

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 9, 2019**

Present: Mayor Montreuil  
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino  
Trustee Coppola  
Trustee Pallisco  
Trustee Burger  
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Janet Bevers, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent: Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:04 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Montreuil.

Mayor Montreuil announced that the Board anticipated a larger audience turnout than usual, tonight's Board Meeting location was moved to the William Gill Theatre to better accommodate the audience. Additionally, the order of the Board Meeting will change tonight. Public participation will take place at the beginning of the Board Meeting and continue to approximately 9:00 pm, and then the Board will go into regular Board business.

Mayor Montreuil said that it's likely that most people are attending tonight, not for the Board Meeting since we don't typically get this large of a crowd, but to talk about the Special Use Application heard on April 30<sup>th</sup> for 300 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street. This application has received a lot of attention recently. There has been a lot of information put out on flyers and a lot of wrong information disseminated which has brought out a lot of concerns from residents. This is the reason why we hold public hearings. This is the same process used when property owners want to make modifications to their property. An application to develop the property at 300 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street was submitted to the Board. Like many projects, it had some nice aspects and some not so nice aspects. All projects go through the same process. The applicant submits a request for a building permit. If it's within Village code, the Building Department issues a permit. If it's not within Village code, then the Building Department issues a Notice of Disapproval. The applicant then has options to end the project or appeal it to either the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Village Board (if it's a Special Use Permit.) Special Use Permit applications are usually bigger projects (variation of how to use the property) as is the application for 300 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The historical approach the Village Board has taken is that the Village Board does not tell people what to do with their property, but there is a process in place. Many years ago, Harley Davidson came to the Board about an idea to come in the Village. The Board told them it had no opinion and told them to put their application through the process. That project is still going on through the process. There was a proposal for an apartment building on Jericho Tpke. and S. 12 Street many years ago. It went through the process and was not successful. An application for a Storage Facility on S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street came before the Board. The Board was not too excited about it, but the owner has property rights. The application went through the process. A public hearing was held, and the Board weighed the facts and the data about the project. In this case, the application was denied. The applicant sued the Board, aka sued the Village. The Village Attorney said that the Village didn't have a strong case from a legal point because when the court looks at the documents from the public hearing, the facts and the data read into the public record, an objective observer, the Judge, is more likely to rule in favor of the property owner. In which case all our leverage goes out the window and the Village can get sued if proper procedure is not followed. And if the Village is sued and ultimately loses the case, the Village will lose any leverage in the project. The Village is dealing with litigation in another project on Jericho Turnpike.

It went through the same process. A public hearing was held. The case was heard and ultimately denied. The applicant sued and the Village will probably go into litigation on this matter. But we believe that we have a strong case. Ultimately, this five-member Board assesses each application in the same approach. Our guiding principal is, and has always been, what do we think is the best way to preserve and improve the suburban character of New Hyde Park? This five-member Board, your neighbors, feel very strongly about this. This is the reason why the Board members invest so much of their time and spends so much time away from their families, to protect this Village.

With respect to the proposed project at 300 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, a public hearing was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> to get the facts and data. The applicant is expected to present expert testimony to us about what are the impacts from an environmental perspective, such as traffic, noise, economic, etc. The Board considers it from an analytical and emotional perspective. If this case ever goes before a Judge: Did we follow the law? Do we have a strong case? If the Board denies the application, will it stand up to an appeal? So, this application has gone through the process and the Board held the April 30<sup>th</sup> hearing open for additional comment. That's where the application stands today. During the public hearing, the Board heard a lot of input from our residents and our neighbors. But nevertheless, as a Board and as the arbiters of this process, the Board has to be objective until a decision is rendered. Realistically, at this point, I don't think this application has much of a chance to pass but this has not been decided.

Tr. Burger added that many of the misconceptions he heard from people has to do with understanding the process Mayor Montreuil just laid out. For example, someone said that once a public hearing is held, it's a done deal. And that is absolutely not the case. As the Mayor just pointed out, the whole idea behind holding a public hearing is to get public input. The fact that the public came out to express their opinions, is exactly the process. This gives the Board information and input from residents on how we want to shape the Village which includes 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The Board obtained a lot of input from the April 30<sup>th</sup> public hearing and it will take this input to help shape 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The Board wants to clean up this area and make it a usable and vibrant downtown area, like Floral Park or Garden City. A place where people will want to come and spend some time there.

