

# Town, county to fund 'Colony' dig site

Archaeologists continue to find artifacts that may reveal clues to mystery

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WINDSOR - The Bertie County Commissioners and the town of Windsor Commissioners mutually agreed to help fund the Lost Colony dig site.

The two boards met for a special called meeting on Monday, April 16, and the Lost Colony was the second topic up for discussion.

Near the confluence of Salmon Creek and The Albemarle Sound, archaeologists continue to uncover artifacts that may reveal clues to the 400-year mystery of the Lost Colony.

"Many are familiar with what's going on at Bal Gra. Currently no further digs will happen. This has been one of the most promising digs, even after the digs in Jamestown," said Partnership for the Sound Board Member John Ed Whitehurst.

According to White-

hurst, the archaeologists cannot continue to stay in Bertie County.

"They need more money. I have separately approached the Bertie County Commissioners and the Windsor Commissioners to contribute \$25,000 each to continue the dig. It costs approximately \$10,000 a week to fund the dig, and \$50,000 would continue the dig for another five weeks," he added.

According to Whitehurst, Archaeologists believe the mouth of Salmon Creek was used as a lookout, where several people would have been stationed.

"Possibly the main body would have been up further at Salmon Creek," he continued.

"Many residents think the Lost Colony was here, but this would add to the mystery of the last 400 years," said Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer.

"I would love to help

try to get this organized. We are currently working on a display for the Roanoke/Cashie River Center. I am here to support the county and the town," Whitehurst added.

"If we did this type of commitment, we would need some type of insurance," said Windsor Mayor James Hoggard.

"What about using East Carolina University or North Carolina State University to help with the digs. A lot of times these are students or volunteers that will come for the dig and the site is close to the schools," said Bertie County Commissioner John Trent.

"The current contractor working on the site was selected by the state for the dig," said Whitehurst.

"I am just thinking that \$25,000 will only take us so far. We should look into grants that would continue to fund the project. I believe this is

more than a 12-month project," Trent added.

"With the Town of Windsor and Bertie County Commissioners supporting a nonprofit like us, it makes it easier when applying for grants," said Partnership of the Sound Executive Director Jackie Woolard.

"At \$10,000 a week, \$50,000 would finance five weeks of digging. There have already been enough discoveries for marketing and advertising. It has been 400 years of history and the digging will never stop," said Bertie County Vice Chairman Ronald Wesson.

"I hope both boards help fund this project. It has and will continue to put Windsor on the map," said Bertie County Chairman Ernestine Bazemore.

Bertie County Commissioner Tammy Lee suggested having someone to spearhead talks between the commis-

sion boards and the digging contractor

"Would you be interested in doing this," Lee asked Whitehurst.

"The partnership is anxious to help," replied Whitehurst.

"We could use a grant writer. This is a fantastic opportunity. This rewrites the ending of history," said Windsor Mayor Pro Tempore Cathy Wilson.

"The story tells about three groups the American Americans, the American Indians and the settlers. We need to latch on to this and put the spotlight on Bertie County," added Sauer.

"The next step for funding the project would be set up a meeting with the Lost Colony organization after a general consensus has been made by both boards and look at budgets for funding.

"Would \$75,000 make a bigger difference? If each board gave \$12,000 more, then we could

give \$75,000," said Windsor Commissioner Randy Walston.

Bertie County Commissioners voted to make a commitment of \$25,000 to the Lost Colony project.

Commissioner Trent made the motion to make the commitment to the project and Vice Chairman Wesson offered a second.

The vote was passed 40. Commissioner Stewart White was absent.

Next, the Windsor Commissioners voted to make to the commitment of \$25,000 to the Lost Colony project.

Mayor Pro Tempore Wilson moved to accept the recommendation and Commissioner Walston offered a second. It was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

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**NORLAN GRAVES**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dear citizens,

I am a nine year resident of Halifax county. Since residing in the area, I have served the citizens both in and out of the courtroom. Whether it was prosecuting violent criminals in our courts, delivering supplies to flood victims in Bertie county or advocating for economic development in the region through my work with the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments, it has always been my priority to improve the standard of living in our area.

As your next District Attorney of Bertie, Hertford, Northampton and Halifax counties, I promise the following:

1. I will make it my top priority to aggressively prosecute violent career criminals!
2. I will prosecute cases in a timely fashion. Unnecessary delays are unfair to victims, victims families and tax payers!
3. I will be visible in the courtroom and in the community!

Starting with early voting on *April 19th through May 5th* and election day on *May 8th 2018*, I ask for your vote and support.

Feel free to email me at [norlangraves@gmail.com](mailto:norlangraves@gmail.com) and follow me on Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/norlangraves/>