade 2020 Class - June 8th from 9 am – 2 pm

NHP Memorial Girls Varsity Basketball for the Leah Kuczinski Legacy Foundation - August 3rd from 9 am – 3 pm

Block Party Application: Approved.

Saturday, July 20 (rain date July 21) on Lewis Avenue from Jericho Tpke to Charles Street from 12 noon – 10 pm.

Carter License Renewal: Approved.

U-Need-A-Roll-Off, 35 Dale Street, Babylon

Restaurant License Renewal: Approved.

New China, 1525 Jericho Turnpike

Taxi License Renewal: Approved.

A Whitestar Limousine Service, 20 Jericho Tpke

Landscaper License Renewals: Approved.

Flores Landscaping, 21 Belmont Parkway, Hempstead

Martir R. Landscaping, PO Box 45, Lawrence

J & C Landscaping, 526 Cedar Street, Uniondale

Curcio & Curcio, 91 Elm Avenue, Glen Cove

Pete Timinelli Landscaping, 9 Pine Street

Santos Landscape, 45 Hagen Street, Brentwood

Anthony DiCarlo Landscaping, 2774 Central Avenue, Baldwin

Home Pride Landscaping, 1112 Braxton Street, Uniondale

M&B Argueta Landscaping, 100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hempstead

Anthony Landscaping, 1032 Adams Street, Uniondale

Tr. Coppola:

Little League

The Parade was cancelled last week due to inclement weather. Information was posted on a NHP blog that said the League's request for a rain date was not approved by the Village Board. This is not true. The League has never had or requested a rain date for the Parade.

Auxiliary Police

Nassau County will host an Awards Ceremony on May 9th. A number of Unit #212 members are getting service awards.

Fire Department

The NHP Fire Department Installation Dinner was held last week. Some members of the Board attended and it was a well-attended and enjoyable evening.

The temporary fire facility at South 12 Street Parking Lot is almost completed. More on this will be included in Tr. Burger's upcoming report.

A Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Compliance Training Seminar was held this morning. It is an important topic and I will update Village Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann and Supt. Gannon on the information provided. Village Hall has not and does not have any problems or issues, but this is important information for all to know.

Tr. Pallisco: In his absence, Tr. Burger provided the following report:

Beautification/Tree Committee

The Village ordered 50 new trees for spring planting. Supt. Gannon confirmed that delivery is expected in two weeks. 20 sites have been identified to date and there are approximately 30 more sites that can be selected for new planting.

The Village Community Clean Up Day will be held on May 4th. Volunteers are asked to meet in the Village Hall Parking Lot. No specific clean-up site has been identified at this time. Tr. Squicciarino added that in light of the construction along the rail road tracks, it will not be safe or appropriate to clean up along the tracks.

Cultural Commission

Zoning Board of Appeals

The following cases were heard on April 10th:

402 Brown Place – architectural review

1312 Broadway – architectural review

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 8th. To date, there are no cases on the docket and the hearing has been cancelled.

Architectural Review Board

The following case was heard on April 3rd:

410 Terrace Blvd – plans were approved for a renovation

The next hearing is scheduled for May 1st. To date, no applications have been submitted so this hearing may be cancelled.

Planning Board

The last meeting was scheduled for April 3rd but there were no cases on the agenda.

Tr. Burger:

LIRR 3rd Track Project

The Mainline Project is in full swing. On April 15th, Covert Avenue was fully closed from 1st to 5th Avenue and the Detour Plan has been implemented. Prior to the closure of Covert Avenue, there were numerous conversations and meetings held including two meetings with Covert Avenue residents. These efforts seemed to have helped the overall situation.