Village Attorney Ben Truncala stated that the Board's job is to be impartial arbiters in hearing an application and the Board cannot be pre-disposed towards an application before the process begins. If a Board shows a predisposition before an application is heard and before the applicant presents the Board with its facts and evidence that is needed to present its case, the Board can be held accountable and challenged in court and run the risk of having a charge raised and a negative outcome. When the Board is hearing the evidence for the first time, they cannot speak about the pro's or cons of the application. The Board is here only as arbiters of all the facts, then at a later time, it can render a decision. The night of the public hearing was never going to be the night that the hearing was to be decided. It was only to receive forensic information that the Board had yet to process. The process in the Village Code is that developers or applicants of large scale projects are required to deposit money in the Village for a developer's fund to cover expenses involved in the review of the application, such as court reporters, notice requirements, legal, and experts. That night, we also had an expert from an environmental firm that was going to be in receipt of all the information received that night and review the traffic and parking analysis, and testimony from the public and the applicant and utilize that information to go back to the applicant with a laundry list of the insufficiencies in the application and try to evolve more information from the applicant. That was the beginning of the process. As the Mayor indicated, that night the Board continued the application knowing that it was not close to being done. From what I heard from the Board this evening, this application is not on the agenda tonight. The focus tonight is to discuss the area in general with you and to see if the public will be involved in a process to let the Board know what residents want to see done in the area we have been calling Station Plaza.

Mayor Montreuil commented that regarding Station Plaza, part of the confusion may be that this project came up tangential to what the Board has expressed it would like to see along 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. I am quite fond of using the image of 7th Street in Garden City and putting that in New Hyde Park. I think that would be a nice asset to the industrial buildings that we have today, which are not very attractive to look at. The Board thinks that would be a vibrant kick start to New Hyde Park and something to be proud of. But we don't know how to do that.

Mayor Montreuil added that this Board has never seen a workload as much as this one. Usually the Board has Village operations to oversee, a road project or two, an operating budget to get through, etc. This Board is dealing with, and has been dealing with the LIRR 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project, which is like a black hole sucking time, energy, and attention away from the Board on Village, personal, and other work commitments. Our DPW Superintendent is recovering from surgery tonight. And at same time, we are trying to make good on some of the promise and commitment that the Governor made to us in consideration for all the hell this Village has been and will be going through. The funding the Village was promised from the Governor will help us kick start this new downtown concept. Build a new DPW garage, and a new park. Funding already received was used to complete two years of road projects including 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and South 9<sup>th</sup> Street. We are concerned that this promise from the Governor will not last forever. We must get the revenue stream coming in so we must focus our attention on getting an architectural design for the new DPW facility, and plans for renovation at Nuzzi Field since the fields will be damaged with all the DPW equipment and supplies. But all of these takes time and attention from all the Board members. We have a vision of a nice downtown on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues and we want to develop it strategically. We want New Hyde Park to come out of the rail road project looking better than it does today. But the Board is not sure how to do it. We talked to planners and designers and developers, here and there. Our council advised that that we should create an overlay district first. In the meantime, this application came up and diverted our attention. We never had the road map in place on how to plan out this downtown area. How do we know what everyone wants? We need to come together as a village to design. The Board spoke to Vision Long Island and may hire them to conduct public sessions to gather input from town planners, zoning members, architects, designers, etc.

Tr. Squicciarino added that the Village does not have a Master Plan. We need residents input in a collaborative way.

Tr. Burger commented that the Board wants input from residents to develop a master plan. Perhaps through public sessions held with Vision Long Island. There are stories told that in the late 1960's, New Hyde Park declined to have the tracks raised. Floral Park agreed to the track elevation and a local downtown was built around the train station.

