

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MAY 28, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Eric Chandler; Holly Cuzzone;  
Lisa Wilson Grant; Glenn Iannaccone; Kathryn Martino

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore, Executive Director, Lockwood Mathews Mansion  
Museum; Diane Jellerette, Executive Director, Norwalk Historical  
Society

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – April 23, 2014 - Regular Commission  
Meeting**

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 7 – correct the spelling of Troop.

**\*\* MR. IANNACCONI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 23,  
2014 AS CORRECTED  
\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present this evening.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Commissioner Westmoreland**

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his Chairman's report, dated May 28, 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.

I attended a meeting in Southport sponsored by the CT Trust for historic Preservation to review new legislation enacted by the State. The new legislation allows Cities and Towns to basically enact whatever preservation laws they wish to protect properties listed on the state or national register. I am in discussions

with Tod Bryant from the Norwalk Preservation Trust as to what ordinance changes, if any, items should be brought forward to the Historical Commission for consideration.

Mr. Westmoreland spoke about the new legislation and said that there are things he would like to see improved, such as having a longer demolition delay period and allowing the Historical Commission to require homeowners who are going to demolish their properties that are designated as historical to do archival photographs of the property. He said that Greenwich requires homeowners to pay a professional to take photographs.

## **5. REPORTS** – Boards

### A. Norwalk Historical Society – Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette reported that the Norwalk Historical Society had a very busy May. She said that the Letterboxing hunt turned out to be successful; it was an intergenerational event. They will probably hold this event again next year and will hopefully include Danbury and make it longer than two weeks.

The Norwalk Historical Society did their first joint project with the Norwalk Library and they had a good turnout. The Little Red Schoolhouse program is moving along nicely. Everyone is enjoying it and they have 100% participation. They have also had some outside tourists participate in the program.

Ms. Jellerette reported that they will have two college interns this summer. They are planning to do an exhibit on immigration this summer. This is an opportunity to fill that hole in Norwalk history. Collection management is moving along. One of the summer interns will work with the Collections Manager.

The Diversity Art Exhibit opened last Thursday. They had an entry from the Carver Foundation. It gave the children an opportunity to enter their art work.

Two paintings were loaned to the New Canaan Historical Society. Mill Hill is open for the season. The Lockwood House renovations are moving along nicely. Mr. Mauro is in the process of renovating the kitchen.

### B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Patsy Brescia

Ms. Gilgore reviewed the following report dated May 28, 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 obtaining an additional \$30,000 for the Mansion's operating budget approved by the City's Board of estimate and Taxation.

Phase II of construction has begun with Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc. and continues to be a challenge for the Museum's operating budget as we will not be able to open fully, or offer licensing events, causing a substantial loss of funding.

Despite the challenges, on June 11, Prof. Richard Guy Wilson will give a talk entitled, *Edith Wharton's Golden Age: Fiction and Architecture*. This lecture will explore Edith Wharton's interest in the visual arts and how her houses impacted her fiction.

On June 12, we will officially open the Museum for tours. Tours will not include the second floor; LMMM Staff, Board and Volunteers have successfully launched a *Young Writers' Competition* in Norwalk's public schools with great features in the *Fairfield County Business Journal* and *The Hour*, among others.

On June 22, LMMM will hold a much – awaited *Victorian Ice Cream Social* with the participation of 30 plus volunteers including students from Briggs High School, who have been part of the LMMM Internship Program for the past three months. We hope you will all be able to attend. The event's general admission is free.

Finally, this summer, the Museum will be open for mini-tours on the following dates:

**June 14, 2014, 12-4 p.m. – during the Pride in the Park event, sponsored by Triangle Community Center**

**June 22, 2014, 12 -4 p.m. – during the LMMM Ice Cream Social event**

**June 28 & 29, 12 – 4 p.m. during the Norwalk Art in the Park event**

On those dates, visitors will be invited to walk throughout the Mansion's period rooms on the first floor and enjoy the beauty and splendor of the Victorian era building for only \$5.

