



Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

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

March 16, 2023, at Noon

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

Board Members Absent: None

Guests Present: None

Call to Order: Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:09pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, and the **Board approved.**

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2023, made by Lisa Vezzosi and seconded by Ed Basconi, the **Board unanimously approved.**

Public Comments: No comments were made.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

KCCB Treasurer Report:

- Lisa Vezzosi gave the report in for Mike Simerly. The bank statement closed 2/28/23 with a balance of \$11,136.33.
- The expense of \$230.98 was made for the purchase of seeds for summer plots by Ed Basconi, which will be reimbursed to him via check. The expense of \$119.38 was made at Lowe's for wayfinding sign supplies by Don via the KCCB debit card.
- There were no deposits this month, so the ending balance is now \$10,785.37.
- There are new receipts coming for March expenses of \$97.40 for the seed project by Carter County schools creating new seed packets for give-away items, which will be reimbursed to Ed. A check to pay for our Chamber of Commerce membership of \$200 will be made in March, and a check for \$75 payable to the Roan Mountain Citizens Club for a booth at the Rhododendron Festival in June will be sent today.
- Don confirmed that both the City of Elizabethton and Carter County submission for new fiscal year funding had been submitted. He presents our request for funding to the Carter County Budget Committee on April 10th at 6:00pm.
- The funding request for 4th quarter funding from the City of Elizabethton is due to be sent on 4/3/23 for the current fiscal year. Next year's funding with the city is still pending a presentation date to their Budget Committee.

Tree Planting Event on March 25th:

- Mike Mains spoke to Hannan regarding the new tree planting. Both Mike and Ed Basconi had previously met regarding the placement of trees and planting needs. They decided to plant 3 trees at the Mill Race Park location in addition the flower beds. The remaining trees would be extending along the Tweetsie Trail running further into the city near the end of the current trail, near Snap-On Tools building.
- Mike confirmed the March 25th date with Hannon. Volunteers will meet at 10:00am. Ed and Mike are confirming the location for volunteers to meet. The holes will be dug by Hannon's. He will place the trees for volunteers to plant and mulch.
- Ed and Mike Mains will confirm all the planning and contact Don to make a flyer and public notice.
- Don thanked Mike Mains and Mike Simerly for the previous auger use during the wayfinding sign placement last month.

Great American Clean Up Tweetsie Trail Earth Day Event April 15th:

- Don reported the website for *Keep Tennessee Beautiful* was recently updated with new software upgrades. It has a different look. The dues and reporting for indexing have a new date of August 1st for all reporting. The website indicates we are up to date, but not ahead for our due payment. Therefore, KCCB needs to complete all our 2023 reporting in July for governance and indexing.
- Don will create a new flyer for the April 15th clean up.

Wildflower Plot Project:

- Ed Basconi and Mike Mains met regarding adding additional locations for wildflower planting. They are adding 2 locations at Cook Park (on Elk Avenue) specifically for sunflower planting. There will be one location across from Sycamore Shoals in the triangular lot on Elk Avenue near Williams Street, which will have zinnia flowers. There will be one more location added at Douglas Park for flowers, as well as the regular plots we have used previously along the Tweetsie Trail, Linear Path, and with Mill Race Park. Ed has all the seeds we will need, and Mike Mains staff has already started plowing these areas.
- We previously had discussed an area at Elk Avenue and Milligan Highway, but it was decided not to plant there when discussed the Elizabethton Street Department.

Seed Packet Project with School Group:

- Ed and Melinda met with the Dugger Middle School environment/biology department. The project was approved and is moving forward. Ed provided the school with seeds, envelopes, and the packet instructions sheets. A student suggestion was made to add verbiage indicating people should send in their photos of seeds planted, so the photos could be posted on the KCCB website for the public to see. The class is creating 500 packets. The cost of the project is about 25 cents per envelope.
- Mike Simerly asked how many seeds are in each packet. Ed indicated there are about 100 seeds per envelope and would be comparable to a commercial seed envelope bought in stores.
- Don asked Ed to provide him with 24 packets to give the Carter County Commission and City Council Budget Committee members to demonstrate our public participation and new educational projects, while we ask for new funding for the next fiscal year.

