

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DECEMBER 19, 2018
SPECIAL MEETING
THE TOWN HOUSE
MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK
2 EAST WALL STREET
NORWALK, CT 06851**

ATTENDANCE: Susanne Betts, Chair; Lisa Wilson Grant; Dana Laird;
Holly Cuzzone (6:43 p.m.)

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum;
Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betts called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 6, 2018

The minutes were not available.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present this evening.

REPORTS - BOARDS:

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette presented her report as follows:

Norwalk Historical Society Museum Phase II ADA access update... The ramp to access the conference room/office entrance and sidewalk to connect to the parking lot was completed just before Thanksgiving. The ramp railings will need to be installed and prep work has been done to the pillars to reinstall the two iron gates.

The Norwalk Historical Commission will loan the New Canaan Historical Society four WPA murals for their upcoming exhibition, January - March. The pieces are located in City Hall and the South Norwalk Public Library.

Monthly planning meetings continue for the planning of the Norwalk Changing Communities Before 1835 exhibition in the Town House at Mill Hill.

The Little Red Schoolhouse HVAC system has been installed.

Working on the programming for the 240th Anniversary of the Battle and Burning of Norwalk.

Collaborating with the Westport Historical Society on some of the activities. Taylor Farm will be used for the living history reenactment of the battle and encampment in Norwalk.

Past Events

World War I Memorials of Connecticut, Saturday, November 10, 2018 8. 2:00 pm at Mill Hill Historic Park. Guest Speaker: Richard Franklin Donohue.

Grand Opening - Governor Fitch Law Office - Reinterpreted. Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2:00-4:00 pm. We had 20 VIP attendees for a wine and cheese celebration at 1 pm before it opened to the general public. The curator Dr. Daryn Reyman-Locke, Program/Events Coordinator, Samantha Kulish-Fargione and board member David Westmoreland did a fantastic job in updating the Governor Fitch Law Office. Our volunteers were extremely helpful in helping with the reception.

Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 8, 2018, Noon - 4:00 pm at Norwalk Historical Society Museum. This will be the official opening of the silver collection. Thanks to board members, Jan Broome and Evelyn Aman for doing a wonderful job decorating the Norwalk Historical Society Museum. Two artificial trees were donated this year. A special thank you to Evelyn's son Dan for helping put together the Christmas trees and adding to the decorating.

Upcoming Events

Kids Care: MLK Jr. Service Day Project in collaboration with Love All Project, Sunday, January 23, 2019 (snow date : February 3, 2019), 1:00-4:00pm. Free family-friendly event to support the non-profit Connecticut institute for Refugees and Immigration. Participants are encouraged to bring individually packaged non-perishable snacks to include in the welcome bags for immigrants and refugees settling in Connecticut. Children can create cards and decorate the bags.

"That's Weird" traveling Exhibition from Connecticut Historical Commission.
Saturday, February 23, 2019. In collaboration with Rowayton Historical Society.

Women's Month Program being scheduled for March 2019

Ms. Cuzzone joined the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

Ms. Gilgore presented her report as follows:

The water issue continues to create concerns for LMMM; It has now been determined that the City is responsible for installing a new water supply piping system. The DPW has engaged Tighe & Bond to design the system. Until a permanent solution is in place the First District has advise us to run the water at our faucets daily from 9-5. The Rec & Parks department has also been running the hydrant next to the tennis courts weather permitting. The City has agreed to pay the water bills through the Historical Commission budget. The First District Water department had been testing the water on a daily basis since late July when the problem was first identified. They are now testing it on a weekly basis and are instructing LMMM accordingly. LMMM has been buying drinking water and are currently rent Poland Spring water coolers. We have been instructed to submit the related costs to the city for payment,

Schools hve continued to take educational tours of the Mansion during the fall season with over 1,200 students attending the Mansion's Educational Program in 2018 and 9 interns working with staff and volunteers for well over 500 hours. We are also proud to report that the Mansion has had a series of successful and well-attended events for our communities including the "Holiday Open House" where approximately 400 peopole came to visit Santa and listen to gifted students from o visit Santa and listen to gifted students from the Wilton High School program including chorus and orchestra. A new program, Seasons Readings, in collaboration with JIB productions of Westport was sold out and brought to LMMM professional Broadway actors and visitors from throughout Connecticut. We continue to collaborate with the Westport Historical society on group tours offering two Victorian houses to regional tour operators. We were very busy with group tours in November as well as December so far.

The new 2019 Season will be announced shortly with exhibits and lectures focusing on the centennial of the 19th Amendment and women's suffrage starting with the exhibit, "From Corsets to Suffrage: Victorian Women Trailblazers."

We hope that you will join us for some of these exciting 2019 upcoming events and programs and we thank you for all your support throughout 2018 that helped us keep the doors open for a very enriching season for our community.

In addition to her written report, Ms. Gilgore reported that they discovered a leak and mold in the Apricot Room today. ServePro will go out tomorrow to provide an estimate and they hope to start the clean up process on Friday. In addition, today a repair person informed Ms. Gilgore that he believes there is mold in one of the archive rooms. Ms. Gilgore will ask ServePro to check that room as well as the Apricot Room.

REPORTS:

A. Buildings

The HVAC system was installed ahead of schedule at the Little Red School House.

B. Cemeteries

Ms. Laird reported that there is a dead tree at the Brookside Cemetery.

C. Finance

Ms. Betts reported that she submitted the proposed budget to the City last week.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Norwalk Hospital/West Avenue Update

Ms. Betts reported that Norwalk Hospital has agreed to do a full documentation of the building, create an interpretive display, allow overflow parking from Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum and donate \$15,000 to the Museum. She said the Land Use and Building Management Committee agreed but will challenge the request for the architect to incorporate aspects of the existing building into the new building.

Ms. Betts said she will arrange a walk through for Commissioners.

B. Elizabeth Street Development

Ms. Betts said she was contacted by Adam Blank about their plan to develop that area and create apartments. They are going to keep two of the existing historic buildings and the other two buildings that are in poor shape will be re-built.

Ms. Wilson Grant provided an update on the Nathan Hale Fountain. The plan was presented to the Planning Commission. Ms. Betts suggested that Ms. Wilson Grant check with Mr. Hughes in Parks and Recreation to find out if an RFP is required for the installation of the fountain at Fodor Farm.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve and refer the following to the Land Use Committee of the Common Council

Ms. Betts reviewed the following items:

**** MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH A.V. TUCHY, INC. FOR MILL HILL JAIL AND BARN SITE ACCESSIBILITY ALTERATIONS – PHASE 1, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$414,600.00 FUNDING FROM DEEP ADMINISTERED OPM GRANT**

**** MS. LAIRD SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. LAIRD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$41,000.00**

**** MS. WILSON GRANT SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Betts reported that she submitted meeting dates for 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. WILSON GRANT MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MS. LAIRD SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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Historical Commission
Special Meeting
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