

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Holly Cuzzone, Vice Chair;
Suzanne Betts; Eric Chandler; Bruce Kimmel; Charles Yost

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore, Executive Director, Lockwood Mathews
Mansion Museum; Laura McCarthy, Norwalk Museum
Collection Manager; Andrew Fallon, Scout

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

June 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2013 AS PRESENTED**
- ** MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

July 15, 2013 – Public Meeting on Demolition Delay

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: Correct spelling of names: Tom should be Thom and Katharyn should be Kathryn

- ** MS. BETTS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
- ** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. YOST)**

July 15, 2013 – Special Meeting

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: Correct spelling of names: Tom should be Thom and Katharyn should be Kathryn

Page 2: Correct Changler to Chandler

- ** **MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
- ** **MR. KIMMEL SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. YOST)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrew Fallon attended the meeting as a requirement to earn a citizenship scouting badge.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. McCarthy gave an update and said that they are making progress. As of today, they have moved over 4,000 objects. She described the items and said that there are 537 pieces of framed art. She said that they did a trial run move yesterday, using Two Men and a Truck. Ms. McCarthy said that they were very professional.

A discussion took place about how the artwork was stored. Ms. McCarthy said that they were stored upright. She said that there are 50 pieces with plaster detailing on their frames.

Ms. McCarthy reported that they will begin moving Dunn's Hardware next week. She said that the only collection left to move will be the Raggedy Ann and Andy collection.

Ms. McCarthy said that there are several clocks in the collection – some are from the 1700s. Mr. Kimmel suggested contacting the Clockery on Van Zant Street.

Mr. Westmoreland said that the second floor is completely empty except for one cabinet that was originally in the Town House. It will be returned to the Town House.

Mr. Kimmel asked Mr. Westmoreland if the Historical Society has thought about hanging some of the artwork in City Hall. Mr. Westmoreland said that they need to look at what can be safely displayed. He noted that the Historical Society will rotate their exhibits.

Mr. Westmoreland's report dated July 14, 2013 is as follows:

Work continues on the move of the Norwalk Museum collection. The Hat and hat box collection has been inventoried and moved. Work has begun on moving the furniture collection. A sign company has been hired and will remove the South Norwalk Woodworking sign and the Weathervanes from the stair hall – this requires scaffolding. Tony will begin removing the fireplace wall in the Oakhill room and the other installed architectural fragments tomorrow. The furniture from the second floor has all been removed.

I attended meetings with the Finance Committee of the Common Council and the Common Council meeting where the terms for the agreements with the Historical Society to manage the museum collection and the Lockwood House were approved. The Commission will need to approve the museum collection terms at the next meeting.

Additionally, the Lockwood House was added to the list of sites designated by the Council to fall under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission. The WPA Murals will be added and the Norwalk Museum Leasehold and Rogers Ritch Merritt House will be brought to the Council at the end of the year or the beginning of next year.

REPORTS - BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Betts reported that their event "Beers of New England" will take place tomorrow night. She said that they are having a closing ceremony on July 31st. Ms. Betts said that they hope to participate in the Norwalk Library's event: Norwalk's Historic Fortnight

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

Ms. Gilgore's report dated July 24, 2013 is as follows:

Dear Commissioners:

Tomorrow the Building Committee will meet to finalize Phase II of the construction. We are hoping to start construction the first week of January. This phase will include the installation of the long-awaited elevator and achieve ADA compliance requirements.

The Museum received a \$5,000 competitive grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation to expand the Museum's Education Program and include a greater population of students, such as Norwalk's middle school and high school students within the Public School system, who are currently not an active part of the program.

The Museum participated in the Norwalk Arts Festival organized by Sue Brown Gorden and Julyen Norman of the Center for Contemporary Printmaking with very successful mini tours and I was asked to assist with judging the event. It was a wonderful festival for Mathews Park and we hope it will return next year.

On September 15th we will hold our 6th Old Fashioned Flea Market. Donations for our White Elephant table are coming in and so are the vendors. This is an important fundraising event for the Mansion and we hope to see you all there.

I spoke to Chris Bradley of the Norwalk Library and LMMM is joining the centennial of Norwalk's consolidation celebration, "(Norwalk's Historic Fortnight: a Centennial Celebration)" with mini tours on September 15th and September 28th. On both days we will have volunteers dressed in period costumes to greet visitors.

We are looking forward to participating in the "Power on the Sound" event this weekend at Calf Pasture Beach!

