

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli; Jordon Hensley; Elizabeth Golden; Tod Bryant; David Westmoreland; Doug H; Lisa Grant; Eric Chandler

STAFF: Laura Kenny; Susan Gilgore; Diane Jellerette

OTHER: Patsy Brescia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:22. A quorum was present.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

******Ms. Grant moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting with the corrections as noted.**

******Mr. Chandler Seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Bryant discussed a call from a resident on West Norwalk Road who would like to have his house listed as a historic home. Mr. Bryant asked if the Historic Commission would like to designate West Norwalk Road as a historic street, or if this should be done by the Preservation Trust. It was decided that the Preservation Trust would move forward with this. Ms. Grant asked if the Brookside area is designated as historic.

4. PRESENTATION FROM DAVID SCOTT PARKER - HISTORY OF THE MANSION

There was some confusion as to the date of this meeting, and Mr. Parker was unable to attend. His presentation will be rescheduled.

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5. REPORTS FROM BOARDS

a. Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette

In honor of Women's History Month, the society is partnering with the League of Women's Voters to present "Powerful Voices: CT Women Changing Democracy" on March 30, via zoom.

As schools lower their covid restrictions, there has been a lot of interest from second grade classes wanting to visit Mill Hill.

On April 23, the Historical Society will participate in Earthday celebrations. There will be a walk from City Hall to Mill Hill to the green. There will be a discussion led by Nancy Rosette. There will also be a program on the green.

On April 27, there will be a lecture by John O'Leary on historic cars.

The museum is open to the public, as is Mill Hill.

b. Lockwood-Mathews Mansion; Susan Gilgore

Ms. Gilgore shared that the mansion was featured in a national magazine in an article about the gilded age.

The young writers competition is continuing.

The museum has opened to students, and a number of groups have been through, including architecture students, NCC students and groups from Bridgeport.

The current exhibit is "Fragments of Light, Impressions of Color." There will be an opening reception on April 7.

The next exhibition is curated by Liz Bassett. It is called "Making it Last: Sustainable Fashion in Victorian America."

On May 25, a new permanent exhibit "A Century of Dolls" will open.

6. REPORTS:

a. Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland discussed the contract for the Norwalk museum's new kitchen. Hopefully the work will begin within two months.

Mr. Westmoreland said the work on the barn side of Mill Hill is proceeding slowly, but the work quality is good. It will be done in a few months.

Ms. Brescia updated the group on the Lockwood Mansion work. A construction management company has been hired to assess any cost saving opportunities, and construction should begin late this year or early next year. There will be an open house for city officials to tour the mansion and get an idea of the plans.

b. Cemeteries

Chairman Laird looked at the walls that are being rebuilt, and all agree the work is going well. Mr. Westmoreland stated plans are in place to add plaques.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Westmoreland stated that the budgets should be finalized and approved by mid April.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Livingston wanted to discuss the demolition delay ordinance. To date, the group has not come to an agreement as to what it means to demolish a building. Mr. Bryant stressed the importance of coming to a decision on the definition of demolition. Mr. Westmoreland discussed not allowing a delay to lag on too long. Ms. Kenney mentioned house bill 5429, and wanted to make sure that this bill was made available to the committee.

7. NEW BUSINESS

******Mr. Livingstone moved to nominate Mr. Chandler to the Vice Chair position.**

******Ms. Golden seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Chandler accepted the position and the committee congratulated him.

7. ADJOURNMENT

******Mr. Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting.**

******Mr. Livingstone seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Chapple
Telesco Secretarial Services