

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 23, 2017
NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Eric Chandler; Holly Cuzzone;
Glenn Iannaccone; Dana Laird; Lisa Wilson Grant;
Suzanne Betts (7:12 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: June 28, 2017

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 5: correct spelling to purview.

The following amendment was made to the minutes by Ms. Wilson Grant:

1. The name of the festival is Norwalk Arts Festival, not Arts in the Park (was the name of a different one-time festival several years ago in the same area).
2. The organizers did not direct people to park on the lawn, police did. I entered after noon on Sunday of the event and was told the park was closed for any more event parking (I disregarded this however, and parked at Stepping Stones in back lot) and witnessed a police officer within the park directing people to park on the lawn. Police should be advised to not direct traffic onto lawn areas.
3. We are talking specifically about no parking near legacy trees, and the need for all events held there (car show, flea market...) to be made aware of areas that impact the tree roots.

I have personally ben involved with the Norwalk Arts Festival in the past and have not heard of any other problems with the festival which has been a wonderful addition to the many events held at Mathews Park.

Lisa Wilson Grant
Commissioner, Norwalk Historic Commission
8/23/2017

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED AND AMENDED
- ** MS. WILSON GRANT SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MS. CUZZONE; MR. IANNACCONE AND MS. LAIRD)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Westmoreland presented the new logo for the Historical Commission.

Ms. Betts joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Westmoreland updated the Commissioners on the Walk Bridge sign offs. He is working with Parks and Recreation, Stepping Stones Museum and other constituents to discuss parking in Mathews Parks so no tenants are imposed upon during events. Interpretive signage for the Park is being drafted.

Ms. Wilson Grant asked if this interpretive signage would be consistent with other historical signage in town. Mr. Westmoreland explained that the signage would be consistent only with the historical sites under the control of the Historical Commission.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette reported that the railing for the gazebo has been completed and people are starting to notice. In addition, the irrigation system is complete and repairs are being done to the patio. Once those repairs are done, plantings will follow.

Ms. Jellerette announced upcoming events. She noted that they were very busy in July and did their first “Wreath Laying” ceremony. They held a lecture about Silvermine with 70 in attendance.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

Ms. Gilgore submitted the following report dated August 23, 2017:

We are thrilled that the Norwalk Historical Commission is planning on creating Mathews Park didactic panels highlighting the history of the park and its structures and we will do anything we can to assist. We also look forward to the iron fences being refurbished, which will add to the historic interpretation of the Mansion and Mathews Park.

We have concerns regarding the financial impact that the ADA construction will inevitably have on our 2018 licensing events and other fundraising activities that had been planned. This spring we cancelled the *Ice Cream Social* because of the construction and lost substantial income. We anticipate substantial losses next year as licensing events will be impaired by the look of the Mansion under construction and the inability to use the Gift Shop and Billiard Room doors, among other issues. This said, we are excited that this important work is scheduled and we thank the Norwalk Historical Commission and Chairman David Westmoreland for overseeing this important project.

You may have read the great feature that appeared in *The Hour* and many other Hearst Media newspapers featuring the Basement. This focus was an opportunity for us to share with our community LMMM's plans to move forward with Basement tours and hopefully the Bowling Alley restoration, once the ADA work is completed.

We have several great programs and events this fall: our cherished **Old-fashioned Flea Market on Sept. 17**, a reception on **Sept. 28** featuring a gallery talk and new artworks by **Jan Dilenschneider**, and a **Gilded Age Gala on October 14**.

We thank you for all your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilgore,
PhD Executive Director

Patsy R. Brescia
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

REPORTS

A. Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland reported on the work that was recently completed at the Center for Contemporary Arts. He added that they have a new interim director. He gave an update on the work being done at the Norwalk Museum to comply with ADA.

Mr. Westmoreland is waiting for the final reports on the color samples from the Town House. They found some original samples in some places. A new researcher is doing new interpretive panels in the two buildings at Mill Hill.

B. Cemeteries

Mr. Westmoreland reported that interpretive signage for Pine Island Cemetery was developed and is in production. The brochure was also revised. He presented markers with bracket for graves at Pine Island Cemetery.

Bids came in for the road re-pavement for the loop road in Pine Island Cemetery. Mr. Westmoreland said he hopes to have the paving done in the fall and then add the markers.

The DOT completed their GPR survey in front of Pine Island Cemetery in June; however, they have not released their findings.

Mr. Westmoreland said he has the text for interpretive signage at the Kellogg Comstock and Brookside cemeteries. He said that some of the neighbors near the Kellogg Comstock Cemetery have been asking for GPR, but he believes it will cost \$5,000 to do the survey. He said he hopes to get a grant for a portion of the cost.

Ms. Betts agreed to complete a brochure for Mill Hill Cemetery, similar to the one for Pine Island Cemetery.

Mr. Westmoreland met with an Eagle Scout candidate from Darien who wants to do cemetery work at Reed Cemetery. He believes it needs about \$4 - \$5,000 of conservation work. It was suggested putting in a split rail fence. Mr. Westmoreland explained that under State Statute, a municipality can go into an abandoned cemetery to do work. He said this cemetery meets the criteria for an abandoned cemetery.

C. Finance

Mr. Westmoreland reported that he received reports from the City's finance department.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE BALANCE OF ACCOUNT 5140 WAGES & SALARY BE TRANSFERRED TO 5258 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. REFER TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION**

**** MS. BETTS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$11,350 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF MORTAR AND BRICK ON THE TOWN HOUSE AT MILL HILL HISTORICAL PARK. ACCOUNTS 09176310 5777 C0521 AND 09186310 5777 C0521**

**** MR. IANNACONE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** MS. BETTS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Westmoreland explained that Daryn is working on getting a grant from the State to update the historic resource inventory. The Common Council has to pass a resolution and the Mayor has to sign that resolution in order to apply for that grant.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED:

THAT THE MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO FILE AN APPLICATION ON FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC ACT 03-06 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 AND UPON APPROVAL SAID REQUEST TO ENTER INTO AN D EXECUTE A

FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THIS MUNICIPALITY FOR THE HRI SURVEY AND PLANNING GRANT

**** MS. BETTS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. IANNACONE MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services