



Clarke County Litter Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 – 5:30PM

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

ATTENDANCE	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	✓ (phone attendance)
Tom Bauhan	✓
John Keim	✓
Meg Roque	✓
Mary Martin	✓

STAFF PRESENT: Jeffrey Feaga (Preservation Planner / GIS Coordinator), Kristina Maddox (Office Manager / Zoning Officer).

OTHER PRESENT: Matthew Bass (Board of Supervisor Liaison)

Call to Order: Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:34PM.

Approval of Agenda:

The Committee voted 5-0-0 to approve the April 19, 2022 meeting agenda.

Motion to approve the April 19, 2022 Meeting Agenda as presented by Staff:	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	AYE
Tom Bauhan	AYE (MOVED)
John Keim	AYE (SECONDED)
Meg Roque	AYE
Mary Martin	AYE

Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022:

The Committee voted 3-0-2 to approve the January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff.

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff:	
Tom Bauhan	AYE (MOVED)
John Keim	AYE (SECONDED)
Meg Roque	AYE
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	ABSTAINED
Mary Martin	ABSTAINED

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2022:

The Committee voted 3-0-2 to approve the February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff.

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff:	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	AYE
John Keim	AYE (MOVED)
Mary Martin	AYE (SECONDED)
Tom Bauhan	ABSTAINED
Meg Roque	ABSTAINED

Meeting notes and follow up discussion from Tuesday March 15 meeting (no quorum at that meeting)

Mr. Feaga noted he was sent a list of roads that were currently or recently in the Virginia Adopt a Highway program. Roads that were not on the adoption list were candidate roads for pickup by VDOT. Mr. Feaga asked committee members whether they had seen any evidence of VDOT litter removal activity. Mr. Bauhan noted VDOT thoroughly picked up Pyletown Road from Route 340 to Salem Church. No other direct observations were made. Mr. Bass noted VDOT reported picking up 850 bags of litter of 5 secondary routes, although it is not clear if this material was all from Clarke County or from the region.

Mr. Keim asked what adopting a highway entails. Ms. Martin stated the person or organization adopting the road needs to report how many bags of litter, what types of trash were picked up, and how many hours were spent picking up litter on the adopted road. Mr. Keim asked whether it would be good to encourage a local organization or sports team to adopt a road so that the Litter Committee would not need to organize the event. Ms. Maddox reminded the committee small kids such as girl scouts were not allowed on the roads. Mr. Bass stated if the Litter Committee wanted to adopt a road, it would be good to choose some kind of road with County significance. Mr. Feaga stated it would be useful to use the list of Adopt a Highway sites VDOT provided to select a significant road that wasn't already adopted, perhaps a scenic road. Ms. Harrison suggested a road that leads to the dump would be a productive road to adopt.

Planning and Engagement for spring 2022 Litter Events:

Mr. Bass stated the Girl Scout pick up event on March 26th was a success, although a little too long to hold the girls' attention. It would have been nice to get more public involvement.

Mr. Feaga noted the April 23rd litter pick up is advertised on the Clarke County calendar and there is also a Facebook link. The Facebook link can be easily shared with others on social media. Mr. Keim said having a consistent method for advertising in general should be effective once people get familiar with the committee's activities. Ms. Harrison stated she has a friend at the high school and believes that it is possible to engage high school students through these teachers. Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and the Ruritan club would be potential volunteers or candidates that can host litter pick up events.

Mr. Bass suggested a year-end letter sent to many county residents could help advertise the litter committee and its events. The letter could be modelled after the Conservation Easement letters that are sent to residents. The letter could explain the role and mission of the Litter Committee, share some photos, and promote several events that we have planned for 2023. Ms. Maddox suggested we should get a quote for this from Robin Cardillo, who creates these mailers for the Easement Authority. Mr. Feaga stated this should be an allowable expense for the DEQ Litter Grant. Mr. Keim and Ms. Harrison stated we should regularly promote the Litter Committee in Clarke Monthly.

Safety and Liability

Mr. Feaga shared the updated Safety Guidelines & Responsibilities sheet and the Agreement to Participate and Release sheet. He noted a risk manager reviewed the documents for the county and that the materials

were deemed acceptable for use. All participants need to sign, regardless of age. Minors need to sign and have their legal guardians sign as well. Mr. Bass stated if a minor shows up to an event without their guardian, they should sign and then have their parents sign and return a permission after the event.

Equipment List for Spring 2022 Litter Events:

Ms. Harrison offered to pick up litter equipment from VDOT for the April 23rd event. Mr. Keim offered to pick up the material from Ms. Harrison if she was unable to come to the April 23rd event.

Equipment was purchased for use by the Shenandoah River Keepers for the Trash Free Shenandoah Litter pick up event. This event is a large one for that organization, and they are aggressively encouraging Clarke County to participate in their annual event.

Mr. Keim noted that he and others may want to have access to typical litter pick-up equipment whenever needed. The committee discussed potential places to store the equipment so that it could be used whenever member of the committee needed to borrow it. Ideas included a lock box in front of the county building, people's homes, and Mr. Feaga's office. No location was chosen.

Purchase through DEQ Litter Grant Funds

Mr. Feaga noted two of the dumpsters that are afforded through previous DEQ Litter Grant funds are being pulled from Cooley Elementary and the Middle School because they are being contaminated with food waste and other non-recyclable refuse. The costs of trash in the recycling stream is that many waste streams need to be landfilled instead of being recycled. The committee all agreed that there are a lot of questions about what materials are actually recyclable and that there are a lot of educational opportunities centering on this topic.

Mr. Feaga reminded the committee about the idea of getting cargo nets. Mr. Keim and Ms. Harrison inquired about signage for the sides of the road such as "secure your load" or "keep Clarke beautiful", or "Keep Clarke Clean". Mr. Bass said to talk to Ed Carter or Matt Smith of VDOT about signage. Mr. Bass stated that signage is rather expensive and quotes should be gathered so that future Litter Grant Funds could be used for the signage.

Media Outreach and Announcements

Mr. Keim reminded the Committee it is important to continue to write articles for the Clarke Newsletter with the help of Cathy Kuehner and suggested having a series of short articles about different topics such as: "what is recycling?", "where can you recycle?", "litter at the boat landing areas", "historical aspects of litter and recycling", and "what are the most valuable recyclable items?". Mr. Bass agreed, and included the topics of introduction to the litter committee, the success of past events, and a story about the amount of litter that accumulates on and near the river each year.

Other:

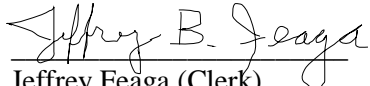
Mr. Bauhan inquired if there could be an award incentive for picking up litter. Keeping track of hours emerged as the best way to measure litter pick-up effort. Mr. Feaga said there are many limitations to awards using Litter Grant Funds, but that basic award such as plaques appear to be allowed. Mr. Bass suggested that Board of Supervisor recognition may be a good prize if some type of challenge were created.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:41PM. The next Clarke County Litter Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

The Committee voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the April 19 meeting at 6:41PM.

Motion to adjourn the April 19, 2022 Litter Committee meeting at 6:41PM:	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	AYE
John Keim	AYE (MOVED)
Mary Martin	AYE (SECONDED)
Tom Bauhan	AYE
Meg Roque	AYE


Jeffrey Feaga (Clerk)