

DRAFT

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MAY 27, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi; Eric Chandler; Thom Dunlap; Kathryn Martino; Charles Yost; Joe DiIorio and Steven Serasis (7:14 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – April 22, 2009

- ** **MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2009**
- ** **MR. BONDI SECONDED**

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1. Chairman's Report, second sentence should read: *The plan is to hire an historical architect*

Page 3: correct spelling of Mr. Mushak and Ms. Laird

Page 4: Under Finance, second sentence should read: *Mr. Park said that there is approximately*

- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Park reported that he received 11 proposals for the preservation plan and the Selection Committee narrowed it down to five. Interviews will be conducted on June 9th. The School House windows were installed with the help of Mr. DiIorio and Mr. Park. The interior trim needs to be completed.

Mr. DiIorio and Mr. Serasis joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Park said that the report submitted by the Norwalk Historical Society was distributed to the Commissioners. There was no one present to represent them this evening.

B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

Mr. Park said that he did not receive a report from the Lockwood Mathews Mansion. There was no one present to represent the Museum this evening.

The Commissioners discussed the absence of a representative and said that they should at the very least submit a report to the Commission. Mr. Chandler added that with the upcoming Party in the Park event, he expected someone to be here.

Mr. Dunlop said that he went to the Museum twice and both times, no one was in the Gift Shop and the building was open. Mr. Park said that there is a lot going on and the Commission is holding lot of capital money for the Museum. Mr. Serasis said that they should be showing up if they want the Commission to act on their requests. Ms. Martino said that they are working on a Master Plan. Mr. Park said that the Master Plan has been completed, although he has not heard from them.

Mr. Park said that he will keep them on the agenda; it has been two years of reminding them about the meeting. Mr. Dunlap noted that there is always a spot on the agenda for the Museum. Mr. Serasis said that when they do attend a meeting, they should be asked why they have not shown up.

Mr. Park said that theoretically, if the money is not used, the City could take it back. There is money earmarked for the sprinkler system for the Museum. They could request a special appropriation to reallocate that money for a sprinkler system at Pine Island Cemetery.

Mr. Chandler said that the message should be conveyed that the money may be re-appropriated to Pine Island Cemetery if they do not come to the Commission. Mr. Park said that Mr. Foley sent an e-mail trying to set up a meeting with the Mansion, but they did not respond right away. After a while they did have their meeting, but they are not very responsive. Mr. Bondi said that the money should not have been appropriated to them without having a plan in place.

REPORTS – SUB COMMITTEES

A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Bondi reported that representatives from Contemporary Print Making faxed a design of a stair railing they wish to install at the Cottage. Mr. Bondi said that the design is not in keeping with the design of the building. It should be designed in a Craftsman style. He noted that Contemporary Print Making is paying for the railing.

Mr. DiIorio said that a wooden railing would match nicely. Mr. Serasis suggested asking Mr. Bryant to look for an appropriate design.

**** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF A STAIR RAILING AT THE COTTAGE CONTINGENT UPON SUBMISSION OF AN HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE DESIGN, PREFERABLY IN THE CRAFTSMAN STYLE**

**** MR. DIORIO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Bondi reported that a pre-bid walk through for Mathews Park was held with eight contractors. They went into the Mansion with Mr. Mauro and looked at the window sills. They need to be repaired. Mr. Mauro is working on the Gate Lodge and then will start on the wood repairs at the Mansion. Mr. Bondi said that the preservation plan is moving along.

B. CEMETERY

Mr. Park reported that a lot of work has been done in preparation for the June 20th Party in the Park event. They are working on a brochure that that will be handed out that day that will include the biographies of several of the residents of Pine Island Cemetery.

C. FINANCE

Ms. Martino reported that the request for a special capital appropriation was sent to Mr. Hamilton. The money would go into the new account: Building Maintenance and Improvements. Ms. Martino said that they need to find out the exact balance. Mr. Park said that the procedure is similar to a capital request. In addition the balance is approximately \$28,000.

D. NORWALK MUSEUM

Mr. Chandler said that about 35-40 people attended the Pirate Day that was held at the Norwalk Museum. The author may return to the Museum to do research on her book on southern New England pirates.

The upcoming sports exhibit is proceeding nicely. A lot of veteran athletes have been coming in to share their experiences.

**MUSEUM CURATOR'S AND ASSISTANT TO THE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. Park said that the report was distributed and is self explanatory. He said that the preservation plan is moving along nicely as well as well as the installation of the windows at the School House.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bondi said that there have been discussions about changing the name of the Museum to make it clear that it is a City of Norwalk museum and to avoid confusion with other entities. Mr. Yost noted that when people became members of the Friends of the Norwalk Museum they thought they were supporting the Norwalk Museum.

The Commissioners suggested various names. Mr. Park said that this discussion will be revisited at the next meeting.

Mr. Bondi said that Zoning will permit signage in front of this building, if they can find someone with experience in hanging banners.

The Commissioners discussed purchasing flat screen TV's that would be used in the exhibits. Mr. Bondi said that a 32' flat screen will be purchased as part of the sports exhibit. Mr. Serasis said that they need to move the Museum forward; it is important for the visitors to have a lot to look at in the exhibits.

ADJOURN

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services