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West Chester picks Restoration of Rail Service Committee members

by Kendal Gapinski

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Staff Photo By Vinny Tennis A train locomotive formerly used by Exelon Generation Cromby plant shows its age at the West Chester Railroad railyard. Borough Council announced it has recently selected the first members of the borough's Restoration of Rail Service Committee.

WEST CHESTER - Borough Council announced it has recently selected the first members of the borough's Restoration of Rail Service Committee.

Last Tuesday, Council selected the first members of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee after completing interviews with applicants.



The committee consists of seven members, three of which are residents of the borough. Borough officials said that all of those chosen show 'very impressive credentials.'

Members of the committee include David Thurston, Michael Thurston, JoAnn Kelton, John Young, Joe Lorini, Tom Hickey and Craig Blizzard.

'We have a very talented group of people with diverse backgrounds who will all help to achieve the overall goal of someday soon restoring rail service to West Chester,' said Borough Council President Jordan Norley.

The committee members were appointed by council and will serve three-year terms.

According to the borough, the purpose of the committee is to cause, as soon as possible, the reestablishment of rail service to West Chester through compiling information and data on the return of rail service, preparing a history of the rail line and serving as advocates for the return of rail service.

The Rail Service Restoration Committee was first established in March after a vote from council to look into ways to restore train service in West Chester.

The railroad connecting West Chester to Philadelphia was first established in the 1800s, but after a fire in 1967 and declining numbers, the Pennsylvania Railroad ended service to the borough in 1986.

According to the borough, the Restoration of Rail Service Committee will have its first meeting July 23 at 7 p.m.

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