

Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 2:00pm

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

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
 - Distinguished Citizens Luncheon recap:
 - Out of 183 RSVPs, 168 attended the luncheon on September 14.
 - Expenses came in at \$3,100, 11% under the \$3,500 budget.
 - Wayne asked the board to start considering nominees for 2026 and to email nominations with a brief description of their accomplishments. Twenty names have already been submitted. We will start the process in January.
 - Railroad Days (10/4-5):
 - We will display the timeline mockup and solicit feedback. Dave will also build a display for his railroad map. We'll also provide brochures.
 - Business Expo (11/6):
 - Jackie motioned that we participate; Tim seconded, and the board unanimously approved.
 - Miller Grant:
 - We will re-apply to fund microfilming of our Brunswick Citizen newspaper collection.
 - Brunswick News-Journal article:
 - Peter has submitted the article on Brunswick's "Early Railroad Boom" for the October issue. Will research an article on the WB Tower for the December issue.
 - Peter will provide screenshots of the July Civil War article for John to post on the Facebook page.
 - Signage at B&O Park:
 - We will get an estimate for a 16-foot metal sign of Dave's railroad map to place near the WB Tower.
- History Discussion:
 - According to Dave's research, for which we need more information, Berlin was envisioned as an inland port for the Potomac Company, which eventually failed.
 - Two early builders in late 18th century were William Oldham (Berlin House) and Charles Beagle (1 N. Virginia Avenue).
 - Beagle's house is believed to have been a barrel-making facility to send milled grain (number of local Virginia mills had tripled) down the river to Alexandria after John Ballandine opened Seneca Falls. There were several blacksmith businesses to mold iron for barrel straps. As John Calflesh built a distillery in Berlin, whiskey was also transported in barrels assembled in Berlin.
 - There was also a tannery.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.