



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

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022 5:30 pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2022
4. Planning and Engagement for Fall 2022, Winter 2022-2023
5. Glass Recycling
6. Adopt a Highway
7. EPS (Extended Polystyrene) Campaign Planning
8. Media Outreach and Community Engagement
9. Trash Receptacles at Boat Ramps
10. Signage
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment



# Clarke County Litter Committee

**DRAFT – Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 21, 2022 – 5:30PM**

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

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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matthew Bass (Board of Supervisor Liaison); Chris Boies (County Administrator)

**Call to Order:** Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the September 20, 2022 meeting agenda.

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

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

The Committee voted 5-0-0 to approve the July 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented by Staff.

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

**Equipment Updates:**

Ms. Maddox spoke to Parks and Recreation and they do not have any space to store Litter Committee equipment. In order to keep track of the equipment, notably the larger and more expensive equipment such as road signs, staff recommends that it be stored in the Planning Department office. An additional purchase of less expensive equipment such as grabbers and safety vests will be made this fall to supply committee members for taking home and use without picking up at the Government building.

**Planning and Engagement for Fall 2022:**

**Glass Grinding** - Ms. Harrison inquired in a general sense about the best ways to aid Christi McMullen in her efforts to grind glass. According to Ms. McMullen, volunteers and raising money for equipment are her biggest needs. Mr. Bauhan added that finding a use for the end product of ground sand is one of the biggest

limitations for Ms. McMullen's operation. The prospect of using the material for play sand was discussed, with the general concern that the sand is unsuitable for that use due to inhalation hazard.

Chris Boies discussed some of the ways that the county may act to assist Ms. McMullen, including helping to purchase another grinding machine, or allowing county employees to operate the grinder when not engaged in other duties. Mr. Boies agrees that the Litter Committee could work on finding a use of the ground glass while the county works with Ms. McMullen on equipment and personnel issues. The Committee agrees that finding a use of ground sand that is local and predictable is the best solution.

The committee suggested that Ms. McMullen should be invited to attend and speak at the next Litter Committee meeting scheduled for October 18, 2022.

### **Fall Litter Events:**

Mr. Bass notified the Litter Committee that there will be an event to assist picking up yard debris from the property located at 106 East Main Street in Berryville on Saturday, October 1 at 8am.

The Committee discussed possible dates to pick up litter at the interchange of Routes 340 and 7, and at the Shenandoah River boat ramps, ultimately deciding on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Volunteers will meet at the Martins grocery parking area and walk to the interchange. Ms. Harrison and Mr. Bass recommended that VDOT be notified of the event, and that the Litter Committee borrow additional litter crew signs for safety. Promotion of the event will be through the existing volunteer list previously collected at the fairgrounds, through Facebook, and the Clarke Monthly publication. The Committee agreed that ideally there will be enough volunteers to split the group at the onset of the event, sending half the group to the highway interchange and the other half to Castlemans Ferry boat ramp. If time permits, the Route 50 boat ramp area will also be cleared of litter.

Ms. Harrison emphasized the importance of developing a targeted email list of volunteers for litter events. This targeted list would presumably be more motivated for becoming involved in future litter volunteer events. One benefit of having repeat volunteers that are on a list is they will be get familiar with the safety procedures of the Litter Committee and will have their waiver paperwork kept on file for volunteering on future events.

The pros and cons of placing trash cans at the Shenandoah River boat ramps was discussed, with a question of whether having trash cans available encourages dumping and general laziness with regard to packing litter in and out, or whether the cans simply offer a convenience for those that forget to pack out their own trash. Ms. Harrison noted that she has an acquaintance that maintains trash cans at Lockes Landing, and inquired whether trash cans should be placed at the Routes 7 and 50 Shenandoah River boat landings. Mr. Feaga noted that the boat landings are owned by the Division of Wildlife Resources. Mr. Bass suggested that he or Mr. Feaga reach out to DWR about the possibility and costs of putting trash cans at the boat landings.

