

Northumberland County Economic Development Commission
Meeting: September 16, 2025
6-8 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Roll Call. In attendance were Commissioners: Dr. Karen Pica, Melissa Carter, and Maurice Johnson; Staff: Drew Basye, Robert Bullard.
3. Agenda Review. Mr. Johnson motioned for approval of the agenda, Ms. Carter second and the motion was approved.
4. Review of Meeting Minutes: August 2025 – Ms. Carter motioned for approval of the agenda, Mr. Johnson second and the motion was approved.
5. Commissioners' Corner
 - a. District 1 – Mr. Corder – not present.
 - b. District 2 - Vacant
 - c. District 3 – Ms. Carter –
 - i. Inquired about the Reedville Market and its status of closure as well as the Triple V Winery closing. It will be a challenge to find replacement as we enter the winter months.
 - ii. Triple V Winery is also closing in November; the owners are retiring.
 - d. District 4 – Dr. Pica –
 - i. Waiting for feedback from the new child daycare to regarding their grant application
 - ii. New dentist is opening in Burgess.
 - e. District 5 – Mr. Johnson –
 - i. Citizens inquired about the Chesapeake Bay Campground and wanted to know if it was vacant.
6. Executive Director Items
 - a) Main Street review –
 - Revised draft review and will send finalized version to on Thursday to Chairperson and Assistant County Administrator.
 - b) Comprehensive Plan Review
 - Updated version submitted to the Commonwealth of Virginia for state review.
 - Strategic Plan update in progress, aligned with new comprehensive data.
 - c) Web Statistics
 - Work ongoing with IT staff to integrate recorded meeting videos and analytics dashboard.
 - d) Civil War Trails & Howland Church and School

- Funding secured for the Howland Church and School heritage sign; the church will maintain the installation.
 - e) Career Fair at Northumberland High School
 - Tentative planning for Spring 2026
 - f) Chamber of Commerce.
 - Met with Paul Coffman, Chamber of Commerce, Sept 25, to discuss EDC Goals and Chamber Focus
 - g) Pickle Ball / Tennis Court discussion with Mary Ellen Small. Requesting a meeting to discuss properties but informed her EDC is not at that point yet.
 - h) NNPDC Meeting last night at Tides Inn – Closure Dec 1 – April 1, 2026, for major renovations. Transitioning from 100 to 70 room capacity.
 - i) VA 250 meeting discussing business 250 kits.
 - Ongoing coordination to promote business participation and access to grants.
 - Distributed information packet to commissioners, Chamber and posted on the EDC website.
7. County Administrator Corner
- a) Enterprise Zone and Property Redevelopment
 - Received list of underutilized and vacant county properties from Planning Commission.
 - Discussed eligibility for industrial revitalization funding through DHCD.
 - Discussed how some properties lack access and are unsuitable for redevelopment.
 - Plan to prioritize viable properties for sale to fund future matching grants.
 - b) Dredging Project: Continuing joint effort with NNPDC and VIMS on the Little Wicomico dredging project; JPA approval pending. Expected 2-year timeline.
8. Current Projects
- a) Sales Tax Analysis:
 - No further updates are required; data analysis is complete and used for informational purposes.
 - b) Business Development:
 - Limited new business tax revenue expected; emphasis shifting to promoting underutilized properties.
 - Research requested on how other similar counties promote available buildings and opportunities.
 - Explore coordination with Virginia Chamber of Commerce for broader visibility of Northumberland properties.
 - c) Loan Program: Application

- Updates are still pending.
 - Limited CDBG funds available to support existing businesses.
- d) Property Sales & Analysis:
- EDC and Planning Commission reviewing county-owned properties before sales resume.
 - Several parcels identified as inaccessible (“landlocked”) and unsuitable for retention.
 - Goal: finalize list and recommend sales to the Board of Supervisors.
- e) Poor House Tract:
- Seeking planning grant to explore development options (e.g., recreation or trail uses).
 - Matching funds required, dependent on proceeds from county property sales.
- f) Community Block Grant / Lively Landing Project: Reported as on track and progressing as expected.
9. New Business
- a) Executive director will be out 12 – 28 November 12-28, 2025
- b) Mr. Johnson motioned to cancel the December 16th meeting, Ms. Carter second and the motion passed.
- c) Continue to inform the Board of Supervisors of our ongoing efforts:
- NNK 250
 - County land sale/ reutilization
 - List of grants we are trying to exploit.
 - Identifying information sharing strategies, through agencies like VA Chamber or VEDP for their recommendations for outreach and use for businesses.
10. Citizen Engagement – None
11. Adjournment. Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Carter second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.