Resident Marilyn Obert-Thorn, South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, commented that Tulip Avenue has 4 bars on the block, trash in the streets, and limited parking - don't compare New Hyde Park to Floral Park. And, any comparisons to Garden City is not valid because Garden City does not have a train going through it. We have a beautiful Village.

A member of the NHP Little League remarked that the Village is losing children to other communities because there are not enough sports facilities. Garden City Park and Floral Park have great sports facilities for children. New Hyde Park doesn't have adequate fields and no nights at Memorial Field. The League used to have seven teams, now there are three teams. We are losing to travel teams.

A resident commented that Floral Park has their own police department. New Hyde Park does not have one to protect us. And if we get one, it will add to our taxes.

A member of the NHP Little League reported that Nuzzi Field is dormant because of its proposed use as a temporary waste site. Nothing has happened at the park. It's now May and the field remains dormant. He asked why the League wasn't issued a partial permit for field usage. Little League could have been using the fields since March. Mayor Montreuil explained that the Village had originally planned to break ground in June. So DPW would have needed time to move equipment and supplies before breaking ground. The project has been delayed. The Board will discuss field usage further with League President Vinnie Grunert. Ultimately, we will have a better field at the end of the project.

Resident Ed Powers stated that a collaborative process is important. The law in effect on March 21<sup>st</sup> is vague and needs to be more defined and detailed, particularly regarding over-intensification. Other communities, such as Lawrence, have a very detailed code regarding an overlay district. Mayor Montreuil added that the over intensification of this application is why the application is where it's at today.

A resident added that the Farmingdale overlay district is horrendous.

Resident Cheryl Nowak, South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that she is a long-term resident on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street and has never had problems with the industrial neighbors. It is quiet on the weekends. The businesses always shovel snow from the sidewalks. She added that if 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is closed, her block is boxed in, and traffic will be forced down all neighboring side streets. She also remarked that there are lots of vacancies in retail stores today in America and asked what will happen if new retail shops close and become vacant storefronts. Mayor Montreuil remarked that the Board seeks to upgrade the industrial district. Part of this application process is to look at retail demand.

An audience member asked what tax incentives is the Board going to give to developers?

A resident asked the Board to think carefully about accepting any grant money from the Governor. There may be strings attached to the money. Don't rush to take money, nothing is free. We can make the site look nice, and if the residents want it, they will build it. He also asked why the Village is giving the developers a tax break.

Village Attorney Truncala explained that the grant money spoken about is part of the Memo of Understanding and negotiated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project and allotted for public amenities, and not for any specific application. He added that the Village Board does not have the power to forgo taxes. The Board will not consider any tax breaks for Pilot, Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Village Attorney Truncala added that the overlay district was conceived, and the law adopted last summer, 6 months before the application was received in January. In March, a public hearing was held to consider a clarification to the law. But this is a 100% discretionary law on behalf of the Board, at a point in time when an application is submitted.

Mayor Montreuil commented that the overlay district was implemented to help the Board get a vision of improving the area at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. A public hearing was held in May 2018, the amendment was just a clarification. There is a timeline. This law was adopted approximately 6 months prior to the submission of this application. The final point is that the law was written the way it was, because it is a 100% discretionary law. The Board does not have to put it on another agenda, if it chooses not to.

Mayor Montreuil added that the genesis of the overlay district was to allow for our vision to improve the industrial area on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. This is one step we needed to take. We may have taken one step out of sequence. This is a great dialogue tonight. I appreciate a calm and very deliberate discussion tonight that we can all benefit from.

Resident Diane Bentivegna stated that she believes that this all came around in June 2017, when an application was completed in 2017 from the Long Island Association. That's two years ago, that's when it was in discussion mode. The ball was rolling while the Board was doing the heavy lifting with the Governor and the MTA with the LIRR 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project. The Village of New Hyde Park is a one square mile Village, approximately 9,000 residents, a predominantly privately-owned, single-family community. We are two stops from the largest metropolitan area in the world. There is massive pressure on us to be the answer to problems that we had absolutely nothing to do with creating and that don't exist here. In April 2019, a press release from Market Watch cited rents in the 5 boroughs of New York City rose to a record high. So, there is a reason why the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project changed to the LIRR Mainline Expansion Project. It's not about easing present day commuting demands, it's more about laying down a 3<sup>rd</sup> Track and building housing to accommodate all the workers who cannot afford to live in NYC. Let's connect the dots. This village is at a crossroad. We need you, our Mayor and Board of Trustees, to be our voice. The voice of New Hyde Park voting and tax paying public. Not the voice of big money developers who value the quick commute to Manhattan more than our peaceful life in our suburban neighborhood.

