

**Health & Welfare Committee Meeting
July 7, 2014**

DRAFT

Members Present: Jo Ann Blankenship, Richard Winters, Willie Campbell, Robert L. Gobble, Ronnie Trivett, Ken Arney, L. C. Tester, Scott Sams, and Patsy Lewis, Recording Secretary.

Others in attendance included: Chief Deputy Ron Street, Commissioner John Lewis, Wright family representing Serenity's Edge Campground, and new media.

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Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman, Jo Ann Blankenship at 6:00 PM. Quorum present.

Motion was made by Ken Arney, seconded by Robert Gobble to approve the minutes of the last meeting, April 7, 2014 as printed. By majority voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Business TWEETSIE TRAIL- Ken Gough presented a power point program updating the committee on the Tweetsie Trail. Mr. Gough informed stated that this trail is currently the longest trail in Tennessee with section one open and extending to Holly Street in Elizabethton.

Rules and regulations for the trail were also discussed. Signs, which Johnson City is primarily responsible for, will be posted along the trail noting rules. No AVT, horses or motor vehicles are allowed on the trail.

Mr. Gough stated that the City of Johnson City is owner of the trail, however most of it is located in Carter County. He stressed that the county could benefit greatly thru tourism associated with the trail. Numerous areas were discusses as stops/rest areas on the trail. The Bemberg Stations was discussed as being a future area for tourism on the trail.

Opening date is set for August 30, 2014 and many are expected to be in attendance.

BICYLCE/AUTO RULES – Regulations concerning bicycles on the Tweetsie Trail were discussed. Ken Gough stated that bicycles were permitted on the trail and use was expected to be great. Highway rules for bicycles were also presented.

ANIMAL SHELTER NOISE – Serenity's Edge Campground owners/representatives presented a tape noting noise levels at the campground caused by dogs barking at the Elizabethton-Carter County Animal Shelter. Several committee members stated that they had visited the campground and observed the noise level. Some members stated that they had not heard barking, and others stated the noise of dogs barking was heard at the time they were at the campground.

Several suggestions were noted by both the owners and committee members. Mr. Wright voiced that in his opinion some type of sound barrier would help solve the problem. This would help with the problem especially should the campground expand to the nearby vacant field between the shelter and campground, now owned by the Wright family.

MOTION was made by Jo Ann Blankenship, seconded by Willie Campbell to refer the issue back to the Animal Shelter Board and require a solution be reached and present to the full commission for consideration. By majority voice vote, motion carried.

Handicap Parking - Designated spaces have been marked and are in compliance.

Health Department Update – No report.

Citizens Concern's regarding county health & welfare issues - None reported

Public Comments – None

Motion to adjourn was made by L.C. Tester, seconded by Robert Gobble. By majority voice vote, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

NEXT MEETING (unless special called is necessary) to be September 2014 and upon appointment of new committee members direction.

Patsy H. Lewis, Recording Secretary

Jo Ann Blankenship, Chairwoman _____

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