

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli; Jordon Hensley; Lisa Grant; Tom Livingston; Elizabeth Golden; **Eric Chandler**; Holly Cuzzone (7:29 P.M.)

STAFF:

OTHER: David Westmoreland; **Laura Kenny**; **Patsy Brescia**; Susy Gilgore; Diane **Jellerette**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Laird called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. There was a quorum present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM 7/28/2021

Please correct the spelling of Darren to Daryn in all instances.

**** COMMISSIONER HENSLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2021 AS AMENDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS

NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY; DIANE TAYLOR

Ms. Diane **Jellerette** came forwards to provide the report. They have started the installation of the new exhibit. The opening may not happen **until** November. They are also working on transforming the Town House and are currently reviewing their collections. There was also a recent party at the North Museum and there are plans for future outdoors activities next year. There was a recent garden party at Mill Hill in August.

There was a request to pick up loaner forms on the 23rd. Ms. **Jellerette** said she would be present to provide them.

LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION; SUSAN GILGORE

Ms. Susan **Gilgore** came forward to prove the report. There was a flea market the weekend of the 18th to 19th. There were 180 tours throughout the mansion. They have collaborated with the Smithsonian Magazine for Museum Day in which they opened the museum, free of charge, to members. There was

appx. 150 members who attended the event. A new exhibition has been opened in collaboration with Stanford Artists Association. In December there was of a collaboration with Play With Your Food for theater performances. There is also a potential licensing event upcoming which may result in a 6-week shutdown and the cancellation of Halloween tours. A virtual Victorian Tea event is planned to be held with a speaker from the Fashion Institute of Technology and Harvard University. Several students from the Carver Foundation came to the mansion to provide a report. Most programs have been virtual. Several 360 experiences have been created for students to explore. The exhibition on health has been successful and cost \$30,000. It allowed children to explore the museum for free. There are plans to move forwards with a construction project starting in January but it has been delayed for a year. Preliminary estimates and financing have yet to be resolved. There has been a 30%-40% increase in costs in supplies and labor. There have been regular meetings each Monday related to the jobs. No financial figures have been decided on yet. She reviewed the details of the work for the Commission.

Chairman Laird addressed the next item out of order.

APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF THE LOCKWOOD MATHEW MANSION FOR NETFLIX FILMING AND REFERRAL TO LAND USE

Ms. Gilgore came forward to discuss this item. There is an opportunity to have a film done on the interior of the mansion though details are still being negotiated. Contracts have been sent out but have not been signed. It will be a month of filming. The Mansion, Historical Commission, and Mayor's Office will need to sign-off on approval. If approved they are looking to commence filming on October 24th or 25th. She reviewed the preparations that would be needed. They are requesting approval from the Historic Commission for the filming. The filming will mainly take place in the library and conservatory though other rooms and the outside will be used. Further discussion followed on the details of the filming.

**** COMMISSIONER HENSLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE FOR THE USE OF THE LOCKWOOD MATHEW MANSION FOR NETFLIX FILMING AND REFERRAL TO LAND USE.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

Holly Cuzzone arrived at 7:29 P.M.

BUILDINGS

Mr. Westmoreland came forward to deliver the report. They have been restoring the veranda. He provided an update on the current progress of the restoration process. Additionally, the door to the conservatory has rotted and needs repair.

At Mill Hill they have started work around the bar in the jail to finish out the hardscape project. There have been several change orders. There have been disputes with the contractor over the bid for construction of the stairway on the hill. They are trying to stay within their 10% contingency.

The City has officially notified the Commission that the Building Management Facilities will take over the management of all buildings on July 1, 2022 to start a new budget year. The buildings have progressed from crisis conditions to manageable conditions. They will go to the City Council with capital budget proposals.

CEMETERIES

Chairman Laird came forward to present the report. She has performed a tour of the cemetery and noted one dead tree at Brookside. Removal will likely be required. Additionally, the tree at Pine Island has been split and requires removal. Reed cemetery requires additional mowing capabilities. The fees will likely total \$150 for proper care.

FINANCIAL

OLD BUSINESS

A.

VOTE ON EXTENDING DEMOLITION DELAY FROM 120 TO 180 DAYS AND DEFINITION UPDATE

Chairman Laird came forward to discuss this item. The revised demolition plans have been reviewed. The current plan is the 8-3 version. All references to 120 days have been switched to 180 days. There has also been progress in the tear-down department. The aim is to get the item on the docket for November.

It was pointed out that the item would need to go to the ordinance committee at which point it could be added for November or December. A comparison with other jurisdictions will be required. It was requested that an existing draft be provided before the next meeting. Further discussion followed.

B.

WHISTLEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT LAUNCH; LAURA TO UPDATE COMMISSION

Ms. Laura came forward to present her report. The state had originally offered to host a meeting with the Whistleville community and will be willing to do it virtually sometime in October. She asked if they desired to deal with it in the October meeting or host a separate meeting for this. It was suggested that there be a meeting on Lexington Ave so the meeting could be in-person and the difficulty of contacting people to use Zoom could be avoided. The prior time the City desired that virtual meetings be continued. There is the possibility of this meeting being held-off until guidance changes.

Josh Morgan has informed the Commission that the press release about waste has been picked up by a magazine. The Commission will look for appropriate pictures to provide.

C.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT; LAURA TO UPDATE COMMISSION

Ms. Laura **Kenny** came forward to present her report. She has been emailing the state to get the application but the website wasn't working. They did send over application materials for review. She will compile a list of historic resources. Discussion followed on the details of the application.

NEW BUSINESS

DEMOLITION DELAY NOTICES SINCE LAST MEETING

Chairman Laird said there have been a few notices since the prior meeting but none were pressing. 8 Farm Creek is simple. She was not certain on the status of Old King's Highway. There has also been unusual is from Phil Ireland whom has sent notices. Todd Bryant was involved in the initial download delay. This has gone to the State and the State has yet to determine a course of action. The applicant has since withdrawn their demolition permit. A new demo permit will require a delay of 120 days. An engineer has said that the building is structurally sound so demolition may not be viable for the applicant. The State is a contributing resource in the **Silvermine** district.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COMMISSIONER BELARDINELLI MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services