Regarding the Detour Plan, the Board seeks to get more MTA Police, Nassau County Police, and flaggers at the site. Mayor Montreuil and Supt. Gannon were at the site early morning on April 15th. And as traffic increased, they were able to make adjustments to the Detour Plan on the spot. So far, no traffic or detour adjustments have been needed at Jericho Tpke. Traffic and speeding issues on South 12th Street have been noticed. The Board will consider adjustments to mitigate, but it doesn't want to make any major changes that may impact residents. Mayor Montreuil added that he noted increased traffic on South 12th Street at the train station. In the morning, traffic seems to be coming from south and travelling straight to Jericho Turnpike to avoid the detour route on New Hyde Park Road. Mayor Montreuil added that options being considered include 1) no left or right turn onto South 12th Street from Stewart Avenue in the morning; 2) install more stop signs to slow traffic; 3) request that the MTA Police be more pro-active at the site.

As reported at the last meeting, Tr. Pallisco went to inspect the area around the tracks and did not see an increase in rodent traps. It was addressed again with 3TC this week. 3TC admitted that it did not put rodent traps down between Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road but agreed to put down the traps this week.

Utility work on New Hyde Park has stopped. Also, the agreement with 3TC was that once the full closure of Covert Avenue occurred, there should be no further lane restrictions on New Hyde Park Road. While there were lane restrictions on New Hyde Park Road, left-hand turns were prohibited onto Clinch Avenue from New Hyde Park Road, which seemed to help traffic flow and improve safety. The Board will continue to monitor this situation. If residents see lane closures or restrictions, please call 3TC and the Village.

The Board is disappointed with 3TC and the MTA with the delays constructing and completing the temporary fire department facility. The agreement was that the facility was to be 100% complete before the Covert Avenue closure. It is still not 100% complete and there is still a fence around the facility, equipment and the chief's car. 3TC and the MTA has lost credibility with the Village Board and the NHP Fire Department.

The fire department facility will be manned 24/7. There are still a few outstanding punch items, including electric, door installation, security gate, and key fob set-up. Mayor Montreuil added that this is an impressive building, even though it's only a temporary facility. The ambulance, fire truck, and chief's car have been temporarily parked at the lot located at 300 S. 12th Street. The property owner agreed to help the fire department park these vehicles on their property and get these vehicles off the street, until the fire facility was fully completed.

Parking availability has been negatively impacted. In a recent letter to residents, Mayor Montreuil outlined actions taken to mitigate the problem, including accepting R permits in Voucher parking spaces; increasing Voucher parking spaces; acquiring additional lot space, and negotiating for additional land to be used for parking. We continue to mitigate this issue.

The Haul Route is in effect. There is a rumor going around that the Village of Floral Park banned all construction vehicles, forcing all construction vehicles onto New Hyde Park Road. Someone said that this information might have also been reported in the Illustrated News. This information is not true. In fact, it is just the opposite. Floral Park Village recently opened up a gate on Plainfield Avenue to allow for construction vehicles to pass through. Be careful. Not everything you read or hear is true. If you have questions or concerns, raise it to the Village Board for clarification. Another rumor going around is that the MTA is rolling over and taking advantage of the Village Board. This is not true. A recent Newsday article reported that a \$250,000 bonus payout was reduced because of input that the Mayor and Board submitted to the MTA detailing its dissatisfaction with what was happening in the Village. Overall, things are fairly good. Not perfect, but a lot calmer than the Board originally thought it may be. Tr. Squicciarino added that the Village of New Hyde Park had the highest number of performance evaluations submitted, compared to other mainline communities.

The Electrical Sub-Station Design is due to 3TC by April 26. The Village should see the design in early May.

The storage facility at 115 New Hyde Park Road is being taken apart. Supt. Gannon added that it's currently being done by hand on the 3rd Avenue side. Then, the rest of the building will be done by machine.

Veterans Affairs

Research Assistant Bevers is doing great job helping to organize the Memorial Day Parade. Invitations and a promotional flyer have been sent out. The parade will be held on Saturday, May 25th from 10 – 11:30 am. The parade will travel from Lakeville Road and Jericho Turnpike to Village Hall for a brief ceremony. The parade will then continue north on New Hyde Park Road to Memorial Park for ceremonies. Please take a flyer and plan to attend. Our goal is to have greater attendance than last year.

