



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

October 19, 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 –

E. Approval of minutes for September 21, 2023 –

D. Special Report – by James Breen, Chair Public Arts Commission (printed version attached)

F. 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. – We will continue to work with Jimmer Breen and the Public Arts Commission. Received report from Chair, Jimmer Breen and will invite him to our October meeting.
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 #1 space.
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.

6. Event receipts still need to be processed,

7. Possible projects – Mary Ann Shad Cary & G. Raymond Rettew (See F 1 Social Media) – Contact Mayor for possible proclamation – Nothing was done to celebrate her 200th birthday.

G. 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

H. Committee/task reports and updates:

1. Heritage Trees: Kora Stahl -.

2. Archaeology – Kora Stahl/Eric Lorgus/Tom Walsh – A staff person at Zukin's has indicated that some 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.

I. Other member's reports or comments – Nothing submitted by the agenda deadline.

J. Old business –

1. Special Memorial Day Item for our May 30, 2024, Memorial Day at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in conjunction with West Goshen Township – Everett will put together this portion of our celebration and present it to the Commission.

2. Preservation Plan for West Chester's Historic Magnolia House – This can develop into a very comprehensive project for the Borough. Everett will lay out the preliminary ideas and goals in order that the Commission can determine how to proceed.

3. Ken Johnston – (Chair Walsh has attached a copy of "A Walk to Honor Chester County's Black History" published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on October 12, 2023, Section B, page 8) - Everett will update.

K. New Business –

L. Announcements

1. 2023 Paoli Battleford Heritage Day – Saturday, September 23 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm – Tom will meet with a representative of the 24th USCT at this event for our Original Memorial Day in 2024. The event was rained out and Tom will make other arrangements.

2. Gave Everett's contact information to Park Ranger Jay Erb at Warwick County Park for a possible William Lee program.

3. Took survey for State Historic Preservation Office – "Top 50 Buildings in Pennsylvania" – Greystone home of P. M. Sharples was suggested by Chair Walsh.

4. Chair's Pick of the Month – *Grant* by Ron Chernow

M. Adjournment –

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee agenda deadline Wednesday, November 1 and Smart Growth Committee meets Wednesday, November 8 - Council Work Session is Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 pm and the Council Voting Session is Wednesday, November 15 at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: November 16, 2023, at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, November 11, 2023.