



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

September 21, 2023 – 7 PM

Meeting Agenda – In person meeting (WILL BE RECORDED)

Present:

Absent with notice:

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 August 17, 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. – Council member Bernie Flynn and Tom Walsh are trying one more time to meet with 1999 Committee members regarding 2024 and 2026. We did not meet; Borough Council has indicated that it supports having activities for the Borough's 225th Birthday in 2024. Mayor Lillian DeBaptise has taken the lead and secured someone to co-ordinate the events. The Mayor's announcement is forthcoming.
2. Mural location for 2024, 2025, 2026 & 2027 events update– Email sent to owner. Received phone and email approval for the Beermill. – I have talked to Jimmer Breen, Chair of Public Arts and met with them on June 26. We had a good discussion, and we will continue to work with Publics Arts. Their next meeting is September 12. I did not attend but talked to Jimmer Breen.
3. Lafayette 200 Committee update – (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. Chair Walsh attended. A lot of networking was done, and it was a worthwhile event. The project has a non-profit set-up to be used by participants. Jen Green and I visited Courtroom #1 on the morning of August 8th. We plan to use this location for a "faux" banquet on Saturday, July 26, 2025. Application will be made to secure the Courtroom #1space.
4. Annual dues for CCPN and CC History Center (Includes all members of both the HARB and the Historical Commission) – Still TBD.

5. 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. Update needed. **No update.**
6. Event receipts still need to be processed, TBD
7. Possible projects – Mary Ann Shad Cary & G. Raymond Rettew **(See F 1 Social Media)**

F. Vice-Chair Sandra Ram

1. Social Media – Facebook: Mary Ann Shadd Carey by Catherine & Tom/ Instagram by Sandra Ram
2. Interns – Recommend we develop a work program for Fall 2023. – **Sandra Ram, Eric & Chris will work on interns**

G. Committee/task reports and updates:

1. Heritage Trees: Kora Stahl - **no updates**
2. Archaeology – Kora Stahl/Eric Lorgus/Tom Walsh – A staff person at Zukin's has indicated that some bottles have been found. **Talked to Scott Zukin and only a few newer bottles have been found.**
3. Wiki Project – Eric Lorgus – **To be finished this fall.**
5. Update for 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 – none

J. New Business –

K. Announcements

1. Chester County Day – Saturday, October 7 - SOLD OUT
2. 2023 Paoli Battleford Heritage Day – Saturday, September 23 from 11: 00 am to 4 :00 pm
3. Westtown Day – Sunday, October 8 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
4. *William Penn: A Life* by Andrew R. Murphy – Oxford University Press – 2019
5. *WC Press* -Spooky Season Issue – “Walking with Ghosts” by Amanda Saleh

L. Adjournment –

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee agenda deadline Wednesday, October 4 and Smart Growth Committee meets Wednesday, October 11 - Council Work Session is Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 pm and the Council Voting Session is Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: October 19, 2023, at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, September 16, 2023.