

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
APRIL 23, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Eric Chandler; Holly Cuzzone;  
Glenn Iannaccone; Kathryn Martino; Lisa Wilson Grant (7:12 p.m.)

OTHERS: Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society;  
Johnny Pesce, Eagle Scout Candidate; Susan Wallerstein,  
Chair, Norwalk Arts Commission

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - March 26, 2014, Regular Commission Meeting

**\*\* MR. IANACONE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

**\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Wallerstein explained that one of their major initiatives is to focus on the WPA (Works Progress Administration) murals. She said that with guidance from Mr. Westmoreland, their capital project has been approved.

Ms. Wilson Grant joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Ms. Wallerstein reviewed the scope of their work. The notion is that when visitors enter City Hall, they need to be advised that the murals are here. Money has been set aside to create an entry portal. The second part of the capital project is to take the clutter in the front entrance and "California closet" it. The third part of the project is to do enhanced signage around the building to provide a little more information about the murals. In a related project there will be a way to digitally interact with the murals. Six murals will be relocated and in addition, the murals will be protected by placing stations in front of them.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report, dated April 24, 2014 as follows:

This has also been another busy month for the Historical Commission, mostly regarding progress with our buildings and cemeteries, which I'll cover in the buildings report.

The capital budget has been finalized. We are receiving \$150k for the next phase of the LMM roof Leak Repair project, \$100k towards ADA access at Mill Hill, \$50k for ADA Access study and design at the Lockwood House, and \$12k for the Arts Commission WPA project.

I had a productive meeting and walk-through of the Mill Hill site with Michael DiScala from the Head of the Harbor project. We discussed the goals for each of our sites and how to collaboratively work together to get it all accomplished. In that regard, a new draft of the Smith Street Option Agreement and Shared Parking Agreement is supposed to be available soon and will be reviewed at the Land Use Committee meeting in May. I will make these available to you when I receive them. Tim Sheehan, the director of the Redevelopment Agency, has asked to put on the agenda for our May meeting to review the agreement. I have given my comments to a draft of the option agreement, but have not seen the Shared Parking Agreement. Depending on the content of the revised draft, I may need to Commission's support by way of attendance at eh May Land Use Committee meeting scheduled for May 7, 2014.

Finally, we received our items that we loaned for the Bruce Museum's exhibit on Oystering back. I arranged for the curator of the Mayor's Gallery to borrow a good part of the Bruce's exhibit, which is now on display outside of the Mayor's office upstairs. If you get a chance, go by and see it.

## **REPORTS - BOARDS**

### Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette gave an overview of their recent events. She said that their first lecture of the season on Pocahontas was very well received. Their Little Red Schoolhouse program started on Monday and will go to June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mill Hill will open on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the season.

Ms. Jellerette reported that they are working on the Lockwood House. Most of the carpet has been pulled and they are working with an interior designer on paint

colors. She said that they do not anticipate the Museum opening until next spring or early summer. A grand opening will be held at that time.

Mr. Iannaccone asked about the status of the Dunn Hardware exhibit. Mr. Westmoreland said that it will be moved and used at Fodor Farm.

Ms. Jellerette said that they are interviewing college interns to help with exhibits. They received a loan request from the New Canaan Historical Society. Their exhibit will highlight seven different artists and they are requesting three pieces from the City's collection. The New Canaan Historical Society will be required to insure everything that is sent to them.

An estate sale is being held at the Silvermine Tavern. Ms. Jellerette said that she had an opportunity to look at the early previews and purchased a few paintings.

Ms. Jellerette announced that effective April 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Erik Anderson is the new President of the Norwalk Historical Society.

Ms. Jellerette described "The Great Letterboxing History Hunt" that will take place between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> and will include several towns. Mr. Chandler suggested that Ms. Jellerette contact the Danbury Historical Society and said that he could put her in touch with the appropriate person.

Ms. Jellerette talked about the Diverse City Juried Art Exhibition that will take place between May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>. A lecture about the female spies in the Civil War will take place on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Norwalk Library. Mr. Matthew Bartlett will be the speaker.

#### Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

There was no one present this evening from the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum.

## **REPORTS**

### Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report dated April 24, 2014 as follows:

I completed a walk-through with the contractor and the architect of the Mansion Roof Leak Repair project yesterday. The electrical service for the heat trace has been installed and it is finally warm enough for them to begin on the masonry and flashing work. I am also pushing the architects to complete minor changes to the drawings and specifications for the next phase of the Roof Leak Repair project so that we can get it out to bid and begin the project as soon as the funds are available on July 1.

The Mansion elevator and bathroom renovation project has started now that the contracts have been finalized. Work is scheduled to be completed by September.

Tony is completing the work on the installation of the first three windows of the Jail this week. We are happy with the results and I'm working with Alan Lo to put out to bid the remaining eleven windows. Tony is constructing the frames so we are only bidding out the window sashes and Tony is doing the installation. Additionally, I completed the RFP specifications for the brick and mortar repair project for the Jail and have turned those over to Purchasing to issue the RFP. Hopefully, we can get this work done this summer.

Tony will be working on repairing and replacing the barn windows next. The barn restoration project is largely completed. Scholar Painting did an excellent job reconstructing the roof. There were some minor issues with some of the wood replacement but these are being resolved. The painting is completed and I am pleased with the results. The back side of the barn, next to the hill, still needs extensive repair, but we still have not been able to remove all the trash, leaves and dirt that have accumulated up against the backside of the barn as it is still frozen. We will complete this as time allows over the summer when things thaw out.

