



**Clarke County Litter Committee**  
**Berryville/Clarke County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**101 Chalmers Court, Berryville, Virginia 22611**  
**Suite B Conference Room**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:30 pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Election of Officers
  - Chair
  - Vice-Chair
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - December 19, 2023
5. Public Comments
6. Upcoming Event Planning
  - April 2024 Earth Day Planning
7. Upcoming Meeting Topics
  - EPS Campaign Planning
  - 2024 Organizational Meeting
8. Keep Clarke Clean Signage Update – VDOT Update
9. Updated Waiver Form
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment
  - The next regular Litter Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Suite B Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the Berryville-Clarke Government Center at 101 Chalmers Court, Berryville VA 22611.



# Clarke County Litter Committee

**DRAFT** – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – 5:30PM

Berryville/Clarke County Government Center – Suite B Conference Room

ATTENDANCE	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓
Tom Bauhan (Vice Chair)	✓*
Matthew Bass (BOS Representative)	X
John Keim	X
Mary Martin	✓
Christi McMullen	✓

\*Arrived at 5:41

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clarke County High School Student

## Call to Order

Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

## Approval of Agenda

Ms. McMullen made the motion to approve the agenda as presented by Staff, seconded by Ms. Martin

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. McMullen moved to approve the meeting minutes for October 17, 2023 as presented by Staff, seconded by Ms. Martin. Ms. Martin moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 21, 2023 as presented by Staff, seconded by Ms. McMullen.

**Public Comments** – None.

## Upcoming Event Planning

The Committee discussed plans for an Earth Day event for 2024. Ms. Lemmon noted that in the previous meeting there had been a discussion of collaboration with other groups and Chair Harrison noted that past Litter Committees had held a competition to see which organization could pick up the most trash. The Committee discussed the logistics of deciding the winner of such a competition and Chair Harrison mentioned that she had reached out to local businesses to ask them to donate prizes for the trash pickup competition. Ms. McMullen referred to previous conversations regarding the presence of law enforcement at the Earth Day event and that the Committee has cargo nets that could be distributed at that time. The Committee noted that Earth Day falls on a Monday in 2024 and discussed the possibility of moving the event to the previous Saturday, April 20 in order to gain more local participation. Ms. Lemmon agreed to reach out to the Clarke County Sheriff's Office to determine their availability.

Chair Harrison noted that the Committee still needed to compile a list of potential participating organizations and the need to reach out to them. Ms. McMullen and the Clarke County High School Student discussed various contacts and school groups that may be interested in participating in the Earth Day event.

The Committee considered multiple pickup points within the County while keeping roadside safety for younger volunteers in mind. Any roadside pickups would require a Litter Committee member representative

to assist with the road signs. Chair Harrison also noted that the Committee should promote the Adopt-A-Highway program to the other organizations during the event.

Ms. Lemmon asked if the locations the Committee used for 2023 pickup events would be appropriate for the competition. Ms. McMullen noted that past pickup locations such as the Park, Fairgrounds, and Town of Berryville should be reserved for younger volunteers due to safety concerns.

The Committee agreed to tentatively start the event at 9am on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and have all of the groups convene at the Fairgrounds at noon to announce the trash pickup winner. The Committee agreed that they need to reach out to the Ruritan or a similar club in order to borrow a scale large enough to weigh the trash.

### **Upcoming Meeting Topics**

Mr. Bauhan proposed that the Litter Committee submit, to the Board of Supervisors (BoS), a resolution that: recognizes the harmful effects of expanded polystyrene (EPS), outlines the timeline as defined in the state legislation for a statewide EPS ban, and that would encourage a County policy banning EPS earlier than what would be mandated by the state. While Chair Harrison supported the idea, she did recognize that that the Committee would need to be available to offer additional support to local businesses switching to EPS alternatives earlier than anticipated. Ms. McMullen suggested that the Committee could look into providing funds to local businesses in order to cover the cost of the difference between EPS products and EPS alternative products. Mr. Bauhan agreed to draft a proposal and bring it the next meeting for review from the BoS representative, Mr. Bass.

Ms. Maddox reviewed the procedure for the organizational meeting set for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She also mentioned that at this meeting, the frequency and time of the 2024 meetings will be discussed.