Ms. Bentivegna continued. There is a silver lining to this situation. Hundreds of people have joined together over the course of the last two months. We all came together to act as one in a historically unprecedented manner. I was reminded that although New Hyde Park is a beautiful tapestry of people from all walks of life, we share one unshakeable common bond – that's our value for our suburban life here in the Village. Tonight, we assemble to demonstrate that strong bond again. The Mayor and Board are elected to be our voice and the guardians of our neighborhood. We entrusted all of you to stand in defense of all those mighty pressures. Thanks to the folks in Albany and MTA, this whole experience has taken a bad toll on us. Our trust in local government was rattled to its core. Make no mistake, the sleeping giant has been awakened. The S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street proposal was our alarm clock. We are not compromising our values here. We won't give up on what we worked so hard to preserve. If you look around the Board Room, you will see all your predecessors who did the very hard job that you are facing right now. Probably pressures that they never faced before, but you're here now and you're supposed to be our voice. We are not going to sell out to highest bidder no matter what the amenities. More people, increased development, parking and traffic issues, noise, declining infrastructure, increased stress on our Schools, Fire, EMT, and Police District, and all the impact to our quality of life are impacted by the MTA proposals. Who is winning? It's not us. If you really heard us on April 30<sup>th</sup>, if you really heard our voices, you heard our vision of New Hyde Park. It's not the MTA's vision. It's not the Governor's vision. And it's not Erik Alexander's vision. Our vision. We are New Hyde Park's tradition and we are its character. Be reminded that we are not a blighted community. In fact, our property values are soaring. Why? Because people like it just the way it is. If there is any revitalization considered, not only must everyone be included in the vision, but the plans must respect our traditions and our character. Anything less is not progress. It's exploitation.

On behalf of my neighbors here, and those who couldn't be with us because of a school event tonight, we want a good faith effort from you. We know where Local Law 195.3.2 came from. It arrived in the middle of the night, with a big check from the Governor, in an envelope from the MTA, with no return address. If accepting that \$5 million comes with strings that mandates that we accept somebody else's vision, then return it. We don't want it. So tonight, on behalf of everyone here, I ask you to repeal 195.3.2 from the Village Code immediately.

Let's start from scratch and look at the whole Village. Not just 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. Let's look at how everything fits together. Doing so will reassure us that you really do share our vision. It will be a good sign that you stand with us in the face of some mighty challenges and relentless pressures. Remember we are predominantly single family peaceful, neighborly, home-town people and that's the way we want to keep it. We love it just enough to fight for it. We can be partners, or we can be adversaries. We are hoping we are partners with you. Will you be the voice for the New Hyde Park voting public or will you be the voice of the Governor, and the MTA, and all those big money developers who value the commute more

than our lifestyle. Is this still Nassau County or are you going to let the Governor and the MTA transform us to become the 6<sup>th</sup> Borough?

Mayor Montreuil said he felt compelled to respond in his own defense. Yes, he stated, I have been doing some heavy lifting. I can't count the hours that I have spent for New Hyde Park, protecting it from the MTA and the Governor. It was my house that Newsday took a picture of with the "No 3<sup>rd</sup> Track" sign in front of my home. That picture resulted in me coming home from my vacation because my 25-year-old daughter was home alone, and I didn't know what creeps might come to my house, whether they were for it or against it. I had to have the police guard my house until I got home. I have spent countless hours defending the Village of New Hyde Park. And any insinuation or mis-guided imaginative thought that I in any way, have done anything improper is absolutely incorrect. Diane, you planted the seed. Ms. Bentivegna claimed that she did not, and that the Mayor may have perceived it that way. Mayor Montreuil added that the Village accepted \$830,000 for road improvements that were done. We will be reimbursed for a new DPW garage. We hope to renovate this facility and to purchase muni-meters and other improvement items for this Village through grants from the State because the Village cannot afford to do all these projects. We need to take back the state taxes that we paid.

