



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

June 15, 2023 – 7 PM

Meeting Agenda – In person meeting (WILL BE RECORDED)

Present:

Absent with notice: Catherine Quillman

Absent:

A. Call meeting to order –

B. Introduction of guest(s) –

C. Public comments on items not on the agenda

D. Approval of minutes for May 18, 2023 –

E. Chair report –

1. Borough of West Chester 225th Anniversary in 2024 & 250th Anniversary of the USA in 2026. It remains to be determined if the Borough will allow the citizens of West Chester to form a quasi-public organization to celebrate the Borough's and the Nation's Birthdays, Will contact participants of 200th Anniversary. – **Nothing new from Borough Council.**
2. Mural location for 2024, 2025, 2026 & 2027 events update– Email sent to owner. Received phone and email approval for the Beermill. – **The Mural Arts meeting was cancelled, and I have since talked to Jimmer Breen.**
3. Lafayette 200 Committee update – Nothing to report locally. Chair will meet with coordinator at the History Center on February 24, TiJa volunteered to attend however, the Chair indicated that additional people and input is presently not needed until the principles (The History Center and Borough Historical Commission) have a better idea what can be done. (NOTE: In 2022 all Commission members were given the Futhey & Cope 1881 materials that are being used as the basis of this project.) I will be working with Jen Green of the C. C. History Center. **We are still trying to get into Courtroom #1 in the Thomas U. Walter Courthouse. There will be a public meeting and program at Thornbury Farm from 11 an to 4 pm July 29.**
4. West Goshen/West Chester Original Memorial Day Celebration update – Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 6 pm in Oaklands cemetery – **Project was a success with a great turnout thanks to the West Goshen and West Chester Historical Commissions. Special thanks to the West Goshen Historical headed by Michael Pilligalli and our very own Chris Lang, Sandra Ram, Paul Sookasian and Kora Stahl. SAVE**

THE DATE: Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 5 pm at Chestnut Grove Cemetery (Rain date is Saturday, June 1 at 1 pm).

5. 29th Town Tours and Village Walks 2023 – Kick-Off in West Chester on Thursday, June 8th in the Southeast Quadrant beginning at the West Chester United Methodist Church (TBD) - County theme: *Agricultural Heritage of Chester County - West Chester Theme: From Colonial Farms to Residential Neighborhoods with Agri-Businesses*. We will need tour guides and registration workers. Finalized items with UMC of West Chester Plan details at next meeting. Kora and Sandra have volunteered to work at the registration table. SPECIAL NOTE: Air quality conditions caused everything to be moved inside. The Borough of West Chester again was the host municipality, and the West Chester United Methodist Church was the site host. The Lenape Brass provided the music. The Commissioners were the featured speakers along with state officials and Jim Garrison of the CCHPN. Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste had a conflict and could not attend. After the speakers guide Tom Walsh using handouts led the audience inside the Church on a neighborhood tour. The presentation covered the neighbor's agricultural and agri-business heritage, architecture neighborhood citizens ranging from Madame Louise Homer to Bayard Rustin. SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, June 13 at Holy Trinity Church - date, location and theme to be confirmed.
6. Annual dues for CCPN and CC History Center (Includes all members of both the HARB and the Historical Commission) – Still TBD.

7 CCHPH Meeting – June 21, 2023, at Hibernia Park – 4:30 pm to 8 pm. – I plan to attend on our behalf.

8. The Chester County Planning Commission has the data from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Grant that was compiled by Jane Dorchester and the County is now putting together the Borough of West Chester Historical Atlas at no cost to the Borough.

F. Vice-Chair Sandra Ram

1. Social Media – Sandra and Catherine have entered some items.
2. Interns – Recommend we develop a work program for Fall 2023. - TBD

G. Committee/task reports and updates:

1. Heritage Trees: Kora Stahl - Rothrock Memorial Project was held in Marshall Square on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Kora Stahl, Susan Charkes, Chris Lang Tom Walsh Jeff Beitel, and Catherine Quillman participated. The program and walking went on as planned. Attendance was minimal and we learned the importance of having a rain date.
2. Archaeology – Kora Stahl/Eric Lorgus/Tom Walsh –
3. Humphry Marshall Project Report - Chris
4. Wiki Project – Eric Lorgus – To be finished this fall.
5. Horace Pippin 135th Birthday Celebration (born February 22, 1888 – died July 6, 1946) – Catherine Quillman and Kora Stahl are still working on this project. Marker rededication will be Thursday, July 6th at 7 pm with cake from Master Baker (Rain date is Friday, July 7th at 7 pm,) Catherine and Kora will

contact the Mayor and Council Member Bernie Flynn for the rededication. **There will be no street closure!**

“The Red Bench” event will be at Everett Park on July 8 at 7 pm. (Rain date – July 9 at 7 pm) Michael is expected to be involved as well as the Friends of Everhart Park. Catherine is planning a number of children’s art activities .

6. Update on Daily Local News records – Eric Lorgus - A future project.

H. Other member’s reports or comments – Nothing submitted by the agenda deadline.

I. Old business -

J. New Business –

1. Budget items for 2024

K. Announcements

L. Adjournment –

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee agenda deadline Wednesday, July 5 and Smart Growth Committee meets Wednesday, July 12 - Council Work Session is Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30 pm and the Council Voting Session is Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: July 20, 2023, at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, July 15, 2023.