### **2024 Environmental Advocate of the Year**

The Committee reviewed their choice for the Environmental Advocate of the Year award recipient to be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting in May 2024.

### **Keep Clarke Clean Signage Update**

Ms. Lemmon explained that the location map and sign proofs were submitted to VDOT but an online application form was also required. Ms. Lemmon noted that this task is still in progress while Staff collaborate with VDOT.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Bauhan questioned how long the Committee was committed to funding the purple bin program and Ms. Maddox responded that the purple bin program was funded through June 2024.

Chair Harrison mentioned that she had spoken to a previous Litter Committee member and was inspired to reach out to other past members to invite them to current Litter Committee meetings. She explained that previous members could be a resource of information and ideas that may be useful for current Committee goals.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Litter Committee unanimously approved to adjourn at 6:31pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5:30pm in the Suite B Conference Room located on the second floor of the Berryville-Clarke Government Center in Berryville, VA.

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

~~to~~*To be reviewed before cleanup begins when working on projects organized by the Clarke County Litter Committee*

1. The event location where litter is being removed should be examined on the day of the week and during the hours intended for the cleanup to determine if the conditions during those times are appropriate for the ages and abilities of the participants. Be aware of any large ruts in the ground, pipes, and/or water areas as they could be a hazard.
2. All participants are responsible for abiding by these guidelines and responsibilities. For emergencies, it is recommended that someone in the group have the availability of a working cell phone, an adequate first aid kit, and transportation immediately accessible. Know your location and do not hesitate to dial 911.
3. Minors under the age of 18 may participate if their *Agreement to Participate and Release* form was signed by a parent/guardian and is on file with The County. Groups must have at least one (1) adult supervisor at the site when minors are present.
4. Participants are responsible for placing the “*Roadside Cleanup Ahead*” or similar signs before each cleanup and removing the signs after completion of the cleanup.
5. Carpooling to the cleanup site is encouraged to keep roadside parking to a minimum. Park as far from the road’s edge as possible.
6. It is mandatory to wear the supplied reflective safety vest as soon as you leave the car so you are immediately visible to motorists. In addition, wear brightly colored clothing that protects your arms and legs, substantial shoes or boots and gloves. Never wear sandals or open-toed shoes. An LED light attached to your shirt, jacket, arm, backpack, etc. helps ensure you can be clearly seen from both the front and back sides and a hat helps to avoid sunburn.
7. Always walk facing traffic and stay with the group. This will be a constant reminder of the danger ahead of you, allow you to see a dangerous situation before it reaches you, and drivers are more apt to pay attention to a person on the road if they can see a face.
8. Avoid the use of headphones, iPods, cell phones or any wireless device that could interfere with the ability to hear oncoming traffic, safety warnings or other potential dangers.
9. Take plenty of breaks, drink fluids and don’t overexert.
10. Work during daylight hours only. Stop working in bad weather including but not limited to fog, wet roads, and electrical storms.
11. DO NOT spray any pesticides on the adopted section.
12. Guidelines for Picking up Litter:
  - Knives, machetes, axes, etc. should not be carried by participants.
  - Avoid contact with poison ivy and animals.

- You may place recyclable items in separate bags.
- ~~DO NOT~~ **BE CAUTIOUS** when picking up litter in the roadway, close to the edge of the road, in median strips, in construction or maintenance sites, in tunnels or bridges.
- DO NOT throw, discharge or otherwise deposit anything liquid or solid into the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, pool or any body of water, or in any storm sewer, sanitary sewer or drain.
- DO NOT overfill or compact trash bags because of the danger of injuries from broken or jagged objects. Fill bags with what goes in easily, and then start with a new bag. Items may be stacked outside of a closed bag if they have dull, pointed edges that might tear the bag or large items that might prevent the bag from closing properly. Never lift anything too heavy.
- ~~DO NOT~~ **BE CAUTIOUS** when picking up cardboard boxes with bare hands as this could be a snake's or another animal's home.
- DO NOT pick up discarded syringes, hypodermic needles, items that have "potentially infectious waste" written on them, suspected hazardous materials or suspected toxic substances. Please notify the Clarke County Sheriff's Department at their non-emergency number (540) 955-1234.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT ALONE**

Formatted: Not Strikethrough  
 Formatted: Not Strikethrough  
 Formatted: Not Strikethrough

13. Participants shall remove the trash collected themselves or choose to place all closed trash bags and items on the shoulder of the adopted area at least two feet from the traveled area. Notify VDOT if bags and items need to be collected.

