



MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 351E

July 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Fernando Fonseca, Colin Hanna, Mark Slouf

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Sam Bissenbina, MarySue Boyle, James Christ, Adam Desch, Jane Dorchester, Jennifer Green, Susan Hamley, Larycia Hawkins, Tim Hennessey, Michelle Kichline, MaryFrances McGarrity, Winifred Moran Sebastian, John Reynolds, Krys Sipple, Randell Spackman, tonya thames-taylor

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Dave Stauffer

CCPC STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Matt Edmond, Carol Stauffer, David Blackburn, Jeannine Speirs, Bronwen Barnett, Gene Huller

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Keith Kurowski, Josh Maxwell, Beth Angiulo

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Chester County A250PA Commission held in person at the Chester County Government Services Center and via Zoom audio/video on Thursday, July 9th, 2026, was called to order at 4:02 P.M. by Winifred Moran Sebastian, Vice Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY JANE DORCHESTER, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 4, 2026, MEETING OF THE CHESTER COUNTY A250PA COMMISSION.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Matt Edmond presented a snapshot of the America250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250) showing donations and authorized expenditures to date.

- Matt reviewed the financial report, tracking budget allocations and expenditures across different funds.
- Expenses in June included \$6,000 for the order of the 3 x 5 CC250 flags from SpeedPro.

GUEST PRESENTATION: America250 Celebration!

- Keith Kurowski, Director of Parks and Recreation, Borough of West Chester provided an overview of the August 2nd event being planned for downtown West Chester in celebration of America 250.
- Streets will be closed. The event includes a Dare to Declare on the Courthouse steps, vendor and information booths, the Lenape Brass Band leading folks to view the new mural on Hannum Avenue/Gay Street. The evening highlight is a 9:00 pm drone show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLANS & BUDGETS

Heritage Sites Committee – Mark Slouf

- **Total budget request for 2027 is \$250,000.** The committee broke this down into two parts:
 - County funding to accompany the 2nd Local Share Account grant application submitted to DCED this past spring, in order to fund the remaining kiosk locations not covered in the first grant; 10 grants @ \$20k = \$200,000.
 - Mini-grants for Heritage Site development is \$50,000.
- The committee also communicated that if the board doesn't choose to use the \$50,000 for mini-grants, these dollars will be utilized along with the \$200,000 to purchase kiosks and develop content as part of the HIN program.

Education Committee – no report from the Committee.

Marketing and Communication Committee – Jane Dorchester

- Social Media Budget request for 2027:
 - Targeted Ads= \$6,370, Boosted posts \$1,230, Large print & media busy = \$2,400 for a total of \$10,000.
- SWAG Budget request for 2027:
 - Stickers = \$700, Magnets = \$1,500, Lapel pins = \$1,590, Pens = \$1,900, Grocery List pads = \$1,000 for a total of \$7,440.
- **Grand Total for MarCom Budget Request for 2027: \$17,440.**
- Jane gave an update on the promotional items that have been distributed to this point.
- Articles published in June focused on Dairy month, and articles for July are being crafted currently.

Fundraising Committee – MaryFrances McGarrity for Winifred Moran Sebastian

- The Chester County Economic Development Foundation is now enabled to receive donations on behalf of the CC250 Commission and provide the appropriate tax deduction receipts for the donors.
- MaryFrances is working with Sam (Technology Cmte) to publish this information and links to the donation process through the CC250 website.
- Discussion then focused on the specific funding of the kiosk project, including current county funds towards matching Phase 1 grants, the county funds for next year and the potential Phase 2 grant, and the need for fundraising.
- To attract donors/sponsorships towards the kiosk project, the Fundraising Committee has been reviewing and has requested additional information on estimated costs for each kiosk, and other specifics, such as location, the look of the kiosk, how it will operate, content, and companies who are building the kiosks. This information should be included in a fundraising packet.
- Adam Desch volunteered to review the draft packet.
- MarySue Boyle asked that members please forward to the Fundraising Committee - within the next 2 weeks – lists of individuals or organization who would be potential funders/sponsors. Colin Hanna volunteered to forward a curated list of supporters of the arts.

Partnerships Committee – Randell Spackman

- Randell did not have an update on PA Day, but David Blackburn reported on information received from America250PA, calling for volunteers for Exton food bank. David will reach out to Brandi Levine on this effort and explore if they still are calling for volunteers.

Technology Committee –Sam Bissenbina

- New articles continue to be posted on the website.
- A button is being placed on the main page that will take user to the updates page where they can enjoy the music “An American Dream,” performed by the Brandywine Valley Symphony.
- The Donate page is being revised with input from the Fundraising Committee.
- Budget Requests for 2027:
 - Website Domain, \$75, Tockify \$80, Mailchimp, \$600 and Metricool Starter, \$240. **Total Estimated Costs is \$995 for 2027.** These programs and associated expenses are duplicated for 2028.

