



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232 – Borough Hall

July 17, 2025 – 7 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Walsh, Anne Skillman, Catherine Quillman and by phone Eric Lorgus, Chris Lang & Sandra Rahm

Absent with notice: Kora Stahl

Absent: Paul Sookiasian, Everett Butcher

Call meeting to order – 7:08

- A. Introduction of guest(s) – Tom Hoey, Mary Baylis
- B. Public comments on items not on the agenda – n/a
- C. Approval of minutes for May 2025 – Chris Lang moves to approve, Catherine Quillman 2nds – approved 6-0
- D. Reports
 - 1) Chair Tom Walsh- Lafayette 200 committee
 - a. 40 plastic cups – Anne will fill each cup with volunteer toasts
 - b. DLN 7/17 news release – 7/16 CCHC news release for ball
 - c. Social Media – Facebook & Instagram – Catherine will send images to Chris
 - d. Walk w/ Lafayette – Kora will have check-in table – Tom will be the host – Lion's Club volunteers to help along parade route – still need to check w/ Cocoon if they will hand out popsicles in the park (TBD)
 - e. Tom will check with Keith on Friday to see where we are with sign-ups
 - f. Catherine will reach out to WC Patch – BID has been contacted – WC History Buffs – Recreation website – Boro Council –
 - g. Lafayette Faux Dinner – 3PM – 4:30PM – 8 songs & the National Anthem – if we need a microphone at the podium, we need to contact Dana –
 - i. Eric Lorgus would be happy to call Bill Mann to arrange for a live Facebook
 - ii. Audience participation – pick up a wine glass w/ a numbered toast
 - iii. Tom Hoey – each song should be about 30 seconds after each toast
 - iv. Tom Walsh will send the draft program out
 - v. Tom Walsh will send an email to invite council – Lillian will send a representative – Thresa Edy will create a certificate making Lafayette an honorary citizen of WC
 1. Tom to reach out to the French consul in Philly and present the certificate to the French consul to take it back to France – September
 - vi. Reading #1 Chris Lang
 - vii. Reading #2 Eric Lorgus
 - viii. Cancel Latta

- ix. McClellan remarks – Chris Lang
- x. Lafayette then replies
- xi. Faux dinner begins
 - 1. Regular Toasts
 - 2. 2nd toast – the President of the United States – music
 - 3. Some toast will have no music
- xii. Item I singer – Lafayette at Brandywine –
- xiii. #9 is the closing presentation of honorary citizenship to Lafayette
- xiv. Program with toasts & the context
- xv. Tom has spoken to Akel (County Seat) – apartment above the Greenery – Lafayette will wave from the window and guests say farewell – the Ball itinerary will include an invitation for guests to move to Gay Street for the farewell reenactment.

2) Move to August

- a. West Chester Historical Atlas – in progress - August
- b. Gay Street School/Fugett Project – review in August
- c. Thursday, June 12, 2025 - Town Tour Kickoff – went well – write thank you’s for Memorial Day
- d. Budget moving to August as well
- e. Wiki project – Eric Lorgus –
- f. Vice-Chair Catherine Quillman –
- g. Historic Trees Committee – Cedar of Lebanon – No response from Owners
- h. Stained glass windows documentation –
- i. Social Media
- j. Historic Tree Committee – revisit in August
- k. Stained Glass – revisit in August
- l. Oral Histories – budget figures - Mrs. Worthington on West Market – Alan Worthington’s mother – good person to interview for Oral History Project

E. Old Business

F. New Business -

G. Adjournment – 8:22 move to adjourn, Chris Lang moved, Anne 2nd

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Smart Growth Committee agenda deadline Wednesday, July 2, 2025, and Smart Growth Committee meets August 13 at 6 pm - Council Work Session is Tuesday, August 19 at 6:30 pm and the Council Voting Session is Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, August 21, 2025, 7 pm

AGENDA DEADLINE: SATURDAY, August 16, 2025.