

**NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
CITY OF NORWALK'  
August 22, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Suzanne Betts, Chair; Eric Chandler; Lisa Wilson Grant;  
Dana Laird; Thomas Livingston; Holly Cuzzone

STAFF: David Westmoreland; Diane Jellerette, Norwalk  
Historical Society; Susan Gilgore, Lockwood Mathews  
Mansion

**I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL**

Ms. Betts called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 25, 2018

On page 1, change “obstenion” to “abstention”

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM  
THE MEETING OF JULY 25, 2018 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH (5) FIVE IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE  
ABSTENTION. (MS. CUZZONE).**

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present this evening.

## 4. REPORTS

### A. Norwalk Historical Society- Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette came forward and presented her report as follows:

- The HVAC work at The Fitch Law office building is complete
- On August 10, 2018, the CT DOT announced the archaeologists have found the remnants of a Norwalk Native American fort and artifacts around the CT Walk Bridge construction site. Some of the artifacts may be up to 3,000 years old. All artifacts will be removed before the construction of the new bridge.

#### Past Events

- None

#### Upcoming Events

- **Rum Tasting**, Wednesday, September 13, 2018, 7:00PM at Mill Hill Historic Park- Town House, Guest speaker; Greg Glaser.
- **Lecture: Rosie the Riveter**, Sunday, September 30, 2018, 2:00PM at Mill Hill Historic Park. Guest speaker: Gretchen Caulfield. Rosie the Riveter is a cultural icon of World War II, representing the women who working in factories and shipyards during World War II, Many of whom produced munitions and war supplies. Ms. Caulfield will present a slide presentation from the CT Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. There will be a WWII home front exhibition display and snacks based on original WWII era recipes.
- **Haunting at Mill Hill**, Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM & 9:00PM, Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>; 6:00PM, 7:30PM & 9:00PM at Mill Hill Historic Park.
- **Fashion After the Revolution**, Saturday, November 3, 2018. 2:00PM at Mill Hill Historic Park. In partnership with the Norwalk- Village Green Chapter of the DAR. Guest speaker: Alden O'Brien, Curator of the Daughters of three American

Revolution Museum in Washington, DC. Learn how becoming an independent nation influenced fashion.

- **World War I Memorial of Connecticut**, Saturday, November 10, 2018, 2:00PM at Mill Hill Historic Park, Guest Speaker: Richard Franklin Donohue.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum- Susan Gilgore

Ms. Gilmore came forward and presented her report as follows:

Domus Construction let us know that the ADA compliance work will be completed as scheduled on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

There are many events coming up and they are selling extremely well. The Gala is almost sold out and we have not even begun to advertise yet and The Ghost from the Civil War tours is also doing very well. The Victorian Tea is already sold out.

Unfortunately, the porch is collapsing and major work is needed to prevent this from happening. Additionally, last month we discussed the Prayer Room's water damage and the leaks and we thank you for overseeing the work to resolve this matter. Mr. Westmoreland said that the porch will need to be rebuilt next year and the architects are working on a specification and budget for that.

The First District comes by daily to flush the water system as they are working on finding a solution to the collection of bacteria in Mathew Parks' water including the mansion. Mr. Livingston asked if Mr. Chimento of DPW was contacted and what the status is. Ms. Gilmore said that she heard that they had met and are thinking of installing a device that will automatically flush the water prior to it going into the pipes.

Mr. Westmoreland said that Domus Construction will be providing an estimate to clean out the soil and debris and install gravel, repair the gaps and repaint the windows. He said there are four windows that will be done first as an emergency repair and then the others will be looked at to see if they are also in need of repair. Mr. Livingston asked what the cost will be for the emergency repairs. Mr. Westmoreland said there is a capital account for Lockwood Mathews Mansion that has funds to pay for the repairs.

We are collaborating with Smithsonian Magazine for a nationwide day dedicated to history, arts and culture for all called Museum Day and with special highlights on trailblazing women. On September 22, we will have free admission to anyone who signs up through the Smithsonian's website. Ms. Gilmore distributed a flyer for the event and said the event is to promote history and the mansion on a national level.

There is an event on October 17, 2018 and runs through January 6, 2019 called Traveling the Merritt Parkway and will be having an exhibit of the very talented artist whose great-great grandfather was a Hudson River Scholl artist.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **A. Buildings**

Mr. Westmoreland reported and stated that there are waiting for the budgetary quote from conservation experts for the townhouse, and that there is \$125,000 that was approved but he is guessing that the project will be more than that so he is trying to get the quote prior to the next budget cycle.

Mr. Westmoreland said that the bids for the work around the barn and the jail had come in too high and the landscape artist Peter Viteretto is working on scaling the project down and it will go out to bid again the first week of September.

Mr. Westmoreland said that phase II of the ADA project at the museum is about to begin and are waiting on the gas company to remove the gas line so the ramp can be installed. He said the bid package for the elevator is being finalized and they have the funds for that and will go out to bid in September. He said there is an issue with the concrete pour and the architect won't sign off on phase I on the project and that he is speaking with the legal department to see if a performance bond can be issued.

### **B. Cemeteries**

Mr. Westmoreland said they are close to finalizing the design and projection of a sign each for the Brookside Cemetery and the Kellogg Comstock Cemetery. He said that he has reviewed a bill of \$5,777 for both the design as well as the production of the signs and that he will send the commission a PDF of the design for review. He said next in the queue are interruptive signs at the mansion to be installed at Mathews Park about the mansion and will be a similar style.

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE \$5,777 FOR THE DESIGN AND PURCHASE OF THE INTERRUPTIVE SIGNS**

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Chandler said that he had sent an e-mail to Bob Duff regarding the problem with the state registry for the Kellogg Comstock Cemetery.

### C. Finance

There was no discussion.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no business discussed.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Westmoreland provided an update on demolitions and said that the building 21 Isaac Street has been demolished and although he had valid permits the ordinance states that the person applying is supposed to notify the commission as well as the building official and neither of that happened. He said there is also a request to demolish the buildings at 2 Maple Street and 347 and 349 West Avenue and that State Historic Preservation office will be looking into this because the Norwalk Hospital Association, the City of Norwalk and State of Connecticut are all tax payer funded entities and that typically kicks in the Federal Preservation Act.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* MS. WILSON GRANT SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services