RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954

ATTENDING:
In-Person: Jeff Pruitt, Chair; Ervin Bateman, Treasurer; Webb Fuller, Secretary; Bambos Charalambous, Leo Holland, and Bobby Owens.

Via GoToMeeting: Tim Cafferty, Vice-Chair; Monica Thibodeau (arrived at 9:20 a.m.), Assistant Treasurer; Doug Brindley; Jamie Chisholm, Karen Loopman-Davis, Ivy Ingram, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Donna Peele.

STAFF:
Lee Nettles, Executive Director (in person)
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration (in person)
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist (in person)
Stephanie Hall, Senior Content Coordinator (in person)
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager (GoToMeeting)
Aaron Tuell, Public Relations Manager (GoToMeeting)

OTHERS ATTENDING:
Via GoToMeeting: Michael Zehner, Town of Nags Head Planning & Development Director

In Person: Dave Hallac, Superintendent, Outer Banks Group, National Park Service; Philip Ruckle, The Coastland Times; and John DeLucia, Albemarle & Associates.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The Board then recited the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Holland moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Charalambous. There was no discussion.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, and Jeff Pruitt.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Bateman moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 18, 2021 meeting. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, and Jeff Pruitt.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).
PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made. No written comments were received.

PRESENTATION: Superintendent Hallac provided a Year in Review presentation (attachment A).

SOUNDSIDE EVENT SITE COMBINED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT DISCUSSION: Lee Nettles reviewed the past discussions regarding the combined Conditional Use Permit for the parcels at the Event Site. Michael Zehner explained his rational for amending the existing Designated Public Event Site Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to combine the three properties (former South Beach Grill site, Dairy Queen, and Pamlico Jacks). The Board discussed their thoughts behind not combining the parcels at this time and queried if a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be an acceptable compromise. Mr. Bateman moved to begin discussions with the Town of Nags Head for a MOU. There was no second; however, the Chair did not declare the motion dead.

Michael Zehner explained that a MOU would not be sufficient in this case. Mr. Bateman withdrew his motion. Following discussion, Legal Counsel suggested that staff work with the Town to obtain a draft CUP to see what the document would contain. The Board discussed this idea. Michael Zehner stated he “would be happy to give you a draft of our recommendations to the Planning Board.”

Mr. Holland moved to direct staff and the Board Attorney to get a rough draft of the [Combined] Conditional Use Permit. Second by Mr. Cafferty.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

STEERING COMMITTEE: The Board reviewed the agreement with Albemarle & Associates for engineering and design of a boardwalk at the event site. Mr. Fuller noted the desire that the boardwalk have piers and allow access to sandy bottom areas. Lee Nettles noted there would be periods for both the Board and public to weigh in on the design. Following discussion, Mr. Charalambous moved to approve agreement with Albemarle & Associates. Second by Mr. Bateman.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused at 10:46 a.m.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Mr. Bateman reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2020-2021 are up 14.99% compared to 2019-2020 actual receipts.
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022: Diane Bognich reviewed the proposed budget. There were no questions at this time. Mr. Bateman moved to set the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget for May 20, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Offices. Second by Mr. Holland.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles reviewed the:
- Stewardship presentation with the Manteo Rotary Club
- Industry Partner webinar with Google
- Tourism Summit for May has been cancelled; however, the webinars will continue.
- VisitNC 365 will be virtual and free to attend
- Taste of the Beach will be an in-person event starting April 16.
- Internet, marketing, and visitation numbers
- Public Relations and Group Sales/Events efforts, including work on an African American Experience Trail and work with events at the Event Site.

OLD BUSINESS: Lee Nettles noted that there was an agreement to be finalized with the Town of Nags Head regarding the purchase of the Town’s share of the Event Site. The terms agreed upon are: $600,000 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, with following payments being made each year for a period of 10 years; a minimum payment of 100,000 per year, and the remaining amount paid out in the final year. The final document will be brought back to the Steering Committee and full Board.

