

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPEMNT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 9, 2026**

Present: Members: Chair Tim Crabtree, Town Manager Amie Owens, Heather Childress Custer, Angela Martin, Colin McGinnis, Rob Reale, and Heather Dombroskie (joined via phone).

Absent: Hannah Edwards, Kevin, Covell, and Guy Gooder.

Others present: Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk  
Robbie Tompa, Town Councilman  
Mia Overton, The Franklin Press  
Morgan Stewart, Stewart Communications  
Devon Dupuis, Stewart Communication

**1. Call to Order- Chair Tim Crabtree**

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

**2. Approval of the January 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

***Member Colin McGinnis made a motion, seconded by Member Rob Reale to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 -0.***

**3. Financial Reports- ending December 31, 2025**

Town Manager Amie Owens stated that due to the Town systems being offline for 2 weeks the occupancy tax data could not be produced. She will have the December and January totals at the March meeting. Total expenses thus far are \$83,833.80. The Fund Balance total also could not be updated. The report is incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit A.

***The TDA board voted unanimously to approve the monthly financial report, as presented.***

**4. New Business**

**A.) New Application for Consideration – Macon County Transit Appalachian Trail Shuttle Service – March 4 through May 27, 2027 – Requested amount \$6,000**

Macon County Transit submitted an application for consideration for the Hiker Shuttle Route. The requested amount for marketing is \$6,000. This item will be voted on at the March meeting.

It was noted in their presented budget that the amount listed for marketing is only \$4,000 and there wouldn't be any fares collected this year due to businesses donating funds to cover the cost of hiker fares. It was also noted that the budget information presented to the TDC for funding was different from the information that was submitted in the TDA.

Town Manager Owens will follow up with Macon County Transit Director, Darlene Asher, for further clarification.

**B.) Vote on Application – Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council – 2026 Celebration March 20- April 22, 2026 – Requested amount \$1,200**

Cory McCall, Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council, presented the application for funding at the January meeting. The requested amount is \$1,200.

***Member Angela Martin made a motion, seconded by Member Colin McGinnis to approve the request from the Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council for \$1,200, as requested. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

**5. Items from the Board**

A.) Monthly Marketing Report- Stewart Communications

Morgan Stewart, Stewart Communications, emailed his monthly report to the Board. The report is incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit B.

**6. Announcements**

A.) The next regular scheduled TDA meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

**7. Adjourn**

***Member Rob Reale made a motion, seconded by Member Colin McGinnis to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

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**Timothy Crabtree, Chairperson**

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**Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk**