

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Peter Bondi, Chair; Suzanne Betts; Eric Chandler; Holly Cuzzone; Bruce Kimmel; John Kurtzman; David Westmoreland; Charles Yost (7:10 p.m.); Kathryn Martino (7:20 p.m.)

OTHERS: Patsy Brescia, Suzanne Gilgore, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum; Ralph Bloom; Isabel Boland; Timothy Sheehan, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Judith Bacal, Jim Brown, Jim Clark, Mary Roman, Mayor's Museum Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bondi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – September 26, 2012

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1, correct spelling from paining to painting

Page 3, under Reports, third paragraph, first sentence should read: Mr. Westmoreland said that there were plans to restore the porch...

Page 6, second paragraph, first sentence should read: Mr. Bondi explained that the Director of the Silvermine Arts Guild wants to use the ...

**** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

**** MR. KURTZMAN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MS. BETTS; MR. CHANDLER; MS. CUZZONE AND MR. KIMMEL)**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bondi reported that Linda Forcelina from the Brien McMahon Alumni Association copies photograph that were donated by the McMahon family. The photos will be used for an exhibit at the School. He added that he received a request from Ms. Gilgore to look up something in the archives and he said that he will follow up on that request.

REPORTS – BOARDS

NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Historical Society has been busy preparing for their remaining events and planning their events for next year. He reviewed the upcoming events.

LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

Ms. Brescia reviewed her written report as follows:

Dear Commissioners:

We reported over the last few months that LMMM was preparing an application to the State Historic Preservation Office for a \$200,000 construction grant which will be used to complete the next phase of our mechanical upgrades and will include an ADA access to the mansion's basement, installation of the elevator and upgrades to the restrooms. The application was sent to Hartford today. If we are successful with this grant application, we will have moved our master plan forward with a major element. We should hear about the awards by the end of 2012. If successful, we can immediately move forward with the bid process as the design phase has been completed. The work can be completed in 2013.

Contracts are signed for the first phase the electrical service upgrade. This morning we took a major step forward. We had the first organizational meeting with the contractor electric Systems Corp. of Southington CT for this electrical service upgrade. We were told that they will start construction in about two weeks and the entire work should take about three months.

Last weekend we held our annual Antique Appraisal event on Saturday and Sunday. Once again it was a major success for LMMM.

As mentioned last month, it is our understanding that David Scott Parker Architects are completing the specification for the roof/leak repair work. We are all hoping that this project will be completed as soon as possible so as not to incur any additional damage to the building. We hope the Commission will continue to focus on this need. Is there any new information as to timing?

We have several functions planned for the fall/winter season as follows:

First Halloween event: Saturday, October 27th

Holiday exhibit: Opening November 23rd

Lecture Series: November and December

Art Show: Opening October 17th

Reception on November 1st.

Holiday Open House on December 16th

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Brescia
LMMM Chairman

REPORTS

BUILDINGS

Mr. Bondi reported that Mr. Sgobbol is working on the specs for the chimney repair work at the Gatehouse. He said that he has not heard from FEMA. He said that he talked to Mr. Hamilton about this. Mr. Bondi said that now that they have a sublease at the Gate House, they have to make sure that all repairs are done.

Mr. Yost joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Bondi said that the issue is that the decorative plaster work is expensive and it is hard to find people who know how to do that work.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE LEASE FOR THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU FOR THE SPACE AT THE GATE HOUSE

Mr. Bondi reviewed the item.

- ** **MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE LEASE FOR THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU FOR THE SPACE AT THE GATE HOUSE**
- ** **MR. KURTZMAN SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REVIEW AND APPROVE THE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING ON LOWER MILL HILL SITE

Mr. Westmoreland explained that this is part of the City's effort, through the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency to work with the Head of the Harbor developer to develop the site along Smith Street for parking. He said that he met with Mr. Sheehan and the architect is going to see if he can create double rows of parking that can be shared between Mill Hill and the Head of the Harbor development.

Mr. Westmoreland explained that the environmental testing will consist of doing borings along Smith Street. He said that any agreement with the Head of the Harbor developer will have to come before this Commission.

Mr. Sheehan explained that the developer's existing plan goes in 15 feet under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission. He said that he did not know what the environmental engineers were going to put out, if anything on the property that is under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission.

Mr. Chandler asked if any part of the street will be de-mapped. Mr. Sheehan explained
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that the street will come back as a public easement from the developer.

- ** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING ON LOWER MILL HILL SITE**
- ** MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Martino joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

REVIEW QUOTES AND APPROVE VENDOR TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR MILL HILL MASTER PLAN WORK

Mr. Westmoreland reviewed the quotes. He said that this is in response to a bid put out last month for exterior work at Mill Hill for ADA access. He described the plan and said that sidewalks and terraces will provide ADA access to the buildings rather than ramps, which would compromise the historical integrity of the site.

Mr. Westmoreland explained that four bids were received and there was disparity between the bids. He said that the highest bidder was from AKRF for \$49,000 and the lowest was from Gill and Gill Architects for \$9,750. He said that the bids were reviewed by Mr. Lo, Mr. Moccia, Mr. Foley and himself. They agreed to recommend Gill and Gill Architect.

- ** MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO APPROVE GILL AND GILL ARCHITECTS TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR MILL HILL MASTER PLAN WORK AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$9,750. ACCOUNT NO. C0374 – MILL HILL**
- ** MR. YOST SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

CEMETERY

Update on the Cemetery Repairs at Pine Island Cemetery

Ms. Cuzzone reported that work was completed on 20 headstones on October 23rd. She said that the person from Ageis Restauro reported that vandals come into the cemetery by car and damaged headstones.

- ** MR. WESTMORELAND MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE AGEIS RESTAURO CONTRACT FOR GRAVESTONE REPAIRS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000**
- ** MS. BETTS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. KIMMEL)**

FINANCE

Discuss the Capital Budget

The next monthly meeting will focus on the budget and the Commission will discuss upcoming projects.

NORWALK MUSEUM

Discuss the Draft form the Mayor's Museum Committee

Mr. Westmoreland welcomed the members of the Mayor's Museum Committee and asked them to introduce themselves. He presented the interim recommendations. He said that the purpose of the recommendations is to begin a dialogue with the Historical Commission and get feedback from them. The Commissioners and the Committee members discussed the recommendations. The Commissioners discussed the need to look further at the costs, create a pro forma for equivalent services at the Library and discuss ways of managing and controlling the collection.

Mr. Bondi said that they need to present to the City a workable plan that they will accept for a number of years and keep it within a structural cost.

Mr. Chandler said that the main attraction of staying at the Museum is its location. It is in a social cultural hub. He asked if the City would be willing to spend money on the Lockwood House. Ms. Betts noted that it is a City owned property, and spending money on it would benefit the City.

Mr. Chandler said that the Committee did a tremendous amount of work. Ms. Brescia said that each of them wants to come up with something that perpetuates museum access. Mr. Bondi talked about parking issues at City Hall and noted that during the day there is plenty of parking near Eversley Avenue.

Ms. Brescia said that most likely they will need to develop a 501 (c) 3. She said that if they are going to have a viable museum, they need to have an organization behind it.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. CUZZONE MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services