

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JUNE 25, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Suzanne Betts; Holly Cuzzone

OTHERS: Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum;
Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – MAY 28, 2014 –
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

- ** **MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2014
AS SUBMITTED**
- ** **MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. BETTS)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Commissioner Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland's report dated June 23, 2014 is as follows:

The Head of the Harbor project is moving forward. We are finalizing the terms in the Smith Street Option Agreement, which I will forward to you by email. We are looking to have either a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on July 8th or a special meeting sometime that week to review and approve the Agreement.

The Redevelopment Agency is funding a project for us to hire a landscape architecture firm to design and develop construction drawings and a full bid package for the area between the barn and jail, which will include ADA access to both the barn and the jail, parking, an ADA ramp to the second floor of the Jail and stairs from the second floor area of the Jail to the top of Mill Hill. DPW is working on a design to replace the retaining wall that holds up East Wall Street, including a new sidewalk from Smith Street up to our driveway at Mill Hill along

East Wall. Once these two designs are completed, we are applying for an Urban Action Grant from the State Office of Economic Development for about \$600k to fund the construction of these improvements, as no other state funding is being sought for the HOH project.

The issue of the Incerto House in the trailers has come up again. Spinnaker has leased the property at Ely Avenue where they are stored so we have to move the trailers asap. Mike Mocciaie has offered a remote corner of the Andrews Parking Lot on County Street. I have not been successful at finding anyone to take the building whole, so I think we are now looking at finding reuses for the pieces. Mike Mocciaie would like to see if they can incorporate some of the wood into the Fodor Farm buildings and several others have inquired about using some of it. Glenn is going to assist in finding a resolution. We will likely have to pay to have the trailers disposed of.

5. REPORTS – BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society – Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette's report dated June 25, 2014 is as follows:

Little Red Schoolhouse Program

The last day for the program was June 16th. All Norwalk Public Schools 3rd grade classes participated. We will be sending out a survey via Survey Monkey to all the 3rd grade teachers to get their feedback on the program.

Lockwood House Update

The exhibit committees have been meeting to plan the exhibits and overall layout. We will be staggering the opening of exhibits starting in late spring, 2015. The kitchen in the Lockwood House has been gutted. We are working with NHC on selecting an architect for the ADA work at Lockwood House.

College Summer Interns

The two college summer interns are working with us on researching information for a couple of the exhibits.

Collections Loan Request

We will be loaning some items to the Lockwood Mathews Mansion for their “Then and Now Industries” exhibit that were in Norwalk.

DiverseCity Juried Art Exhibition

DiverseCity is the second juried art exhibit by the Norwalk Historical Society. The art exhibit highlights the DiverseCity that exists in Norwalk, whether its people, neighborhoods, cultures, or businesses, all make up this unique urban/suburban city. There were over 40 art entries accepted and 23 artists. All the art work is for sale and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Norwalk Historical Society. The show runs through June 29, 2014.

Upcoming Events

Independence Day Celebration – July 4th, 2 – 3 p.m. at Mill Hill. Will do the Bell Ringing Ceremony at the Town House.

Battle of Norwalk Commemorative Day – July 12, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sheldon’s Horse 2nd Regiment Light Dragoons Revolutionary War Encampment and demonstrations. Battle of Norwalk lecture from Ed and Medeleine Eckert.

Breaking Ground at Upper Mill Hill – Work will start on the ADA access to Mill Hill Historic Park.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Patsy Brescia

Ms. Brescia’s report dated June 25, 2014 is as follows:

Dear Commissioners:

Phase II of construction is ongoing and continues to be a challenge for the Museum’s operating budget as we are not able to open fully, or offer licensing events until the completion of the bathrooms in early fall. This has caused a substantial loss of funding.

The City’s roof project has presented some issues and the Building Committee is working to coordinate Phase II along with the roof project.

Despite the challenges, on June 11, Prof. Richard Guy Wilson gave a very successful talk entitled, *Edith Wharton’s Gilded Age: Fiction and Architecture*. This lecture was very well attended and featured in The Hour and media outlets all around the State.

