

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 2:00pm

Present: Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chairman), Mr. Peter Wenner (Secretary), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Buck Musser (Guest), Mr. Ariel Gonzalez (Guest)

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
 - Donations:
 - Finished Distinguished Citizen pins were delivered by Buck. We will have 230 pins to distribute to past and future honorees.
 - A Book featuring the Union soldier from the 1861 Battle of Berlin Heights.
 - Jim Dixon told Wayne he will contribute a thumb drive containing the history of the Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department in the near future.
 - Teeny Phillips scrapbook, pending receipt from Marsha Sutfin.
 - Wayne is providing Joe Wilson, Jr. with names of Revolutionary and Civil War veterans at the Berlin Cemetery for the placement of military grave markers.
 - Timeline display options from the Imagination Center were reviewed. The group is leaning toward the longer retractable banner stand.
- History Discussion:
 - Timeline additions (following dates were verified):
 - 1969: Brunswick Potomac Foundation/Brunswick Railroad (Now Heritage) Museum
 - 1980: YMCA fire
 - 1985: Brunswick Middle School
 - 1985: Brunswick Shopping Center
 - 1999: City Hall moves to W. Potomac Street
 - 2003: Galyn Manor
 - 2007: Brunswick Crossing
 - Berlin Facts, according to Bruce:
 - The population was approximately 250 prior to the coming of the B&O Railroad yard. It rose to 650 in 1890.
 - Leonard Smith Rule: Buyers of the original lots were required to start building within 6 months or Smith would take the land back.
 - Wayne is trying to pin down the date of the first ferry from Loudoun to Berlin. He believes it was 1841. Bruce will do research to try and pin down the date.
 - Jefferson Research (Jackie shared some 1999 research marking the 225th anniversary of the town):
 - Town laid out by Leonard Smith in 1774.
 - Jefferson was only incorporated from 1831-32 before it was “untowned” for not adhering to state requirements. Same thing happened to Point of Rocks.
 - Jefferson’s only mayor was Henry Culler.

- The village is maintained through the cooperation of residents and organizations such as the Ruritan Club.
- New Addition consists of two land parcels and is designated as a special taxing district, which was requested by residents for the installation of streetlights.
- Ariel is researching the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery regarding the mystery of Alvey Keenan's remains.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.