



Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

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

April 20, 2023, at Noon

Board Members Present: Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Mike Mains, Mike Simerly

Board Members Absent: Ross Garland, Simon Maddock, Melinda Maddock

Guests Present: Mary Ellen Hlavaty

Call to Order: Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:03pm. A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer: Mike Mains

Pledge of Allegiance: Lisa Vezzosi

Approval of the Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Simerly, seconded by Ed Jordan, and the Board approved.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2023, made by Ed Basconi and seconded by Mike Simerly, the Board approved.

Public Comments: No comments were made.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

KCCB Treasurer Report:

- Mike Simerly gave the report. The bank statement closed 3/31/23 with a balance of \$6,567.00
- There were quite a few expenses paid in March including the Chamber membership, new grabbers, table runners for our booth table, payment of the trees planted by Hannon Howard, seeds, and office supplies for the business spotlight table. A check for \$1600 will be written for the maintenance agreement with Hannon for the planted trees. The check was given to Ed Basconi to pass onto Hannon.
- Lisa indicated the table runner expense mistakenly had charged us tax, and in April there will be \$7.52 credit to our account for that error.
- There were no deposits in March, but we received and deposited the final 4th quarter City of Elizabethton payment of \$1,250 in April.
- The check for \$75 payable to the Roan Mountain Citizens Club for a booth at the Rhododendron Festival in June was returned. They felt our seed packets and calendars were not enough of art/handmade items to include in their festival. This check will be voided.
- Don confirmed that both the City of Elizabethton and Carter County submission for new fiscal year funding had been submitted. He presented our request for funding to the Carter County Budget Committee on April 10th.

- Mike Simerly stated that the Elizabethton Budget Committee would be meeting in June.
- **Great American Clean Up Tweetsie Trail Earth Day Event April 15th:**
- We had 15 people participate in this event. The group was divided between Lyons Field and the Coffee Company to meet up at Elizabethton High School. There were about 45 bags of trash picked up. As we were finishing about 2:00pm, the City Streets truck immediately picked up all the bags and a tire.
- Ed Jordan indicated there a lot of trash within the fenced area at the high school near the football field, but there was no access to it.
- Don indicated we received a new banner, 2 boxes of bags, gloves, and 5 t-shirts from the Great American Cleanup group. The shirts will be added to the give-a-way stock, which is starting to build up again. Ed Jordan said the new banner could be used at our booths or other events.

Wildflower Plot Project:

- Ed Basconi and Mike Mains met regarding adding additional locations for wildflower planting. Ed has all the seeds we will need, and Mike Mains staff has already started plowing these areas. Ed indicated the area behind Dino's Restaurant is already blooming zinnias.
- Based on weather, we will have a planting event on May 9th and May 11th, both at 6:00pm. We will start on May 9th at Mills Race and move to the town behind the church. On May 11th, we will meet at Cook Park and also do the triangle plot near Williams Street.
- It was discussed a roller would be helpful for planting, and Ed Basconi will ask if Hannon has one that we could borrow.

School Projects Update:

- The seed packet project was completed by Elizabethton High School AP Environmental Science class and delivered to Ed Basconi.
- Ed and Melinda met with Julie Harris at McCormick School, to discuss another project in the Fall semester. Mike Simerly stated that because he is part of the school board, we should try to include all the schools in the project.
- Don will create a flyer for the Seed Planting event dates and send it to Ed Basconi to post at the Elizabethton High School for teens who may want to join us planting.

Tree Weeding & Mulch Project:

- A contract was given by Hannon Howard for \$1,600 to maintain the current volume of trees planted. He will weed and mulch those trees this summer. Mike Simerly has the invoice and gave Ed Basconi a check to pass onto Hannon.

Wayfinding Signage Project:

- Although absent today, Ross proposed a new date of 4/29/23 at 10:00am for the next event for placement within the Parks & Recreation property at the Tweetsie Trailhead near Snap-On Tools. They thought the group would meet at that location at 10:00am, and place about 6 signs total, so he indicated they would need about 16 bags of concrete. Don indicated he will get the supplies and

bring the braces. Don reminded the group that braces are required to place the signs, so they do not warp in the wind. Mike Mains will provide the auger.

Northeast Community Credit Union Business Spotlight:

- Lisa indicated our table was set up at the 19E NCCU location. We will have a poster, brochures, and KCCB stickers to give away. She indicated the poster was updated with wayfinding and the EHS seed project. It is up for the month of April, and then will be moved on May 1st to the NECCU location in Roan Mountain. Pictures were posted on our website. We are scheduled for the other two locations for June and July.

Parks & Recreation Events:

- Mike Mains provided the group with the new summer schedule of events. He indicated we could set up a booth table and would appreciate the help with litter pickup and using recycle bins. Ed Jordan indicated we should also post on our KCCB website and mailing list.
- The new trash cans are being completed and should arrive soon. The cost came to about \$612 each.
- Mike indicated he is struggling with advertisement costs because there have not been as many corporate sponsors for the summer events. He has tried to solicit funding from more resources. However, the public has expressed their appreciation of the events with positive comments.
- Ed Basconi asked Mike Mains about the profitability of Covered Bridge Skate Park in winter. Mike says it was very successful and other groups (Bristol Speedway & ETSU) are adopting our ideas to draw citizens in. The event is a money maker for the city and local businesses.
- Don stated the Keep Tennessee Beautiful group has new road signs that say, "Slow Down". Mike Mains said he would post them if he got some.

Proposed Future Events:

- April 29th – Wayfinding sign placement
- May 9th and May 11th – Seed planting for our plots
- Don indicated our Litter Indexing is now due June 1st. He will be getting the index report together for everyone to participate.
- June 24th - We can schedule another Milligan Adopt-A-Highway event.
- Ed Jordan suggested we contact TDOT about other areas they may find could use a clean-up event. He also indicated the area east of town along the Tweetsie Trail near Snap-On Tools is often a mess and could be used as an event.

Volunteer Suggestions:

- Don suggested we identify a new program to solicit a "Adopt-A-Spot". It could be a business area or just public space adjacent.
- Ed Basconi suggested we create a quarterly program to identify businesses/groups that clean up areas and promote that behavior with signage. We could create a program and utilize the Chamber of Commerce advertisement newsletter to identify these exceptional groups. It was also suggested that code enforcement could help us identify areas where help is needed and help publicize. Don

indicated that Josh only handles private property. However, the City Council could help identify problem areas. We should try to create a good sign for businesses to post that promotes clean ups.

- There was a short discussion on code enforcement and that is getting better throughout the county due to the sheriff's crew and code enforcement staff.

New Business:

- No new business was identified.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made to adjourn by Mike Simerly, seconded by Ed Jordan, and **the Board unanimously approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Submitted by: Lisa Vezzosi, Secretary