

CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 18, 2009

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Thom Dunlap; John Kurtzman; Kathryn Martino; Clyde Mount; David Westmoreland; Charles Yost  
OTHERS: John Milner, John Milner & Associates

Call to Order

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes- October 28, 2009

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: correct Mr. Dunlap's name

Page 2: first sentence should read "they are going to be working with the Norwalk Museum to identify items that belong to the Museum and complete new loan forms as necessary"

Page 4: under Cemetery – second paragraph, add the following "at Brookside Cemetery in spring 2010"

\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED  
\*\* MR. BONDI SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MOUNT)

Chairman's Report

Review Update of Mill Hill Historic Park Master Plan Phase I

Mr. Park explained that the final draft of Phase I was e-mailed to everyone. He said that this is not the final Master Plan. He asked for comments from the Commissioners, including the page number. He said that he provide a copy to Mr. Mount.

## Reports – Boards

### Norwalk Historical Society – David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed his written report. He said that they did a big clean up at the Mill Hill properties. The trash by the Town House will be removed next week. Mr. Westmoreland reported that the sump pump for the dehumidifier was replaced. A second dehumidifier was placed in the attic to help with the mold and mildew problem. He added that everything was cleaned out of the attic and they will see what happens.

Mr. Westmoreland said that when they moved some items in the Law Office, they noticed that the plaster in the bedroom had started to peel back in three or four places. He said that it looks like that can be from moisture and that he hopes the dehumidifier will help.

Mr. Westmoreland said that the School House is being prepared for Mr. Mauro to begin working on the windows. Mr. Park asked Mr. Westmoreland to let him know when Mr. Mauro is ready to go there.

### Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum – Chris Cooke

Mr. Park noted that Mr. Cooke was not present again this evening.

## Reports - Sub Committees

### Buildings – Peter Bondi

#### Review Mathews Park Painting Project

Mr. Bondi reported that they are in the process of replacing the little roof above the bay window. Mr. Mauro has to fix four more small windows at the Carriage House and then will begin painting.

Mr. Bondi said that the painting project at the Mansion is approximately 70% finished. They have to finish the third floor windows and the turret and then paint under the porte-cochere. Mr. Bondi said that the windows look good and are nice and smooth. This will make the job easier the next time they need to be painted because they will not have to make as

many wood repairs. Mr. Westmoreland said that the Carriage House looks great.

Mr. Bondi said that they need to get a price for painting the building in front of the Gate Lodge that is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department. The paint color needs to match the building.

Mr. Bondi reported that the porte-cochere, at the main entrance to the Mansion has dropped 3-4 inches and they have to try to figure a way to jack it up. There are a few engineers who will look at it.

#### Review Progress on Preservation Plan Project

Mr. Bondi reported that the Preservation Plan is moving forward with John Milner & Associates. They are coming up with a plan of what to address and how to make the repairs historically correct. Mr. Park said that he brought Mr. Milner's proposal with him. He said that the Plan has been a long time in coming. He added that the Plan will be used when they are creating capital requests.

Mr. Westmoreland asked if the Commissioners will be provided with drafts, because he said that he wants to be able to give input on the Plan. Mr. Park said that he will review the Plan again to see what the deliverables are. Mr. Westmoreland said that it would be helpful if they could start giving John Milner & Associates information building by building.

Ms. Martino asked if there is an indication of what the Plan will show. Mr. Park said that they have been interviewing the tenants and also getting input from Ms. Gunn and Mr. Bondi. Mr. Bondi added that they are also being provided with archival photographs.

#### Cemetery – David Park

Mr. Park reported that he received an e-mail from Tim Carney, Boy Scout Troop 19 letting him know that they completed the clean up at the Kellogg and Brookside cemeteries. Mr. Westmoreland said that they did a great job cleaning the cemeteries.

Review and Approve the proposal of Aegis Restauro, LLC of Belle Mead, New Jersey for the monument conservation of 38 headstones at Mill Hill Burying Grounds, 2 East Wall Street for a total cost of \$29,200.

Mr. Park said that there is \$40,000 in the capital budget to pay for the conservation of the headstones. Mr. Westmoreland wrote the specifications for the restoration using the 2002 MCC report for reference. They received three responses and the low bidder was Aegis Restauro, LLC. The other bids were from Conserve Art, LLC for \$79,600 and Monument Conservation Collaborative for \$88,750.

Mr. Park said that there was a big discrepancy between the low and high bidders. The references for Aegis Restauro were called and they all checked out; there were no complaints or issues from the four references, which included government references. Mr. Westmoreland said that he had a question about the chemicals they use for restoration and they answered his question to his satisfaction.