Building Department

Village Court was held on April 17th and there were 17 cases on the docket, ranging from property maintenance issues, working without a permit, and illegal use of a single-family home. The next Village Court is scheduled for May 15th and there are 11 cases on the docket.

Rental registration is on-going.

There were no special use permit applications submitted for consideration at the last Board Meeting and no applications were submitted for tonight's Board Meeting.

The department issued 31 permits from April 2nd through April 18th.

Tr. Squicciarino:

Clerk's Office

The following was received recently:

\$20,900 - Nassau County Mortgage Tax 3rd payment. The budget line is approximately \$145,000.

\$21,500 - IPS Voucher Parking Fees in February

\$9,091 - Various building permits, title searches, and street openings

\$27,850 – Refund from MTA in connection with engineering and legal fees with the 3rd

Track Project

This Friday, Village Hall will close at noon in observance of the holiday.

Park and Recreation

Long and Lean continues in the lower level of Village Hall on Monday and Thursday mornings.

As previously reported, the Little League Parade was cancelled due to weather conditions. Thank you to the Parks Department workers who did a lot of work to prepare the parks for the parade. Little League season is under way. NHP Memorial and Little League are playing on the field. But there is time allotted for residents to use the fields Saturday evenings and Sunday morning.

Schools

The school budget vote takes place on May 21st at Tully Park. All school districts are within the tax cap and schools will be holding school budget hearings. Residents are urged to vote on the school budget.

Library

There are some upcoming programs being offered at the Hillside Public Library. On May 9th, there is a smart driver's tech program and on May 16th, there will be a workshop on how to use your I-pad. All programs are free.

In Tr. Pallisco's absence, Tr. Squicciarino reported that two summer shows have been booked. The first show, sponsored by Maspeth Savings Bank, will be held on Wednesday, June 19 at 7:30 pm – the John Fogerty Project. The second show will be held on Thursday, August 15th and is a theatrical production of Cinderella.

Mayor Montreuil:

Department of Public Works

The Board has received a few schematics on a new garage facility from the architect. One version has the site re-configured to the south on Stewart Avenue encroaching on Floral Park which would give DPW more space. We have not approached this with Floral Park yet. The second schematic is to keep our existing footprint. Since we are essentially moving the DPW operation onto the ball field after we take the building down, we will have to do work on the Park as well. We have the budget from the architect and Tr. Squicciarino and Tr. Coppola are obtaining costs on playground equipment from neighboring towns and villages. Once finalized, the budget will be presented to the State to fund the new garage facility and ball field improvements.

Business Development

There is a special use hearing scheduled on April 30th for 300 South 12th Street. This is the first application submitted under a new law that encourages such development to improve the downtown strip along 2nd and 3rd Avenues in our Transit Oriented Development theme. Village Attorney Benjamin Truncala has advised the Board that since this application is on the docket for April 30th, the Board cannot get into discussion tonight about the application. Village Attorney Truncala added that the Board is not able to receive any public input on this matter tonight. The hearing has not officially been opened and there is no stenographer on duty to record public comments. He added that the Board cannot speak about this application or receive public comments prior to the opening of the public hearing. Interested residents should attend this public hearing to learn about the application, ask questions, and/or provide public comments. Mayor Montreuil asked Village Attorney Truncala to have the applicant submit the application and designs digitally for ease of viewing at the public hearing. Village Attorney Truncala indicated that this request has already been made to the applicant.

Public Information

Mayor Montreuil reported that the Board submitted an application to the Community Development Fund to draw \$175,000 for the NHP Fire Department to use towards the purchase of equipment to be fitted in the ambulance and chief's car stationed at the temporary fire house. Mayor Montreuil thanked the NHP Fire Department.

Mayor Montreuil commented that everyone is impacted by the 3rd Track Project. Last Friday, the Village was notified of a water main shut down that could last 8 hours. Based on that information, a decision was made to close for the day since it would be intolerable and unsafe for anyone to work without water and full facilities. The Board apologizes to anyone who may have been inconvenienced because of the sudden closure.

