



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

January 20, 2022 – 7 PM

Meeting Agenda – In person meeting

- A. Call meeting to order –
- B. Reorganization & Election of Officers – Chair, V-Chair & Secretary
- C. Public comments on items not on the agenda -
- D. Approval of minutes – January 20, 2022 -
- E. Introduction of guest(s) -
- F. Chair report –
 1. CLG Grant update – Jane Dorchester met with Kevin Gore and the Commonwealth has indicated to them that the West Chester Historic Resource Inventory is complete. The CLG Grant requires that a final report be given at a public meeting. Since the Historical Commission initiated the grant process it has been determined that Jane and/or Kevin will present their report to the public at our February 17, 2022 meeting. (It should be noted that there were glitches in the Commonwealth's new data base some data is still being entered by Jane. When completed we can contact the County regarding the West Chester Atlas/Inventory.)
 2. 339 West Gay Street – demolition permit to be granted by the Borough.
 3. Rite Aid, 13 East Gay Street – no update historic West Chester photographs to be used in their display windows.
 4. Borough of West Chester 225th Anniversary in 2024 & 225th Anniversary of the USA in 2026. Borough Council will need to establish a community-based committee for both events. It is hoped that the same committee, with modifications, will plan both events.
 5. Year-end report for December with distribution to Council in January.
 6. 2022 Chester County Town Tours – Will kick -off in West Chester on Thursday, June 9th and involves HARB and the Historical Commission. West Chester's theme will focus on Humphry Marshall's 300th Birthday. Tour Guides and inside helpers will be needed.
 7. **Projects on hold.**
 - a. Still trying to arrange for the return of all items to Ann Morgan Oas. Ann has contacted me and has donated assorted newspapers, books and items to me to review and dispersed to the Borough/History Center. **(Chair Walsh will develop an acceptance letter. TBD)**
 - b. Gay Street School Project – **(Chair Walsh will reach out to Fugett family. TBD)**

c. Virtual meeting with Cory Kergarise, West Chester Planning Commission and HARB on Tuesday, February 23. Topic: *Zoning & Preservation*. Received items from Catherine Quillman and Chris Lang. **(Chair Walsh to contact the Planning Commission and HARB.TBD)**

d. CCHPN Leadership Luncheon on Saturday, April 10 – We still need to obtain the demolition ordinances from East Brandywine and Schuylkill Townships plus obtain East Brandywine presentations and share with Commission. We have Thornbury Township’s ordinance. **(Should be included as part of item c above)**

e. Chestnut Street Parking Garage/Chester County History Center’s Raymond Rettew History Project – Eric Lorgus - **(On hold until 2022 - TBD)**

G. Vice-Chair Sandra Ram

1. Social Media - see attached report
2. Interns – see attached report

H. Committee/task reports and updates:

1. Heritage Trees – Kora Stahl –
2. Archaeology – Kora Stahl – Property watch: 339 West Gay, 15-17 South Poplar Street (vacant lot) & 250 East Market Street (former Wheelwork’s site)
2. Humphry Marshall Project – Chris Lang - see attached report
3. Chester County Courthouse and Gnomon – Jonathan Hoppe & Tija Butcher – Tom has previously contacted Becky Brain of the County Commissioners office on behalf of the project committee and have been working on other County projects. **(On hold. Note: Pedestal is still on southside of Old Courthouse lawn)**
4. Juneteeth 2022 /Shaw Memorial Rededication – Everett Butcher (Note: Meet with West Goshen Township Historical Commission on January 28,2022)

I. Other member’s reports or comments

1. Local History Presentations – future programs- Bayard Rustin program with Mitchell Crane and/or Florence Miller plus other possible in-person or virtual programs. (Kora Stahl & Sandra Ram)
- 2.

J. Old business –

K. New Business –

1. 2022 Historic Homes period Christmas decoration contest/event – Downtown Foundation / West Chester Library

L. Announcements and adjournment –

1. CLG Grant (Historic Resources Inventory) final report to public will be presented at 7 pm on Thursday, February 17,2022 at the beginning of the regular Historical Commission Meeting

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: February 17,2022 at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, February 12,2022.

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee – February 8, Council Work Session – February 15 and Council Voting Session February 16.



West Chester Historical Commission

Vice Chair Reports

1/17/22

Social Media - I am posting on Instagram. Facebook page is being created, with Catherine and Chris as the page owners. We should discuss what content will go on the Facebook page and how often we will post.

Interns - Currently do not have any interns. We should discuss our plans for the year first, so that when we post a new job listing for an intern, it can be less vague. Maybe we should aim for 1 online event in the Spring and 1 in-person event in the Fall? Ideas?

Sandra Ram.



West Chester Historical Commission

Jan 15, 2022 Report of HM300 efforts since Dec 12, 2021 by Chris Lang

The HM300 planning committee met Dec 14. A report of this meeting was sent in Dec. At this meeting we discussed use of shared Google Docs Files

1. Events committed by organizations with set dates – to be kept by Jennifer Green.
2. Tentative or suggested events schedule
3. Documents on the history of Humphry Marshall, or related botanists
4. Documents involved with HM300 events
5. HM300 proposed articles and PR

During early January we achieved commitments on participation and dates for the Fall speaker series. Virtual through the CCHC

Sept 14 Joel Fry of Bartram's on the Bartram/Marshall cousins' botanic connection

Sept 28 Ron McColl of WCU Special Collections Library on Dr. William Darlington and his Herbarium

October 12 Anthony Aiello of Longwood Gardens on the 19th c. Horticultural Legacy of Humphry Marshall

I was able with the help of Ron McColl to obtain a copy of Louise Beldon's 1958 thesis on Humphry Marshall and make a digital copy.

Also, I received from Longwood Garden's David Sleasman a thesis by Frederick Roberts on Pierce's Woods and I have made a scan of it.

I have made both available to the HM300 committee.

Lastly, as related activity the Humphry Marshall Fund Committee of the CCHC met to get organized for 2022. Conor Hepp contacted the Chester County Commissioners to ask for them to support a Proclamation in 2022 for the Year of Humphry Marshall or Humphry Marshall Day. He mentioned Chester County 250 in 2026 to celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. There is a proposal for planting a Liberty Tree. This might be developed with some reference to HM.

Chris Lang