

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 2018
THE TOWN HOUSE
MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK
2 WALL STREET
NORWALK, CT 06851**

ATTENDANCE: Suzanne Betts, Chair; Eric Chandler; Dana Laird

OTHERS: David Westmoreland; Dianne Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betts called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – September 26, 2018

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: correct motion t accept to motion to accept

Page 4: first paragraph, first sentence should read – A discussion followed about the details of the proposed zoning language. A change to the Zoning code should specify that the Zoning Commission must refer the application to the Historical Commission

Page 4: motion should read as follows: Commissioner Livingston moved to support the proposed amendment with the agreed upon language changes to the D Zone that a change to the Zoning code should specify that the Zoning Commission must refer the application to the Historical Commission

**** MS. LAIRD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

**** MS. BETTS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ms. Jellerette reviewed the following report dated October 24, 2018:

Historical Commission

October 24, 2018

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Norwalk Historical Society Report
Norwalk Historical Commission
October 24, 2018

- The reinterpretation of the The Governor Fitch Law Office at Mill Hill is in progress. The inside and outside of the building has been painted. Appropriate period objects are being added.
- Norwalk Historical Society Museum Phase II ADA access has had Eversource out to relocate the one of the gas lines.
- The "shucking Oysters" mural was moved from The Maritime Aquarium to Norwalk City Hall on October 10, 2018. The Aquarium wanted to make sure the mural did not get damaged during the CT Walk Bridge replacement project.
- We are working on the planning for the Norwalk Changing Communities Before 1835 exhibition in the Town House at Mill Hill. We received a \$23,000 planning grant from the CT Humanities.

Past Events

- Lecture: Rosie the Riveter, Sunday, September 30, 2018, 2:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park. Guest speaker: Gretchen Caulfield. Rosie the Riveter is a cultural icon of World War II representing the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II. Ms. Caultleld presented a slide presentation. She is a member of the CT Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. A WWII home front exhibition was on display. Oral histories were taken from some of the attendees. Refreshments included homemade snacks based on original WWII era recipes.
- A Haunting at Mill Hill, Friday, October 12th & 19th 7:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 13th and 20th from 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park. It was a very successful event this year. An
- additional Friday evening was added this year. Almost every tour was sold out.

Upcoming Events

- Fashion After the Revolution, Saturday, November 3, 2018, 2:00 p.m. 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 the American Revolution Museum in Washington. DC. Learn how becoming an independent nation influenced fashion.
- World War I Memorials of Connecticut, Saturday, November 10, 2018. 2:00 p.m. at Mill Hill
- Historic Park. Guest Speaker: Richard Franklin Donohue.
- The Grand Opening - Governor Fitch Law Office - Reinterpreted. Sunday. December 2, 2018 at Mill Hill Historic Park 2:00-4:00 p.m.

- Holiday Open House, Saturday. December 8, 2018. Noon - 4:00 p.m. at Norwalk Historical Society Museum. This will be the official opening of the silver collection.

B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION

There was no report presented this evening.

REPORTS:

A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the painting has been completed at all the buildings. The interior of the schoolhouse will be painted sometime this winter. He said they put the ADA access project out to bid. This will give them the ramp that takes them to the second floor of the Jail so they can turn that into exhibit space. Mr. Westmoreland said he hopes to start focusing on the Jail this winter.

The roof and the ADA projects at Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum are finished.

B. CEMETERIES

Mr. Westmoreland reported there is a break in a marble tombstone at Pine Island Cemetery. It is broken in two places.

C. FINANCE

There was no report presented this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Special Meeting with Norwalk Hospital/West Avenue reps – date to be determined based on availability

Ms. Betts reported that the attorney for this project would like to meet with the Commission to discuss their plans because the Commission sent a letter of protest.

Mr. Westmoreland noted the yellow house is important.

Ms. Betts will schedule a special meeting next week to meet with the attorney for the project.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MS. LAIRD SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services