

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Eric Chandler, Elizabeth Golden, Mark Jackson, Lisa Wilson Grant (7:30 p.m.)

OTHERS: Michelle Andrzejewski, Staff; Susan Gilgore, Patsy Brescia, Lockwood Mathews Mansion; Doug Hempstead, Lockwood Mathews Mansion; Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Laird called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Laird called the roll and announced that a quorum was not present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present to address the Commission at this time.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS

a. Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette

Ms. Jellerette thanked everyone who attended the Lafayette Farewell Tour. She said that there were over 100 people in attendance, including Senator Bob Duff and three descendants from Lafayette. There is also an exhibit on Lafayette at Mill Hill over the holidays.

The Night at A Museum event went well.

The virtual lecture on Lafayette and his descendants was presented and will be available on the Museum's YouTube channel.

The Dusty Booze program was amazing. Ms. Jellerette thanked the Lockwood Mathews Mansion for hosting that. Ms. Gilgore said that it was well received and worked well.

Autumn Ales in New England will be held on October 10th at 6 p.m. and there will be appetizers. The tickets are \$35 and will be available on the night of the event.

This year's Halloween celebration will be a lecture on the Witch Trials in CT and MA by Dr. Leslie Lindenauer of Western CT State University.

There will be a Holiday Open House at Mill Hill in December.

b. Lockwood-Mathews Museum; Susie Gilgore

Ms. Gilgore thanked all the volunteers for their support. She also thanked Mr. Jackson for the letter about the student tours. The Old Fashioned Market was a major success and a number of new memberships were sold.

On October 19th there will be a "The Mansion's Costume Ball," Museum Gala which will be held at the Longshore Country Club.

On December 5th, Mr. Kenneth Turino will be presenting a program on "The Spirit of Christmas: Four Centuries of Christmas in America." at City Hall at 6 p.m. Santa will arrive at 4 p.m.

Ms. Gilgore said that they were gearing up for a program about the Bulls of Wall Street and gave a brief overview of the exhibit along with some of the more unusual artifacts from the early Wall Street years that may be on display.

Ms. Brescia said that the construction project was moving along well. There are weekly meetings with the construction team. However, there was a recent discovery of a moisture rot problem with the rotunda roof. The crew believes that this may delay the completion by at least a month. The focus is still on an early April opening. The rotunda will be returned to the original beige paint color since the metal scaffolding is in place.

Ms. Grant joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was now present.

Mr. Hempstead displayed a number of photos of the restoration work in the basement, the rotunda, the gift shop, and the exhibit lighting installation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• July 24, 2024

Page 2, paragraph 4, line 1, please change "In September 19th there" to "On September 19th, there"

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 24, 2024 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. JACKSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (LAIRD, CHANDLER, GOLDEN AND JACKSON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (GRANT).**

REPORTS

a. Buildings * -- Ms. Laird said that there had been some water damaged walls removed from the Gate House on August 6th. The fire extinguishers in all the historic buildings are being checked to insure they are up to date.

b. Cemeteries -- Pine Island has four or five trees that have been marked by the City Arborist for removal and they will be spraying for poison ivy.

c. Financials -- No report on financials.

OLD BUSINESS

25 South Main -- Ms. Laird filed for a demolition delay which would expire on November 5th, so she has to hear back from the State.

Ms. Laird said that there were some other buildings coming down for the new South Norwalk School.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Grant said that the Founder's Monument in front of the E.N. train Station has been moved. She sent out some texts about this. Mayor Rilling informed her that the contractor had moved it and that the Historic Commission could have input about the relocation. Ms. Grant said that once they have a copy of the landscaping plan they may be able to suggest a good location. She noted that it had been located on a traffic rotary at the intersection of Fitch and East Avenue, but it was later moved to the East Norwalk Train Station. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Historical Commission
Special Meeting
October 2, 2024