

Norwalk Museum Restructuring Committee  
Tour of City of Norwalk owned buildings and sites  
Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 2:00 PM

Attendance: David Westmoreland, co-chair; David Park, acting secretary; Richard McQuaid, co-chair; Jim Clark; Jim Brown; Mickey Koleszar; Mary Alice Fitzgerald; Patsy Brescia; Scott Wards; Judith Bacal; Mary Roman arrived at 3:00 PM.

The tour started at the Lockwood House on East Avenue at 2:05 PM and was lead by David Westmoreland. The Lockwood House is approx 4000 sq/ft, is owned by the City of Norwalk and is temporarily occupied by the administration of the Norwalk Fire Department while a new fire department building is under construction. It is expected that the Fire Dept will be in the space for an additional 18 months to 2 years. The building previously housed the museum.

The committee members toured each floor of the building including a spacious attic. Several committee members were impressed by the size and “ambiance” of the building. There is a ADA ramp to the ground floor and the building is air conditioned. Committee members discussed shared parking with Norwalk City Hall and the Norwalk Health Department including the possibility of a few designated spots for the Lockwood House if the building were to be open to the public as a museum.

David Westmoreland led committee members through the basement of the Norwalk Health Department on East Ave. The basement is empty and there are currently no future plans for the space. The basement has many rooms and is air conditioned. The committee members discussed the possibility of using the space for temporary storage and working space such as cataloging and sorting collection items.

David Westmoreland led the committee members of a tour of Mill Hill Historic Park buildings and grounds at 2 East Wall Street. Mill Hill Historic Park is owned by the City of Norwalk and operated by the Norwalk Historical Society, a non-profit 501 c 3 organization. David Westmoreland explained the mission, events and programs of the Society.

Committee members discussed the Fodor Farm site, the use of the house being renovated by the city of Norwalk and decided not to visit the site at this time. Fodor Farm is owned by the City of Norwalk and overseen by the Department of Recreation & Parks.

Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum at Mathews Park on West Avenue is owned by the City of Norwalk and operated by the non-profit LMMM board of trustees and staff. Staff member Brian Fischer and Patsy Brescia led a detailed tour of the mansion including two floors and the basement. Committee members discussed partnerships with

the various historic sites, non-profit organizations and other Norwalk attractions to help in marketing each other and sharing events. The discussion included the Western Connecticut Convention & Visitors Bureau and grant opportunities for marketing.

Gallaher Mansion at Cranbury Park on Grumman Avenue is owned by the City of Norwalk and overseen by the Norwalk Department of Recreation & Parks. David Westmoreland and Richard McQuaid let a tour of the building. The history and future plans of the mansion were discussed. The day care center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has been vacated. Richard McQuaid thanked everyone for coming out on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The tour ended at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Park, acting secretary