

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 28, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Suzanne Betts; Eric
Chandler;
Thom Dunlap; Bruce Kimmel; Kathryn Martino

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore and Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews
Mansion Museum; Charlie Fallon, Eagle Scout
Candidate; Timothy Sheehan, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency;
Rachel Calemno, Christian Rae Studio, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - July 24, 2013 - Regular Commission Meeting

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
PRESENTED
** MS. BETTS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. DUNLAP AND
MS. MARTINO)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Westmoreland provided the following report, dated August 28, 2013:

I am pleased to report that the move of the City's museum collection has been completed. I have to say that it is rather bittersweet as I think of all the people who gave time and money to restore the building at 41 N. Main Street and move the museum there; however, the Finance Department is projecting that the move will save \$1.8 M over the next ten years and I also believe that the Lockwood Family will appreciate the fact that the building that they built will be used for its original intent going forward.

Laura McCarthy will present a complete report regarding the collection move at our September meeting. She will be spending the next few weeks integrating the digital photographs with the inventory records into

PastPerfect to complete the searchable collections inventory database.

We are waiting for the Legal department to complete the lease extension for CCP and the Lockwood House lease.

Mr. Kimmel asked if there is a date for the grand opening. Mr. Westmoreland said that ideally he would like to open by the end of next year.

REPORTS - BOARDS

A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ms. Betts provided the following report dated August 28, 2013:

The Norwalk Historical Society's Civil War BBQ and Encampment on August 17, 2013 was a great success. We had a steady stream of over 250 visitors throughout the day who enjoyed firing demos and infantry drills from the re-enactors from the 11th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company A; music from the Sprit of Black Rock Fife & Drum Crops, and the Five Mile River Light Artillery Cannon Demonstrations. Our food vendors included: American Steak House, Muro's Original New York Bakery, Oak Hills Restaurant on the Green, Overton's, Simply Delicious Catering and SoNo Tasty Pies. We're very pleased with the success and turnout for the event, which followed a record number of attendees at our annual 4th of July celebration featuring a walking tour of the historic Norwalk Green and the annual "Let Freedom Ring!" national bell ringing ceremony. We've received terrific press coverage in The Hour, Its Relevant.com and other local media throughout the summer season.

In September, the Historical society will be participating in the Norwalk Historic Fortnight: Consolidation Centennial 1913-2013 Sunday, September 15 - Saturday, September 28, 2013. This is a Citywide collaboration of activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of the consolidation of South Norwalk and Norwalk. Our "Flags" Exhibit which opened on August 17th will be open during our regular museum hours featuring flags from the Revolutionary War to the present. The exhibit runs through November 16, 2013.

In October, the Society will host our annual Haunting at Mill Hill, Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26, 2013. Tickets go on sale October 1st. We will again be offering free tickets to those who attend the LMMM Haunted Mansion Halloween Costume Party.

The Society looks forward to seeing Commissioners at our upcoming events. Tickets and additional information are available on our website: <http://norwalkhistoricalsociety.org>

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne H. Betts
President
Norwalk Historical Society

Mr. Kimmel asked for an explanation of the September event. Ms. Betts explained that it is a Citywide event that that will take place in both South Norwalk and in the Wall Street area. Ms. Gilgore added that they will hold their annual Flea Market on September 15th and will have volunteers dressed in period costumes greeting visitors.

B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

Ms. Brescia and Ms. Gilgore provided the following report dated August 28, 2013:

Dear Commissioners:

The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum is currently organizing several events for the fall season and among them is a lecture entitled, Technology and Invention: Medical Tales of the 19th Century, on September 10th, the annual Old-Fashioned Flea Market on September 15th and a two-week long Halloween program featuring Ghostly Tours, Victorian Villains, Basement Tours and a Haunted Mansion Halloween Party held on October 26.

As you may be aware, the Norwalk Historical Society has agreed to loan artwork for an exhibit in the Billiards Room that will be co-curated by Leigh Grant and Trustee Gail Ingis-Claus.

We have indicated that we have been rejected by the 1772 Foundation for a grant application that requested funding for the Museum's security system upgrades and lighting outside the Mansion. We have secured proposals to reactivate the lighting. Both security upgrades and lighting upgrades are in the vicinity of \$37,000.

One of our major concerns is the progress on the roof repairs and status and timing of the Phase II of the construction which seems to be a concern for us as we move forward making plans for our programs in 2014.

As per your request, we are working on a list of small repair projects that you might be able to address.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Brescia, Board Chair
Susan Gilgore, Executive Director

Ms. Brescia commented that there is great synergism of everyone working together. She said that the City is backlogged on projects and asked if Mr. Mauro could look at the gutter above the gift shop. She said that she and Ms. Gilgore are working on a list and will give it to Mr. Westmoreland in a month or so.

Ms. Gilgore said that they plan to put together a grant request for an upstairs, downstairs type of exhibit for next year. She said that the concept was proposed to the Connecticut Humanities Counsel and they were enthusiastic about it.

REPORTS

A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Westmoreland provided the following report dated August 28, 2013:

Tony spent most of his time this past month assisting with the move of the museum collection: removing signs and large paintings from the walls, along with architectural fragments and building storage boxes for oversize items.

