



## Clarke County Litter Committee

**DRAFT – Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – 5:30PM**

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

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓
Tom Bauhan	X
John Keim	✓
Meg Roque	X
Mary Martin	✓

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeffrey Feaga (Preservation Planner / GIS Coordinator), Kristina Maddox (Office Manager / Zoning Officer), Cathy Kuehner (Director of Public Information)

**OTHER PRESENT:** Matthew Bass (Board of Supervisor Liaison), Michelle Marino (Berryville Main Street), Lucy Stokes (Girl Scout Troop Leader), Kris Klipfer (Girl Scout Troop Leader) Christi McMullen (citizen with glass recycling ideas)

**Call to Order:** Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:31PM. Jeff Feaga noted that Christi McMullen, a citizen that wanted to share information about glass recycling, was in attendance and wanted a few minutes to speak about the topic. The agenda was amended to include this topic.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting agenda as amended.

<b>Motion to approve the February 15, 2022 Meeting Agenda as presented by Staff:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>AYE</b>

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022:**

The Committee voted 1-0-2 to approve the January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff. Because of the abstentions, the minutes from January 18, 2022 will need to be voted on again when the three members (Tom Bauhan, John Keim, and Meg Roque) who attended the January meeting are present at a future meeting.

<b>Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>MOVED (ABSTAINED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>ABSTAINED</b>

Mr. Feaga explained the state code associated with attending meetings electronically. Mr. Bass explained that having an electronic meeting policy is standard these days and suggested that the committee adopt the policy.

**Organizational Items:**

The Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve the Rules for Electronic Attendance as presented by Staff.

<b>Motion to approve the Rules for Electronic Attendance as presented by Staff:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>AYE</b>

**Map for Prioritizing Cleanup – Progress Report**

Mr. Feaga presented a map of various scenic roads, busy state and federal highways, and streams within Clarke County with private roads removed. The map is a work in progress and he continues to solicit locations from members. Mr. Keim noted that the roads leading to the Frederick County Dump, Opequon Road and the portions of Salem Church Road and Senseny Road, had a lot of litter. He added that the area was somewhat busy, but that there was room to park there and that older volunteers could pick up litter and remain safe. Mr. Bass mentioned that VDOT will collect the orange trash bags if called ahead of time for a pick up. Ms. Kuehner mentioned that Wayne Tapscott of VDOT would be able to supply orange bags and potentially arrange pick up for litter cleaned up during a work event. Ms. Harrison noted that all the roads to the river had a litter problem.

**Litter Complaints from Sheriff’s Department** – Mr. Bass said the litter report from the Sherriff’s office was sparse and had few charges. Most of the data is old and it is unlikely that we can glean any useful information from it (to guide litter pick up events). He said he spoke to Commonwealth Attorney, Anne Williams, who would be happy to attend a meeting and inform the committee of what it takes to prosecute someone for littering.

**Shenandoah River Keeper Input on Priority Areas**

Mr. Feaga mentioned that Mark Frondorf from the Shenandoah River Keepers frequently monitors the litter along the river and organizes annual litter cleanups around Earth Day. The River Keeper Network would like a local organization to take the initiative to pick up around the boat landing in the county at the Rt. 7 bridge, the Rt. 50 bridge, Lockes Landing, and places in between such as along Ellerslie Road. Mr. Feaga mentioned that these areas may be safe for young people to collect litter if adults were in attendance.

**Planning and Engagement for spring 2022 Litter Events:**

*Local Scout Leaders – Kris Klipfer and Lucy Stokes*

Ms. Stokes said that the landing along the river are potential places for a clean up as long as adults are present. She mentioned that she needs supplies for her 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Stokes said there are 15 girls in her troop and the age range is 10-11 years old. She said they earn “journeys” rather than patches but the events typically must be self-sustaining. She provided a suggestion that the troop could design the flyers for next year’s litter pick up event. Ms. Klipfer’s preference for her troops of 4-5 year olds is that they are not near water or by roads but rather help with events at the park and fairgrounds. It was confirmed that there are 7 total troops in the area of various age groups and each have approximately 15 participants each. Ms. Klipfer has the contact information for other troops in the county and could reach out to them if desired.

*Young people and National Honor Society, Spring Cleanup Day – Michelle Marino*

Ms. Marino mentioned that they have engaged high school volunteers in the past. With regards to dates, it was decided that fitting an event between other events at the end of March and/or beginning of April would be good timeframes for the spring litter pickup. Ms. Marino provided a list of upcoming events to be aware of including the downtown yard sale, Easter egg hunt at Chet Hobert, Blandy’s Flower Festival at the Fairgrounds, and Lockett’s Fair.

Mr. Keim suggested that we should try to pick a time as soon as possible in order to give people more time to plan. March 26<sup>th</sup> converged as a likely day to plan a litter pick up event, with some interest on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Keim noted that he would relay the date of the 26<sup>th</sup> to the National Honor Society. Mr. Keim and Ms. Marino suggested that pizza, gift cards, competitions, and badges would all be incentives for the litter pick up day. Mr. Feaga mentioned that the DEQ litter grant did not allow for purchase of food.

Ms. Harrison suggested that the older participants could pick up litter near the river and that the younger participants could pick up litter at the park. Following the work portion of the day, the participants could meet back at the park.

The Committee decided it might be beneficial to have some equipment handy that could be used regularly by any volunteers picking up trash in the county. This includes equipment such as high visibility vests.

Mr. Feaga suggested that another clean up day occur on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to correspond with the week of Earth Day when the Shenandoah River Keepers and their collaborators were conducting their own clean up event. Mr. Keim agreed that morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning will be a good time to pick up litter along the river. He added that some of the National Honor Society students would probably want to pick between volunteering on March 26<sup>th</sup> or April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Stokes noted that April 2<sup>nd</sup> could be a potential rain date for the March 26<sup>th</sup> litter pick-up event.

### **Media Outreach and Announcements – John Keim**

Various committee member and guests suggested that the event be posted on social media. Ms. Kuehner mentioned that she manages the Clarke County official Facebook page and the official county website, including the calendar. She also writes for Clarke Monthly. If the litter committee wanted to get information together by the March 1 deadline, then an event could get promoted in Clarke Monthly. Ms. Kuehner mentioned that photos can be a very powerful promotor of an event, and that photos could be sent to her or she could take some photos. Ms. Kuehner said that the Convenience Center along quarry road would be a great place for scouts to set up an information table to explain what can and cannot be recycled.

Mr. Bass suggested that it is a good idea to plan for a Clarke Monthly article that described the event date, what we are trying to do, and to introduce the litter committee. Ms. Keuhner said that a photograph of the litter committee could be beneficial, especially if it accompanied an announcement of a March 26<sup>th</sup> event. Mr. Bass mentioned that the hours between 3-5 pm will work best for the March 26<sup>th</sup> event. The Committee nominated Mr. Keim to work with Ms. Keuhner on writing an article.

### **Adopt a Road**

Mr. Feaga made the committee aware of the Adopt-a-Road application within the packet.

### **Litter Grant Awards from DEQ**

Mr. Feaga reviewed various potential uses of Litter Grant money and gave his suggestions. He noted the DEQ grant money has typically been directed toward the purchase of recycling bins and the hauling of recycled materials. He thought some money could go toward the Shenandoah River Keepers such as gloves and tools like come along hand winches and mattocks they could use and we would own. He pointed out that we would be in need of storage space for the items. Additionally, he said items such as adult and kid gloves, yield signs, trash bags, and vests are other options. Ms. Martin said the State could provide some of those items. When asked about voting on specific items to be purchased, Mr. Feaga noted the committee was a working group versus a committee that controlled a budget and that voting on the DEQ litter grant funds was not necessary, but he wanted to remain transparent about the use of the funds and continue to solicit ideas about potential uses for the funds. Mr. Feaga noted that it was fine if The Committee wanted to vote to authorize him to put together a list of materials and costs for litter clean up events.

**Organizational Items:**

The Committee voted 3-0-0 to approve Mr. Feaga to put together a list of equipment and expenditures needed for general clean up events.

<b>Motion to approve the creation of a list of equipment and expenditures for litter clean up events:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>AYE</b>

**Other Business:**

Ms. Harrison said she would reach out to Nolan Thomas with the Friends of the Shenandoah River to see if they were doing any litter cleanups in the area. Mr. Feaga noted that he spoke to Gene Lewis at the River Campus at Shenandoah University (SU) and they said SU would potentially like to pick up litter on Parker Lane, which is the access route for the River Campus area.

Mr. Bass left the meeting at 6:27PM to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting at 6:30PM.

Mr. Feaga said that Clarke County can apply for a fiscal year 2023 DEQ Litter Grant, once applications are available. It will probably be a similar amount to what was offered in fiscal year 2022. The Litter Committee could have more ownership over what is to be done with that grant money, especially if they are involved in writing it and have ideas about what they would like to do with money. Mr. Feaga noted that there may need to be a polystyrene education component for the grant funds. He would determine if the polystyrene component is mandatory or optional.

The committee members noted that many of them use their personal email addresses and probably will not use their Clarke County email addresses going forward.

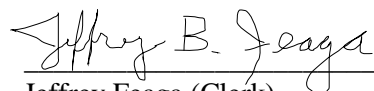
Christi McMullen discussed the importance of recycling glass to reduce the amount of material going to the landfill. She provided some materials that discussed the potential use of glass crushing machines that create a sand product that can be applied to many different uses. Mr. Feaga said that he is serving on the Regional Solid Waste Committee and that part of the purpose of that committee will be to determine the amount of waste and recycling that is produced in Clarke County, which would be important for determining the utility and potential for glass recycling techniques. Mr. Feaga shared his contact information with Ms. McMullen if she wanted to share any more information about glass recycling.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:40PM. The next Clarke County Litter Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 5:30PM.

The Committee voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the February 15, 2022 Litter Committee meeting at 6:40PM.

<b>Motion to adjourn the February 15, 2022 Litter Committee meeting at 6:40PM:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>

  
 Jeffrey Feaga (Clerk)