On June 12 we officially opened the Museum for tours. On June 14 we were opened for mini tours during the *Pride in the Park* event and provided electrical support for our friends at the Triangle Community Center. We were rewarded with a full day of tours of the open galleries on the first floor of the Mansion. We will also participate in the Art Festival by offering mini tours on June 28 and 29.

LMMM Staff, Board and Volunteers have successfully launched a *Young Writer's Competition* in Norwalk's Public Schools. LMMM received over 60 stories from 8th and third grade participants.

A new exhibit of watercolors by trustee and artist Mimi Adams Findlay opened on June 18 and will run through October 31. We invite you to come view this wonderful exhibit at your convenience.

On June 22, LMMM successfully held a Victorian Ice Cream Social. A thousand and more children and adults participated in this event and more than 300 new visitors from all corners of Connecticut walked through the first floor of the Mansion.

On July 16, at 11 a.m., urban historian Justin Ferate will give a talk entitled, *Nooks and Crannies of New York City*. Based on his popular tours, this lecture will explore some of New York City's great, but often overlooked, treasures.

We thank you for all your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy R. Brescia
Chairman of the Board

Susan Gilgore, PhD
Executive Director

6. REPORTS

A. Buildings – Commissioner Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland's report dated June 23, 2014 is as follows:

The Mansion Roof Leak Repair project is almost complete. I'm reviewing a change order for \$4k for re-routing of the electrical for the heat trace due to issues with the new elevator shaft. I think they have done a really good job on flashing caulking and re-pointing. The specifications for phase II of the project are supposed to be complete next week finally so those can go out to bid.

The Mansion elevator and bathroom project is well underway. We just received a change order for about \$6k to cover the re-routing of all the electrical and plumbing that was uncovered when the demo was done for the elevator shaft. I am not up to date on what the impacts is to the project schedule.

Tony has completed installing five new windows on the barn. He has moved onto getting the window frames completed for the jail so that the window sashes can be made.

Commissioners Chandler, Cuzzone and Councilman Iannaccone held scope reviews with Gill & Gill architects and O’Riordan Architects for the Lockwood House ADA project. See the bid summaries for discussion. This project will determine what modifications need to be made to comply with current ADA laws including the feasibility and cost of installing an elevator.

REVIEW PROPOSALS AND SELECT ARCHITECTURE FIRM TO DESIGN ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF THE LOCKWOOD HOUSE BUILDING.

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed the firms that submitted proposals for the architectural design services to provide ADA compliant accessibility at the Lockwood House Facility. A discussion ensued.

**** MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH O’RIORDAN MIGANI ARCHITECTS, LLC TO DESIGN ADA INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCKWOOD HOUSE BUILDING FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,500. ACCT#{TO BE PROVIDED}. “ REFER TO LAND USE COMMITTEE.**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000.00.” REFER TO LAND USE COMMITTEE

**** MS. BETTS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Cemeteries – Commissioner Cuzzone

Ms. Cuzzone reported that GPR is taking place on Friday at Pine Island Cemetery. She suggested creating a guide of the historic cemeteries that would include information about people buried there who have historic significance. She said that she will work on this in the fall.

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Boy Scout project at Pine Island Cemetery was completed.

C. **Finance** – Commissioner Betts

Ms. Betts reported that they are at the end of the fiscal year and all of the new balances for the capital accounts will show up next month.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

8. NEW BUSINESS

**** MS. BETTS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. BETTS MOVED TO AWARD THE ANNUAL UTILITY GRANT TO LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR \$45,000 AND THE ONE TIME GRANT OF \$30,000 THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION TO HELP DURING CONSTRUCTION, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014**

**** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO AWARD THE NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE ANNUAL \$7,000 UTILITY GRANT FOR MILL HILL AND THE QUARTERLY MUSEUM GRANT OF \$22,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014**

**** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. BETTS AND MR. WESTMORELAND)**

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services