

CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JUNE 23, 2010

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chair; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Thom Dunlap; Kathryn Martino; Clyde Mount; David Westmoreland;
Charles Yost; John Kurtzman (6:05 p.m.)

GUESTS: Mimi Findlay, Chris Cooke; Shelly Gerarden, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - May 26, 2010

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

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Correct spelling of Petrucelli throughout.

Page 6: third paragraph, last sentence should read: Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Foley will contact the painters to rectify the problem.

Last sentence should read: He reported that they are getting highway signage at the Museum.

Page 7: second paragraph, second sentence should read: He said that he believes that Ms. Gunn-Bromley and Mr. Bondi are the most knowledgeable...

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION, LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM CONTRACT
REVIEW
REVIEW OF MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK MASTER PLAN

- ** MR. YOST MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- ** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. with the following Commissioners and guests present:

Mr. Park, Mr. Bondi; Mr. Chandler; Mr. Dunlap; Ms. Martino; Mr. Mount; Mr. Westmoreland; Mr. Yost; Ms. Findlay; Mr. Cooke.

Mr. Kurtzman joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

The Commissioners and guests came out of Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO TAKE THE ITEM OFF THE TABLE
- ** MR. BONDI SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- ** MR. MOUNT MOVED TO APPROVE HIRING DAVID SCOTT PARKER FOR PROJECT #2849 ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM AT A COST OF \$299,875.

FUNDING WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:
10% FROM THE NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S ELEVATOR ACCOUNT, 10% FROM THE SPRINKLER ACCOUNT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE \$500,000 STATE GRANT

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. BONDI)

REVIEW OF MILL HILL HISTORIC PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Park explained that copies of the Master Plan were e-mailed to everyone about a month ago.

REPORTS – BOARDS

NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Westmoreland distributed and reviewed his written report. He explained that they hired an intern from Southern Connecticut State University who is working on her PhD. He said that they had a great Little Red Schoolhouse program; it was attended by close to 600 third grade students.

Mr. Westmoreland reported that Mr. Bloom's sale of his personal collection at the Town House was very successful. He donated a portion of his proceeds to the Historical Society. Patrons purchased items and then donated them back to the Historical Society.

Mr. Westmoreland said that at next month's meeting, he will submit a plan on how the Historical Society proposes to use the jailhouse. He said that if it comes to a vote, he will recuse himself from that vote.

LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

There was no report made this evening.

REPORTS – SUB COMMITTEE

BUILDINGS

Mr. Bondi reported that a fire took place early Saturday morning at the Smith Street jail. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. He described the damages. The City of Norwalk's Risk Manager will go to the site on Friday with the insurance adjuster to assess the damages. Mr. Lo is going to head up this project. Mr. Bondi said that the architectural firm

has been notified and said that they are willing to help in any way possible.

Mr. Bondi said that Ms. Gunn-Bromley found the old plans from the 1970's showing renovation plans. Mr. Mauro's workshop in the basement was not damaged. Mr. Park thanked Mr. Bondi for being at the site so early in the morning on the day of the fire.

Mr. Park said that he received a call from Mayor Moccia about the use of the jailhouse. Mr. Dunlap asked if the Commission was going to continue to rent the jailhouse to residential tenants.

Mr. Park said that this question has come up in the past. He said that he understands that between the Mayor, the Law Department and the Finance Department that they would prefer not to rent it to residential tenants. He added that the Mill Hill master plan suggests utilizing the building.

Mr. Yost left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Mr. Park said that it was suggested that the two apartments could be used for Historical Society activities, which is an idea that is supported by the Mill Hill master plan. Mr. Kurtzman said that this is a good opportunity to convert the jailhouse space and use it for exhibits such as a wax museum. The Commissioners agreed to wait to the next meeting before making any decisions about the space.

Mr. Park asked Mr. Westmoreland to send his proposal to the Commissioners prior to next month's meeting.

Mr. Westmoreland said that Mr. Mauro did a great job of securing the jailhouse following the fire.

CEMETERY

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the remaining restoration work at Mill Hill will be completed by the end of the month. He said that he met with the Eagle Scout and the cemetery clean up is scheduled for August.

Mr. Westmoreland left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

FINANCE

There was no report this evening.

NORWALK MUSEUM

Mr. Chandler said that he wanted to address Mr. Park's e-mail regarding approval of new exhibits. He said that there is nothing in the Museum Management Policy and Code of Ethics about the Commission being required to approve Museum exhibits.

Mr. Park agreed that there is nothing in that document, but said that Committee work has to go to the full Commission for approvals. He said that he read the minutes from the past three years, and it has been done that way for other exhibits. Mr. Park said that he feels that the Museum Committee is creating good projects, but the full Commission needs to vote on those projects.

Mr. Bondi said that they need to vote on the policy. He said that they try to follow the policies and procedures; this is their Bible. He said that if it is the consensus of the Commission that they should vote to approve new exhibits, then they need to change the policy. Mr. Chandler and Mr. Park agreed.

Mr. Bondi said that he will create the wording necessary to change the policy and will bring that to the next meeting.

MUSEUM CURATOR'S AND ASSISTANT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Park said that copies of the report were made available to the Commissioners and is self-explanatory. He said that the Commission should be getting an accounting of the sales in the gift shop. Mr. Chandler said that he will address this with Ms. Gunn-Bromley.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this evening.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