We appreciate all of your help and look forward to more exciting events as well as restoration projects in the coming season.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gilgore, Executive Director

REPORTS

A. Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland's Building report dated July 24, 2013 is as follows:

Tony continues to be busy. Some broken downspouts at the Mansion were repaired by Phil's Main Roofing. Tony is coordinating additional downspout repairs with Phil's. He continues to assist removing signs and paintings from the walls at the Museum and building storage boxes as needed in addition to the myriad of small repairs he is constantly completing. We will be developing a simple tracking system to document all the work and costs for all the projects he completes.

We are awaiting the second bid for the Smith Street Barn architectural specifications for the repairs in order to proceed ahead.

Ric Veira from BCA Associates presented a mortar specification with samples. I will be developing the specification for the brick repair and minor re-pointing of the Smith Street Jail in the next couple of weeks to submit to purchasing.

Purchasing is requiring us to obtain a third quote for the three new window sashes at the Jail. We have met with the third company and are expecting the quote shortly so that we can finally proceed ahead with the exterior restoration of the barn, which we still hope to complete before winter.

I completed and submitted the specification for the removal of the vinyl siding of the Bell Tower of the Town House to purchasing for the bid process.

Gill & Gill completed the drawings and specifications for the exterior ADA project for the Mill Hill site. Purchasing will issue on August 15th with responses due back on September 5, 2013.

Faesy-Smith has completed and submitted the drawings and specifications for the reconstruction of the Gate Lodge Porch and has been submitted to purchasing for the bid process.

Juliani's Painting completed the painting of the Gardener's Cottage. It looks good.

I have begun to request bids for painting the Laundry (the bathrooms) historically-correct and for cleaning and re-painting the Verandah at the Mansion.

We received the estimate for the LMMM Roof Leak Repair project from the estimator this past Friday and are putting together the plan for this project. The numbers are higher than expected and I will be meeting with the Mansion to decide how to proceed in the next week.

I will be marking the trees for removal and pruning in the cemeteries and near our buildings in the next week and will work with Parks and Recreation to schedule the work.

It is time to begin planning for the 2014-2015 capital budget process.

B. Cemeteries

Ms. Cuzzone said that Mr. Westmoreland has two more Eagle Scout projects. Eagle Scout candidate, Charlie Fallon proposed a project to plant shrubs and bulbs at the cemetery and re-set some headstones. Over 30 headstones have been identified and a conservator will be used to re-set those stones.

C. Finance

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO RE-APPROPRIATE THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT FUNDS C0275 ROGERS-RITCH-MERRITT HOUSE 09036310 5777 C0275 WITH AN AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$27,957.52 BE ADDED TO C0374 MILL HILL BUILDINGS 09136310 577 C0374 MILL HILL ADA PROJECT AND REFER TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**
**** MS. BETTS SECONDED**

Mr. Westmoreland explained the item.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY HOLBROOK & HAWES, LLC TO CONSERVE A NATIVE AMERICAN POT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000 TO BE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL ACCOUNT C0449 NORWALK MUSEUM COLLECTION CARE 09086310 5777 C0449 THAT HAS AN AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$31,586.67**
- ** MR. YOST SECONDED**

Ms. Cuzzone explained that two conservators responded. She said that Holbrook & Hawes, LLC was recommended by the Yale Peabody Museum. Mr. Westmoreland noted that this is a 3,000 year old item and is one of a kind.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- ** MS. BETTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE LOAN TO THE BRUCE MUSEUM OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**NM 2009.111.0001 HAVILAND & CO. LIMOGES OYSTER PLATE
NM FIC 2009.092.0001 SOUVENIR OYSTER SPOON
NM 2004.079.0004 A-B UNTITLED PAINTING STUDY OF ROW OF MEN
OPENING OYSTERS
NM 2004.079.0010 A-B UNTITLED PAINTING STUDY OF TWO MEN
OPENING OYSTERS**

LOAN PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 21, 2013 TO MARCH 31, 2014

- ** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**

Mr. Westmoreland said that if the Commission approves this loan he will go to the Bruce Museum to inspect the location of where these items will be displayed.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- ** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE LOAN TO THE NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BRUCKMANN MURAL PAINTING OF SOUTH NORWALK HARBOR.**

LOAN PERIOD FROM AUGUST 1, 2013 TO AUGUST 1, 2015

- ** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

Mr. Westmoreland described the mural.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. BETTS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

DRAFT