Resident Bentivegna commented that we are talking about the overlay district and the story behind how it started in 2017. How come, all of a sudden, you're including us in a conversation about master planning? How come you accepted an application for a building in this new overlay district, when we didn't have a master plan.

Mayor Montreuil explained that when a property owner files an application, it is our practice to give the applicant the due process and due course. To create the narrative that there is an evil scheme behind the two is absolutely false. I see what's being put out on Facebook and the comments that are being made.

Resident Bentivegna denied being involved in making any of these comments and said that she cannot be responsible for what other people think. Mayor Montreuil replied that it may not be coming from her, but from others. Mayor Montreuil added that he doesn't want to make the focus about him, so he asked to move on.

Resident Bentivegna stated that she was very clear and spoke of the unprecedented pressure the Mayor and Board are facing from the State and the MTA. She said we know where that law 195.3.2 came from. The Village didn't write it. Westbury has the same law. Now Inwood, and now Lawrence.

Mayor Montreuil explained that the overlay district law was written by Village Attorney Truncale.

Resident Bentivegna asked how come all the villages along the Mainline are suddenly receiving all these funds for the same transit overlay district.

Village Attorney Truncale explained that the funds are not for the Transit Overlay District. The funds are to be utilized by the Village for public amenities.

Resident Bentivegna asked why the Board got to make that decision without us. Attorney Truncale responded that as elected officials, from time to time, they are called upon to make such decisions. And, there were three public hearings held.

Resident Bentivegna stated that a 2 x 2 legal notice in a paper that no one gets, does not constitute including the general public.

A resident urged the Board to forget about the chatter on Facebook and not take it personally. He suggested to the Board that if it sends the \$5 million back to the Governor, the Facebook chatter will change.

A resident commented that there seems to be a trust factor involved and it seems that the Board doesn't remember its own timeline of events or know the details of when the code was passed, or the application submitted.

There was further discussion on the timeline of the application and the process involved when applications are submitted. Attorney Truncala reiterated that a standard process was followed with this application. And that public hearings are always held when special use permits go before the Board. And the practice includes a legal notice is posted in the local paper. A resident claimed that legal notices are posted in different ways and in different newspapers. The same process is never followed. Tr. Squicciarino remarked that all legal postings are published in the Herald Courier.

A resident asked how many people showed up at the public hearing. If a small number showed up, why didn't the Board react? This is a trust issue and a communication issue. Please work on improving your communication plan. If you are going to consider an application or a law that will significantly change the community, additional outreach should be provided.

Tr. Burger explained that the Board cannot control how and why people show up or don't show up for a public hearing. Tr. Squicciarino added that the Board wants to work with everyone on this matter.

Resident Michael Morrissey commented that the Board members work very hard. The MTA is sticking it to all of us. No one comes to Board or public meetings. I know because I come.

There being no further public participation, Mayor Montreuil ended this portion of the Board Meeting at 9:20 pm. He explained that there will be more of these public meetings and we may ask Mr. Alexander to chair and guide the future discussions.

Resident Bentivegna stated: Repeal the law. Repeal the Law. Mayor Montreuil assured her that the Board hears her.

A resident on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that he hired his own attorney to resolve the matter that the Board was unable to resolve. He added that the Board should look to fill the empty storefronts on Jericho Tpke. instead of building new ones.

A resident asked what we have learned tonight. We learned that the majority of residents don't want the apartment building. If so, then we need to come up with a plan. The Board has done a poor job of communicating with residents. He suggested that the Village Board look at 3 family homes coming into the Village and get rid of the people who don't belong here.

A resident added that she reported illegal 3 and 4 families living in single family homes on Central and Washington Avenue. No one does anything. She said she was told that the inspector saw no activity and could do nothing further.

Resident Sam Khoury commented that the Village website contains a list of upcoming Board and Public Hearings. He said he regularly checks the website and that residents should do the same.

