



West Chester Historical Commission Meeting

401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Room 232– Borough Hall

April 16, 2026 – 7 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent with notice: Chris Lang

Call meeting to order – 7:02

- A. Introduction of guest(s); Aaron Flook (rhymes with book) from Building, Housing, & Code for Borough
 - a. How can the Historical Commission provide input when it comes to demolition of historic properties in the borough? Aaron suggests:
 - i. review the Planning Commission meetings after 1st & 2nd Monday (available on YouTube) – upcoming demolitions are presented in the 1st 15 minutes.
 - ii. The Historical Commission has the right to attend the zoning hearings and offer input.
- B. Public comments on items not on the agenda – n/a
- C. Approval of minutes for February 2026 – 8 votes to approve the minutes
- D. Reports and commentaries
 1. Chair Tom Walsh
 - a. Historic Atlas – nothing new (see note above)
 - b. Lafayette Week – July 26 (Starts the Sunday before the 26th) – to be approved
 - c. Annual report – nothing new
 - d. Town Tours & Village Walks – Thursday April 30th – *13 Tours for 13 Colonies*
 - e. America 250/Dare to Declare in Borough Parks updates by Tom (Everhart Park will do a tree planning in the fall) & Catherine met w/ Marshall Square Park (details to come)
 - f. West Chester & West Goshen Historical Commissions Annual Memorial Day Walking Tour – Saturday, May 30th at **1pm** in The Oaklands Cemetery
 - g. Quarterly Saturday History Presentations – tbd – August
 - h. **Tom handed out 3 new forms for projects, speakers, oral histories**
 2. Vice-Chair – Catherine Quillman –
 - a. stained-glass committee – collecting images of stained glass in churches – want to create a booklet – **how does copyright apply to images of the stained glass? What is the objective of this project?**
 - b. Kora suggested a “church of the month” – church
 - c. Tom suggested that Kora & Catherine collaborate for an article to submit to the monthly borough newsletter – Ramsey Reiner

3. Eric Lorgus – needs to find a new student from WCU for the Wiki project
 4. Kora Stahl - Historic Tree Committee -
 5. Chris Lang – Oral History Project – look at East Bradford & West Bradford Township’s websites for an example of Erik Freeland’s oral history videos
 6. Mary Baylis & Anne Skillman - Gay Street School – 6’ x 10’ space – 5’ x 8’ display – **Tom Walsh has requested that Anne & Mary complete the Event/Project/Program Planning Form**
- E. Old Business – Mary – squeezing a house in on Barnard between Franklin & Adams
- F. New Business – Turks Head trail – requested a blurb about the origin of the Turk’s Head Tavern & how the village became “Turk’s Head” – Tom suggests 1949 Sesquicentennial book
- G. Announcements –
- H. Adjournment – 8:09PM

Next Historical Commission Meeting: May 21, 2026, 7PM – submit agenda items by 5/16

Other Borough Meetings & Deadlines of importance:

- Smart Growth Committee meets on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6:30PM **(Submissions – the Monday before)**

- Council Work Session is Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm

- Council Voting Session is Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 pm