

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 30, 2022
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli; Eric Chandler; Elizabeth Golden; Jordon Hensley; Mark Jackson; Thomas Livingston

OTHERS: Patsy Brescia, Susan Gilgore and Douglas Hempstead, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum; Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society; Tod Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust, Michelle Andrzejewski, P&Z staff.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM 10/26/2022

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. LIVINGSTON)**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

4. REPORTS:

A. Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette presented an overview of recent events. She noted their holiday open house will take place on December 11th. In addition, they are working on applying for a couple of grants.

B. Lockwood-Mathews; Suzanne Gilgore

Ms. Gilgore reported they had a very busy fall. She presented an overview of recent events. They were nominated for the third year in a row as one of the 10 best historical tours by *USA Today*.

Mr. Hempstead updated the Commissioners on their recent bid process. He said they will have to go out to re-bid and added that the timeline has changed. Mr. Hempstead said he anticipates

the City will go out to bid after the first of the year. Depending on what they find, they anticipate starting construction in June or July.

Ms. Brescia described the bid process and said it was a complicated process. The bidders said they needed more time to put their bids together.

The Lockwood Mathews Mansion open house will take place on December 4th, with a visit from Santa.

5. REPORTS:

A. Buildings There was no report this evening.

B. Cemeteries There was no report this evening.

C. Financial There was no report this evening.

Ms. Laird said they are short three commissioners and asked for recommendations.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Livingston discussed the proposed amendment to the demolition delay ordinance. He said that one of the questions that comes up a lot is about the age of the building.

There have been discussions about looking at an inventory of historic properties. Mr. Bryant said that what confuses people is that the property has to be 50 years or older; however, it has to be the significance of the building. The 50 year threshold is a good place to start.

The resource inventory is inadequate and will take about a year to complete 150-200 structures. Mr. Bryant explained that the State has \$20,000 in non-matching grants for these inventories. It would take about a year to inventory a city the size of Norwalk. Mr. Bryant was asked to attend next month's Ordinance Committee meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote on RFP for LMMM

The Commissioners discussed the request. Ms. Brescia said that the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum Board did not receive any information about this and asked that what is being done is articulated to the Board. She suggested someone from this Commission attend their December 15th meeting.

**** MR. HENSLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE RFP FOR LMMM
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Otocast invoice; audio tour of Norwalk

Ms. Laird said she did not know what the bank account looks like.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO NEXT MONTH
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Livingston suggested that Ms. Laird talk to Ms. Vonashek regarding this item.

C. Merritt/7 Interchange; inclusion on project

Ms. Laird reported that the Historical Commission was overlooked on this project. Mr. Bryant explained that the Historical Commission has to ask to be a consulting party. He added that it is very important for the Commission to weigh in on this. They are down to two alternates that interfere with an identified Native American site. He said that the State will only talk to the Tribes.

**** MR. JACKSON MOVED FOR THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO BECOME
INVOLVED IN THE MERRITT 7 INTERCHANGE PROJECT
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Jackson suggested holding a special meeting to bring the Commission up to speed and to request a copy of the MOA.

C. Norwalk Historic Resources Inventory; needs updating; need volunteers to file check the city

Ms. Laird said a survey will be sent out for parts of the City. She said this is too much to get done in one year. Mr. Bryant recommended contacting Mary Dunn at the State and applying for the free grant. He added they would be able to go back to the State and apply for the \$20,000 grant as many times as they want.

Mr. Bryant explained that the Historic Resources Inventory would be done by professionals – not by volunteers.

Mr. Livingston requested backup information when an item is placed on the agenda.

Mr. Bryant said they will need to use the State's inventory form and ultimately, they will want to inventory the entire City. The only issue is they can not have more than one State grant open at a time.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO RE-START THE CITY’S RESOURCE
INVENTORY AND TO ENDORSE FILING A GRANT APPLICATION WITH
THE STATE OF CT
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Laird said she will send information to the Commissioners.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. GOLDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services