

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MARCH 26, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Suzanne Betts; Eric Chandler;  
Holly Cuzzone; Glenn Iannaccone; Lisa Wilson Grant;  
Charles Yost; Kathryn Martino (7:04 p.m.)

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore, Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews Mansion  
Museum

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – February 26, 2014 - Regular Commission Meeting

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Change Commissioner Westmoreland to Chairman Westmoreland, throughout.

Change Commissioners to commissioners, throughout.

Page 2, second paragraph, first sentence: Glastonbury restoration company should read –  
Glastonbury Restoration Company

Page 2, fifth paragraph, first sentence: Historic Society should read – Historical Society.

- \*\* MR. IANNACONE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF  
FEBRUARY 26, 2014 AS CORRECTED**
- \*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MS. MARTINO,  
MS. WILSON GRANT AND MS. BETTS)**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present this evening.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland presented his written report dated 3/26/2014 as follows:

I am pleased to welcome Lisa Wilson Grant as the newest member of the Historical Commission. Lisa will definitely be an asset to the commission.

This has been a busy month, Suzanne and I have attended numerous meetings to defend our capital and expense budgets. I believe these are all completed now and are just waiting for final council approval in April.

Holly Cuzzone has been working to unpack and organize the new commission office in the Lockwood House. Thank you for your efforts.

## **REPORTS – BOARDS**

### **Norwalk Historical Society – Tom Arbron**

Mr. Westmoreland introduced Mr. Tom Arbron, the new President of the Norwalk Historical Society.

Mr. Arbron presented his written report dated March 26, 2014 as follows:

#### **February 2014 Activities**

##### **Hysterical Historical “Hat Party”**

The Hat Party was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at Episodes Ultra Lounge in South Norwalk. We had a small display of vintage hat boxes and hats under glass. Mayor Harry Rilling was the guest bartender for part of the evening. There were approximately 60 people in attendance, including the grandson of Mr. John Cavanagh, who was the President of the Hat Corporation of America. Light appetizers were provided by Simply Delicious. We received a percentage of the bar purchases.

##### **Collections Manager**

Anna Veccia has been hired as the part time collections manager consultant. She will continue to inventory the Museum’s non-accessioned items into the PastPerfect museum software and rehouse the objects as needed.

##### **Upcoming Events**

**Pocahontas: The Bridge Between Two Worlds** lecture will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 2 p.m. This will commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe (April 5, 1614). The lecturer is Madeleine Eckert who is a direct descendant of Pocahontas and member of the Jamestowne Society.

**DiverseCity Juried Art Exhibition – Call for Entries**

**DiverseCity** is the second juried art exhibit by the Norwalk Historical Society. Last year the theme was “Secret Norwalk”. The art exhibit will highlight the DiverseCity that exists in Norwalk, whether its people, neighborhoods, cultures or businesses; all make up this unique urban/suburban city. The jurors are: Frank Bruckmann, Sherelle Harris and Lizzy Rockwell. The Call for Entries submissions are due May 9, 2014. The opening and awards will be Thursday, May 22, 2014, 6 – 8 p.m. at Mill Hill Historic Park – Town House Museum. The show runs May 22 – June 29, 2014.

**Little Red Schoolhouse**

The Little Red Schoolhouse program is scheduled to start another season on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The program will run April 21 – June 13, 2014. Samantha Kulish is the education Coordinator. We are going into our 3<sup>rd</sup> year offering a traveling program as well as onsite at Mill Hill Historic Park.

**Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Patsy Brescia**

Ms. Brescia presented her written report dated March 26, 2014 as follows:

Dear Commissioners:

We are most grateful to the Norwalk Historical Commission and Chairman David Westmoreland as well as the City of Norwalk for the assistance given in completing requirements and preparing contracts for the Department of Economic & Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office in order to receive the \$179,558 and commence the construction project as soon as possible.

After reviewing three bids received for our planned Phase II project, which includes the installation of an elevator and other ADA requirements, we have accepted the qualified low bidder, Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc. for this project.

We have appeared before the City’s Board of Estimate and Taxation for an additional \$30,000 for operating funds and we need your assistance for the appropriation of these funds.

LMMM Staff, Board and Volunteers are currently working to launch a *Young Writers Competition* in Norwalk’s Public Schools and on June 22, LMMM will hold a *Victorian Ice Cream Social*. This community event will use the Mansion as a backdrop for a wide range of educational and family-friendly activities. Children will learn about and play turn-of-the-century lawn games such as croquet and badminton, while costumed historical interpreters will wander

throughout the crowds, interacting with children and adults as they bring the Victorian era back to life. The much anticipated *The Stairs Below* exhibit scheduled to open at the beginning of September was postponed until next year due to the construction delays.