Ms. Harrison suggested that more signage at the boat ramps is needed. The Litter Committee generally agreed, and discussed whether a positive sign such as "Keep Shenandoah Clean" wouldn't be better than a punitive sign such as "Littering is Illegal". The committee appeared to favor positive signs, and added having an education sign about the importance of keeping the river clean could be beneficial. Mr. Bass discussed the possibility of a kiosk that could accommodate interchangeable printed signs and could be designed by children, have educational materials, etc. Mr. Feaga noted his experience with kiosks with Plexiglas and/or sliding tracks for glass covers, reminding the Committee these kiosks are a target for vandals and difficult to repair. Mr. Feaga stated that it would be cheaper and more resistant to vandals to simply put a printed metal sign between two 4" x 4" posts and be prepared to replace the signs occasionally.

**Adopt a highway**

The Litter Committee discussed which road it would like to officially adopt through VDOT for picking up litter. Senseny Road and Opequon Road were brought up as strong candidates. Ms. Harrison also suggested Howellsville Road. Mr. Feaga said that he could check to see if Senseny and Opequon Road were already adopted, although an existing list of adopted roads did not include these candidates, so they are likely available. The Committee agreed that it was most important to choose a road(s) and get started with keeping it clean as soon as possible. The Committee noted that Senseny is frequently travelled and high profile.

A motion was made to attempt VDOT-program adoption of the section of Senseny Road (Route 657) to the west of its junction with Triple J to the County Line (2.2 miles). The section of Salem Church Road (Route 634) from the junction with Senseny Road south to the junction with Opequon Road (Route 655) (0.6 miles) and Opequon Road to the county line (0.8 miles) were also considered for adoption.

**VDOT-program Adoption of portions of Senseny Road, Salem Church Road, and Opequon Road**

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to adopt portions of Senseny, Salem Church and Opequon Road.

<b>Motion to adopt portions of Senseny, Salem Church, and Opequon Roads:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE</b>
Tom Bauhan	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>NAY</b>

The motion carried, the Litter Committee requests that they adopt portions of Senseny, Salem Church, and Opequon Roads through the VDOT Adopt a Highway Program, pending availability.

**Fiscal Year 2023 Budget**

Mr. Feaga noted that Clarke County is on track to receive DEQ Litter Grant Funds, with an estimate of approximately \$8,000 in funding. The funding will not be loaded into the account until as late as November, so any major budget related decisions and encumbrances should not be made until that time. Smaller equipment purchases can be made before November, as the County has figured the DEQ Litter Grant Funds into their budget. Ms. Maddox reminded the Litter Committee that they can do a great deal of budget related planning in the meantime while we wait for the funding to show up in the grant account.

**EPS campaign**

Mr. Feaga briefed the Litter Committee on the response of the DEQ with regard to the EPS campaign. The DEQ is compiling materials that should be helpful for Clarke County to deliver a successful EPS campaign; the materials should be available in October.

Ms. Harrison spent a portion of a day speaking with distributors of restaurant packing materials, finding that a case of EPS containers are far cheaper than non-EPS alternatives. As a result, the sale of EPS containers far exceeds the sale of alternatives. Ms. Harrison said that many buyers would switch from EPS if the price was less, adding that the demand, price, quality, and availability is a barrier to the use of non-EPS products. Availability is possibly the most significant barrier. Mr. Bauhan reminded The Committee that restaurants in D.C. seemed to have negotiated these barriers, based on their adoption of non-EPS take out materials. Mr. Feaga noted that Virginia Law will ultimately affect the demand, price, quality, and availability of these materials, but that the start date of these laws is uncertain at this time.

The Committee discussed what they could do to achieve the EPS campaign. Ms. Maddox reminded the Committee that getting businesses to switch to non-EPS products or providing solutions is not the point of

the campaign, rather the goal is to alert and educated businesses. Mr. Feaga offered to research when the EPS law will take effect.