14. When cleanup is complete return all VDOT or county-supplied items and notify Clarke County Staff of the quantity of litter collected and include any other information such as observations of hazardous materials.

---

I have read and understand the Safety Guidelines and Responsibilities of participants in Clarke County Litter Committee events; and, affirm to adhere to such.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

## AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE

By deciding to participate in this Clarke County Litter Committee activity, I understand and acknowledge the accident risk factors involved. I know my own physical capabilities, and I assume all risk and liability in order to participate in these litter cleaning activities.

I realize that my participation in this activity involves risk of injury, including risks resulting from but not limited to contact with dangerous items and substances, such as sharp objects, heavy/hard to handle garbage, animals, animal feces, insects, water, marshes, bogs, electric fences, dangerous terrain and plants, such as poison ivy/oak. I also realize that when working near roadways, vehicular traffic poses risk of injuries and even the possibility of death. Additional risks can include, but are not limited to, delayed muscle soreness, contusions, abrasions, and cuts. Also, I recognize that there are many other risks of injury including serious and disabling injuries, which may arise due to my participation in this activity, and that it is not possible to specifically list each and every individual injury risk. By signing this form, I desire, consent and voluntarily choose to take part in these litter cleaning activities.

Knowing the material risks and reasonably anticipating that other injuries are a possibility, I assume all the risks normally incident to the nature of these activities and agree that neither Clarke County nor any of its officers, agents, and employees will be responsible for any damages or injuries resulting to me. Also, I understand that any injury incurred and the resulting medical expense from that injury will be my responsibility and Clarke County will not be responsible for any related expenses.

In consideration of the County allowing me to participate in this and/or future litter cleaning events, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, executor, administrators, and assigns, forever release and discharge Clarke County, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all claims, complaints, demands, actions, causes of actions, and suits at law or equity, for and on account of any accidents, injuries, disabilities, death, property damage, and all losses and expenses of any nature whatsoever that may be sustained by me or anyone below as a result of my participation in this litter cleaning activity.

Signed (Participant) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if participant is 18 years of age and younger)*

Print \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/Group/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is valid through the end of the calendar year of the year signed.**

Revised 4/22/2022

# DRAFT Resolution on EPS

January 2024

**Whereas** the continued widespread use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) for food containers and packaging material in single-use applications continues to impose substantial waste management and litter challenges for Virginia communities; and

**Whereas** EPS, due to its non-biodegradability, and due to its easy disintegration due to its non-durable qualities, results in unsightly litter that scatters and persists along roadways, parking lots, and other public spaces; and

**Whereas** EPS, due to its non-biodegradability, and due to its easy disintegration due to its non-durable qualities, results in toxic microplastic particles released into the environment containing Benzene and Styrene that can take hundreds of years to decompose, becoming embedded into our watersheds and water and food supplies as persistent chemical and physical contaminants to wildlife, livestock, fish and other marine life, and the human diet; and

**Whereas** recycling of waste EPS materials is technically possible but not commercially viable; and

**Whereas** Virginia state law requiring stores and restaurants to no longer use EPS for food and beverage containers is currently set to go into effect July 1, 2029 statewide; other counties and municipalities in the region already have such laws in effect; and

**Whereas** Clarke County not only recognizes its greatest natural resource - our unspoiled natural environment - as one of the greatest contributors to our quality of life, but also promotes a business friendly environment,

*Clarke County hereby supports and promotes the intent of Virginia state law on EPS set to go into effect July 1, 2029. Commencing July 1, 2024, Clarke County will enact a voluntary ban on the use of EPS containers county wide. Businesses and establishments who comply with the voluntary ban will be publicly recognized and may be eligible to receive free earth friendly containers donated by Clarke County. In addition, commencing July 1, 2027, the voluntary ban will become a mandatory county ordinance. Businesses and establishments may continue to be eligible at that time for limited supplies of county donated earth friendly containers, up until the statewide ban goes into effect.*

Drafted by: Clarke County Litter Committee