



Clarke County Litter Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – 5:30PM

Berryville/Clarke County Government Center – Suite B Conference Room

ATTENDANCE			
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓	John Keim	✓
Tom Bauhan (Vice-Chair)	✓ ^E	Mary Martin	X
Matthew Bass (BoS Representative)	✓	Christi McMullen	✓ ^L

E – Denotes electronic participation

L – Denotes a late arrival

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Maddox (Office Manager / Zoning Officer)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Approval of Agenda – February 20, 2024

The Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the agenda for the February 20, 2024 meeting.

Motion to approve the February 20, 2024 agenda as presented by Staff:			
Harrison	AYE	Keim	AYE (seconded)
Bauhan	AYE	Martin	ABSENT
Bass	AYE (moved)	McMullen	ABSENT

Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2024

The Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion to approve revised January 23, 2024 meeting minutes as presented by Staff:			
Harrison	AYE	Keim	AYE (seconded)
Bauhan	AYE	Martin	ABSENT
Bass	AYE (moved)	McMullen	ABSENT

Public Comments – None.

Keep Clarke Clean Signage Update

Ms. Maddox said this task is still in progress while Staff collaborates with VDOT and noted that Ms. Lemmon received feedback from VDOT on the material and dimensions required for the signposts. The committee discussed that sturdy, metal posts are preferred for the heavy signs – similar to what Parks and Recreation used. Ms. Maddox informed the committee that the Town of Berryville has yet to erect the sign but will do so as their time allows.

Upcoming Meeting Topics – EPS Campaign Planning

Mr. Bauhan said another initiative is to promote an incentive program for local businesses to make the eco-friendly switch from EPS materials earlier than the allotted date in 2030. Ms. Maddox reminded the committee that the grant money would need to be fully spent by the end of June and

suggested the group personally go door-to-door to discuss the incentive program versus mailing letters due to the lack of response last year. Ms. Maddox agreed to forward a list of local restaurants to the committee so the group could coordinate the responsibilities and will also forward the mailing details to Mr. Bauhan to create a draft flyer. Ms. Maddox informed the committee that DEQ approved the incentive program this year only and said she would check with the county's finance department on details.

Ms. McMullen arrived at 5:41pm.

The Committee discussed the county's ability to enact a more stringent EPS policy than the state. While not offering any formal legal advice, Mr. Bass read, "§ 10.1-1425. Preemption of certain local ordinances. The provisions of this article shall supersede and preempt any local ordinance which attempts to regulate the size or type of any container or package containing food or beverage or which requires a deposit on a disposable container or package" from the Code of Virginia. He said he does not believe a locality can enact a resolution that is more stringent than the state. He also read, "§ 10.1-1424.3. Expanded polystyrene food service containers prohibited; civil penalty. A. Beginning July 1, 2023, no food vendor that is a restaurant or similar retail food establishment and is part of a chain with 20 or more locations offering for sale substantially the same menu items and doing business under the same name, regardless of the form of ownership of such locations, shall dispense prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container," from the Code of Virginia. His assumption is that law will be amended at some point.

Ms. McMullen provided details on eco-friendly materials and a vendor list with pricing details. She informed the committee that even though products are titled eco-friendly they may still contain a plastic coating and some of the lids still contain polystyrene. She did research on items that contain a cornstarch lining or made of sugarcane paper that are more expensive but better overall for the environment. She said that if it is not possible to do the rebate program as discussed, perhaps we could purchase a more compostable product for local businesses.

To summarize next steps, Vice-Chair Bauhan is going to draft the letter to business owners and Ms. McMullen is going to continue her research on products. Ms. Maddox noted that DEQ is allowing us to do this program this year only and that we would have to return to providing information and sample products going forward. She also made it a point that Joint Administrative Services (JAS) has to ensure the incentive program can be done.

Upcoming Event Planning – April 2024 Earth Day Planning

Chair Harrison said rather than focusing on speakers for the event, that the committee should focus on gaining participants and she suggested the Clarke County adopt-a-highway participants be involved. The committee discussed the vendor tables and decided they do not necessarily need to be environment-focused, that civic organizations of any kind are welcome to have a table as long as they RSVP. The committee also decided that participants in the event would get a swag bag with a coloring book, crayons, and other items.

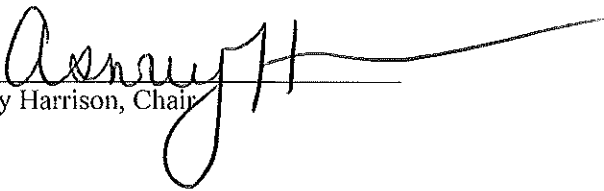
Vice-Chair Bauhan left the meeting at 6:21pm.

Mr. Keim said he would like to write an article for the Clarke Monthly about the Adopt-a-highway program to let people know what they can do to help.


Ms. Harrison noted that one of her focus points this year is to lighten Staff's load as much as possible and also to adopt the bylaws for future clarification.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Litter Committee agreed to adjourn at 6:22pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 19th 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



Kristina Maddox, Clerk