



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

February 17, 2022 – 7 PM

Meeting Agenda – In person meeting

- A. Call meeting to order -
- B. Introduction of guest(s) -
- C. CLG Grant-Historic Inventory Interim Final Report – Kevin Gore, CFM and Jane Dorchester, Architectural Historian:
- D. Public comments on items not on the agenda -
- E. Approval of minutes for January 20, 2022 -
- F. Chair report –
 - 1. CLG Grant update – See item C above
 - 2. 339 West Gay Street – no update for demolition permit to be granted by the Borough.
 - 3. Rite Aid, 13 East Gay Street – no update for historic West Chester photographs to be used in their display windows.
 - 4. Borough of West Chester 225th Anniversary in 2024 & 225th Anniversary of the USA in 2026. Borough Council will need to establish a community-based committee for both events. It is hoped that the same committee, with modifications, will plan both events.
 - 5. 2022 Chester County Town Tours – Will kick-off in West Chester on Thursday, June 9th and involves HARB and the Historical Commission. West Chester's theme will focus on Humphry Marshall's 300th Birthday and will cover northeast quadrant of borough. Tour Guides and inside helpers will be needed.
 - 6. Projects on hold.
 - a. Still trying to arrange for the return of all items to Ann Morgan Oas. Ann has contacted me and has donated assorted newspapers, books and items to me to review and dispersal to the Borough/C C History Center. **(Chair Walsh will develop an acceptance letter. TBD)**
 - b. Gay Street School Project – **(Chair Walsh will reach out to Fugett family. TBD)**
 - c. Virtual meeting held with Cory Kergarise, West Chester Planning Commission and HARB on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Topic: *Zoning & Preservation*. Received items from Catherine Quillman and Chris Lang. Purpose: **Possible changes to Planning Ordinance (Chair Walsh to contact the Planning Commission and HARB.TBD)**

d. CCHPN Leadership Luncheon held on Saturday, April 10, 2021 – We still need to obtain the demolition ordinances from East Brandywine and Schuylkill Townships plus obtain East Brandywine presentations and share with Commission. We have Thornbury Township's ordinance. Purpose: Possible changes to Planning Ordinance (Should be included as part of item c above)

e. Chestnut Street Parking Garage/Chester County History Center's Raymond Rettew History Project – Eric Lorgus - **(On hold until 2022 - TBD)**

f. Local History Presentations – future programs- Bayard Rustin program with Mitchell Crane and/or Florence Miller plus other possible in-person or virtual programs. **(Kora Stahl & Sandra Ram - TBD)**

G. Vice-Chair Sandra Ram

1. Social Media – working with Jeffrey Carbohn of the Borough
2. Interns – TBD

H. Committee/task reports and updates:

1. Heritage Trees – Kora Stahl – see Humphry Marshall 300 report – checking on tree at # 16 Portico Row on the property at southeast corner of Miner and Wayne
2. Archaeology – Kora Stahl – Property watch: 339 West Gay, 15-17 South Poplar Street (vacant lot) & 250 East Market Street (former Wheelwork's site) will continue.
2. Humphry Marshall Project – Chris Lang - see separate report
3. Chester County Courthouse and Gnomon – Jonathan Hoppe & Tija Butcher – Tom has previously contacted Becky Brain of the County Commissioners office on behalf of the project committee and have been working on other County projects. **(On hold. Note: Pedestal is still on southside of Old Courthouse lawn)**
4. Juneteeth 2022 /Shaw Memorial Rededication – Everett Butcher (Note: Meet with West Goshen Township Historical Commission on February 24, 2022) –
5. Wiki Project - Eric Lorgus

I. Other member's reports or comments

J. Old business –

K. New Business –

1. Request for Letter of Support – Malcolm Johnstone, Chester County Community Foundation:

L. Announcements and adjournment –

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY: March 17,2022 at 7 pm - AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, March 12,2022.

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee – March 8, Council Work Session – March 15 and Council Voting Session March 16.



West Chester Historical Commission

Chair's Update Juneteeth Project

2/17/22

1. Historical Commission Meeting – 1/20/22

At the last meeting of the Historical Commission there was much commentary on our Juneteeth Project. As a result of the commentary, I will attempt to create a clean slate in order that the Juneteeth Committee of Everett Butcher and Catherine Quillman can move forward (Note: Other members may contact Everett and myself if they wish to serve on said committee.). I will withdraw my input and stay in the background as this project unfolds. The committee should determine if they want to proceed with the Shaw Memorial Rededication at Chestnut Grove Cemetery and if they want to include the West Goshen Historical Commission. For the record the Chester County Commissioners has set aside a gap in its Town Tours and Village Walks Program (June 12 thru June19) for municipalities to present Juneteenth programs. Municipalities may hold programs at other times as well.

2. Post Meeting Activities – 1/21/22

Based on the commentary at the Commission meeting on the previous night I proceeded to do additional research on Chestnut Grove Cemetery Annex. At our meeting based on previous field work I stated that there were no Civil War burials at the Annex. I was wrong. Using the burial records compiled by Dan Linley and Nancy Anne Odegard for the Annex I found five Civil War burials. They are as follows: William H. Allison, Co E, 25th USCT; James H. Bowman, Co E, 25th; USCT; Solomon Butcher, Co A, 25th USCT; Corpl. J. Westley Johnson, Co. D, 45th, USCT and Spencer Gibbs, Co A, 25th USCT. It should be noted that Solomon Butcher is a relative of member Everett Butcher as he stated at our last meeting. On my visit to the Annex on the 21st I was able to locate only three Civil War burials (see photo page). The Annex is a very significant location when studying black veterans who served their country from the Spanish American War to the present. The main cemetery at Garfield Avenue and Paoli Pike remains a treasure trove for researching black Civil War veterans in the West Chester area.

3. West Goshen Historical Commission Meeting (virtual) – 1/27/2022

I attended the meeting for West Goshen. After the Commission re-organized, I requested to have the floor since my second term on the West Goshen Commission was completed and I was not reappointed. I told West Goshen that I would not speak on behalf of Everett and his committee and further stated that that he would speak to a joint project when he got online. I thanked the Commission for being able to work with them and departed the meeting.

4. Post West Goshen Meeting – 1/28/22

I contacted the new Chair of the West Goshen Historical Commission and he indicated that Everett did not come online, and they deferred commentary until their February 24 meeting. At that time Everett can present his proposal to the Board. We will keep Everett and his committee informed as to a virtual or in-person meeting. The Juneteeth Committee can keep us informed as to their intentions.

**Tom Walsh, Chair
WCHC**

Chestnut Grove Cemetery Annex Civil War Burial Photos

1/21/22



Solomon Butcher, Co. A, 25th USCT



Spencer Gibbs, Co. A, 25th USCT



Unknown burial



West Chester Historical Commission

Committee(s) Report(s)

2/17/22

H. 2. Humphry Marshall Project

Humphrey Marshall 300 actions

Website - I had discussion and follow up with Conor Hepp of the Chester County History Center on posting Humphrey Marshall content on its website. Call is to send content in February, go live in March

Friends of Martin's Tavern are developing banners for Marshallton starting in July. We are pursuing idea of using them in the borough on the CCHC bldg. and Marshall Square Park.

HM300 Tree giveaway - working with Conor Hepp of CCHC on plan to give away 75 to 100 sapling trees probably in April near Arbor Day.

JT Rothrock had good discussion with Susan Charkes who gave virtual presentation on Brandywine botanist Rothrock as a Brandywine Conservancy program. Model for fall speakers??

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