I spent a significant amount of time this month coordinating with Purchasing, the various RFPs and trying to get those out to bid. You submit the specification and scope for a project to Purchasing and then they come back requesting clarifications and changes - this usually happens two or three times per bid package before it goes out the door, adding an additional two or three weeks or so to the process on top of the three week wait after you originally submit the bid package to Purchasing as they work through their backlog. This adds about six weeks to the project then the bid process takes one month by the time it is posted, the pre-bid conference walk through on site and then the bids are finally received. Once the bids are received, they have to be reviewed then approved by this Commission then they go to the Land Use Committee of the Common Council, and then the Common Council has to approve it - adding another month to two months to the process. The Land Use

Committee meets only once per month (the first Tuesday) and then we meet the fourth Wednesday. It is really about 3 months to award a contract from the time a bid package is submitted to purchasing.

This is why I am beginning to be concerned about the LMMM Phase II project getting submitted to Purchasing.

After much back and forth, the Bell Tower Project at Mill Hill, the Mill Hill exterior ADA Project, the LMMM Gate Lodge Porch project, and the Pine Island Cemetery Tombstone Conservation project bid packages are going out to bid over the next week. We will have a lot of projects underway this fall and into the winter, probably with carry-over into the spring.

The purchase order has finally been issued for the three front windows of the Smith Street Jail. Originally, we were just going to repair the broken brick around the windows of the Smith Street Jail and do some minor re-pointing around the building. However, upon reviewing the condition of the Jail, I have decided to go forward with a full cleaning and re-pointing of all the brick on the second floor. This will ensure that the building is fully weathered-in at the area where we are doing interior restoration work. Over 50% of the mortar needs to be re-pointed so it seems to make sense to just do the whole thing.

The first floor fieldstone siding also needs re-pointing, but this can wait to a later date and we can pursue possible grant funding for this portion. I am working on the scope document for the bid package, having received the mortar and brick repair specs from BCA Associates. I have asked BCA to provide a brick-cleaning specification to include in the bid package. The implication of this is that we will run out of funds to completely restore the interior and will need additional capital funding. I have reviewed the situation with Tom Hamilton and he agrees this is the right approach, but cannot guarantee when we will get additional funds to finish the building. I expect the brick repair, cleaning and re-pointing for the second floor to be about \$40k.

We did have an incident at the Jail as it appears someone entered the jail and turned on a water spigot that flooded one of the old cells. No damage was caused as the water drained through the floor and we think we found it fairly soon after the water was turned on. No doors or windows were broken - the windows have bars. The two doors were locked. Tony changed the locks. We are working with the company across the street to review their videotapes from their cameras to see if we can determine who entered the building and how they entered.

I am arranging to have Hygenix test the flooring in the office/bathroom area of the Town House as it likely contains asbestos. Upon completion, I will begin to write a scope document for the construction of the Town House ADA bathroom, which will include replacing the entire floor in the office area as well as finishing the office re-wiring project that was begun in 2007. We may need additional funds to complete this project, but that will depend on where the bids come in on the exterior ADA work.

I have marked the trees to be pruned or removed at Pine Island and Mill Hill and have reviewed with the Parks and Rec Tree Warden who has approved the removals. We will meet this Friday with the City's tree contractor to put together the plan for the removals.

Mr. Chandler asked about the bell tower and there is an issue because it was placed and not secured to the building. Mr. Westmoreland said that there was concern expressed by the structural engineer that it was not supported all the way through to the foundation.

B. CEMETERIES

REVIEW AND APPROVE EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE CHARLIE FALLON'S PROPOSAL FOR PINE ISLAND PROJECT

Mr. Westmoreland introduced Eagle Scout Candidate, Charlie Fallon who talked about his proposal for Pine Island Cemetery. He said that the point of his project is to beautify the Cemetery and make people care about it. They plan to plant 20 - 25 trees and daffodils. The trees will be smaller, flowering trees. He said that he is getting the daffodils donated and Mr. Westmoreland is acquiring the trees. He said that the trees have to be planted by late October or early November.

Mr. Kimmel asked Mr. Fallon what would happen if it gets cold earlier in the season. Mr. Fallon said that according to his research, that is the best time to plant those specific trees. Mr. Westmoreland added that he did not feel it would be a problem. The idea is to make a big show of glory in the spring that will attract attention to the Cemetery.

**** MS. BETTS MOVED TO APPROVE EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE
CHARLIE FALLON 'S PROPOSAL FOR PINE ISLAND PROJECT
** MR. DUNLAP SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. FINANCE

Ms. Betts reported that the request to transfer funds from the Rogers-Ritch-Meritt House have not yet gone through. She said that she will follow up with Mr. Hamilton.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PRESENTATION OF SONO RAILROAD BRIDGE SIGNAGE

Mr. Sheehan explained that the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency received a grant to address lighting issues under the Washington Street railroad bridge underpass. This area has been deemed historical, so they felt it was appropriate to get input from the Historical Commission.

Mr. Sheehan said that the long standing mural was removed about six months ago and returned to the artist.

Ms. Calemмо described the lighting concept. "SONO" will be created out of an architectural metal mesh with a solid metal edging. The sign will attach to the embankment and will be easily removable. The LED floodlights will be attached to the canopy and the colors can be changed.

Mr. Sheehan said that they intend to leave the sign up for a period of time. He said that Ms. Calemмо is also working on a lighting plan for 50 Washington Street.

Ms. Betts asked about a time frame for the SONO signage. Mr. Sheehan said that funding is in place and that he believes it should be up before the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. DUNLAP SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Historical Commission
August 28, 2013
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Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services