We thank you all for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy R. Brescia  
Chairman of the Board

Susan Gilgore  
Executive Director

## **6. REPORTS**

### A. Buildings – Commissioner Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his building report, dated May 28, 2014 as follows:

Most of the work has been completed on Phase I of the Mansion roof Leak repair project. I will be doing a walk-through in the next week. I have been pushing the Mansion's architect, David Scott Parker Associates, to complete minor changes to the drawings so that we can go out to bid on Phase II work, which I'd like to get completed this summer while it is still warm.

The Mansion elevator and bathroom renovation project has started. During the demolition, they uncovered a junction box and some plumbing in the area that is to be the elevator shaft. The contractor is working with the architects to figure out where/how to re-route these.

Alan Lo and I developed the specifications for the bid package for the remaining window sashes for the Jail (eleven in total). The bid has been issued and the responses are due back this Thursday. I would like the Commission to go ahead and authorize the purchase, allowing Alan and I to select the company, so that we can make the June 4 Land Use Committee meeting. Also, we received five bids for the mortar cleaning, repair and repointing. The low bidder to repair and repoint all of the brick and the fieldstone walls is New England Masonry & Roofing Company. I spoke to them by phone to confirm details regarding their bid and am comfortable with their selection. The City has worked with them before and my Church used them several years ago for an extensive masonry repointing project. Please see the bid sheet.

Tony has installed three of the barn windows on the north side of the building. We are waiting for the two larger windows we ordered to come in for the second floor – hopefully this week. We also installed new motion detector security lighting and cameras. We will begin work on the back side of the barn later this summer which requires extensive wood replacement, five new small windows, a

gutter and downspout, and probably work on the retaining wall next to the barn.

The City is finally starting to get rid of the remaining furniture in the Lockwood House. Tony has gutted the small kitchen, which tony will replace and will finish removing the carpet in the next couple of weeks. I have been working with the Historical Society and an interior designer to choose new interior finishes. I am developing a bid package to include repainting the exterior, cleaning the exterior brick, refinishing the wood floors and repainting the interior. I'd like to have this work completed by the end of the summer. I ordered a 16 camera/channel dvr surveillance system for the Lockwood House for less than \$700. If it works out, I think we will be installing them at some of our other buildings (Health Department, Mill Hill).

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING TO THE LAND USE COMMITTEE AND COMMON COUNCIL REGARDING WINDOW REPLACEMENT AND MASONRY REPOINTING:**

**“AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO (THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER) FOR THE SUPPLY OF 11 NEW WINDOWS AT THE OLD SMITH STREET JAIL FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED (AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED). ACCT #168520-5414.”**

**“AUTHORIZE THE NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO ISSUE INCREASE TO THE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000”.**

**“AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH NEW ENGLAND MASONRY AND ROOFING CO. FOR EXTERIOR MASONRY RESTORATION AT THE OLD SMITH STREET JAIL FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$59,915.00. ACCT #168520-5414.”**

**“AUTHORIZE THE NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00.”**

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

B. Cemeteries – Commissioner Cuzzone

Ms. Cuzzone reported that the cemeteries look great. Aegis completed their work on the headstones. She said that Johnny Pesce's Eagle Scout tombstone restoration project will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Wilson Grant said that Ms. Brown asked her if anyone was doing anything at Pine Island Cemetery during the Norwalk Arts Festival. Ms. Cuzzone said that it was fun when they had actors. She suggested letting the Commission know next year's date. Ms. Cuzzone said that she will ask Ms. Betts if she has a map for self guided tours of the cemetery.

C. Finance – Commissioner Betts

Mr. Westmoreland reported that their finances are fine.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**
- \*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
  
- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY GRANT OF \$22,000 TO THE NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the Norwalk Historical Society is hiring people to do eight different exhibits. They also have a part time Collections Manager who is already on board. Before the end of the year, she will present a five year plan to the Commission.

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Library's goal is to get everything indexed and on line. The City's collection is in Past Perfect. It has a feature where you can upload information directly to the web. He said that the Library is doing a really good job and catalogued all of the photos donated by *The Hour*.

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

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services