

Northumberland County Economic Development Commission

Meeting: September 17, 2024

6-8 pm

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
2. Roll Call: In attendance were Commissioners: Dr. Karen Pica, Dan Corder, and Maurice Johnson; Staff: Drew Basye and Robert Bullard. Also, in attendance John Kost from the Planning Commission. Discovery session contributors include Barbara Mait, Karen Zimmerman, Kay Stout, and Andrew Geesey from Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club, and Lisa Hull from Northern Neck Planning District Commission.
3. Discovery Session
 - a. Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club – American Junior Golf Association Tournament
 - i. Tournament currently scheduled for June 22 – 25, 2025.
 - ii. 96 junior golfers, under the age of 18 will be traveling with parents (at least one parent).
 - iii. Getting the word out is the challenge on where to go and things to do.
 - iv. Needing EMS services onsite and would like to be pointed in the direction for onsite support.
 - v. EDC will look at providing an information book NLT Feb 15
 - vi. EDC will connect with Chief Halderson
 - vii. EDC will support with social media connect.
 - viii. EDC Director will serve as the liaison.
 - ix. EDC will look to set up an information table at the site.
 - x. Look at adding this to QR Code
 - b. Lisa Hull, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator
Northern Neck Planning District Commission
 - i. Discussed tourism locality numbers for the county and said that NOCO recovered quickly in 2021, faster than other counties.
 - ii. Northern Neck National Heritage area designation and new brochures are coming out. Still in the Management Planning Process with a regional exchange scheduled October 29, 2025, at Lancaster Community Library, to obtain input from citizens
 - iii. Drive Outdoors Grant awarded \$10,000 for Callao and \$5,000 for parking lot improvements at each location.
 - iv. Northern Neck 250th - Holding Academic Symposiums
 - v. Virginia Tourism and Marketing to discuss grants for the AJGA

4. Agenda Review. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Mr. Corder motioned for approval and Ms. Carter second.
5. Review of Meeting Notes: The minutes for the EDC's August 2024 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. Mr. Corder motioned for approval, Mr. Johnson second the motion and the Commissioners approved the minutes.
6. Commissioners' Corner
 - a) Mr. Corder – District 1 – Callao Coffee Trailer Jubilee closed its business. There are ten vacant commercial businesses since the Callao Revitalization. Are there things the county can do to provide support to these businesses? Daniel Tomlin approached him to discuss his business idea for the building he purchased. He was going to rent to a day care provider, but Warsaw incentivized them to set up their day care facility in their city.
 - b) Ms. Stuart – District 2 – Not present
 - c) Ms. Carter – District 3 –
 - i. Spoke with Daniel Tomlin and is seeking assistance for help with his building in Callao. Ms. Carter informed Mr. Tomlin he must have a 501.c3 registered business to receive assistance and Northumberland County is limited in their ability to support with any grant money.
 - ii. Spoke with Ms. Anne Walsh from Lancaster/Northumberland Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Walsh asked how home repairs are being supported for Habitat built homes. Currently, the Planning District Commission is entering homes in the database.
 - d) Dr. Pica – District 4 – No new information.
 - e) Mr. Johnson – District 5 – Northern Neck Regional Jail Board meeting discussed statewide problem for finding beds for patients for reintegration purposes. Looked at Northumberland County Jail to see if this facility could be used. It is a billable facility. Researching more information.
7. Executive Director Items
 - a) Phone conference with Howland Church Historical Representative tomorrow.
 - b) Do Stay Eat Customer - My name is Benjamin Lane I am the owner of River Wing Guide Services. We specialize in inshore fishing/bird adventures in the Northern Neck. Also provide sunset/ scenic cruises. We are based out of Buzzard Point Marina. I was wondering what all we must do to join the county site.
 - c) Kayak brochures are available for pick up buy commissioners for distribution.
 - d) Discovery Session list provided with planned participants into 2025.
8. County Administrator Corner
 - a) Finalizing ARPA Tourism audit. Board approval for BillboardsIn change. Board of Supervisors approved \$12,697 but the price was \$12,996. Executive Director is preparing a Memorandum for Record explaining the difference.

- b) Posted an Invitation to Bid (ITB): Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Removal – Bridge Creek, Lodge Creek, Great Wicomico River. Coordinating with VMRC.
8. Current Projects (Dr. Pica)
- a) Wayne met with Lisa and Univ of MW to discuss bus tours.
 - b) Attended VTOPS meeting in Fredericksburg. Good source to be able to look at data. They are trying to put out a survey but that is currently on hold.
 - c) Career EXPO is set for Nov 2 at the JROTC building of Northumberland High School. Looking at planning a second one in spring. Set up Nov 1 – help if you can. Executive Director will keep a master spreadsheet of list of businesses. Planning for a weekly radio broadcast.
9. New Business - NONE
10. Citizen Engagement - NONE
11. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnson and Ms. Carter second the motion. The adjournment was approved, and the meeting ended at 7:28 PM.