

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
OCTOBER 28, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Joe DiIorio;
John Kurtzman; Kathryn Martino; David Westmoreland;
Charles Yost; Thom Dunn (8:02 p.m.)

OTHERS: Doug Peoples, Pogany Street; William Silver, Silver/Petrucci
Architects

I. Call to order

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes- September 23, 2009

The following correction was made to the minutes of September 23, 2009:

Page 5, first paragraph: renew should be corrected to read redo.

**** MR. YOST MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MR. BONDI SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. CHANDLER
AND MR. WESTMORELAND)**

III. Chairman's Report

Mr. Park announced that the November meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 18th and the December meeting to Wednesday, December 16th.

IV. Reports – Boards

A. Norwalk Historical Society – David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland distributed his written report. He said that the annual fundraiser that took place last week went well. Their Executive Director submitted her resignation and they hired Samantha Kulish as the Director of Education Programs and Laura Macaluso as the Director of Collections Inventory Project. Mr. Bondi noted that Ms. Macaluso would be very good.

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the Historical Society has items that are on loan, but have not been well documented. He said that as part of their Collections Inventory

Project, they are going to be asking the Norwalk Museum to identify items that belong to the Museum.

A. Silver/Petrucci Architects of Hamden, CT, architectural peer review presentation of 25 Pogony Street (Fodor Farm). Review and approve architectural plans presented by the property owner, Doug Peoples of 25 Pogony Street, as it relates to the requirements of the deed restriction and required by the city of Norwalk. (Declaration of Protective Covenants and Building Restrictions).

Mr. Silver presented drawings of the floor plan. Mr. Park explained that this Commission is looking at the exterior of the building. Mr. Silver said that the exterior is affected by the interior. He said that this Commission can accept or reject the exterior addition. Mr. Silver said that the addition would be in compliance. The front porch will be restored. The home was built in a classic farmhouse style. Mr. Kurtzman said that he believes that the home was originally built as a rental house.

Mr. Silver said that the new approach to the home is quite elegant. They are keeping the same footprint. He added that the changes are tasteful.

Mr. Park asked if the addition would be allowed by the Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Silver said that it would be. The entrance on the bedroom level style does not need to be restored. He said that the plans created by Gill & Gill are appropriate.

Mr. Kurtzman said that he has original spindles and will give them to Gill & Gill.

Mr. Park asked about colors, siding, trim and the roof.

Mr. Yost asked about the deed restrictions.

Mr. Westmoreland said that technically the footprint is not being expanded, but the roofline is being expanded.

Mr. Peoples said that they are keeping the stone wall in the back. There is a lot of ledge there. He said that the house will be white on white. Mr. Bondi asked if he had done a color analysis. Mr. Peoples said that he did not; but if he did another color, it would be a light color, not a dark color.

Mr. Westmoreland asked Mr. Peoples if he was replacing wood with wood. Mr. Peoples said that he is putting in white metal storm windows. Mr. DiIorio asked if there was a restriction on what type of window could be used. Mr. Bondi said that he can't use vinyl windows. Mr. Peoples said that he did not necessarily want storm windows.

Mr. Yost asked for a description of the deed restriction. Mr. Park read the standards. Mr. Park told Mr. Peoples that if he makes any major changes to the property, including landscaping, he needs to come before this Commission.

Mr. Peoples said that he is trying to keep the house as is, but livable. Mr. DiIorio asked Mr. Peoples if he experienced any hardships. Mr. Peoples said that this is what he wanted; he did not want a large house. He said that Gill & Gill took his idea and he is happy. Mr. Peoples said that he was very pleased with the design for the front stairs. Mr. Westmoreland said that the only thing that might be scrutinized would be the front steps, but the design is a good solution.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE ARCHITECTURAL PLANS PRESENTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER, DOUG PEOPLES OF 25 POGANY STREET, AS IT RELATES TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEED RESTRICTION AND REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF NORWALK. (DECLARATION OF PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AND BUILDING RESTRICTIONS).**

**** MR. BONDI SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Peoples said that his will be the first property done.

B. Update and discussion of Mill Hill Historic Park Master Plan

There was no update.

C. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Chris Cooke

There was no representative from the Mansion present this evening.

I. Reports - Sub Committees

A. Buildings – Peter Bondi

Mr. Bondi reported that the Gate Lodge has been painted and work is being done on the Carriage House. The windows were stripped down to bare wood using a chemical stripper. The final coat of paint looks very smooth.

Mr. Bondi said that they hope to start work at the Mansion soon, but the rainy weather is a problem. He said that Mr. Westmoreland called him, because he believes that someone may be living in the Barn. He asked Mr. Mauro to investigate.

Mr. Park said that Mr. Mauro was taken off of the school house window project to make repairs at the Mansion. He has to go back to the school house to finish the project.

Mr. DiIorio said that a small strip over the window seam should be installed to keep the plaster from becoming damaged. Mr. Kurtzman said that was a good idea, because the plaster expands and contracts. Mr. Westmoreland agreed. Mr. DiIorio said that the windows need to be caulked.

B. Cemetery – David Park

Mr. Park said that the deadline is tomorrow for the Mill Hill Burial Ground restoration RFP. He and Mr. Westmoreland will be at the Purchasing Department tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. He said that Mr. Westmoreland did a great job putting the specs together. Mr. Park said that 38 headstones need to be restored. He said that the RFPs will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Commission at the November meeting.

Mr. Westmoreland said that an Eagle Scout candidate will be working on straightening tombstones.

C. Finance- Kathryn Martino

1. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget

Ms. Martino asked if anyone has any projects. She said that she will be meeting with Ms. Gunn later in the month.

2. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budgets

Mr. Park said that the balance of the Rogers Ritch Merritt House money has not been forthcoming so far. He said that they need to paint three sides of the exterior of the Town House, which he believes will cost \$10,000.

There is a balance in the HVAC account for the Town House that Mr. Park would like switched to electrical upgrades. Lighting for Pine Island has a \$6,000 balance which Mr. Park would like switched to Pine Island restoration. Mr. Westmoreland said that he would like to create handicap access to the Town house along with handicap access restrooms. Mr. Park said that the preservation plan will address those. Ms. Martino said that they could list those items for future years.

D. Norwalk Museum – Eric Chandler

Mr. Chandler reported that the sports exhibit has been very popular. He said that they held a race car day a few weeks ago. Mr. Chandler said that he was not sure what the visitorship was last month, but said that Ms. Gunn told him that it was up, largely due to the sports exhibit. There is a plethora of new volunteers. A few Raggedy Ann dolls were purchased from the Gift Shop.

Mr. Chandler said that they are working on rack cards to advertise the Museum. Mr. Bondi said that they are advertising the Museum in a few different programs.

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

The written report was distributed.

III. Old Business

There was no old business.

IV. New Business

Mr. Dunn joined the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS:**
- MR. WILLIAM ASADORIAN – NORWALK POTTERY**
- MR. GENE AND MRS. THEODORA BERKOWITZ – 1892 CIRCULAR KNITTING MACHINE**
- 1951 FRANCIS WOODS DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
- MR. AND MRS. SIBISKIE – DEVINE'S MILK BOX AND SEVERAL TOOLS**
- PHOTOGRAPHS FROM RACE CAR DRIVERS**
- ** MS. MARTINO SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MR. BONDI SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services