Jay Wheless reviewed a past grant award to Chicamacomico to purchase a parcel of land to enhance the public use of the historic site. While the Board created the contract [based on the old GOSPL contract] with the idea that the land would remain vacant, Chicamacomico did not have the same intent. They wished to move a historic structure to the site to enhance the overall attraction and the ability to use the land as collateral from time to time. Legal Counsel drafted a new agreement that would allow for the placement of the historic home or other development as approved by the Tourism Board from time to time, and a grant repayment reduction schedule of 10% over a 10-year period.

Ms. Thibodeau moved to approve the grant agreement as presented. Second by Mr. Charalambous.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Owens asked about the GOSPL grant for the Davis Lot in downtown Manteo and the types of things that could be placed on the lot. Legal Counsel responded that state statute dictated that these were conservation easements, and nothing could be built or placed on the land.
Following discussion, Mr. Owens moved to direct the attorney to review and brief the [Tourism] Board on the terms and conditions of the conservation easement on the Davis Lot, downtown Manteo. Second by Mr. Bateman.

**Yes:** Ervin Bateman, Doug Brindley, Tim Cafferty, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

**No:** None. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Fuller was excused from the meeting and did not vote.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Owens thanked the Board for the grant for the Town Commons in Manteo.

**SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC (virtual and in-person options available).

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Board. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

[Signature]

Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board
North Carolina

South Carolina

Virginia Beach

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
67 miles

Cape Lookout National Seashore
58 miles

Cape Hatteras National Memorial

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

Moores Creek National Battlefield

National Parks of Eastern North Carolina

Attachment A April 2021
STAFF
- 81 STAFF
- 80 SEASONAL STAFF
- THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 2840 L.E. DISPATCH EVENTS

VISITATION
- Total: 3.07 M visits
- 117,000 OVERNIGHT CAMPERS
- 91 SUPs
- 29 CUAs
- 1138 DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS
- 533 WATERFOWL HUNTERS AT B.I.
- 47,794 ORV PERMITS

INTERESTING FACTS
- 5 VISITOR CENTERS
- OVER 200 PUBLIC TOILETS
- 2 WATER TREATMENT PLANTS
- 60 SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- 84 PARKING LOTS
- 230 BUILDINGS
- 3 AIRSTRIPS
- 270 TONS OF TRASH

BUDGET (APPROXIMATE)
- $15 M
  - $10 M BASE FUNDING
  - $3 M OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PERMITS
  - $2.0 M OTHER FEES
Out of 423 national park sites, the Seashore was the 22nd-busiest in 2020.
Ocean Pursuit

March 5, 2020

July 9, 2020
Challenges
Permits & Camping

Extended camping season at Oregon Inlet and Ocracoke Campgrounds

High ORV permit sales.
Virtual Experiences

Shipwreck of the George W. Wells

Cape Hatteras NS
Virtual Visitor
Spring 2020

Fort Raleigh NHS
Virtual Visitor
Spring 2020

Wright Brothers N MEM
Virtual Visitor
Spring 2020
Ocean Overwash

Attachment A April 2021
Erosion

Original Cape Hatteras Lighthouse fence foundation was uncovered by erosion.
Ocracoke & Buxton staff assisted NCDOT with restoring access through CAHA.
Storm Recovery & Improvements
Storm Recovery & Improvements
The relative sea level trend is 5.32 millimeters/year with a 95% confidence interval of +/− 1.12 mm/yr based on monthly mean sea level data from 1977 to 2020 which is equivalent to a change of 1.75 feet in 100 years. 

Graphic and text from NOAA found here: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends_station.shtml?id=8652587
Science informing recovery

Hurricane Florence - 2018

Original location
Frisco Day Use Area (2019)

New location

Wright Brothers GMP Amendment

Attachment A April 2021
Ocracoke Light Station Preservation
Wildlife

228 sea turtle nets
480 shorebird nests protected
Anniversaries

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Sesquicentennial

150

Attachment A April 2021
NPS Mobile App

- Trip planning
- Ranger Program Schedules
- Campground and ORV information
- Ferry, airstrip and Lifeguarded Beaches.
- Detailed Maps
- Narrated Walking Tours
Where are we going?

Using technology and keeping staff in the field

- Dorian Recovery
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Revitalization
- Adapt to a dynamic coast
- Wright Brothers improvements and Camping Modernization
- Housing improvements