



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

November 16, 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 October 19, 2023 –

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

F. Chair report –

1. Borough of West Chester 225th Anniversary in 2024 – 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. To my knowledge the Mayor has not announced the appointment of Sandra Riper as West Chester 225th Birthday coordinator. If community groups are interested, please have them contact Sandra at the following: 23-25 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380 – (610) 692–0374 or sandy@sunsethilljewelers.com
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 attend our November 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. Attended the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force at Thornbury on Thursday, October 26.

8. Attended the *Rustin* reception at the Chester County History Center followed by the premier at the Uptown Downton. Note: Mitchell Crane of West Chester, a friend of Bayard Rustin coordinated Chester County's contingency to Washinton, D C.

G. Vice-Chair Sandra Ram

1. Social Media – Facebook by Catherine/ 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 –

3. Wiki Project – Eric Lorgus – .

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. Nothing new was presented. Everett will present a written report on possible USCT and related activities.

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. Nothing new. Everett will present a written report on possible ways to proceed.

K. New Business – Nothing submitted by agenda deadline.

L. Announcements

1. November is National American Indian Heritage Month (Native American Heritage Month) -
Reminder: we live on a landscape that was once home to the indigenous people known as the Lenape.

2. **Regional History: News Flash:** November 1773 has seen the elopement of 21-year Quaker Elizabeth Griscom and Anglican John Ross They ferried across the Delaware River from Philadelphia to Hugg’s Taven in Gloucester City, New Jersey. The name of New Jersey Governor William Franklin was on the wedding certificate. William was the son of Benjamin Franklin. Elizabeth would be “read out” her Quaker community upon their return to Philadelphia. Should you not recognize the name Elizabeth Griscom; she is better known by her married name. “Betsy Ross”.

M. Adjournment –

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee agenda deadline Wednesday, December 6 and Smart Growth Committee meets Wednesday, December 13 - Council Work Session is Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm and the Council Voting Session is Wednesday, December 30at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: December 21, 2023, at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, December 16, 2023.