Mayor Montreuil ended this part of public participation at 9:20 pm and asked for a 10-minute recess before resuming the Board Meeting.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Tr. Squicciarino, and seconded by Tr. Coppola, the minutes of the April 18, 2019 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

NHP Memorial High School was granted approval to hold the 2019 Homecoming Day Parade on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm and to have the entire Lakeville Road Municipal Parking Lot blocked off and empty. The parade will begin at 12 noon, travel east on Jericho Tpke to New Hyde Park Road, north to Evergreen Avenue, and east to Leonard Blvd, south on Leonard Blvd to the High School.

**Marcus Christ Rental: Approved.**

- Cellini Lodge #2206 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month: June 13; July 11; August 8; September 12; October 10; November 14; December 5; January 9, 2020, February 13; March 12; April 9; and May 14.
- NHP Little League will hold a Williamsport Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> or June 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 10 pm. Date to be finalized with the Clerk's Office.
- American Legion Ernie Pyle Post #1089 will hold their monthly 2019/2020 meetings on September 19; October 17; November 21, 2019; and March 19; April 16; May 21; and June 18, 2020, from 1 – 3 pm.

**William Gill Theatre Rental: Approved.**

- NHP Little League will hold team pictures on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 – 8:30 pm.

**Block Party Requests: Approved.**

- Saturday, June 15 (no rain date) South 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Jericho Tpke & 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 11 am to 11 pm
- Saturday, August 10 (rain date 8/11) on North 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Brooklyn and Lowell Avenues

**Landscaper License Renewals: Approved.**

Illusions Landscaping, 247 Elmwood Avenue, Hempstead  
Graham Block & Landscaping, 1231 Tulip Avenue, Franklin Square

**Tr. Coppola:****Little League**

The League is playing games and the Board is trying to do the best for them. There is a national letter carrier food drive on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Participants should leave canned goods by their mailbox for pick up.

**Auxiliary Police**

Unit #212 could not be in attendance tonight because they are attending the 36<sup>th</sup> annual service awards ceremony held at police headquarters. Unfortunately, no one from the Board can attend the award ceremony due to tonight's meeting. Four unit members received the 500- hour award and Deputy Inspector Concannon received the 1,000-hour service award. Sergeant Derrick Nankoo was promoted to Lieutenant. We appreciate the assistance and support from APO Unit members and congratulate them on this achievement.

**Nassau County Police**

We welcome the Nassau County Police here tonight. There is a new Inspector at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, Robert Musetich. A letter was sent last week inviting him to attend an upcoming Board Meeting.

**Fire Department**

The annual subscription drive is ongoing. If you don't see "New Hyde Park" on the fundraising material, do not donate.

The tin house on S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street is enclosed and completed. The site is locked, secure, and 100 key fobs have been issued.

Child saver labels are available. Residents can contact me if they want a label. House fires are unfortunately on the rise. Children should be instructed never to go under the bed and hide during a fire. Everyone should have a fire plan and a meeting place. If a fire breaks out, close the door, go to a window and hang a sheet if possible. Never store propane tank in the house. Tr. Burger added that two Village residents, Michael Sokol and Connor Jacoby from the NHP Fire Department are being recognized for their heroic efforts at the North 12<sup>th</sup> Street tragic fire.

### **Tr. Pallisco:**

#### **Beautification**

Community Day Clean Up was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> in honor of Earth Day. Thanks go to Boy Scout Troop #298, 544, #1537 Girl Scouts, Trustees Squicciarino and Burger, and all the volunteers who helped clean the commuter parking lot, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, and the area around the LIRR platform.

#### **Tree Committee**

The two trees selected for planting this year are the Japanese Zelkova and the Thundercloud Flowering Plum Tree. So far, the Dept. of Public Works has planted 25 trees. Residents can call Debbie in DPW to be placed on the list for a new tree.

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The next hearing is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. To date, no applications have been submitted.

#### **Architectural Review Board**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. As of today, no applications have been submitted.

