



Clarke County Litter Committee

Meeting Notes (no quorum)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 5:30PM

Berryville-Clarke County Government Center – A/B Meeting Room

ATTENDANCE	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓
Tom Bauhan	X
Matthew Bass (BOS Representative)	✓
John Keim	✓
Mary Martin	X
Meg Roque	X

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Maddox (Office Manager / Zoning Officer), Travis Sumption (Chief Deputy of Clarke County), Anne Williams (Commonwealth’s Attorney), Lorien Lemmon (Preservation Planner / GIS Coordinator)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark and Beth Shenk (Residents)

Call to Order: There was no quorum for today’s meeting.

Approval of Agenda

None (no quorum)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

None (no quorum)

Litter Nuisance Discussion with Travis Sumption and Anne Williams

- It is very difficult to enforce litter charges even if a license plate number is provided as the identity of the person driving the vehicle also needs to be proven.
- There are several factors to be included before law enforcement can take action.
- If they receive multiple complaints against one license plate number in particular, they will write an official letter to the owner of the vehicle outlining the violation.
- It takes an enormous amount of effort, time, and money to catch a litterer that is not much of a return on investment concerning taxpayers’ money.
- The Sherrif’s Office does occasionally charge people for putting signs up on VDOT right of ways which can potentially be a \$100 fine per sign.
- The Sherriff’s Office is unable to provide stakeouts for litterers at this time as their focus and effort is invested in traffic safety along Routes 7, 340, and 50.
- The best way to prevent littering is prevention and getting the word out.
- Cameras are great evidence, however, someone will have to sort through all of those images on a daily basis. The best locations for cameras are where there isn’t a lot of traffic such as under the bridges.
- The last prosecution of a littering case was approximately 7 years ago, which was a neighbor dispute situation.
- While Facebook can help get leads and help identify someone it is not going to be main source of proof needed.

- Some suggestions as to what the Litter Committee can do is to ask the Winchester Star to write an article, have a joint press release between Clarke County Litter Committee and the Sherriff's Office with VDOT representatives present.
- Should a case lead to a trial, it will be up to the judge to decide the outcome. The General Assembly has also made some law changes in which a judge may decide to completely dismiss a case for a first time litterer, with no prior history. Littering is a class 1 misdemeanor, which is the same as a DUI or shoplifting and is a jailable offense. The Code provides that in lieu of incarceration, the court can order someone to complete 10 hours of litter abatement.
- When Chair Harrison asked if there were any pick up programs in place like Camp 7, it was suggested to contact the Juvenile and Domestic Relations district court to be added to their community service list.
- Perhaps connecting with the community through the Millwood Association, the schools, etc. would help get volunteers and spread the word about the committee and cause.
- The committee has a better chance to reach out to people who will help raise awareness than to chase after litterers. It could be that the majority of the litterers are not even from Clarke and just passing by.
- Matt Bass left the meeting at 6:00pm.

Planning, Engagement, and Scheduling in 2023

- Mr. Keim touched base with the Clarke Environmental Council and provided a list of items they need funds for. Ms. Maddox said the grant would require us to pay for specific items such as trees for tree planting and would need to pay the vendor directly rather than providing a check to the club.
- The boat ramp pick up was a success and there were several volunteers. Ms. Maddox noted that the Clarke Monthly article was well received.
- The committee discussed how the Frederick County Litter Committee has themed clean up events to entice more volunteers.
- The group scheduled May 6th at 9am (Adopt a Highway), June 10th at 9am (Chet Hobert Park), July 15th at 9am (Rt 340/7 Underpass), August 15th at 5:30pm (Clarke County Fair), and September 16th 8am-12pm (Farmer's Market).

"Keep Clarke Clean Art & Slogan Contest" Update

- The members reviewed several art and slogan submissions and decided to increase the winners from three to six each.

EPS Campaign Update

- Ms. Maddox noted the EPS letters went out to the business owners and that the deadline for them to respond with their order forms is May 12th.

Clarke County Litter Committee "Citizen of the Year" Discussion

- Ms. Maddox said she spoke to the County Administrator who is on board with the award but would like the title to be changed. The last title suggestion was "Environmental Advocate of the Year."

Budget Overview

- Ms. Maddox noted the cargo net order was placed.

Media Outreach Details

- There were no updates to the brochure by the members other than one grammatical error changing "att" to "at."

Other Business

- Ms. Maddox said she was able to change the adopted road to Salem Church to Pyletown Road and also the Opequon Road to the Frederick County line.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:46pm.


Kristina Maddox (Clerk)