

# Brunswick History Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 2:00pm

**Present:** Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chairman), Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Mr. Ariel Gonzalez (Guest), Mr. John Caves (City Council Liaison)

The following topics were discussed:

- Business:
  - SpringFest – this Saturday. Tim has the display ready. Dave, Jackie, and John C. will be there to help.
  - Three volumes of The Encyclopedia of Engineering, having to do with the railroad, were given to Jackie from a Mr. Israel, former railroader, to be donated to the library.
  - Wayne “rescued” a few books from the Frederick Family History Library (about to undergo renovation) to be added to our collection.
  - Dave donated volume #28 of George Washington’s Papers, which covers the period when he came through this area, to our collection.
  - Wayne noted that the dehumidifier still isn’t working. He will contact Carrie.
  - Wayne mentioned the possibility of working with the National Park Service to place a historic sign at the site of the original SW corner of Lot #1 of Berlin, which has just recently been located.
  
- History:
  - Bruce shared a tribute to his father Harry B. Funk, along with a picture of his father.
  - Wayne shared a diagram showing the metes and bounds of Leonard Smith’s 1780 deed, showing his future site of Berlin in the middle of this property.
  - Discussed early days of the B&O Railroad’s expansion in Berlin (Brunswick), starting in 1889 when the railroad purchased land in Berlin. Brunswick was incorporated in April 1890. The westbound yard was opened in 1891. The eastbound yard was constructed later.
  - Discussed the origin of the name “The Town Between the Tracks.”
    - The name “Town Between the Tracks” seems to have originated with a booklet composed by Nancy Virts’ 4<sup>th</sup> grade class in 1984.
    - 1787-1834: the town was located on the river.
    - 1834-~1910: the town was located between the (westbound) tracks and the canal.
    - ~1910-~1920: the town was located between the (westbound and eastbound) tracks.

- Shortly after 1920-1925, most of the structures in Old Berlin had been demolished to make room for the enlarging railroad facilities.
- For discussion next week: Events between 1900 and the 1950's.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Allgaier, Chair