



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232– Borough Hall

June 18, 2026 – 7 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Walsh, Chris Lang, Anne Skillman, David Wickard, Catherine Quillman, Kora Stahl, Mary Baylis, Eric Lorgus, Sandra Ram (phone)

Absent with notice:

Absent:

Call meeting to order –7:03

- A. Introduction of guest(s) – n/a
- B. Public comments on items not on the agenda – n/a
- C. Approval of minutes for May 2026 – Chris Lang moved & Eric Lorgus 2nd 9-0
- D. Reports and commentaries
 1. Chair Tom Walsh
 - a. Historic Atlas – nothing new
 - b. Lafayette Week – Passed but Tom Walsh will run it through the Mayor
 - c. Annual report – nothing new
 - d. Town Tours & Village Walks – opening was 160+ in attendance – planning for 2027 will begin in the fall
 - e. Dare to Declare for Borough Parks – July 9th Marshall Square Park
 - f. Quarterly Saturday History Presentations – 8/8, 11/7, 2/6
 - i. Anne – Rustin or Religion in West Chester
 - ii. Catherine – 8/8/26 10AM possible – To be confirmed
 2. Vice-Chair – Catherine Quillman – stained-glass committee – assembling a PDF – aiming for September
 3. Eric Lorgus –
 - a. 2002 Historical Survey from Jane Dorchester –
 - b. content published and moderated by WCHC – crowd-sourced editing
 - c. WCU student built a template
 - d. Updated database + photographs – photos have gone missing
 4. Kora Stahl - Historic Tree Committee – prohibitive – Will Williamson is going to develop a trail/walking tour of the borough pointing out the historic trees – reach out to Dale Frens for detail
 5. Chris Lang – Oral History Project –
 - a. Bill Mann to makes sure the website has the capacity to house the oral histories
 - b. Confirm with Erik what the timeline is for each oral history from filming to editing to loading onto website
 - c. 5 interviews x 800=\$3500

- d. Tom Walsh –
 - i. Lydia Burton Worthington – form completed b. 1928 – does not want to participate – Community Center
 - ii. Tom interviewed Gerald J. Snyder (Jerry) – b. 1937
 - iii. Eric Lorgus will call Tony Polito
 - iv. Tom Chambers
- e. Chris Lang – objective is to get a cross-section of the community
 - i. Verified that the funds were approved
 - ii. Next step: contract with the Borough is in Erik Freeland's hands
 - iii. Goal – plan project this summer, have one or two oral histories posted on the Borough website by year end
 - iv. Long term goal would be to get 3-5 interviews every year.
 - v. **Clifford DeBaptiste will be our first interview**
 - vi. **Motion: Cliff, Mary & sis, Jerry, Tom, female w/ retail experience in WC in the 1960's – Eric made a motion, Catherine 2nd, approved – 9-0**
- f. Mary Baylis –
 - i. Rose Morgan born 7/31/1937 = WCU – elementary school teacher 40 years
 - ii. Bob London – teacher & principal – 1936
 - iii. Reverend Marvin T Williams – 1942 – Kennett minister
 - iv. Reverend Anderson Porter – 1930
 - v. Geraldine Jackson – 1931 – born in Lower Oxford – Community Center kindergarten
- g. Eric Lorgus – Sandy Riper, Kit Anstey (retail in 60's), Historic preservation movement in West Chester
- 6. Mary Baylis & Anne Skillman - Gay Street School – nothing new
- E. Old Business -
- F. New Business –
- G. Announcements –
 - a. Conor Hepp is leaving CCHC,
 - b. CCHPN dinner 6/23 Catherine Quillman will represent WCHC
 - c. Juneteenth play at WCU – feast at Milestone at 3PM – REGISTER TONIGHT
 - d. John Hannum, Hannah Freeman, Horace Pippin mural at New & Gay
- H. Adjournment – 8:23

Next Historical Commission Meeting: July 16, 2026, 7PM – submit agenda items by 7/11

Other Borough Meetings & Deadlines of importance:

- Smart Growth Committee meets on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 6:30PM **(Submissions – the Monday before)**
- Council Work Session is Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm
- Council Voting Session is Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 pm