### **Tr. Burger:**

#### **LIRR 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project**

There continues to be a lot of activity. Covert Avenue has been closed since April 15<sup>th</sup>. Residents are cautioned to remain behind the safety fences along the site. Noise blankets are now being used and dirt piles are now covered at Covert Avenue. Overall, the Detour Plan is working well. Residents who see an issue are urged to report it to 3TC hotline and/or the Village. There are discussions about making Wayne Avenue a one-way street. Line striping will be placed at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and New Hyde Park Road to caution drivers not to block the intersection.

3TC has placed additional rodent traps in New Hyde Park. So far, a total of 103 traps have been placed.

There are no lane closures scheduled on New Hyde Park Road since Covert Avenue is fully closed. The Village has addressed resident complaints about construction vehicles parking on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A suggestion was made to install a bicycle lane on New Hyde Park Road. Since the drawings are already completed, this idea will be considered on South 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

The temporary fire department facility is completed.

Designs for the electrical substation on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street are expected sometime soon.

The building at 115 New Hyde Park Road is being taken down and is almost completed.

Soil samples have been within DEC limits. Samples will be taken at the right of way between Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road within 6 months of digging.

#### **Veterans Affairs**

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 11:30. Janet Bevers and I are working with members of the American Legion to organize the observance parade. Flyers and posters were created and distributed to promote the parade. Mayor Montreuil added that this is the one day for all residents to come out to honor the 56 young men from New Hyde Park who gave their lives in

battle to protect our freedom. We hope to see people lining the streets and attending the ceremony at Village Hall and Memorial Park.

### **Building Department**

Building Court was held on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 17 cases were heard on issues ranging from illegal housing to parking code to property maintenance issues.

There are 11 cases to be heard at the next building court on May 15<sup>th</sup> on issues ranging from working without a permit, to property maintenance, to illegal housing.

A Special Use Permit Application for 105 Lakeville Road will be heard by the Village Board on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Department issued 53 permits from April 18 – May 9.

The Boy Scout Troop #298 will hold a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Scouts appreciate your support.

### **Tr. Squicciarino:**

#### **Clerk's Office**

The Spring Newsletter is at the printer. It should be mailed out next week. This is a large newsletter and contains lots of important information. Janet Bevers was thanked for her efforts in producing the newsletter.

As previously reported, the Governor had taken away AIM funding for all Villages. We were just informed that the Village will receive \$148,000 in AIM Funding. This amount was not included in the budget. So, the Board may use the money to fund the purchase of muni meters.

Tax bills will be mailed out the end of May and are due from June 1 through July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Park and Recreation**

Despite the rain, there has been a lot of work going on at Memorial Park. Mulch has been laid down and holes have been filled in. Sand blasting has begun at the gazebo, but we need 3 days without rain in order to paint it.

#### **Schools**

The School Budget vote takes place on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Tully Park. Budget presentations are being held at the schools before the budget vote takes place. The school budget is available on the school website. There are three seats open on the school board.

#### **Library**

There will be a free concert at the Library on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Town of North Hempstead is hosting a firework show May 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 pm. Free admission for veterans.

### **Mayor Montreuil:**

#### **Department of Public Works**

The Board has received the early schematics of the new facility and it looks promising. We had considered to re-orient the site to give us more space for the park and the facility. But that plan would have added extra cost and complexity, so it was scrapped. We are looking at park amenities, perhaps night lights too. The Village must secure funding from the state. But first we need to get an expense budget from the architect and then file the paperwork. The Board had hoped to be ready to start today, but the details are not ready yet. The Board will engage with the NHP Little League about using the fields in the interim.

#### **Public Information**

As previously reported, the Street Fair has been cancelled due to construction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project. Tr. Pallisco and Janet Bevers are organizing Community Day on September 14<sup>th</sup> at Memorial

Park. There will be local merchants, entertainment, and music. The event is sponsored by Northwell Health. NHP Funeral Home and the Katie McBride Foundation is sponsoring the music.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, a Special Use Hearing will be held for 249 Jericho Tpke. The hearing begins at 7:30 pm.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**18-154 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #18-29**

**18-155 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN  
BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**18-156 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN  
BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**Old Business:**

- Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Janet Bevers*

Research Assistant to the Board