

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 2:00pm

Present: Mr. David McIntosh (Acting Chair/Board Member), Peter Wenner (Secretary), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Ms. Theresa Hill (Guest), Mr. Ariel Gonzalez (Guest), Mr. Buck Musser (Guest)

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
 - Timeline:
 - Following up on the question from 8/7, Dave confirmed that the second roundhouse was built in 1907 and completed in 1910.
 - The police force is believed to have operated out of City Hall on A Street until it moved to the old Souder & Chick Dairy in the 1980s. It is unknown when police were first employed by Brunswick.
- History Discussion:
 - Continuing our discussion from 8/7 about ferries:
 - The Virginia Assembly exercised direct authority over ferries on the Potomac River from the early 1600s until 1784, even though the entire river was within Maryland's boundaries, as granted by the King of England.
 - There is solid evidence of 3 early ferry services in the area.
 1. The first Loudoun-based ferry was operated by Francis Awbrey at Point of Rocks.
 2. Flayle Paine ran a ferry at Knoxville Falls near Harpers Ferry.
 3. The Waltman-Wenner ferry to Berlin
 - According to Bruce, the Potomac River Bridge Company bought the ferry business to build the 1857 covered bridge. W.W. Wenner re-established the ferry after the Civil War.
 - The book on Short Hill cited inaccurate information from Rev. Cooper and Mary Margrave that “there were many ferries.”
 - Dave will meet with Richard Gillespie from the Lovettsville Historical Society to verify the information.
 - Continuing the mystery of whether a 16-year-old C.F. Wenner could’ve opened a store in 1841 to sell to canal men, it was suggested that whiskey may have been one of the products he sold. Peter noted that this is not known to the Wenner family. It is confirmed that C.F. Wenner bought lots 31-32 in 1855.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.