As previously reported, regrettably the Street Fair has been cancelled due to the 3rd Track Project. However, Tr. Pallisco and Research Assistant Bevers are working together to organize an alternative event. Community Day is tentatively scheduled for September 14th from 11 – 4 pm in Memorial Park. We want to bring together all community based groups, local merchants, and residents to join with us to meet your neighbors and celebrate our community. Northwell Health has agreed to return as the official sponsor of this event. The NHP Funeral Home and the Katie McBride foundation will return as the music sponsor to provide music during the afternoon. We will have more information to share as details develop. We hope everyone comes to our Party in the Park.

RESOLUTIONS:

18-142 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #18-27

18-143 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2019-2020 BUDGET

18-144 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO ASSUME THE LIENS FOR UNPAID TAXES

18-145 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO ADVERTISE A SPECIAL USE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY, MAY 16 AT 7:30 PM

Old Business:

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided

Public Participation:

Resident Monica Nadasky reported that the traffic on South 12th Street is terrible; heavy machinery vehicles are traveling from New Hyde Park Road onto 5th Avenue; vehicles are not stopping at the stop signs; and construction vehicles are rolling through the stop signs. Mayor Montreuil acknowledged that with the additional traffic observed on 5th Avenue and on S. 12th Street, additional stop signs may be needed. Mayor Montreuil added that 5th Avenue is on the Haul Route for construction vehicles. Mayor Montreuil stated that he requested that vehicle counters be installed at numerous locations, including 5th Avenue, S. 12th Street and Stewart Avenue. DPW Gannon was asked to make Jericho Tpke at S 12th a no parking lane (northbound) to open up another lane for right hand turns.

Tr. Burger added that increased police presence is needed at S. 12th Street at the train station because the extra traffic and cars parking for passenger pick-ups is causing greater problems.

A resident suggested that the traffic light on 1st Avenue and Covert Avenue be adjusted as it is currently an extremely long time waiting to get through the intersection. Supt. Gannon suggested that additional flaggers be placed at this site to assist traffic flow, especially since there is no traffic coming northbound on Covert Avenue.

Resident Diane Bentivegna reported that traffic gets backed up, and cars could get stuck on the tracks at S. 12th Street as it is becoming difficult to get over the railroad tracks at S. 12th Street because the traffic on 2nd Avenue gets very heavy and drivers won't let other drivers go through. She suggested that the MTA police sitting in their cars, get out and help assist drivers cross. Mayor Montreuil added that he has called Nassau County Police and MTA Police to request greater on-site support.

A resident on Covert Avenue reported that blankets are not being used regularly on the large dirt piles at the work site. Tr. Burger commented that there is a Dust Mitigation Plan that requires that the dirt piles be covered.

The daughter of an elderly and ill resident living at 600 1st Avenue reported that her mother's driveway is sometimes blocked by workers or construction vehicles which prevents her mother's ambulance from parking or getting in/out of the driveway. Mayor Montreuil stated that a resident's driveway should never be blocked for any period of time. Tr. Burger advised the daughter to call Judy White anytime this happens.

Resident Rosemary Hudson reported that cars are not adhering to the stop sign on South 12th and 1st Avenue.

Resident Michael Morrissey reported that he did not see a notice on the website or e-board about the public hearing held early tonight. Mayor Montreuil indicated that a notice of the hearing was on both. Mr. Morrissey also reported that a big rig with Virginia plates took up 8 parking spaces all day at the train station. Mr. Morrissey asked to be put on the list to receive a 3TC evaluation form. Tr. Burger suggested that residents sign up with LIRR Expansion to receive the scorecard.

Resident Diane Bentivegna suggested that a robo call be sent to residents to announce the public hearing on April 30th.

There being no further public comment, upon motion by Tr. Squicciarino, seconded by Tr. Coppola, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:40 pm and the Board immediately went into Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bevers

Research Assistant to the Board