

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 3, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:** Dana Laird, Chair; Eric Chandler, Elizabeth Golden, Lisa Grant, Mark Jackson

**OTHERS:** Michelle Andrzejewski, Senior Planner; Tod Bryant, David Westmoreland, Atty. Liz Suchy, Sandak Hennessey and Greco; Frank Diurno, Brad Craighead, Norwalk Living Green Properties

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Laird called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**• June 7th, 2022**

Several Commissioners stated they had not received the minute to review.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no member of the public present who wished to comment at this time.

**REPORTS FROM BOARDS**

**• Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette**

No report.

**•Lockwood-Mathews Mansion; Susie Gilgore**

No report.

**REPORTS**

**• Buildings**

Mr. Westmoreland said that the projects were moving along and listed a number of repairs that had been made at the Fitch and the Wellhouse, along with the fence by the Town House.

The kitchen is ready to be installed at the Museum. The gazebo in the back has been re-roofed.

The Gardner's Cottage stair rail will be replaced with metal.

The Maintenance has been turned over to the Parks at the Lockwood Mathews Mansion.

- **Cemeteries**

No report.

- **Financial.**

Commissioner Laird said that she had recently been at the LMM and done a tour.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to consider at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Proposal for apartments at 3 Park Street.**

Atty. Suchy greeted the Commissioners and said that she represents the property owner, Mr. Craighead. She said that the proposal was to construct two buildings behind 3 Park street. She added that along with Mr. Craighead, the founder of Norwalk Living Green Properties; Mr. Bryant, a historical architect, and Mr. Diurno, the architect were present.

Atty. Suchy said if the project is granted, there would be a total of 10 units spread over three buildings.

Mr. Bryant said that 3 Park Avenue was a great house and located in the Norwalk Historic Village District which is a well preserved collection of 19th and 20th century homes. Number 3 Park is an excellent example of the Italianate style and the original house was constructed in 1830 and most likely resembled the Greek Revival style. He then listed the various stylistic elements and spoke about the original owners and subsequent occupants, along with an overview of the history of the structure.

Mr. Bryant explained that they were proposing to rehabilitate the exterior of the house. The buildings located in the rear of the lot will not be Italianate in design, but will be Second Empire style. He spoke about various buildings around the Green that display various styles but were constructed at a later date.

Mr. Westmoreland asked if a paint analysis had been done. Mr. Bryant said that he believed it had not been done. Mr. Westmoreland said that he was concerned about other buildings that had been painted colors that were not in accord with the period of the building. Atty. Suchy said that they would not be changing the colors, doors or windows, but making repairs.

Mr. Craighead said that the building will be white. He added that he had done 2 Park Street and listed a number of other historic properties that he had worked on and they had maintained the look of the structure. He noted that Mr. Bryant had mentioned adaptive reuse and explained historic properties were extremely expensive to rehabilitate.

Mr. Diurno then displayed the site plan on screen and explained by keeping the units separate, it avoids creating a massive structure and keeps the entire project in scale.

Mr. Craighead said that they were trying to make it look like the buildings were always in that location and create space between the properties. He also discussed the setbacks for the proposed additions and the landscaping that would be done to preserve the trees on site.

Commissioner Laird asked if there were 10 units plus or 10 units spread across the three buildings. There will be several open decks that the residents will be able to access. She was told that there would be 10 units.

Commissioner Grant asked about the square footage and requested to see the elevation drawings. Discussion followed about the setbacks and the details of the original Curtis House. Mr. Craighead said that they were trying to create houses, not apartments. Discussion followed.

Atty. Suchy thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Commissioner Laird said that she did not think the original structure was white. Mr. Westmoreland said that the use of white started around 1910. He noted that this project was doing exactly what they wanted the zoning change to do. Discussion followed about the number of units that the developers were allowed to construct.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR APARTMENTS AT 3 PARK STREET AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRANT SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (LAIRD, CHANDLER, GOLDEN AND GRANT) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (JACKSON).**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRANT SECONDED.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services