

---

# New Hyde Park Citizens Council

---

**Meeting: June 21, 2021, 7PM-8:15PM, Village Hall**

**Attendees:** D.Bentivegna, Kimberly Huemmer Kane, Jo-Ann Bambino-Marzocchi, Cristina Beauchamp, Najwa Buatti, Maureen Frattiani, Dawn Byfield, Theresa Piazza Bender

**Agenda Summary:**

**A. Discussion of the Council's basic organization and structure**

- a. The Council will identify, explore and define focus areas of interest.
- b. Draft action plans for accomplishing short- and long-term objectives to submit to the Mayor and Board of Trustees for feedback, budget (if necessary) and approval to move forward.
- c. Divide into smaller working/service groups based on focus areas; seek additional volunteers, as needed, to help accomplish small group goals
- d. Meet as "a council" one time/monthly for the rest of the Summer 2021 and evaluate frequency moving forward.

**B. Feral Cat Committee**

- a. Committee leader: Kimberly H. Kane
- b. Summary of events given since the last Council meeting; groundswell of support for this initiative within our village and beyond; small group meeting planned for Thurs., June 24<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the large working group meeting with Mayor Devane (June 29<sup>th</sup>)
- c. Work of the committee will be exclusively NHP centric; it will allow residents from other communities to join our meetings since there has been overwhelming interest in learning about its mission and methods.
- d. Discussion of Mayor Devane's Feral Cat Initiative submitted to Town of Hempstead; explore engagement of Town of North Hempstead moving forward.
- e. Theresa Piazza Bender will involve her Girl Scout troop in the Feral Cat Committee as their annual action project.
- f. The Feral Cat Committee's first working meeting will take place at Village Hall, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM; NHP volunteers and interested residents from surrounding communities are welcome.

### **C. NHP Citizens Advocacy Committee**

- a. Leaders: Najwa Buatti and Maureen Frattiani
- b. The purpose of the committee is to foster productive ongoing communication with Village Board regarding critical quality of life issues and provide support to residents re: recurring, long-term problems in our village.
  - i. Residential vs. commercial property issues
  - ii. Review of village codes, ordinances that affect coexistence between residential and commercial properties.
  - iii. Design an action plan to identify short- and long-term goals that promote peaceful coexistence.

### **D. NHP Welcome Wagon**

- a. Leaders: Diane Bentivegna, Cristina Beauchamp, Jo-Ann Bambino-Marzocchi, Dawn Byfield
- b. Submit "Welcome Wagon Action Plan" to the Mayor and Village Board (see attached) for approval
- c. Define the protocol for identifying names/addresses of new residents
- d. Design a 'welcome kit' that may include:
  - i. A personalized welcome card/message from the NHP Village Board and Citizens Council
  - ii. Address Book - a list of important local addresses and phone numbers (i.e.: contact information for government offices, schools, youth organizations, basic restaurant and shopping guides, menus/brochures from local NHP businesses, etc.)
  - iii. NHP Brochure – meet with Building Dept., DPW Dept and Code Enforcement to draft a current brochure/list of the rules, codes and ordinances (i.e.: garbage/recycling schedules, etc.)
  - iv. Name of a neighborhood 'buddy' to answer questions, etc.
- e. Long term: Plan an Annual Community Picnic in Memorial Park to formally welcome our new residents for that year.

### **E. Citizens Safety Committee**

- a. Leaders: Diane Bentivegna, Dawn Byfield
- b. Recommendations for Recruitment for the "Civilian Patrol" and Neighborhood Watch
  - i. Design an info-graphic, brochure, etc. that describes the exact expectations for participation ("job description") and the specific training that will be required;
  - ii. Publish in VFW, American Legion, ELKS, Holy Spirit and Notre Dame Bulletins, Chinese American Association, local stores, etc.
  - iii. Citizens Council can schedule a "Q & A Meeting" with the Village Board and residents to introduce the mission of the program and discuss/answer questions.
  - iv. Consider finding an alternative word for 'patrol' as that may sound intimidating to some community residents.