



## Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

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

January 12, 3 at Noon

**Board Members Present:** Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Mike Mains, Ross Garland

**Board Members Absent:** , Simon Maddock, Melinda Maddock, Mike Simerly

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:08pm. A quorum was present.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Board approved the agenda.

**Prayer:** Mike Mains gave the prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ed Jordan led the pledge.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to **approve the minutes from December 8, 2022**, meeting was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi. **Board unanimously approved.**

**Public Comments:** No comments were made.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

### **KCCB Treasurer Report:** Lisa Vezzosi

- Lisa Vezzosi gave the report in Mike Simerly's absence. The bank statement closed 12/31/2022 with a balance of \$9,900.60.
- The expenses of \$12.07 for the Mail Chimp account automatically taken from the debit card for December, totaling \$12.07.
- The fiscal year budget started out with \$18,050 and year-to-date we have spent \$7,231.36
- We have received the Carter County packet for funding requests for the fiscal year 2023-2024, which is submitted to the Carter County Finance Department on January 5, 2023. After agreed in our December meeting, the request included an increase to \$7,500 to the County. With the new law in place, any fines are distributed to Carter County's mayor for allocation and should more than pay for itself.
- The City of Elizabethton funding letter for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter was sent out and a check for \$1,250 was received for the January-March funding. This deposit will show in next month's financial report.
- As discussed at last month's meeting, Don dropped the costs of Mail Chimp web services. It was initially purchased for the purpose of distributing a KCCB monthly newsletter. Since we never used it for that purpose, it was dropped as agreed in last month's meeting.

- Ed Basconi asked if the line item designated in the budget to purchase wildflower seeds could be voted on to purchase now. The budget of \$200 was proposed. Ed asked Mike Mains if additional flower plots could be added. Ed suggested the vacant land at US321 & Milligan Highway (near the storage units) was city property that could be used. Mike said he did not know for sure but could check. Ed Jordan suggested a plot in the median just inside the city limit along US321 or near the Welcome to Elizabethton sign near the golf course. A suggestion was also made to include some perennial plantings in these plots, rather than just wildflowers. The issue of ongoing maintenance to weed was discussed, and Lisa asked Mike Mains if there were volunteer groups willing to maintain areas like that. Mike indicated there were several church groups that volunteer, but he would need to check if we increased our areas. **A motion was made to allocate \$200 for the purchase of wildflower seeds by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ross Garland. The motion was approved by the Board unanimously approved.**
- Ed Jordan stated the annual tree purchase should be planned for February/March. Ed made a suggestion to contact Hannan Landscaping to place a new tree order. He also mentioned there may be a few replacement trees from last year that should be replaced because they died. This should be covered by last year's contract. Ed Jordan made **a motion to purchase \$3000 worth of trees, seconded by Lisa. The Board unanimously approved.**
- Don indicated that he no longer wants to maintain the KCCB plot across from Sycamore Shoals because the trees & shrubs have died off. Being on the railroad bed gives no support to plants there. He stated the Mary Patton plot is still good. He suggested we also purchase additional mulch for the plot and existing trees planted by KCCB. Ross questioned the mulching at all tree locations. He thought we need to schedule a public event to address the 90 trees along the Tweetsie Trail. Mike Mains discussed the City Manager supported maintenance along the Tweetsie Trail, but budget constraints and manpower is an issue for the city. Don stated that he could ask Danny Hilbert about it. Lisa suggested asking Lowe's in Elizabethton to help support the purchase of mulch, further than the \$2 per bag sale in Spring. Lowe's has Hometown projects, and it wouldn't hurt to ask. Don made the **motion to purchase mulch in the amount of \$300, seconded by Lisa. The Board unanimously approved.**

**Conflict of Interest Annual Statement:** Lisa Vezzosi

- Lisa indicated the annual Conflict of Interest statements were due in January by each Board member. The policy and statement were emailed out with today's agenda. Lisa indicated to please sign and return to Lisa.

**Wayfinding Signage Placement:** Ross Garland

- Ross has the map for existing signs and their placement. Ross indicated he would be meeting with Mike Mains regarding the placement of signs within Elizabethton Parks. Once a plan is made, he will share with the Board. Lisa asked Ross to email her the master plan spreadsheet for KCCB recordkeeping.
- Don brought up the additional directional signs for main roadways pointing toward specific sites, like Herschel Landing. Ross indicated that the County Road Commission would be placing those, and he needed to get back with them on those signs.

- Don also indicated that the braces made should be utilized in the new placement. He stated that 2 bags of quick concrete were used for each signpost.
- Ross indicated that other groups may help us. He proposed a 2/25/2023 event to install signs at the Greenbridge Landing and Watershed Trail. Ross indicated that he would ask Wes Bradley for help. We would meet at Greenbridge Landing.
- Ross made the **motion to spend \$200 toward wayfinding supplies for the February event, seconded by Ed Basconi. The Board unanimously approved.**

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

- Mike indicated that the order for new cans is pending at the supplier. Once the cans are available, the City Parks & Recreation group will drive to the warehouse and take receipt of the cans. He will then install them.
- Mike indicated that he appreciates the recycle bins at city events and welcomes them again for this year's events. Mike indicated the crowds were much larger than expected at last year's events, and he appreciated the assistance by KCCB at the booth and litter pickup. Mike will let us know what is needed once this year's planning of events is complete.
- Don mentioned that Edmond McDavis from Keep Tennessee Beautiful had a new job and had a temporary replacement, Kyle Howard. Because we supported KTB at their Meet the Mountains event in Johnson City, we also have no more swag. Don will reach out again to remind KTB that they promised us replacement swag, but it has yet to be done.
- Don also mentioned the Keep America Beautiful national conference is in Washington, DC. The cost is \$625, plus expenses for the 4-day event. Our budget did not include this, but if anyone was interested in going, Don would provide the information.

