



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232– Borough Hall

May 21, 2026 – 7 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mary Baylis, Chris Lang, Catherine Quillman, Tom Walsh, David Wickard, Anne Skillman

Absent with notice: Eric Lorgus, Sandra Ram, Kora Stahl

Call meeting to order – 7:04

- A. Introduction of guest(s) - none
- B. Public comments on items not on the agenda n/a
- C. Approval of minutes for April 2026 – approved 5-0
- D. Reports and commentaries
 1. Chair Tom Walsh
 - a. Historic Atlas – move to June agenda
 - b. Lafayette Week – July 26 (Starts the Sunday before the 26th)
 - i. Catherine motions to approach the mayor to declare 7/26 Lafayette Day
 - ii. Approved 5-0
 - c. Annual report – move to June agenda
 - d. Town Tours & Village Walks – recap of 2026 & discuss 2027 – recommending courtroom #1 again for the 2027 kick-off
 - e. Traditional Memorial Day - Saturday, May 30th at **1pm** in The Oaklands Cemetery – **canceled** – Sunday, May 30th 1PM Oaklands, 2027
 - f. Dare to Declare [D2D] for Borough Parks – Everhart Park tree planting + D2D – tbd, Marshall Square Park D2D during their July concert
 - g. Quarterly Saturday History Presentations – Feb, May, Aug, Nov – 1st Saturday 10AM – 1st or 2nd Saturday – commission members should consider a topic for presentation – share topics at June meeting – use forms circulated
 2. Vice-Chair – Catherine Quillman – stained-glass committee – post images on website submit to the borough newsletter – aiming for mid-June
 3. Eric Lorgus – needs to find a new student from WCU for the Wiki project
 4. Kora Stahl - Historic Tree Committee – Trail Map – Will Williamson of the borough wants to create a trail map through the borough to include important trees
 5. Chris Lang – Oral History Project – in conversation with Erik Freeland –
 - a. Clifford DeBaptiste will be the first to be interviewed. We will move forward with this interview.
 - b. 5 more from the following candidates: Lydia Worthington (Tom), Mary Baylis & Geraldine Jackson (Mary), William O’Hara (Chris), John Suplee (?), Sandy Rieper (Chris) William Mitman (?), Joe Andreas (Anne), Jerry Schneider (Tom), Anderson Porter (2nd Pres) (?), Bob London (Mary) ,& Tony Polito(Tom)

- c. Commission members complete the Oral History form for each candidate prior to selection the additional 5.

6. Mary Baylis & Anne Skillman - Gay Street School – Anne needs to send information to Suzanne for what she would need for a proposal

E. Old Business

F. New Business –

G. Announcements – Chester County Day Saturday October 3

H. Adjournment – 8:24

Next Historical Commission Meeting: June 18, 2026, 7PM – submit agenda items by 6/13

Other Borough Meetings & Deadlines of importance:

- Smart Growth Committee meets on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6:30PM **(Submissions – the Monday before)**

- Council Work Session is Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30 pm

- Council Voting Session is Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm