

**RECORD OF MINUTES  
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021  
9:00 A.M.  
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MANTEO, NC 27954**

**ATTENDING:**

**In-Person:** Jeff Pruitt, Chair; Tim Cafferty, Vice-Chair; Ervin Bateman, Treasurer; Monica Thibodeau, Assistant Treasurer; Webb Fuller, Secretary; Doug Brindley, Bambos Charalambous, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Dennis Robinson, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Jamie Chisholm

**STAFF (in person):**

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

**OTHERS ATTENDING:**

**In Person:** Dave Hallac, Superintendent, National Parks of Eastern North Carolina, National Park Service; Philip Ruckle, *The Coastland Times*; and Page Wiencek.

**Via GoToMeeting:** Jonathan Dail, Johnson, Mizelle, Straub, & Murphy, LLP; and Gray Berryman.

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. Charalambous moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Holland moved to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2021. Second by Ms. Thibodeau. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Superintendent Hallac reviewed visitation and ongoing projects with the National Park Service sites on the Outer Banks.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AUDIT PRESENTATION:** Jonathan Dail reviewed the audit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 [audit on file at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Offices]. The audit has been accepted by the Local Government Commission.

Mr. Bateman moved to accept the audit. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT:** Mr. Bateman reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2020-2021 are up 18.34% compared to 2019-2020 actual receipts. The Board discussed how the rental market was shaping up for 2022.

**OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES:** Lee Nettles updated the Board on:

- Tourism Impact Grants. The Dare County Commissioners gave their consent for the Tourism Impact Grant Awards.
- Plans for the Davis Lot improvements were reviewed by Lee Nettles and Jay Wheless and given the green light as the plans did not go against the restrictions placed on the site due the easement.
- The U.S. was allowing international visitation from certain countries; however, the J1 Visa program still faces challenges.
- Ongoing work with Dare County Schools to support a tourism educational program in the schools, highlighting the various roles within the tourism industry.
- Inquiry and fulfillment numbers. Visitation numbers were slow being reported but expected to be above average.

Lorrie Love reported on past and upcoming sales mission shows and the 2022 event calendar for The Soundside Event Site.

Aaron Tuell reviewed the ongoing work with influencers and travel writers, and upcoming and recently released articles about the Outer Banks.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Lee Nettles briefed the Board on an issue reported at the October 2021 meeting regarding a vendor at an event selling merchandise that some considered offensive and not in keeping with Town and Bureau guidelines for the event site. The event organizer spoke with the vendor and this vendor will not be allowed back. In addition, the event organizer created a system they will use in deciding who, and what type of merchandise, can be sold at their event.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business before the Board.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Charalambous thanked the Board for their support of the Outer Banks Seafood Festival and gave a recap of this year's event. Mr. Cafferty noted that the Outer Banks Half Marathon had been postponed due to weather and would be held in April. The 5k was held and almost 700 people participated in the race. Mr. Robinson noted the sidewalk project in Hatteras was wrapping up and the Hatteras Christmas Parade would be held December 11, 2021.

**SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 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 10:16 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

  
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Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board