

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MARCH 23, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Peter Bondi, Chair; Eric Chandler; Clyde Mount; David Park;
David Westmoreland

OTHERS: Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum;
Tod Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust;
David Gurliacci, *Norwalk Patch*; Tyler Humphrey, Eagle Scout;
Scott Humphrey

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bondi called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- February 23, 2011

The following corrections were made to the minutes:
Page 3: motion should read – Mr. Westmoreland moved...
Correct spelling of Westmorland to Westmoreland

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

A. Chairman's Report

Mr. Bondi said that he hoped the other Commissioners who were not present this evening would get more involved in the work of the Commission.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society – David Westmoreland, President

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report. He said that the quilt project is moving forward. They are moving forward with the selection of a Conservator to do an assessment of the Civil War statue at Riverside Cemetery. They are celebrating 40 years of the Little Red School House program. The Keep America Beautiful Committee will clean the area around Smith Street on April 2nd.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Patsy [Brescia](#), Chairman

Ms. Brescia reviewed her written report. On April 8th they will be honoring Valle Fay's memory at their opening day ceremonies. Ms. Brescia announced that she went to City Hall and signed the contract between the City and the Mansion to move funding in the right direction. She asked about the status of the capital budget. Mr. Westmoreland explained that the Mayor's recommendation came out a few days ago. He stayed with the Planning Commission's recommendation. He added that the \$40,000 operating budget is intact.

Mr. Bondi asked Ms. Brescia to have Mr. Draper contact him about the roof leaks at the Mansion. Ms. Brescia said that the major over run of water is over the gift shop. Mr. Bondi said that he will ask Mr. Mauro to look at it.

Mr. Bondi said that they are trying to coordinate closing the front entrance to the Mansion during repairs to the porte-cochere. He said that it has to be done during the warmer weather and should take about two weeks.

REPORTS

Buildings – Peter Bondi

Mr. Bondi reported that Mr. Mauro finished the repairs at the Gate Lodge. He completed the repairs to the shutters at the Town House. In addition, he has been helping with exhibits at the Museum. Mr. Bondi said that he is waiting for Mr. Lo to get back to him with a third architect. Mr. Westmoreland said that he is concerned about that.

Cemetery – David Park

Mr. Park reported that someone dumped a dump-truck full of soil at the top of Pine Island Cemetery. He said that it is not clean fill.

Mr. Bondi said that he is going to work on getting a new flag for Pine Island Cemetery.

Finance - David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the operating budget was reviewed by the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Finance department. It went well except for one issue, which was a request to increase Mr. Mauro's hourly rate.

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE**
- FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA**
- ** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO INCREASE MR. MAURO'S HOURLY RATE FROM \$25.00 PER HOUR TO \$27.00 PER HOUR**
**** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED**

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the Historical Commission hired Mr. Mauro in 2008 and he has not received an increase since then. Mr. Westmoreland said that at Mr. Hamilton's recommendation, he will go to Mr. Hasselkamp and explain how Mr. Mauro has become invaluable to the Commission.

- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MOUNT)**

Norwalk Museum – Eric Chandler

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO HAVE THE CURATOR AMEND THE MUSEUM OPERATIONS AND CODE OF ETHICS DOCUMENT TO REFLECT THE CHANGE FROM A MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE TO A MUSEUM POINT PERSON**
**** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Chandler announced that as of this evening, he was stepping away from the Museum due to time constraints.

MUSEUM CURATOR'S AND ASSISTANT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Chandler said that the gift shop made \$410.00 last month.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Request To Hold A Public Hearing From The Norwalk Preservation Trust For A Demolition Delay Of 41 High Street

Mr. Bryant, President Norwalk Preservation Trust explained that the Norwalk Preservation Trust filed an objection to demolition of the building. He explained the significance of the building and presented photographs. He said that the building is totally unprotected and this is what demolition delays are all about; trying to find a way to work out a compromise to protect the building. Mr. Bryant asked the Commission to hold a public hearing. He said that a public hearing is a perfect mechanism because it

brings a lot of publicity and sharing of ideas. Mr. Westmoreland noted that after the 90 days, the owner can demolish the building.

- ** MR. MOUNT MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A DEMOLITION DELAY OF 41 HIGH STREET ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL**
- ** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. MOTION TO APPROVE BOY SCOUT PRESENTATION OF AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR WORK IN PINE ISLAND CEMETERY

Tyler Humphrey explained that the plan is to clean the trash from the entrance to Pine Island Cemetery and reset 20 – 25 head stones. Mr. Westmoreland said that Tyler worked at Mill Hill and Brookside Cemeteries. Mr. Westmoreland noted that a lot of headstones have been damaged by the ground hogs. He expressed his appreciation for all of the work done by the Eagle Scouts at the cemeteries.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR WORK IN PINE ISLAND CEMETERY**
- ** MR. PARK SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tyler said that he plans to start the project in early June.

B. To Establish Historical Commission Point People For Finance, Cemeteries, Buildings And The Norwalk Museum

Mr. Bondi recommended the following slate:

Mr. Westmoreland	Finance
Mr. DiIorio	Building
Mr. Bondi	Norwalk Museum
Ms. Martino	Cemetery

- ** MR. MOUNT MOVED TO APPROVE THE SLATE AS RECOMMENDED**
- ** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services