



Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

Chamber Conference Room, 615 W. Elk Avenue, Elizabethton & Zoom

October 27, 2022, at Noon

Board Members Present: Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Ross Garland, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Simon Maddock, Melinda Maddock, Mike Simerly

Board Members Absent: Mike Mains

Guests Present: Mary Ellen Hlavaty

Call to Order: Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:06pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

Prayer: Mike Simerly gave the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ross Garland led the pledge.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to **approve the minutes from September 29, 2022**, meeting was made by Ross Garland, seconded by Simon Maddock. **Board unanimously approved.**

Public Comments: No comments were made.

Next Board Meeting:

Due to the upcoming holidays, discussion to eliminate the November meeting was suggested. The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

KCCB Treasurer Report: Lisa Vezzosi for Mike Simerly

- The bank statement closed 9/30/2022 with a balance of \$14,405.29. This included two deposits. The \$5000.00 check from Carter County, and a payment from Benevity for \$112.50. The expense of \$12.07 for the Mail Chimp account automatically taken from the debit card.
- We are also awaiting invoice for \$250.00 that represents our portion of the Trout Trash Trap.
- The City of Elizabethton funding letter was sent, but Mike Simerly reported that it must be lost. Mike requested Don to resend to him, so Mike could contact Preston Cobb about issuing the payment. Don indicated that he would also send out the second quarter request to the city.

New Tennessee Litter Law: Don Hlavaty

- Don reported that the new Tennessee Litter Law information was posted on the website and sent out as a press release for public awareness. He also created a new brochure, so everyone could review prior to getting it printed for distribution. He indicated that he called Bristol Broadcasting to address awareness to a younger audience since most violators are listening to those radio stations. We can also ask Laura to address the new law in a Public Service Announcement format at the Elizabethton radio station.

- Don also developed the new litter brochure to present to the County Commissioners meeting, so they would be aware of the new law and details. The latest reports of major dumping are in several districts and needs to be addressed with assistance from those County Commissioners.
- Mike Simerly suggested signage. Lisa indicated that she had found companies with established TN Litter signage, but they needed to be updated with the new \$500.00 fine wording. These are TDOT quality signs for major roadways and cost about \$80.00 each. Don indicated when he contacted TDOT about signage, they indicated the federal government had placed a restriction on new signage in 2018. Mike Simerly asked Lisa to send the information to him and he would take to City Council for purchase and posting on city streets.
- Don stated Sheriff Fraley was interested in ticketing violations when they spoke about the new law. Don also stated that the new law indicates that any elected officials could enforce the law. He discussed the possibility of enlisting a group of volunteers that could receive training through the Sheriff's office on documenting reporting that would hold up in the court system. A trained volunteer would have a better acceptance of credibility within the court system. Sheriff Fraley agreed and already had his education person working on several training curriculums. In the past, both Don and Ed Jordan have reported uncovered load violations to the County with photos, so a warning could be issued by County Law Enforcement. If the trained volunteer idea works, the tickets could be issued by the County Sheriff Department. The first-time violator has an option to pay the \$500.00 fine without appearing in court, thus avoiding court costs and a service hours determination. Ed Jordan indicated that the Prosecutor must be onboard, and education is key to making a difference in defense.
- Ed suggested that we could propose a landfill tax levy, as well. Don and Mike Simerly discussed the recycle centers becoming trash centers, as well. Many dump sites are in remote locations without curbside pickup options. If people are willing to pack up trash and drive it somewhere else, perhaps they would utilize a dumpster at the county recycle center. This would avoid paying for household trash at the landfill that charges so much. Simon indicated that the remote area recycle locations are closed. It was discussed that the centers will need to be reopened because the County is losing money with the closures. Don stated he would get a meeting with Mayor Woodby and Sheriff Fraley to discuss options.
- Lisa suggested a billboard sign for public awareness of the new law. While researching options near us, there are several options of highway signs or digital signs. Depending on our choices, they cost is about a range of \$750.00- \$1,200.00 per month. She mocked up a potential sign. Ed Jordan made a **motion that Lisa** research this option further and move forward to work with Lamarr Signs to **create a public service announcement posting along West Elk coming into Elizabethton**. He suggested a **limit of \$1,000.00 be placed on this project** to move forward, Melinda seconded the motion. The **Board approved unanimously**.

Affiliate Annual Reporting and Dues: Ross Garland

- Ross Garland indicated that the dues were paid on October 10, 2022, to Keep Tennessee Beautiful using the invoice we obtained.

Christmas Parade Event: Don Hlavaty

- A suggestion was made to not pass out any candy this year because it just creates a litter problem. It was agreed by everyone.
- Lisa indicated the reservation needed to be made with the *Main Street Elizabethton* organizers and the cost was \$55.00 this year. It is a budgeted item already, but Lisa asked if Mike Simerly would submit our request and payment for submission. Mike asked if Lisa would send him the information and he would take care of the registration and payment for KCCB.

Proposal for Signage at Buffalo Creek Trash Trout Trap: Don Hlavaty

- Discussion was deferred to the December meeting since we still have not resolved the maintenance invoicing yet.

Status of Trash Cans Donation to Elizabethton Parks & Recreation: Mike Mains

- Mike was absent at today's meeting, so the discussion will be deferred until next meeting.

Wayfinding Signage Placement: Ross Garland

- Ross Garland spoke of the project for wayfinding signs. He reported Tom Nizioł had resources set up for October 29th at 10:00am at Erik Anderson Park on Roan Mountain. Tom has some volunteers we can utilize. Discussion was made on the supplies needed to erect the signs. Ross planned for two signs at Happy Trails Park and at the Hershel Julian Landing. We will need quick concrete, 2x4 braces, and a gallon of water for each hole dug. Don stated a brace should be made with boards and utilize a hex-head screw, quick clamps, a post leveler, tarps for wrapping the signs during transport, wheelbarrow, drill, hand tools, post-hole diggers, and some 5-gallon buckets. The group would check for their supplies and Don & Lisa would buy anything else needed at Lowe's.
- Ross says he will coordinate Elizabethton City Park signage with Mike Mains.
- Ross indicated he reached out to Roger Colbert about starting installation on the highway roadway signs. Ross indicated he still needed to meet with Willie Campbell to number the signs and locations for installation.

Recycle Centers: Don Hlavaty

- Discussion was deferred until next meeting.

New Business: All

- Don indicated that TDOT had not received a grant for the *No Trash Tennessee November* program. Therefore, we will utilize our November 12th Milligan Adopt-A-Highway clean up event for recording our program participation. Don will post it online at the *Keep TN Beautiful* website. He indicated we would receive 10 tee-shirts for the campaign. They may also have a media kit online.
- Ed Jordan asked that we focus efforts on keeping the news media and radio focusing on the new litter law and to create our own signage campaign.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made to adjourn by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ross Garland, and **board unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Submitted by: Lisa Vezzosi, Secretary.