

CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 16, 2009

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi, Eric  
Chandler; Thom Dunlap;  
Kathryn Martino; David Westmoreland; Clyde Mount  
(7:06 p.m.);  
Joe Dilorio (7:11 p.m.)

OTHERS: Sam Oster. Eagle Scout; Mary Oster; Chris Cooke,  
Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – November 18, 2009

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: Last sentence should read – He said that he will provide a copy  
to Mr. Mount

Page 2: Third paragraph, last sentence should read – Mr. Westmoreland  
asked Mr. Park to let him know...

Page 3: Fourth paragraph, last sentence should read – Mr. Westmoreland  
said that it would be helpful if John Milner & Associates would start giving  
information building by building.

Mr. Mount joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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Commission

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Historical

Mr. Park reported that he and Mr. Westmoreland, along with the Norwalk Preservation Trust are working on the Historical Resource Inventory list. They are also working on an RFP and expect to receive a grant for \$20,000.

\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO THE AGENDA  
\*\* MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

\*\* MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO ALLOW MR. PARK AND MR. WESTMORELAND, WORKING WITH THE NORWALK PRESERVATION TRUST AND WITH INPUT FROM MR. BRYANT AND MS. GUNN TO PURSUE AN RFP FOR THE HISTORICAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION TRUST  
\*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Dilorio joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER  
\*\* MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### REPORTS – SUB-COMMITTEES

##### A. CEMETERY

Mr. Park said that the Common council approved the funding for the restoration of headstones at Mill Hill Cemetery.

1. DISCUSS AND APPROVE SAM OSTER BOY SCOUT TROUP 2 EAGLE PROJECT FOR BROOKSIDE CEMETERY

Mr. Westmoreland introduced Sam Oster and explained that he has been working on a proposal to do work at the Brookside Cemetery in Rowayton.

Mr. Oster presented his proposal. He said that he and his Mother went to the Cemetery and took pictures. He said that a lot of the headstones

need to be sprayed to remove moss and a lot of them need to be re-set. Mr. Oster said that there is a lot of overgrowth which covers some of the headstones. He suggested placing a sign showing that it is a cemetery and putting in a path of woodchips.

Mr. Park said that about two years ago a few parking spaces were created using crushed stone. He added that there is a thick wood chip path at the base of the Cemetery. Mr. Bondi asked Mr. Oster if he received approval for this project from his Troop. Mr. Oster said that he did. He said that this is going to be a Troop project that will include family members along with other volunteers from the community. The project will take place in the early or late spring. Mr. Westmoreland said that he will be working alongside them to straighten the stones and remove the growth.

\*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE SAM OSTER BOY SCOUT TROUP 2  
EAGLE PROJECT FOR BROOKSIDE CEMETERY IN ROWAYTON  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Park thanked Mr. Oster for taking on this project.

#### REPORTS – BOARDS

##### A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report. He said that although they are running the dehumidifier, the underside of the shingles were wet. Mr. Westmoreland said that they need to do something, but he is not sure what to do. Mr. Bondi said that the attic is not vented, which could create condensation.

##### B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

There was no representative from the Mansion present this evening.

Mr. Westmoreland asked if the RFP has been issued for the Mansion project. Mr. Park said that it has been issued.

#### REPORTS – SUB-COMMITTEES

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A. BUILDINGS

1. REVIEW MATHEWS PARK PAINTING PROJECT

Mr. Bondi reported that the painting project has been completed. He said that in the spring they will probably paint the little bathroom building to match the others.

2. REVIEW PROGRESS ON PRESERVATION PLAN PROJECT

Mr. Bondi reported that he met with two structural engineers and the architect from John Milner. The structural engineers went through the Gate House and expressed concern with how the braces were removed from the Carriage House during the 1970's.

Mr. Bondi said that they looked at the Town House building and how the bell tower is standing. Mr. Westmoreland said that the bell tower has been there since 1836. Mr. Bondi said that they looked at the Little Red Schoolhouse and noted some rot in the corners. They looked at the Barn and saw that it has a steel support beam.

Mr. Bondi said that they were at Mill Hill for about eight hours going through the different buildings. A draft of their findings will be provided.

Mr. Park said that an RFP for the design of services for Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum has been issued.

Mr. Bondi reported that the roof at the Gate Lodge, over the bay window has been repaired.

Mr. Chandler told Mr. Bondi that he did a good job.

REPORTS – SUB-COMMITTEES – (continued)

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A. CEMETERY

Mr. Bondi reported that a tree fell at Comstock Cemetery and was in danger of damaging some headstones. Parks and Recreation staff removed the tree. Mr. Westmoreland said that he was grateful to Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Mauro is building the railing for the Gardner's Cottage.

B. FINANCE

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE FY 200-2011 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Bondi suggested requesting \$5,000 for Mill Hill for repairs on the Fitch Law Office roof. The Commissioners reviewed the budgets for capital improvement projects. The prioritized the projects in the following order:

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Norwalk Museum           | \$13,000        |
| 2. Mill Hill                | \$ 5,000        |
| 3. Lockwood Mathews Mansion | <u>\$ 5,000</u> |
|                             | \$23,000        |

Mr. Bondi said that he would like to add \$10,000 to the Operating budget for one part time assistant. The Commissioners discussed the cost savings to the City as a result of Commissioners and staff working on various projects.

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 200-2011 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AS DISCUSSED
- \*\* MR. BONDI SECONDED
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. NORWALK MUSEUM

Mr. Chandler reported that they had 123 visitors to the Museum between December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. He said that was very good. The sports exhibit will come down in January and later in the month they will clean out the

office and re-establish the gift shop. They will then be able to use the main room as an exhibit space.

Mr. Chandler asked Mr. Dilorio if they could talk about creating a movable Plexiglas base for an existing barrier.

The next exhibit will be an art exhibit.

Mr. Bondi reported that the first SoNo Stroll took place on Sunday. They collected quite a lot of clothing for the Shelter. The Roton Point video was shown at the Library and about 100 people attended, which filled the entire room. The video sells for \$25.00 plus tax with \$5.00 going to the Museum.

MUSEUM CURATOR'S AND ASSISTANT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
REPORT

Mr. Park said that Ms. Gunn e-mailed her report to the Commissioners a few days ago and it is self explanatory.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bondi announced that Mr. Ed Isaacs donated a flag for the Museum to replace the one that was stolen.

A. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM (continued)

Mr. Cooke explained that attendance at the Mansion is up. They are getting great press from their public relations person. Rentals are down. At last count, they have seven vacancies on their Board of trustees. They are looking for people who can bring something to the Mansion such as money, prestige and talent.

Mr. Cooke reported that the first floor restoration is relatively complete. They put out an RFP for design, but due to budgetary constraints, they are short. Mr. Cooke said that they are happy with Mr. Gerarden and their volunteers, but there are not enough of them.

Mr. Cooke said that they received a grant from the Ambler Trust for Mr. Gerarden's salary for the next two years, but it has to be matched. He said that the electric and heating bills are huge; that is a challenge they face every year. He said that the Mansion is in good shape. Currently it is nicely decorated. It closes down for the winter on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Cooke reported that the windows are all painted and look fantastic. Wallpaper has been ordered. It is manufactured in France and will look exactly like the original paper. It will cost about \$15 - \$20,000 to hang. Mr. Bondi said that the rest of the exterior metal work on the windows has to be painted.

Mr. Chandler said that this is the end of Mr. Bondi's and Mr. Westmoreland's terms. He said that they did a great job. Mr. Park thanked them for their service on the Commission.

\*\* MS. MARTINO MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services