

Clarke County Litter Committee

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 20th 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 16th, 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.

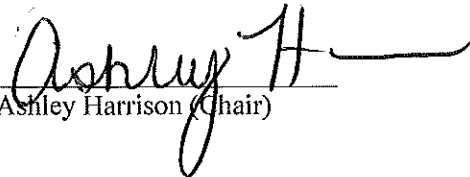
Other Business


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 16th 2024 at 5:30pm in the Suite B Conference Room located on the second floor of the Berryville-Clarke Government Center in Berryville, VA.


Ashley Harrison (Chair)


Lorien Lemmon (Clerk)