

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
LONG-RANGE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PLAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING: Richard Hess, Chair; Tim Cafferty, Jamie Chishom, Donna Creef, Augusta Feldman, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, Nick Graham, Natalie Kavanagh, Lee Nettles, Mike Remige, and Chris Sawin.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Mark Ballog, Karen Brown, Shannon Castillo, Reide Corbett, Dave Hallac, Elizabeth Morey, Bobby Outten, Ronnie Sloan, Tim Sweeney, and Chris Vlahos.

STAFF:

Jeff Schwartzberg, Community Engagement Manager
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dr. Shelia Davies, Director, Dare County Health and Human Services; Amy Montgomery, Executive Director of Operations, Outer Banks Health; and Jennifer Schwartzberg, Director of Community Outreach and Development, Outer Banks Health.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Lee Nettles moved to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2025 meeting. Second by Mike Remige. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: The Chair thanked several members who will be rolling off the Committee at the end of 2025, including Mark Ballog, Ronnie Sloan, Tim Sweeney and Chris Vlahos and noted he was looking forward to working with the Committee in 2026.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS: Dr. Davies and Amy Montgomery discussed the efforts leading to the creation of ThriveOBX – a collaborative initiative between Dare County, Outer Banks Health and the community – that focuses on promoting wellness and community well-being across the Outer Banks. Jennifer Schwartzberg discussed how local businesses, schools, and residents can get involved with programming and various ThriveOBX initiatives. ThriveOBX Month will take place in February 2026 and will consist of a month-long series of health and wellness activations within the Outer Banks community. The Committee discussed various ways to spread the word and to be involved in the programs.

Chris Sawin reviewed the Outer Banks Community Foundation's Trusted Partner Program, which was designed to help the community be ready before, during and especially after the next major storm or event.

OUTER BANKS VISITOR BUREAU UPDATES: (Lee Nettles)

- Announced the arrival of the 2026 Outer Banks Travel Guide
- Recapped the OBX Tourism Summit held on November 6, 2025 in Hatteras Village
- Provided an update on Dare County meals and occupancy receipts
- Discussed the upcoming launches of the redesigned outerbanks.org website, as well as the second season of The Outer Edge video series
- Presented a brief slide show of the boardwalk construction process at the Soundside Event Site

LRTMP UPDATES & DISCUSSION: (Jeff Schwartzberg)

- Recapped the inaugural Outer Banks Volunteer Week, held October 11-18 2025
- Provided an update on the second 'Promise for the Park' NPS beach clean-up on October 23, 2025
- Discussed the Volunteer OBX portal project

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:

- Natalie Kavanaugh noted efforts to up clean up Buxton beaches following several storms
- Chris Sawin noted the 'Giving While Getting Away' national research report that delves into what inspires donors to support their second-home communities, while emphasizing the importance of and opportunity with our second homeowner population in Dare County
- Augusta Feldman mentioned the impacts of tourism in rural healthcare, which is the topic of her upcoming graduate studies dissertation at UNC-Chapel Hill
- Mike Remige noted three major renovation projects happening at Jennette's Pier over the next several months
- Donna Creef discussed the newly created Dare Housing Foundation nonprofit and its first meeting on November 13, 2025, as well as the public comment filing period (November 19, 2025) regarding proposed homeowners insurance rate increases on rental homes and secondary homes
- Jamie Chisholm noted there will be 4 new hotels coming to the Outer Banks in 2026; 3 Hilton properties and 1 Marriott property
- Richard Hess [Chair] noted a successful Outer Banks Seafood Festival

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS: The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau administrative offices in Manteo.

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board