We thank you for all your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy R. Brescia  
Chairman of the Board

Susan Gilgore,  
Executive Director

In response to Mr. Yost's question, Ms. Brescia explained the ADA project. She said that they cobbled funding together from various sources to fund this project. Mr. Westmoreland said that the elevator will be a limited use elevator and does not require digging a deep pit. Ms. Brescia said that their next step is to identify their next project. She said that everyone has been working so nicely together. She said that Mr. Lo and Mr. Foley have been incredible.

Ms. Brescia asked Mr. Westmoreland if he was going to help the LMMM get the \$30,000 they requested. Mr. Westmoreland said that he thinks the best place to look is in the current budget.

## **REPORTS**

### **Buildings – David Westmoreland**

Mr. Westmoreland presented his written report dated March 26, 2014 as follows:

Work continues, albeit slowly, on Phase I of the Mansion roof leak repairs. There have been some issues with the electrical subcontractor regarding scheduling, and I appreciate the Mansion coordinating directly with them on those challenges.

I am pleased to report significant progress on a number of our projects. Tony has been working to install the three new windows we have finally received for the jail. We are having Tony custom build the window frames and the window sashes are being custom built for us. Assuming we are happy with these first three, we will go out to bid again for the remaining windows. I am completing the RFP for the mortar repair and repointing, which I hope to get done this summer. They will also clean the brick on the jail. If all goes well, we should have the exterior of the jail completed, including repainting by the end of the year.

The barn roof has been repaired and a change order has been issued for replacing the rotted wood on the front three sides, as well as painting the front three sides. The backside against the hill needs extensive wood replacement, but over the years trash has accumulated against the building and needs to be excavated out. I tried to do it with my crew last week, but it is still completely frozen, so we will have to wait until later in the spring to begin repairs on the backside, which Tony can complete. The Historical Society is donating a building plaque for the barn that will read "Public Works Barn, c. 1880". Additionally, we have determined the barn was originally stained a brownish-red color and we will return the building to its original color. Scholar Painting, the contractor is doing an outstanding job.

Tony has removed the carpeting from about half of the Lockwood House building. I have been told that this won't happen until the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, we are obtaining estimates for painting, floor refinishing to plan and budget for the renovation of the building.

I volunteered my crew, who did extensive pruning and clean-up around the grounds of the building last week. We also completely cleared the Smith Street hillside of brush and trash. I will also be working with the City's tree contractor to remove some broken trees and logs along Hubbell's Lane at Mill Hill in the next month.

We received three bids for the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Elevator/ADA bathrooms project – see the bid summary sheet. The building committee selected the low bidder, Kronenberger and Sons, to complete the work. This firm has a great reputation in New England, working on many historic restoration projects, including the Mark Twain House and the Norwalk Public Library. As this project is going to impact the Mansion's operations, we expedited the approval process and the Common Council approved the expenditure and contract last evening. We are hoping to complete the project by September.

Additionally, we received four bids for the Mill Hill exterior upper site ADA project – see the bid summary sheet. I am pleased with the bids as three of them come within our budget which is \$130k plus an additional \$100k available July 1 from the 14/15 capital budget. We are unfamiliar with the low bidder and are currently doing reference checking and will be scheduling a scope review to determine their qualifications for the project. Their bid is substantially less than the others and if accepted, will leave us with enough funds to do the ADA Bathroom project in the Town House. We will have a recommendation to review at the April Historical Commission meeting. I anticipate work beginning in July, completing by September.

Finally, I'll be working to schedule the Bell Tower Restoration project and the Tombstone Conservation projects in the next couple of weeks as well.

**Cemeteries – Holly Cuzzone**

Ms. Cuzzone asked if new flags will be placed in the cemeteries. Mr. Westmoreland said that he ordered new flags and they should be in shortly. He said that Ms. DiMeglio left a supply of flags with him.

**Museum Collection – David Westmoreland**

Mr. Westmoreland said that Ms. Veccia was hired by the Norwalk Historical Society as the part time collections manager consultant. He said that they need to go through all of the items to determine what is relevant to Norwalk. He said that it will take several years to accomplish this task.

**Finance – Suzanne Betts**

Ms. Betts reported that the budget process is well in hand. She said that Ms. Brescia made a statement before the Board of Estimate and Taxation asking for an additional \$30,000 and provided them with a packet of information.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**
- \*\* MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
  
- \*\* MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMOUNT, NOT TO EXCEED \$2,200, INCLUDING SHIPPING AND HANDLING, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 55 GALLON DRUM OF D2 BIOLOGICAL SOLUTION FOR TOMBSTONE CLEANING**
- \*\* MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
  
- \*\* MR. YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE SELECTION OF KRONENBERGER AND SONS TO INSTALL AN ELEVATOR AND RENOVATE THE BATHROOMS FOR ADA COMPLIANCE AT THE**

**LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$570,000 AND \$70,000 OF CHANGE ORDERS. FUNDS TO COME FROM HISTORICAL COMMISSION CAPITAL ACCOUNTS 0901/05/09/13 6310 5777 C0186 NOT TO EXCEED \$406,588 AND THE LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM, INC. NOT TO EXCEED \$233,412.**

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services