**Work with Partners:** Don Hlavaty

- Kathleen Gibi from Keep the Tennessee Rivers Beautiful group has started a Seabin program. She is asking for marina partners to install a Seabin on Watauga Lake. The Seabin collects plastics and debris from the lake. While it is an excellent idea, it requires the marina to include within their business insurance at a cost of \$8,500 and someone with a boat must clean them out on a regular basis.
- Ed Jordan suggested contacting Southern Craft Restaurant on Watauga Lake for possible sponsorship. Ed Basconi asked for more information on the Seabin program. Don stated he would send out the Board and we can discuss further next month.

**Recycle Centers:** Don Hlavaty

- There has been no resolution to the opening of the recycle centers between Bennie Lyons and Danny Hilbert. Don stated that he hadn't contacted the other local towns for their input yet. Don suggested we defer until next month's meeting.

**Public Awareness and Education:** Don Hlavaty

- Don researched the code changes and indicated Resolution 358 from 2003 was adopted by Carter County. He had found no other changes that Carter County adopted since then. He has a presentation scheduled with Carter County Commission on 2/21/2023. He will try to determine if

any other updates on the litter laws are in effect since the 2003 resolution that provides a part-time litter enforcement budgeted allocation. He also will show a 5-minute video from Tennessee Wildlife Foundation.

- Don asked the Board for feedback on the marketing billboard. Everyone felt it was a success and we should consider doing it again.
- KCCB received a letter from Northeast Community Credit Union offering space within their 4 banking locations for a program called Business Spotlight. Groups made display information/education with their lobby area. The question was asked if we should participate. The group felt it was a good opportunity and we should participate with information about KCCB and the new litter law. Don is also scheduled to give a presentation to Northeast Community Credit Union business meeting on March 1, 2023, at 7:00am. He will include the TWF and new TCA videos.
- Don brought up the previous suggestion made by Lora Gilbreath for a dash cam to catch litterers. It was discussed last month, but we made no progress. Ed Jordan felt we needed more information to discuss further. He indicated it may be an issue if police/sheriff would use the evidence provided by a dash cam. Don indicated that police/sheriff have opportunities to ticket by just issuing violations to the three yard sign businesses along US321. It indicates the business and phone number. Those signs should not be posted on public property and should be considered littering. He will suggest that fact when KCCB meets with Sheriff Fraley.
- A request was made to place one of our metal KCCB sign along Taylor Road & Watauga Road, by a citizen. Because this is within city limits, Ed Jordan felt we should contact Danny Hilbert for permission by the City Street Department.
- The suggestion last month to get new TCA fines posted on the city and county websites has no further progress yet.
- There was no further progress with TDOT to sponsor a tarp giveaway this year.

**2023 Scheduled Events:** Don Hlavaty

- The Watauga Lake Cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. The information is on our website and has been communicated out. Don and Lisa will be out of town that day. Melinda and her son have already signed up to participate.
- The Seed Swap is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>. Ed Basconi will have a booth there. Lisa is providing him with signage, KCCB sticker, and brochures for the Litter Law and Adopt-A-Highway.

**2023 Proposed Events:**

- Ed Jordan proposed a 90-day calendar of events be created and distributed. He also proposed advertising in the paper to endorse litter events with participants receiving a free grabber. Ed feels area citizens will help clean up with incentives and will be more conscious of the litter problem. He felt it could be a community service event and advertised as such. Don indicated we don't have a lot of grabbers in stock for a giveaway and did not budget it this fiscal year. It is listed for next fiscal year's budget. Don made **a motion to purchase 50 more grabbers and seconded by Ross. The Board unanimously approved.**
- Ed Basconi reported he had made progress on a calendar school project for next Fall. He contacted Marsha Ros to help coordinate and will work with Melinda Maddock to start a project. Don suggested Ed also contact Dustin Dunkin at Elizabethton High School for the project.

- Ed Jordan suggested we add a website calendar of all our events in a monthly calendar format.
- Don indicated that local newspapers were invited to our monthly meeting and given the agenda and Zoom information.

**New Business:**

- Don mentioned that he had ordered a recycle leaf fence but received six. It came from China, and he has been unable to return the extra merchandise with the vendor. He was offering it up to the group or to use as a giveaway item. Ed Basconi said he could offer one up as a door prize at the Seed Event and would contact the event coordinator and let Don know if he could use one.

**Adjournment:**

- A motion was made to adjourn by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ross Garland, and **board unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24pm.

**Submitted by:** Lisa Vezzosi, Secretary