

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli; Eric Chandler; Elizabeth Golden; Lisa Wilson Grant; Mark Jackson; Thomas Livingston

OTHERS: Michael Carafino, Architect; Diane Jellerette and David Westmoreland, Norwalk Historical Society Todd Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust; Craig Flaherty, Redniss and Mead

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Laird called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

B. 32 Knight Street; entrance on Knight St; can it be saved?

Mr. Flaherty gave a presentation on the former home of Lillian August. He focused on the façade of the building. The proposed plan is for a re-use of about one half of the building as a medical office for a cardiologist.

Mr. Flaherty reviewed the history of the building starting when it was built in 1940 for C. R. Gibson. Since they were in business, there have been at least four additions to the original building.

Mr. Bryant presented an analysis of the building and shared his screen showing a 1940 image of the factory. He reviewed the function of an historical resource inventory. Hartford Health is interested in paying tribute to the history of the building. The remainder of the building has no architectural history.

Mr. Carafino described the plans and said they looked at different options. They came up with a plan to enlarge the vestibule area and include the original features. He presented images that bring the history of the building inside of the building. The goal is to use as much as they can of the existing façade. A discussion took place.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FAÇADE TO THE GARDEN
TERRACE AREA TO PRESERVE THE ENTIRETY OF THE FAÇADE
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Laird will forward an e-mail to Mr. Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Demolition Delay Discussion

Mr. Livingston reviewed the changed to the demolition delay ordinance. He said he would like to send it to the Law Department and the Building Department for their review before it moves to the next level. The Commissioners agreed.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM 8/3/2022

**** MS. LAIRD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. BELARDINELLI AND MR. LIVINGSTON)**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present who wished to participate.

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette presented her report. She noted that the Norwalk Historical Society had a wonderful summer. She reviewed their summer events. The roof on the gazebo was just re-done and the gardens are beautiful. Mr. Chandler will present a talk tomorrow evening "Cloak and Dagger". The Lafayette marker is scheduled to arrive and they are working on an exhibit for 2024. The kitchen at the Museum is almost done.

The Little Red Schoolhouse program moved to the fall. They may be able to offer it year round, except for when it snows. They are also looking at activities for middle school students.

This is the 12th year the Norwalk Historical Society will be presenting A Haunting at Mill Hill. They will have an open house at Mill Hill in December.

B. Lockwood-Mathews Mansion; David Westmoreland

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Mansion is moving ahead with plans for their big project. They will close at the end of the year. They are just about to go out to bid for a sub contractor. They met with the other park tenants to go over plans on how they are going to manage the construction.

5. REPORTS:

A. Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the kitchen at the Museum is almost done. They replaced the gazebo roof. In addition, they replaced the rotted wood at the Fitch House. He and Mr. Mushak restored the pathway at the Cemetery.

The HVAC system at the Gate Lodge failed. Facilities Management recommended replacing the system.

The Mansion Flea Market was a success; however, they did not have a parking plan. Going forward there has to be a better solution.

B. Cemeteries

Mr. Westmoreland said he has been working with the Norwalk Tree Alliance and they are going to donate 10 trees in Pine Island Cemetery.

C. Financial

Financials were not discussed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2 Crockett Street Demolition; in National Historic District; Demolition Permit pulled on 9/15/2022. Dana invoked Demo Delay on 8/10/2022; is the clock ticking?

Mr. Livingston reported that the property owner filed for an intent to demolish. Ms. Laird said she filed for a delay that will give them until January 2023. She said she also contacted SHIPO.

Mr. Westmoreland suggested holding a public hearing to try and get the neighbors to come out. Mr. Chandler said he would like to see more information about this matter in order to form an opinion. Ms. Laird said it was moved once.

8. ADJOURNMENT/SIGN OFF

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services