

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

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

August 28, 2024, 12:00pm

*Board Members Present:* Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Mike Simerly, Dave Nanney

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

*Guests Present:* Mary Ellen Hlavaty

*Call to Order:* Lisa Vezzosi opened the meeting at 12:02 pm. A quorum was present.

An opening prayer was given by Mike Simerly and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Jordan.

*Approval of last month’s meeting minutes*: A motion to approve the July 24, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Basconi, and unanimously approved.

*Approval of the today’s agenda:* A motion to approve today’s meeting agenda was made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ed Jordan, and unanimously approved.

*Public Comments:* None.

*Next Board Meeting:* The next KCCB board meeting will be **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

*KCCB Treasurer Report:*

* The July month-end balance is $15,762.22. July expenditures are $591.88 deposit for purchase of 24 KCCB polo shirts & 48 pocket T-shirts from Pep Screen Printing, $20.46 renewal fee for 501c3 status, $40.00 printing of business cards for Lisa Vezzosi and $531.42 for purchase of recycle bins.
* Don Hlavaty stated the request to Carter County for reimbursement of KAB dues was submitted and awaiting their response.
* KCCB received a letter from the City of Elizabethton approving 2024-2025 fiscal year funding. Don Hlavaty submitted a request for 1st quarter payment of $1875.00.
* We await a response from Carter County for 2024-2025 funding of $5,000.00.

*Review of Affiliate Requirements:*

* Lisa Vezzosi has all annual confidentiality statements except for Simon Maddock.

*Review of Previous Events:*

* KCCB had a booth at the Elizabethton Farmer’s Market on August 20th. We provided give-away items and information. Lisa Vezzosi stated KCCB was not included in advertising except on Facebook and our own KCCB website. Don Hlavaty suggested that if we want to participate again next year, we bring our own advertising with yard signs and/or recycle bins within the park on Market days.
* KCCB participated with Responsible Stewardship and Downtown Elizabethton in a Clean Up of various Elizabethton city locations as part of the “Meet The Mountains Festival”. There were two dozen volunteers and over 300 lbs. of trash was collected on Elk Street from the Elizabethton High School to Railroad Street, within the downtown area (Elm Street/E Street/ Elk Street/ F Street), as well as Riverside Drive/along the Doe River from Covered Bridge Park to the Linear Trail at Broad Street.

*Proposed Events & Projects:*

* Lisa Vezzosi made a 2024 Carter County Hazardous Waste Day reminder postcard to advertise the event to local citizens at the Tarp giveaway and Covered Bridge Days. It is scheduled 10/12/2024 9am-1pm at the Carter County Recycling Center, 410 Cherokee Park Drive in Elizabethton. The free disposal event is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment. The postcard includes a QR code (quick reference code) to the Carter County website listing event details and acceptable/unacceptable items.
* Lisa Vezzosi proposed that KCCB have a booth at the 2024 Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days Festival. Dave Nanney gave permission to participate as we have done in previous years and said he appreciated the help with information, lost & found, and first aid duties. Parks & Rec will provide a booth located at the front of the park. This year’s festival will extend from the Covered Bridge Park along Riverside Drive and Elk Street to Sycamore Street with twice as many vendors as last year. Activities for children will be located along Riverside Drive and within the Edward’s Island Park area. The KCCB booth will provide information brochures (Carter County Visitor Guides, Tennessee Littering Law booklets, Carter County Hazardous Waste Day reminder cards) and giveaways (kid’s coloring books, KCCB/Carter County stickers, notebooks, pens/pencils, 2025 calendars, bags/backpacks, and tarps as supplies last). Don Hlavaty will place our recycling bins throughout the area before the festival begins and KCCB volunteers will help staff our booth and pick up trash/recycles during the festival. Lisa Vezzosi will create a “Volunteer Sign-up Sheet” and we will advertise for volunteers on the KCCB website. **The festival is Friday 9/20 11am – 9pm, Saturday 9/21 10am-9pm concluding with the Fireworks on the Elk Street Bridge and Sunday 9/22 1pm-6pm.**
* The Tarp Give-Away is tentatively scheduled for 9/7 or 9/14 (awaiting County Mayor Woodby’s schedule date/time approval) at the Carter County Landfill. The landfill is located at 169 Landfill Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643. Lisa Vezzosi will send an email when the date and time are confirmed inviting KCCB staff and guests. We have currently invited Carter County Mayor Woodby, Carter County Solid Waste Director Chris Schuettler, Carter County Sheriff Mike Fraley, and Elizabethton Police Chief Jason Shaw. Let Lisa know if additional guests should be invited. Don Hlavaty created an informational flyer of Tennessee Littering/Covered Load Laws to distribute with the tarps. We can also distribute the Carter County Hazardous Waste Day reminder cards.
* The Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTB) Affiliate Directors Retreat is October 2-3, 2024, in Memphis. It will be held at the Hyatt Centric hotel on Beale Street in Memphis. KTB will reimburse gas, food, and lodging expenses for attendees. Anyone wishing to attend and represent KCCB should let Lisa Vezzosi know.
* A Milligan Hwy Clean Up event is scheduled for 9/28/2024 at 10am. We will meet at the Happy Valley Elementary School, 1840 Milligan Hwy, Elizabethton. Additional information and a flyer will be posted on the KCCB website and distributed by email.
* No Trash November Clean Up event is scheduled for 11/16/2024 at 10am along the Tweetsie Trail from Lion’s Park to Snap-On Tools. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Coffee Company, 444 Elk Street, Elizabethton. Additional information and a flyer will be posted on the KCCB website and distributed by email.

*New Business:*

* The board again discussed supplier options for tree planting, shrubs and mulch. Mike Simerly has a nursery contact in Hampton and will email them to arrange availability and pricing. Because trees are reimbursable by KAB, we will work with Dave Nanney to identify additional locations along the Linear Trail and other parks. We could also landscape areas in parks or around public buildings, like the new Parks & Recreation Center, purchase new trash cans & recycled bins to parks/trails/city locations and possibly trash/recycle dual bin units. Dave Nanney will coordinate new Park & Rec projects with Richard Culver (Elizabethton Planning Commission) and Lisa Vezzosi, including assistance with hole digging (auger) for city locations and city truck to pick up trees if needed.
* Don Hlavaty, Ed Jordan and Ed Basconi spoke to two possible new board members, Caleb and Seth Hice at the August 20th Farmers Market. Dave Nanney agreed Caleb would be a good candidate. Caleb will probably get a new job with Elizabethton Storm Water Management; he will speak to Caleb and the Storm Water supervisor that they should be represented on the KCCB board. We will also follow up with Seth about joining the board.
* Don Hlavaty reminded board members we still have Carter County wayfinding signs waiting for installation. Lisa Vezzosi will speak to Mayor Woodby’s office about sign installation at the Courthouse and for assistance with County Highway department staff for signs on county roads. Dave Nanney agreed to provide assistance with hole digging (auger) for city locations. Lisa Vezzosi will provide Dave Nanney with a list of signs/locations for installation.
* Mike Simerly suggested additional school projects like the rock painting and calendars done last school year. Ed Basconi suggested a student scholarship for a high school senior. We have contacted Elizabethton school administration about new projects/participation, Lisa Vezzosi will help coordinate with Ed Basconi and Melinda Maddock.

**Adjournment:**

* A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ed Jordan, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Hlavaty, Secretary