



# Clarke County Litter Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 – 5:30PM

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

ATTENDANCE	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓
Tom Bauhan (Vice Chair)	✓
Matthew Bass (BOS Representative)	✓ <sup>L</sup>
John Keim	✓
Mary Martin	X
Meg Roque	X

L – Denotes a tardy arrival

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kristina Maddox (Office Manager / Zoning Officer), Lorien Lemmon (Conservation Planner / GIS Coordinator)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

## Call to Order

Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

## Approval of Agenda

Mr. Keim made the motion to approve the agenda as presented by Staff, seconded by Mr. Bauhan.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

- May 16, 2023 – Mr. Bauhan moved to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes as presented by Staff, seconded by Mr. Keim.

## Public Comments

None.

## Planning, Engagement, and Scheduling in 2023

Mr. Keim and Ms. Lemmon discussed the recent low-turnout pickup at Chet Hobart Park. Although an article was written for Clarke Monthly advertising this pickup, it was not included in the June issue. The omission of the article is thought to have negatively impacted attendance for this pickup.

Mr. Keim also relayed that during this pickup at the park there were a pair of citizens that explained that they had observed a piece of trash in the same location for the past 5 days and was wondering when someone would pick it up. The committee discussed this as an outreach opportunity and Mr. Keim suggested writing a Clarke Monthly article highlighting the responsibility of the whole community to pick up litter in common areas.

Mr. Bass arrived at 5:41pm.

Chair Harrison discussed gathering more volunteers through community service and Mr. Bass confirmed that legally the committee is allowed to do that. The committee discussed involving sports teams in pickups as a way to entice more high school students who need additional community and volunteer service hours for college applications to acquire those hours through the Litter Committee.

The committee reviewed the upcoming events including the July 15<sup>th</sup> Route 7/Route 340 pickup, the August 15<sup>th</sup> County Fair pickup and booth, and the Clarke County Farmer's Market table on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The committee agreed, by consensus, on October 7<sup>th</sup> for an electronic recycling event at C2 Management, November 18<sup>th</sup> for another boat ramp pickup, and December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Adopt-a-Road clean up. Ms. Maddox explained that it would be safer for the Committee to do roadside pickups on a Sunday in order to avoid typically heavier traffic on Saturdays.

Mr. Bass discussed the new Virginia Supreme Court ruling about what constitutes a public meeting and how it will impact pickups and the planned joint meeting to at the County Fair Booth on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Maddox explained that minutes will have to be recorded if there is ever a quorum of committee members present.

The committee discussed adding a town pickup event that would coincide with the County Fair Booth on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Chair Harrison brought up the new Girl Scout troop and noted that road and riverside pickups would be unsafe for this age group, but they would be able to join an in-town pickup.

Chair Harrison discussed the validity of member commitments and informally suggested potential candidates for membership. While the committee appreciates everyone's contribution to the Litter Committee, lack of attendance to meetings and events have been noticed. The committee recognized that the decision must be at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.

#### **“Keep Clarke Clean Art & Slogan Contest” Update**

Ms. Maddox explained that the slogan contest magnets have been ordered and that she is working with Cathy Kuehner on the signs. The signs will be based on 7 images and 2 sets of each image will be ordered, bringing the total up to \$560 for the signs. Placement of the signs will be determined later on.

#### **EPS Campaign Update**

Ms. Maddox has been in contact with Schenck Foods to place the order for the EPS campaign and was questioning the tax exemption status of the order. Once resolved, Ms. Maddox will place an order for the previously discussed items such as 9”x9” hinged containers and small cups.

Mr. Bauhan suggested acquiring feedback from the businesses that accept these donated items as a way to provide the business owners with a sense of ownership on their use of these containers. Mr. Bass suggested including a follow up questionnaire during the time of distribution of these items that contains questions regarding the performance and durability of these containers.

#### **DEQ Grant Application**

Ms. Lemmon explained that the Department of Environmental Quality Non-Competitive Litter grant for FY24 is due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This is the main funding for this committee and Ms. Lemmon asked the committee if the same list of recycling activities from FY23 should be selected or if they wanted to pledge the funds differently. The committee discussed incorporating some additional activities for this next grant year cycle and decided to select all available activities on the grant application.

Ms. Lemmon briefly described another source of non-competitive grant funding, the “Keep Virginia Beautiful” grant, that will be applied for in March of 2024.

Ms. Maddox introduced the “Volunteer Ocean Trash Data Form” from the Ocean Conservancy and explained that it can be used for roadside and park pickups as well as riverside pickups. Ms. Lemmon further explained that a volunteer can walk the stretch of road before the pickup and tally what they see. This is a more efficient way to collect this data that is used to inform solutions and prove need for additional funding.

**Media Outreach Details**

Ms. Harrison and Mr. Keim further discussed an article for Clarke Monthly emphasizing the importance of everyone in the community taking part in picking up litter. The committee discussed contacting a representative from the Department of Parks and Recreation to further explain for the article that their employees are not solely responsible for picking up litter at Chet Hobart Park.

The committee discussed creating monthly content for Clarke Monthly that would include pickup event details and other information regarding litter in the county.

**Other Business**

Mr. Bauhan requested an update on the glass hauling program and it was confirmed to be on going.

Mr. Bass commented that he would speak with Parks and Rec at their next meeting about picking up litter at the park and talk with some high school students about volunteer service hours. He also mentioned speaking to the Board of Supervisors regarding membership and that he would speak to some of his clients about community service opportunities through Litter Committee.

Mr. Bass left the meeting at 6:22pm.

Chair Harrison volunteered to contact Mr. Ambrosio to confirm the Litter Committee's booth for the County Fair and to orchestrate a pick up.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Bauhan moved and Mr. Keim seconded that the Committee adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> in the Government Center A/B/Conference room at 5:30pm. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

  
Ashley Harrison (Chair)

  
Lorien Lemmon (Clerk)