

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 2:00pm

Present: Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chairman), Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member), Peter Wenner (Secretary), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Ariel Gonzalez (Guest), Ms. Amy Grimm (Guest)

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
 - In Wayne's absence for the meetings on 8/7-14, Dave will chair the meetings.
 - Wayne reported that he performed some housekeeping on the library, moving non-perishable items like easels, the scanner, microfilm readers, etc. into the new storage room next door.
 - The board agreed to participate in the 11/6 Business Expo. If the timeline isn't ready, Tim proposed showing the mockup to get reactions/feedback on it.
 - Peter will start posting individual 2025 Distinguished Citizen web pages next week with a goal of messaging them out on Facebook by mid-August.
- History Discussion:
 - Ferries:
 - Earliest ferries were at Point of Rocks and Harpers Ferry.
 - Tim reported on the field trip that he and Wayne took to Loudoun County to look for evidence of an old ferry entrance. According to homeowner Paula Foley, there are remnants of a path near George's Mill that was possibly used by Native Americans for fishing and to ford the river.
 - Dave reported on his research regarding Peacher's Mill in the Short Hill Mountain area. Its proximity to Waltman's Ferry established a connection to the C&O Canal and B&O Railroad beginning in the 1830s.
 - Much later, Brunswick sourced its water supply from Virginia via a 10' pipe 10 yards east of Peacher's Mill.
 - Amy reported that an 1854 map of Lovettsville shows the Berlin Ferry operated by W.W. Wenner.
 - Paine's Ferry to Knoxville also dates to the 1850s. Knoxville was platted after the C&O and B&O was established in 1834.
 - Timeline additions (following dates to be verified):
 - Panel #1 will reflect Berlin before the advent of the Railroad, including 2 maps:
 1. Lower Middletown Valley
 2. Smith's original 1787 plat of Berlin
 - Panel #2 will include:
 1. Barry Post Office (1832)
 2. C&O Canal and B&O Railroad (1834)
 3. Wenner's Store (1841 or 1855)
 4. First Methodist Church (1851? Bruce believes first church services were held in parishioners' homes)
 5. Covered Bridge (1857-1861 when Confederate troops destroyed it)

6. C.F. Wenner's Mill, later Jordan Crampton & Co. and B.P. Crampton & Co. (1870-1962)
 7. Berlin becomes Brunswick (1890)
 8. Iron Bridge (1893)
- Wayne will send Panel #3 for the next board review.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.