

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
THE TOWN HOUSE
MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK**

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

OTHERS: Diane Jellerette and David Westmoreland, Norwalk Historical Society;
Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum; Chris Ald, CAH
Architecture and Design, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betts called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The following correction was made to page three – correct spelling of 23rd Regiment.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette presented her report dated September 11, 2019 as follows:

- Norwalk Historical Society Museum phase II ADA access, railings installed on front steps leading to the parking lot.
- Planning meetings continue for the Norwalk Changing Communities Before 1835 exhibition in the Town House at Mill Hill.
- Planning an activity to commemorate the 19th Amendment Centennial, which gave women the right to vote. It was officially adopted on August 26, 1920.

Past Events

- **Independence Day Celebration**, Thursday, July 4, 2019. Noon – 4:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2 East Wall street. Admission: Free. Opening new exhibition “The History of Norwalk Schools 1650-1870” in the Little Red Schoolhouse c1826. A lesson with quill and ink. “Let Freedom Ring” Bell ringing Ceremony and Reading of excerpt from the “Declaration of Independence”, “Heroes of the Battle of Norwalk” mini-lectures presented by madeleine Eckert. Self-guided tour of grounds and historic buildings.
- **240th Anniversary Battle and Burning of Norwalk**, Living History Day. Saturday, July 13, 2019, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2 East Wall Street, Free Event. Remembering the Battle against the British on July 11, 1779. Uniformed living historians from the Second Continental Light Dragoons, French military Officer Chastelleux as well as British 9th and 23rd Regiments a Foot and Loyalists 1st New Jersey volunteers will participate in the Living History Day.
- **Mill Hill Garden Party with Sheila and Leigh**, Friday, August 2, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2 East Wall street. Featuring talented Norwalk Natives Sheila Fabrizio on vocals and Leigh Richardson on guitar/vocals. All historic buildings will be open for self-guided tours.

Upcoming Events

- **The Sally: The Adventures of a Norwalk Sloop During the American Revolution**, Sunday, September 15, 2019, 2:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2 East Wall street. Admission: Admission \$8 discover Norwalk’s maritime importance during the Revolutionary War. The exploits of the Sally’s four captains, crew and the connection to Patriot spy, Nathan Hale. Slide lecture presented by local historian and Norwalk Historical Society board member Madeleine Eckert.
- **A Haunting at Mill Hill**, Fridays, 1-/18 & 10/25, 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., Saturdays 10/19 and 10/25, 6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park, 2 East Wall Street. Early bird Tickets: Adults/Teens \$18, child (under 12) \$15. After 10/17: Adults/Teens \$20, child (under 12) \$18. Not recommended for children under 8.

Mr. Westmoreland added that in 1780 the Connecticut government could not pay its soldiers and issued IOUs. He presented an IOU that was redeemed in 1781 by Solomon Soltis.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

Ms. Brescia reported that they had a successful event at the Museum in late May. This summer was very busy. This Sunday, they will hold their Flee Market. They are in the process of getting ready for their October events. Their October 5th gala is almost sold out. This year’s Halloween program will be historical.

The Victorian Tea will take place in early November. The parking lot was paved and the water issue was fixed. Mr. Westmoreland did the walk through for the bids for the deck.

Ms. Brescia said she spent a lot of time with the State this summer working on the \$5 million grant. Mr. Cafero and Ms. Sweitzer worked with her all summer.

Last week the bid package for the WALK Bridge mitigation project was dropped off. She reviewed the project. Ms. Betts said that a representative from the WALK Bridge project would like to make a presentation. She will try to schedule other historical groups to attend the presentation.

Ms. Brescia said the new rainbow crosswalk will make the intersection near the Mansion much safer.

REPORTS

A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Westmoreland reported that they were working on Mill Hill. They are waiting for the metal railings for the Smith Street project. There were a few leaks in the Town House and they will be repaired. A walk through for the mortar project for this building took place on Monday. The bids are due on September 25th.

B. CEMETERIES

Mr. Westmoreland reported that new interpretive signs were installed at the Brookside cemetery. The installed a new gate at the Kellogg Cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 4 Berkeley Plans

Mr. Ald presented photos of the existing structure. The home was owned by the church next door and was built around 1900. In 1914 it was a commercial establishment – Edmond Godfrey - The Hat Finisher.

Mr. Ald presented plans for a multi-family home with 11 one bedroom units. Mr. Westmoreland noted that this is not an historical restoration, but it is renovating the structure to fit into the historic look of the neighborhood.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUPPORT THE PLANS AS PRESENTED WITH
THE ADDITION OF WOOD SIDING AND WOOD RAILINGS
** MS. WILSON GRANT SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. 15 Ensign Road demo

Mr. Bryant went to put in a demo delay, but a demo permit was not pulled. There is nothing the Commission can do at this time.

Mr. Westmoreland presented a photo of an oyster shucking mural he recently purchased. It was painted by Alexander Rummler.

Ms. Betts said she received an e-mail from a high school student who wanted to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day and asked for the support of the Historical Commission. The Commission agreed that was not their area for comment.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services