Mr. Bauhan suggested that the Committee come up with a resolution to present to the county that creates a more restrictive law than the state, or a more restrictive timeline than the state, to adopt non EPS-materials. Ms. Maddox wondered what other states are doing with regard to EPS laws and promoting alternatives. Mr. Keim suggested that education was the best way to focus Litter Committee efforts at this time. Mr. Feaga encouraged Ms. Harrison in her endeavors to educate herself and the committee on the status of EPS products, and to also keep track of her time and efforts so that they could be recorded as in-kind contributions to the EPS Litter Grant.

Ms. Harrison suggested that we create some educational materials or articles to educate the public on the EPS campaign and the nature of these products. The name “Trash Talk” was suggested. Mr. Bauhan suggested that we showcase a restaurant that is using non-EPS materials. Ms. Harrison suggested that the education materials showcase the negative impact of EPS materials. Ms. Maddox suggested that we start putting out education materials after the October 15<sup>th</sup> litter pick up event. Mr. Keim offered to write up a piece on EPS materials, with Mr. Feaga working with Mr. Keim and Cathy Kuehner on the publication. Timeline is to advertise the October 15<sup>th</sup> pickup in the Clarke Monthly and Facebook, with information provided to Cathy Kuehner by October 1. The EPS article would be prepared and submitted by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> for publication in the November Clarke Monthly.

Mr. Bauhan left the meeting at 6:37 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:48PM. The next Clarke County Litter Committee meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the September 20, 2022 meeting at 6:48PM.

<b>Motion to adjourn the September 20, 2022 Litter Committee meeting at 6:48PM:</b>	
Ashley Harrison (Chair)	<b>AYE (MOVED)</b>
John Keim	<b>AYE (SECONDED)</b>
Mary Martin	<b>AYE</b>
Tom Bauhan	<b>ABSENT</b>

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Jeffrey Feaga (Clerk)

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**From:** "Cathy Hottle" <[cathy.hottle@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:cathy.hottle@vdot.virginia.gov)>  
**To:** "Jeffrey Feaga" <[jfeaga@clarkecounty.gov](mailto:jfeaga@clarkecounty.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:54:58 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry about adopting roads in Clarke County

Hello. Unfortunately, my AAH system has been down for a few months. Central Office has been working to upgrade the software, this was done or so they thought but the coordinators have found a lot of issues with the new system. We are supposed to get our old system back so we can catch up with pick ups, inquiries, etc. With that being said, I cannot assist with your request at the present time but will be back in touch hopefully soon.

Thanks for the emails and I did receive the voicemails and my apologies for not calling back.

**Cathy C. Hottle**  
*AOS III Maintenance*  
*AAH/CommonHealth/Coordinator*  
Edinburg Residency  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
540-534-3203  
[cathy.hottle@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:cathy.hottle@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

On [Wed, Oct 12, 2022 at 2:51 PM](#) Jeffrey Feaga <[jfeaga@clarkecounty.gov](mailto:jfeaga@clarkecounty.gov)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Hottle,

The Clarke County Virginia Litter Committee is a county-supported group that organizes litter pick-up events throughout Clarke County. The Committee has shown interest in adopting sections of three roads in Clarke County that have a high incidence of litter due to their close proximity to the Frederick County landfill. Specifically, the sections that the Committee would like to adopt include: 1) Senseny Road (Route 657) to the west of its junction with Triple J to the County Line (2.2 miles); 2) The section of Salem Church Road (Route 634) from the junction with Senseny Road south to the junction with Opequon Road (Route 655) (0.6 miles); and Opequon Road to the county line (0.8 miles). Please see the attached map that show the portions of road The Committee would like to adopt.

My records show that these sections of road are not adopted; however, I cannot confirm this. Can you confirm their status, and

if so, can you inform us as to the process for adopting these roads?

Thank you,

Jeff Feaga  
Preservation Planner / GIS Coordinator  
Clarke County Planning Department  
101 Chalmers Court, Suite B  
Berryville, VA 22611  
[\(540\) 955-5134](tel:(540)955-5134)

Roads under consideration for VDOT adoption are shown in lime green. Sections of Senseny Road, Salem Church Road, and Opequon Road. September 2022

