

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli, Mark Jackson, Liz Golden,
Lisa Wilson Grant, Eric Chandler, Daryn Reyman-Lock, Tod Bryant,
David Westmoreland

STAFF: Michelle Andrzejewski

OTHER: Lockwood Matthews Mansion: Patsy Brescia, Susan Gilgore,
Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Laird acknowledged those in attendance as above noted. A quorum was present.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS

Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette gave her report and highlighted the following:

- A big thank you to those that attended the CT Summer at Museums program at Mill Hill Historic Park July-August and Little Red School House.
- They received a grant from the state that enabled the summer programs and additional funds to hire a Summer Intern.
- They hired a new curator, as Daryn is moving on, and Michael Murphy started in August, and she welcomed him to the Historical Society and to Norwalk.
- September 14 virtual lecture highlighted historian/demonstration on indigenous people.
- Poetry Reading at Mill Hill on September 17 on a beautiful day open mike poetry.
- Concert ‘Snap Crackle Pop’ scheduled for this Friday and may be rescheduled due to rain.
- October 5 at Mill Hill is co-hosting with Lockwood Mathews Mansion a book signing with Max Tuchy of Delmonica Restaurant
- October 12 is scheduled for Robert Kohler ‘Seminoles Nation’, Oct 26 lectures on defragmenting indigenous legacy in Norwalk,
- Halloween last week in October is in development TBA
- November 11 national bell ringing for Veteran’s Day.
- More to come

City of Norwalk
Historical Commission
September 27, 2023

Lockwood-Mathews Mansion

Ms. Gilgore gave her report and highlighted the following:

- The summer season was a very busy one with programs co-sponsored with the Historic Society and internships.
- Fall lecture series sponsored by CT Arts & Humanities had a good showing.
- A thank you to Common Councilman Jim Frayer for his support with other locations.
- The Flea Market had 85 vendors and a great turn out up, with thousands of visitors.
- Fall lecture series will feature baseball history with Ron Darling and Bob Wertz, well known journalist and baseball historian.
- There will be a program featuring a local restaurateur.
- The Gala is October 14 “The 1960’s” to be held at Shore Haven. More information TBA.
- Thank you to the organizations that have provided locations for our programs and thank you to the City of Norwalk for pulling all of this together.

REPORTS

Lockwood Mathews Mansion

Ms. Brescia provided a report as follows:

- The construction is in progress, and all is going well, they’re proud of this amazing project. Soil has been removed for water trenches and inside is appropriately protected.
- Site work at Stepping Stones to move water lines was done.
- It is a site that should not have visitors to prevent damage and to keep things secure.
- Fire suppression system installed in ceilings.
- Looking for funding to restore lighting fixtures and the bowling alley.
- Contractors are proceeding with stone removal from basement, which is a cumbersome project. Re-bid on other areas of the project in progress

Buildings - Mill Hill Townhouse Schoolhouse

Mr. Westmoreland gave his report as follows:

- They have met with Property Manager on AC repairs, gutter funding on the barn, closing out phase 2 of ADA work around the jail footpaths and installation of a handrail.
- Meeting with DPW on restore of walls on front of jail with water issues and work will start soon on restoration and preservation of the interior.
- The Maintenance has been turned over to the Facilities Management, and they have been very responsive in the transition.

Financials

Ms. Laird asked about the blank form for items that are requested roll-over to the new fiscal year, and Mr. Westmoreland noted to have those sent to him, but there were no roll-overs needed.

Old Business

Mr. Westmoreland noted that the update on demolition projects can be discussed. Mr. Jackson asked about Lewis Street, Maple Street and others that were pending without a specific action plan until the demolition is beyond delay action.

11 Marvin Street – 1875 house that a seaside castle is intended for renovation. Todd Bryant noted that he had been contacted regarding plans for demolition that is already in place, and if documented anything of historic value can be repurposed, and to engage with the realtor. He suggested that the Commission contact them to use delay as a deterrent, and to bring up the historic zoning designation for preservation.

Maple Street – Ms. Laird noted 394 demolition delay was too late to act on. There was discussion on the background and recommendations over the past several years. Ms. Wilson Grant noted that it is unfortunate that when property is sold and there is a change in ownership brings any plans to a halt.

New Business

Deaccessioning of Quintard items to Seaport Assn.

Ms. Reyman-Lock reviewed the items to be repurposed to the Seaport Association for the Sheffield Island Lighthouse include a bureau, vanity, desk and mirror and items that have been in storage for many years, and do not have significance or connection to the City. These items can be repurposed for better use and no further deterioration to the Sheffield Island staged as a historic house. She noted that panels will note gifted from City of Norwalk Historical Society Quintard pieces.

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE TRANSFERING OWNERSHIP OF NINE FURNITURE ITEMS OF AS PROPOSED TO THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION, AS LISTED IN PHOTOS PROVIDED
- ** MS. REYMON-LOCK SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED ANNIMOUSLY.

NHS vote on budget

Mr. Westmoreland provided the background information on the City grant and paperwork on funding \$35,000 for an annual curator for professional consulting services for the City's collection. The Historical Society will match this amount transfer to fund the full-time position of Michael Murphy so o next three years to manage storage, evaluate and determine preservation of the collection into exhibits and in the CT league of Historical Societies.

He explained it was a zero impact to the City's budget.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO TRANSFER FUNDS FOR AN ANNUAL GRANT AND CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS \$35,000 PER YEAR FOR A TOTAL OF \$125,000.
- ** MS. GOLDEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION (CHANDLER)

Establishing a historical district and a historic district

Ms. Andrzewski provided the background on a City ordinance regarding properties at the Norwalk Green. Mr. Westmoreland explained the significance of designation of historical district to allow for state compliance over Norwalk Green for architectural review sub committee review board within that historic district review process. Ms. Reymon-Lock then reviewed when the body in the City reviews proposed changes or to have a district review for each historic district.

Mr. Bryant recommended that a manual be created to have general statutes for jurisdiction compliance and guidelines.

There was discussion on the ordinance that outlines the code and was within purpose of this Historic District Commission, not a sub-committee. There was further discussion on the state statutes and the property owners on the tax assessment, along with the Town Clerk role with voting on the ballots. Mr. Bryant noted the registry and maps with the state that is not completely accurate, but it lists the local historic districts. It was noted that no vote or motion was required at this meeting, but to keep this as an open item on the agenda.

Mr. Westmoreland noted that at the Commission on the Historic Resources meeting there was a proposal on refining the scope and will come back to the next meeting. He will advise the Historic Commission gets a copy of the proposal.

Ms. Reymon-Lock left the meeting at 8:00.

Approval of April 26th minutes

Page 1: correct spelling of acknowledge; Page 3 – third paragraph ‘Norwalk River Valley Trail’

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2023 AS AMENDED.
- ** MR. JACKSON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED ANNIMOUSLY.

Approval of July 26th minutes

Page 1: Correct spelling: Daryn Reyman Lock - Young Writers 'Competition'

Page 2: Paragraph 3 'Patsy' – not Pat E Brescia – ...Gala 'this' not till'

Page 3 'Pool House keys' Interns working for Mansion 'at' Flea Market –vendors 'interested'
Baseball Panelists; 'position 'has' not as been filled, stoned to 'put' a water line in.

** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
JULY 26, 2023 AS AMENDED.

** MS. GRANT SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED ANNIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

** COMMISSIONER CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** COMMISSIONER GRANT SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Service