



February 17, 2026

## **Bertie County Tourism Development Authority**

Board Meeting 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

TREE HOUSES: 400 Elm Street

Proceed to Windsor Town Hall

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. at the Tree Houses location.

#### **2. Attendance**

- a. Board Members Present: Laura Orsini, Brianne Godwin, Allen Castelloe, Pastor Gregory Gilliam, Kate Jordan, Kelsey Reside
- b. Arrived Late: Brenda Cooper (11:46), Latricia Hines-Miller (11:50), Vivian Saunders (11:53)
- c. Guests: Frank and Elizabeth Cain
- d. Absent: Tim Bazemore, Robin Payne, Jodie Rhea, Willie MacCarawan
- e. A quorum was established

#### **3. Presentation**

- a. Allen Castelloe provided a presentation on the Tree Houses property.

#### **4. Approval of:**

- a. The February 17, 2026 agenda was approved.
- b. The minutes from the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting were approved.

#### **5. Public Input/Questions**

- a. Frank and Elizabeth Cain (Colerain Seed Store) addressed the board:
- b. The Colerain Seed Store has been operating for seven seasons.
- c. Their grand opening is scheduled for March 21, 2026.
- d. The TDA will hold next month's meeting at their location.

#### **6. Updates**

- a. Tax collection update
  - i. No update at this time
- b. Finance Update
  - i. Budget update provided.
  - ii. Proposed budget to be submitted to County Commissioners for review and approval.
- c. D&O Insurance
  - i. Laura Orsini will follow up with Willie Mac Carawan regarding Directors & Officers insurance.
- d. Board Vacancy
  - i. Patricia Ferguson resigned from the TDA Board.
  - ii. Pamela Chamblee (Ahoskie Theatre / Make Music Day) expressed interest in serving.
  - iii. Motion approved to accept Patricia Ferguson's resignation.
  - iv. Motion approved to appoint Pamela Chamblee to fill the vacancy (Entertainment sector).
- e. Meeting Schedule Change
  - i. Meetings will move to the third Monday of each month from 4:00–6:00 p.m.
  - ii. The change will be communicated via website and social media.



- f. Visitor Center/Welcome Centers Report
  - i. The Visitor Center initiative will be paused until funding becomes available.
- g. Birdwatching /photography report
  - i. No update
- h. Historic Preservation Committee – needs new Chair
  - i. The committee needs a new Chair.
  - ii. Discussion about potentially involving someone from Historic Hope.
  - iii. Consideration of Patricia remaining involved in some capacity.
- i. America 250 NC – Bertie County participation next steps
  - i. Coordination with Bertie Arts Council underway.
  - ii. Proposed cost split four ways (\$500 total; TDA share \$125 from marketing budget).
  - iii. Plan includes development of coloring pages based on Native American reenactment photography.
- j. Certified Local Government
  - i. Discussion of outreach to Historic Hope, Colerain, Windsor groups, and Indian Woods
  - ii. Laura Orsini to follow up with Robin Payne regarding CLG grant process and next steps.
- k. Tourism business invitations
  - i. No update
- l. Website Committee report
  - i. Destination Bertie website is live
  - ii. Optimization underway for tablet/mobile functionality.
- m. Social Media Committee report
  - i. Instagram and Facebook accounts are live @destinationbertie
- n. Festival Committee report
  - i. Riverfest scheduled for May 2, 2026.
  - ii. TDA considering hosting a booth with promotional materials.
  - iii. Organizers are seeking musicians.
- o. BertieCountyTDA.com website report
  - i. Robin to provide update during next meeting
- p. Tourism Master Plan – Downtown Development
  - i. Laura Orsini to attend Lewiston and Kelford March meetings for buy-in.
  - ii. Robin Payne working with Aulander, Powellsville, and Colerain.
- q. Tourism That Works / Itineraries
  - i. UPLIFT engagement concluding; Tourism That Works assuming next phase.
  - ii. Board members encouraged to review platform and costs.
  - iii. Laura Orsini to circulate itineraries for Board to review.
  - iv. Board discussed making itineraries for things to do for the following locations:
    - 1. Blue Jay Recreation Center (new multicultural-focused itinerary)
    - 2. Vivian – Lewiston & Kelford
    - 3. Bri – Powellsville & Aulander
    - 4. Laura – Roxobel & Askewville
    - 5. Kate – Colerain
    - 6. Kelsey – Merry Hill
- r. Funding Discussion
  - i. Continued discussion regarding funding larger tourism projects postponed.
- s. s. Miscellaneous



- i. Jazz Festival Proposal (Brenda Cooper)
  1. Proposed early July jazz event at Artisan Alley in conjunction with America 250.
  2. Discussion regarding July 3 music programming.
  3. Board members to recommend jazz or patriotic musicians.
- ii. Communications
  1. Continue using [destinationbertie@gmail.com](mailto:destinationbertie@gmail.com)

## **7. Adjournment**

- i. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM
- ii. TDA will now meet on the third Monday of each month from 4:00–6:00 p.m.
- iii. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
  1. Bertie County Seeds
  2. 124 S. Main Street
  3. Colerain, NC 27924