Additionally, well underway is the Town House Bell Tower restoration project. The siding has been removed, only to discover quite a bit of rotted wood due to leaks from the improperly installed aluminum siding. Two of the main supporting beams on the front were rotted and replaced. The contractor, Better Homes Bureau, provided a change order for \$12,807. We are authorized to make change orders up to \$6,000. In consultation with the Purchasing and Finance Directors, I authorized the contractor to proceed ahead with the work and follow-up with Historical Commission, Land Use and Council approval for the additional \$7k. I'm requesting an additional \$1,000 to cover anything else that might come up plus I would

like them to repaint some areas of the Town House where the paint is peeling. We decided to go ahead and replace the roof on the Bell Tower as well, as it is in bad shape (included in the \$12k change order) - we weren't able to inspect it until they had the scaffolding in place.

Eric Chandler, Glenn Iannaccone, Gerald Foley, Patsy Gill (the architect) and I met with Carjen Fence Company, the low bidder for the Mill Hill upper site exterior ADA project. After a scope review, we determined that their bid was adequate and they are capable of completing the work. We are recommending accepting the bid from Carjen. Work cannot begin until after July 1 when all of our funding is available for the project. The Society has a couple of events scheduled in early July, so we've agreed on a start date of July 14. It will take a couple of months to complete.

The City still has not removed the remaining furniture from Lockwood House, impeding our ability to finish removing the carpets and prepare for repainting and refinishing the floors. I have received one set of quotes for the work and will be soliciting two other quotes in the next month. I am also working with the Historical Society to determine paint colors for the interior. We will also be obtaining quotes to install a video surveillance system in all of the public rooms of the Lockwood House as a measure to safeguard the collection items when on display. Also, I have developed the specifications for the RFP to review ADA interior and exterior access to the Lockwood House building and turned these over to Purchasing so that we can begin the project a close to July 1 as possible when funding is available. The results of this project which will include construction level drawings and specifications along with construction estimates, will be a key input to the 2015/2016 Capital Budget process, which begins in October.

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH BETTER HOMES BUREAU FOR ROTTED WOOD REPLACEMENT AND RE-PAINTING ON THE TOWN HOUSE AND BELL TOWER IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000. ACCOUNT 09 146310 5777 C0374**

**\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. IANNACCONI MOVED TO APPROVE THE BID FROM CARJEN FENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$144,596.85 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EXTERIOR ADA ACCESS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UPPER SITE AT MILL HILL HISTORIC**

**PARK. AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDERS NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.  
ACCOUNTS 09066310 5777 C0374, 09086310 5777 C0374, 09116310  
5777 C0374, 09136310 5777 C0374, 09146310 5777 C0374 AND  
09156310 5777 C0374**

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

### Cemeteries

Mr. Westmoreland showed a photograph of the daffodils planted at Pine Island Cemetery last year by the Scouts. He said that 28 headstones were repaired and there are 18 more that need to be repaired.

Eagle Scout Candidate Johnny Pesce of Rowayton Troup 2 in Rowayton presented his tombstone resetting project at Pine Island Cemetery. He said that their goal is to re-set 25 headstones, or more. He said that most of the supplies will be provided by volunteers and he will provide food and water. He said that once this project is approved, they hope to do it on a Saturday.

Mr. Westmoreland said that he found tombstones in the cellar at Mill Hill and they belong at Pine Island Cemetery.

Ms. Cuzzone said that there are two very tall tombstones in the northwest corner of Pine Island Cemetery. If a strong wind comes, it will push them over. It was recommended to use a plastic binding to prevent them from blowing over.

Mr. Westmoreland said that he was very happy to have this Eagle Scout project.

**\*\* MS. BETTS MOVED TO APPROVE EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE  
JOHNNY PESCE 'S PROPOSAL TO COMPLETE TOMBSTONE  
RESETTING AT PINE ISLAND CEMETERY  
\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Chandler asked about the condition of the Kellogg Comstock Hill Cemetery. Ms. Cuzzone said that she has not done an inventory after this winter. Mr. Westmoreland said that Parks and Recreation maintains the cemetery.

Mr. Westmoreland said that a rail was replaced at the Brookside Cemetery. All of the repairable stones were repaired at the Kellogg Comstock Hill Cemetery. At

some point, interpretive signage needs to be placed at the cemeteries. All of the trees planted last October at Pine Island Cemetery are in bloom.

### Finance

Ms. Betts reported that as of Monday, there is \$29,218.64 left over in the Operating Budget and \$696,312.53 in the Capital Budget. Most of that is waiting to be spent for the Lockwood Mathews Mansion and Mill Hill projects.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Informational Overview of Nathan Hale Fountain Restoration Project

Ms. Wilson Grant said that she is writing a book about Norwalk and it is coming out in June. She explained that Nathan Hale spent time in Norwalk and explained how the fountain came to be. Its original location was in front of the Armory on West Avenue, but was dissembled by the 1920s. Last fall, she found out that Ambler Farm was looking to get rid of the trough portion of the fountain. The president of the Ambler Trust said that they would like to help pay for the move to Fodor Farm and will ask his Trustees to pay for its restoration. Once it is restored, it will be the centerpiece of an herb garden at Fodor Farm.

Ms. Wilson Grant said that the Norwalk Garden Club donated \$4,000 worth of plants. She noted that Flax Hill Road is on Nathan Hale's trail from New York.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April 23, 2014  
Historical Commission  
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Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services