



Borough of West Chester, Pennsylvania
West Chester Borough Council
Committee to Reestablish Rail Service to West Chester

MEETING MINUTES

PURPOSE: Monthly Meeting of the Committee to Reestablish Rail Service to West Chester

LOCATION: West Chester Borough Hall, Room 232

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM

TEAMS LINK: [MEETING LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 243 349 623 894

Passcode: 7M594X

Dial in by phone +1 814-580-5758,279105431#

1. **Call to Order** 7:00 PM
 - a. The meeting was called to order with committee members present. A quorum was not reached, and the approval of the March and April meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.
2. **Summary of the Meeting** –The Committee reviewed major developments including:
 - a. Annual report presentation to Borough Council has been completed.
 - b. Update on Friends of West Chester nonprofit organization and federal grant portal registration
 - c. Discussion of grant development, engineering support, and funding opportunities.
 - d. Review of reciprocal support letter with the Turks Head Trail group.
 - e. Update on Media Borough letter of support process.
 - f. Public outreach, community engagement, and university coordination activities.
 - g. Discussion of future equipment and charging infrastructure considerations
 - h. West Chester Railroad fundraising event and stakeholder engagement opportunities.

3. **Attendees**

Attendee	Affiliation
Jason Levinn	RR Committee
Craig Blizzard - phone	RR Committee
Steve Laarkamp	RR Committee
Barbara Clarke	RR Committee
Jack Farrell	President, Friends of Rail for West Chester

4. Business

a. Review of Open Action Items

#	Full Description	Due Date	Responsible Party	Comments
35	Student/Resident Transit Surveys	5/31/2026	Barker	Westtown survey received; Cheyney outreach ongoing.
43	Meet with Sen. Kane's staff to discuss applying for state grants for the pedestrian bridge. Identify engineering firms for bridge design funding	5/31/2026	Levinn/ Laarkamp	Reach out to setup meeting following initial discussions with engineering firms.
46	Project Presentations to Media Borough and Middletown Township	8/31/2026	Laarkamp	Positive initial meeting; pursuing letter of support
49	Turks Head Trail (THT) Reciprocal Letters of Support	6/30/2026	Barker	Mutual letter drafting in progress.
52	Public engagement tabling materials	5/30/2026	Clarke	QR codes, outreach cards
53	Cheyney Engagement	7/31/2026	Barker/ Levinn	Potential collaboration around station location and ridership base
54	Quarterly RRC Update to Borough Council	7/14/2026	Levinn	

b. Nonprofit and Grant Development

- i. Jack Farrell reported that Friends of West Chester is now active under new leadership and is being registered in federal grant systems, including SAM.gov and Grants.gov.
- ii. Committee members discussed coordination with engineering consultants and development of grant application materials, including budgets and technical documentation.

c. Turks Head Trail Coordination

- i. The Committee reviewed a draft reciprocal letter of support between the Rail Committee and the Turks Head Trail organization supporting rail-with-trail concepts and improved station access

d. Municipal Outreach

- i. Media Borough continues to review a proposed letter of support. The matter is expected to proceed through committee and Borough Council review during the summer.

e. State and Federal Grant Opportunities

- i. The Committee discussed coordination with Senator Kane’s staff and other stakeholders regarding future grant applications and technical support.

f. Public Engagement

- i. Members reported on continuing community interest in rail restoration and discussed participation in outreach and tabling events:
 - 1. Porch Fest, Earth Day, Turks Head Music Festival and concerts in the parks

g. Equipment and Infrastructure Discussion

- i. The Committee discussed future rolling stock options, battery-electric technology and charging infrastructure requirements for potential rail service restoration

h. West Chester Railroad Fundraiser

- i. Members discussed attending the June 6 Glen Mills Station fundraising event to strengthen relationships with the West Chester Railroad stakeholders and observe ongoing restoration efforts.

5. New Business

- a. No additional business was introduced

6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM (Room 232 and via Microsoft Teams)

7. **Adjourn** -8:00 PM

Committee Membership

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| • Jason Levinn, Chair | • Craig Blizzard | • Kim Bove |
| • Jim Sargent | • Steve Laarkamp | • Liz Young |
| • Bill McCann | • Charlot Barker | • Barbara Clarke |
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