Events Committee – Josh Maxwell

- The Events Committee met with Keith Kurowski regarding possible participation and/or sponsorship of the August 2nd West Chester celebration. Possibilities include events and/or music on the Courthouse steps following the Dare to Declare.
- Another event possibility being discussed has a theme of the 1852 Suffrage Convention in Chester County.
- Susan Hamley, along with John O’Brien of the West Chester Business Improvement District, will host a time capsule in a display case at the Courthouse.

- Laura Manion of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry may be amenable to having their fall event focus on a 250 theme if we raise some funds towards the event.
- Krys Sipple suggested that it is administratively easier for us to provide funds as a SPONSOR rather than providing mini-grants.
- Josh reported that the founding of Lincoln University in 1854 could also be a focus of an event(s). Larycia Hawkins added that Lincoln University will host a second symposium on October 14 at the Public History Center.

Executive Committee – No updates

A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- Matt Edmond announced that the budget requests presented at this meeting will be included in the Chester County budget proposal, either in the Capital budget or the CCPC operation budget.
- Beverly Sheppard has submitted her resignation. A discussion of the Education Committee and a possible reorganization will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. Michelle asked for any recommendations to be sent to her on the open Education Committee Chair position.
- Matt Edmond presented the social media stats for May 2026. Not surprisingly, in the three months leading up to July 4 (April, May, and June), website hits and social media interactions focused mostly on upcoming events.

PARTNER WORK UPDATES

Chester County Planning Commission – Matt Edmond

- Kiosks – Marshallton & Phoenixville upgrades
 - MillerDesign is working on the upgrades.
- Kiosk – Phase 1 Project
 - The bid scope for Kiosk installation has been provided to the County Procurement Dept. and we are still awaiting an update on its inclusion into Costars.
- HIN Brochure Design
 - Mark Slouf reported that the project has been rescheduled for this coming fall with the goal of working with Cliff Parker in Archives to coordinate the brochure design to align with the travelling exhibit.
- Flag project update
 - The new 3 x 5 residential flags are being created and will be ready shortly.
 - Matt Edmond asked that the mileage reimbursement expenses – for CCPC staff driving their own vehicles to deliver the 150 flags – be taken out of the CC250 county budget rather than the CCPC travel budget.
 - The Commission discussed the distribution of the three remaining 4x6 flags.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE THREE REMAINING 4X6 FLAGS TO 1) MARSHALLTON VILLAGE HERITAGE CENTER AT THE REQUEST OF MARK SLOUF, 2) PEOPLE’S HALL IN EAST FALLOWFIELD AT THE REQUEST OF DR. T3, AND 3)

THORNBURY FARMS AT THE REQUEST OF RANDELL SPACKMAN WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY MARYSUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

- Planning for 2027 Commemoration
 - Matt Edmond posed questions to the Commission to begin the discussion on the planning for 2027. Notable remarks and/or decisions resulting from this discussion include:
 - 2027 should include an effort to educate people (for perhaps the first time) about the history of the area and the underlying heritage. Historical societies in the area should be our partners in creating a communication coalition.
 - We should work with Delco and Montco in our efforts.
 - The educational narrative needed has already been created through the HIN effort.
 - Historical military operations will be a focus and so support of organizations such as SAR or DAR will be important.
 - Volunteers and funding are vital to support our ideas. Without either, we won't be successful in an event.
 - Do we provide financial support to an existing event, provide funding to an organization that will plan a new event, or organize our own events?
 - Do we have the authority to change our name and/or our logo? Can we continue to use the America250PA Chester County logo?
 - Follow up actions:
 - David Blackburn will reach out to America250 PA for the use of the logo into 2027.
 - The above suggestions will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and ideas brought to the full Commission meeting on August 6th.

Community Partners

- Chester County Tourism – Susan Hamley
 - Historic by Nature is the current campaign and a new video has been produced. A link to the video will be forwarded to the Commission.
- Chester County History Center – Jennifer Green
 - Jennifer provided an update on their Revolutionary War walking tours, and upcoming cannon unveiling.
- Chester County Parks Department - Dave Stauffer
 - David provided an update on the Exton Community Day, which includes a concert, fireworks and 250 themes.
 - Ranger Jay Erb is hosting We the People program at Hibernia Mansion with 6 speakers.
- Keep Chester County Beautiful (KCCB) – Matt Edmond for Rachael Griffith

- The Woven Mural project is being displayed at the Hankin Library and will be at Exton Library in September.
- 24 new volunteer groups have been organized in the county – the goal is 50 groups, so the progress is half-way.
- The KCCB/250th partnership program is looking for new ways to promote the 250th campaign this fall from September 1 to the end of November. Please send any ideas to Rachael.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Slouf reminded all about the Marshallton 250th Celebration this coming Sunday July 19th.
- Matt Edmond reported on the following:
 - We have several open seats on the Commission as we are allowed 35 seats. We are at 25 members currently. Please send any candidate names to Michelle Kichline.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 PM WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY MARY SUE BOYLE, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary
Chester County A250PA Commission

MM/brb