

DRAFT

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
APRIL 22, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Joe DiIorio;
Thom Dunlap; John Kurtzman; LaTanya Langley;
Kathryn Martino; Steven Serasis (7:08 p.m.)

GUESTS: David Westmoreland, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – March 25, 2009

** **MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
** **MR. BONDI SECONDED**

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2: Norwalk Historical Society, second sentence should read: *He said that the Historical Society was very grateful.*

** **MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MR. KURTZMAN; MS. LANGLEY; MS. MARTINO)**

Mr. Serasis joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. APPROVE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR "PRESERVATION PLAN" RFP. MEMBERS TO INCLUDE; GERALD FOLEY, SUSAN GUNN-BROMLEY, PETER BONDI AND DAVID PARK

Mr. Park explained the item and said that it has been out to bid for a while. The plan is to hire an architectural architect to check the condition of all of the historic buildings and provide a recommendation for preventative maintenance. They are expecting to get 10 – 15 replies.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**
**** MS. MARTINO SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. SERASIS)**

A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Westmoreland read the Norwalk Historical Society Report to the Norwalk Historical Commission dated April 22, 2009.

The Town House opens for the season on May 3rd with a lecture at 2:00 p.m.

Making Silent Souls Speak: Digging Up the Past at Pine Island Cemetery by Holly Cuzzone

The NHS will host an open house on Memorial Day from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will include:

- Tours of the 1826 Schoolhouse and the c1740 Governor Fitch Law Office with costumed re-enactors
 - *Norwalk, Memorial Day and the Civil War* lecture by Madeleine Eckert
 - Presentation of the Sword of legendary fallen Civil War hero Col. Albert H. Wilcoxson of Norwalk by Members of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 6, F. & A. M.
 - Musical performances by member of the Crystal Theater.
1. The Society wishes to thank the Commission for their assistance with procuring and installing the new air-conditioning systems in the Town House
 2. The Society is appreciative of the efforts of the Commission to coordinate the procurement and installation of the new Schoolhouse windows with our Little Red Schoolhouse program.
 3. The Society has received a grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism for inventorying our collection in support of our strategic goal to rationalize our collection. The Society is seeking qualified volunteers to serve on our Collections Committee.

Mr. Park asked Mr. Westmoreland to provide the dates of the Little Red Schoolhouse programs in order to coordinate the window installation.

B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION

There was no one present from the Mansion this evening.

REPORTS – SUB COMMITTEES

A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Bondi reported that the Preservation Plan was moving forward. Mr. Lo is finalizing the RFP to paint the buildings in Mathews Park and it should be ready to go out next week. The Little Red Schoolhouse window installation project is coming along. Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Mauro is working on the veranda at Mathews Mansion. Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Mauro proposed making the posts for the veranda using mahogany. He said that other smaller repairs were being done at the Mansion, prior to the painting.

Mr. Bondi reported that Leslie Nolan, from Contemporary Printing spoke to him about the bushes in front of their building. The Parks and Recreation Department came up with a plan and are moving forward with that.

Mr. Bondi reported that this building was bought by the Fred French Company and they are working with Ms. Gunn-Bromley to do a lot of repairs to this building. They are going to paint the front façade and install security cameras. Mr. Bondi said that they will work together to hang banners in front of the building.

Mr. Park asked Mr. Bondi if Mr. Lo indicated what prices he expects to get back for the exterior painting project. Mr. Bondi said that he did not, but expects the cost will fall within their budget.

Mr. Kurtzman asked if the mahogany bases were going to be milled. He said that in his experience that would not last as long as longitudinal grain. He added that it should be sealed afterwards. Mr. Bondi said that he will talk to Mr. Mauro about sealing the pillars.

Mr. Park said that the windows were delivered later than expected, which interferes with the Little Red Schoolhouse program; however, the vendor will install temporary Plexiglas windows so that there will be no interference with the program.

B. CEMETERY

1. APPROVE 2009 PINE ISLAND CEMETERY TOUR FOR NORWALK ARTS COMMISSION “PARTY IN THE PARK” EVENT OF JUNE 20, 2009

Mr. Park said that he was asking for approval for this item. He explained that the Pine Island Cemetery tour will be in conjunction with the Arts Commission “Party in the Park”. There will be 11 actors dressed in period costume in the Cemetery; there will also be tables set up at each entrance to the Cemetery. They are working on producing hand outs that will explain the history of the Cemetery. Ms. Cuzzone and Ms. Lard will be there that day. They have been very helpful with researching the history of Pine Island Cemetery. Mr. Park said that they are looking for additional volunteers.

