

CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 27, 2010

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chair; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Joseph Dilorio; Thom Dunlap; John Kurtzman; Clyde Mount; David Westmoreland

STAFF: Susan Gunn-Bromley, Curator

GUESTS: Terry Necciai, John Milner Associates

Call to Order

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes- December 16, 2009

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: delete John Milner under attendance at the November 16th meeting
Page 2: correct Historical Resource Preservation Trust to – Historical Resource Inventory

** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Chairman's Report

A. Presentation of working draft of the Preservation Plan by Mr. Terry Necciai,
Project Director, Preservation Architect, John Milner Associates

Mr. Necciai gave a Power Point presentation showing the nine historic buildings. He said that there are nine very different buildings. He stressed that the issues need to be looked at systemically. Mr. Necciai said that he will come back with a draft. Following his presentation, Mr. Park thanked him and said that he provided a lot of insight.

Mr. Westmoreland asked Mr. Necciai if the second floor of the Town House was sound enough to use for storage. Mr. Necciai said that he did not think it would be much of a problem, but cautioned him about using it for heavy storage under the bell.

B. Discuss and Approve Members of Historical Commission Committee for LMMM Mansion Building Committee Project #2849

Mr. Park explained that a committee needs to be formed that will work with the Trustees of the Mansion. He said that they completed their master plan, which this commission approved. An RFP was put out for the services based on the master plan and 10 proposals were received by the City's purchasing department.

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. BONDI, MR. PARK AND MR. WESTMORELAND TO THE LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION BUILDING COMMITTEE PROJECT #2849
- ** MR. DIORIO SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Park said that the Committee will work with the chosen firm and this will require about two meeting per month at the Mansion.

C. Discuss and Approve Historical Commission 2010 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Park explained that the Commission will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except during the months of November and December because of the holidays.

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED
- ** MR. DUNLAP SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Reports – Boards

Norwalk Historical Society – David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report. He said that they are moving along on their collection inventory and expected that it will be completed by June. They made the decision to retire the permanent exhibit; and interim quilt exhibit is planned for 2011 and a new permanent exhibit for 2012. Mr. Park asked what prompted this. Mr. Westmoreland said that it was to create a change. He added that they have some strong, interesting ideas.

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Historical Society is applying for a grant from the State of Connecticut Culture & Tourism department for the research and design of interpretive signage at Mill Hill. He said that they are requesting that the Historical Commission be a part of that grant request. Mr. Chandler offered to help write the text. Mr. Westmoreland said that they are also asking the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency to partner with them. Mr. Westmoreland said that this grant does not require a commitment in resources.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED THAT THE NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION WILL PARTICIPATE AS A PARTNER WITH THE NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE GRANT REQUEST TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT CULTURE & TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR THE RESEARCH AND DESIGN OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE FOR THE MILL HILL HISTORIC SITE
- ** MR. DIORIO SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Westmoreland said that he would like to get bids to finish painting the Town House, but before he does that, he would like to know if Mr. Mauro would be available to do the wood repair work. Mr. Westmoreland said that the work will cost less than \$10,000. Mr. Park asked him to write the specs. He said that he believes they will be in good shape to work on the Town House in the spring.

Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Chris Cooke

There was no one present from the Mansion this evening.

V. Reports - Sub Committees

A. Buildings – Peter Bondi

1. Discuss and Approve the additional payment of \$5,501.50 to Forino USA

Painting Contractors for work at Mathews Park buildings

Mr. Bondi said that the contractor was not happy with the amount of the final payment and came back with a second invoice for \$5,501.50 which included additional work he did at a cost of \$2,200. The remaining amount of \$3,301.50 was the cost of sanding and wood filler.

2. Discuss and Approve the additional payment of \$2,592,00 to Forino USA Painting Contractors for work at Mathews Park buildings.

Mr. Bondi explained that the contractor claims they did extra work adding filler on the porch.

Mr. Bondi said that he felt that the work should have been included in the original contract. He said that this project went out to competitive bids. He recommended paying \$5,501.50 only and not paying \$2,592.00. Mr. Mount suggested paying half of the \$5,501.50 and nothing on the \$2,592.00. The Commissioners held a discussion about the charges.

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF \$5,501.50 TO FORINO USA PAINTING CONTRACTORS FOR WORK AT MATHEWS PARK BUILDINGS

** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED

** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. KURTZMAN)

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OF \$2,592, 00 TO FORINO USA PAINTING CONTRACTORS FOR WORK AT MATHEWS PARK BUILDINGS

** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED

** MOTION FAILED WITH NONE IN FAVOR AND EIGHT (8) IN OPPOSITION

3. Review progress on Preservation Plan Project

Mr. Park said that he had no further comments.

Cemetery – David Park

Mr. Park reported that he is getting questions about supplies from the Eagle Scout who is working on the Brookside Cemetery. He said that the contract has been issued for the Mill Hill Cemetery.

Finance- Kathryn Martino

Mr. Bondi said that he attended the capital budget hearing and the requested amount was increased to \$33,000.

Norwalk Museum – Eric Chandler

Mr. Chandler reported that since last month, the Museum had 158 visitors, which is a little less than the sports exhibit was drawing. He said that Mr. Bondi told him that the exhibit has been disassembled.

Mr. Chandler reported that the side room is being cleaned out and that a lot of items were organized and boxed. File cabinets have been ordered and Ms. Gunn-Bromley has plans for Mr. Mauro to build a movable wall in the gift shop for displays.

VI. Museum Curator's and Assistant to the Historical Commission Report

Mr. Park said that there was no report this month.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Kurtzman asked about the Silvermine Tavern. Mr. Westmoreland said that they are still operating the bed and breakfast and renting out for special events.

VIII. New Business

Election of Officers

Mr. Westmoreland nominated David Park for chairman. Hearing no others, the nominations for chairman was closed.

** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO ELECT DAVID PARK CHAIRMAN
** MR. MOUNT SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Chandler nominated Peter Bondi as Vice Chairman. Hearing no others, the nominations for Vice Chairman was closed.

** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ELECT PETER BONDI VICE CHAIRMAN

** MR. DUNLAP SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services