Mr. Westmoreland said that he was familiar with MCC and they are similar in terms of experience, but they were the highest bidder. Aegis' references were impeccable and they answered all of his questions. He added that her responses were more thorough and had a higher standard of care than the other two conservators. He added that each person submitted an individual resume and they are all highly qualified.

Mr. Park said that he had long conversations with their references and they were also the low bidder on those jobs. He added that he was told that they followed through on the specs.

Mr. Westmoreland said that they have very tight specifications and very specific treatments that they will have to do with each stone. Mr. Chandler said that he wants to be sure that the language of the work order is reviewed by Mr. Westmoreland before it comes out of City Hall. Mr. Park explained that in the proposal, they will have a supervisor on site at all times. In addition he and Mr. Westmoreland will be there too. Mr. Westmoreland said that they have to have a Conservator there. Mr. Chandler said that he was happy with that.

- \*\* MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL OF AEGIS RESTAURO, LLC OF BELLE MEAD, NEW JERSEY FOR THE MONUMENT CONSERVATION OF 38 HEADSTONES AT MILL HILL BURYING GROUNDS, 2 EAST WALL STREET FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$29,200
- \*\* MR. BONDI SECONDED
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Westmoreland for his work on this.

Finance- Kathryn Martino

Review and Approve FY 2010-2011 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Mr. Park said that a meeting will be held to discuss this further and will be prepared for the December meeting. He added that the budget is due to the City on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bondi said that they need to discuss the funds that are left over. He said that he hopes to get the Rogers Ritch Merritt House account finalized.

Mr. Park said that the RFP for the Mansion has not been put out yet. He said that it has been a long process and it looks like on the seventh draft the Mansion is agreeing on the language. The RFP design is for services at the Mansion and is based on the Master Plan. Mr. Westmoreland noted that the Mansion has to get this issued; they have had the funding available to them for years.

Norwalk Museum – Eric Chandler

Mr. Chandler reported that 174 people signed in since the last meeting, three weeks ago. He said that Ms. Gunn feels that attendance is down because the front of the building has been blocked off. Sales in the Gift Shop were negligible; no one is buying because of the poor economy.

Mr. Chandler said that the Piedmont book, "Norwalk – Images of the Past" arrived and the cost is \$49.95

Mr. Bondi said that the Museum will participate in the SoNo Stroll on December 13<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hagen resurrected the video dedicated to Rowayton and booked the Library. The video can be promoted in the Gift Shop. Mr. Bondi said that he would like to see an increase in advertisement for the Gift Shop for Christmas gifts.

Mr. Park said that based on the number of photographs used from the Museum, The Hour gave the them 30 "Norwalk – Images of the Past" books. Most of the books will be sold in the Gift Shop, but he proposed donating books to the following City libraries: Main Library, South Norwalk, East Norwalk and Rowayton and one to the Mayor's office.

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE DONATING FIVE (5) "NORWALK  
– IMAGES OF THE PAST" BOOKS

Mr. Westmoreland said that the Historical Society would be happy to donate some books to the Museum. Mr. Park said that he plans to distribute the books to the Libraries tomorrow. Mr. Chandler suggested scheduling a publicity opportunity for the donation to the Mayor's office.

- \*\* MR. KURTZMAN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

After a brief discussion Mr. Westmoreland said that the Historical Society will provide three books and they will be credited with the donation to the Libraries.

Mr. Chandler presented labels that will be placed in the books. The Commissioners discussed the designs. Mr. Park suggested using a plain label. Mr. Mount asked if they could use a picture of one of the Historical Commission's buildings. Mr. Chandler said that he would fade the picture out on the label. Mr. Chandler will bring the finished labels to the Museum tomorrow.

Museum Curator's and Assistant to the Historical Commission Report

Mr. Park said that the Report was e-mailed to everyone.

- \*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF FIVE (5) NORWALK  
ATTRIBUTED REDWARE PLATES FROM MR. WILLIAM ASADORIAN  
\*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Old Business

There was no old business this evening.

New Business

Mr. Park introduced Mr. Mount who is the new Common Council representative to the Historical Commission. Mr. Mount said that he is interested in helping with the historical properties. He said that this will be

a learning curve for him. Mr. Park said that he and Mr. Bondi will give him a tour of the historical properties.

Mr. Bondi announced that the Crystal Theatre is putting on a performance of Revolution, Norwalk 1777 this weekend, and that he became a Grandfather.

Adjournment

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services