- Ed Basconi and Melinda Maddock reported on the school project with artwork for the 2024 calendar. Melinda met with Julie Harris, who is the art teacher at McCormick School, on March 25th. They are looking at having kids do artwork and use it for the calendar. She indicated that the finalist should have the artwork displayed on a city billboard, at local government sites, the Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Melinda also indicated that her time on the project was being reported through the Microsoft Benevity site. She had not realized that the previous time needed to be approved by Don via the website, so she will contact Don when it needs to be approved in the future.
- Mike Simerly suggested contacting Ivan Sanders from the city to place the artwork on the City of Elizabethton website, as well.
- Don indicated he would ask about putting the artwork on the Carter County website. He also indicated it would be a good idea to update our Facebook page. While Simon is our placeholder person, perhaps a student project could be created at Elizabethton High School with the cooperation of Dustin Hensley to take over the Facebook updates.
- Additionally, Don said he could update our KCCB website with the school projects and create an account to post for the seed project. We can give access to a page, as well as Facebook. Ed Basconi will ask about it with the school, as possibly include Instagram. Melinda indicated that their posting should be a “pending” status and we would approve to ensure the content.

Tree Weeding & Mulch Project:

- Don indicated he was waiting for Lowe’s mulch to go on sale for \$2 a bag, rather than \$5 a bag. Once the price drops for the Spring Sale, he will purchase with the KCCB card. He was concerned about the storage of 200 bags. Mike Mains indicated that we could use his storage facilities until we needed to use them.

Wayfinding Signage Project:

- Ross proposed a new date of 4/29/23 at 10:00am for the next event. He had met with Mike Mains for placement planning within the Parks & Recreation property. It was decided to start on the Tweetsie Trailhead near Snap-On Tools. They thought the group would meet at that location and place about 6 signs total, so he indicated they would need about 16 bags of concrete.
- Don reminded the group that braces are required to place the signs so they do not warp in the wind. He indicated that if more braces are needed, he could purchase more 2x4’s as needed. Ross indicated that a few of the signs are 1 post.
- Ross also mentioned that he has been in contact with Roger Colbert regarding placement of county road signs but has gotten nowhere on that status.

Northeast Community Credit Union Business Spotlight:

- Lisa indicated we are due to set up a table on April 3rd at the 19E NCCU location. We will have a poster, brochures, and KCCB stickers to give away. She also stated that Ross had just sent her the Carter County new branding information to include.

Parks & Recreation Trash Containers Project:

- Mike Mains indicated the project was approved by Elizabethton City Council and the funds added into the City Budget for this line item. He is getting the new cans ordered and hoping to get them within about 60 days. They are coming from a company in Hendersonville, NC. They are dark green and are good quality. Once created, his staff will drive to the vendor to pick them up. He is working on the logo placement for the containers.

Proposed Future Events:

- On June 17-18 is the Roan Mountain Rhododendron Festival. We will have a 12x12 booth. Lisa indicated the application is being submitted. The festival requires handmade art/crafts. The application process required a photo of the items being distributed or sold. The paperwork included a photo of our seed packet project, our current 2023 calendars we made, our KCCB stickers, and a photo of the Keep Tennessee Beautiful pencils (from recycled paper), and the children’s recycling activity books & crayons. Hopefully these will be acceptable to their committee. We should know by May 1st if we are approved.
- Our flower planting project should be scheduled for May. Ed Basconi told the group that he will help determine the proposed date once the freezing risk is over.
- Don indicated the Milligan Adopt-A-Highway event was held on March 11th. There were only 4 volunteers, but they worked with Carol Landis to do more area beyond Oalonna Road. The group got 1 tire, a piece of pool equipment, and 16 bags of trash picked up.
- Don indicated he would like to get a Blevins Road event planned. The trash along the road is an easy job. However, there are still tires in the river and we need a hoist or boom truck. Ed Jordan said he gave a company that could help, but Don indicated the company was non-responsive so far.
- Lisa asked Mike Mains if the Parks & Recreation had their summer event schedule done. Mike indicated he would get the information out to KCCB. He also mentioned a 4/8/23 10:00am event along the Tweetsie Trail for a dog walk from the Dairy Queen to Covered Bridge Park. There would be an egg hunt, dog treats, and bunny stuff for Easter. Mike Simerly suggested he would contact the Carter County Animal Shelter to see if some of their dogs could participate.

New Business:

- Lisa asked if we planned to have another tarp give-away event. Don stated he would contact TDOT to see if tarps could be donated for it.
- Don indicated he sent out information on the Chamber of Commerce website advertising to all board members. He asked if we wanted to include an information sheet regarding KCCB with the Chamber’s relocation package provided to the public? The cost is \$350 for 2023 advertising on a half sheet page. We could also have KCCB listed on their membership roster with our KCCB logo. Ed Basconi inquired what our benefit would be? The response was only a volunteer possibility and public awareness of KCCB. He questioned if it was worth \$350 or more? Don stated he will get more information and send out the board members.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made to adjourn by Mike Simerly, seconded by Ed Basconi, and **the Board unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Submitted by: Lisa Vezzosi, Secretary