

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

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

September 25, 2024, at noon

*Board Members Present:* Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Dave Nanney, and Melinda Maddock

*Board Members Absent:* Ross Garland, Simon Maddock, Mike Simerly

*Guests Present:* Mary Ellen Hlavaty, Caleb Krebs (City of Elizabethton Storm Water Supervisor) and Seth Hice (Elizabethton Chamber of Commerce Media Coordinator and Carter County Parks & Recreation board member).

*Call to Order:* Lisa Vezzosi opened the meeting at 12:05 pm. A quorum was present.

An opening prayer was given by Ed Jordan and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Hlavaty.

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

*Approval of last month’s meeting minutes*: A motion to approve the August 28, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Dave Nanney and unanimously approved.

*Nomination of New Board Members:* Lisa Vezzosi introduced guests Caleb Krebs and Seth Hice to the board and spoke about how they could contribute to our organization. Both Caleb and Seth told us about themselves, their professional and conservation work and why they wished to join our organization. Motions were made by Don Hlavaty and seconded by Lisa Vezzosi to approve adding both Seth Hice and Caleb Krebs to the Keep Carter County Beautiful Board of Directors, and the motions were both unanimously approved.

*Public Comments:* None.

*Next Board Meeting:* The next KCCB board meeting will be **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

*KCCB Treasurer Report:*

* The August month-end balance is $15,163.62. August expenditures are $573.60 deposit for purchase of 24 KCCB polo shirts & 48 pocket T-shirts from Pep Screen Printing.
* Don Hlavaty stated the request to Carter County for reimbursement of Keep America Beautiful dues was submitted and the dues were mistakenly paid directly to Keep America Beautiful in error. Don has requested a refund of the double payment from Keep America Beautiful and we are awaiting their refund check.
* 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 payment.
* KCCB was approved by Carter County for 2024-2025 funding of $5,000.00, we await payment.
* The KCCB debit card account was comprised, and we were contacted by the Northeast Credit Union fraud department about a $9.49 TikTok charge. They noticed this transaction was fraudulent and it will be removed from our account. Because of the account being comprised, a new debit card was issued by the credit union.

*Review of Affiliate Requirements:*

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

*Review of Previous Events:*

* The Tarp Give-Away was held 9/7 at the Carter County Landfill. The landfill is located at 169 Landfill Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643. Lisa Vezzosi, Don and Mary Hlavaty, Ed Jordan distributed 125 tarps with an informational flyer of Tennessee Littering/Covered Load Laws, KCCB stickers, Carter County Hazardous Waste Day reminder cards and informational brochures to citizens. Carter County Solid Waste Director Chris Schuettler also attended to support our event. Thank you to the Carter County Landfill staff for their assistance in making this event a success.
* KCCB shared a booth with Elizabethton Parks & Recreation at the Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days Festival 9/20-22. This year’s festival extended 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 were located along Riverside Drive and within the Edward’s Island Park area. As we have done in previous years, KCCB distributed informational 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, pens/pencils, 2025 calendars) and the remaining 75 tarps as supplies lasted. We also assisted Parks & Recreation with general information, lost & found, and first aid duties. Don and Mary Hlavaty placed our recycling bins throughout the park and downtown area before the festival began and KCCB volunteers helped staff our booth, pick up trash/recycles during the festival and collected our recycling bins after the event. KCCB collected 8 bags of plastic, 1 1/2 bags of aluminum cans, some cardboard and 1 1/2 bags of trash during the weekend festival.

Thank you to all the KCCB members and volunteers for making this event a success. We gave away most of our give-a-way items, but we still have a few brochures, pens/pencils, large stickers, some shirts and bags left.

* During the Covered Bridge Days festival, two people expressed interest in having KCCB recycle bins placed within their business – Riverside Taphouse and Tweetsie Trailing Ice Cream Company. The taphouse had parts from a previous recycling bin, so Don Hlavaty gave them a new cap top, sign and supply of bags at the end of the festival. Lisa Vezzosi gave a recycling bin and supply of bags to the ice cream company later the same week.
* Caleb Krebs offered additional brochures from Tennessee Stormwater Management and Water Conservation that would be appropriate for KCCB use. He will review his budget for printing and arrange to get the files to Lisa for review of use by KCCB. We may be able to utilize KAB, KTB funding for brochure printing also.

*Discussion of 2024 Proposed Events and Projects:*

* Elizabethton High School requested matched funding of $250 (total project $500) for Compassion Rock Garden at Ivy Hall Nursing Home. A motion to approve $250 for project made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Caleb Krebs and unanimously approved. Ed Basconi will communicate with the teacher that the project funding was approved. Lisa Vezzosi will get a check delivered to the school.
* The Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTB) Affiliate Directors Retreat is in Memphis 10/2-3, but unfortunately no one can attend.
* Carter County Hazardous Waste Day 10/12 9am-1pm.
* TDOT Milligan Hwy Clean Up 9/28 10am-1pm. Give-a-ways available for attendees.
* KTB No Trash November Clean Up on Tweetsie Trail (Coffee Company to Snap On Tools) – 11/16 10am-1pm. Give-a-ways available for attendees.
* Elizabethton Christmas Parade 12/14 6pm, $40 fee for non-profits to participate. A motion to approve $40 to participate again this year made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Don Hlavaty and unanimously approved.

*New Business:*

* Suggestion made by Chamber of Commerce High School group to partner with other organizations and city governments of Elizabethton/Johnson City for lighting along the Tweetsie Trail. Members will investigate partnerships opportunities and report back next month.
* Still need someone to help Melinda and Simon Maddock to maintain Facebook pages for events. We need an online presence to communicate with the public for events. Members will look for interested partners like high school/college students and report back next month. Caleb Krebs suggested having board member/KCCB volunteers post to their Facebook pages from our website or emailed announcements. Seth Hice suggested scheduled Facebook postings. We may need a designated budget for a paid maintenance vendor. Members will investigate partnerships/opportunities and report back next month.
* Lisa Vezzosi requested funds to purchase card stock to print additional 2024 calendars. A motion to approve $50 budget expense made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Don Hlavaty and unanimously approved.
* Lisa Vezzosi was contacted by a Child Protective Services center worker to donate the remaining KAB coloring books (24) to the foster care services charity. KCCB previously donated remaining seed packets to Carter County Library. A motion was made by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Caleb Krebs and unaminously approved.
* Lisa Vezzosi was given a flower seed container by Mary Alice Basconi as a new possible springtime grade school project for pollinator garden seeds. She found them at a local discount store for $0.50 each. We could replace the seeds with flowers and customize to our needs. Don Hlavaty suggested planting flowers at the schools. Caleb Krebs offered to help assist with vegetable gardens that could be a resource for feeding students. We will investigate garden options for spring. A motion to purchase additional garden kits (as available) was made by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Caleb Krebs and unaminously approved.
* The board again discussed supplier options for tree planting, shrubs and mulch. Mike Simerly is investigating options in Hampton but is not present at today’s meeting, so we will discuss again next month. Lisa and Dave Nanney will work on tree/shrub planting locations. Caleb Krebs discussed city plans/regulations for water drainage plantings (bioretention areas) that we could partner with to beautify along the Tweetsie Trail and city/county parks. He will get some information for the next meeting.

*Adjournment:*

* A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Ed Jordan and Ed Basconi, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:38pm.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Hlavaty, Secretary