Mr. Park said that they had a successful clean up of Pine Island Cemetery last Monday. Mr. Musach showed up with a cleaning crew; they installed two entranceways from Mathews Park and fixed several headstones. Another clean up is scheduled for April 27th at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Park said that most of the work has already been done.

Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Musach wants to put up signs at Pine Island Cemetery that mimic the sign at the Crescent Street entrance. He would like the sign to show that it was established in 1708. Mr. Park suggested adding that the Cemetery is closed from dusk to dawn.

Mr. Bondi announced that his father donated 125 flags to be placed at the graves for Memorial Day. He also donated a full size flag.

Mr. Bondi said that two of the new Volunteers at the Museum agreed to play parts, but they are still looking for 3-4 more re-enactors for the Party in the Park event. Mr. Park said that the re-enactors will be provided with biographies of the people they are portraying. Mr. Bondi said that this will bring awareness of the Pine Island Cemetery.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**
**** MR. DUNLAP SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. FINANCE

Ms. Martino reported that she is working on getting the final amount from the Rogers Ritch Merritt House account. Mr. Bondi said that there is approximately \$28,000 left in the account that is available to the Commission. He said that they hope to use it for repairs to the exterior of the Town House.

D. NORWALK MUSEUM

1. APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOUR PUBLISHING, PEDIMENT PUBLISHING AND THE NORWALK MUSEUM FOR PHOTOS USED IN PROPOSED BOOK FOR PUBLICATION UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES

Mr. Chandler reported that Pedmont Publishing creates books of historical photographs and they want to do one of Norwalk. They want access to the photograph archives in this building. Mr. Park said that he sent copies of the contract to everyone for their review.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED THE ITEM**

Ms. Langley asked who owned the rights to the photographs. Mr. Bondi said that the organization owns all of the rights to the images. Ms. Langley said that the organization is not defined. Mr. Chandler read the Agreement. Ms. Langley said that the Commission should be compensated if the publisher makes a profit. Ms. Langley offered to let her

Intellectual Property team look at the Agreement. Mr. Park said that he did not think of this as a money making issue. Ms. Langley said that this is about protecting the historical value of the photographs.

**** MS. LANGLEY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

2. APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOUR PUBLISHING, PEDIMENT PUBLISHING AND THE NORWALK MUSEUM FOR PHOTOS USED IN PROPOSED BOOK FOR PUBLICATION *UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES*

Mr. Chandler said that he believed the publisher already scanned the photographs. Ms. Langley said that the Commission needs an acknowledgement from them that the Commission has ownership of the photographs.

**** MR. KURTZMAN SECONDED THE MOTION AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Chandler reported that the Danbury Historical Society gave him a green glass bottle that was marked Grumman.

Mr. Chandler said that the quilts from the Osborne family are here for ascension into the collection. One is a quilt and the other is a coverlet.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A QUILT AND COVERLET FROM THE OSBORNE FAMILY
** MS. LANGLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Serasis suggested doing a press release about the quilts. He said that the Children's Foundation is working on a quilting project which brings children and seniors together. He suggested bringing these quilts to their site. Mr. Bondi added that it would be nice for the seniors and kids to see the quilts, since they are working on a quilting project.

Mr. Bondi reported that the sports exhibit is moving along well. He met with George Albano, the sportswriter at *The Hour* who is very excited about this exhibit.

Mr. Bondi reported that a banner was designed for the front of the Museum. Mr. Park said that he wants to make the front of the building more welcoming to people going by.

Mr. Bondi, Mr. Chandler and Mr. Park met with Stepping Stones Museum because they are having a Day of Play in the fall and some of it may transfer over to the sports exhibit. Mr. Chandler noted that Mr. Correnty has a lot of information about local sports.

**MUSEUM CURATOR'S AND ASSISTANT TO THE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. Park said that the report was sent to everyone prior to the meeting. Mr. Chandler said that Ms. Gunn-Bromley has lined up pirate re-enactors for the May 3rd book signing event. He said that the book focuses on buried treasure.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Serasis said that he has the application and information about lowering the electric bill.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Park talked about creating a time sheet for the part time handyman position. The time sheet would be used to keep track of what he accomplishes during the week. Mr. Bondi suggested talking to the Personnel Department first. He noted that the handyman works on so many projects that it is hard to keep track of them. Ms. Gunn-Bromley is the point person and using a time sheet would allow her to schedule him for efficiently. Mr. Bondi noted that he does the work; they simply need to know where he is. Mr. Park said that the handyman is always reachable by phone. Mr. Serasis asked if City Hall uses swipe cards. Mr. Bondi said that they do not. Mr. Park said that he will create a draft time sheet and will ask the Personnel Department for an opinion.

- ** **MS. LANGLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** **MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services